

## Graduate Destinations

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### Method

In March 2001 we surveyed 30 of our recent graduates (including a request to forward the survey to any other graduates they knew). International students were not included in the survey. From the 14 survey returns and email or personal contact with many others we learned that 100% of job seeking graduates from 1999 and 2000 are employed in the Information Technology industry.

They are employed in a wide range of fields, from programming and network support, to web page design and ecommerce. A number work in IT training and teaching at tertiary level and many are continuing to improve their qualifications while they work.

### In what ways is the Bachelor of Information Technology an advantage to our students?

Feedback from graduates tells us that they leave the degree feeling confident and are soon in employment.

- *"Giving me confidence I can do the job"*
- *"Got my first job pretty easy"*

The "hands on" nature of the course means that the graduates have important industry skills from day one in the workplace. Graduates found that the Bachelor of Information Technology gave them:

- *"A wide range of skills that are in demand in the industry"*
- *"A more practical approach to IT, with more focus on industry requirements"*
- *"Exposure to latest trends and technology"*

### The aspects of the programme that were particularly useful to them?

The high standard of work within the degree prepares the graduates well for the "real world".

- *"The high expectation set by tutors"*

- *"Definitely the level of detail and accuracy required in all documentation created"*

### Salary

Reported salaries ranged from just under \$30,000 to over \$80,000 with most graduates earning \$40-50,000. Most graduates replied that they would be interested in further study with us, on the condition that it was in association with their employment.

### Suggested Improvements to the Course

Some graduates had specific suggestions for software they would like to see included in the course while opinion was divided as to the optimal combination of theory and practical content in the course.

Our graduates are capable, innovative and talented. They found their experience of the Bachelor of Information Technology to be "character building" and hard work, and they left Otago Polytechnic with a determination to succeed in their chosen careers.



Figure 1:

**BIT Graduate Justin Swan is employed at ADInstruments, responsible for their webpages. His testimonial (see [bit.tekotago.ac.nz](http://bit.tekotago.ac.nz)) is being used in Otago Polytechnic promotional material**