



# Usability and Human Interaction

DGM 6168

Huskies: Avneet, Namita, Raissa, Tsering

# Am I the only one?



Friend Making Advice Making Friends Psychology +6

## How can I make friends when starting university?

[Answer](#) [Follow · 125](#) [Request](#)

Friend Making Advice Making Friends +6

Friend Making Advice Making Friends +6

## How do you find new friends online?

[Answer](#) [Follow · 58](#) [Request](#)

Friend Making Advice Making Friends +4

## How do meet people and make friends?

This question previously had details. They are now in a comment.

[Answer](#) [Follow · 23](#) [Request](#)

1 [Follow](#) [Request](#) [f](#) [t](#) [...](#)

**40% of foreign students in the US have no close friends on campus: The culture shock of loneliness**

Loneliness International Students Studying Abroad The College and University Experience

## How do international graduate students cope with loneliness while in the USA?

This question previously had details. They are now in a comment.

[Answer](#) [Follow · 9](#) [Request](#)

1 [Follow](#) [Request](#) [f](#) [t](#) [...](#)

More than one in three foreign students in a [new survey](#) say they have no close U.S. friends, and many say they wish they had more, and more-meaningful, relationships with Americans.

International students have the (un)fortunate luck of knowing this could hit them. That is: when they move to their new home in a brand-new country.

Coping with Loneliness Understanding Loneliness +7

## How can I overcome loneliness and depression at university as an international student?

This question previously had details. They are now in a comment.

[Answer](#) [Follow · 12](#) [Request](#)

1 [Follow](#) [Request](#) [f](#) [t](#) [...](#)

"Where else can people meet and have the time and the freedom to make friends across cultures than at college?" said Elisabeth Gareis, an associate professor of communication studies at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York, and the study's author.

## Question burst

1. How can international students make new friends before and after arriving in the US?
2. Can we break the cultural barriers between students?
3. Are there any easy ways to find people with common interests?
4. How do I get to know students from my course to get in touch with them before the first class?

## Problem Statement:

Breaking barriers to help international students finding new friends in a new country with common interests, courses, background, hobbies etc. while giving the opportunity to learn and respect other cultures.



"There should be an application that could help international students like me to find connections before orientation day."

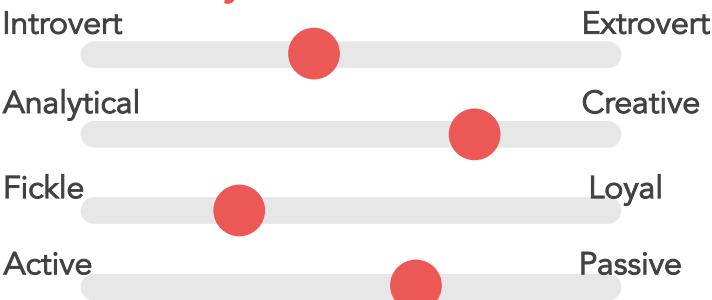
**Age:** 22

**Status:** Single

**Location:** Barcelona, Spain

**Occupation:** Architecture Student

## Personality



Organized   Practical   Tech Savvy   Social Butterfly

## Biography:

Catalina is a Junior who studies architecture in UIC, Barcelona. She has never studied abroad before and last year she decided to transfer her program and complete her degree in the US.

She got accepted in Northeastern University and ready to start her new journey. She chooses Boston because it's one of the cities known for its education and she wants to have a full experience studying abroad, making the most out of it.

## Motivations

Multicultural Exposure

Network Expansion

Relevant Information

User Friendly

Safety

## Goals:

- Experience cultural diversity in the US
- Finding and making friends before coming to the US
- Understand how things work (accommodation, finance, transportation, groceries, neighborhood) in Boston before arriving

## Frustrations:

- She needs to communicate with other international students with more experience studying in the US
- She does not have any relatives or close friend in Boston
- She has no idea on how things work out and the Northeastern page has too many information scattered in different sites
- She could not trust someone from Facebook or other social media

# Empathy Map

BONDING

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LIVES OR WORKS IN BOSTON?

HOW CAN I CONNECT WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS?



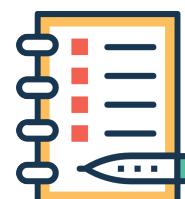
WHAT ARE THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD IN BOSTON

HOW'S THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN BOSTON?

IT'S REALLY EXPENSIVE TO RENT A ROOM THERE.



Catalina, 22  
Architecture Student



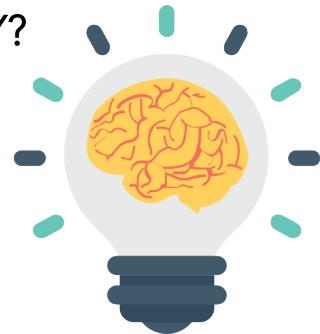
SEARCHES ON FACEBOOK  
CONTACT FRIENDS  
GATHERS INFO  
ENDS UP ON DATING APP

HOW DO I MAKE FRIENDS?

AM I BORING?

WHY DON'T I TRY?

I AM ALONE



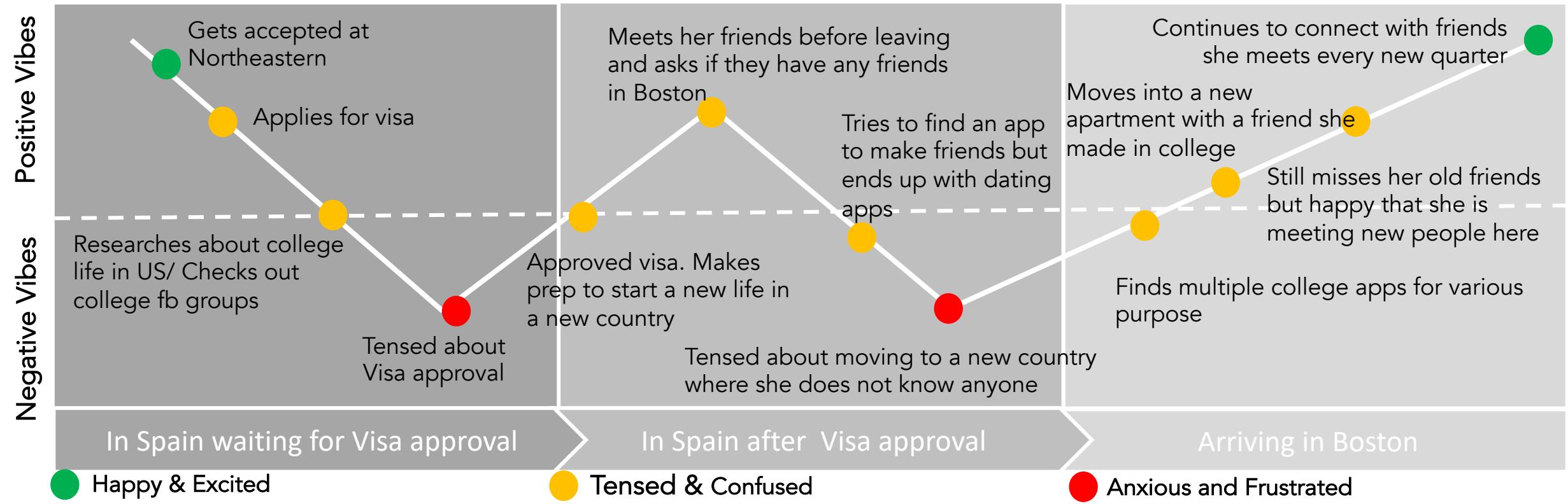
I WISH MY FRIENDS WERE HERE

HOW DO I SURVIVE THIS?

# Journey Map



Catalina just got accepted in Northeastern University and her visa has been approved. However, she is **frustrated** because she doesn't have any **experience of living abroad** and she has **no connections** that could help her **settle in Boston**. She wants to **find roommates** but she does not **trust** other **social media** or ended up only finding **dating app**. She **loves meeting people**, however she is **not confident to approach them first**.



# Comparative Analysis

	Home Page	Suggested Friends	Events	Map	Surprise Me	Chat	Security	User Profile	Target Audience
 meetup	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	everybody
 f	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	=	✓	everybody
 bumble	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	=	✓	young people
 Peanut	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	Mom
 we3	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	young people
 BONDING	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	international college students

# Project Overview



## Project Vision

The goal of this project is to solve the problem of international students who are struggling in preparing, adapting, and finding friends in the US. Many students come to the US without having any connections or experiences living abroad.

Our vision is to enhance the opportunity for students to connect with one another while giving the information about what's happening around campus.

## Project Description

Bonding is a smartphone application that will connect students based on their interests, course, and country that they're interested in. This app will also provide related news and information about their course as well as all events happening around the campus.

Bonding will also boost the user to actually meet new friends and do some activities together.

# Project Overview



## Project Platform(s)

Bonding app can be used on any android and iOS devices. This app is compatible with mobile devices or smart pads. Since this is a connecting app, we have decided to limit to mobile devices and smart pads.

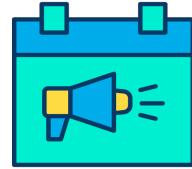
## Functionality

The user will set up an account in login page. The user will need to use northeastern husky email to use this app for the safety of the community. While in home page, there are navigation menu for events, maps and chat. The user will click the event icon to see the events happening around the campus. Maps shows all the friends and events happening around the campus on map for which one could choose to share the real time location using private mode feature. The user can also choose to chat with the connected friends using the chat feature by clicking on its icon.



## Match Up & Safety

- Suggested people based on interests, course, and country
- Suggested clubs in Universities
- School Verification
- Filter suggested people by interest/course/country



## Events Feed

- Suggested Events
- Date and Time
- Location
- Type of Event
- Save as Favorite (interested button)
- Organize/Create Event



## Surprise Me

- Date and Time
- Type of Event
- Matched-Up new friends based on user profile
- User approval for event invites



## Map

- Real time location of your connections
- Private Mode
- Real time information of events happening around Campus



## User Profile



## Chat

# Detailed MVP



## 1) Intro

- Login/ Sign Up (Autofill after registered)

## 2) Sign Up (with a progress bar on top)

- Choose your University
- Personal info
  - First name
  - Last name
  - DOB (Dropdown: MM/DD/YY)
  - Gender (M/F/O)
  - Country (Dropdown)
  - Phone number \*

### • Choose your Interests

- Bubbles with options (it gets more specific)
- Shuffle/Refresh options

### • Write your bio or quote (150 characters)

- Question: If you are a movie/brand, what is your tagline?
- Clear and next button

### • Setting Profile Picture

- Browse from Photo Library (Notification: allow to access your Photo Library)
- Take a picture (Notification: allow to access camera pop up question)
- Access photo from your social media\*\*\*

## • Set your email and Password

- Only valid with the University email
- Verify Password

## • Terms and Agreements

- Checkbox, Next Button

## • Create Account Button

- Send verification to your Uni email
- Verify if that's the correct email

## • Verify your account



## 3) Suggested Friends Page (landing page for the new user)

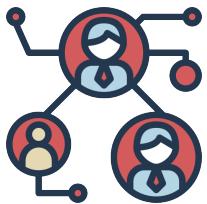
- List of people that match
- Connect and Message Button
- Skip button at the end of the page
- Tutorial/Directions on using the app (skip button)



## 4) Home page

- People you have connected with
- Recent college news
- What your friends are doing? Which events are they attending?
- Upcoming events
- Notification for upcoming birthday's

# Detailed MVP



## 5) Find Friends (sort by country/course/interests)

- 4-6 images on each page with Name, Country, Course
- Click for more info
- Connect, send message or cancel
- When you connect with someone, app gives you suggestion of similar people



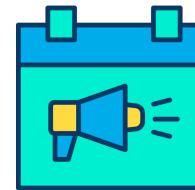
## 6) Chat

- Personal Chat
- Add people to group
- Text, Voice messages, Images, Videos, Files
- Emoji & Gif
- Typing Indicator
- No Read Receipts

\*\* connected to camera, gallery, microphone

\*\* Notification when

- When you receive a personal/group message
- When people are added/removed/leave group chats



## 7) Events page

- Suggested Events from Uni
  - Detail of the events
  - Recommend to friends (button)
  - Option to post events --- place, time, admission fee, more info, category of interests (button)
  - RSVP (going, not going, interested) dropdown button
- Events created by your connections
  - RSVP dropdown button
  - Create your own event (+ button)
    - Event Title
    - Location
    - Time
    - Description
    - Create Event Button



• Surprise me – gives you options (one from each category)

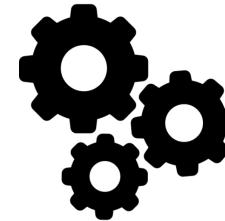
- Calendar
- Time
- Indoor or Outdoor (optional)
- Big group vs small group option
- Daytime vs Nighttime
- Surprise me button



## 8) Location map

- Has a private mode incase you don't want to share location
- Change map view: by friends or by events
- Shows the location of friends on the world map
  - Contact them (chat)
  - Wave or "say hi" to them (friends will get the notification if the user is interested in joining or want to know more about what are they up to)
- Show events on campus within a week on the world map (connects you to google maps incase you need directions, or having google maps API in the app to show direction)
  - Using different symbols to present different types of event
  - Click to show more information
    - Date, Time, Location
    - One line description / Tag (keywords, such as: sports, party, bbq, chill, etc)
  - Interested Button
    - If user click, it will send a push notifications as a reminder
  - Invite friends or Share Button

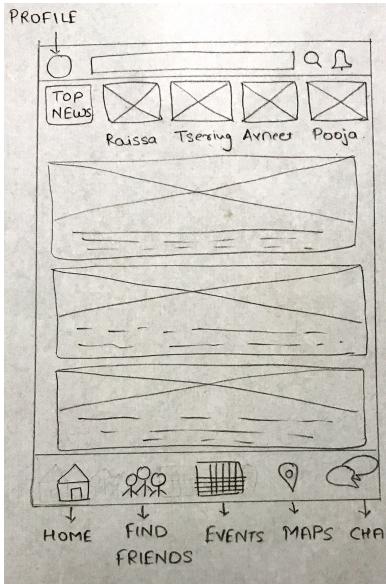
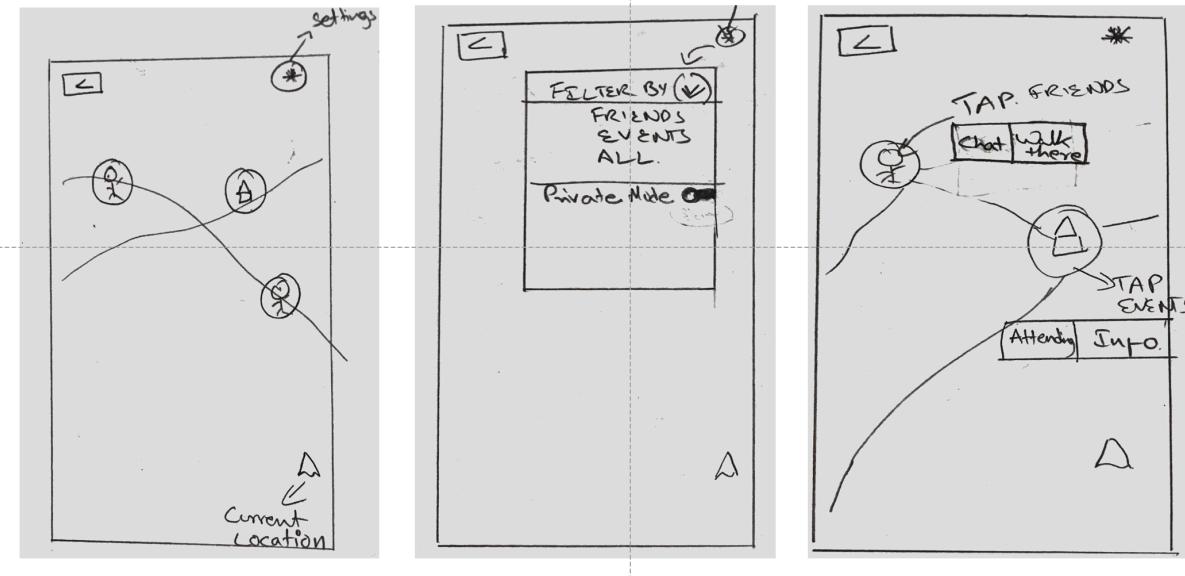
•\*\*connected to location services



## 9) Settings

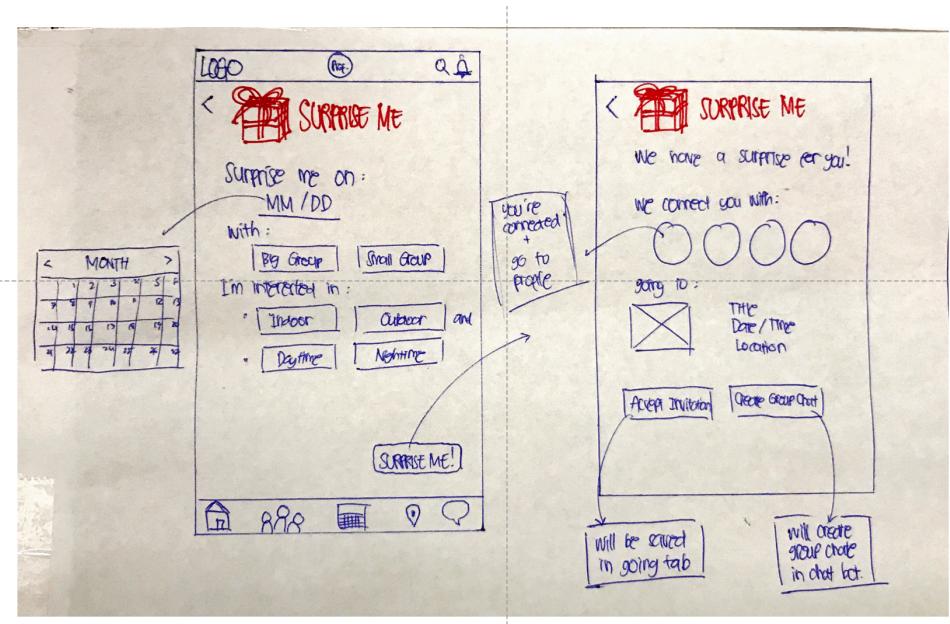
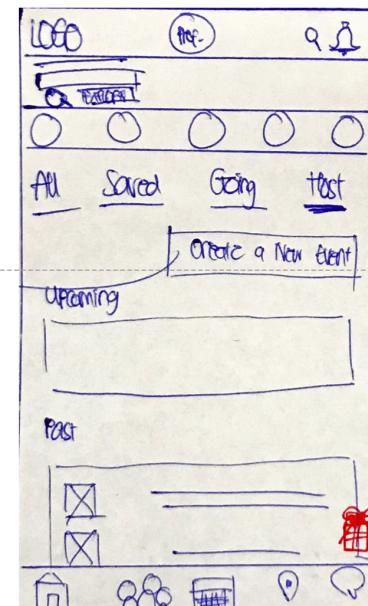
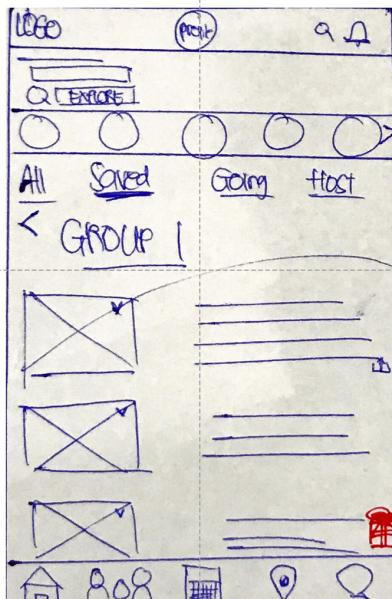
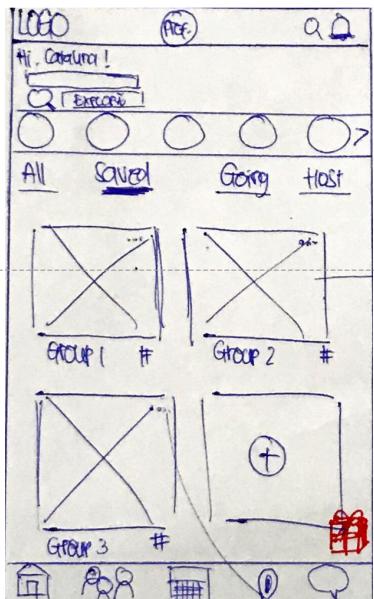
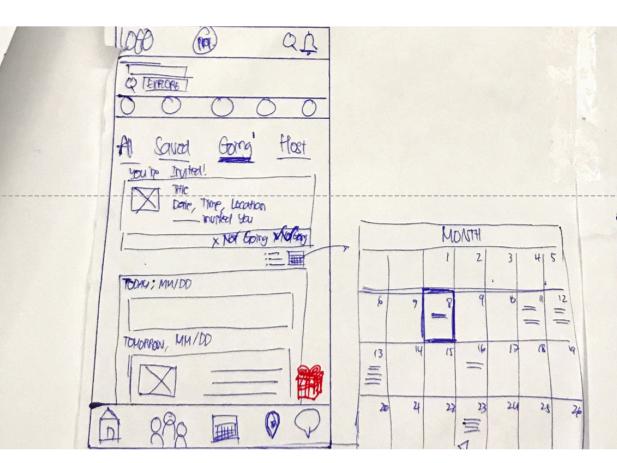
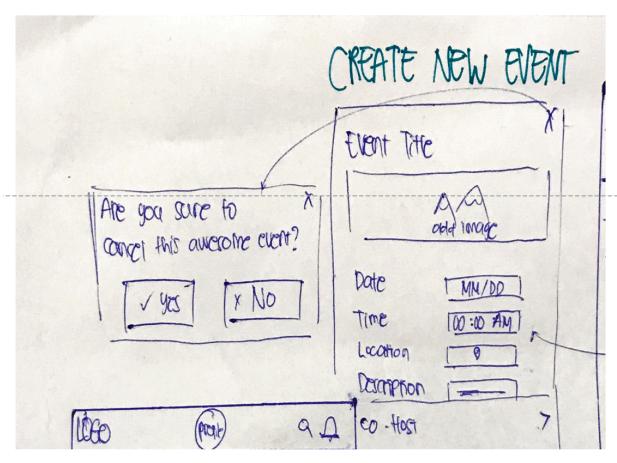
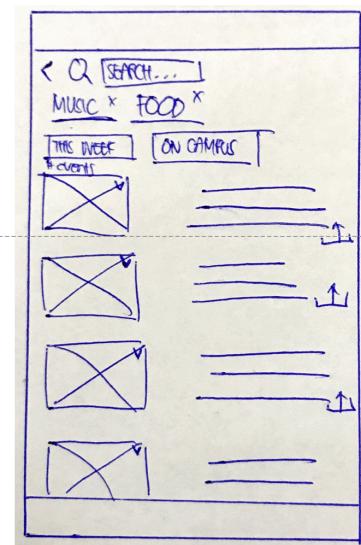
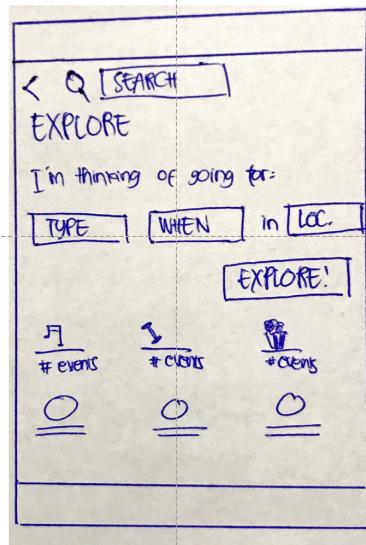
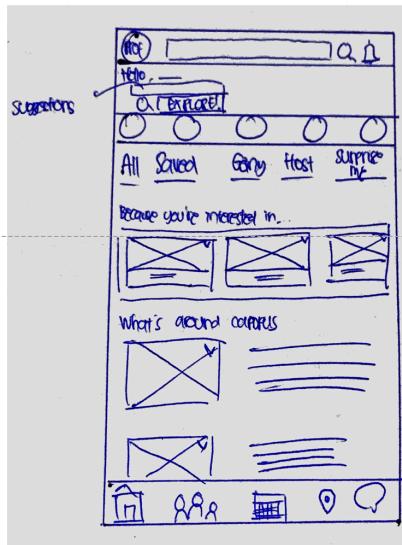
- Profile settings
- Location services
- Terms & Conditions
- Privacy Policy
- Log out

# Wireframes

# Wireframes

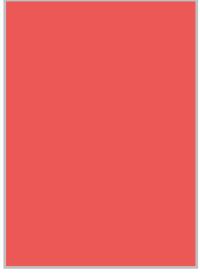
BONDING



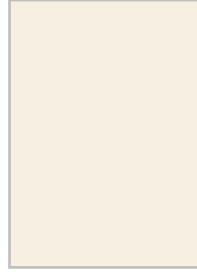
# Style Guide



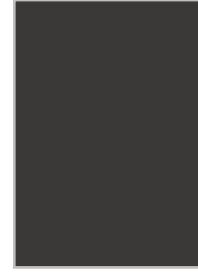
## Color Palette



#ED5752



#F7EFE2



#3F3F3F



#FFFFFF

## Type Faces

H1, Helvetica, 20Pts, #3F3F3F

H2, Helvetica, 16Pts, #3F3F3F/ #ED5752

H3, Montserrat, 16Pts, #3F3F3F/#ED5752

P, Montserrat, 14Pts, #3F3F3F

P, Helvetica, 14Pts, #3F3F3F

## Logo Design



## Logo Type Faces:

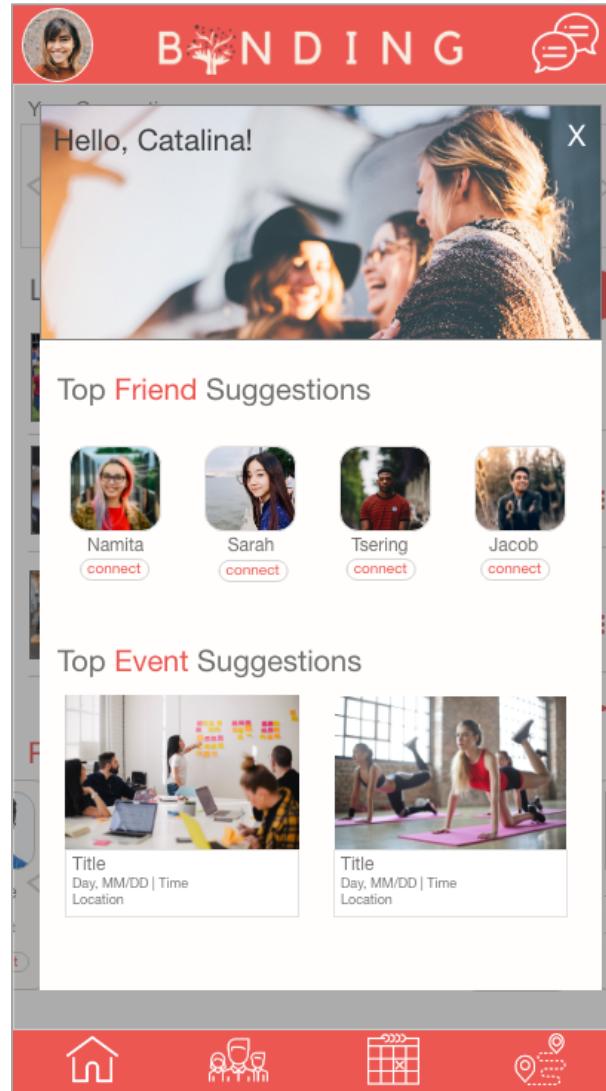
*Apple Chancery*  
Kollective

# Screen Designs

BONDING



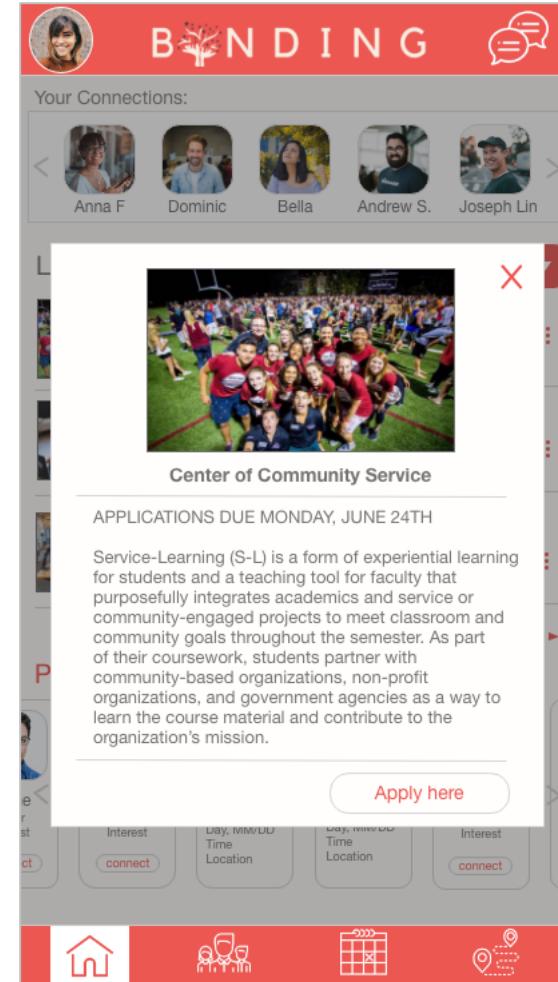
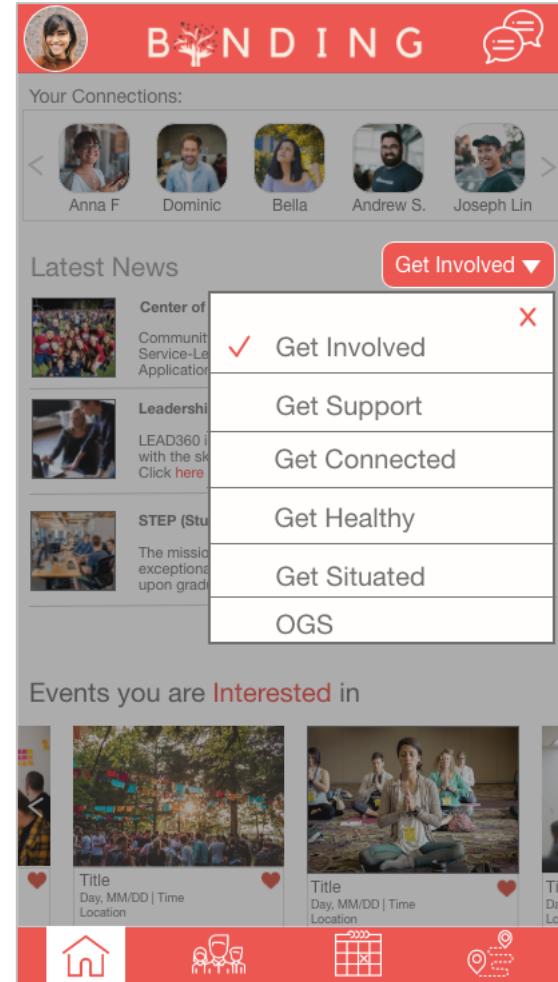
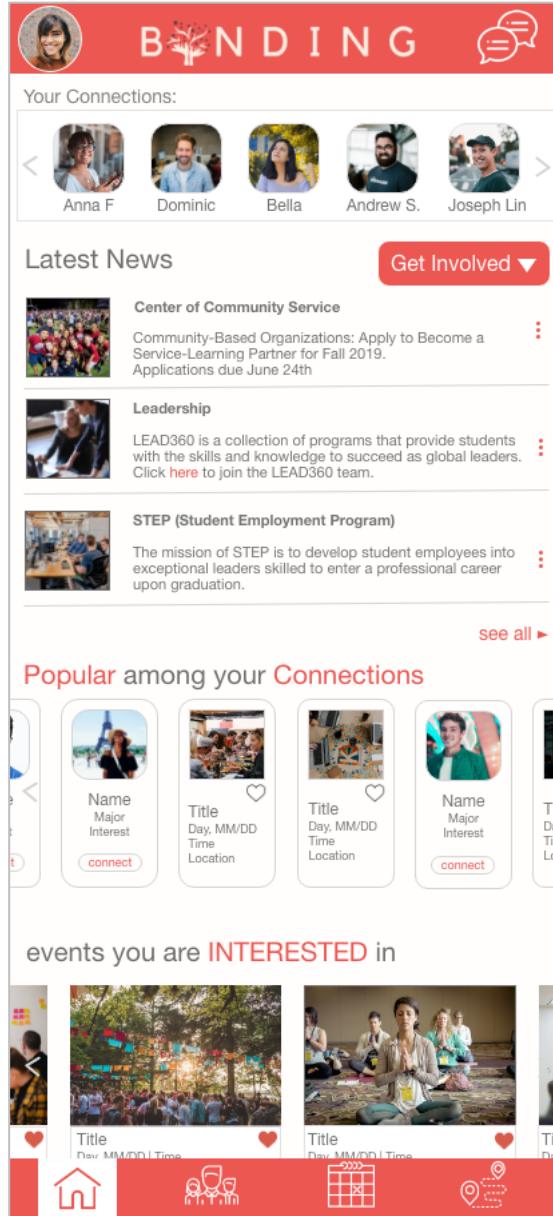
Intro Screen



Landing Pop Up

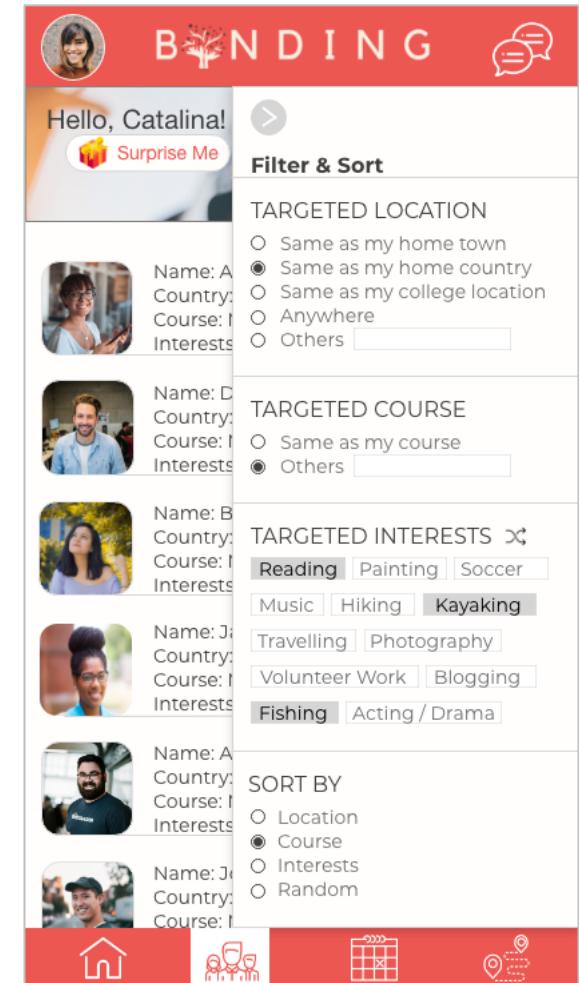
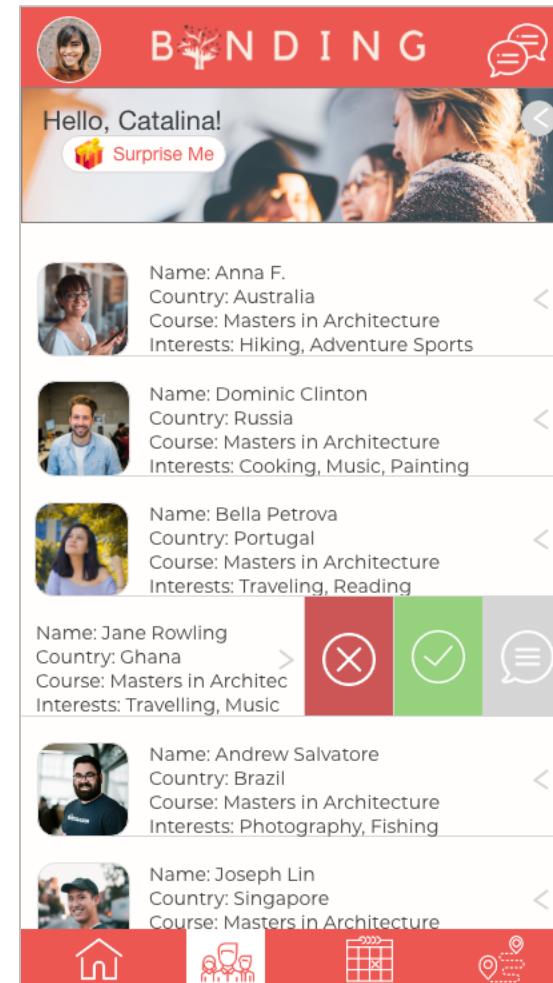
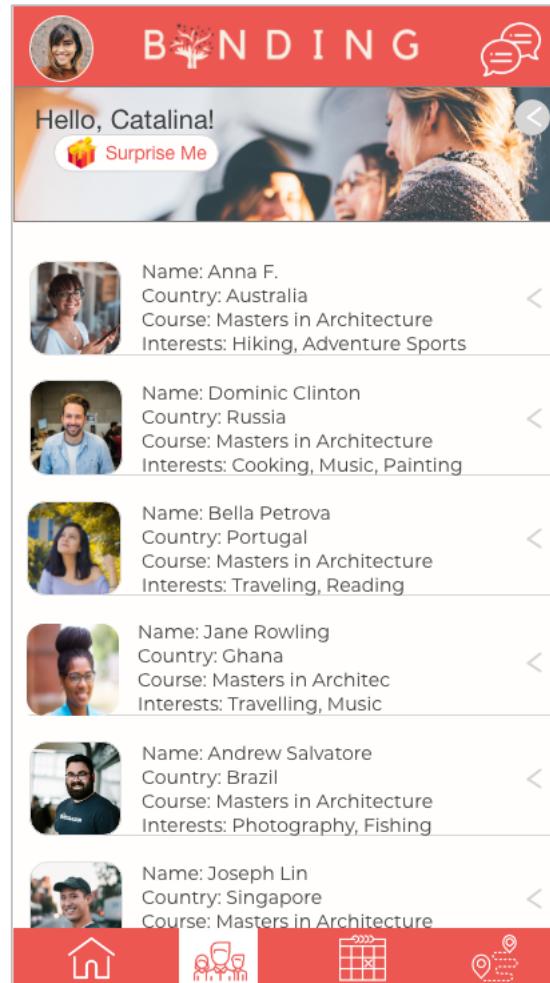
# Screen Designs

BONDING



Home screen designs

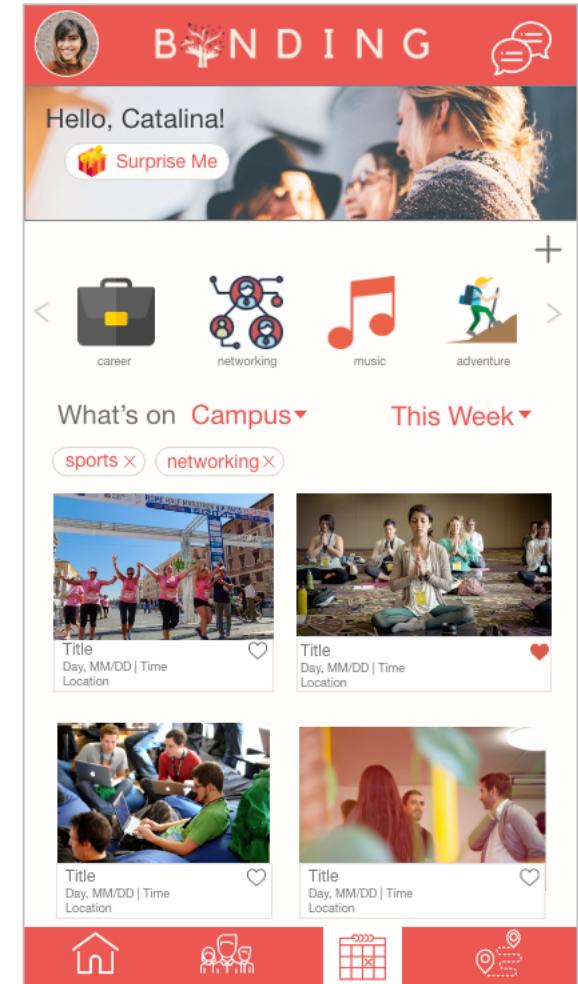
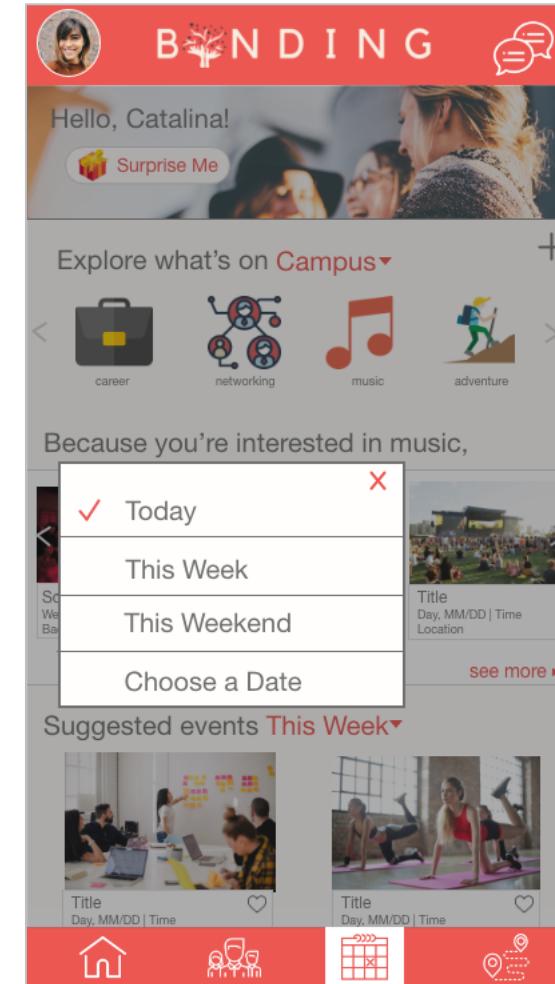
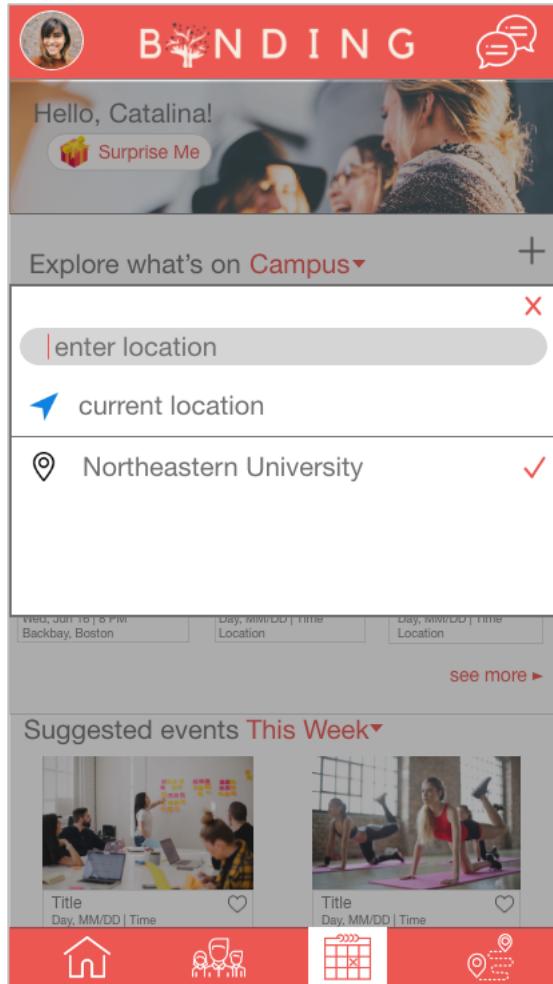
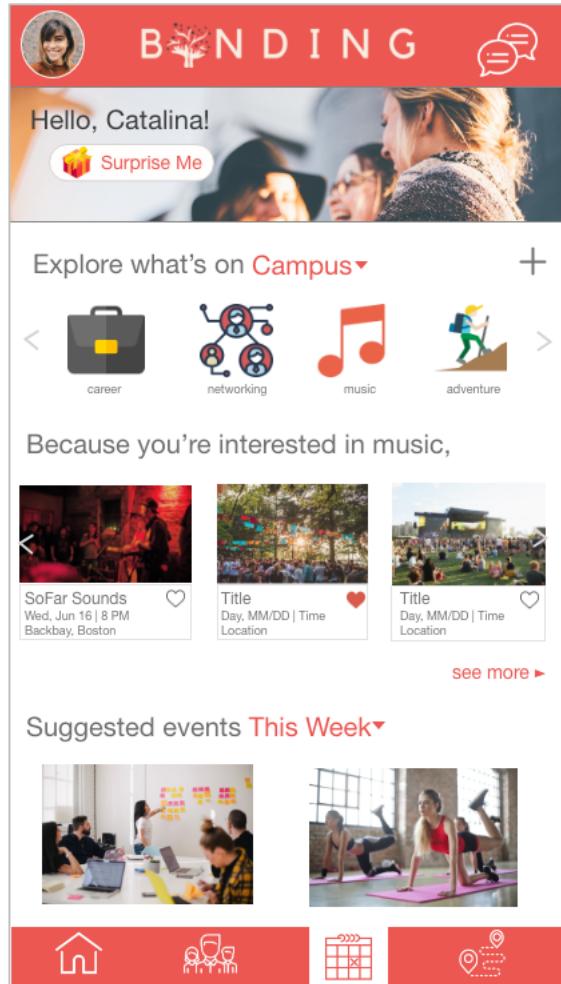
# Screen Designs



Find Friends screen designs

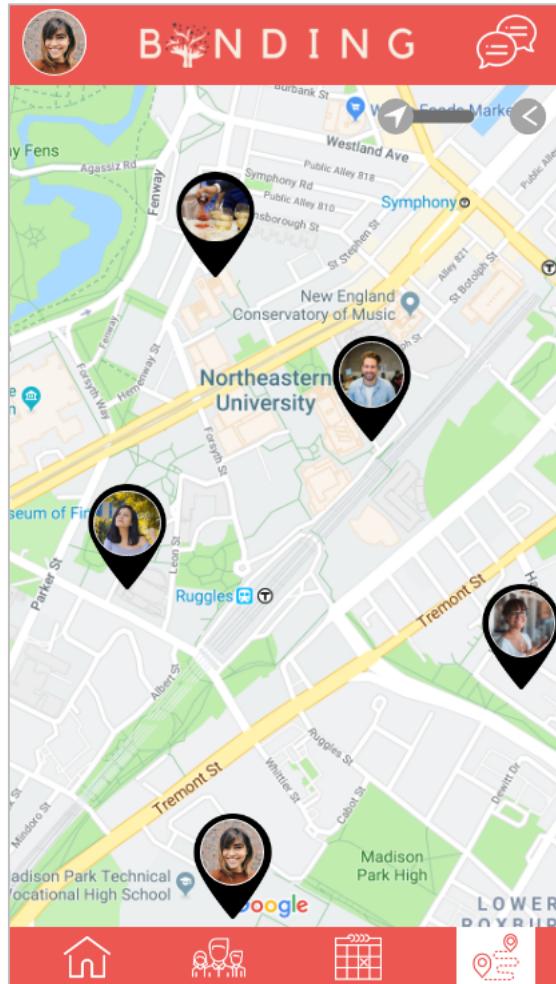
# Screen Designs

BONDING

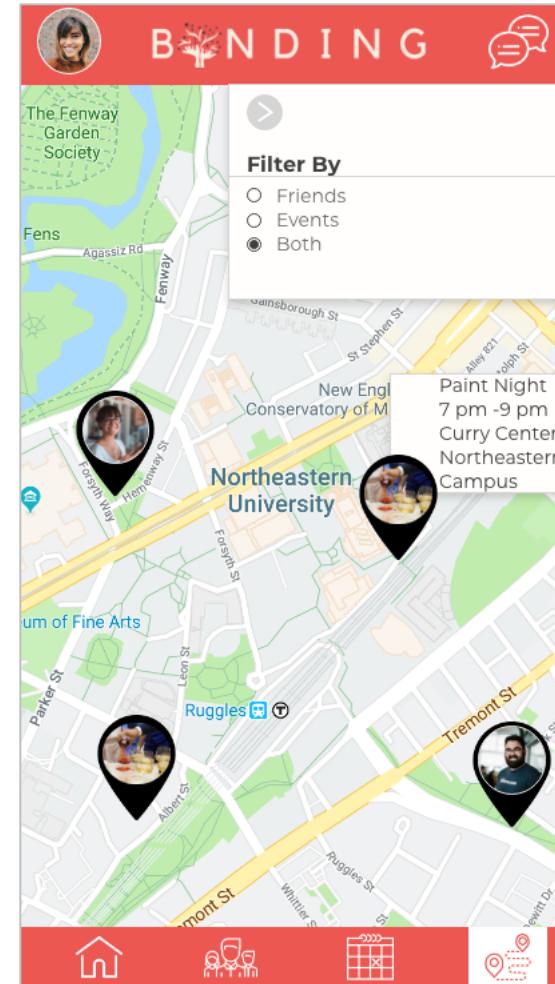
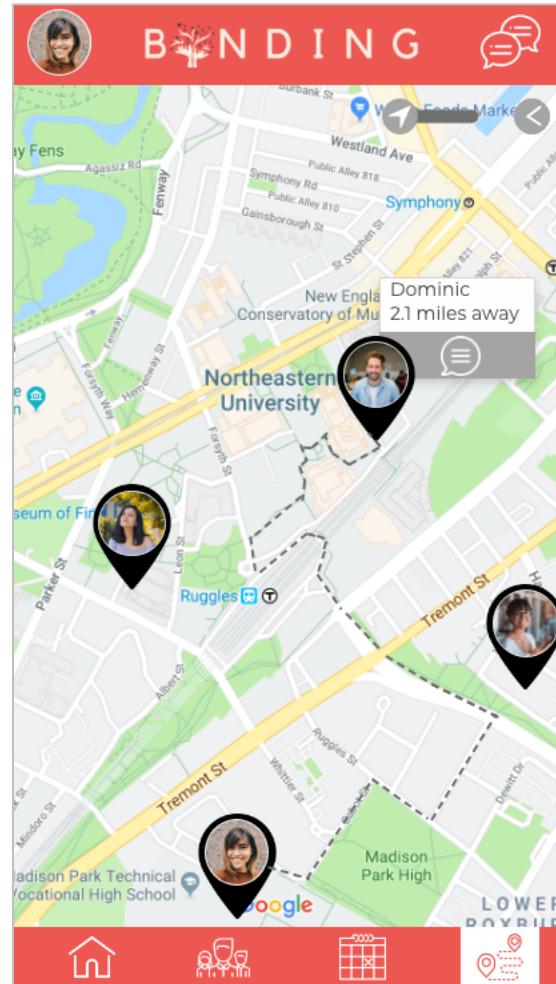


Events Page Screen Design

# Screen Designs

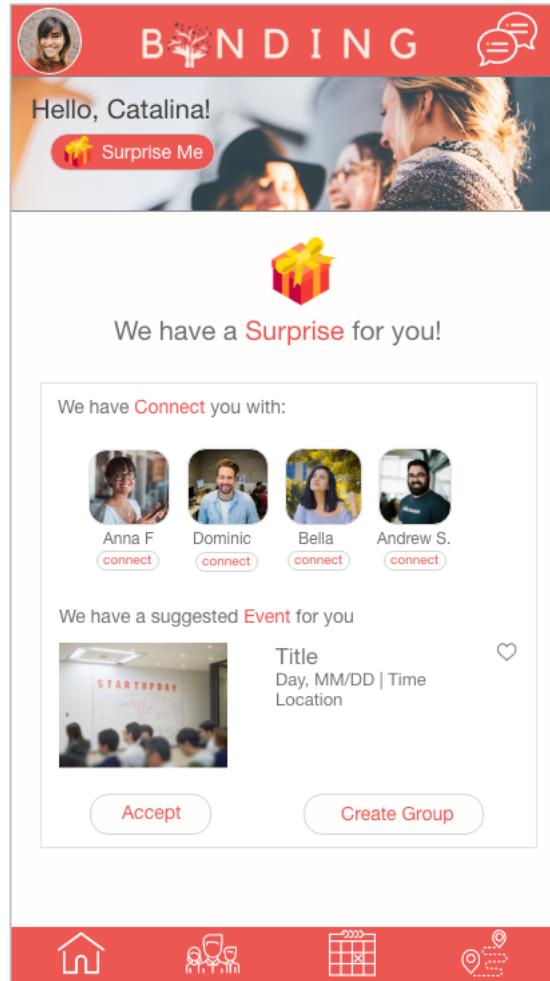


Maps Page Screen Design

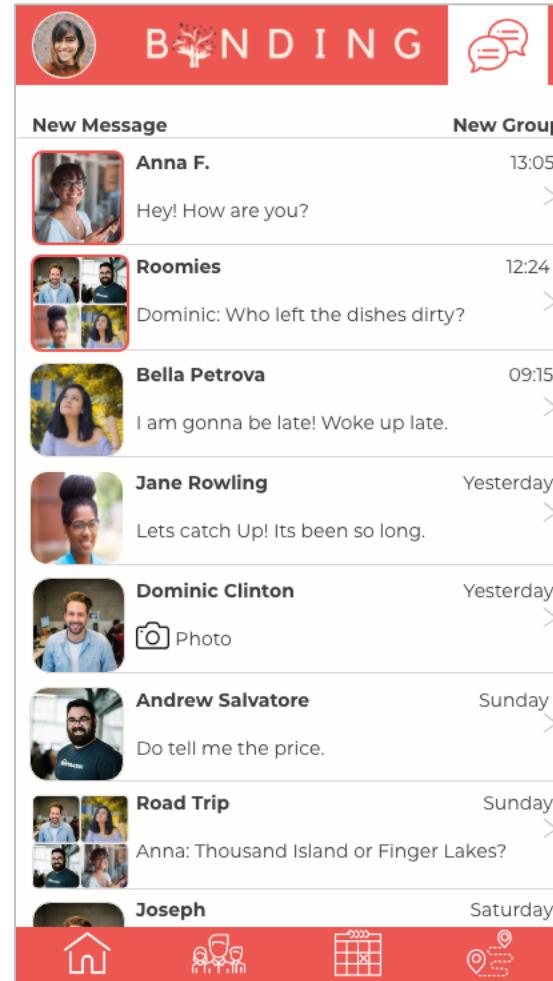


# Screen Designs

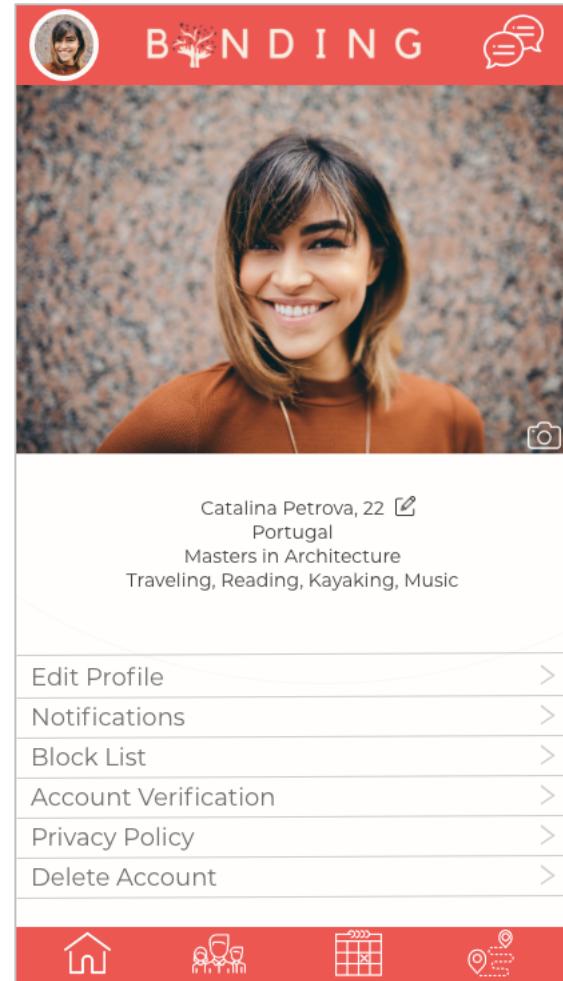
BONDING



Surprise Me Screen Design



Chat Screen Design



Profile Screen Design

<https://xd.adobe.com/view/f5acae7e-189c-4815-4fc1-246780d5999f-839d/?fullscreen>

# Survey Result

	Piyush - India	Effia Safo Doudo - Ghana	Qinghu Zhang (Tiger) - China	Eyoel Firew - Ethiopia	Marion Margois - France	VS Vinit - India
<b>Pre-Arrival Questions</b>						
Do you know anyone (or have any friends) from the University before your first arrival in the United States?	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
Did you use any apps to find information about the university?	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No
Did you join any Facebook or WhatsApp Group to gather information about accommodation, roommates, buying furnitures, etc, as well as finding a community?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
If yes, do you find it helpful?	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Post-Arrival Questions</b>						
How comfortable are you to find and make new friends online (or through an app)?	2	2	5	2	1	3
How likely will you be using an app to find friends and events if university provides one?	4	4	5	5	2	4
How likely you want to know about events that are happening around campus?	4	3	5	5	4	4
<b>App Based Questions</b>						
<b>Map Feature</b>						
What do you think of having a map feature where you can see real-time location of your friends and events happening on campus that week?	0	5	5	0	2	5
Do you think this feature is easy to use or navigate?	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Would you like to see the Northeastern Campus app to navigate your way around the campus?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Surprise Me Feature</b>						
If there is a feature that will randomly choose friends and events for you when you click a button, how will you feel?	3	5	5	5	1	5
Will you use this feature?	Maybe	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

## Finding Summary

- Majority of students are **comfortable in finding information online**, but they prefer to rely on human interaction
- Most students are **not comfortable in making friends online**, however they're really interested in one if the university provides the platform. Apart from that, the majority of the are **interested in getting to know events around campus**
- Map feature is **easy to navigate** and has a high demand to help students get around the campus
- However, 50% of the respondents are **concerned about sharing their real-time location**
- 67% of the students are **willing to use the surprise me feature** to make new friends and go to a random events chosen by the app



**Thank You**