

**Report on the  
2007 Commencing Medical Students Questionnaire Data**

Conducted for the MSOD Management Committee,  
Medical Deans Australia and New Zealand

August 2008

## **Table of contents**

<i>List of tables</i> .....	3
<i>Introduction</i> .....	4
<i>Methods</i> .....	4
<i>Survey instrument</i> .....	4
<i>Results</i>	
<i>Student characteristics</i> .....	5
<i>Place of birth</i> .....	7
<i>Rural/Urban background</i> .....	11
<i>Education</i> .....	13
<i>Previous university education</i> .....	14
<i>Marital status and dependants</i> .....	15
<i>Sources of income</i> .....	15
<i>Preferred location of future medical practice (Australia)</i> .....	16
<i>Preferred location of future medical practice (country outside Australia)</i> .....	18
<i>Type of preferred future practice</i> .....	19

**List of tables**

Table 1: Breakdown of responses by medical school.....5

Table 2: Gender of respondents.....6

Table 3: Age range of respondents.....6

Table 4: Percent of respondents under each entry scheme.....6

Table 5: Sources of scholarships .....7

Table 6: Place of birth within Australia.....8

Table 7: Indigenous status.....8

Table 8: Citizenship status within the sample.....8

Table 9: Overseas place of birth for Australian/NZ citizens and Australian permanent residents.....9

Table 10: Country of birth for those holding Temporary or 'Other' entry permits .....9

Table 11: Speak a language other than English.....10

Table 12: Most frequently spoken languages other than English.....10

Table 13: Most frequently spoken languages other than English  
(Australian/NZ citizens and Australian permanent residents only).....10

Table 14: Length of time principal residence outside capital or major city.....11

Table 15: Location of longest residency within Australia.....11

Table 16: Self-Perception of rurality.....12

Table 17: Crosstabulation of location classification and self-perceived rurality.....12

Table 18 Length of time schooled outside capital city or major centre.....13

Table 19: Location of secondary schools.....13

Table 20: Discipline within which previous degrees were completed .....14

Table 21: Nature and number of qualifications .....14

Table 22: Percentage of sample reporting child dependants.....15

Table 23: Percentage of sample with other financial dependants.....15

Table 24: Percentage of respondents reporting each source of income.....16

Table 25: Preferred location of practice within Australia.....17

Table 26: Preferred geographical location within Australia .....17

Table 27: Crosstabulation of preferred location of future practice and perceived rurality.....18

Table 28: Preferred overseas country of practice for temporary entry permit holders.....18

Table 29: Preferred overseas country of practice for Australian/NZ citizens/permanent residents.....19

Table 30: Crosstabulation of preferred type of practice and sex.....19

Table 31: Interest in research or medical teaching.....20

## **Introduction**

This report presents summary data from the 2007 entry level survey for the Medical Students Outcome Database Project conducted by Medical Deans Australian and New Zealand. This was the second year for which all medical students in Australia were invited to participate in the Medical Schools Outcome Database Project by completing the Commencing Student Questionnaire.

## **Method**

In most medical schools, entry level medical students at 17 Australian medical schools and 19 programs completed the survey instrument early in their first semester. The survey sheets were returned to Medical Deans Australian and New Zealand and then scanned at Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) located at the University of New South Wales. One school opted to complete the survey electronically, entering data directly into the database.

## **Survey instrument**

The survey consisted of 17 questions assessing basic demographic details, enrolment characteristics, previous tertiary education and plans for future practice. The majority of the questions were closed-answer questions.

## **Analysis**

Survey data were received from EAA in SPSS 15.0 for analysis. The analysis is largely reported as frequency tables, and followed the format previously agreed to by the Management Committee for predefined reports for the Commencing Questionnaire.

## Results

### Students' characteristics

The population consisted of 2717 individuals enrolled at 19 medical programs at 17 Australian medical schools for which usable data was available. Table 1 shows the number of respondents at each program at the participating medical schools. Of these programs, nine were Graduate-entry (GE) programs, responsible for training 44% of the responding students. The overall response rate was 91% (range: 78% -100%) of all enrolled students.

**Table 1: Breakdown of responses by medical school**

Medical School	Frequency	Percent
ANU	70	2.6
Bond	84	3.1
Flinders	117	4.3
Griffith	126	4.6
JCU	103	3.8
Monash	291	10.7
Adelaide	132	4.9
Melbourne (UG)	238	8.7
Melbourne (GE)	85	3.1
Newcastle	93	3.4
Notre Dame	78	2.9
UNSW	235	8.6
Queensland	349	12.8
Sydney	262	9.6
Tasmania	120	4.4
UWA (UG)	132	4.9
UWA (GE)	38	1.4
Western Sydney	96	3.5
Wollongong	68	2.5
<b>Total responses</b>	<b>2717</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

In keeping with the trend, 54% of respondents were females (Table 2). For Table 3, respondent ages were grouped into 5-year age ranges. Eighty percent were under 25 years of age. Among the respondents commencing Undergraduate programs, 95% were under 25 years of age, compared with 60% of those in the Graduate-entry programs. The mean age was 22 years.

## Report on 2007 survey of commencing medical students

**Table 2: Gender of respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	1239	45.7
Female	1472	54.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2711</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>6</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

**Table 3: Age range of respondents**

Age group	Frequency	Percent
<20 years	1015	37.5
20-24 years	1157	42.7
25-29 years	363	13.4
30-34 years	111	4.1
35-39 years	34	1.3
40 years and over	30	1.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>2710</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>7</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

The majority of respondents were attending medical school under the Commonwealth supported (CSP) entry scheme (Table 4), with 53% of respondents reported entry under this scheme. Rural scheme students (including Commonwealth Bonded Medical Places students, Commonwealth

**Table 4: Percent of respondents under each entry scheme**

Entry scheme	Frequency	Percent
Commonwealth supported (CSP)	1410	52.6
Commonwealth Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship student (MRBS)	91	3.4
Commonwealth Bonded Medical Place (BMP)	473	17.6
State (eg QLD, SA) Health Bonded Medical Scholarship student (State BMS)	51	1.9
Commonwealth Department of Defence Sponsored student (DDS)	4	0.1
Australian Fee Paying student (FFP)	246	9.2
International fee paying student (IFP)	396	14.8
University Funded student (UF)	9	0.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2680</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>37</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Medical Rural Bonded Scholarship students, or scholarships provided by the Queensland or South Australia health departments) totaled 23%. A similar number, 24%, of students paid full fees, including both International (IFP) and Australian Fee Paying students (FFP).

The majority of respondents (85%) were not in receipt of a scholarship as they commenced medical studies. For those who were, the stated sources are summarised in Table 5 and included those provided by the Commonwealth government, governments outside Australia, by Australian universities, by state governments, and by other institutions.

**Table 5: Sources of scholarships**

Scholarship source	Frequency	Percent
Australian Commonwealth scholarships (including MRBS)	123	29.9
Scholarships provided by home country to international students	114	27.7
Scholarships provide by Australian universities	107	26.0
Other Australian state scholarships	51	12.4
Scholarships provided by other institutions	16	3.9
<b>Total respondents</b>	<b>411</b>	

*Base: Respondents holding a scholarship*

## Place of birth

Over half (61%) of all respondents reported being born within Australia. Of these, the majority were born in NSW, followed by Victoria and Queensland. The total breakdown of place of birth for those reporting an Australian birth place is shown in Table 6. Thirty-four individuals identified as of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent (Table 7).

Report on 2007 survey of commencing medical students

**Table 6: Place of birth within Australia**

Place of birth	Frequency	Valid Percent
NSW	550	33.4
Victoria	378	22.9
Queensland	347	21.1
South Australia	132	8.0
Western Australia	124	7.5
Tasmania	54	3.3
Northern Territory	20	1.2
ACT	43	2.6
<i>Total</i>	<i>1648</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>5</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1653</b>	

*Base: Respondents reporting being born within Australia*

**Table 7: Indigenous status**

Indigenous status	Frequency	Percent
No, not of Aboriginal and/or TSI origin	2669	98.7
Yes, of Aboriginal and/or TSI origin	34	1.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>2703</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>14</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

When considering the citizenship status of the respondents, 85% were Australian or New Zealand citizens or Australian permanent residents, the remainder holding Temporary entry permits or 'Other' status (Table 8).

**Table 8: Citizenship status within the sample**

Citizenship status	Frequency	Percent
Australian citizen	2193	81.1
New Zealand citizen	50	1.8
Australian permanent resident	57	2.1
Temporary entry	395	14.6
Other status	10	0.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>2705</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>12</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Tables 9 and 10 report the most frequent country of birth for those born overseas. The pattern of overseas birth differed between citizenship categories. Among Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents, the most frequent place of birth was India followed by China. For those holding Temporary/Other entry permits, Malaysia was most frequently nominated, followed by Singapore and Canada.

**Table 9: Overseas place of birth for Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents**

Country of birth	Frequency	Percent
India	77	11.8
China (not SARs and Taiwan)	66	10.1
Hong Kong	42	6.4
Sri Lanka	38	5.8
Malaysia	36	5.5
England	32	4.9
South Africa	30	4.6
USA	28	4.3
New Zealand	28	4.3
Singapore	23	3.5

*Base: Australian or New Zealand citizen and Australian permanent residents reporting overseas birth (n=653)*

**Table 10: Country of birth for those holding Temporary or 'Other' entry permits**

Country of birth	Frequency	Percent
Malaysia	128	31.8
Singapore	73	18.2
Canada	70	17.4
Brunei	14	3.5
Korea (South)	13	3.2
USA	13	3.2
Hong Kong	11	2.7
Botswana	10	2.5

*Base: Holders of Temporary or 'Other' entry permits who report overseas birth (n= 403).*

One third of respondents spoke a language other than English at their permanent home address (Table 11). Not surprisingly, individuals who held a temporary visa were more likely to report speaking a language other than English at home (74%), compared with Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents born overseas (58%), and all Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents, regardless of place of birth (25%).

Report on 2007 survey of commencing medical students

**Table 11: Speak a language other than English**

Speak language	Frequency	Percent
No	1830	67.6
Yes	876	32.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>2706</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>11</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Table 12 shows the most frequently nominated languages among all respondents; while Table 13 is limited to those speaking languages other than English for Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents only.

**Table 12: Most frequently spoken languages other than English**

Language	Frequency	Valid Percent
Mandarin	181	20.6
Cantonese	109	12.4
Malay	70	8.0
Tamil	58	6.6
Vietnamese	40	4.5
Chinese, nec	32	3.6
Hindi	32	3.6
Korean	31	3.5
Arabic	22	2.5

*Base: All surveyed individuals who reported speaking a language other than English (n=876)*

**Table 13: Most frequently spoken languages other than English (Australian/New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents only)**

Language	Frequency	Valid Percent
Mandarin	94	16.4
Cantonese	87	15.2
Tamil	51	8.9
Vietnamese	38	6.6
Hindi	31	5.4
Korean	16	2.8
Arabic	16	2.8
Sinhalese	15	2.6
Bengali	15	2.6

*Base: Australian or New Zealand citizens and Australian permanent residents reporting speaking a language other than English (n= 574)*

## Rural/Urban background

Nearly three-quarters of respondents stated that their principal home address had always been in a capital or major urban centre. As can be seen in Table 14, 9% of individuals had lived for 1 – 6 years, and 15% for 7 – 12 years outside a capital or major city. This question was misread by some respondents, as it specifically referred to residence during the past **twelve** years and 3% reported living rurally for more that 12 years. The maximum rural residency reported was 19 years.

**Table 14: Length of time principal residence outside capital or major city**

Length of residency	Frequency	Percent
0 years	2011	74.0
1-3 years	133	4.9
4-6 years	100	3.7
7-9 years	124	4.6
10 -12 years	275	10.1
13 or more years	73	2.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>2716</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>1</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Respondents were asked to indicate the type of location they had lived in the longest within Australia. Over three quarters reported living longest in a capital city or major urban centre. A further 10.5% had lived mostly in a regional city, while 12% had lived in a small town or community for most of their lives. However, it was not clear whether non-respondents had not lived in Australia for a year or more or had failed to respond to the question.

**Table 15: Location of longest residency within Australia**

Type of location within Australia	Frequency	Percent
Capital city	1560	67.9
Major urban centre (>100 000)	219	9.5
Regional city (25 000 – 100 000)	240	10.5
Smaller town (10 000-24 999)	115	5.0
Small community (<10 000)	162	7.1
<i>Total responses</i>	<i>2296</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing or not applicable</i>	<i>421</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Just over one fifth perceive themselves to be from a rural background (Table 16). Self-rated rurality corresponded well with the type of location an individual had lived in the longest. As seen in Table 17 the majority of Australian/New Zealand citizen or permanent residents who had spent most time in a capital or major city did not rate themselves as rural. This pattern was reversed for those from smaller towns. The overall pattern of increased self-perception of rurality with decreasing urban centre size was significant ( $\chi^2_2 = 1373.5, p < 0.001$ ).

**Table 16: Self-Perception of rurality**

Perception	Frequency	Percent
Rural origin	554	21.6
No rural origin	2005	78.4
<i>Total</i>	<i>2559</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>158</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

**Table 17: Crosstabulation of location classification and self-perceived rurality**

Classification of location	Consider self rural		
	Yes	No	Total
Capital/major city (frequency)	87	1652	1739
<i>% within location</i>	<i>5.0%</i>	<i>95.0%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Regional city	161	74	235
<i>% within location</i>	<i>68.5%</i>	<i>31.5%</i>	<i>100%</i>
Smaller town/ community	252	19	271
<i>% within location</i>	<i>93.0%</i>	<i>7.0%</i>	<i>100%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1745</b>	<b>2245</b>
<b>Total percent</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>77.7%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Base: All surveyed individuals stating their location and rating their rural background*

## Education

Respondents were asked to indicate the length of time their **secondary** schooling had taken place outside a capital city or major urban centre within Australia. Once again, over three-quarters of respondents stated that their schooling had never taken place outside such centres. Of the remaining individuals, Table 18 suggests that only 17% spent 1-6 years outside capital or major urban centres. However, it is not clear whether the additional 3% who reported spending between 7 and 18 years in a rural area were referring to their total years of schooling, or to their total lives to date.

**Table 18: Length of time schooled outside capital city or major centre**

Length of time	Frequency	Percent
0 years	2183	80.4
1-3 years	87	3.2
4-6 years	366	13.5
7 or more years	80	2.9
<i>Total</i>	<i>2716</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>1</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

Respondents were asked to state the name and postcode of their secondary school. This information was used to indicate state of secondary education, as presented in Table 19. Given that some of the Temporary/Other entry permits also undertook secondary education in Australia, all respondents were included in this analysis.

**Table 19: Location of secondary schools**

Secondary school location	Frequency	Valid Percent
NSW	609	32.1
Victoria	421	22.2
Queensland	428	22.6
South Australia	137	7.2
Western Australia	153	8.1
Tasmania	78	4.1
Northern Territory	21	1.1
ACT	48	2.5
<i>Total</i>	<i>1895</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>822</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

## Previous university education

Nearly half (48%) of individuals had previously completed one University degree, 11% held a second degree, 2% held three degrees, and 9 individuals held four degrees. All previous degrees held at the commencement of the medical program were totaled and categorised as shown in Table 20. When Science and Physical Sciences qualifications were combined, 45% of respondents held one of these degrees. A further 21% had completed Medical Sciences, and 18% already had a previous Health/Allied Health qualification. A further 16% held non-science degrees.

**Table 20: Discipline within which previous degrees were completed**

First degree	Frequency	Percent
Science	669	41.0
Medical science	339	20.8
Health/Allied health	297	18.2
Humanities	106	6.5
Commerce/Law	104	6.4
Physical sciences (Engineering/Maths/Computer)	61	3.7
Other	55	3.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>1631</b>	<b>100</b>

*Base: All surveyed individuals with previous qualifications*

Table 21 summarises the total number and type for all previous qualifications. While the majority (89%) of these were held by those enrolled in Graduate-entry programs, 12% enrolled in Undergraduate degrees also held at least one former qualification, with 3% holding between two and four previous degrees.

**Table 21: Nature and number of qualifications**

All degrees	Frequency	Percent
Bachelor degree (incl those with Honours year)	1465	76.0
Honours year	273	14.2
Masters	94	4.9
Graduate Diploma/Certificate	68	3.5
PhD	27	1.4
<b>Total qualifications</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>100</b>

*Base: All individuals with previous qualifications*

## Marital status and dependants

The majority of respondents were single (91%), with only 8% reporting either being married or living with a partner. Partners' occupation was most frequently given as 'Student' (11.5% of those providing partner's occupation). Nine reported being divorced or separated and no respondent stated that they were widowed.

The number of children reported by is shown in Table 22. Few individuals reported having children under 16 years of age (97% had no children). Similarly 98% of individuals reported having no dependants (Table 23). The majority of those with children and other dependents were local students.

**Table 22: Percentage reporting child dependants**

Number of children	Frequency	Percent
0	2643	97.5
1	27	1.0
2	24	0.9
3 or more	17	0.6
<i>Total responses</i>	<i>2711</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>6</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

**Table 23: Percentage with other financial dependants**

Number of dependants	Frequency	Percent
0	2666	98.7
1	17	0.6
2 or more	19	0.7
<i>Total responses</i>	<i>2702</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>15</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

## Sources of income

Table 24 shows the percentage of the sample reporting receiving income from each source. As 40% of the sample indicated more than one source of income, the percentages in the table do not add to 100%. There were some differences between those enrolled in Undergraduate and

Graduate-entry programs. Government assistance was far more important to those in Graduate-entry programs compared with Undergraduate programs (39% and 14% respectively), as was part-time work (41% and 23% respectively), whereas those respondents in Undergraduate programs were more likely to be supported by parents or other family members (73% and 44% respectively). Almost twice the number of Undergraduate students held Scholarships compared with Graduate-entry students.

**Table 24: Percentage of respondents reporting each source of income**

Source of income	Undergraduate		Graduate-entry	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Government assistance	215	14.1	461	38.6
Parents/other family	1106	72.7	527	44.2
Part-time work	342	22.5	484	40.6
Scholarship	274	18.0	114	9.6
FEE-HELP	87	5.7	77	6.5
Financially independent	40	2.6	109	9.1
Other	48	3.2	139	11.7
<b>Total number in program</b>	<b>1522</b>		<b>1193</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

### **Preferred location of future medical practice (in Australia)**

Nearly 87% of those responding to this question stated that their preferred location of future practice was within Australia. Table 25 shows the distribution of preferences over each State. For those individuals born in Australia, the preferred location of future practice followed a similar pattern to that for all those responding to this question, and included 5% who wanted to work in a country other than Australia. For those on Temporary entry permits, the state of first choice for those preferring to practice within Australia was Victoria (48%) followed by NSW (31%).

Capital cities were the most preferred geographical location for future practice within Australia. The percentage of individuals nominating a particular location tended to decrease as the population of the centre decreased, as shown in Table 26, with 9% preferring smaller towns or rural communities.

**Table 25: Preferred location of practice**

Preferred location	Frequency	Percent
NSW	774	30.0
Victoria	587	22.8
Queensland	461	17.9
South Australia	140	5.4
Western Australia	162	6.3
Tasmania	56	2.2
Northern Territory	32	1.2
ACT	24	0.9
Overseas	340	13.2
<i>Total responses</i>	<i>2576</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>141</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All respondents stating their preferred location of future practice*

**Table 26: Preferred geographical location within Australia**

Location within Australia	Frequency	Percent
Capital city	1267	61.1
Major urban centre (>100 000)	304	14.7
Regional city (25 000 – 100 000)	323	15.6
Smaller town (10 000 – 24 999)	109	5.3
Small rural community (<10 000)	71	3.4
<i>Total responses</i>	<i>2074</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>Missing</i>	<i>643</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*

The preference for a particular location was significantly influenced by past exposure to that location. As can be seen in Table 27, 89% of those who did not consider themselves as from a rural background stated that they would prefer to practice in capital cities or major urban centres. Those perceiving their background as rural were more likely to consider increasingly rural locations as a preferred option for future practice (chisq<sub>2</sub>=483.6, p<0.001).

**Table 27: Crosstabulation of location classification and perceived rurality**

Classification of location	Consider self rural		
	Yes	No	Total
Capital/major city (frequency)	166	1345	1511
% within location	11.0%	89.0%	100%
Regional city	166	148	314
% within location	52.9%	47.1%	100%
Smaller town/ community	119	58	177
% within location	67.2%	32.8%	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>1551</b>	<b>2002</b>
<b>Total percent</b>	<b>22.5%</b>	<b>77.5%</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Base: All surveyed individuals nominating a preferred location and rating their rural background*

### Preferred location of future medical practice (country outside Australia)

Thirteen percent of all individuals indicated they preferred to practice overseas. Of those holding Temporary/Other entry permits, 61% stated that they would prefer to practice overseas in contrast to 5% of Australian/New Zealand citizens/permanent residents. The majority of those holding temporary permits gave their home country as their future preferred location (Table 28), while Australian/New Zealand citizens and permanent residents tended to nominate English-speaking countries as preferred locations (Table 29).

**Table 28: Preferred overseas country of practice for temporary entry permit holders**

Preferred location	Frequency	Percent
Malaysia	92	36.5
Canada	68	27.0
Singapore	45	17.9
USA	16	6.3
Brunei	11	4.4

*Base: Temporary/other entry permit holders preferring to practice overseas (n= 252)*

**Table 29: Preferred overseas country of practice for Australian/New Zealand citizens/permanent residents**

Preferred location	Frequency	Percent
England	28	21.2
USA	24	18.1
UK	14	10.6
New Zealand	14	10.6
South Africa	7	5.3
Canada	6	4.5

Base: Australian/New Zealand citizens/permanent residents preferring to practice overseas (n= 132)

## Type of preferred future practice

Respondents were asked what sort of practice they would prefer in the future. The most frequently endorsed option (almost one third) was 'Not yet decided'.

**Table 30: Cross tabulation of preferred type of practice and sex**

	Male		Female	
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent
Not yet decided	368	31.1	458	32.4
Surgery	302	25.5	190	13.5
Paediatrics and child health	87	7.3	203	14.4
General Practice	118	10.0	153	10.8
Adult medicine	22	1.9	16	1.1
Emergency medicine	56	4.7	58	4.1
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	9	0.8	93	6.6
Psychiatry	30	2.5	45	3.2
Anaesthesia	23	1.9	26	1.8
Ophthalmology	26	2.2	19	1.3
Dermatology	16	1.4	27	1.9
Radiology	22	1.9	9	0.6
Pathology	7	0.6	21	1.5
Public health medicine	6	0.5	16	1.1
Intensive care medicine	12	1.0	12	0.8
Other	63	5.3	59	4.2
Rehabilitation medicine	5	0.4	5	0.4
Medical administration	7	0.6	2	0.1
Non-specialist hospital practice	5	0.4	0	0
Occupational medicine	0	0	0	0
	1184	100.0	1412	100.0
Missing	57		64	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1241</b>		<b>1476</b>	

As can be seen from Table 30, the next most frequently endorsed options were Surgery, followed by General Practice and Paediatrics for males; and Paediatrics, followed by Surgery and General Practice for females. These results, and the feedback from student focus groups, suggest a misunderstanding of the category 'Adult medicine'. Thus individual sub-specialties nominated under 'Other' were included under the appropriate listed category in the summary table (Table 30).

When asked if they were interested in becoming involved with teaching or research, 72% of respondents said that they would be interested in one or the other or both these options. However, it is not clear whether those who did not respond were not interested or did respond to the question.

**Table 31: Interest in research or medical teaching**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Research	544	28.0
Teaching	773	39.8
Both	626	32.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>1943</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>No response</i>	<i>774</i>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2717</b>	

*Base: All surveyed individuals*