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University Opportunities should have Equitable Access

The National Union of Students noted the results of reports released today by Graduate Careers Australia examining the experience of recent graduates both during and after their study.

National Union of Students, National President, Mr Michael Nguyen said, **“its no surprise that university graduate places have grown by 64.6 percent and have continued to be absorbed into full-time employment at the same rate.”**

“The fact that 82.4 per cent of university graduates are in full-time employment within 4 months of graduating and earning on average \$40,800 in their first year is evidence that university degrees open up many opportunities for young Australians.

Mr Nguyen went on to say, **“Access to universities must be addressed by the government in order to ensure that these opportunities, which are documented in this report are not withheld from families who cannot afford \$100 000 dollar degrees.”**

The report finds,

“Since 1990, bachelor degree level completions have grown by 64.6 percent, but the percentage of new graduates in full-time employment has remained relatively steady.

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82.4 per cent of graduate who were seeking full-time employment had found full-time employment within four months of completing their studies.

The starting salary for new bachelor degree graduates aged less than 25 and in their first full-time employment was \$40,800, which was 79.7 per cent of average earnings.”

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