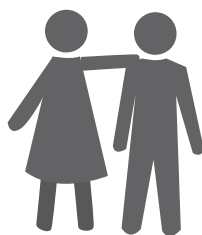


# The Good Universities Guide 2018

## HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORT

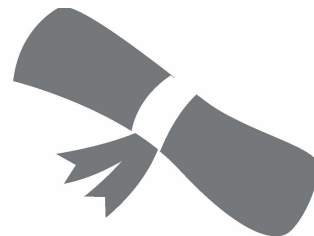
This is a detailed profile of the health services and support field of study. It lists the range of specialisations available and compares degree-level courses. We examine the institutions that get the best ratings, based on real student experience and graduate outcome data, which will help you decide the right university for your educational journey.



GOOD  
EDUCATION  
GROUP

# HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR DEGREE

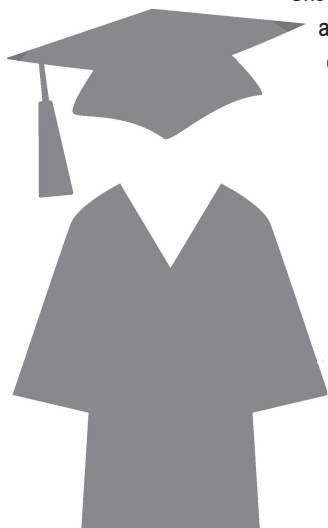
Every degree is a unique mix of many different ingredients — from the subjects covered to the career it leads to — and choosing the right course requires a lot of research. Once you have worked out the field in which you want to study, there are many factors to consider when you are weighing up courses and institutions.



- The first step to success is to ensure you will be studying subjects you are interested in and that lead to the career you want. Some courses require all students to complete the same 'core' subjects to meet industry requirements and don't allow a lot of room to choose electives or explore different subject areas. Others give you the freedom to choose a broad range of electives and graduate with a specialisation or major.
- Each course has a very different intellectual style, so make sure that it is suited to you. Some courses are mainly quantitative, while others are verbal or language-based. Some are conceptual and encourage you to express your own ideas through writing, while others require you to apply what you learn practically.
- A typical bachelor degree can be completed in around three years. Some degrees may require five or six years of full-time study plus an internship period to gain full accreditation. Double degrees and part-time programs will also take longer to complete.
- When choosing a course, you need to be sure that you will meet the entry requirements or investigate whether alternative entry is available. Some courses rely more heavily upon the submission of a portfolio, an interview or an audition.
- Some courses lock you into an occupation. Others are much broader in their scope. If you are sure about your future career, you might opt for a specialised vocational option that allows you to immerse yourself in your field. If you're not 100 per cent certain about what the future holds, you could enter a generalist degree that will give you room to explore.
- Different programs teach very different things — even courses in the same field may be taught differently at separate institutions. The university you choose should concentrate on topics you are interested in or that are professionally relevant.

# HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR TERTIARY PROVIDER

Choosing where to study is about more than how close the campus is to your home and whether it offers a course you like. These are important factors, but you should also consider the following points as you conduct your research:



- Public institutions, which includes most Australian universities, are funded by the government. Private institutions are independent and usually rely on full tuition fees to subsidise student places. While universities offer a range of fields, private education providers often focus on a particular discipline or provide a specialised campus environment.
- Would you prefer an intimate regional environment or a buzzing metropolitan one? Every institution has a different atmosphere, so be sure to take the time to visit before applying. Institutions differ in terms of the range of services and facilities on offer, such as sporting options and academic support, often depend on the university's size and location.
- Are most students studying on or off campus? Are there more school leavers or mature-age students? Does the student body contain a lot of international students to add to the cultural diversity? You may find that each institution offers different study modes for your course, such as part-time or distance options, which will shape your university experience.

# HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORT

## WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR...

The health services and support field encompasses a wide range of professions in health-and-welfare-related fields. Some health workers focus on health administration, others on education, and some on working for public health organisations.

### MEDIAN GRADUATE SALARY

**\$58,000**  
UNDERGRADUATE

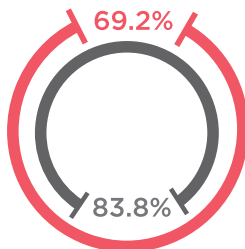
**\$80,000**  
POSTGRADUATE



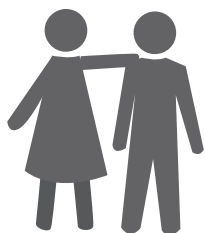
### FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT

undergraduate postgraduate

Proportion of students who have secured a full-time job within four months of graduating



## WHAT CAN I DO?



Health Counselling



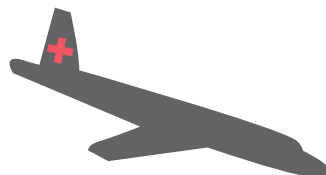
Disability Care



Family Support Work



Youth Services



International Aid



Food and Nutrition Policy

## COMPARE



Decide the categories most important to your university search and compare field of study ratings over the page to choose the right institution.

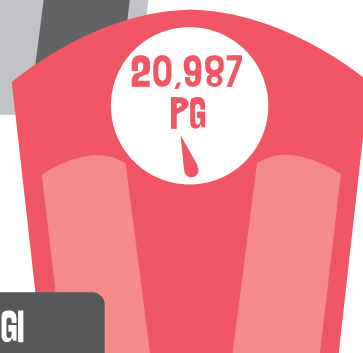
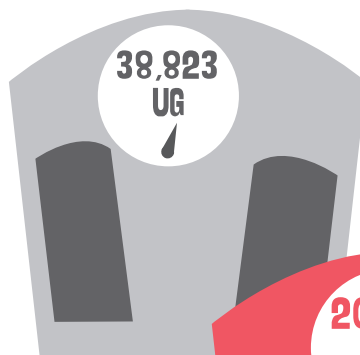


## DISCOVER

Find out more about career paths and potential jobs by picking up a copy of *The Good Careers Guide 2017* or visiting the website [www.goodcareersguide.com.au](http://www.goodcareersguide.com.au)

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS

UG = Undergraduate  
PG = Postgraduate  
UGI = Undergraduate international



**GOOD  
EDUCATION  
GROUP**

Good Education Group is Australia's leading independent provider of high-quality education and career information.

# HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORT

The following are just some of the majors you can study in this field:

- Ambulance services
- Community health
- Disability studies
- Environmental health
- Health promotion
- Natural medicine
- Nutrition and dietetics
- Oral health
- Radiography

The health services and support field encompasses a wide range of professions. Some health workers focus on running things (health administration); some on advising and educating people (health promotion or occupational health and safety); some on working for or advising public agencies and other organisations (public health); and some on delivering health services (radiography or nutrition). There are also many degree options in complementary health disciplines, such as homoeopathy, naturopathy, acupuncture or traditional Chinese medicine, which offer an alternative to Western approaches.

Before commencing tertiary study, it's likely that you have little knowledge about the breadth of courses and occupations in this field. We strongly recommend that you research the course you are interested in and ask the provider to suggest organisations that employ people in the field so that you can get a better feel for it. You may be surprised how pleased people are to talk about their work, even if you contact them out of the blue.

If you are interested in health services you should also see what's on offer in associated health-related fields (dentistry, nursing, medicine, psychology, rehabilitation and veterinary science) and welfare-related fields (social work).

## Courses and specialisations

Remember that degrees in this field will not always be called 'health' or 'health science'; many will be named after their specialisations (such as a Bachelor of Oral Health or Bachelor of Paramedicine). You should also note that many of these courses will be narrowly focused on preparing students for particular occupations. This can be great, but make sure that it's what you want or that you can change focus down the track if you need to.

## Where to study

Many health professionals, such as medical imaging technologists, need professional registration in order to gain accreditation to practise, so it's important to check that your course meets the requirements of your chosen occupation before you apply. When it comes to choosing a particular institution or course you might also consider the amount of practical training you will receive, the clinical facilities available, and (depending on your interests) whether the faculty or college utilises any of the increasingly popular online technologies that simulate the practical aspects of the work.

Health services courses are generally quite tough to get into, maybe due to the fact that they include a few rare and popular courses, some that are dramatic and exciting (paramedics) and others that are closely related to increasingly important roles that promote healthy lifestyles and workplaces (nutrition and occupational health and safety). Entry difficulty does, however, vary between specialisations and institutions — some remain very accessible.

## What the data tells us

UNSW impressed in both employment outcome categories, with 98.7 per cent of graduates getting a job within four months of finishing at a median salary of \$73,100. Interestingly, the same university was well below the national average for student support and learning resources. ACU performed very well across the board, registering over 90 per cent for teaching quality and overall quality of educational experience. Despite these impressive results, only 64.8 per cent of students found full-time work inside four months of graduating, below the national average of 69.2 per cent. This shows the value of thinking carefully about what is important to your education journey and what you need to be successful.

There can be a very fine line between making the top 20 per cent and just missing out. UniSA was among the five-star universities in graduate employment with 78.8 per cent, however QUT is close behind with 78 per cent. Elsewhere, Curtin scored 71.6 per cent and five stars in learner engagement, while USQ fell short on 71.3 per cent. This suggests that because a university misses out on five stars in a category doesn't mean it has achieved poor results and may speak to the competitiveness between universities in this field of study.

## National average rate of retention

ATAR range	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100	Non-ATAR criteria
ACU	76%	83%	78%	87%	94%	84%
ADELAIDE	73%	53%	71%	79%	85%	17%
BOND						67%
CANBERRA		71%	89%	76%	86%	20%
CQUni		84%	74%	95%	100%	74%
CSU		82%	97%	94%	83%	91%
CURTIN			81%	100%	96%	81%
DEAKIN	63%	69%	84%	79%	65%	59%
ECU	42%	83%	71%	56%	14%	79%
FEDERATION						82%
FLINDERS			84%	88%	85%	89%
GRIFFITH				100%		67%
LA TROBE	70%	79%	80%	81%	95%	88%
MACQUARIE				93%	96%	75%
MONASH		81%	77%	86%	90%	94%
<b>National average rate of retention by ATAR range</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>75%</b>

## National average rate of retention (continued)

ATAR range	50-59	60-69	70-79	80-89	90-100	Non-ATAR criteria
NEWCASTLE				93%	100%	91%
NOTRE DAME						71%
QUEENSLAND			57%	76%	79%	72%
QUT			84%	90%	93%	93%
RMIT	64%	73%	89%	93%	90%	
SUNSHINE COAST		63%	72%	85%	93%	
SWINBURNE	69%	75%				79%
SYDNEY			89%	87%	94%	80%
TASMANIA	20%	86%	76%	90%	93%	80%
UniSA			67%	82%	91%	78%
VU	78%	94%	90%	86%		86%
WESTERN SYDNEY	75%	71%	85%	100%		74%
WOLLONGONG		72%	77%	93%	69%	79%
<b>National average rate of retention by ATAR range</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>75%</b>

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

## STUDENT PROFILE

### Fiona Harrington — Bachelor of Health Science (Nutritional Medicine)



If helping build an online empire for activewear giant Lorna Jane wasn't enough, nutritionist Fiona Harrington has taken her career up a notch since establishing her own business Harri Suite to add extra flavour to Australian health and wellness start-ups.

Uncovering a massive niche in supporting fledgling businesses looking to establish themselves in the wellness industry, Fiona's services have been in constant demand since launching her business. She now travels Australia helping her clients with social media strategy, nutritional advice, copywriting, e-book and cookbook curation, recipe development, and food styling and photography.

Juggling competing priorities is one of Fiona's greatest strengths, beginning during the days she had to juggle her study with work commitments. She admits it was challenging at times but reflects it was Endeavour College of Natural Health's supportive community that helped her through.



# FIVE-STAR UNIVERSITIES

## HEALTH SERVICES & SUPPORT

### EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

BOND	96.8%
FEDERATION	93.2%
UNE	93.1%
ACU	90.7%
WOLLONGONG	90.6%
NOTRE DAME	90.1%
ADELAIDE	89.4%
ECU	89.1%
SUNSHINE COAST	88.9%

**NATIONAL AVERAGE = 81.3%**

### GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

UNSW	98.7%
MELBOURNE	92.3%
UNE	88.5%
CQUni	83.6%
RMIT	83.5%
TASMANIA	79.8%
UniSA	78.8%

**NATIONAL AVERAGE = 69.2%**

### LEARNER ENGAGEMENT

BOND	96.8%
FEDERATION	79.5%
MONASH	74.3%
CSU	73.8%
NOTRE DAME	73.0%
JCU	72.8%
WOLLONGONG	72.1%
CURTIN	71.6%

**NATIONAL AVERAGE = 65.0%**

### LEARNING RESOURCES

BOND	96.7%
USQ	95.0%
WOLLONGONG	94.9%
DEAKIN	94.1%
ECU	93.9%
SUNSHINE COAST	93.9%
QUT	93.1%
MACQUARIE	92.5%

**NATIONAL AVERAGE = 85.3%**

## MEDIAN GRAD STARTING SALARY

TASMANIA	\$80,000
UNSW	\$73,100
ECU	\$72,000
CURTIN	\$66,700
CQUni	\$65,000

**NATIONAL  
AVERAGE = \$58,000**

## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

BOND	93.3%
NOTRE DAME	89.8%
ECU	89.0%
UNSW	88.5%
ACU	88.1%
FEDERATION	86.8%
SUNSHINE COAST	86.8%

**NATIONAL  
AVERAGE = 81.7%**

## STUDENT SUPPORT

BOND	89.7%
NOTRE DAME	86.7%
USQ	85.6%
ECU	81.8%
FEDERATION	81.5%
SUNSHINE COAST	81.5%
ADELAIDE	81.3%

**NATIONAL  
AVERAGE = 73.1%**

## TEACHING QUALITY

FEDERATION	96.5%
WOLLONGONG	91.3%
ACU	90.4%
BOND	90.0%
NOTRE DAME	90.0%
ECU	89.6%
CANBERRA	89.2%
ADELAIDE	89.0%
SUNSHINE COAST	88.6%

**NATIONAL  
AVERAGE = 83.4 %**

### WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN?

The ratings above represent the top 20 per cent of results for each measure in this particular field of study. For overall institution results, see the ratings section at the front of the Guide.





# HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The graphs compare institutions in the health services and support field of study. If you are interested in this field of study you can see all the institutions that offer courses and how they compare.

## Universities compared

The “Five-Star Universities” graphs show the institutions whose results place them in the top 20 per cent of universities in health services and support.

## Student experience measures

These ratings compare the performance of universities across six student experience categories. For each category, the percentage of students who were satisfied with the university’s performance in the area is noted. For example, if a university achieves 75 per cent for Teaching Quality, this indicates that 75 per cent of students at the university were satisfied with the quality of teaching they experienced.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Student Experience Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

## Graduate outcomes

### Starting salary

This rating compares the median salary of graduates from different universities. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

### Full-time employment

This rating compares the employment rates of graduates from different universities. It looks at the proportion of graduates who were employed full time four months after completing their course. Universities are awarded five stars if they fall within the top 20 per cent of all universities.

Data has been sourced from the Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT) and is based on the results of the Graduate Destination Survey. Please note that the QILT website provides confidence intervals that reflect the accuracy of these estimated values, which have not been included in this guide.

### National average rate of retention

These tables show the rate of student retention at each university. The ability of students to complete their first year of study and progress to a second year may be affected by the tertiary entrance score they achieved in their final year of school. Often, students with high scores have higher rates of retention than students with low scores. These tables identify the rate at which students who achieved a tertiary entrance score within a specific band are retained through to a second year of study.

Non-ATAR criteria may include entry via direct application, audition and/or portfolio submission, or via an academic pathway.

Data published in these tables refers to the number of students who commenced studies in 2014 and were still enrolled at the same institution in 2015, as a proportion of all students who commenced in 2014 in health services and support. This data refers specifically to students who commenced a bachelor degree in 2014 on the basis of a tertiary entrance score and who came directly from secondary school.

Remember that rankings and ratings are indicators only. They help but do not present a full picture. Research your choices carefully!