
To	Te Poari Mātauranga Academic Board	From	Simon Tries, Manager, Te Korowai Kahurangi
Title	Measuring graduate outcomes	Date	2 September 2019

Purpose

To propose to Academic Board an approach to measuring outcomes for graduates.

Recommendation

That Academic Board approve the approach to the institutional measurement of Graduates in Employment and Further Study:

- A single institute level target for all programmes of 85% of graduates in employment and/or further study within 6 months
- The adoption of a *relevance* target, yet to be determined, based on the relevance of the qualification to the graduates employment and graduates' view of the extent to which they have achieved the outcomes of their qualification

Background

The percentage of graduates in Employment and/ or Further Study is a common measure across the sector. However, the value of this measure to Unitec is questioned due to the lack of control that Unitec has on the achievement or otherwise of any target set in relation to this measure. In addition, any targets set against this measure is subject to the economic cycle. The difficulty of achieving pre-determined targets for this measure is supported by the different approaches to its target setting (i.e., the inclusion or otherwise of international students) and the significant variances in some institutes' achievement against these targets.

Rather than focus on the number of graduates in employment and/or further study per se, it is proposed that the focus be on the *value* of the qualification that the graduate has been awarded.

To this end, it is proposed that Unitec adopt the following approach, with data collected through the biannual graduate survey:

- A flat target of 85% of graduates in employment / further study across all programmes and priority groups, within six months
- A "relevance" target be added measured through:
 - o Responses to the following questions currently in the graduate survey:
 - How related is your main job to your Unitec qualification?
(highly related, moderately related, slightly related, not at all related)

- How well does your Unitec qualification enable you to meet the requirements of your main job?
(Extremely well, very well, somewhat well, not at all well)
- Responses to specific questions about the extent to which graduates believe they have achieved the (main) graduate outcomes of the qualification which they have achieved. These are currently being added to the September graduation survey)

The Relevance target will need to be set once some base data is collected with further refinement as additional data is gathered. It is expected that this could be in place in 2020.

Contributors

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