



Career outcomes of learning abroad – National Report

Davina Potts | June 2020

Learning abroad

Australian students learning abroad

1 in 4

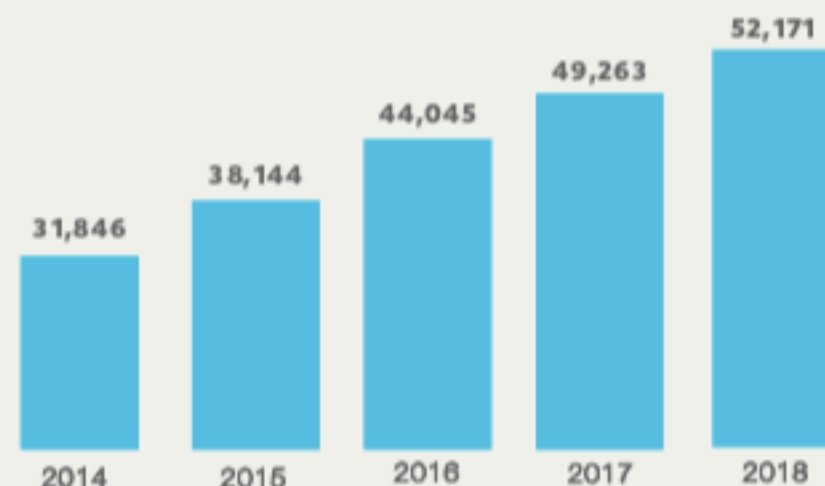
Australian undergraduate students undertook study in an overseas country in 2018.



320,000+

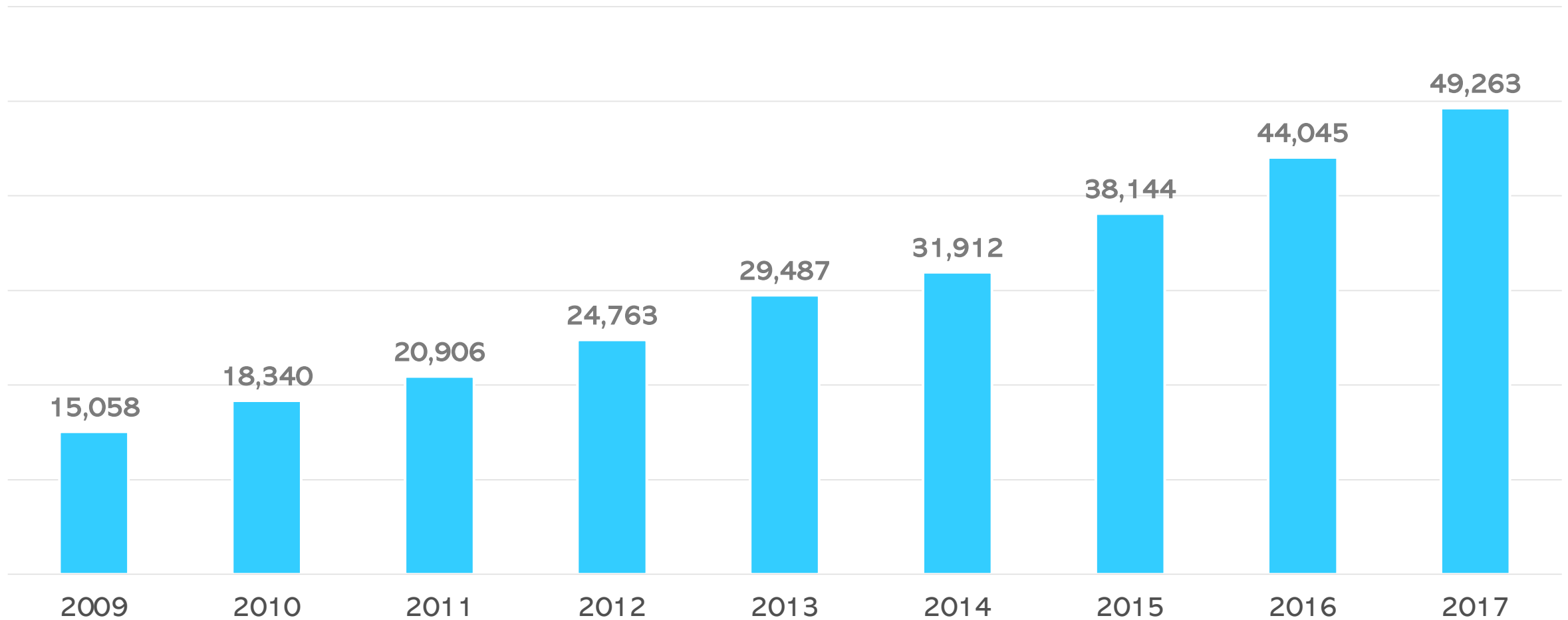
between 2009 – 2018

In 2018, almost **52,171** Australian students had an overseas study experience – up by 5.9% on 2017.



Source: AUIDF 2014–2018

Outbound mobility from Australia (2009-2017)



About this study

Respondents studied at 36 Australian universities

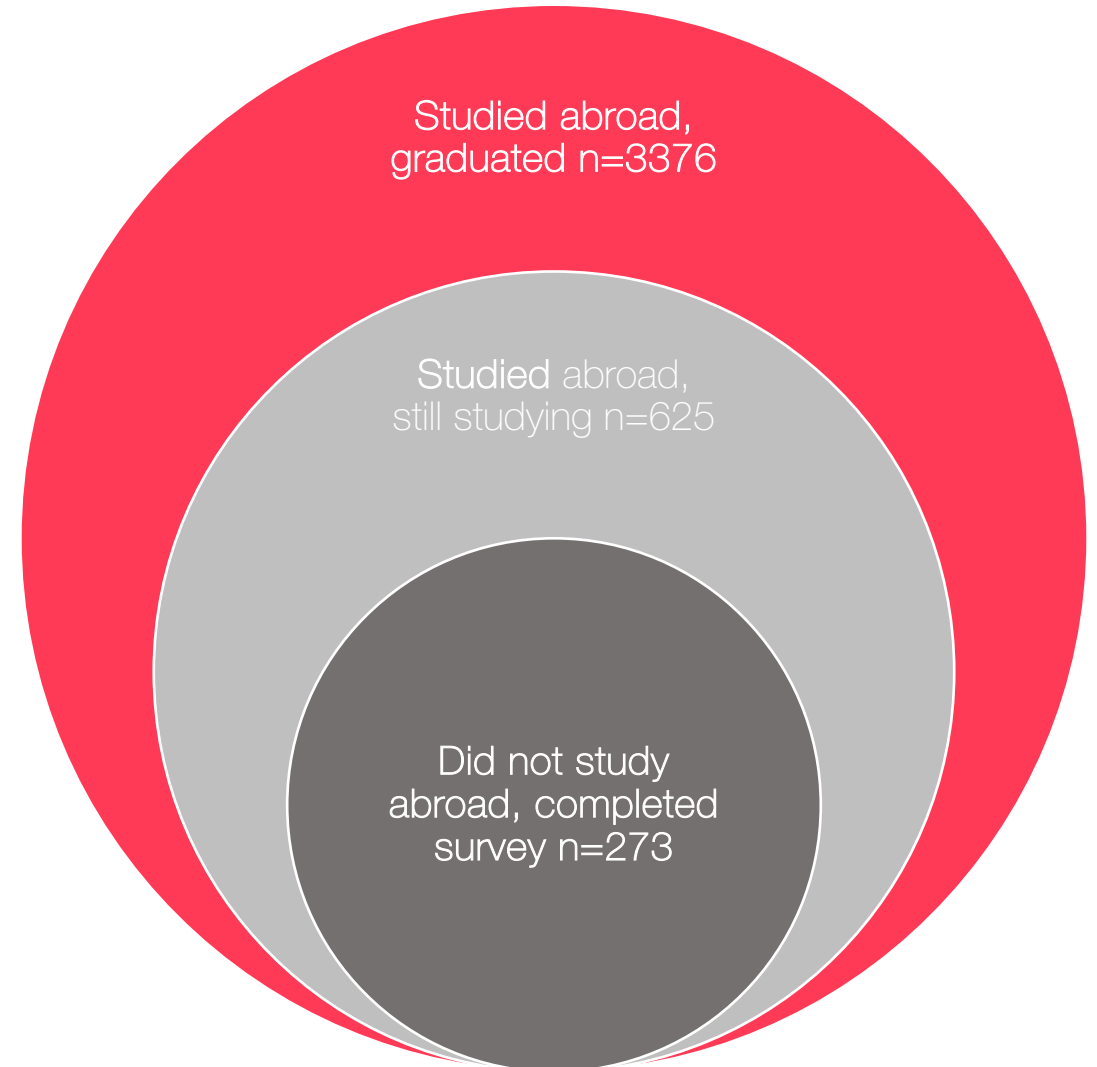
Survey conducted March – July 2019

Total responses 4976

Based on an evolving question set used internationally
– originating from late 1980s Erasmus Impact studies

4 sections

- About the learning abroad experience (did not appear for non-participants)
- Career impact questions
- Current work situation
- Study and personal background



Research questions



1. What is the perceived impact of learning abroad on skill development, job attainment and career prospects of participants?
2. Are former participants engaged in international work (organisations, tasks, location)?

Who is the typical student?



Female
67.1%



Australian Citizen
72%
Domestic student
92.3%



High SES
43.2%
Single language
64.1%



Undergraduate
60%
studying
Society & Culture
41.48%



Home Institution
Scholarship / Grant
66.5%



Year of
Study Abroad
12.6%



Mid-term duration
9 weeks -> Semester
58.3%



Academic classes
48.5%
Study credited
94.5%



Language of
Learning Abroad
(English)
74.5%



Most visited region
Europe
48.5%



Most visited country
USA
16.5%

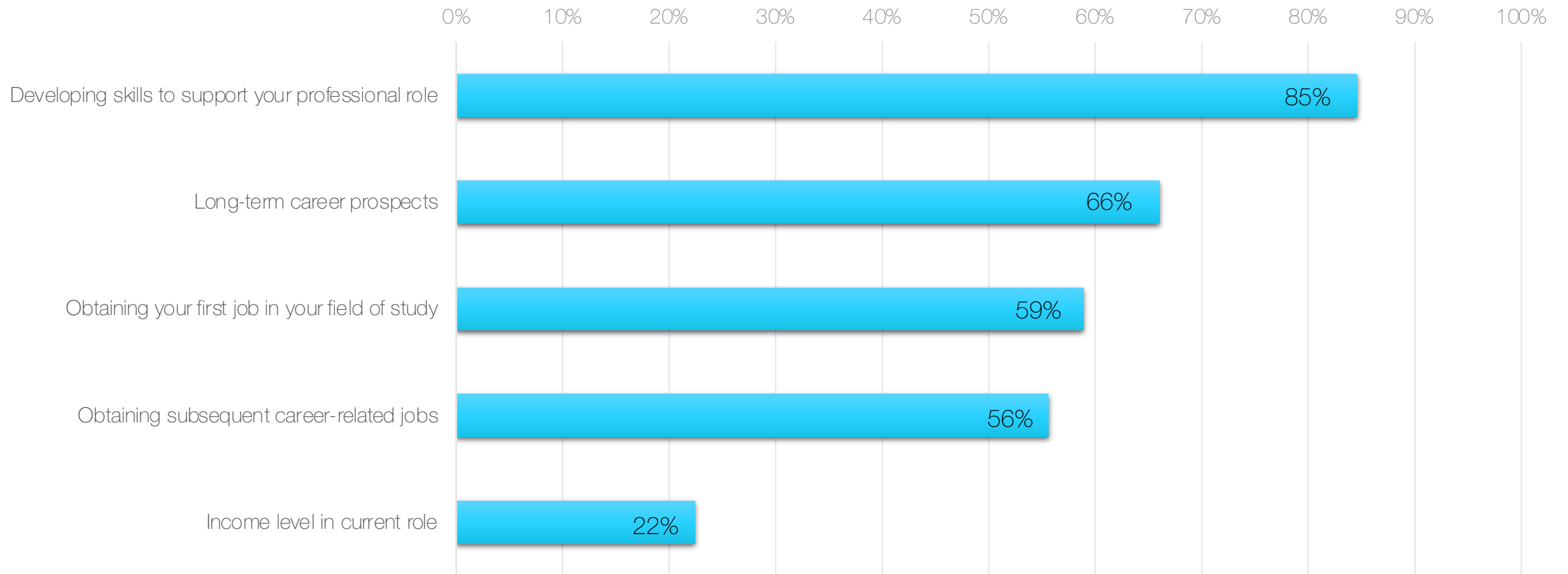
Overall findings

Former participants of learning abroad programs are very positive about the impact of their international experience on many aspects of their career

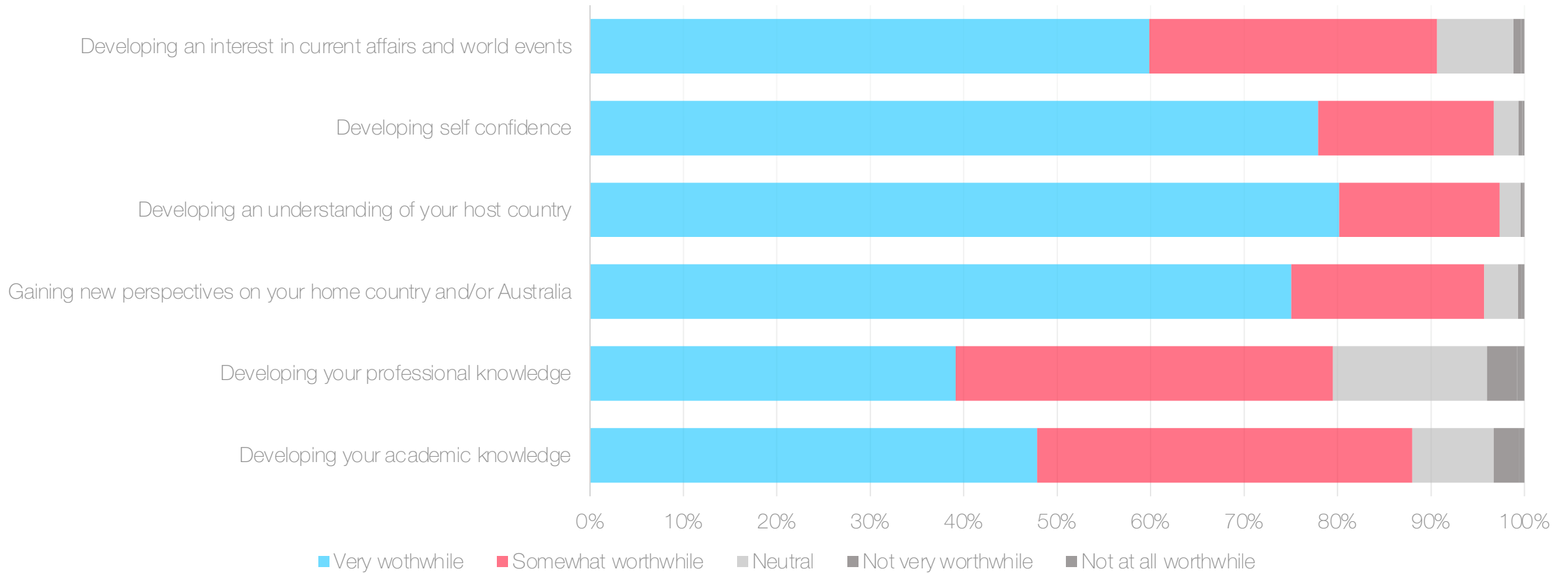
Learning abroad supports the development of skills employers are looking for

Overall Impact

Very positive and positive



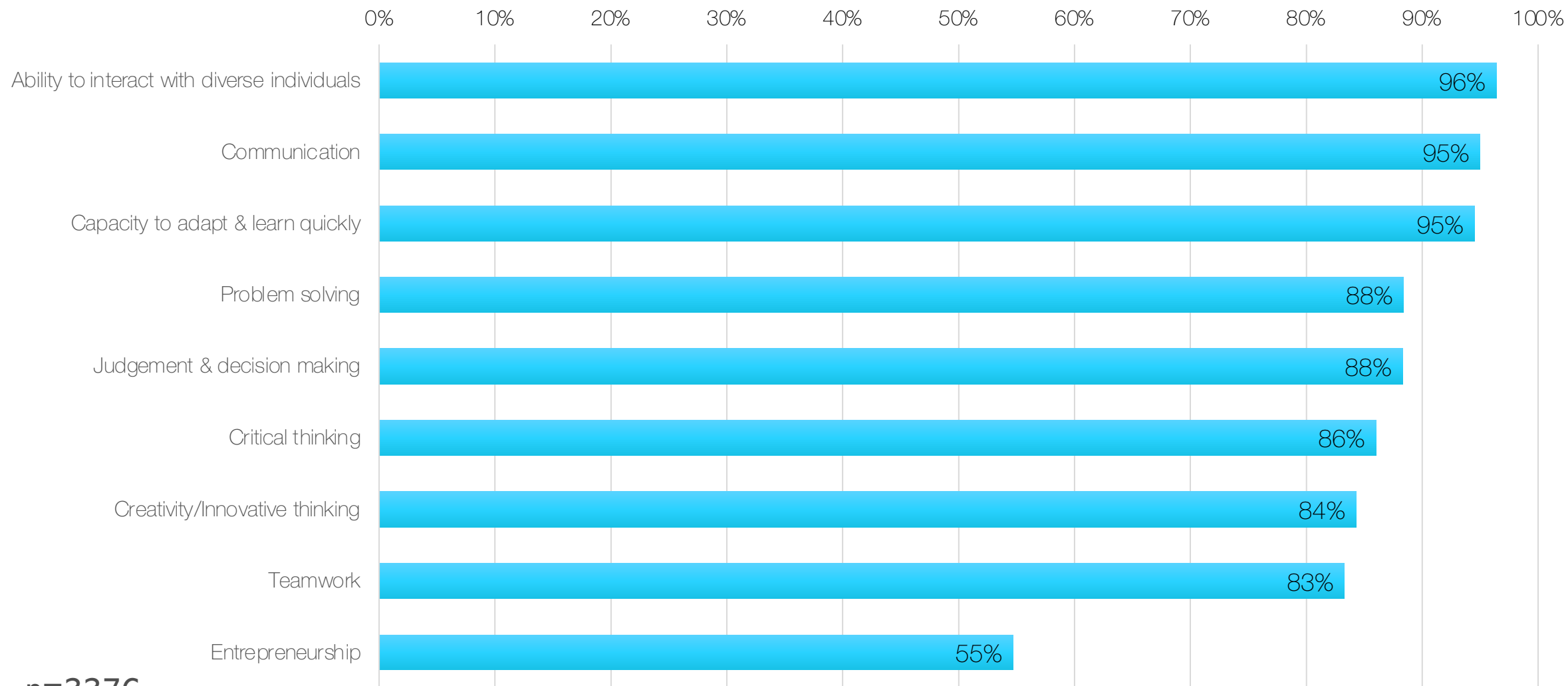
My learning abroad experience was worthwhile for...



n=3376

Skills development

Extremely positive & somewhat positive



n=3376



Skills development

Employability skills impacted by short-term learning abroad
Extremely positive and somewhat positively

Career Outcomes of Learning Abroad 2019



95%

Ability to interact with others



94%

Communication



88%

Teamwork

Three of the top four skills employers agree are lacking in Australian graduates

AAGE Employer Survey 2018



Interpersonal skills



Oral communication



Teamwork

Highest impact

Developing skills to support professional role

Self-confidence

Ability to interact with diverse individuals

Communication

Capacity to adapt and learn quickly

Developing an understanding of the host country

Internships, practicums & placements

Significant for:

Developing skills to support your current and future roles

Obtaining first job in field of study

Obtaining subsequent jobs

Problem-solving + Teamwork skills

Current work

78% currently work in Australia



22% work abroad



Top countries:

- UK 3.5%
- USA 2.5%
- Canada 1%
- Singapore 0.9%
- Germany 0.7%
- Hong Kong 0.6%

Job scope

38% International

25% National

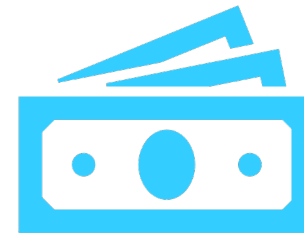
31% Local/regional

Sector

Private 54%

Public 31%

Non-profit 8%



Salary (mode)

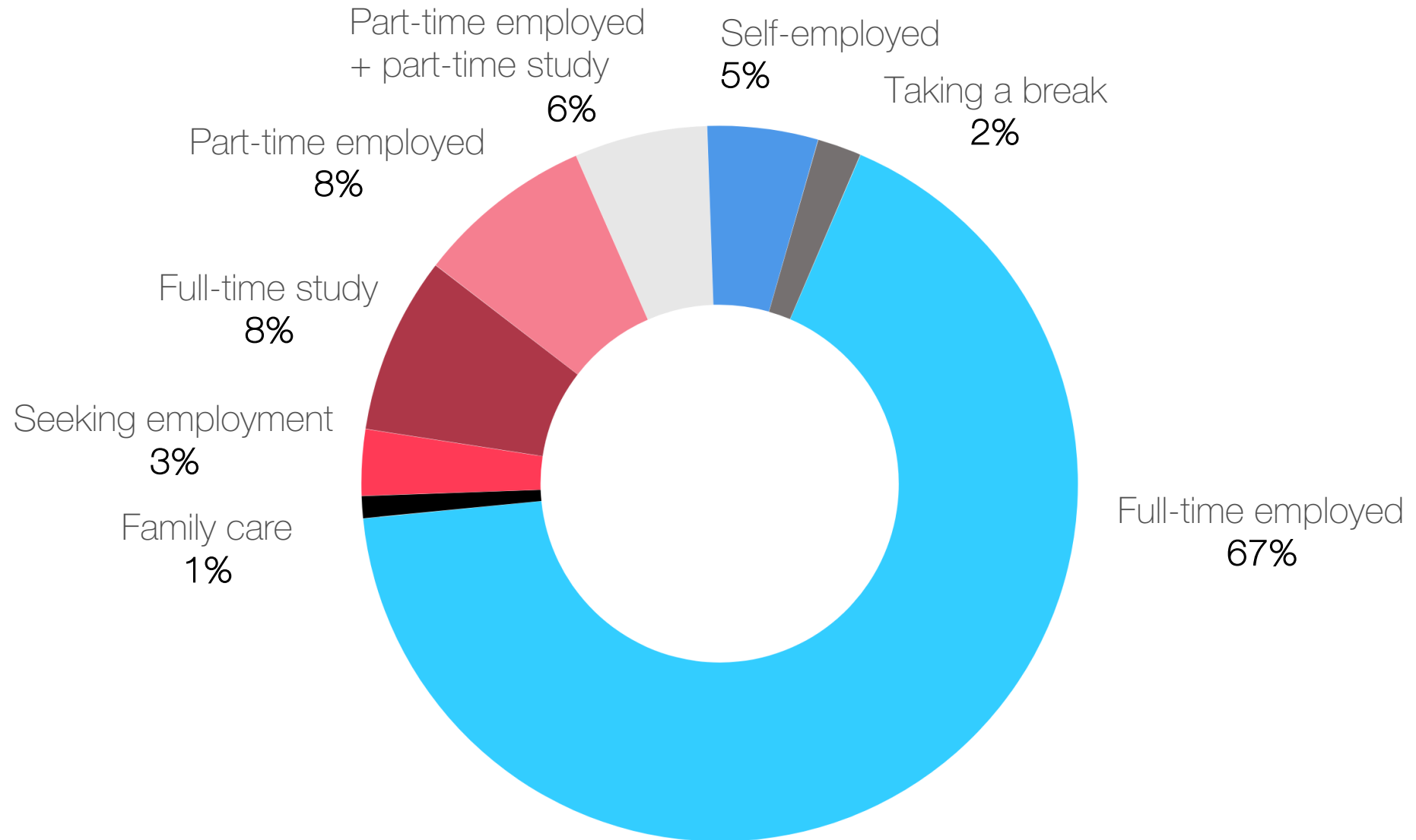
\$60,000 - 69,999



Top Industries

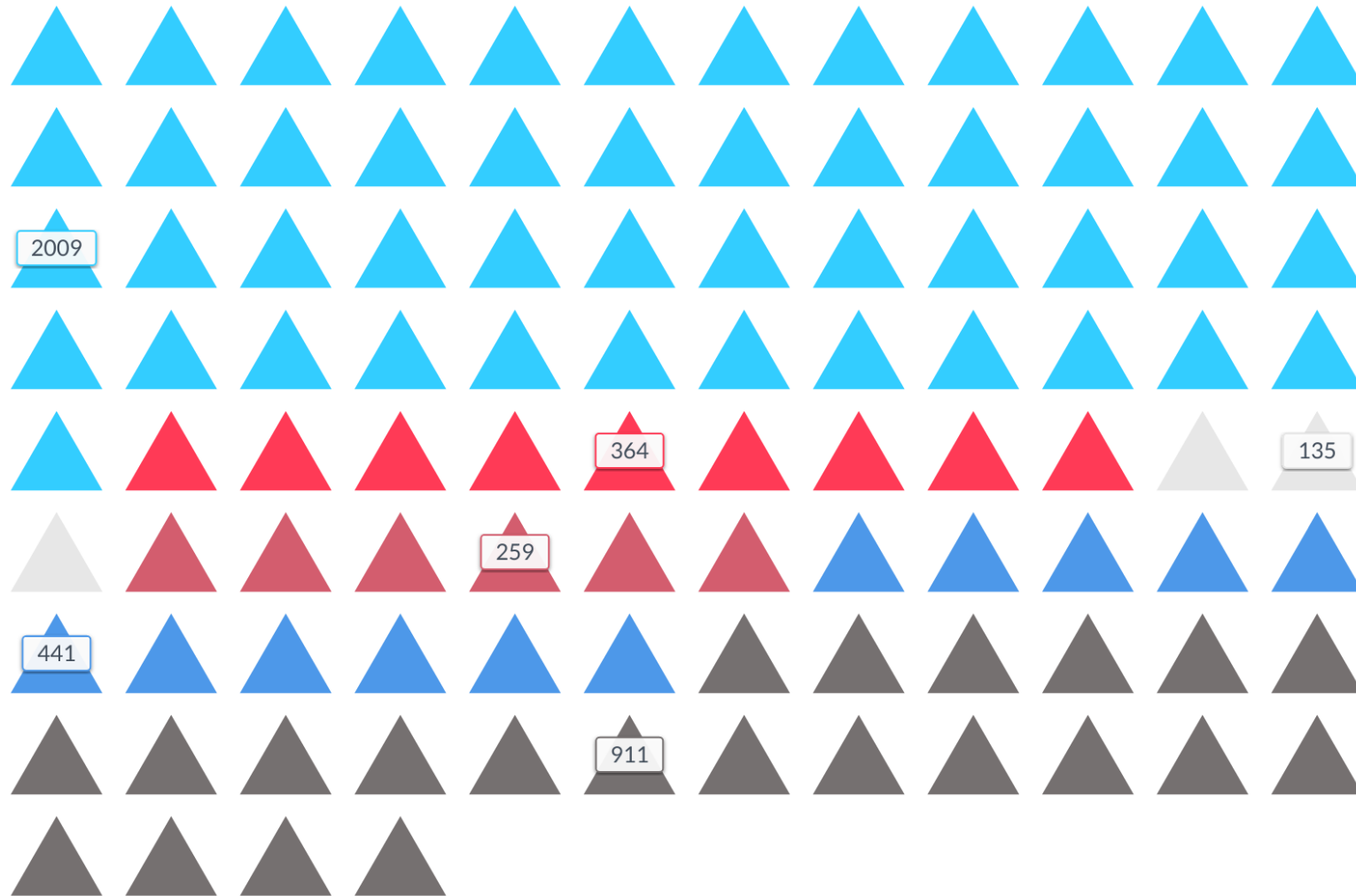
- Professional & scientific 18%
- Education & training 16%
- Other services 14%
- Healthcare & social assistance 11%
- Financial & insurance services 6%
- Information media & telecommunications 5%

What are they doing now?



N=3365

International work experience since graduation



- ▲ I have mostly worked in Australia
- ▲ I have mostly worked in a country other than Australia or my home country
- ▲ I have been posted overseas by my employer
- ▲ I have been sent overseas on short-term work assignments
- ▲ I have lived abroad for the purpose of employment independent of an employer
- ▲ I plan to work abroad in the future

n=3100

Respondent quotes

My international study experience made me realise that I am both interested in and capable of working in clinical (nursing) fields that I initially thought perhaps were not suited to me.

Opened up my ideas about possible work options other than Australia, The Australian workforce generally does not value overseas experience.

It was a fantastic opportunity for me to grow in maturity, and gain life skills. Which benefits all parts of my life - including my career.

My internship in Belize was a waste of money and time in which I learnt very little. I wish I had gone to Africa instead where I know I would have learnt an incredible amount





Absolutely do it. It is a great way to open yourself up to new experiences and will prepare you better to tackle challenges. It also sets you apart in applications and I think prospective employers appreciate your ability to go the extra mile and often devote months of your own time to travel and engage with that level of professional development.

Advice to current students