msod

medical schools outcomes database

NATIONAL DATA REPORT 2025

RESPONSES FROM FINAL YEAR STUDENTS AT AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SCHOOLS

2020-2024 DATA

Medical Deans

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

MAY 2025

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2025

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 2008 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 34,000 participants[1] 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 at https://www.otago.ac.nz/oms/education/mbchb/about/accountability/external/msod-project#overview.

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.

MEDICAL SCHOOLS OUTCOMES DATABASE

National Data Report 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the findings that were captured by the Medical Schools Outcomes Database (MSOD) 2024 survey, presenting data from the 5 years 2020 to 2024.

The MSOD survey was administered to final year students in medical schools across Australia in the last quarter of 2024, with a 56.5 per cent response rate (2,176 respondents from a cohort of 3,851[2]). 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: 53.5 per cent of the respondents were female, from a final year cohort where the gender ratio was 52.9 per cent female. The percentage of respondents aged under 25 increased in 2024 to 46.3 per cent, while the percentage of respondents aged 25-29 decreased to 42.2 per cent. Respondents with partners were again in the majority (53.1 per cent). Only 3.7 per cent of respondents had dependent children, and only 2.3 per cent reported having other dependents; proportions which have remained relatively consistent since 2013.

In terms of their future career, 29.3 per cent of respondents indicated a preference to work in a non-metropolitan[3] area – 30.4 per cent of domestic students and 20.1 per cent of international. Overall, domestic students were more likely than international students to want to work in a rural/remote community location[4] – 13.0 per cent versus 4.8 per cent. The MSOD results reflect findings from other data that students from a rural background express higher levels of desire to practice in rural or regional locations. 32.4 per cent of domestic student respondents from rural backgrounds[5] prefer to work in a rural town or remote community versus 6.2 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 40.3 per cent of international respondents undertook a rural placement during their last two years of study. Of these placements, 45.9 per cent were longer than 6 months' duration. Of those undertaking a rural placement for more than a year, 30.9 per cent expressed a preference for practice in a rural town or remote community. The comparative figures are 23.0 per cent for those where the duration was 6 to 12 months, 8.2 per cent where it was up to 6 months, and 3.0 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 6 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).

2. Medical Deans' Data Dashboard

3. Non-metropolitan region defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 2-7.

4. Rural/Remote community location defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 3-7.

5. Rural background classification based on self reporting by survey respondents.

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.

Levels of interest in a career that involves teaching and research have been consistently high over the years, and 2024 was no exception with 81.9 per cent interested in teaching being part of their future and 58.4 per cent interested in research (vs 80.2 and 50.9 per cent respectively in 2023). Domestic respondents continued to express greater interest in teaching than international students (82.7 vs 75.8 per cent), while international students expressed greater interest in research than domestic students (60.3 vs 58.1 per cent).

Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician and General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) continue to consistently rank as the top 2 preferred specialties. In 2024, Adult Medicine was preferred by 17.2 per cent of respondents (17.2 per cent of domestic students vs. 17.5 per cent of international students), while General practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) was preferred by 15 per cent of respondents. Surgery and Anaesthesia continued to be popular - preferred by 14.3 and 13.1 per cent of all respondents respectively.

The top two factors cited as influencing choice of specialty remain unchanged – "Alignment with personal values" (ranked first) and "Atmosphere/work culture" (ranked second). "Intellectual content of the specialty" ranked 3rd this year, marginally ahead of "Experience of specialty as a medical student" followed by "General medical school experiences". The least influential factors continue to be "Influence of partner's occupation" and "Influence of parents/relatives".

Levels of satisfaction with the medical program at universities decreased slightly with 76.4 per cent of respondents indicating they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement that they were satisfied with their course – although a decrease of the percentage is consistent with values observed over the last 5 years. The percentage dissatisfied or very dissatisfied remained relatively stable at 9.3 per cent. International students continued to express less satisfaction with their medical program than domestic students.

Similarly, the proportion of students in overall agreement that their basic medical degree was preparing them well for work as an intern decreased slightly to 80.0 per cent – the second highest figure in this data series. The proportion disagreeing or strongly disagreeing remained steady at 5.2 per cent.

Note: Data on the full 2024 medical student cohort, as referenced in this Report, is accessible from the Medical Deans' Data Dashboard.

SECTION 1: MSOD SURVEY RESPONDENTS

Medical school respondents

In 2024, there were 3,851 final year students across all Australian medical schools of which 3,725 graduated (96.7 per cent). Approximately 57 per cent of the cohort, or 2,176, responded to the MSOD survey.

Table 1. Respondents by medical school – All students

School attended	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	55	3.2	8	0.4	27	1.4	104	5.0	82	3.8
Australian National University	49	2.9	81	4.4	61	3.1	55	2.6	.	.
Bond University	44	2.6	73	3.9	72	3.7	107	5.1	85	3.9
Curtin University	.	.	48	2.6	44	2.2	63	3.0	61	2.8
Deakin University	104	6.1	101	5.4	89	4.5	57	2.7	91	4.2
Flinders University	25	1.5	27	1.5	69	3.5	69	3.3	54	2.5
Griffith University	23	1.3	38	2.0	106	5.4	96	4.6	73	3.4
James Cook University	.	.	99	5.3	70	3.6	94	4.5	63	2.9
Macquarie University	.	.	21	1.1	30	1.5	22	1.1	55	2.5
The University of Melbourne	104	6.1	127	6.9	79	4.0	145	7.0	181	8.3
Monash University	400	23.4	353	19.0	354	18.0	312	15.0	349	16.0
The Uni. of Newcastle / Uni. of New England JMP	121	7.1	99	5.3	107	5.4	139	6.7	172	7.9
The University of New South Wales	96	5.6	71	3.8	34	1.7	61	2.9	87	4.0
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	55	3.2	79	4.3	79	4.0	71	3.4	60	2.8
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	39	2.3	33	1.8	45	2.3	46	2.2	33	1.5
The University of Queensland	192	11.2	200	10.8	134	6.8	144	6.9	160	7.4
The University of Sydney	110	6.4	114	6.1	153	7.8	155	7.5	188	8.6
University of Tasmania	84	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8	72	3.5	72	3.3
The University of Western Australia	140	8.2	87	4.7	208	10.6	169	8.1	135	6.2
Western Sydney University	30	1.8	38	2.0	43	2.2	27	1.3	110	5.1
University of Wollongong	40	2.3	50	2.7	71	3.6	71	3.4	65	3.0
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Note: There were no survey responses from Macquarie or James Cook Universities in 2020, and none from the Australian National University in 2024.

Domestic students

1,924 of the respondents (88 per cent) were domestic students; 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	50	3.4	7	0.4	24	1.4	92	5.0	74	3.8
Australian National University	45	3.1	70	4.4	55	3.2	51	2.8	.	.
Bond University	44	3.0	73	4.6	71	4.1	106	5.8	83	4.3
Curtin University	.	.	48	3.0	44	2.5	63	3.4	61	3.2
Deakin University	98	6.7	93	5.9	79	4.6	55	3.0	77	4.0
Flinders University	24	1.6	26	1.6	61	3.5	61	3.3	43	2.2
Griffith University	18	1.2	35	2.2	96	5.5	85	4.6	70	3.6
James Cook University	.	.	84	5.3	63	3.6	83	4.5	59	3.1
Macquarie University	.	.	20	1.3	25	1.4	19	1.0	49	2.5
The University of Melbourne	95	6.5	116	7.3	74	4.3	127	6.9	161	8.4
Monash University	333	22.7	271	17.1	291	16.8	237	12.9	282	14.7
The Uni. of Newcastle / Uni. of New England JMP	105	7.2	89	5.6	97	5.6	127	6.9	159	8.3
The University of New South Wales	77	5.3	54	3.4	31	1.8	43	2.3	73	3.8
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	55	3.8	79	5.0	79	4.6	70	3.8	60	3.1
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	39	2.7	33	2.1	44	2.5	44	2.4	33	1.7
The University of Queensland	145	9.9	158	9.9	112	6.5	130	7.1	126	6.5
The University of Sydney	89	6.1	88	5.5	123	7.1	129	7.0	180	9.4
University of Tasmania	67	4.6	91	5.7	78	4.5	66	3.6	63	3.3
The University of Western Australia	127	8.7	80	5.0	188	10.9	158	8.6	123	6.4
Western Sydney University	24	1.6	31	2.0	37	2.1	26	1.4	87	4.5
University of Wollongong	29	2.0	42	2.6	60	3.5	62	3.4	61	3.2
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	

Note: throughout this Report:

- Domestic students comprise of 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 252, 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
The University of Adelaide	5	2.0	1	0.4	3	1.3	12	4.9	8	3.2
Australian National University	4	1.6	11	4.1	6	2.5	4	1.6	.	.
Bond University	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	1	0.4	2	0.8
Curtin University	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Deakin University	6	2.4	8	3.0	10	4.2	2	0.8	14	5.6
Flinders University	1	0.4	1	0.4	8	3.4	8	3.3	11	4.4
Griffith University	5	2.0	3	1.1	10	4.2	11	4.5	3	1.2
James Cook University	.	.	15	5.6	7	2.9	11	4.5	4	1.6
Macquarie University	.	.	1	0.4	5	2.1	3	1.2	6	2.4
The University of Melbourne	9	3.6	11	4.1	5	2.1	18	7.3	20	7.9
Monash University	67	27.1	82	30.8	63	26.5	75	30.6	67	26.6
The Uni. of Newcastle / Uni. of New England JMP	16	6.5	10	3.8	10	4.2	12	4.9	13	5.2
The University of New South Wales	19	7.7	17	6.4	3	1.3	18	7.3	14	5.6
The University of Notre Dame (Fremantle)	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	.	.
The University of Notre Dame (Sydney)	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	2	0.8	.	.
The University of Queensland	47	19.0	42	15.8	22	9.2	14	5.7	34	13.5
The University of Sydney	21	8.5	26	9.8	30	12.6	26	10.6	8	3.2
University of Tasmania	17	6.9	16	6.0	17	7.1	6	2.4	9	3.6
The University of Western Australia	13	5.3	7	2.6	20	8.4	11	4.5	12	4.8
Western Sydney University	6	2.4	7	2.6	6	2.5	1	0.4	23	9.1
University of Wollongong	11	4.5	8	3.0	11	4.6	9	3.7	4	1.6
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	

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 2024		MSOD respondents 2024	
	n	%	*n*	%
4-year course	2,308	59.9%	1,185	54.5%
5-year course	975	25.3%	757	34.8%
6-year course	568	14.7%	232	10.7%
Total	**3,851**		**2,176**	

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 Victoria where almost 71 per cent 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
NSW	436	25.5	426	23.0	483	24.5	521	25.1	710	32.6
VIC	608	35.5	581	31.3	522	26.5	514	24.7	621	28.5
QLD	259	15.1	410	22.1	382	19.4	441	21.2	381	17.5
WA	195	11.4	214	11.5	331	16.8	303	14.6	256	11.8
SA	80	4.7	35	1.9	96	4.9	173	8.3	136	6.3
TAS	84	4.9	107	5.8	95	4.8	72	3.5	72	3.3
ACT	49	2.9	81	4.4	61	3.1	55	2.6	.	.
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin is included in South Australian figures

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

State/territory of study	2024 final year students		2024 MSOD respondents		2024 Response Rate
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*%*
ACT	98	2.5	.	.	-
NSW	1116	29.0	710	32.6	63.6
QLD	950	24.7	381	17.5	40.1
SA	328	8.5	136	6.3	41.5
TAS	105	2.7	72	3.3	68.6
VIC	880	22.9	621	28.5	70.6
WA	374	9.7	256	11.8	68.4
Total	**3,851**		**2,176**		**56.5**

Note: Data for Flinders Medical School in Darwin is included in South Australian figures

SECTION 2: DEMOGRAPHICS

Student gender

The gender balance of respondents was 54 per cent female and 46 per cent male with approximately 1 per cent identifying as either non-binary or preferring not to say. The full cohort of the 2024 final year students was 52.9 per cent female, 47.0 per cent male, and 0.1 per cent non-binary or unspecified.

Table 7. Respondents by gender

Gender	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Female	977	57.1	1,033	55.7	1,107	56.2	1,185	57.0	1,164	53.5
Male	732	42.8	813	43.9	843	42.8	869	41.8	991	45.5
Non-Binary	.	.	.	.	8	0.4	14	0.7	10	0.5
Prefer not to say	2	0.1	8	0.4	12	0.6	11	0.5	11	0.5
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Student age

In contrast to the previous few years, the largest number of respondents fell within the under-25 age group. Eighty-nine 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
<25	713	41.7	764	41.2	784	39.8	895	43.0	1,007	46.3
25-29	764	44.7	834	45.0	954	48.4	943	45.4	919	42.2
30-34	174	10.2	175	9.4	169	8.6	167	8.0	170	7.8
35-39	33	1.9	45	2.4	37	1.9	43	2.1	49	2.3
40-44	20	1.2	22	1.2	16	0.8	24	1.2	19	0.9
45+	7	0.4	14	0.8	10	0.5	7	0.3	12	0.6
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Table 9. Median age of respondents

Age	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Median	25	25	25	25	25
Minimum	21	21	19	19	21
Maximum	51	59	55	54	56

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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Partnered	880	51.4	938	50.6	1,110	56.3	1,143	55.0	1,155	53.1
Not partnered	831	48.6	916	49.4	860	43.7	936	45.0	1,021	46.9
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Almost 4 per cent of respondents reported having dependent children, a figure which has remained relatively consistent since 2020. 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Children										
0	1,642	96.0	1,776	95.8	1,909	96.9	1,993	95.9	2,095	96.3
1	28	1.6	37	2.0	30	1.5	41	2.0	43	2.0
2	29	1.7	27	1.5	23	1.2	31	1.5	33	1.5
3 or more	12	0.7	14	0.8	8	0.4	14	0.7	5	0.2
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	
Other										
0	1,666	97.4	1,816	98.0	1,943	98.6	2,030	97.6	2,125	97.7
1	34	2.0	31	1.7	22	1.1	39	1.9	36	1.7
2	6	0.4	7	0.4	2	0.1	8	0.4	12	0.6
3 or more	5	0.3	.	.	3	0.2	2	0.1	3	0.1
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Country of birth

Table 12 shows the countries with the highest representation of survey respondents over the last 5 years; while the number respondents born in Australia decreased from the previous year, the proportion continues to remain stable at around two thirds of the total of respondents.

Of non-Australian born respondents, those born in India were the largest group (4.7 per cent of all respondents). The numbers of respondents born in Singapore continues to decline, comprising only 3.3 per cent of the total in 2024. The number of respondents born in China increased slightly, whilst the percentage of Aotearoa New Zealand born respondents remained relatively unchanged.

Table 12. Country of birth (top 10)

Country of birth	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Australia	1,135	66.3	1,212	65.4	1,301	66.1	1,344	64.6	1,403	64.5
India	52	3.0	63	3.4	64	3.3	92	4.4	103	4.7
Singapore	89	5.2	95	5.1	99	5.0	94	4.5	71	3.3
China (excludes SARs & Taiwan)	37	2.2	29	1.6	48	2.4	50	2.4	70	3.2
New Zealand	41	2.4	45	2.4	56	2.8	66	3.2	60	2.8
England	29	1.7	35	1.9	41	2.1	39	1.9	43	2.0
Malaysia	38	2.2	49	2.6	33	1.7	38	1.8	42	1.9
Sri Lanka	33	1.9	30	1.6	30	1.5	37	1.8	38	1.7
Canada	43	2.5	57	3.1	39	2.0	43	2.1	36	1.7
South Africa	19	1.1	22	1.2	44	2.2	25	1.2	38	1.7
Other country	195	11.4	215	11.6	214	10.9	251	12.1	272	12.5
[Missing/Unknown]	.	.	*2*	.	*1*	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Sources of income

Almost three-quarters of respondents (72 per cent) reported relying on family as an income source during their medical degree. The proportion indicating reliance on government assistance decreased to 58 per cent – having fallen even every year since 2020. Those reliant on HECS/FEE/OS HELP loans decreased to 57 per cent. The number of respondents indicating reliance on savings/trust fund continues to rise – from 16 per cent in 2020 to almost 26 per cent in 2024.

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

Income sources	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Family	1,285	75.1	1,328	71.6	1,386	70.3	1,532	73.6	1,563	71.8
Government assistance	1,123	65.6	1,171	63.1	1,315	66.7	1,254	60.3	1,266	58.1
HECS/FEE/OS HELP loan	964	56.3	1,006	54.2	1,067	54.1	1,259	60.5	1,243	57.1
Paid employment	1,012	59.1	1,082	58.3	1,294	65.6	1,310	63.0	1,344	61.7
Personal Loan	131	7.6	103	5.5	146	7.4	151	7.2	121	5.5
Savings/Trust fund	277	16.1	315	16.9	374	18.9	490	23.5	557	25.5
Scholarship	500	29.2	436	23.5	496	25.1	444	21.3	470	21.5
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Note: Participants can select more than one option

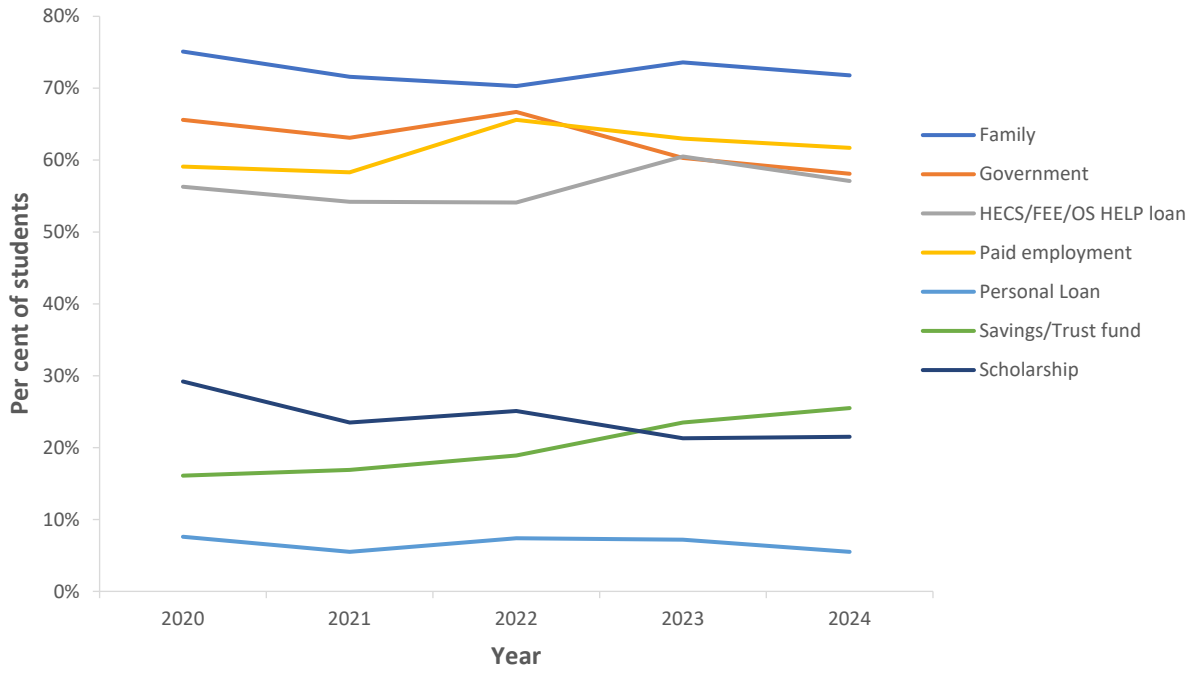

Figure 1. Sources of income for education and/or living expenses for entire medical degree

Rural background

Almost 24 per cent of 2024 respondents self-reported as having come from a rural background (26.0 per cent of domestic vs. 6.3 per cent of international respondents).

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

Rural background	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
Yes	405	27.7	399	25.1	442	25.5	507	27.6	501	26.0
No	1,059	72.3	1,189	74.9	1,290	74.5	1,327	72.4	1,423	74.0
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	17	6.9	28	10.5	16	6.7	17	6.9	16	6.3
No	230	93.1	238	89.5	222	93.3	228	93.1	236	93.7
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	422	24.7	427	23.0	458	23.2	524	25.2	517	23.8
No	1,289	75.3	1,427	77.0	1,512	76.8	1,555	74.8	1,659	76.2
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Eighty six per cent of 2024 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[6] 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 secondary school in a regional area	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Domestic Students										
Yes	343	24.5	353	23.3	390	23.6	437	25.4	460	25.1
No	1,059	75.5	1,165	76.7	1,265	76.4	1,284	74.6	1,374	74.9
Overseas	*62*	.	*70*	.	*77*	.	*113*	.	*90*	.
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	1	5.6	3	11.1	2	8.3	1	3.6	2	5.6
No	17	94.4	24	88.9	22	91.7	27	96.4	34	94.4
Overseas	*229*	.	*239*	.	*214*	.	*217*	.	*216*	.
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	344	24.2	356	23.0	392	23.3	438	25.0	462	24.7
No	1,076	75.8	1,189	77.0	1,287	76.7	1,311	75.0	1,408	75.3
Overseas	*291*	.	*309*	.	*291*	.	*330*	.	*306*	.
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Note: Geographical classification for this question changed in 2023. For years 2020-2022, respondents were asked whether their final year was spent in a regional city, large town, smaller town, or small community. In contrast, in 2023-2024, respondents were asked whether their final year was spent in a non-metropolitan location (i.e., a Regional centre, Rural town or a Remote community).

6. Regional area defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 2-7.

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 73 per cent of those responding lived the longest in a metropolitan area. Note: The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's most recent published population data (released 28 June 2022[7]) shows that 67 per cent of the population were living in Greater Capital Cities[8].

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[9]	2020		2021		2022		Location of longest Residence[10]	2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%		*n*	%	*n*	%
Capital city	1,005	68.6	1,062	66.9	1,187	68.5	Metropolitan	1,312	71.6	1,403	73.1
Major urban centre	122	8.3	168	10.6	179	10.3	Regional centre	196	10.7	201	10.5
Regional city or large town	126	8.6	146	9.2	177	10.2	Large rural town	105	5.7	123	6.4
Smaller town	116	7.9	124	7.8	105	6.1	Medium rural town	108	5.9	104	5.4
Small community	95	6.5	87	5.5	84	4.8	Small rural town	100	5.5	81	4.2
							Remote/very remote community	11	0.6	8	0.4
[In AUS < 12 months]	.	.	*1*	.	.	.	*[In AUS < 12 months]*	*2*	.	*4*	.
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**			**1,834**		**1,924**	

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

10. Commencing in the 2023 survey, MSOD adopted the Modified Monash Model (MMM) classification for geographic locations: **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,000); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm.

SECTION 3: PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Highest 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 relatively stable over this period. The number having no prior tertiary qualifications increased slightly to 38 per cent - the highest percentage since 2020.

Table 17. Highest level of previous degree

Highest level of previous degree	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Postgraduate Degree	100	5.8	121	6.5	113	5.7	115	5.5	129	5.9
Bachelor's Degree (honours)	227	13.3	254	13.7	302	15.3	241	11.6	238	10.9
Bachelor's Degree	678	39.6	712	38.4	822	41.7	848	40.8	884	40.6
Graduate Diploma or Graduate Certificate level	40	2.3	48	2.6	30	1.5	45	2.2	52	2.4
Diploma	16	0.9	20	1.1	18	0.9	24	1.2	13	0.6
Certificate	34	2.0	33	1.8	30	1.5	33	1.6	32	1.5
N/A no prior tertiary qualifications	616	36.0	666	35.9	655	33.2	773	37.2	828	38.1
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Discipline of previous degree

Just over half of all respondents who had completed a previous degree had done so in a health-related field – this proportion continues to increase – up from less than 40 per cent in 2020 to 52.3 per cent in 2024.

The most common health-specific degrees completed were Medical Studies (28.1 per cent), Public Health (4.0 per cent), Other Health (3.7 per cent) and Nursing/Midwifery (3.4 per cent). The other field where many had a prior degree was Natural and Physical Sciences (43.8 per cent).

Table 18. Discipline of highest previous degree

Discipline of highest previous degree	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%	*n*	%
Health Total	355	33.1	516	44.4	641	49.4	642	49.1	706	52.3
== *Medical Studies*	*161*	*15.0*	*237*	*20.4*	*350*	*26.9*	*320*	*24.5*	*380*	*28.1*
== *Complementary Therapies*	.	.	*2*	*0.1*	*2*	*0.1*	*2*	*0.1*	.	.
== *Dental Studies*	*2*	*0.1*	*2*	*0.1*	*7*	*0.5*	*7*	*0.5*	*5*	*0.3*
== *Nursing / Midwifery*	*23*	*2.1*	*32*	*2.7*	*27*	*2.0*	*47*	*3.5*	*47*	*3.4*
== *Optical Science*	*6*	*0.5*	*6*	*0.5*	*7*	*0.5*	*2*	*0.1*	*4*	*0.2*
== *Pharmacy*	*29*	*2.7*	*51*	*4.3*	*40*	*3.0*	*35*	*2.6*	*41*	*3.0*
== *Rehabilitation Therapies*	*41*	*3.8*	*37*	*3.1*	*54*	*4.1*	*51*	*3.9*	*33*	*2.4*
== *Radiography*	*10*	*0.9*	*10*	*0.8*	*10*	*0.7*	*13*	*0.9*	*14*	*1.0*
== *Public Health*	*40*	*3.7*	*45*	*3.8*	*46*	*3.5*	*45*	*3.4*	*55*	*4.0*
== *Veterinary Studies*	*3*	*0.2*	*6*	*0.5*	*6*	*0.4*	*6*	*0.4*	*3*	*0.2*
== *Other Health*	*41*	*3.8*	*75*	*6.4*	*62*	*4.7*	*67*	*5.1*	*50*	*3.7*
Natural and Physical Sciences	598	55.8	559	48.1	569	43.8	567	43.4	591	43.8
Information Technology	5	0.4	10	0.8	11	0.8	10	0.7	11	0.8
Engineering and Related Technologies	31	2.8	32	2.7	40	3.0	37	2.8	32	2.3
Architecture and Building	2	0.1	1	0.0	.	.	2	0.1	4	0.2
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies	5	0.4	6	0.5	9	0.6	2	0.1	5	0.3
Education	13	1.2	11	0.9	8	0.6	10	0.7	12	0.8
Management and Commerce	31	2.8	38	3.2	44	3.3	34	2.6	47	3.4
Society and Culture	98	9.1	85	7.3	82	6.3	90	6.8	59	4.3
Creative Arts	35	3.2	31	2.6	37	2.8	25	1.9	18	1.3
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services	9	0.8	4	0.3	4	0.3	6	0.4	3	0.2
Mixed Field Programmes	19	1.7	13	1.1	12	0.9	22	1.6	12	0.8

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-six per cent of respondents indicated they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program in 2024, down slightly higher from last year’s figure. The proportion of respondents “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” increased slightly to 9.3 per cent.

The proportion of domestic students “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their medical program continued to remain higher for domestic than international students, consistent with previous years.

Table 19. Overall level of satisfaction with medical program

Satisfaction	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Domestic Students					
Average satisfaction	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	77.0	77.8	76.4	79.1	76.9
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.1	9.6	10.4	8.9	9.1
International Students					
Average satisfaction	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.9	3.7
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	72.1	67.3	71.0	78.4	72.6
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	12.6	12.8	13.4	10.2	10.7
All Students					
Average satisfaction	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.9	3.8
Median satisfaction	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent satisfied or very satisfied	76.3	76.3	75.7	79.0	76.4
Per cent dissatisfied or very dissatisfied	10.5	10.1	10.8	9.0	9.3

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

Preparation for internship

Eighty per cent of 2024 respondents “Agreed” or “Strongly Agreed” that their basic medical degree was preparing them well to work as an intern. Just over 5 per cent of the cohort said they “Disagreed” or “Strongly Disagreed” with this statement.

Domestic students continued to agree more strongly with the statement than international students - a pattern that has been consistent since 2020.

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

Agreement	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Domestic Students					
Average agreement	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	78.1	79.6	79.7	81.9	80.6
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	6.5	5.8	5.9	5.2	5.1
International Students					
Average agreement	3.8	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.9
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	71.3	71.8	73.5	78.4	75.4
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	5.3	6.0	7.6	5.7	6.0
All Students					
Average agreement	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Median agreement	4	4	4	4	4
Per cent agreeing or strongly agreeing	77.1	78.5	79.0	81.5	80.0
Per cent disagreeing or strongly disagreeing	6.3	5.8	6.1	5.2	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 in rural and remote health practice.

In 2024, only 21 per cent of respondents indicated that they were a member of a rural club – the lowest figure over the last 5 years.

Domestic students continue to be significantly more likely to be in a rural club than international students; 23 per cent vs 7 per cent.

Most rural club members (57 per cent) self-reported as being from a non-rural background. Of those students who did consider themselves from a rural background, 38 per cent were involved with rural clubs.

Using a binary logistic regression analysis[11], 2024 data showed that respondents who reported being members of rural clubs were more than six times more likely to express a preference to practice outside metropolitan[12] regions than those who were not members (OR 6.7 95 per cent CI 5.349-8.355 p<0.001). This is an expected correlation 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
Yes	470	32.1	445	28.0	443	25.6	515	28.1	446	23.2
No	994	67.9	1,143	72.0	1,289	74.4	1,319	71.9	1,478	76.8
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	29	11.7	24	9.0	24	10.1	14	5.7	18	7.1
No	218	88.3	242	91.0	214	89.9	231	94.3	234	92.9
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	499	29.2	469	25.3	467	23.7	529	25.4	464	21.3
No	1,212	70.8	1,385	74.7	1,503	76.3	1,550	74.6	1,712	78.7
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

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

12. Non-metropolitan defined as Modified Monash Classification levels 2-7.

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 (67 per cent vs 39 per cent). This discrepancy is most marked for placements of 6 months or more, with 12 per cent of international students undertaking these in 2024 vs. 31 per cent of domestic students[13].

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

Rural placement	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
None	365	25.0	440	27.7	342	19.7	443	24.2	572	29.7
Up to 6 months	525	36.0	587	37.0	817	47.2	750	40.9	719	37.4
Between 6 and 12 months	305	20.9	327	20.6	338	19.5	383	20.9	351	18.2
More than a year	264	18.1	234	14.7	235	13.6	258	14.1	282	14.7
Missing / Unknown	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
None	118	48.6	150	56.4	106	44.5	146	59.6	154	61.1
Up to 6 months	82	33.7	83	31.2	99	41.6	73	29.8	67	26.6
Between 6 and 12 months	19	7.8	17	6.4	16	6.7	12	4.9	13	5.2
More than a year	24	9.9	16	6.0	17	7.1	14	5.7	18	7.1
Missing / Unknown	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
None	483	28.4	590	31.8	448	22.7	589	28.3	726	33.4
Up to 6 months	607	35.7	670	36.1	916	46.5	823	39.6	786	36.1
Between 6 and 12 months	324	19.0	344	18.6	354	18.0	395	19.0	364	16.7
More than a year	288	16.9	250	13.5	252	12.8	272	13.1	300	13.8
Missing / Unknown	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

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

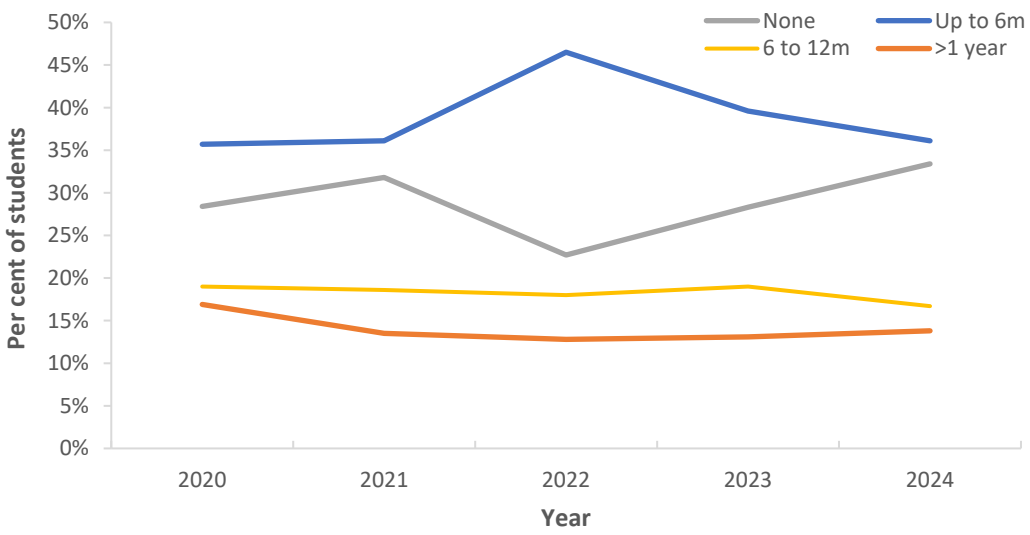

Figure 2. Proportion of all students undertaking a rural placement in their last 2 years of study

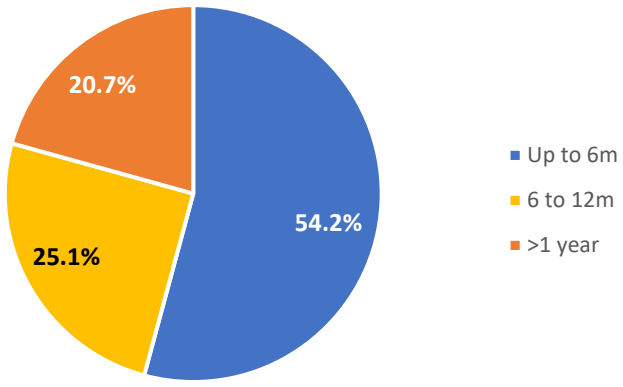

Figure 3. Duration of rural placements when taken, 2024 data

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

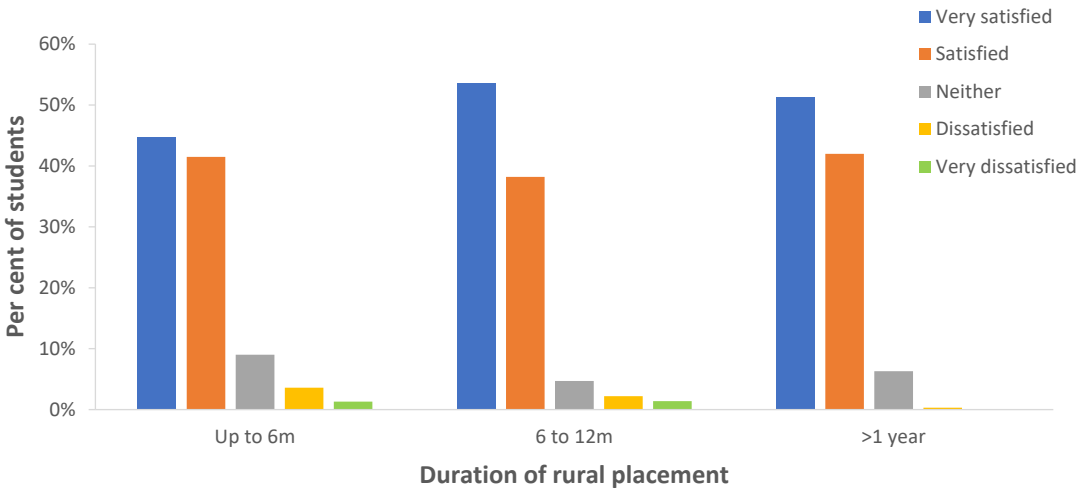

Figure 4. Students' satisfaction with rural placement, 2024 data

SECTION 5: CAREER INTENTION

Preferred country for future practice

The vast majority (97 per cent) of 2024 respondents indicated Australia as their preferred country for future practice – a figure which has remained at or above 96 per cent since 2020.

The number indicating a preference to work in New Zealand continues to be very low at only less than half a per cent.

The proportion of international students wishing to stay and work in Australia remains high at almost 84 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
Australia	1,456	99.5	1,576	99.2	1,718	99.2	1,822	99.3	1,907	99.1
New Zealand	4	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2	3	0.2	4	0.2
Other	4	0.3	5	0.3	10	0.6	9	0.5	13	0.7
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Australia	186	75.3	228	85.7	193	81.1	203	82.9	211	83.7
New Zealand	1	0.4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Other	60	24.3	38	14.3	45	18.9	42	17.1	41	16.3
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Australia	1,642	96.0	1,804	97.3	1,911	97.0	2,025	97.4	2,118	97.3
New Zealand	5	0.3	7	0.4	4	0.2	3	0.1	4	0.2
Other	64	3.7	43	2.3	55	2.8	51	2.5	54	2.5
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

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 of state/territory for future practice	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
ACT	17	1.2	30	1.9	20	1.2	34	1.9	5	0.3
NSW	366	25.1	386	24.5	416	24.2	443	24.3	575	30.2
NT	11	0.8	27	1.7	25	1.5	26	1.4	15	0.8
QLD	214	14.7	336	21.3	326	19.0	372	20.4	345	18.1
SA	79	5.4	38	2.4	76	4.4	129	7.1	109	5.7
TAS	47	3.2	61	3.9	65	3.8	51	2.8	34	1.8
VIC	543	37.3	495	31.4	488	28.4	483	26.5	584	30.6
WA	179	12.3	203	12.9	302	17.6	284	15.6	240	12.6
[Country other than AUS]	*8*	*.*	*12*	*.*	*14*	*.*	*12*	*.*	*17*	*.*
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
ACT	6	3.2	8	3.5	4	2.1	3	1.5	.	.
NSW	54	29.0	56	24.6	47	24.4	48	23.6	59	28.0
NT	.	.	1	0.4	1	0.5	.	.	1	0.5
QLD	46	24.7	51	22.4	39	20.2	44	21.7	40	19.0
SA	6	3.2	3	1.3	9	4.7	15	7.4	10	4.7
TAS	9	4.8	7	3.1	9	4.7	1	0.5	5	2.4
VIC	50	26.9	89	39.0	64	33.2	77	37.9	82	38.9
WA	15	8.1	13	5.7	20	10.4	15	7.4	14	6.6
[Country other than AUS]	*61*	*.*	*38*	*.*	*45*	*.*	*42*	*.*	*41*	*.*
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
ACT	23	1.4	38	2.1	24	1.3	37	1.8	5	0.2
NSW	420	25.6	442	24.5	463	24.2	491	24.2	634	29.9
NT	11	0.7	28	1.6	26	1.4	26	1.3	16	0.8
QLD	260	15.8	387	21.5	365	19.1	416	20.5	385	18.2
SA	85	5.2	41	2.3	85	4.4	144	7.1	119	5.6
TAS	56	3.4	68	3.8	74	3.9	52	2.6	39	1.8
VIC	593	36.1	584	32.4	552	28.9	560	27.7	666	31.4
WA	194	11.8	216	12.0	322	16.8	299	14.8	254	12.0
[Country other than AUS]	*69*	*.*	*50*	*.*	*59*	*.*	*54*	*.*	*58*	*.*
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

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, 29.3 per cent expressed a preference to work outside a metropolitan area (30.4 per cent of domestic students, 20.1 per cent of international). Preference for practice in more rural areas was stronger in domestic students than international, with 5.6 per cent of domestic students wanting to work in medium and small rural towns and remote/very remote communities vs 1.3 per cent of international students.

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

Preferred location for future practice[14]	2020		2021		2022		Preferred location for future practice[15]	2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*		*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students											
Capital city	958	65.5	956	60.3	1,044	60.3	Metropolitan	1,224	67.2	1,337	69.6
Major urban centre	240	16.4	310	19.5	307	17.7	Regional centre	322	17.7	334	17.4
Regional city/large town	178	12.2	216	13.6	254	14.7	Large rural town	146	8.0	142	7.4
Smaller town	64	4.4	71	4.5	92	5.3	Medium rural town	78	4.3	64	3.3
Small community	23	1.6	33	2.1	33	1.9	Small rural town	30	1.6	28	1.5
							Remote/very remote community	22	1.2	16	0.8
[in AU < 12 months]	*1*	*.*	*2*	*.*	*2*	*.*	*[in AU < 12 months]*	*12*	*.*	*3*	*.*
[Missing/Unknown]	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*[Missing/Unknown]*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**			**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students											
Capital city	147	65.9	164	66.4	152	70.4	Metropolitan	158	77.8	183	79.9
Major urban centre	47	21.1	48	19.4	37	17.1	Regional centre	30	14.8	35	15.3
Regional city/large town	23	10.3	27	10.9	24	11.1	Large rural town	10	4.9	8	3.5
Smaller town	5	2.2	6	2.4	2	0.9	Medium rural town	3	1.5	2	0.9
Small community	1	0.4	2	0.8	1	0.5	Small rural town	2	1.0	0	0.0
							Remote/very remote community	0	0.0	1	0.4
[in AU < 12 months]	*24*	*.*	*17*	*.*	*17*	*.*	*[in AU < 12 months]*	*42*	*.*	*23*	*.*
[Missing/Unknown]	*.*	*.*	*2*	*.*	*5*	*.*	*[Missing/Unknown]*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**			**245**		**252**	
All Students											
Capital city	1,105	65.5	1,120	61.1	1,196	61.5	Metropolitan	1,382	68.2	1,520	70.7
Major urban centre	287	17.0	358	19.5	344	17.7	Regional centre	352	17.4	369	17.2
Regional city/large town	201	11.9	243	13.3	278	14.3	Large rural town	156	7.7	150	7.0
Smaller town	69	4.1	77	4.2	94	4.8	Medium rural town	81	4.0	66	3.1
Small community	24	1.4	35	1.9	34	1.7	Small rural town	32	1.6	28	1.3
							Remote/very remote community	22	1.1	17	0.8
[in AU < 12 months]	*25*	*.*	*19*	*.*	*19*	*.*	*[in AU < 12 months]*	*54*	*.*	*26*	*.*
[Missing/Unknown]	*.*	*.*	*2*	*.*	*5*	*.*	*[Missing/Unknown]*	*.*	*.*	*.*	*.*
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**			**2,079**		**2,176**	

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.

14. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000-99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000–24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

15. Geographical classification used from 2023 - Modified Monash Model (MMM); **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,000); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** 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 who self-reported as being from a rural background, with almost 62 per cent expressing a preference for a future career working outside a metropolitan area. This compares with only 19 per cent of respondents from a non-rural background.

Whilst the preference for non-metropolitan practice is not the case for all rural background students, the proportion is greater for domestic students than international students.

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

Preferred location for future practice[16]	2020		2021		2022		Preferred location for future practice[17]	2023		2024	
	Non Rural	Rural	Non Rural	Rural	Non Rural	Rural		Non Rural	Rural	Non Rural	Rural
Domestic Students							**Domestic Students**				
Capital city	77.8	33.3	70.6	29.2	71.6	27.6	Metropolitan	79.3	35.4	80.7	38.1
Major urban centre	14	22.7	17.7	25.2	16.1	22.6	Regional centre	13.3	29.1	13.1	29.5
Regional city/large town	6.4	27.2	8.9	27.7	9.2	30.8	Large rural town	4.3	17.6	4	17
Smaller town	0.9	13.3	2.3	11.1	2.5	13.6	Medium rural town	1.7	11.1	1.4	8.8
Small community	0.9	3.5	0.5	6.8	0.7	5.4	Small rural town	0.4	5	0.7	3.6
							Remote/very remote community	1	1.8	0.1	3
International Students							**International Students**				
Capital city	69.4	23.5	69.5	40.7	73.1	33.3	Metropolitan	80.4	42.9	82.6	43.8
Major urban centre	20.4	29.4	18.2	29.6	15.9	33.3	Regional centre	13.2	35.7	14.6	25
Regional city/large town	8.7	29.4	9.5	22.2	10	26.7	Large rural town	5.3	0	2.3	18.8
Smaller town	1.5	11.8	1.8	7.4	1	0	Medium rural town	1.1	7.1	0	12.5
Small community	0	5.9	0.9	0	0	6.7	Small rural town	0	14.3	0	0
							Remote/very remote community	0	0	0.5	0
All Students							**All Students**				
Capital city	76.4	32.9	70.5	30	71.8	27.8	Metropolitan	79.5	35.6	81	38.3
Major urban centre	15	23	17.7	25.5	16.1	23	Regional centre	13.3	29.3	13.3	29.4
Regional city/large town	6.8	27.3	9	27.4	9.3	30.6	Large rural town	4.4	17.1	3.8	17
Smaller town	1	13.3	2.2	10.8	2.3	13.1	Medium rural town	1.6	11	1.2	8.9
Small community	0.7	3.6	0.6	6.4	0.6	5.5	Small rural town	0.3	5.2	0.6	3.5
							Remote/very remote community	0.9	1.7	0.1	2.9

Note: Percentages shown were calculated after exclusion of respondents not intending to work in Australia, or for whom data was not available (2020 = 25/1711, 2021 = 21/1854, 2022 = 24/1970, 2023 = 54/2079, 2024 = 26/2176)

16. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).

17. Geographical classification used from 2023 - Modified Monash Model (MMM): **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm.

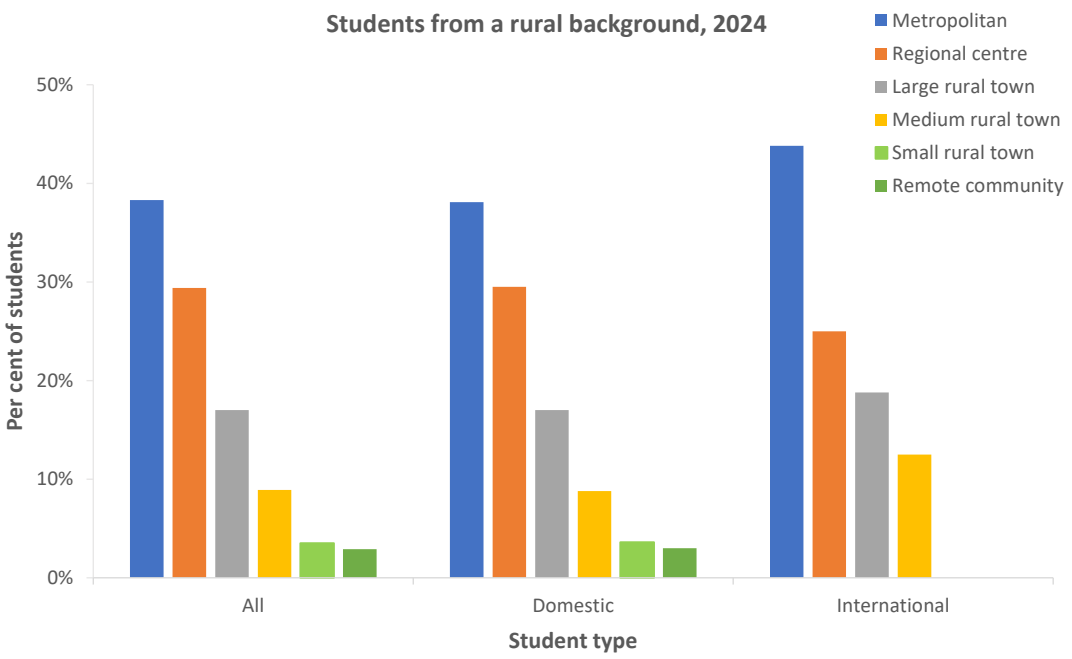

Figure 5. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a rural background wishing to practice in Australia

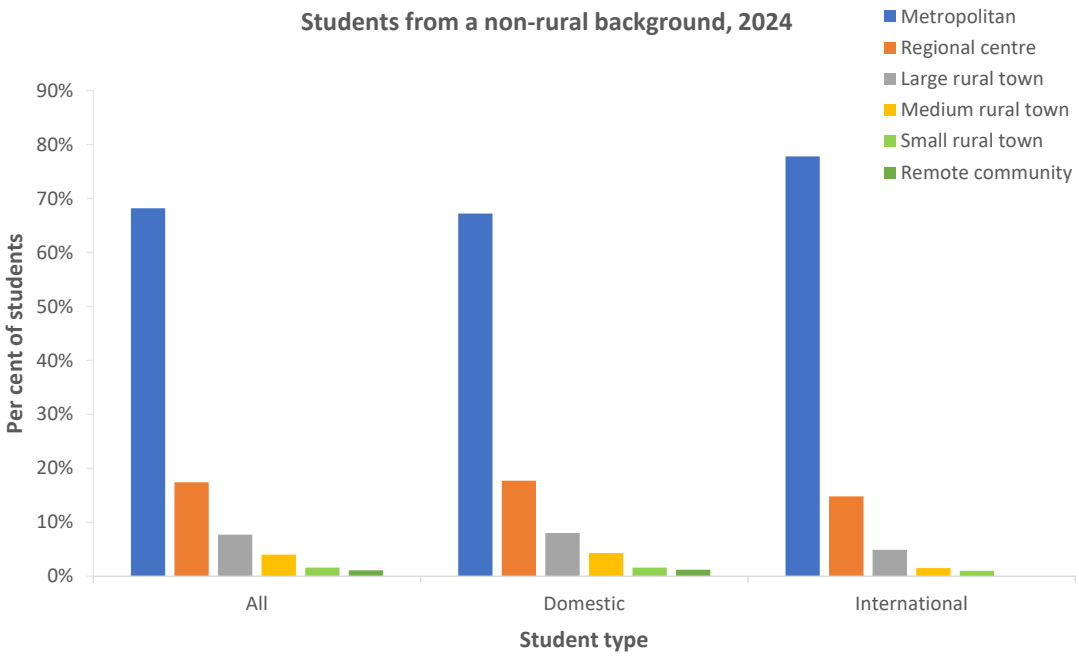

Figure 6. Percentage of students by preferred location for future practice – students from a non-rural background wishing to practice in Australia

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 for more than a year, 31 per cent 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 8 and 3 per cent respectively where it was less than 6 months or there was no rural placement.

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

Preferred location for future practice by rural placement[18]	2021				2022			
	No placement	Up to 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 12 months	No placement	Up to 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 12 months
Capital city	79.5	61.5	48.4	35.2	75.8	70.7	45.6	25.8
Major urban centre	14.3	21.9	21.7	22.4	16.2	16.3	18.4	24.2
Regional city or large town	4.9	11.2	20.5	28	5.8	9.7	23.2	32.9
Smaller town	0.7	3.7	6.5	10.4	1.2	2.4	10.5	11.9
Small community	0.7	1.6	2.9	4	1.2	0.9	2.3	5.2

Preferred location for future practice by rural placement[19]	2023				2024			
	No placement	Up to 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 12 months	No placement	Up to 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 12 months
Metropolitan	77.8	80	54	33.8	89.5	76.3	54.4	31.3
Regional centre	13.2	12.8	22.5	32.3	7.5	15.5	22.7	37.7
Large rural town	4.2	4.2	12.3	19	2	4.7	13	17.3
Medium rural town	2.9	1.8	6.6	8.9	0.6	1.7	5.8	9.3
Small rural town	1.3	0.7	2.3	3.7	.	1.3	2.5	3
Remote/very remote community	0.7	0.4	2.3	2.2	0.4	0.5	1.7	1.3

Note: Percentages shown were calculated after exclusion of respondents not intending to work in Australia, or for whom data was not available (2021 = 21/1854, 2022 = 24/1970, 2023 = 54/2079, 2024 = 26/2176)

18. Geographical classification used prior to 2023: **Capital City**; **Major urban centre** (>100,000 population size); **Regional city or large town** (25,000 - 99,999 population size); **Smaller town** (10,000 – 24,999 population size); **Small community** (<10,000 population size).
19. Geographical classification used from 2023 - Modified Monash Model (MMM): **Metropolitan**; **Regional centre** (population >50,000); **Large rural town** (population 15-50,000); **Medium rural town** (population 5-15,000); **Small rural town** (population <5,000); **Remote or very remote community** https://www.health.gov.au/topics/rural-health-workforce/classifications/mmm.

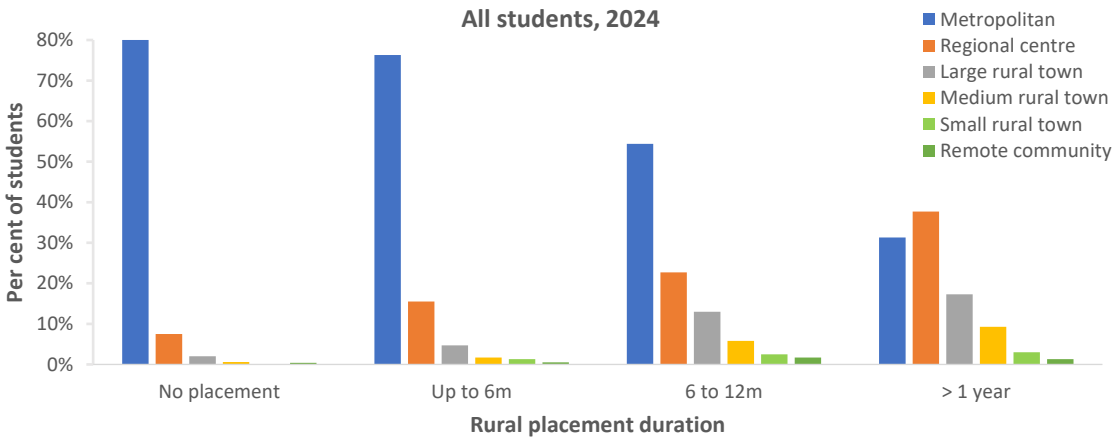

Figure 7. Percentage of students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

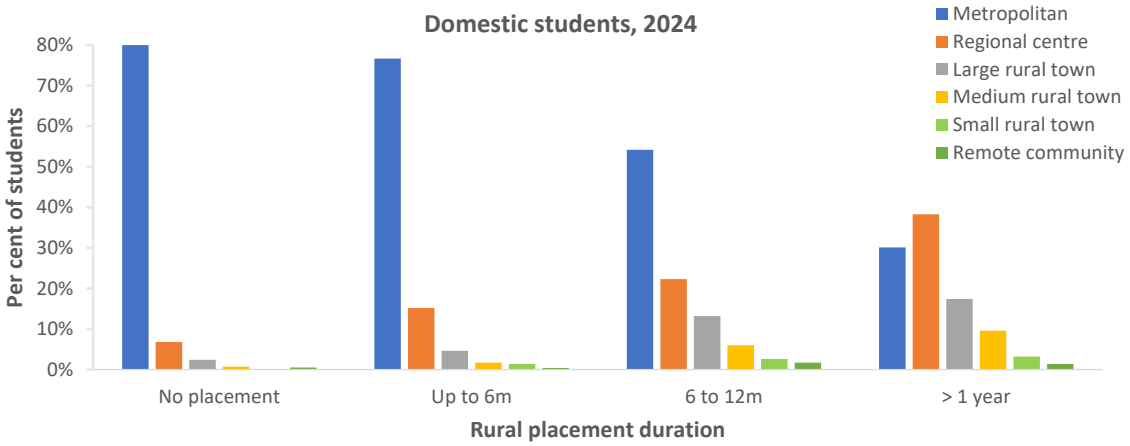

Figure 8. Percentage of domestic students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

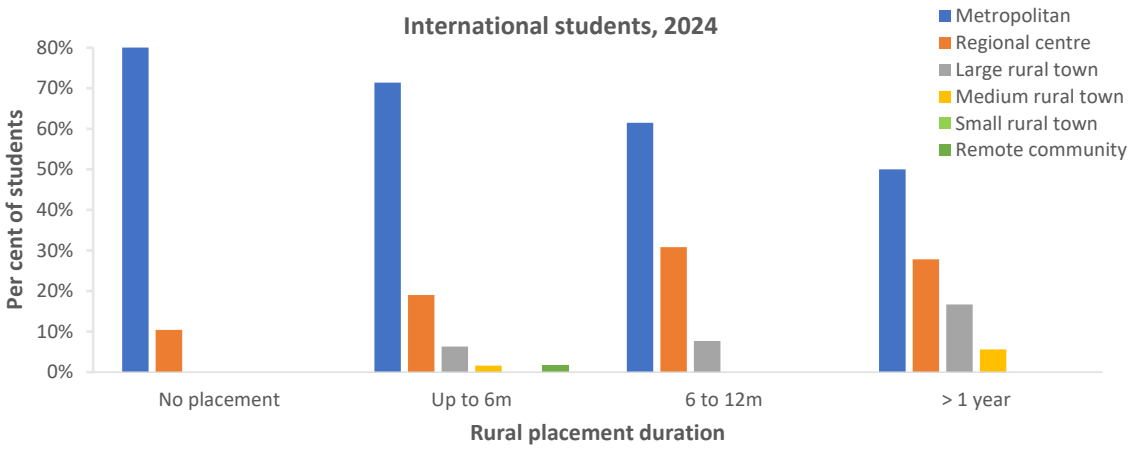

Figure 9. Percentage of international students by rural placement duration and preferred location for future practice

Interests for future practice – teaching

Over eighty per cent of respondents continue to express interest in teaching as part of their future medical career, with interest higher for domestic than international students.

Table 28. Interest in teaching as part of medical career

Interest in teaching	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestics Students										
Yes	1,269	86.7	1,374	86.5	1,455	84.0	1,477	80.5	1,592	82.7
No	38	2.6	53	3.3	67	3.9	105	5.7	82	4.3
Undecided	157	10.7	161	10.1	210	12.1	252	13.7	250	13.0
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	204	82.6	221	83.1	176	73.9	190	77.6	191	75.8
No	9	3.6	10	3.8	13	5.5	17	6.9	20	7.9
Undecided	34	13.8	35	13.2	49	20.6	38	15.5	41	16.3
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	1,473	86.1	1,595	86.0	1,631	82.8	1,667	80.2	1,783	81.9
No	47	2.7	63	3.4	80	4.1	122	5.9	102	4.7
Undecided	191	11.2	196	10.6	259	13.1	290	13.9	291	13.4
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Interests for future practice – research

Interest in research as part of a future medical career increased to over 58 per cent in 2024 and was again of slightly more interest to international than domestic students.

Table 29. Interest in research as part of medical career

Interest in research	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
Yes	898	61.3	933	58.8	962	55.5	925	50.4	1,118	58.1
No	261	17.8	310	19.5	396	22.9	441	24.0	385	20.0
Undecided	305	20.8	345	21.7	374	21.6	468	25.5	421	21.9
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	149	60.3	169	63.5	138	58.0	133	54.3	152	60.3
No	38	15.4	36	13.5	39	16.4	42	17.1	42	16.7
Undecided	60	24.3	61	22.9	61	25.6	70	28.6	58	23.0
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	1,047	61.2	1,102	59.4	1,100	55.8	1,058	50.9	1,270	58.4
No	299	17.5	346	18.7	435	22.1	483	23.2	427	19.6
Undecided	365	21.3	406	21.9	435	22.1	538	25.9	479	22.0
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

Interests for future practice – Indigenous health

Interest in Indigenous health as a part of a future medical career decreased slightly in 2024. As in previous years, there was a marked difference in interest between domestic and international student respondents (49 vs 30 per cent).

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

Interest in Indigenous health	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
Domestic Students										
Yes	772	52.7	862	54.3	890	51.4	933	50.9	946	49.2
No	216	14.8	277	17.4	309	17.8	364	19.8	383	19.9
Undecided	476	32.5	449	28.3	533	30.8	537	29.3	595	30.9
Total	**1,464**		**1,588**		**1,732**		**1,834**		**1,924**	
International Students										
Yes	75	30.4	81	30.5	73	30.7	68	27.8	75	29.8
No	76	30.8	75	28.2	73	30.7	85	34.7	66	26.2
Undecided	96	38.9	110	41.4	92	38.7	92	37.6	111	44.0
Total	**247**		**266**		**238**		**245**		**252**	
All Students										
Yes	847	49.5	943	50.9	963	48.9	1,001	48.1	1,021	46.9
No	292	17.1	352	19.0	382	19.4	449	21.6	449	20.6
Undecided	572	33.4	559	30.2	625	31.7	629	30.3	706	32.4
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**	

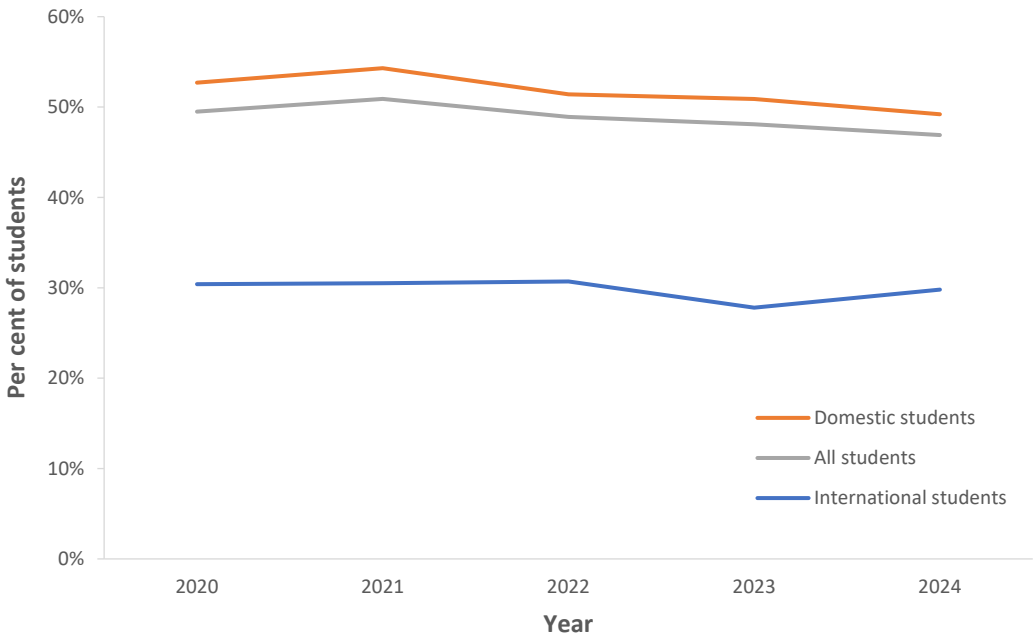

Figure 10. Interest in Indigenous health as part of medical career

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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural	Non-rural	Rural
Yes	45.9	60.4	47.1	63.5	46.7	56.1	44.1	60.3	43.3	58.6
No	18.9	11.6	20.7	13.1	20.8	14.8	24.1	14.1	22.9	13.3
Undecided	35.2	28.0	32.2	23.4	32.5	29.0	31.8	25.6	33.8	28.0

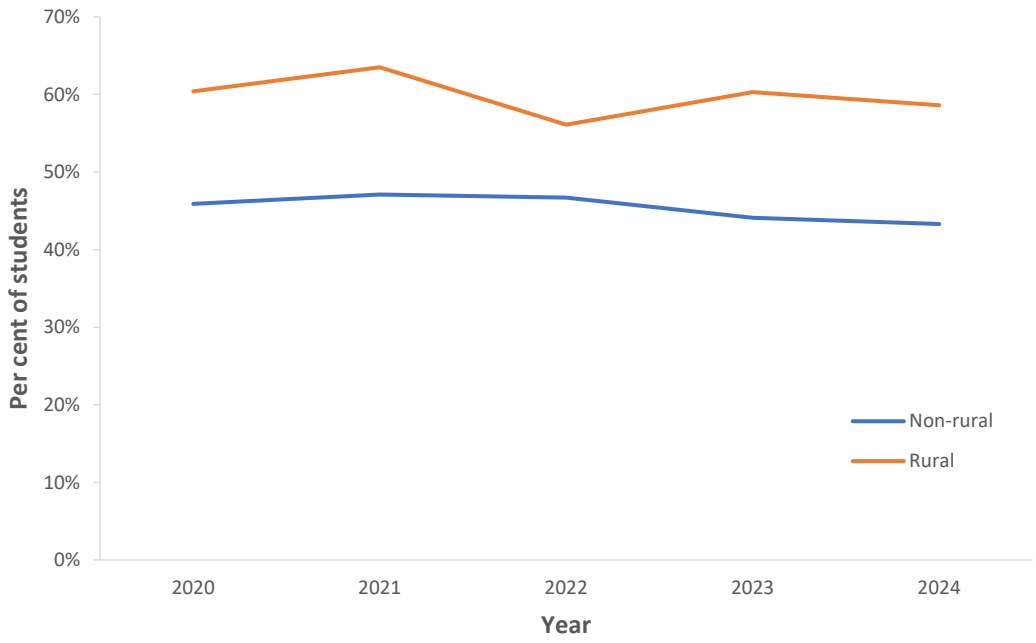

Figure 11. Interest in Indigenous health by rural background

Preferred specialty of future practice

Adult Medicine/Internal Medicine/Physician and General Practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) continue to consistently rank as the top 2 preferred specialties. In 2024, Adult Medicine was preferred by 17.2 per cent of respondents (17.2 per cent of domestic students vs. 17.5 per cent of international students), while General practice (inclusive of Rural Generalism) was preferred by 15 per cent of respondents (15.7 per cent of domestic students vs. 11.1 per cent of international students).

Surgery and Anaesthesia likewise continue to consistently rank as 3rd or 4th most preferred specialties. In 2024, Surgery was preferred by 14.3 per cent of respondents (13.4 per cent of domestic students vs. 21.8 of international students) while Anaesthesia was preferred by 13.1 per cent (13.5 per cent of domestic students vs. 10.3 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	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	n	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank
Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician	322	19.8	1	350	18.9	1	309	15.7	1	346	16.6	1	375	17.2	1
Surgery	212	13.1	3	241	13	3	237	12	4	260	12.5	3	312	14.3	2
Anaesthesia	158	9.7	4	185	10	4	239	12.2	3	279	13.4	2	285	13.1	3
General Practice	262	16.1	2	252	13.6	2	256	13	2	220	10.6	4	205	9.4	4
Paediatrics & Child Health	125	7.7	6	139	7.5	6	148	7.5	6	168	8.1	5	162	7.4	5
Psychiatry	103	6.3	8	104	5.6	7	125	6.4	7	135	6.5	8	151	6.9	6
Emergency Medicine	144	8.9	5	141	7.6	5	164	8.3	5	146	7	7	145	6.7	7
Rural Generalist	.	.		86	4.6	9	115	5.8	8	149	7.2	6	125	5.7	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	107	6.6	7	104	5.6	7	110	5.6	9	92	4.4	9	105	4.8	9
Intensive Care Medicine	41	2.5	9	53	2.9	10	69	3.5	10	61	2.9	10	71	3.3	10
Radiology	35	2.2	10	43	2.3	11	42	2.1	11	47	2.3	11	56	2.6	11
Ophthalmology	27	1.7	12	26	1.4	13	37	1.9	12	29	1.4	13	41	1.9	13
Dermatology	34	2.1	11	20	1.1	15	32	1.6	13	28	1.3	14	39	1.8	14
Pathology	13	0.8	13	8	0.4	16	16	0.8	15	12	0.6	17	16	0.7	15
Palliative Medicine	9	0.6	15	21	1.1	14	13	0.7	16	15	0.7	15	15	0.7	16
Public Health Medicine	11	0.7	14	5	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	10	0.5	18	5	0.2	17
Sexual Health Medicine	2	0.1	20	3	0.2	24	9	0.5	17	5	0.2	21	5	0.2	17
Sport & Exercise Medicine	5	0.3	16	5	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	13	0.6	16	5	0.2	17
Addiction Medicine	4	0.2	17	6	0.3	18	4	0.2	19	5	0.2	21	4	0.2	20
Medical Administration	3	0.2	18	5	0.3	19	2	0.1	22	6	0.3	20	3	0.1	21
Pain Medicine	.	.		1	0.1	25	.	.	.	1	0	24	2	0.1	22
Radiation Oncology	3	0.2	18	8	0.4	16	6	0.3	18	9	0.4	19	2	0.1	22
Rehabilitation Medicine	2	0.1	20	4	0.2	22	2	0.1	22	1	0	24	2	0.1	22
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	1	0.1	22	4	0.2	22	1	0.1	24	3	0.1	23	.	.	.
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	.	.		1	0.1	25	.	.	.	1	0	24	.	.	.
Not yet decided	.	.		38	2.1		25	1.3		38	1.8		44	2	
Total	**1,623**			**1,853**			**1,967**			**2,079**			**2,175**		

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

First preference specialty of future practice	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	n	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank
Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician	256	18.4	1	304	19.2	1	257	14.9	1	300	16.4	1	331	17.2	1
Anaesthesia	144	10.4	4	160	10.1	4	211	12.2	3	252	13.7	2	259	13.5	2
Surgery	183	13.2	3	192	12.1	3	204	11.8	4	202	11	3	257	13.4	3
General Practice	231	16.6	2	230	14.5	2	227	13.1	2	199	10.9	4	182	9.5	4
Paediatrics & Child Health	110	7.9	6	125	7.9	5	135	7.8	6	152	8.3	5	150	7.8	5
Psychiatry	92	6.6	8	92	5.8	7	116	6.7	7	119	6.5	8	127	6.6	6
Emergency Medicine	117	8.4	5	111	7	6	137	7.9	5	125	6.8	7	124	6.4	7
Rural Generalist	.	.	.	79	5	9	113	6.5	8	148	8.1	6	120	6.2	8
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	94	6.8	7	91	5.7	8	98	5.7	9	85	4.6	9	94	4.9	9
Intensive Care Medicine	35	2.5	9	45	2.8	10	59	3.4	10	55	3	10	65	3.4	10
Radiology	30	2.2	10	33	2.1	11	36	2.1	11	42	2.3	11	46	2.4	11
Not yet decided	.	.	.	29	1.8	12	21	1.2	14	33	1.8	12	43	2.2	12
Dermatology	30	2.2	10	17	1.1	14	31	1.8	12	26	1.4	14	37	1.9	13
Ophthalmology	24	1.7	12	25	1.6	13	31	1.8	12	27	1.5	13	37	1.9	13
Pathology	9	0.6	14	6	0.4	17	15	0.9	15	9	0.5	17	16	0.8	15
Palliative Medicine	8	0.6	15	16	1	15	11	0.6	16	9	0.5	17	11	0.6	16
Sport & Exercise Medicine	5	0.4	16	4	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	12	0.7	15	5	0.3	17
Addiction Medicine	4	0.3	17	5	0.3	18	4	0.2	19	5	0.3	21	4	0.2	18
Public Health Medicine	10	0.7	13	4	0.3	19	3	0.2	20	10	0.5	16	4	0.2	18
Sexual Health Medicine	2	0.1	19	3	0.2	21	8	0.5	17	5	0.3	21	4	0.2	18
Medical Administration	.	.	.	3	0.2	21	2	0.1	22	6	0.3	20	3	0.2	21
Radiation Oncology	3	0.2	18	8	0.5	16	5	0.3	18	8	0.4	19	2	0.1	22
Rehabilitation Medicine	2	0.1	19	1	0.1	24	2	0.1	22	.	.	.	2	0.1	22
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	1	0.1	21	2	0.1	23	1	0.1	24	3	0.2	23	.	.	.
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	.	.	.	1	0.1	24	.	.	.	1	0.1	24	.	.	.
Pain Medicine	.	.	.	1	0.1	24	.	.	.	1	0.1	24	.	.	.
Total	**1,390**			**1,587**			**1,730**			**1,834**			**1,923**		

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

First preference specialty of future practice	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024		
	n	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank	*n*	*%*	Rank
Surgery	29	12.4	3	49	18.4	1	33	13.9	2	58	23.7	1	55	21.8	1
Adult Med./Internal Med./Physician	66	28.3	1	46	17.3	2	52	21.9	1	46	18.8	2	44	17.5	2
Anaesthesia	14	6	6	25	9.4	4	28	11.8	4	27	11	3	26	10.3	3
Psychiatry	11	4.7	8	12	4.5	8	9	3.8	9	16	6.5	6	24	9.5	4
General Practice	31	13.3	2	22	8.3	5	29	12.2	3	21	8.6	4	23	9.1	5
Emergency Medicine	27	11.6	4	30	11.3	3	27	11.4	5	21	8.6	4	21	8.3	6
Paediatrics & Child Health	15	6.4	5	14	5.3	6	13	5.5	6	16	6.5	6	12	4.8	7
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	13	5.6	7	13	4.9	7	12	5.1	7	7	2.9	8	11	4.4	8
Radiology	5	2.1	10	10	3.8	9	6	2.5	10	5	2	11	10	4	9
Intensive Care Medicine	6	2.6	9	8	3	11	10	4.2	8	6	2.4	9	6	2.4	10
Rural Generalist	.	.	.	7	2.6	12	2	0.8	13	1	0.4	16	5	2	11
Ophthalmology	3	1.3	13	1	0.4	19	6	2.5	10	2	0.8	14	4	1.6	12
Palliative Medicine	1	0.4	15	5	1.9	13	2	0.8	13	6	2.4	9	4	1.6	12
Dermatology	4	1.7	11	3	1.1	14	1	0.4	15	2	0.8	14	2	0.8	14
Pain Medicine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0.8	14
Public Health Medicine	1	0.4	15	1	0.4	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	16
Sexual Health Medicine	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	15	.	.	.	1	0.4	16
Not yet decided	.	.	.	9	3.4	10	4	1.7	12	5	2	11	1	0.4	16
Addiction Medicine	.	.	.	1	0.4	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Medical Administration	3	1.3	13	2	0.8	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Non-Specialist Hospital Practice	.	.	.	2	0.8	16	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Occupational & Environmental Medicine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pathology	4	1.7	11	2	0.8	16	1	0.4	15	3	1.2	13	.	.	.
Radiation Oncology	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	0.4	15	1	0.4	16	.	.	.
Rehabilitation Medicine	.	.	.	3	1.1	14	.	.	.	1	0.4	16	.	.	.
Sport & Exercise Medicine	.	.	.	1	0.4	19	.	.	.	1	0.4	16	.	.	.
Total	**233**			**266**			**237**			**245**			**252**		

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 2024.

The least influential factors were litigation/insurance costs, partners’ occupation and parents/relatives. 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	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Alignment with personal values	4.17	1	4.16	2	4.21	1	4.26	1	4.27	1
Atmosphere/work culture typical of the discipline	4.16	2	4.17	1	4.18	2	4.24	2	4.19	2
Intellectual content of the specialty	3.98	5	4.01	4	4.00	3	4.00	4	4.03	3
Experience of specialty as a medical student	4.04	3	4.02	3	3.99	4	4.04	3	4.03	4
General medical school experiences	3.99	4	3.91	5	3.87	5	3.92	5	3.92	5
Self-appraisal of own skills/aptitudes	3.85	7	3.80	7	3.82	6	3.82	6	3.86	6
Influence of consultants/mentors	3.91	6	3.83	6	3.81	7	3.81	7	3.75	7
Perceived opportunity to work flexible hours	3.54	9	3.60	8	3.68	8	3.69	8	3.71	8
Opportunity for procedural work	3.58	8	3.57	9	3.67	9	3.60	10	3.65	9
Type of patients typical of the discipline	3.47	10	3.49	11	3.51	11	3.67	9	3.62	10
Perceived career advancement prospects	3.33	13	3.34	13	3.40	13	3.52	13	3.59	11
Perceived amount of working hours	3.46	11	3.52	10	3.57	10	3.58	11	3.59	12
Perceived job security	3.38	12	3.40	12	3.47	12	3.52	12	3.56	13
Availability of a vocational training placement	3.25	15	3.21	15	3.23	15	3.22	14	3.26	14
Number of years required to complete training	3.04	16	3.02	16	3.07	16	3.10	15	3.19	15
Self-appraisal of own domestic circumstances	3.32	14	3.30	14	3.33	14	3.07	17	3.18	16
Perceived financial prospects	2.55	19	2.55	19	2.71	19	3.05	18	3.15	17
Geographical location of most preferred specialty	2.93	18	3.01	17	3.03	17	3.09	16	3.12	18
Opportunity for research and /or teaching	2.99	17	2.98	18	2.88	18	2.95	19	2.98	19
Perceived prestige of the discipline	2.11	20	2.15	20	2.14	20	2.36	20	2.41	20
Financial costs of vocational training	1.77	23	1.75	24	1.82	22	2.19	21	2.30	21
Financial costs of medical school education and/or debt	1.74	25	1.74	25	1.81	23	2.13	22	2.26	22
Risk of litigation and associated insurance costs	2.02	21	2.04	21	2.01	21	1.99	23	2.03	23
Influence of partner's occupation	1.75	24	1.78	23	1.73	25	1.99	24	1.94	24
Influence of parents/relatives	1.82	22	1.83	22	1.79	24	1.88	25	1.91	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 2024 cohort nor are they necessarily representative.

Table 36. Internship acceptance by state/territory

Internship acceptance by state/territory	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024	
	n	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*	*n*	*%*
ACT	35	2.1	56	3.1	45	2.3	43	2.1	9	0.4
NSW	413	24.9	438	24.1	487	25.3	504	25.0	683	31.9
NT	15	0.9	27	1.5	25	1.3	25	1.2	21	1.0
QLD	294	17.7	398	21.9	372	19.3	405	20.1	370	17.3
SA	85	5.1	47	2.6	82	4.3	146	7.2	134	6.3
TAS	66	4.0	82	4.5	82	4.3	54	2.7	43	2.0
VIC	555	33.5	552	30.3	502	26.1	531	26.3	610	28.5
WA	194	11.7	219	12.0	331	17.2	310	15.4	270	12.6
[Country other than AUS]	*43*	*.*	*26*	*.*	*24*	*.*	*18*	*.*	*23*	*.*
[N/A or Missing/Unknown]	*11*	*.*	*9*	*.*	*20*	*.*	*43*	*.*	*13*	*.*
Total	**1,711**		**1,854**		**1,970**		**2,079**		**2,176**