

2008 Student and Graduate Opinion Surveys Summary of University-wide Results

Demographics

- In 2008 the response rate in the Graduate Survey was the highest ever achieved (for the second year in a row) at Otago University with 53% of graduates surveyed responding either online or by mail. Responses rates were also good for the two Student Opinion Surveys. The Student Opinion Survey: Academic Experience had a 59% response rate and the Student Opinion Survey: Support Services a slightly lower response rate of 50%.
- Graduates tended to be marginally more likely to be in full-time employment and to earn higher salaries than last year.
- Academic reputation continues to be cited as the most popular reason for studying at Otago by students and graduates.

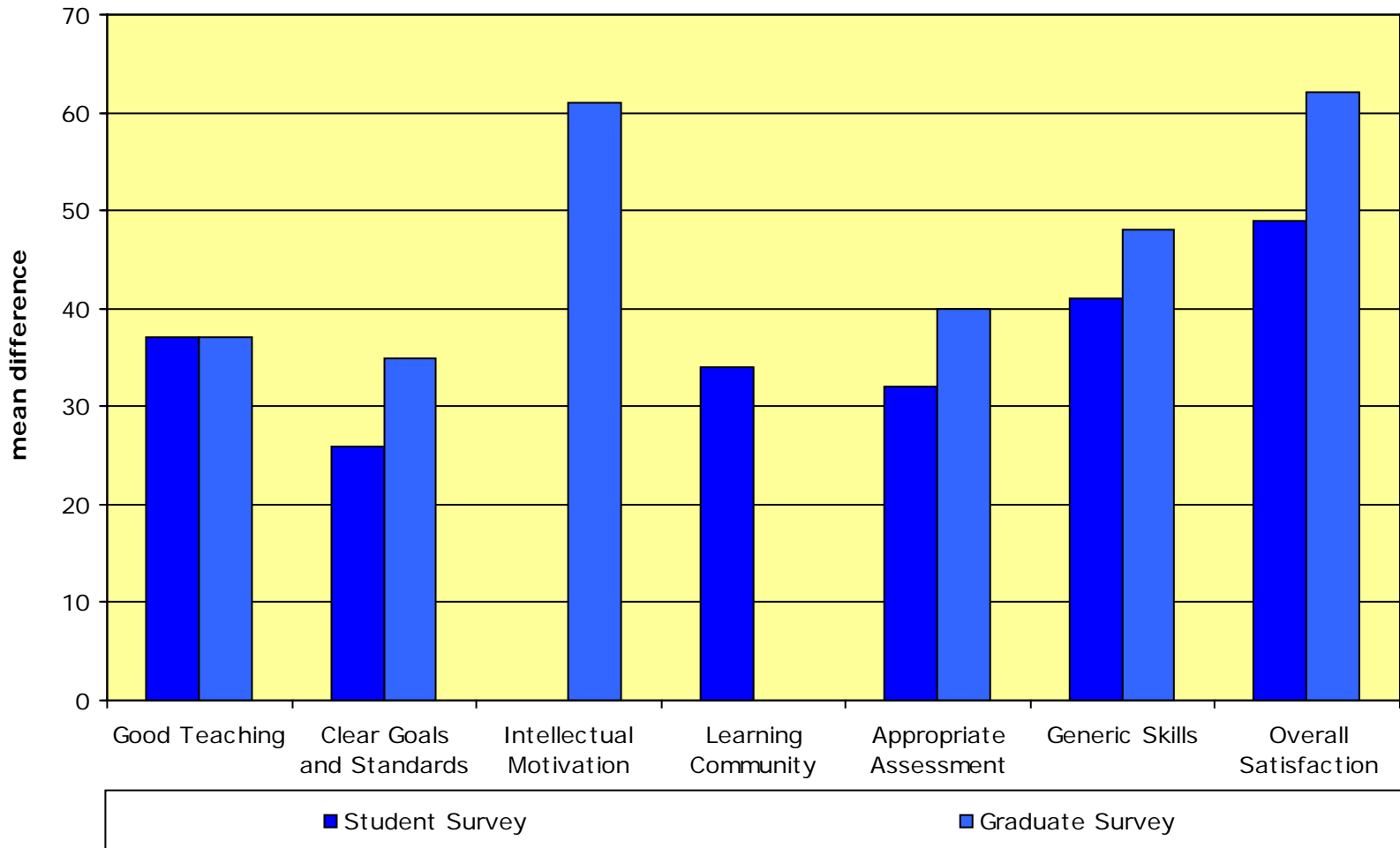
University Support Services

- Libraries, information technology and teaching facilities maintained their 2007 results. Helpfulness of library and computing resource staff continued to be rated particularly highly.
- Access to study spaces in the central library continued to be an issue during the examinations period as well as access to computer network ports and power points.
- The campus environment and personal safety on campus rated very highly even improving their already high scores in 2006. There was a significant drop in satisfaction ratings regarding the University Union beverage and food services.
- Administrative and support service ratings were generally maintained or slightly improved compared to 2007, and generally very good.
- Similarly to previous year Residential colleges, helpfulness of administrative staff in academic departments and the Undergraduate Prospectus rated particularly highly.
- Disabilities support ratings were reasonably good and improved slightly compared with 2007 on several items.

Course Experiences

The chart below shows results for the Student and Graduate Opinion Surveys,

compared to data from all Australian universities (Coursework graduates). Note that Australian graduates are surveyed relatively soon after graduation (approximately six months), while Otago graduates are surveyed 18 months to two years after graduation, and Otago students are surveyed at various levels of study.



Changes from previous years were small, and may have been based on the mix of programmes being surveyed in 2008.

Postgraduate Supervision and Support

Postgraduate results compared to 2007 were as follows:

	Graduate Survey	Student Survey
Honours	Supervision: Improved	Supervision: Improved
	Support: Improved	Support: Improved
Postgraduate Certificates	Insufficient responses	Insufficient responses
Postgraduate Diplomas	Supervision: Slight Decrease	Supervision: Slight Decrease
	Support: Slight Improvement	Support: Unchanged
Masters	Supervision: Improved	Supervision: Unchanged
	Support: Large Decrease	Support: Slight Decrease
PhD	Supervision: Improved	Supervision: Improved
	Support: Improved	Support: Small Decrease

For All Respondents to the Student opinion Survey Supervision

- As in previous years, supervisor friendliness rated highest, followed by items relating to supervisor knowledge of, and interest in, the student's research area, and supervisor understanding work problems. Overall satisfaction with supervision also rated very highly.
- Once again the only supervision item that rated truly lowly was 'My supervisor discussed the University's guidelines on supervision with me'. This is consistent with previous years.

For support:

- Highest rated were the provision of technical and/ or library services, the provision of a climate supportive for postgraduate research by department and the access to necessary equipment
- The lowest-rated items related to the University's provision of financial support, which was consistent with previous years. Induction into postgraduate study, including statement of the responsibilities of, and support available to, postgraduate students, also rated lower than other items in both surveys.

Course Outcomes

Most measured attributes were applied more post-graduation than they were developed during study. Analytical skills were developed more during study than applied post-graduation. Graduates considered the skills to plan one's own work, a willingness to learn, written communication skills and the ability to solve problems as the attributes

most applied in post-graduation life.

The most developed attributes were:

- Written Communication Skills
- Analytical Skills
- The skills to Plan One's Own Work
- A Willingness to Learn

The largest discrepancies between development and application were for:

- Teamwork Skills
- Oral Communication Skills
- Self-confidence
- Flexibility and Adaptability