

# DOMESTIC STUDENTS SURVEY SUMMARY

- Demographics
  - Age: 19 (1st year students)
  - Residents: Off campus
    - Suburbs: Beverly Hills, Carlingford, Castle Hill, Denistone, Eastwood, Epping, Kingsgrove, Marsfield, Port Macquarie, Roseville, South Hurstville, Waterloo etc
- Most frequently used social media platforms
  - Mostly Facebook/Messenger and Instagram
- Views on international students
  - Some of the misconceptions surrounding international students at UNSW are that they are:
    - **Wealthy/Rich**; many international students are generally not well-off and work extremely hard to support themselves, especially against the much higher course fees they face compared to domestic students
    - **Quiet** and don't contribute to class discussions
    - **Non-english speaking/poor at english** and are therefore unable to make friends with domestic students
    - **Isolated**, don't care about their studies and rely on their parents' support and money
  - The majority of domestic students rarely/never or sometimes interact with international students
  - Biggest hesitations to interact with international students
    - The 'other' effect where you assume someone who doesn't proactively approach you neither wants to be approached
    - Introversion (on either your own or their behalf)
- Experience with UNSW initiatives to bridge the gap between international and domestic students
  - UNSW initiatives to create more connections
    - Societies and their events
    - Peer mentoring programs
    - Arc events (eg sporting; social volleyball)
    - Upskilling events/workshops for Adobe, Canva, Figma etc and industry networking events
      - These allow students to make connections with people who share similar interests
    - Volunteering programs eg Yellow Shirts, Street Team and Wellness Warriors
  - How these programs help you connect with more people
    - Brings different people together to do fun bonding things regularly (both professional and social opportunities to connect people)
    - Pushes people to talk and be more socially involved in the community

- Connecting like-minded individuals that either do the same degree as you, so something completely different
- COMPLAINT: People join these programs with their friends rather than alone
- Mostly interested to connect with students sharing similar hobbies/interests
- Among the UNSW initiatives/programs, domestic students mostly think that the percentage of international students involved is around 5%
  - Rating UNSW's efforts to connect domestic and international students: 6/10
- Majority of domestic students would be potentially interested in participating in programs designed to connect domestic and internal students
- Solution opinions
  - Domestic students would strongly agree with the idea of an app designed to make international connections
  - Features to be implemented: chat function and refining profiles based on factors

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SURVEY SUMMARY

- Demographics
  - Age: 21/22 (3rd years)
  - Most speak english well
  - Onshore student
    - Mostly Kingsford and Maroubra
  - Country prior to Australia
    - China (2 people), Hong Kong, Indonesia (2 people), Malaysia (2 people), Singapore (2 people), Myanmar, Qatar, Solomon Island
  - Majority have not studied in Australia prior to current degree
  - Half have connections with locals in Australia
  - Biggest worry as a university student is study issues (stress about degree and it's difficulty)
- Current connections/friendships
  - Approximately 1-3 friends are domestic
  - Rate how comfortable they are with connecting and interacting with domestic students: 7/10
  - Biggest challenge when making friends are the cultural barriers and finding the social community
  - Rate UNSW's efforts to connect domestic and international: 5/10
- Experience with UNSW initiatives to bridge the gap between international and domestic students
  - Programs that attempt to create connections
    - O - week
    - Arc clubs/events
    - Societies
    - Cultural mentors/Culture cafe

- Programs eg Leadership Development Program
  - Classes
  - Case competitions
- Aspects of programs that worked well to help make connections
  - Social events eg picnics
  - Groupchats
  - Being grouped with random people so domestic students weren't just sticking with their friendship group
  - Having older students help get conversations going
  - Meeting people of similar hobbies and interests
- Aspects to be improved on
  - More games/things to do/events both for domestic + international, and international students exclusively
  - Market the events better so more people attend
  - Split up people so there aren't big friendship groups
  - Support those who face language barriers
  - More clubs like culture cafe
  - More frequent meetings
- Any other programs to improve your experience as an international students
  - Free bonding programs
  - International culture show/culture exchange
  - Social events and workshops
  - Programs to initiate international students into uni (copied the response to below)
    - programs to initiate international students into uni, perhaps within internationals only initially, that they may find friend groups for emotional support and such
    - domestic friends head to uni with high school mates, would be great to provide international students with the opportunity to acquire that initial friend group which would aid in boosting social confidence to engage in activities and consequently result in more social interactions and more friends made
  - Would be most interested in connecting with international students from any culture/nationality AND domestic students from any culture/nationality
  - Most used social media platforms: Instagram and Facebook
- Solution based opinions
  - Most responses would strongly agree with the idea of an app to lessen the gap between domestic and international students
  - Most wanted features: refining profiles based on factors