



NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2024

2019—2023 DATA
FROM FINAL YEAR STUDENTS
AT AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2024

BACKGROUND

The Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) is an annual national data collection conducted by Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand (Medical Deans). The data are collected through an annual survey administered to final year medical students from all medical schools across Australia. The survey collects information on final year demographics, previous and current education, medical school experiences, rural background, career intentions and future practice location and speciality preferences.

The MSOD project commenced in 2005 and has been run each year, providing a valuable, unique, national resource of comprehensive data and insights on Australian medical final year students. The MSOD currently contains over 32,000 participants¹ and is stored and managed by Medical Deans.

This report does not incorporate data from New Zealand medical schools. A similar project is conducted in Aotearoa New Zealand by the Universities of Auckland and Otago, with similar questions and with the support of the New Zealand Ministry of Health. The New Zealand MSOD reports can be found on the [University of Otago's website](#).

Medical Deans would like to express our thanks to all the final year medical students over the years who have taken time to provide these data and contribute to the development of this resource, to inform and shape the development of informed, evidence-based, and effective medical education and health workforce policy. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of the Australian government for its funding support of the MSOD.

Please note: this survey is intended to capture information from students completing their medical school studies. Therefore, for any respondents who repeated their final year, only their most recent response is reported with any earlier response being removed from last year's data.

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¹ A further 10,000 responses are also held from previously run surveys at the point of students' commencement at medical school and during their postgraduate years.

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National Data Report 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the findings that were captured by the Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) 2023 survey, presenting data from the 5 years 2019 to 2023.

The MSOD survey was administered to final year students in medical schools across Australia in the last quarter of 2023, with a 58 per cent response rate (2,129 respondents from a cohort of 3,701²). Demographic characteristics of the respondents remained broadly as those in prior years. The survey usually has a higher response rate from females and this year was no different, with a 57 per cent female response rate; from a final year cohort where the gender ratio was 53 per cent female. The 2023 survey respondents had a similar age profile to the 2022 group, with 44 per cent under 25 and a further 45 per cent between 25 and 29. This year, those with partners were again in the majority (55 per cent). Just over 4 per cent had children, with 2 per cent having other dependents; proportions which have remained consistent since 2013.

In terms of their future career, 32 per cent of respondents indicated a preference to work in a non-metropolitan area – 32.4 per cent of domestic students and 23.4 per cent of international. Overall, domestic students were more likely than international students to want to work in a rural or remote community location – 15 per cent versus 7 per cent. The MSOD reflects findings from other data that students from a rural background express higher levels of desire to practice in rural or regional locations; with 35 per cent of domestic student respondents from rural backgrounds preferring to work in a rural town or remote community versus 7 per cent of those from a non-rural background. This differentiation holds true for both domestic and international students.

Seventy-five per cent of domestic and 40 per cent of international respondents undertook a rural placement during their last two years of study. Of these placements, 45 per cent were longer than 6 months' duration. Of those undertaking a rural placement of more than a year, 34 per cent expressed a preference for practice in a rural town or remote community. The comparative figures are 23 per cent for those where the duration was 6 to 12 months, 7 per cent where it was up to 6 months, and 9 per cent for those not undertaking a rural placement.

This year's data again confirmed the strong association between rural club membership and a stated preference at the time of graduation for a future practice in a non-metropolitan area, with members of rural clubs 4 times more likely to express this preference (noting however the potential that those with an existing rural interest are those who join a rural club).

The interest in Indigenous health being a part of graduates' future medical career remains at almost half the cohort, with a marked difference between international and domestic students. Interest is also notably higher in those students from a rural background.

² [Medical Deans' Student Statistics Dashboard](#)

Levels of interest in a career that involves teaching and research have been consistently high over the years, however both have dropped again this year, with 80 per cent interested in teaching being part of their future (vs 83 per cent in the prior year), and 51 per cent interested in research (vs 56 per cent and over previously). Whilst domestic students expressed greater interest in teaching than international students (80 vs 78 per cent), international students expressed greater interest in research than domestic students (53 vs 51 per cent).

While preferences for future practice across the disciplines have remained fairly consistent over the years of the survey, combining the two options for General Practice specialty (General Practice and Rural Generalism) has again led to this being the more preferred future choice of discipline, at 18 per cent of respondents vs 17 per cent for Adult medicine/internal medicine/physician. Preference for a career in Rural Generalism continued to grow for domestic graduates, moving up to rank sixth overall with 8 per cent of domestic students. By contrast, fewer than 1 per cent of international students expressed a preference for this specialty.

The top 10 most preferred disciplines have remained unchanged with Anaesthesia, Surgery, Paediatrics and Child Health, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, and Intensive Care Medicine completing the list.

The top two factors cited as influencing choice of specialty remain unchanged – “Alignment with personal values” (ranked first) and “Atmosphere/work culture”. “Experience of specialty as a medical student” ranked 3rd this year, marginally ahead of “Intellectual content of the specialty” followed by “General medical school experiences”.

Levels of satisfaction with the medical program at universities increased with 79 per cent indicating they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they were satisfied with their course – higher than it has been in the last 5 years. The percentage dissatisfied or very dissatisfied dropped 2 percentage points to 9. Whilst the satisfaction levels for international students were lower (which has been a consistent finding), the difference was marginal in 2023.

Similarly, the proportion of students in overall agreement that their basic medical degree was preparing them well for work as an intern increased to 81 per cent – the highest figure in this data series. The proportion disagreeing or strongly disagreeing dropped to 5 per cent.

Note: Data on the full 2023 medical student cohort, as referenced in this Report, is accessible from the [Medical Deans' Data Dashboard](#).

SECTION 1: MSOD SURVEY RESPONSE RATES

Medical school response rates

In 2023, there were 3,701 final year students across all Australian medical schools of which 3,614 graduated (97.6 per cent). 58% of the cohort, or 2,129, responded to the MSOD survey.

Table 1. Respondents by medical school – All students

School attended	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
The University of Adelaide	51	2.5	55	3.2	8	0.4	27	1.4	105	4.9
Australian National University	70	3.4	49	2.9	81	4.4	61	3.1	55	2.6
Bond University	53	2.6	44	2.6	73	3.9	72	3.6	140	6.6
Curtin University	.	.	.	.	48	2.6	44	2.2	63	3.0
Deakin University	110	5.4	104	6.1	101	5.4	89	4.5	57	2.7
Flinders University	29	1.4	25	1.5	27	1.5	73	3.7	79	3.7
Griffith University	44	2.2	23	1.3	38	2.0	106	5.4	97	4.6
James Cook University	93	4.6	.	.	99	5.3	70	3.5	97	4.6
Macquarie University	.	.	.	.	21	1.1	30	1.5	22	1.0
The University of Melbourne	95	4.7	104	6.1	127	6.9	80	4.1	145	6.8
Monash University	346	17.0	400	23.4	353	19.0	354	17.9	312	14.7
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	134	6.6	121	7.1	99	5.3	107	5.4	139	6.5
The University of New South Wales	80	3.9	96	5.6	71	3.8	33	1.7	62	2.9
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	51	2.5	55	3.2	79	4.3	79	4.0	71	3.3
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	48	2.4	39	2.3	33	1.8	45	2.3	46	2.2
The University of Queensland	226	11.1	192	11.2	200	10.8	134	6.8	144	6.8
The University of Sydney	254	12.5	110	6.4	114	6.1	153	7.7	155	7.3
University of Tasmania	74	3.6	84	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8	72	3.4
The University of Western Australia	152	7.5	140	8.2	87	4.7	209	10.6	169	7.9
Western Sydney University	64	3.1	30	1.8	38	2.0	43	2.2	27	1.3
University of Wollongong	60	2.9	40	2.3	50	2.7	71	3.6	72	3.4
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Domestic students

1,878 of the respondents (88 per cent) were domestic students; a slightly higher proportion than the proportion in the full final year cohort, which comprised 86 per cent domestic students.

Table 2. Respondents by medical school – Domestic students only

School attended	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
The University of Adelaide	45	2.6	50	3.4	7	0.4	24	1.4	93	5.0
Australian National University	63	3.6	45	3.1	70	4.4	55	3.2	51	2.7
Bond University	53	3.0	44	3.0	73	4.6	71	4.1	137	7.3
Curtin University	.	.	.	.	48	3.0	44	2.5	63	3.4
Deakin University	104	5.9	98	6.7	93	5.9	79	4.6	55	2.9
Flinders University	26	1.5	24	1.6	26	1.6	64	3.7	68	3.6
Griffith University	41	2.3	18	1.2	35	2.2	96	5.5	86	4.6
James Cook University	80	4.6	.	.	84	5.3	63	3.6	85	4.5
Macquarie University	.	.	.	.	20	1.3	25	1.4	19	1.0
The University of Melbourne	86	4.9	95	6.5	116	7.3	75	4.3	127	6.8
Monash University	285	16.2	333	22.7	271	17.1	291	16.8	237	12.6
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	117	6.7	105	7.2	89	5.6	97	5.6	127	6.8
The University of New South Wales	67	3.8	77	5.3	54	3.4	30	1.7	44	2.3
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	51	2.9	55	3.8	79	5.0	79	4.6	70	3.7
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	48	2.7	39	2.7	33	2.1	44	2.5	44	2.3
The University of Queensland	185	10.5	145	9.9	158	9.9	112	6.5	130	6.9
The University of Sydney	194	11.1	89	6.1	88	5.5	123	7.1	129	6.9
University of Tasmania	58	3.3	67	4.6	91	5.7	78	4.5	66	3.5
The University of Western Australia	140	8.0	127	8.7	80	5.0	189	10.9	158	8.4
Western Sydney University	60	3.4	24	1.6	31	2.0	37	2.1	26	1.4
University of Wollongong	52	3.0	29	2.0	42	2.6	60	3.5	63	3.4
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	

Note: throughout this Report:

- Domestic students comprise Australian citizens, Australian permanent residents, and New Zealand citizens.
- International student figures are only for those enrolled in onshore medical programs, and do not include students enrolled in Australian medical programs run in other countries.

Table 3 shows those medical schools which had a response from their international students; noting that not all schools enrol international students.

Twelve per cent of the respondents, or 251, were international students (enrolled in onshore medical programs); a lower proportion than the cohort which comprised 14 per cent international students.

Table 3. Respondents by medical school – International on-shore students only

School attended	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
The University of Adelaide	6	2.2	5	2.0	1	0.4	3	1.3	12	4.8
Australian National University	7	2.5	4	1.6	11	4.1	6	2.5	4	1.6
Bond University	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	3	1.2
Curtin University	.	.	.	.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Deakin University	6	2.2	6	2.4	8	3.0	10	4.2	2	0.8
Flinders University	3	1.1	1	0.4	1	0.4	9	3.8	11	4.4
Griffith University	3	1.1	5	2.0	3	1.1	10	4.2	11	4.4
James Cook University	13	4.7	.	.	15	5.6	7	2.9	12	4.8
Macquarie University	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	5	2.1	3	1.2
The University of Melbourne	9	3.2	9	3.6	11	4.1	5	2.1	18	7.2
Monash University	61	21.9	67	27.1	82	30.8	63	26.4	75	29.9
The University of Newcastle/University of New England	17	6.1	16	6.5	10	3.8	10	4.2	12	4.8
The University of New South Wales	13	4.7	19	7.7	17	6.4	3	1.3	18	7.2
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	2	0.8
The University of Queensland	41	14.7	47	19.0	42	15.8	22	9.2	14	5.6
The University of Sydney	60	21.5	21	8.5	26	9.8	30	12.6	26	10.4
University of Tasmania	16	5.7	17	6.9	16	6.0	17	7.1	6	2.4
The University of Western Australia	12	4.3	13	5.3	7	2.6	20	8.4	11	4.4
Western Sydney University	4	1.4	6	2.4	7	2.6	6	2.5	1	0.4
University of Wollongong	8	2.9	11	4.5	8	3.0	11	4.6	9	3.6
Total	279		247		266		239		251	

Proportion by medical program length

The sample is representative of the proportions enrolled in 4-year programs, with a strong response rate from those in 5-year courses and a lower response rate from those in a 6-year program.

Table 4. Number of final year students across all Australian medical schools, showing course length

Course Length	Final year students 2023		MSOD respondents 2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
4-year course	2,128	57.5%	1,185	55.7%
5-year course	923	24.9%	680	31.9%
6-year course	650	17.6%	264	12.4%
Total	3,701		2,129	

Source: [Medical Deans' Data Dashboard](#)

Note: Similar MSOD response rates have been assumed where there are different length courses at the same medical school, as the responses cannot be distinguished

Respondents by state/territory

New South Wales and Victoria yielded the largest number of survey responses. The highest response rate in terms of final year student numbers was Western Australia where 82% of the final year cohort completed the survey. Note: table 5 and table 6 refer to the location where students were studying medicine which may be different to where they identify their primary residence to be.

Table 5. Respondents by state/territory

State/territory of completion	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
ACT	70	3.4	49	2.9	81	4.4	61	3.1	55	2.6
NSW	640	31.5	436	25.5	426	23.0	482	24.4	523	24.6
QLD	416	20.5	259	15.1	410	22.1	382	19.3	478	22.5
SA	80	3.9	80	4.7	35	1.9	100	5.1	184	8.6
TAS	74	3.6	84	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8	72	3.4
VIC	551	27.1	608	35.5	581	31.3	523	26.5	514	24.1
WA	203	10.0	195	11.4	214	11.5	332	16.8	303	14.2
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin cannot be separately identified and so those responses are included in South Australia figures

Table 6. Respondents and students: comparison by state/territory

State/territory of study	2023 final year students		2023 MSOD respondents		Response Rate %
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	
ACT	104	2.8	55	2.6	52.9
NSW	1,144	30.9	523	24.6	45.7
QLD	840	22.7	478	22.5	56.9
SA	326	8.8	184	8.6	56.4
TAS	113	3.1	72	3.4	63.7
VIC	805	21.8	514	24.1	63.9
WA	369	10.0	303	14.2	82.1
Total	3,701		2,129		57.5

Note: Flinders Darwin Medical School is included in South Australia figures

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

The gender balance of respondents was 57 per cent female and 42 per cent male with just over 1 per cent identifying as non-binary or preferring not to say. The full cohort of the 2023 final year students was 52.96 per cent female, 47.01 per cent male, and 0.03 per cent non-binary or unspecified.

Table 7. Respondents by gender

Gender	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Female	1,098	54.0	977	57.1	1,033	55.7	1,109	56.2	1,214	57.0
Male	934	45.9	732	42.8	813	43.9	847	42.9	890	41.8
Non-Binary	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	0.4	14	0.7
Prefer not to say	2	0.1	2	0.1	8	0.4	12	0.6	11	0.5
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Student age

As previously, the largest number of respondents fell within the 25-29 age group but was a lower proportion than the previous year and only marginally higher than the number aged under 25. Eighty-eight per cent were aged under 30 years old, with only 1.5 per cent aged 40 or over.

Table 8. Respondents by age group

Age group	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
<25	818	40.2	713	41.7	764	41.2	786	39.8	931	43.7
25-29	951	46.8	764	44.7	834	45.0	956	48.4	953	44.8
30-34	178	8.8	174	10.2	175	9.4	170	8.6	170	8.0
35-39	45	2.2	33	1.9	45	2.4	37	1.9	43	2.0
40-44	30	1.5	20	1.2	22	1.2	16	0.8	24	1.1
45+	12	0.6	7	0.4	14	0.8	10	0.5	8	0.4
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Table 9. Median age of respondents

Age	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Median	25	25	25	25	25
Minimum	19	21	21	19	21
Maximum	58	51	59	55	54

Relationship and dependants

The proportion of respondents identifying as having a partner (i.e., in a relationship or married) was again the majority.

Table 10. Partner status

Partner status	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Partnered	942	46.3	880	51.4	938	50.6	1,114	56.4	1,168	54.9
Not partnered	1,092	53.7	831	48.6	916	49.4	861	43.6	961	45.1
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Compared to the previous year, more respondents reported dependent children, at 4 per cent, however the numbers have varied little over the years. Similarly, the vast majority have no 'other dependants', with again little change over the years.

Table 11. Number of dependent children and other dependants

Dependent children & other dependants	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Children										
0	1,938	95.3	1,642	96.0	1,776	95.8	1,914	96.9	2,043	96.0
1	47	2.3	28	1.6	37	2.0	30	1.5	41	1.9
2	33	1.6	29	1.7	27	1.5	23	1.2	31	1.5
3 or more	16	0.8	12	0.7	14	0.8	8	0.4	14	0.7
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	
Other										
0	1,977	97.2	1,666	97.4	1,816	98.0	1,948	98.6	2,080	97.7
1	40	2.0	34	2.0	31	1.7	22	1.1	39	1.8
2	13	0.6	6	0.4	7	0.4	2	0.1	8	0.4
3 or more	4	0.2	5	0.3	0	0.0	3	0.2	2	0.1
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Country of birth

Table 12 shows the countries with the highest representation of survey respondents over the last decade; with the proportion of respondents born in Australia remaining stable at around two thirds of the total.

The number of respondents born in India was notably higher in 2023 edging out Singapore as the 2nd most common country of birth category after Australia. But while the proportion of students born in Singapore marginally decreased in 2023, numbers continue to remain at around the 4.5 per cent figure. There was a slight increase to those born in Aotearoa New Zealand, whilst percentages of Chinese and Canadian-born respondents remain relatively unchanged.

Table 12. Country of birth (top 10)

Country of birth	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Australia	1,369	67.3	1,135	66.3	1,212	65.4	1,304	66.1	1,372	64.4
India	52	2.6	52	3.0	63	3.4	64	3.2	96	4.5
Singapore	93	4.6	89	5.2	95	5.1	99	5.0	94	4.4
New Zealand	54	2.7	41	2.4	45	2.4	55	2.8	69	3.2
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	34	1.7	37	2.2	29	1.6	48	2.4	50	2.3
Canada	56	2.8	43	2.5	57	3.1	39	2.0	44	2.1
England	37	1.8	29	1.7	35	1.9	42	2.1	39	1.8
Malaysia	50	2.5	38	2.2	49	2.6	33	1.7	39	1.8
Sri Lanka	23	1.1	33	1.9	30	1.6	30	1.5	38	1.8
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	17	0.8	26	1.5	26	1.4	15	0.8	30	1.4
Other country	249	12.2	188	11.0	211	11.4	245	12.4	258	12.1
Missing	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	.	.	.
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Sources of income

The majority of respondents (74 per cent) reported relying on family as an income source during their medical degree. The proportion indicating reliance on Government support was lower this year (60 per cent), whilst those reliant on HECS / FEE / OS HELP loans increased (60 per cent). Nearly a quarter of respondents indicated relying on savings/trust fund, a figure which has continued to gradually increase since 2020.

Table 13. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

Income sources	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Family	1,499	73.6	1,285	75.1	1,328	71.6	1,389	70.3	1,571	73.7
Government	1,325	65.1	1,123	65.6	1,171	63.1	1,316	66.6	1,270	59.6
HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan	1,121	55.1	964	56.3	1,006	54.2	1,067	54.0	1,288	60.4
Paid employment	1,139	55.9	1,012	59.1	1,082	58.3	1,297	65.6	1,322	62.0
Personal Loan	244	11.9	131	7.6	103	5.5	146	7.3	157	7.3
Savings/Trust fund	373	18.3	277	16.1	315	16.9	376	19.0	501	23.5
Scholarship	500	24.5	500	29.2	436	23.5	497	25.1	448	21.0
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Note: Participants can select more than one option

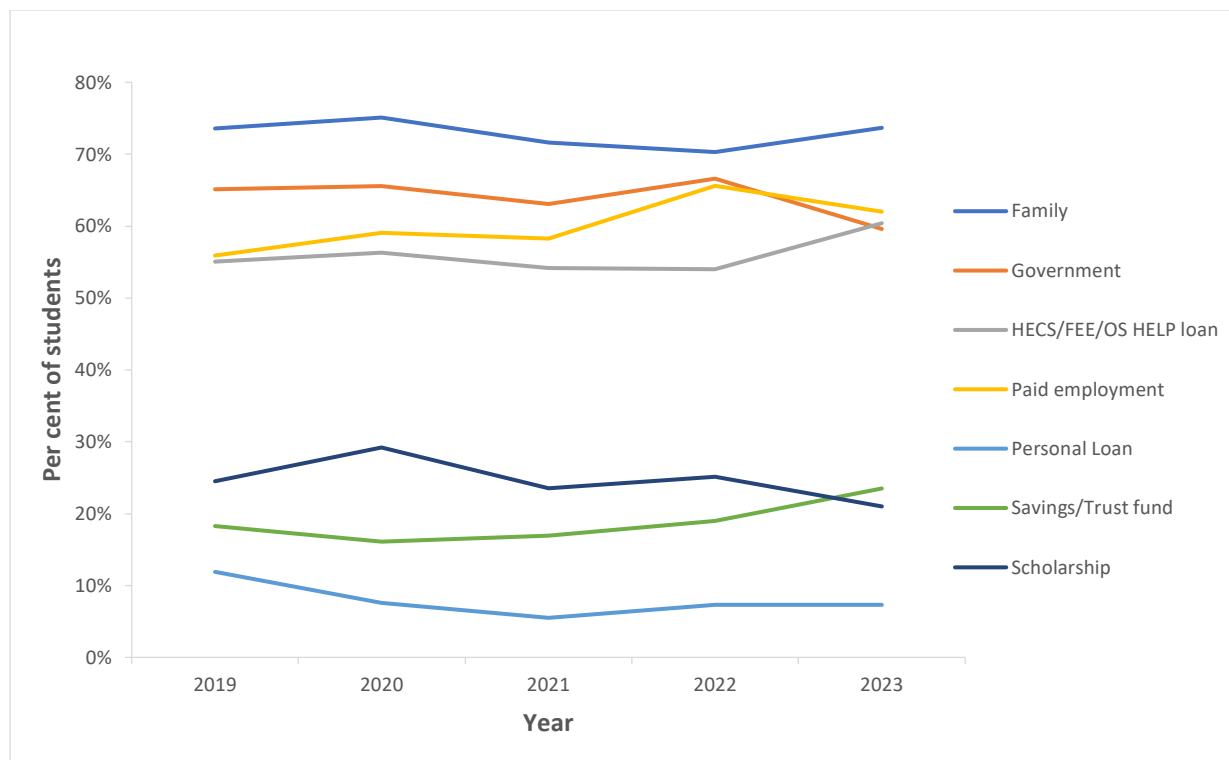


Figure 1. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

Rural background

Twenty-seven per cent of the domestic 2023 MSOD respondents considered themselves as coming from a rural background (Table 14), and just under 7 per cent of international respondents.

Table 14. Respondent considers themselves to come from a rural background

Rural background	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic										
Yes	445	25.4	405	27.7	399	25.1	443	25.5	514	27.4
No	1,310	74.6	1,059	72.3	1,189	74.9	1,293	74.5	1,364	72.6
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International										
Yes	17	6.1	17	6.9	28	10.5	16	6.7	17	6.8
No	262	93.9	230	93.1	238	89.5	223	93.3	234	93.2
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Yes	462	22.7	422	24.7	427	23.0	459	23.2	531	24.9
No	1,572	77.3	1,289	75.3	1,427	77.0	1,516	76.8	1,598	75.1
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Eighty-five per cent of the 2023 MSOD respondents reported having finished their final year of secondary schooling in Australia. Of those respondents (Table 15), the proportions of those who did so in a regional area have remained consistent, at between 23 to 25 per cent during this reporting period.

Table 15. Final year of secondary schooling in a regional area

Final year of school in a regional area	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic										
Yes	377	22.6	344	24.4	353	23.3	389	23.5	454	25.4
No	1,288	77.4	1,068	75.6	1,165	76.7	1,268	76.5	1,331	74.6
Total	1,665		1,412		1,518		1,657		1,785	
International										
Yes	16	25.0	9	16.4	3	11.1	2	8.3	2	7.1
No	48	75.0	46	83.6	24	88.9	22	91.7	26	92.9
Total	64		55		27		24		28	
All Students										
Yes	393	22.7	353	24.1	356	23.0	391	23.3	456	25.2
No	1,336	77.3	1,114	75.9	1,189	77.0	1,290	76.7	1,357	74.8
Total	1,729		1,467		1,545		1,681		1,813	

Did you attend your final year of school in a secondary school/college/senior high school in a REGIONAL CITY OR LARGE TOWN, SMALLER TOWN, or SMALL COMMUNITY (i.e. <=100,000

Did you attend a secondary school/college/senior high school IN AUSTRALIA in a NON-METROPOLITAN location (i.e., a Regional centre, Rural town or a Remote community)?

Type of longest prior residential location

The MSOD survey asks participants about the type of location they have lived in the longest if they had lived in Australia for more than 1 year prior to commencing medical school.

Table 16 shows that 72 per cent of those responding lived the longest in a metropolitan area; noting that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent published population data (released 28 June 2022³) shows that 67 per cent of the population were living in Greater Capital Cities⁴.

Table 16. Location where students have lived the longest (for domestic students living in Australia for more than 1 year prior to medical school)

Location of longest residence ⁵	2019		2020		2021		2022		Location of longest residence – using MMM classification ⁶	2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		n	%
Capital city	1,203	68.5	1,005	68.6	1,062	66.9	1,191	68.6	Metropolitan	1,348	71.8
Major urban centre	192	10.9	122	8.3	168	10.6	179	10.3	Regional centre	200	10.6
Regional city or large town	169	9.6	126	8.6	146	9.2	177	10.2	Large rural town	106	5.6
Smaller town	82	4.7	95	6.5	87	5.5	84	4.8	Medium rural town	110	5.9
Small community	109	6.2	116	7.9	124	7.8	105	6.0	Small rural town	101	5.4
									Remote/very remote community	11	0.6
N/A, lived in AUS < 12 months	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.1	0	0.0	N/A, lived in AUS < 12 months	2	0.1
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736			1,878	

3. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Profile of Australia's population, released 28/06/2022, viewed 29/05/2022
<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/location-census/2021>.

4. Australia Bureau of Statistics Statistical Geography Fact Sheet:
[https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsgeography/\\$file/Greater%20Capital%20City%20Statistical%20Area%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf](https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/censushome.nsf/home/factsheetsgeography/$file/Greater%20Capital%20City%20Statistical%20Area%20-%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf).

5. Classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size) e.g. Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/ Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong; **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g. Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier; **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

6. Commencing in the 2023 survey, MSOD now uses the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification for geographic locations
<https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

Classification 2: **Metropolitan** (e.g., Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities.); **Regional centre** (population >50,000 e.g., Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000 e.g., Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000 e.g., Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA); **Small rural town** (population <5,000 e.g., Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld); **Remote or very remote Community** (e.g., Broome WA, Katherine NT).

SECTION 3: PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Level of previous degree

The number of final year students who have completed a degree, diploma, or certificate prior to undertaking their medical studies has remained very stable over this period, with just over a third having no prior tertiary qualifications.

Table 17. Highest level of previous degree

Level of previous degree	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Postgraduate degree	125	6.1	100	5.8	121	6.5	113	5.7	119	5.6
Bachelor degree (honours)	311	15.3	227	13.3	254	13.7	304	15.4	242	11.4
Bachelor degree	798	39.2	678	39.6	712	38.4	825	41.8	861	40.4
Graduate diploma/graduate certificate level	42	2.1	40	2.3	48	2.6	31	1.6	47	2.2
Diploma	13	0.6	16	0.9	20	1.1	18	0.9	24	1.1
Certificate	27	1.3	34	2.0	33	1.8	30	1.5	33	1.6
N/A - no prior tertiary qualifications	718	35.3	616	36.0	666	35.9	654	33.1	803	37.7
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Discipline of previous degree

Nearly half of all respondents who had completed a previous degree had done so in a health-related field – this proportion has particularly increased in the last couple of years after sitting at just under 40 per cent figure for the previous decade (except for 2020).

The most common health-specific degrees completed were Medical studies (25 per cent), Other health (5 per cent), Rehabilitation Therapies (4 per cent), and Public Health (3 per cent). The other field where many had a prior degree was Natural and Physical Sciences (43 per cent).

Table 18. Discipline of highest previous degree

Discipline of highest previous degree	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Health Total	490	37.8	355	33.1	516	44.4	645	49.5	656	49.4
-- Medical studies	209	16.1	161	15.0	237	20.4	354	27.1	329	24.8
-- Complementary Therapies	2	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.1	2	0.1	2	0.1
-- Dental Studies	8	0.6	2	0.1	2	0.1	7	0.5	7	0.5
-- Nursing / Midwifery	30	2.3	23	2.1	32	2.7	27	2.0	47	3.5
-- Optical Science	1	0.0	6	0.5	6	0.5	7	0.5	2	0.1
-- Pharmacy	47	3.6	29	2.7	51	4.3	40	3.0	36	2.7
-- Rehabilitation Therapies	50	3.8	41	3.8	37	3.1	54	4.1	51	3.8
-- Radiography	18	1.3	10	0.9	10	0.8	10	0.7	15	1.1
-- Public Health	40	3.0	40	3.7	45	3.8	46	3.5	45	3.3
-- Veterinary Studies	4	0.3	3	0.2	6	0.5	6	0.4	6	0.4
-- Other Health	63	4.8	41	3.8	75	6.4	62	4.7	69	5.2
Natural and Physical Sciences	692	53.3	598	55.8	559	48.1	568	43.5	574	43.2
Information Technology	8	0.6	5	0.4	10	0.8	11	0.8	10	0.7
Engineering and Related Technologies	49	3.7	31	2.8	32	2.7	40	3.0	37	2.7
Architecture and Building	1	0.0	2	0.1	1	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.1
Agriculture, Environmental & Related Studies	4	0.3	5	0.4	6	0.5	9	0.6	2	0.1
Education	14	1.0	13	1.2	11	0.9	8	0.6	10	0.7
Management and Commerce	39	3.0	31	2.8	38	3.2	45	3.4	35	2.6
Society and Culture	96	7.4	98	9.1	85	7.3	85	6.5	91	6.8
Creative Arts	33	2.5	35	3.2	31	2.6	37	2.8	25	1.8
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	7	0.5	9	0.8	4	0.3	4	0.3	6	0.4
Mixed Field Programmes	9	0.6	19	1.7	13	1.1	12	0.9	22	1.6

Notes:

1. Due to the structure of the question, 'Health Total' includes those who ticked a row titled 'Health, please specify' and did not specify an area as well as those who specified at least one health area.
2. Participants can select more than one option.

SECTION 4: MEDICAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Satisfaction with medical program

Final year students were asked about their level of satisfaction with the medical program at their university (Table 19) on a Likert scale of 1 to 5.

Seventy-nine per cent of respondents indicated they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program in 2023, slightly higher than last year’s figure. The proportion of respondents “dissatisfied” or “highly dissatisfied” decreased slightly to 8.9 per cent.

As has been shown consistently, the proportion of domestic students “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program remains higher than the figures for international students, but only marginally so in 2023.

Table 19. Overall level of satisfaction with medical program

Satisfaction	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Domestic Students					
Average satisfaction	3.8	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	72.6	77.0	77.8	76.2	79.0
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	12.5	10.1	9.6	10.5	8.7
International Students					
Average satisfaction	3.5	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.9
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	62.4	72.1	67.3	71.1	78.1
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	17.2	12.6	12.8	13.4	10.4
All Students					
Average satisfaction	3.7	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	71.2	76.3	76.3	75.6	78.9
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	13.2	10.5	10.1	10.8	8.9

Note: Scale: 1 = Very dissatisfied, 2 = Dissatisfied, 3 = Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, 4 = Satisfied, 5 = Very satisfied

Preparation for internship

Eighty-one per cent of respondents in 2023 “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that their basic medical degree was preparing them well to work as an intern having risen year-on-year since 2019. Just over 5 per cent of the cohort said they “Disagreed” or “Strongly Disagreed” with this statement.

While fewer international students “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” with the statement than domestic students, at almost 78 per cent, the proportion was the highest in this reporting period and substantially higher than 4 years ago.

**Table 20. Overall level of agreement with the statement
'My Basic Medical Degree is preparing me well to work as an intern'**

Agreement	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Domestic Students					
Average agreement	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	72.0	78.1	79.6	79.7	81.8
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	9.3	6.5	5.8	6.0	5.2
International Students					
Average agreement	3.6	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	61.3	71.3	71.8	73.6	77.7
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	14.7	5.3	6.0	7.5	5.6
All Students					
Average agreement	3.8	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	70.5	77.1	78.5	78.9	81.3
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	10.1	6.3	5.8	6.2	5.2

Note: Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 2 = Disagree, 3 = Neutral, 4 = Agree, 5 = Strongly Agree

Rural club membership

As part of the medical school experience, students have the opportunity to join rural clubs – student-led groups and networks that promote and develop initiatives on rural and remote health practice.

In 2023, 25 per cent of respondents indicated that they were a member of a rural club – marginally higher than the previous year.

Domestic students were significantly more likely to be in a rural club than international students; 28 per cent vs 6 per cent.

The majority of rural club members (55 per cent) are from a non-rural background. Of those students who did consider themselves from a rural background, 46 per cent were involved with rural clubs.

Using a binary logistic regression analysis⁷, 2023 data showed that respondents who reported being members of rural clubs were 4 times more likely to express a preference to practice outside capital cities than those who were not members (OR 3.9 95% CI 3.2-4.8 p<0.001). It is important to recognise the potential for selection bias here, as those joining a rural club might already have an interest in a future rural career.

Table 21. Respondent is a member of a rural club

Rural club membership	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Domestic Students										
Yes	581	33.1	470	32.1	445	28.0	445	25.6	524	27.9
No	1,174	66.9	994	67.9	1,143	72.0	1,291	74.4	1,354	72.1
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International Students										
Yes	27	9.7	29	11.7	24	9.0	24	10.0	15	6.0
No	252	90.3	218	88.3	242	91.0	215	90.0	236	94.0
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Yes	608	29.9	499	29.2	469	25.3	469	23.7	539	25.3
No	1,426	70.1	1,212	70.8	1,385	74.7	1,506	76.3	1,590	74.7
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

⁷ Factors considered were rural club membership and preference of future practice in capital city or elsewhere.

Rural placement

A proportion of medical students undertake clinical placements in regional and rural areas. Of those that do, domestic students continue to undertake rural placements more than international students (75 per cent vs 40 per cent). This discrepancy is most marked for placements of 6 months or more, with 11 per cent of international students undertook these in 2023 vs 34 per cent of domestic students⁸.

Table 22. Respondents undertaking a rural placement in their last two years of study

Rural placement	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic students										
None	293	16.7	382	26.1	440	27.7	344	19.8	469	25.0
Up to 6 months	900	51.3	557	38.0	587	37.0	819	47.2	763	40.6
Between 6 and 12 months	369	21.0	329	22.5	327	20.6	338	19.5	388	20.7
More than a year	193	11.0	196	13.4	234	14.7	235	13.5	258	13.7
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International students										
None	121	43.4	127	51.4	150	56.4	107	44.8	150	59.8
Up to 6 months	129	46.2	91	36.8	83	31.2	99	41.4	74	29.5
Between 6 and 12 months	19	6.8	22	8.9	17	6.4	16	6.7	12	4.8
More than a year	10	3.6	7	2.8	16	6.0	17	7.1	15	6.0
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All students										
None	414	20.4	509	29.7	590	31.8	451	22.8	619	29.1
Up to 6 months	1,029	50.6	648	37.9	670	36.1	918	46.5	837	39.3
Between 6 and 12 months	388	19.1	351	20.5	344	18.6	354	17.9	400	18.8
More than a year	203	10.0	203	11.9	250	13.5	252	12.8	273	12.8
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

⁸ It should be noted that funding through the Australian Government's Rural Health Multidisciplinary Training Program, that support students' placements and learning in rural locations, is not available for international student placements.

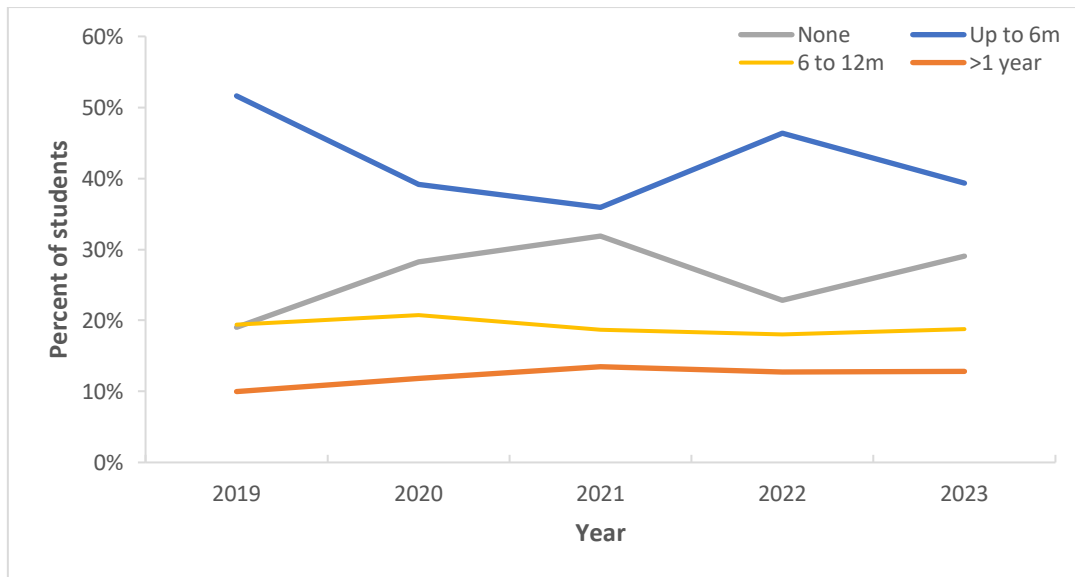


Figure 2. Proportion of all students undertaking a rural placement in their last 2 years of study

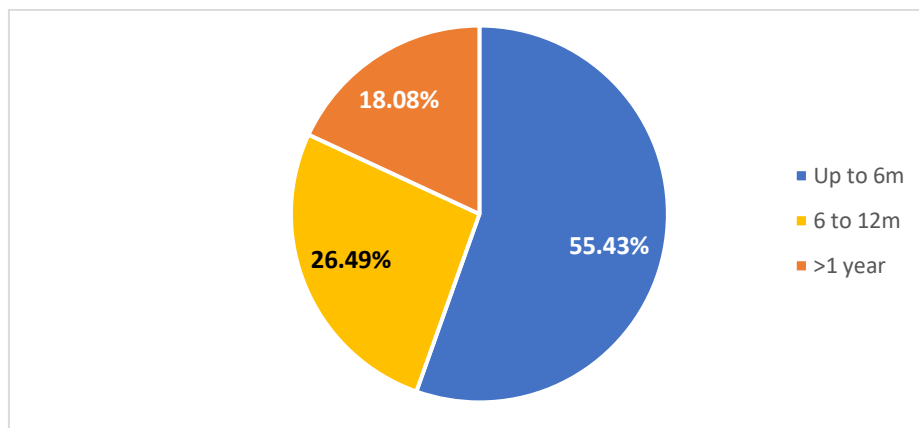


Figure 3. Duration of rural placements when taken, 2023 data

Respondents indicate high levels of satisfaction with their rural placement, irrespective of its duration.

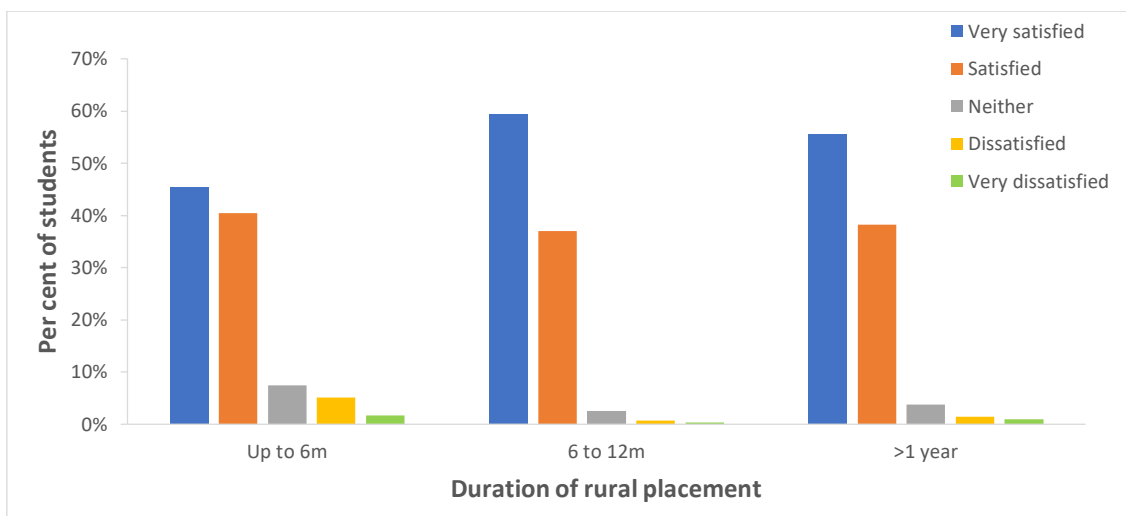


Figure 4. Students' satisfaction with rural placement, 2023 data

SECTION 5: CAREER INTENTION

Preferred country for future practice

The vast majority (97 per cent) of 2023 respondents indicated Australia as their preferred country for future practice – a figure which has remained at or above 96% since 2019.

The number indicating a preference to work in New Zealand continues to be very low.

The proportion of international students wishing to stay and work in Australia was 83 per cent – data shows this proportion is consistently between 75 to 85 per cent.

Table 23. Preferred country for future practice

Preferred country for future practice	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Domestic Students										
Australia	1,739	99.1	1,456	99.5	1,576	99.2	1,722	99.2	1,866	99.4
New Zealand	4	0.2	4	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2	3	0.2
Other	12	0.7	4	0.3	5	0.3	10	0.6	9	0.5
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International Students										
Australia	225	80.6	186	75.3	228	85.7	194	81.2	209	83.3
New Zealand	1	0.4	1	0.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other	53	19.0	60	24.3	38	14.3	45	18.8	42	16.7
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Australia	1,964	96.6	1,642	96.0	1,804	97.3	1,916	97.0	2,075	97.5
New Zealand	5	0.2	5	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2	3	0.1
Other	65	3.2	64	3.7	43	2.3	55	2.8	51	2.4
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Preferred state for future practice

Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland continued to be the three most preferred states for final year students when considering the location of their intended future practice.

Table 24. Career intention: first preference of state for future practice

First preference state/territory for future practice	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic Students										
ACT	36	2.1	17	1.2	30	1.9	21	1.2	34	1.8
NSW	540	30.8	366	25.0	386	24.3	414	23.8	451	24.0
NT	22	1.3	11	0.8	27	1.7	26	1.5	26	1.4
QLD	319	18.2	214	14.6	336	21.2	326	18.8	398	21.2
SA	70	4.0	79	5.4	38	2.4	78	4.5	135	7.2
TAS	41	2.3	47	3.2	61	3.8	65	3.7	51	2.7
VIC	527	30.0	543	37.1	495	31.2	489	28.2	487	25.9
WA	184	10.5	179	12.2	203	12.8	303	17.5	284	15.1
Country other than Australia	16	0.9	8	0.5	12	0.8	14	0.8	12	0.6
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International Students										
ACT	6	2.2	6	2.4	8	3.0	4	1.7	3	1.2
NSW	71	25.4	54	21.9	56	21.1	47	19.7	48	19.1
NT	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.4	1	0.4	1	0.4
QLD	46	16.5	46	18.6	51	19.2	39	16.3	46	18.3
SA	6	2.2	6	2.4	3	1.1	9	3.8	17	6.8
TAS	10	3.6	9	3.6	7	2.6	9	3.8	1	0.4
VIC	67	24.0	50	20.2	89	33.5	65	27.2	78	31.1
WA	19	6.8	15	6.1	13	4.9	20	8.4	15	6.0
Country other than Australia	54	19.4	61	24.7	38	14.3	45	18.8	42	16.7
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
ACT	42	2.1	23	1.3	38	2.0	25	1.3	37	1.7
NSW	611	30.0	420	24.5	442	23.8	461	23.3	499	23.4
NT	22	1.1	11	0.6	28	1.5	27	1.4	27	1.3
QLD	365	17.9	260	15.2	387	20.9	365	18.5	444	20.9
SA	76	3.7	85	5.0	41	2.2	87	4.4	152	7.1
TAS	51	2.5	56	3.3	68	3.7	74	3.7	52	2.4
VIC	594	29.2	593	34.7	584	31.5	554	28.1	565	26.5
WA	203	10.0	194	11.3	216	11.7	323	16.4	299	14.0
Country other than Australia	70	3.4	69	4.0	50	2.7	59	3.0	54	2.5
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Note: The varying response rates from students at medical schools in each state/territory will affect these figures (see tables 5 and 6)

Preferred location for future practice

Of those wishing for a future career working in Australia, 31.5 per cent of all students expressed a preference to work outside a metropolitan area (32.4 per cent of domestic students, 23.4 per cent of international). Preference for practice in more rural areas was stronger in domestic students than international, with 7 per cent of domestic students wanting to work in medium and small rural towns and remote / very remote communities vs 2.4 per cent of international students.

**Table 25. Career intention: preference of location for future practice
(for students preferring to practice in Australia)**

First preference region ⁹ of future practice	2019		2020		2021		2022		By MMM area	2023	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%		n	%
Domestic Students											
Capital city	1,131	65.0	954	65.5	950	60.4	1,040	60.4	Metropolitan	1,261	67.6
Major urban centre	321	18.5	240	16.5	307	19.5	305	17.7	Regional centre	326	17.5
Regional city/large town	201	11.6	175	12.0	213	13.5	253	14.7	Large rural town	148	7.9
Smaller town	61	3.5	64	4.4	71	4.5	91	5.3	Medium rural town	79	4.2
Small community	25	1.4	23	1.6	33	2.1	33	1.9	Small rural town	30	1.6
									Remote/very remote community	22	1.2
Total	1,739		1,456		1,574		1,722			1,866	
International Students											
Capital city	153	68.0	114	61.6	149	65.6	136	70.5	Metropolitan	160	76.6
Major urban centre	42	18.7	44	23.8	44	19.4	34	17.6	Regional centre	33	15.8
Regional city/large town	25	11.1	22	11.9	27	11.9	20	10.4	Large rural town	11	5.3
Smaller town	4	1.8	4	2.2	5	2.2	2	1.0	Medium rural town	3	1.4
Small community	1	0.4	1	0.5	2	0.9	1	0.5	Small rural town	2	1.0
									Remote/very remote community	0	0.0
Total	225		185		227		193			209	
All Students											
Capital city	1,284	65.4	1,068	65.1	1,099	61.0	1,176	61.4	Metropolitan	1,421	68.5
Major urban centre	363	18.5	284	17.3	351	19.5	339	17.7	Regional centre	359	17.3
Regional city/large town	226	11.5	197	12.0	240	13.3	273	14.3	Large rural town	159	7.7
Smaller town	65	3.3	68	4.1	76	4.2	93	4.9	Medium rural town	82	4.0
Small community	26	1.3	24	1.5	35	1.9	34	1.8	Small rural town	32	1.5
									Remote/very remote community	22	1.1
Total	1,964		1,641		1,801		1,915			2,075	

Note: direct comparisons to prior data are not possible as the MSOD survey has moved to collect data using the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification.

⁹ Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size) e.g. Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong; **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g. Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier; **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

Used from 2023, Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification: **Metropolitan** (e.g., Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities.); **Regional centre** (population >50,000 e.g., Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000 e.g., Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000 e.g., Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA); **Small rural town** (population <5,000 e.g., Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld); **Remote or very remote Community** (e.g., Broome WA, Katherine NT) <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

Preferred location for future practice – by rural background

The data highlights the higher rates of preference for rural practice by students from a rural background, with 64 per cent expressing a preference for a future career working outside a metropolitan area. This compares with only 20 per cent of respondents from a non-rural background.

Whilst the preference for non-metropolitan practice is the case for all rural background students, the proportion is greater for domestic students than international students.

**Table 26. Preferred location of future practice – by rural background
(percentage of those wishing to work in Australia)**

Preference for location ¹⁰ of future practice (%)	2019		2020		2021		2022		By MMM area	2023	
	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural		Non-rural	Rural
Domestic Students											
Capital city	74.0	38.8	77.8	33.5	70.7	29.3	71.7	27.4	Metropolitan	79.7	35.5
Major urban centre	17.1	22.6	14.1	22.8	17.6	25.2	16.0	22.7	Regional centre	13.0	29.3
Regional city / large town	6.6	26.0	6.4	26.8	8.9	27.5	9.1	30.8	Large rural town	4.3	17.6
Smaller town	1.9	8.1	0.9	13.4	2.3	11.2	2.4	13.6	Medium rural town	1.7	10.9
Small community	0.4	4.5	0.9	3.5	0.5	6.9	0.7	5.4	Small rural town	0.4	4.9
									Remote/very remote community	1.0	1.8
International Students											
Capital city	69.5	46.7	65.5	14.3	68.5	41.7	72.9	33.3	Metropolitan	79.0	42.9
Major urban centre	18.6	20.0	22.8	35.7	18.2	29.2	16.6	33.3	Regional centre	14.4	35.7
Regional city / large town	9.5	33.3	9.9	35.7	10.3	25.0	9.4	25.0	Large rural town	5.6	0.0
Smaller town	1.9	0.0	1.8	7.1	2.0	4.2	1.1	0.0	Medium rural town	1.0	7.1
Small community	0.5	0.0	0.0	7.1	1.0	0.0	0.0	8.3	Small rural town	0.0	14.3
									Remote/very remote community	0.0	0.0
All Students											
Capital city	73.4	39.1	76.1	32.9	70.4	30.0	71.9	27.6	Metropolitan	79.6	35.7
Major urban centre	17.3	22.5	15.3	23.3	17.7	25.4	16.1	23.0	Regional centre	13.2	29.5
Regional city / large town	7.0	26.2	6.9	27.1	9.1	27.3	9.2	30.7	Large rural town	4.5	17.1
Smaller town	1.9	7.9	1.1	13.2	2.2	10.8	2.3	13.2	Medium rural town	1.6	10.8
Small community	0.4	4.4	0.7	3.6	0.6	6.5	0.6	5.5	Small rural town	0.3	5.1
									Remote/very remote community	0.8	1.7

¹⁰ Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size) e.g. Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong; **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g. Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier; **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

Used from 2023, Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification: **Metropolitan** (e.g., Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities.); **Regional centre** (population >50,000 e.g., Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000 e.g., Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000 e.g., Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA); **Small rural town** (population <5,000 e.g., Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld); **Remote or very remote Community** (e.g., Broome WA, Katherine NT) <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

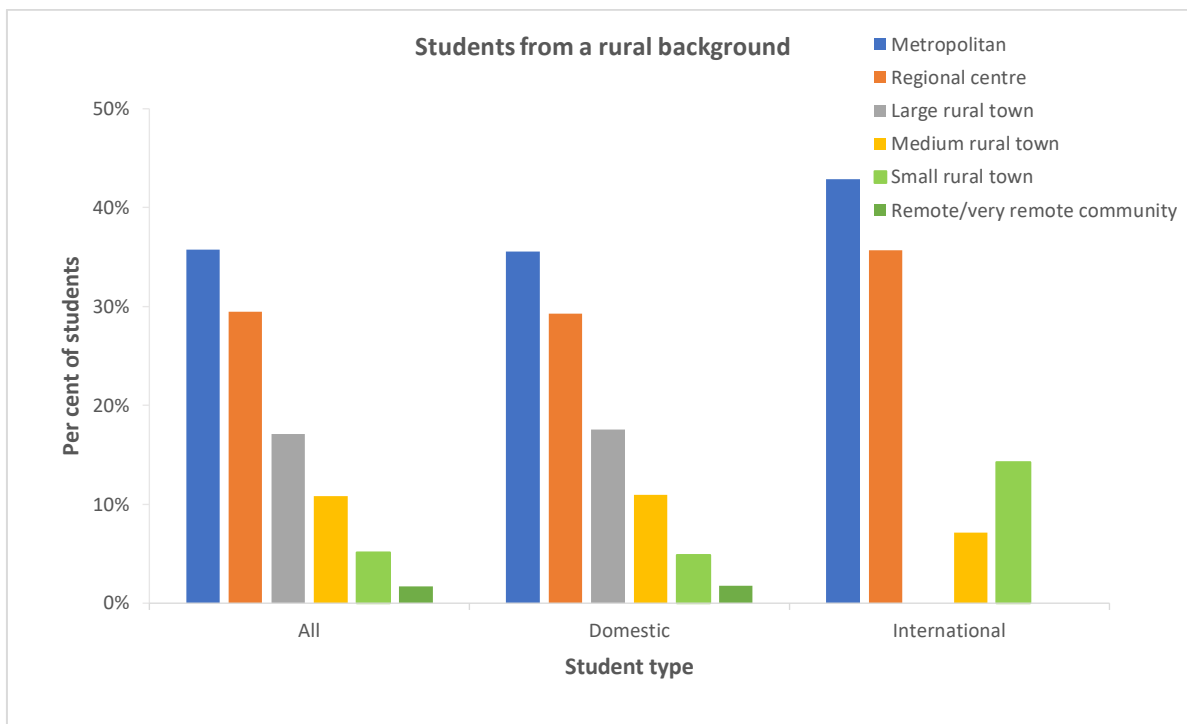


Figure 5. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a rural background wishing to practice in Australia

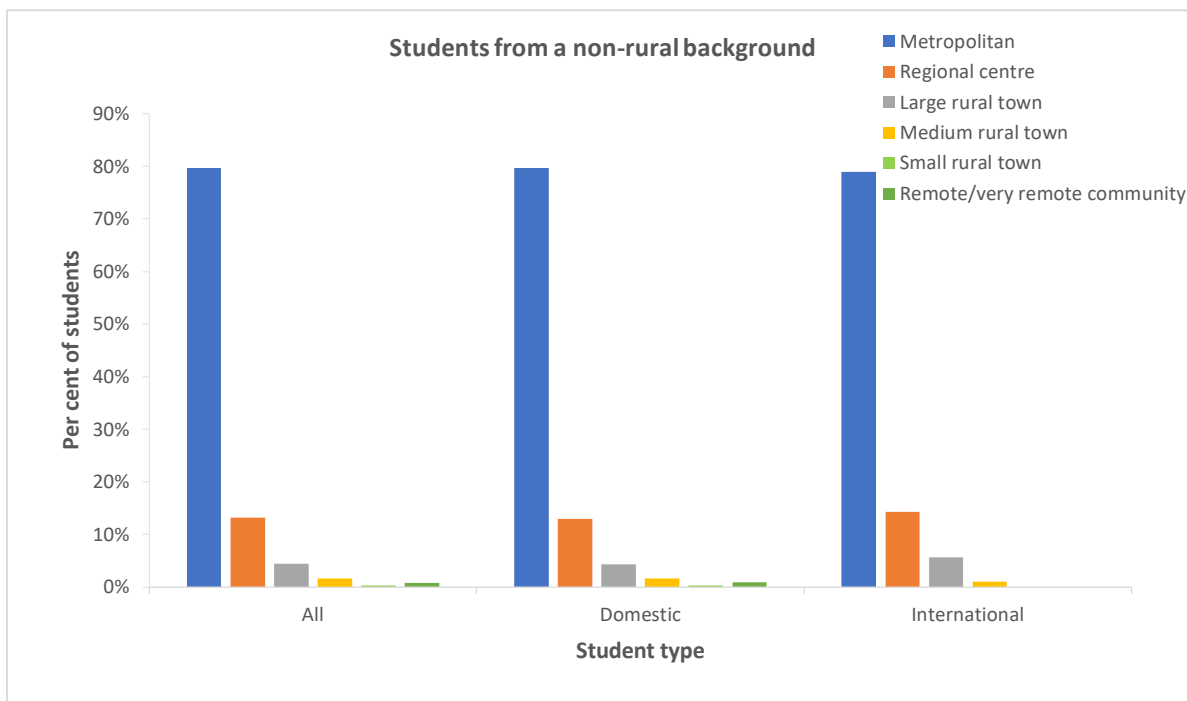


Figure 6. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a non-rural background wishing to practice in Australia

Preferred location for future practice – by rural placement duration

The data shows increased rates of preference for rural practice by students who undertook a rural placement – although the likelihood of bias must be noted, in that those already interested in rural practice are probably those seeking a rural placement.

Of those undertaking a rural placement of more than a year, one third expressed a preference for future practice in a rural or remote area. In contrast, this preference was 23 per cent for those who undertook a rural placement of 6 to 12 months, and only 7 and 9 per cent respectively where it was less than 6 months or there was no rural placement.

Table 27. Preferred location of future practice – by rural placement duration

Preference for location ¹¹ of future practice (%) – by rural placement	2021				2022				2023				
	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year	None	up to 6m	6 to 12m	> 1 year	
Capital city	77.5	61.2	48.0	35.2	73.2	70.2	45.5	25.8	Metropolitan	77.1	80.3	54.5	33.3
Major urban centre	13.9	21.8	21.5	22.4	15.5	16.1	18.4	24.2	Regional centre	13.4	12.5	22.5	33.0
Regional city/large town	4.7	11.2	20.3	28.0	5.8	9.6	23.2	32.9	Large rural town	4.8	4.3	12.0	19.0
Smaller town	0.7	3.7	6.4	10.4	1.1	2.4	10.5	11.9	Medium rural town	2.9	1.8	6.5	8.8
Small community	0.7	1.6	2.9	4.0	1.1	0.9	2.3	5.2	Small rural town	1.1	0.7	2.3	3.7
									Remote/very remote community	0.6	0.4	2.3	2.2
Overseas/Not stated	2.5	0.4	0.9	0.0	3.4	0.9	0.3	0.0	Overseas/Not stated	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

¹¹ Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size) e.g. Cairns, Geelong, Gold Coast/Tweed Heads, Gosford, Newcastle, Townsville, Wollongong, Wyong; **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size) e.g. Alice Springs, Ballarat, Bunbury, Dubbo, Launceston, Mount Gambier; **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

Used from 2023, Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification: **Metropolitan** (e.g., Newcastle NSW, Geelong Vic, Gold Coast Qld, most capital cities.); **Regional centre** (population >50,000 e.g., Hobart Tas, Darwin NT, Ballarat Vic, Townsville Qld); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000 e.g., Wagga Wagga NSW, Mt Gambier SA); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000 e.g., Lithgow NSW, Port Augusta SA); **Small rural town** (population <5,000 e.g., Denmark WA, Mission Beach Qld); **Remote or very remote Community** (e.g., Broome WA, Katherine NT) <https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm>.

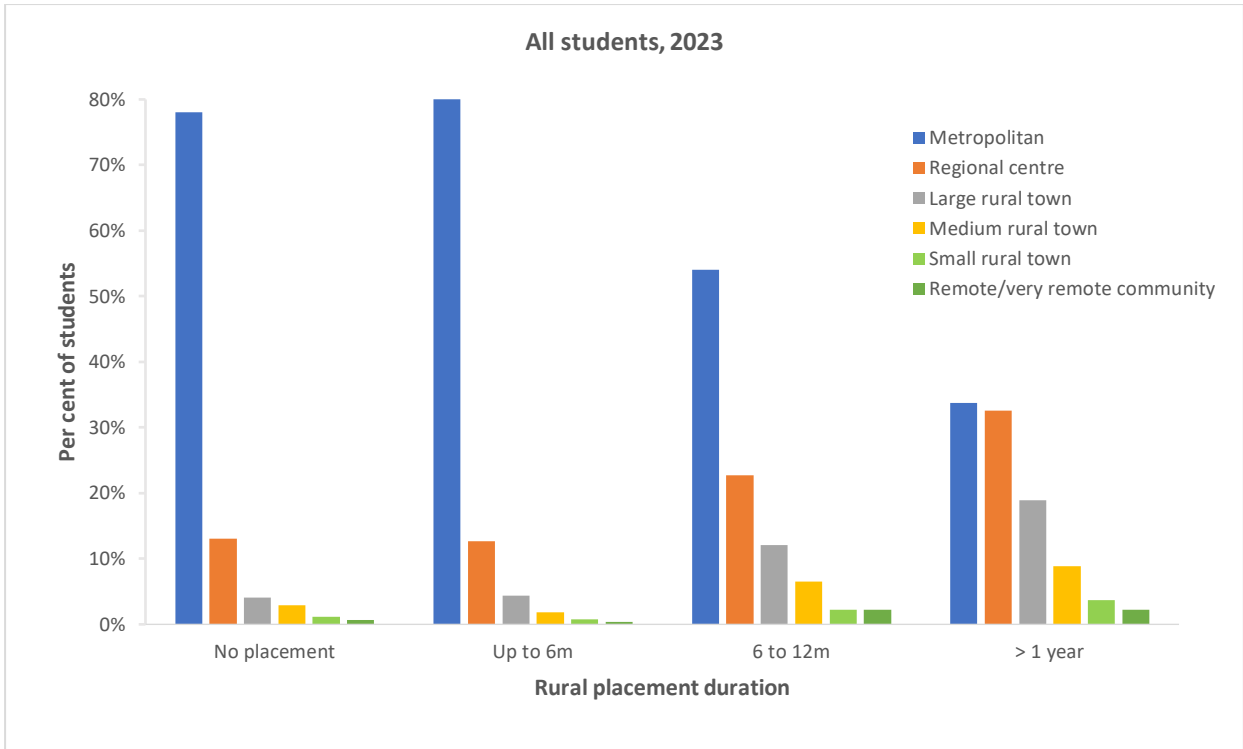


Figure 7. Percentage of students by placement duration and preferred location for future practice

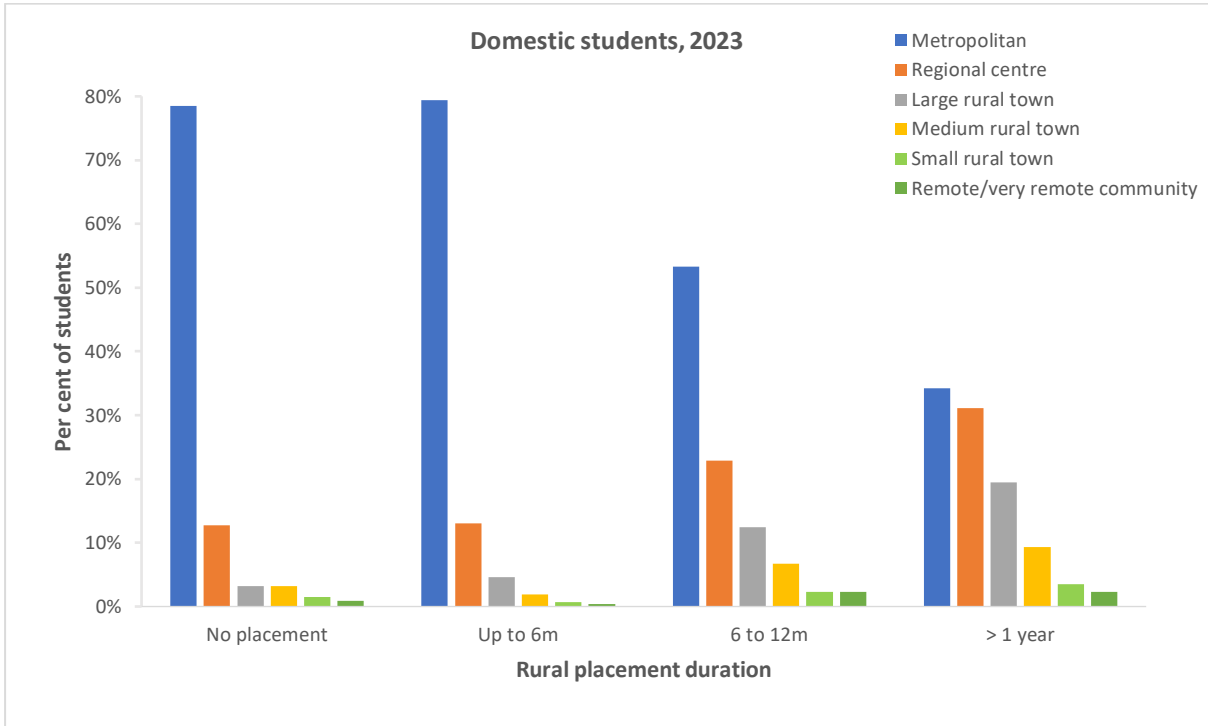


Figure 8. Percentage of domestic students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

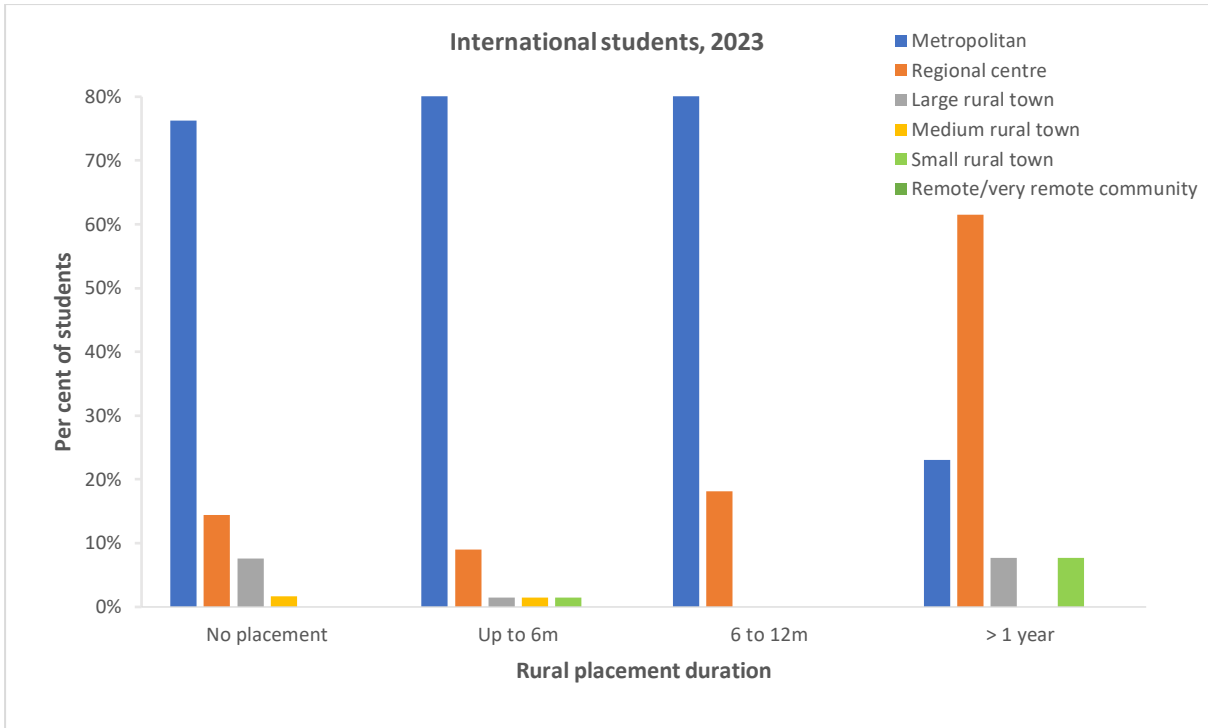


Figure 9. Percentage of international students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

Interests for future practice – teaching

A significant percentage of respondents continue to express interest in teaching as part of their future medical career, although the number marginally decreased again 2023.

Table 28. Interest in teaching as part of medical career

Interest in teaching	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic										
Yes	1,522	86.7	1,269	86.7	1,374	86.5	1,458	84.0	1,507	80.2
No	48	2.7	38	2.6	53	3.3	67	3.9	107	5.7
Undecided	185	10.5	157	10.7	161	10.1	211	12.2	264	14.1
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International										
Yes	231	82.8	204	82.6	221	83.1	176	73.6	195	77.7
No	9	3.2	9	3.6	10	3.8	13	5.4	18	7.2
Undecided	39	14.0	34	13.8	35	13.2	50	20.9	38	15.1
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Yes	1,753	86.2	1,473	86.1	1,595	86.0	1,634	82.7	1,702	79.9
No	57	2.8	47	2.7	63	3.4	80	4.1	125	5.9
Undecided	224	11.0	191	11.2	196	10.6	261	13.2	302	14.2
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Interests for future practice – research

Interest in research as part of a future medical career declined to 51 per cent in 2023 and was again of more interest to international than domestic students.

Table 29. Interest in research as part of medical career

Interest in research	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic										
Yes	1,110	63.2	898	61.3	933	58.8	962	55.4	958	51.0
No	282	16.1	261	17.8	310	19.5	397	22.9	449	23.9
Undecided	363	20.7	305	20.8	345	21.7	377	21.7	471	25.1
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International										
Yes	169	60.6	149	60.3	169	63.5	138	57.7	134	53.4
No	49	17.6	38	15.4	36	13.5	40	16.7	44	17.5
Undecided	61	21.9	60	24.3	61	22.9	61	25.5	73	29.1
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Yes	1,279	62.9	1,047	61.2	1,102	59.4	1,100	55.7	1,092	51.3
No	331	16.3	299	17.5	346	18.7	437	22.1	493	23.2
Undecided	424	20.8	365	21.3	406	21.9	438	22.2	544	25.6
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

Interests for future practice – Indigenous health

Consistently, just under half of respondents want Indigenous health to be a part of their future career. As in previous years, there was a marked difference in interest between domestic and international student respondents (51 vs 29 per cent).

Table 30. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

Interest in Indigenous health	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
Domestic										
Yes	881	50.2	772	52.7	862	54.3	891	51.3	951	50.6
No	322	18.3	216	14.8	277	17.4	310	17.9	375	20.0
Undecided	552	31.5	476	32.5	449	28.3	535	30.8	552	29.4
Total	1,755		1,464		1,588		1,736		1,878	
International										
Yes	71	25.4	75	30.4	81	30.5	73	30.5	72	28.7
No	92	33.0	76	30.8	75	28.2	74	31.0	86	34.3
Undecided	116	41.6	96	38.9	110	41.4	92	38.5	93	37.1
Total	279		247		266		239		251	
All Students										
Yes	952	46.8	847	49.5	943	50.9	964	48.8	1,023	48.1
No	414	20.4	292	17.1	352	19.0	384	19.4	461	21.7
Undecided	668	32.8	572	33.4	559	30.2	627	31.7	645	30.3
Total	2,034		1,711		1,854		1,975		2,129	

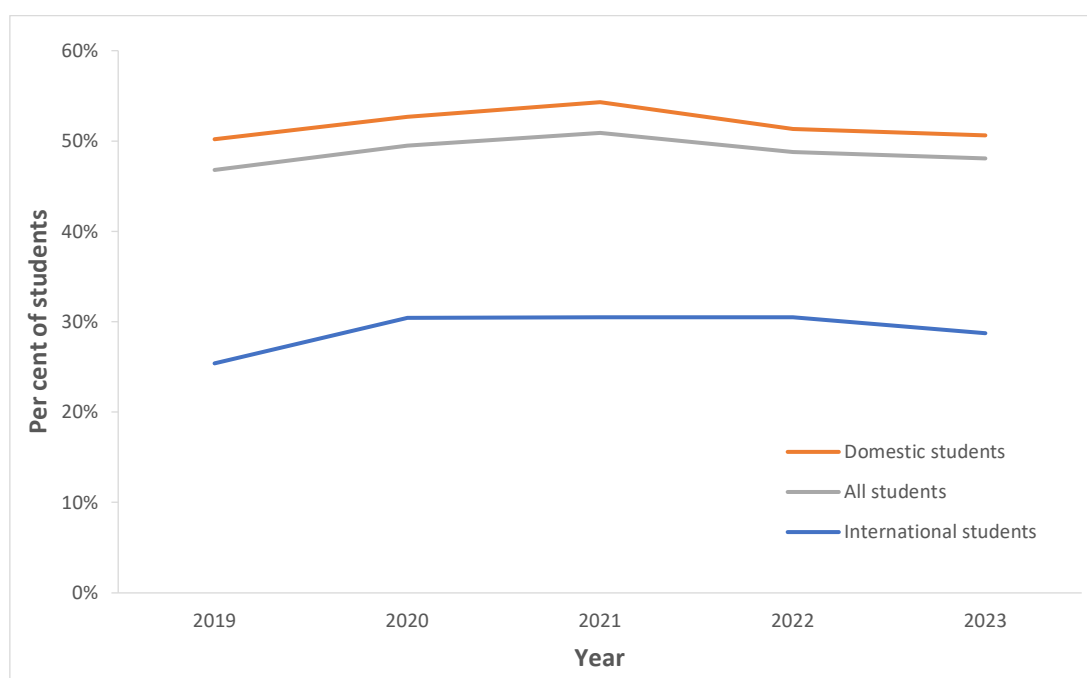


Figure 10. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

Respondents from a rural background continue to express greater interest in Indigenous health being part of their future career than those from a non-rural background.

Table 31. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background (percentages)

Interest in Indigenous health	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural
Yes	44.1	56.1	45.9	60.4	47.1	63.5	46.6	56.0	44.1	60.1
No	21.6	16.2	18.9	11.6	20.7	13.1	20.8	15.0	24.2	14.1
Undecided	34.4	27.7	35.2	28.0	32.2	23.4	32.6	29.0	31.8	25.8

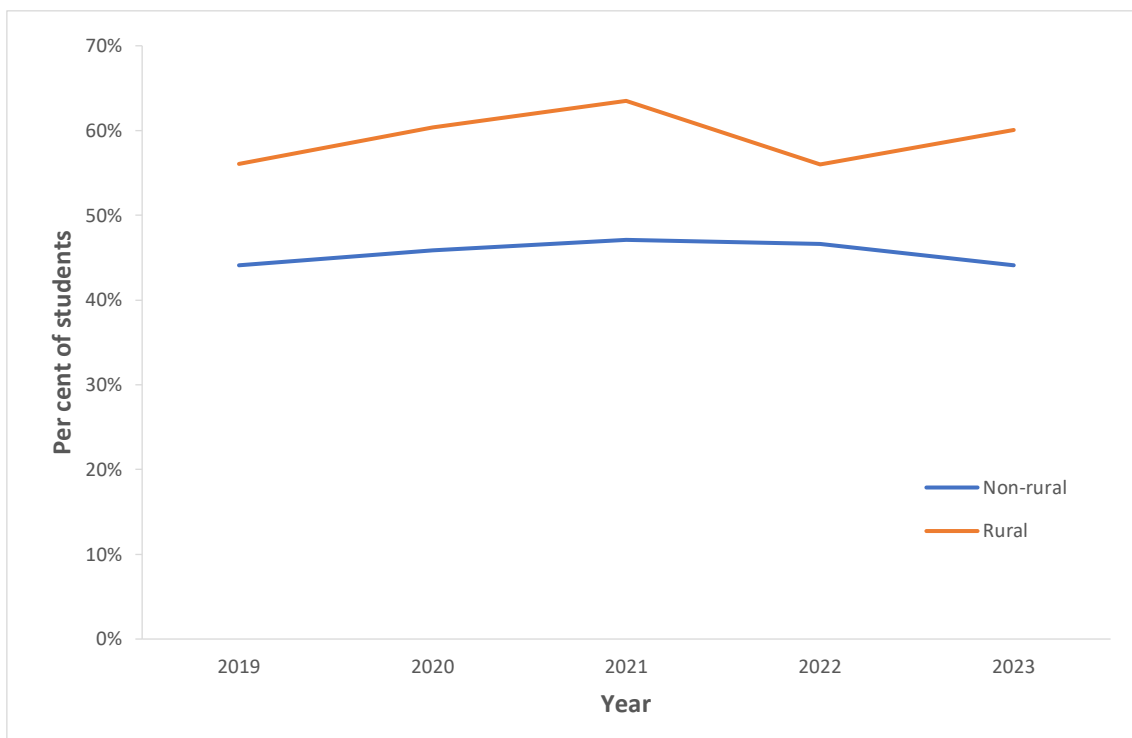


Figure 11. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background

Preferred specialty of future practice

Again in 2023, together the two options for general practice specialty – General practice and its sub-specialty of Rural Generalism – has overtaken Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician as the most preferred choice for future discipline.

Preference for these were expressed by 18 per cent of all students (19 per cent of domestic students and 10 per cent of international students) vs 17 per cent for Adult Medicine/ Internal Medicine/ Physician (16 per cent of domestic students and 19 per cent of international students).

Interest in Anaesthesia has increased over the last 4 years and now ranks as 2nd most preferred specialty, with interest higher amongst domestic than international students. Surgery was the most preferred specialty of international students.

Paediatrics and Child Health, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, and Obstetrics and Gynaecology continue to consistently rank in the top 10.

Table 32. First preference of specialty for future practice – All students

First preference specialty of future practice	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	386	19.0	1	322	18.8	1	350	18.9	1	308	15.6	1	355	16.7	1
Anaesthesia	214	10.5	4	158	9.2	4	185	10.0	4	239	12.1	3	286	13.4	2
Surgery	267	13.1	3	212	12.4	3	241	13.0	3	239	12.1	4	268	12.6	3
General Practice	293	14.4	2	262	15.3	2	252	13.6	2	256	13.0	2	223	10.5	4
Paediatrics & Child Health	170	8.4	5	125	7.3	6	139	7.5	6	149	7.5	6	174	8.2	5
Rural Generalist	.	.	.	.	.	.	86	4.6	9	115	5.8	8	150	7.0	6
Emergency Medicine	157	7.7	6	144	8.4	5	141	7.6	5	165	8.4	5	149	7.0	7
Psychiatry	93	4.6	8	103	6.0	8	104	5.6	8	127	6.4	7	136	6.4	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	121	5.9	7	107	6.3	7	104	5.6	7	110	5.6	9	96	4.5	9
Intensive Care Medicine	65	3.2	9	41	2.4	9	53	2.9	10	69	3.5	10	62	2.9	10
Radiology	29	1.4	12	35	2.0	10	43	2.3	11	41	2.1	11	48	2.3	11
Dermatology	38	1.9	10	34	2.0	11	20	1.1	14	32	1.6	13	30	1.4	12
Ophthalmology	30	1.5	11	27	1.6	12	26	1.4	12	37	1.9	12	30	1.4	13
Palliative Medicine	17	0.8	13	9	0.5	15	21	1.1	13	13	0.7	15	16	0.8	14
Sport & Exercise Medicine	16	0.8	14	5	0.3	16	5	0.3	20	3	0.2	21	13	0.6	15
Pathology	5	0.2	16	13	0.8	13	8	0.4	15	16	0.8	14	12	0.6	16
Public Health Medicine	4	0.2	20	11	0.6	14	5	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	10	0.5	17
Radiation Oncology	5	0.2	17	3	0.2	19	8	0.4	16	6	0.3	17	10	0.5	18
Medical Administration	5	0.2	15	3	0.2	18	5	0.3	18	3	0.2	19	6	0.3	19
Addiction Medicine	4	0.2	18	4	0.2	17	6	0.3	17	4	0.2	18	5	0.2	20
Sexual Health Medicine	4	0.2	21	2	0.1	21	3	0.2	23	9	0.5	16	5	0.2	21
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	2	0.1	22	1	0.1	22	4	0.2	21	1	0.1	23	3	0.1	22
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	0	0.0	24	0	0.0	23	1	0.1	24	0	0.0	24	1	0.0	23
Pain Medicine	4	0.2	19	0	0.0	24	1	0.1	25	0	0.0	25	1	0.0	24
Rehabilitation Medicine	2	0.1	23	2	0.1	20	4	0.2	22	2	0.1	22	1	0.0	25
Not Yet Decided	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	38	2.0	.	25	1.3	.	39	1.8	.
Missing	103	5.1	.	88	5.1	.	1	0.1	.	3	0.2	.	0	0.0	.
Total	2,034			1,711			1,854			1,975			2,129		

Table 33. First preference of specialty for future practice – Domestic students

First preference specialty of future practice	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	<i>n</i>	%	Rank	<i>n</i>	%	Rank	<i>n</i>	%	Rank	<i>n</i>	%	Rank	<i>n</i>	%	Rank
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	319	18.2	1	256	17.5	1	304	19.1	1	256	14.7	1	308	16.4	1
Anaesthesia	193	11.0	4	144	9.8	4	160	10.1	4	211	12.2	3	257	13.7	2
Surgery	232	13.2	3	183	12.5	3	192	12.1	3	206	11.9	4	210	11.2	3
General Practice	263	15.0	2	231	15.8	2	230	14.5	2	227	13.1	2	200	10.6	4
Paediatrics & Child Health	151	8.6	5	110	7.5	6	125	7.9	5	136	7.8	6	158	8.4	5
Rural Generalist	.	.	.	.	.	.	79	5.0	9	113	6.5	8	149	7.9	6
Emergency Medicine	129	7.4	6	117	8.0	5	111	7.0	6	138	7.9	5	128	6.8	7
Psychiatry	82	4.7	8	92	6.3	8	92	5.8	7	118	6.8	7	120	6.4	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	108	6.2	7	94	6.4	7	91	5.7	8	98	5.6	9	89	4.7	9
Intensive Care Medicine	54	3.1	9	35	2.4	9	45	2.8	10	59	3.4	10	55	2.9	10
Radiology	22	1.3	12	30	2.0	11	33	2.1	11	35	2.0	11	43	2.3	11
Dermatology	32	1.8	10	30	2.0	10	17	1.1	13	31	1.8	12	28	1.5	12
Ophthalmology	28	1.6	11	24	1.6	12	25	1.6	12	31	1.8	13	28	1.5	13
Sport & Exercise Medicine	14	0.8	13	5	0.3	16	4	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	12	0.6	14
Palliative Medicine	12	0.7	14	8	0.5	15	16	1.0	14	11	0.6	15	10	0.5	15
Public Health Medicine	3	0.2	20	10	0.7	13	4	0.3	18	3	0.2	19	10	0.5	16
Pathology	3	0.2	19	9	0.6	14	6	0.4	16	15	0.9	14	9	0.5	17
Radiation Oncology	4	0.2	17	3	0.2	18	8	0.5	15	5	0.3	17	9	0.5	18
Medical Administration	5	0.3	15	0	0.0	.	3	0.2	20	2	0.1	21	6	0.3	19
Addiction Medicine	4	0.2	16	4	0.3	17	5	0.3	17	4	0.2	18	5	0.3	20
Sexual Health Medicine	4	0.2	18	2	0.1	20	3	0.2	21	8	0.5	16	5	0.3	21
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	2	0.1	21	1	0.1	21	2	0.1	22	1	0.1	23	3	0.2	22
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	1	0.1	23	0	0.0	.	1	0.1	23
Pain Medicine	2	0.1	22	0	0.0	.	1	0.1	24	0	0.0	.	1	0.1	24
Rehabilitation Medicine	1	0.1	23	2	0.1	19	1	0.1	25	2	0.1	22	0	0.0	.
Not Yet Decided	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	29	1.8	.	21	1.2	.	34	1.8	.
Missing	88	5.0	.	74	5.1	.	1	0.1	.	2	0.1	.	0	0.0	.
Total	1,755			1,464			1,588			1,736			1,878		

Table 34. First preference of specialty for future practice – International students

First preference specialty of future practice	2019			2020			2021			2022			2023		
	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank	n	%	Rank
Surgery	35	12.5	2	29	11.7	3	49	18.4	1	33	13.8	2	58	23.1	1
Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician	67	24.0	1	66	26.7	1	46	17.3	2	52	21.8	1	47	18.7	2
Anaesthesia	21	7.5	5	14	5.7	6	25	9.4	4	28	11.7	4	29	11.6	3
General Practice	30	10.8	3	31	12.6	2	22	8.3	5	29	12.1	3	23	9.2	4
Emergency Medicine	28	10.0	4	27	10.9	4	30	11.3	3	27	11.3	5	21	8.4	5
Paediatrics and Child Health	19	6.8	6	15	6.1	5	14	5.3	6	13	5.4	6	16	6.4	6
Psychiatry	11	3.9	9	11	4.5	8	12	4.5	8	9	3.8	9	16	6.4	7
Intensive Care Medicine	11	3.9	8	6	2.4	9	8	3.0	10	10	4.2	8	7	2.8	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	13	4.7	7	13	5.3	7	13	4.9	7	12	5.0	7	7	2.8	9
Palliative Medicine	5	1.8	12	1	0.4	15	5	1.9	12	2	0.8	12	6	2.4	10
Radiology	7	2.5	10	5	2.0	10	10	3.8	9	6	2.5	11	5	2.0	11
Pathology	2	0.7	15	4	1.6	12	2	0.8	17	1	0.4	16	3	1.2	12
Dermatology	6	2.2	11	4	1.6	11	3	1.1	13	1	0.4	14	2	0.8	13
Ophthalmology	2	0.7	13	3	1.2	14	1	0.4	19	6	2.5	10	2	0.8	14
Radiation Oncology	1	0.4	18	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	17	1	0.4	15
Rehabilitation Medicine	1	0.4	19	0	0.0	.	3	1.1	14	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	16
Rural Generalist	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	7	2.6	11	2	0.8	13	1	0.4	17
Sport & Exercise Medicine	2	0.7	16	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	21	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	18
Addiction Medicine	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	18	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.
Medical Administration	0	0.0	.	3	1.2	13	2	0.8	15	1	0.4	15	0	0.0	.
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	2	0.8	16	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.
Pain Medicine	2	0.7	14	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.
Public Health Medicine	1	0.4	17	1	0.4	16	1	0.4	20	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.
Sexual Health Medicine	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	18	0	0.0	.
Not Yet Decided	0	0.0	.	0	0.0	.	9	3.4	10	4	1.7	.	5	2.0	.
Missing	15	5.4	.	14	5.7	.	0	0.0	.	1	0.4	.	0	0.0	.
Total	279			247			266			239			251		

Factors influencing specialty choice for future practice

Table 35 shows the score and rank of various factors that respondents say influenced their interest in their most preferred specialty. The students were asked to rank each factor from a scale of 1 ‘not at all’ influential, to 5 “a great deal” of influence.

Consistently over the years, two factors have ranked highest in influencing specialty preference – Alignment with personal values, and Atmosphere/ work culture – both again ranked 1st and 2nd in 2023.

The least influential factors were partners’ occupation, parents/relatives, and litigation/insurance costs. Other factors relating to finance (such as, financial costs of medical school education and/or debt and costs of vocational training) also continue to rank low down on the list.

Overall, there continues to be very little change in the ranking of these factors.

Table 35. Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine

Factors influencing choice of most preferred area of medicine	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Alignment with personal values	4.13	2	4.17	1	4.16	2	4.21	1	4.26	1
Atmosphere/work culture typical of the discipline	4.15	1	4.16	2	4.17	1	4.18	2	4.24	2
Experience of specialty as a medical student	4.04	3	4.04	3	4.02	3	3.98	4	4.03	3
Intellectual content of the specialty	4.00	4	3.98	5	4.01	4	4.00	3	4.00	4
General medical school experiences	3.94	5	3.99	4	3.91	5	3.86	5	3.91	5
Self-appraisal of own skills/aptitudes	3.77	7	3.85	7	3.80	7	3.82	6	3.82	6
Influence of consultants/mentors	3.91	6	3.91	6	3.83	6	3.81	7	3.80	7
Perceived opportunity to work flexible hours	3.51	9	3.54	9	3.60	8	3.68	8	3.69	8
Type of patients typical of the discipline	3.39	11	3.47	10	3.49	11	3.51	11	3.67	9
Opportunity for procedural work	3.70	8	3.58	8	3.57	9	3.67	9	3.61	10
Perceived amount of working hours	3.42	10	3.46	11	3.52	10	3.57	10	3.58	11
Perceived job security	3.38	12	3.38	12	3.40	12	3.47	12	3.53	12
Perceived career advancement prospects	3.37	13	3.33	13	3.34	13	3.39	13	3.52	13
Availability of a vocational training placement	3.27	14	3.25	15	3.21	15	3.22	15	3.22	14
Number of years required to complete training	2.96	18	3.04	16	3.02	16	3.07	16	3.10	15
Geographical location of most preferred specialty	3.00	16	2.93	18	3.01	17	3.02	17	3.09	16
Self-appraisal of own domestic circumstances	3.24	15	3.32	14	3.30	14	3.33	14	3.07	17
Perceived financial prospects	2.60	19	2.55	19	2.55	19	2.71	19	3.06	18
Opportunity for research and /or teaching	2.97	17	2.99	17	2.98	18	2.88	18	2.95	19
Perceived prestige of the discipline	2.20	20	2.11	20	2.15	20	2.14	20	2.37	20
Financial costs of vocational training	1.79	24	1.77	23	1.75	24	1.82	22	2.19	21
Financial costs of medical school education and/or debt	1.78	25	1.74	25	1.74	25	1.80	23	2.13	22
Risk of litigation and associated insurance costs	1.98	21	2.02	21	2.04	21	2.01	21	2.00	23
Influence of partner's occupation	1.83	23	1.75	24	1.78	23	1.73	25	1.99	24
Influence of parents/relatives	1.85	22	1.82	22	1.83	22	1.80	24	1.88	25

Note: Scale (of influence): 1 = Not at all to 5 = A great deal

SECTION 6: INTERNSHIP

Accepted internships by state/territory

Final year students were asked to indicate in which state or territory they had accepted an internship position. It should be noted that the time of year in which schools administer the survey would have a bearing on whether students had been offered an internship, as does the response rates from students across the different states/territories; thus, the responses presented in the table below do not reflect the final number of internship positions accepted for the 2023 cohort nor are they necessarily representative.

Table 36. Internship acceptance by state/territory

Internship acceptance by state/territory	2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%	<i>n</i>	%
ACT	57	2.8	35	2.1	56	3.0	45	2.3	43	2.1
NSW	624	31.2	413	24.3	438	23.7	485	24.9	504	24.8
NT	23	1.1	15	0.9	27	1.5	25	1.3	25	1.2
QLD	403	20.1	294	17.3	398	21.6	372	19.1	405	19.9
SA	83	4.1	85	5.0	47	2.5	82	4.2	146	7.2
TAS	65	3.2	66	3.9	82	4.4	82	4.2	54	2.7
VIC	507	25.3	555	32.6	552	29.9	502	25.8	531	26.1
WA	204	10.2	194	11.4	219	11.9	332	17.0	310	15.2
Country other than Australia	36	1.8	43	2.5	26	1.4	24	1.2	18	0.9
Total	2,002		1,700		1,845		1,949		2,036	



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