

Job outlook improves



“Graduate recruitment returning to pre-crisis levels”

University graduates will find it easier to get jobs in 2010, according to a recent survey by Graduate Careers Australia (GCA).

The 2009 Australian Graduate Survey (AGS) found 21 per cent of employers plan to employ more university leavers in 2010.

Research Associate at GCA, David Carroll, said despite the economic downturn in 2009, 93 per cent of employers indicated that they still recruited graduates.

“Whilst full time graduate positions fell by 6 per cent between 2008 and 2009, the unemployment rate only rose by 2 per cent, indicating graduates were increasingly finding part time or casual work.”

Carroll said graduates who found part-time work were more experienced job-hunters in 2010.

The Global Financial Crisis was a major factor in the 6 per cent drop in graduate positions. But GCA's acting executive director Bruce Guthrie said on the group's website that the graduate employment market is

recovering in 2010 from the downturn.


“It's encouraging to see that graduate recruitment in Australia is on the way to returning to pre-crisis levels,” he said.

But International students suffered a huge percentage fall in opportunities last year. Only 61 per cent getting full time employment in 2009, compared with 85 per cent of local students.

A further report from AGS concluded the increasing gap between international and domestic students was due to the expense of recruiting international students. According to the survey employers prioritise communication skills, disadvantaging graduates who speak English as a second language.

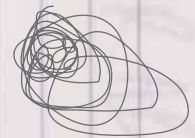
Carroll said the introduction of changes to the general skilled migration program in 2010, makes it much cheaper and easier for employers to recruit international graduates who don't hold citizenship in Australia.

After such a tumultuous year in 2009, there is light on the horizon for local and international graduates across the country in 2010.

“It's highly likely that 2010 will be a much better year for the graduates than 2009,” Carroll said. 

Nicholas Acquorff

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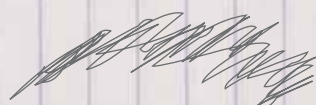
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