Australian Government
Department of Employment and Workplace Relations

Data Graduate Stream

Frequently Asked Questions

What work does a data graduate undertake and get exposure to?

Our data graduates are involved in conducting data preparation and analysis across a range of areas that support our Ministers and other stakeholders to enable them to make informed decisions.

Data graduates may undertake labour market analysis to monitor and brief on developments in the Australian labour market overall and at an industry, occupation, and regional level; how movements in the labour market (including the pipeline of potential workers who are graduating from the higher education and vocational education and training (VET) sectors or arriving as migrants will impact current, emerging and future jobs and skills needs; analyse labour market data for particular higher education and VET qualifications; analyse wage growth data in the context of productivity growth and the level of inflation with particular attention being paid to those on low wages; and examine the various forms of work including casual employment and the impact of these working arrangements on individuals and the economy more broadly.

Data graduates may also be involved with providing data to develop policy advice to increase employment outcomes for identified cohorts, including young workers, the long-term unemployed, those with a disability, and mature aged workers.

How many placements does a data graduate undertake?

Data graduates will complete two five-month work placements during the graduate program. Our data graduates are engaged across the whole department with placement opportunities available in a range of policy, program delivery and technical areas.

How are data graduates supported within their placement?

Data graduates are given real responsibility with support and training from their supervisor and their team provided from the start. Data graduates will also receive regular ongoing feedback, mentoring and guidance to support their career development, overseen by the DEWR Chief Data Officer.

What is the career progression after the graduate program?

At the successful completion of the data graduate year, you will transition to a permanent APS5 within the department. Some data graduates have a strong track record of promotion and career progression, with many previous graduates going on to senior positions in the department and other agencies such as the Treasury or the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

What learning and development do data graduates undertake?

Data graduates are provided with ongoing and relevant on-the-job training and development experiences to support the development of their skills. Data graduates may also undertake learning and development opportunities that are relevant to their business area. Additionally, graduates will undertake a structured learning and development program. The learning and development is designed to, in conjunction with on-the-job experience, enable graduates to obtain the initial skills, knowledge and understanding required for a career in the department and the wider Australian Public Service (APS). The graduate program serves as an introduction to understanding key APS foundational concepts and provides a whole of government lens for graduates new to the APS.

What does a typical day in the life of a data graduate look like?

Our data graduates will be guided through a broad range of work opportunities, including data analysis for policy advice, data visualisation and statistical modelling.

"During my time in the graduate program, there were two main streams of work: The day-to-day business-as-usual data requests and analytic reporting work, and secondly a larger research project delivered collaboratively with my graduate cohort.

For the day-to-day work, I was trained in a new database that my placement team managed. Part of this involved learning the team's workflows and processes, to enable me to undertake my responsibilities effectively.

The research project allowed me to apply and further develop my analytical skills using departmental data and external data sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics to generate insights into labour market conditions. Regular discussions with my supervisor, colleagues, and graduate peers helped shape and strengthen the research outcomes.

Beyond my immediate role, I also participated in monthly graduate training activities and graduate-led charity events, which fostered a strong sense of connection and belonging. – Vincent, Data Analyst (2025 Graduate)"

"My day usually starts with saying hello to my colleagues on MS Teams and checking any new messages or emails so I know what to add to my to do list. I look at my calendar to see if I have any meetings scheduled and then choose an "hour of power", which is a dedicated time to focus on my main project without interruptions. Throughout the day I regularly check in with my supervisor, who is always supportive and happy to guide me as I learn new things in my role. To give myself a break from bigger tasks, I like to read the latest DEWR updates to stay connected with what is happening across the department, do a few quick admin jobs, or make progress on a coding course I am working through as part of my upskilling. Being a grad in DEWR means I am constantly learning, supported by a friendly team, and encouraged to grow my skills while contributing to meaningful work." – George, Data Analyst (2025 Graduate)

What does the department look for in a data graduate?

We are looking for graduates who are enthusiastic, energetic and have a passion for mathematics, statistics, and data. We are seeking candidates who have a strong work ethic, strong written and oral communication skills, and well-developed interpersonal skills. In addition to the eligibility criteria for graduates in the generalist stream, we are looking for graduates who have:

- Tertiary qualifications in mathematics, statistics, data science, or another relevant field of study such as economics, econometrics, finance, commerce, engineering or sciences.

Scan the QR code for more information.

- Strong written and oral communication skills, including the ability to communicate complex concepts to non-technical audiences.
- Well-developed interpersonal skills, including the ability to actively engage with co-workers and stakeholders.
- Enthusiasm and a fresh-thinking attitude that is open to learning and innovation.

Scan the QR code for more information.