

# GLSNZ

GRADUATE LONGITUDINAL STUDY NEW ZEALAND



Professor Richie Poulton

## Welcome to the first issue of the GLSNZ newsletter

This monthly newsletter is designed to keep you updated about progress on the Graduate Longitudinal Study New Zealand (GLSNZ).

Conducted in partnership with Universities NZ and all eight New Zealand universities, this important new longitudinal survey will help determine the 'added value' of a tertiary education in 21st Century New Zealand. This information will be valuable, not only to the participating Universities, but also to the government of the day, policy makers and all potential users of the tertiary system.

By way of brief background, the 2008 strategic review of the 35-year-old New Zealand university survey of graduates – whereby all university graduates from the previous year were surveyed six months post-graduation about their employment outcomes – determined that the survey had run its course. At this time, the Vice-Chancellors sought a better understanding of where New Zealand graduates found themselves several years after leaving university, as well as more detailed information about the overall impact that a New Zealand tertiary education had had on their lives.

The National Centre for Lifecourse Research (NCLR) has an international reputation for its work in longitudinal study development and implementation and was chosen to carry out the GLSNZ. As co-director of the NCLR, I believe the Centre and its expert partners are ideally placed to deliver a study that will become the envy of universities and governments around the world.

Our aim is to understand what becomes of graduates in the short-, medium-, and long-term. We will ask and answer questions like: how do their careers develop? What university factors most influence success in the employment market? When are they having families? How are they tracking financially? Where are they choosing to live and why? How do their values, attitudes and behaviours evolve and contribute to a better society?

At the foot of this newsletter, you will find a timeline that outlines GLSNZ milestones and key dates. Around August next year, a large sub-sample, broadly representative of the total 2011 graduating cohort from the eight NZ universities, will be invited to complete a baseline survey 'on-line'. These same participants will complete a follow-up survey two years later, then at five-years and 10-years post-graduation. The first descriptive results will be published in February 2012.

Thank you to the TEC and the Ministries of Education and Women's Affairs for their foresight in funding this study.

We intend circulating this newsletter approximately monthly to ensure informative and timely communication. We welcome your feedback and look forward to delivering a study that will provide valuable information for years to come.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Poulton', written in a cursive style.

Professor Richie Poulton, FRSNZ  
Co-Director NCLR, Lead Investigator GLSNZ

## Project Identity

Originally the survey name was the New Zealand Universities Graduate Outcomes Study. This was changed to the Graduate Longitudinal Study (GLS) to emphasise the on-going nature of the study as well as the academic rigour with which the research will be conducted. Following a suggestion by Professor of Marketing Sheelagh Matear, Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Lincoln, we have now included 'NZ' in the title to better reflect the regional focus of the project.

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## Pilot Study

Following development of a first draft survey and wide consultation with all universities a new shorter version incorporating the valuable feedback received was piloted in early December. This involved a group of 26 students ranging in age, ethnicity, gender and study programme, enrolled in both extramural and on-campus study. Detailed results of this pilot study will be disseminated in the February newsletter. Early indications are that the students found the new survey highly acceptable in terms of length, content, and emphasis. Their feedback was detailed, largely positive and very useful and will inform the final survey version.

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## Funding

The NCLR would like to thank the funders of the GLSNZ, namely: The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC), the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Woman's Affairs (MWA). The TEC have provided the bulk of the funding from their Focus Fund as they see it as supporting a high-level academic study, the outcomes of which will positively influence future tertiary education in NZ. The MoE have a particular interest in international PhD students and the value they and NZ derive from their tertiary education in this country. The MWA are focused on gender disparities in workplace outcomes and how these relate to the tertiary experience.

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## Ethics

We are preparing the GLSNZ Ethics submission which will be reviewed by the Multi-region New Zealand Health and Disability Ethics Committee. Their very thorough processes afford maximum protection and ensure that the survey will be conducted according to the highest ethical standards.

## GLSNZ Questions and Answers

**Q** What is the GLSNZ?

**A** A new longitudinal survey that will look at a cohort of graduates from all eight NZ universities and follow them up for 10 years post-graduation.

**Q** What is the aim of the GLSNZ?

**A** To determine the long-term value - in the broadest possible sense - of a NZ University education.

**Q** How, in simple terms, will it work?

**A** This new survey is a longitudinal study. Participants will complete an initial on-line questionnaire towards the end of their final year of study. Follow-up questionnaires will be administered two, five and then 10-years post-graduation.

**Q** How many participants will there be and how are they to be selected?

**A** We are aiming to follow a cohort of around 5000. They are being selected in consultation with each university to provide a representative and statistically robust sample that will allow us to analyse a range of important life outcomes against level of qualification, and of course by other factors such as gender and ethnicity.

**Q** Who is the target audience?

**A** As well as the universities themselves, stakeholders that are particularly interested in the results from the study include; key Government ministries; educational agencies; all potential users of tertiary education.

**Q** Will the findings of the survey be internationally comparable?

**A** Some comparisons will be possible with surveys currently being conducted in Canada, Australia and United Kingdom. However, it is our intention that the New Zealand study will be the most sophisticated of its type.

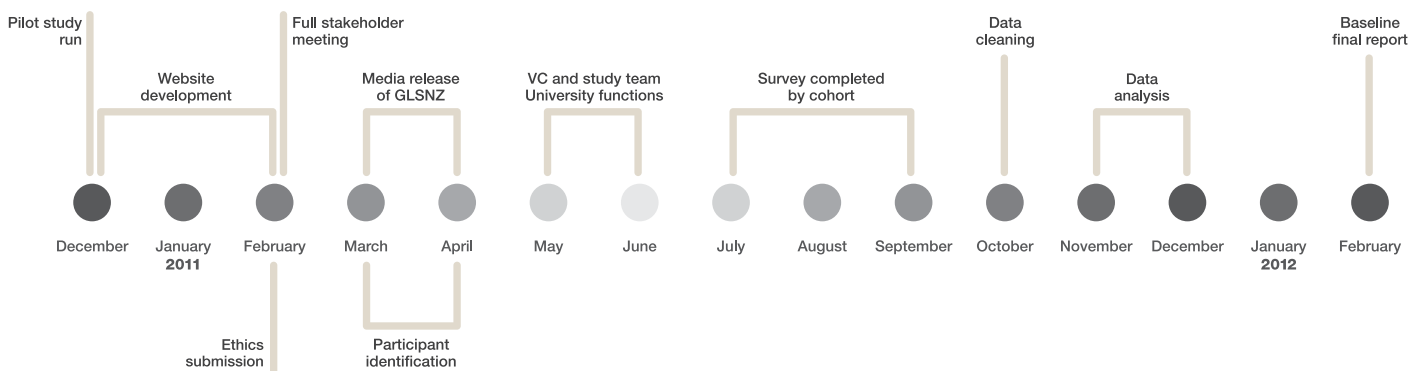
**Q** When is the on-line survey going to be open to the cohort?

**A** In consultation with all universities, we will conduct staggered assessments from July to early September, 2011.

**Q** How to contact the GLSNZ team?

**A** [glsnz@nclr.org.nz](mailto:glsnz@nclr.org.nz)

## GLSNZ Timeline



TE PŌKAI TARĀ  
UNIVERSITIES  
NEW ZEALAND

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND**  
NEW ZEALAND  
Te Whare Wānanga o Tamaki Makaurau

**AUT**  
UNIVERSITY

 **THE UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato

TE WHARE WĀNANGA O TE ŪPOKO O TE IKA A MĀUI  
**VICTORIA**  
UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON

  
**MASSEY UNIVERSITY**

 **Lincoln University**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Lincoln  
CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND  
New Zealand's specialist land-based university

 **UC**  
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY  
Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha  
CHRISTCHURCH-NEW ZEALAND

  
**UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO**  
Te Whare Wānanga o Ōtago  
NEW ZEALAND