



MONASH
University

Orientation Survey 2008

Part 1: Berwick Campus

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Report for

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2 July 2008

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Administration and Analysis

The survey was administered online following the Semester 1 orientation, which ran from Monday, 18 February to Friday, 22 February. Of the 428 Berwick campus students eligible to participate in this survey, 115 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 26.9%.

This report covers the student responses from the Berwick campus orientation experience, with breakdowns by faculty for items 13-17. Responses from campuses, faculties and international students are tabled as separate reports. Each report has two parts:

Part 1: Summary Report

This comprises quantitative measures of Berwick campus students' perceptions in three areas: overall orientation experience, student views of the e-planner and orientation website, and student views on the environment. Also included in the report is biographical information concerning response patterns of students.

Part 2: Open-ended comment

Part 2 is produced as a separate document. It contains the full set of student open-ended comment concerning best aspects and aspects that could be improved in the three areas of the survey. Included in this report is also a brief overview of major issues identified by student open-ended comments in the three areas of this survey.

Part A: Student Detail

Faculty Response

Of the 428 Berwick campus students eligible to participate in this survey, 115 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 26.9%. Response rates for all faculties are reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Faculty response rates Berwick campus

Faculty	Number of Responses	Population Size	Response rate (%)
Art & Design	2	0	
Arts	21	146	14.4
Business & Economics	76	290	26.2
Education	2	0	
Engineering	1	0	
Information Technology	14	29	48.3
Law	0	0	
Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences	2	0	
Pharmacy	0	0	
Science	0	0	
Berwick campus	115	428	26.9

Mode of Study

A total of 83.5% reported that their main mode of study was on-campus with 1.7% indicating that their main mode of study was a mixture of on campus and off campus. 14.8% reported that their main mode of study was primarily off campus.

Study Load

A total of 93% reported that they were pursuing their studies on a full-time basis and 7% reported that they were part-time students.

Origin

Table 2 shows the origin of Berwick campus students.

Table 2: Origin of Students

Origin	Percentage
Australian/New Zealand/Australian Permanent residents	80.9
International	19.1

Age

The age groups of Berwick campus students completing the survey are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Age

Age	Percentage
Under 17	3.5
17-19	50.4
20-22	29.6
23-29	7.8
30-39	4.3
40-49	2.6
50 and over	1.7

Gender

A total of 54.8% of Berwick campus students participating in the survey were female compared to 45.2% male.

Intake into Berwick campus

The student intake is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Intake into Berwick campus

Route	Percentage
Straight from secondary school	41.7
Transferring from another university or TAFE college	35.7
As a non-school leaver	6.1
Following deferment of one year	3.5
Other	11.3

Attendance at Open Day

A total of 60% of Berwick campus students participated in the survey attended the Monash Open Day in 2007 with the remaining 40% reporting non-attendance.

Part B: Orientation Experience

Students reported three main ways that they found out about orientation activities. These were from the enrolment package, website and faculty enrolment (see Table 5). Students also reported other ways that they found about the Orientation information and activities (see Part 2).

Table 5: Student Access to Orientation Information and Activities

Access to information via ...	Percentage
Enrolment Package	53
Faculty Enrolment	40.9
Friends/Family	20
School/Teachers/CareersCoordinator	7.8
Showbag	34.8
Web Site	42.6
Other	0.9

Participation in Orientation Activities

The pattern of student participation over the 5 days that orientation activities were planned is shown in Figure 1.

Orientation Experience (Questions 13-17)

For the purposes of this analysis, satisfaction trends were constructed as Likert scales measuring 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) and the middle term (3) being undecided. Means of responses are reported and these can be interpreted in terms of above 3 being positive and below 3 being negative. The distribution on the Likert scales is also reported. The sum of categories 4 and 5 (Strongly Agree and Agree) is taken to indicate “Agreement” and thus “good satisfaction”. Details of the breakdown by Faculty can be found in Appendix A.

Students generally were in agreement regarding the helpful and informative nature of the orientation activities. The general agreement, as shown in Table 6, is reflected in the means which ranged from 4.02-4.32 with percentage aggregate distribution of responses for rating in the Strongly Agree/Agree categories ranging from 79.5%-92%.

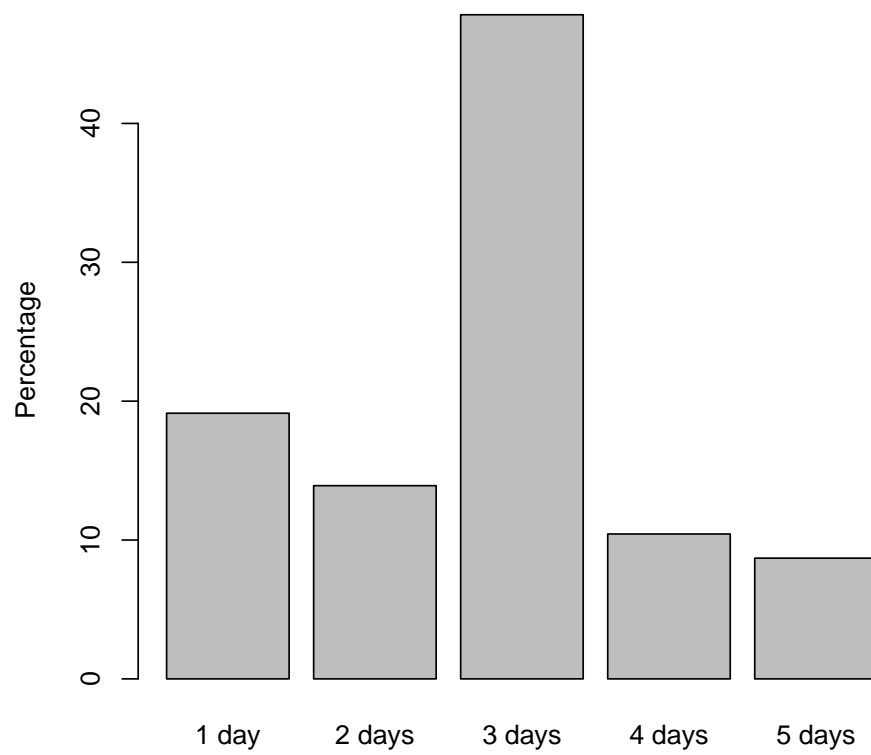


Figure 1: Breakdown of attendance for Orientation Activities

Table 6: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.321	92	43.8	48.2	5.4	1.8	0.9
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4.018	79.5	27.7	51.8	16.1	3.6	0.9
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.143	85.7	33	52.7	10.7	2.7	0.9
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.08	83.9	29.5	54.5	11.6	3.6	0.9
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4.207	87.4	36	51.4	10.8	0.9	0.9

Part C: eOrientation planner and the Orientation website

eOrientation Planner

A total of 66.1% of Berwick campus students participating in the survey reported using the eOrientation planner with the remaining 33.9% not using the planner. A number of reasons were reported by Berwick campus students on why they did not use the planner, with the main reason being that Berwick campus students were unaware of the availability of the planner. Other reasons included that Berwick campus students found it confusing and hard to use.

Students were asked to give their opinion on the usefulness of the information provided via the eOrientation planner. Results are summarised in Table 7.

Table 7: Student's opinion on Usefulness of the information provided via the eOrientation Planner

Opinion	Used the e-Orientation Website			
	No	%	Yes	%
Extremely useful	1	10	29	41.4
Somewhat useful	3	30	33	47.1
Neutral	2	20	8	11.4
Not very useful	2	20	0	0
Did not read	2	20	0	0
Not applicable	29		6	

Use of Monash University Orientation website

A total of 79.1% Berwick campus students who participated in this survey reported that they had used the website. The remaining 20.9% reported not using the site with some indicating reasons on why they did not use the site (see Part 2).

Uni Basics & Campus Information

Summary data showing the means and percentage "Agreement" for each of the items in this part is shown in Table 8. The items are constructed as Likert scales measuring 1 (Not at all Useful) to 4 (Extremely Useful), the middle item (2) being neutral. Means of responses are reported and these can be interpreted in terms of above 2 being positive and below 2 being negative. The sum of categories 3 and 4 (Somewhat Useful and Extremely Useful) is taken to indicate "Agreement" and thus "good satisfaction".

All 17 areas measured in this dimension regarding the usefulness of the information provided on the Monash University website, scored a mean of 2.671 or greater. The percentage “Agreement” ranged from 48.9%-88%.

Welcome Centre

A total of 38.1% of Berwick campus students who participated in the survey reported that they had visited the Welcome Centre.

Table 8: Mean, Percentage Broad Agreement, and Percentile Distribution on University Basics and Campus Specific Information

No	Item	Mean	% Agreement	Not very Useful	Neutral	Somewhat useful	Extremely Useful	Did not Read	N/A
Uni Basics									
23	What is Orientation?	3.284	84.9	0	9.7	48.4	36.6	0	5.4
24	What's on during Orientation?	3.477	88	0	7.6	34.8	53.3	0	4.3
25	Where do I start?	3.216	80.4	3.3	12	41.3	39.1	0	4.3
26	Vice-Chancellor's Message	2.747	52.2	1.1	32.6	39.1	13	8.7	5.4
27	Transition to University	3.035	75	4.3	14.1	48.9	26.1	3.3	3.3
28	Academic Life	3.07	75	2.2	16.3	47.8	27.2	3.3	3.3
29	Uni Life	3.095	74.7	2.2	15.4	46.2	28.6	4.4	3.3
30	IT Services	3.2	79.1	2.2	12.1	44	35.2	3.3	3.3
31	The Library	3.205	72.5	2.2	11	39.6	33	2.2	12.1
32	Contact Us	3.176	75.3	1.1	19.1	37.1	38.2	1.1	3.4
Campus Specific Information									
33	Academic Director's Welcome	2.737	53.7	3.2	27.4	42.1	11.6	11.6	4.2
34	Student President's Welcome	2.744	54.3	3.2	25.5	43.6	10.6	12.8	4.3
35	Monash Postgraduate Association President's Welcome	2.671	48.9	3.3	27.2	41.3	7.6	14.1	6.5
36	A-Z of where to go and who to know	3.163	78.7	2.1	10.6	48.9	29.8	5.3	3.2
37	Six Essential things to do	3.048	69.9	3.2	16.1	43	26.9	7.5	3.2
38	On-campus activities	3.273	81.9	3.2	8.5	41.5	40.4	3.2	3.2
39	Key Contacts	3.135	85.1	3.2	6.4	59.6	25.5	2.1	3.2

Part D: The Environment

New in 2008 were a number of questions related to the environment. For the purposes of this analysis, answers to these questions were constructed as Likert scales measuring 1 (Strongly Disagree) to 5 (Strongly Agree) and the middle term (3) being undecided. Means of responses are reported and these can be interpreted in terms of above 3 being positive and below 3 being negative. The distribution on the Likert scales is also reported. The sum of categories 4 and 5 (Strongly Agree and Agree) is taken to indicate “Agreement”. Results are summarised in Table 9. Of the Berwick campus students surveyed, 98.1% agreed or strongly agreed that the environment is important at Monash.

A total of 67% of Berwick campus students who participated in the survey agreed to be contacted in 12 months time to see if/how their environmental behaviour had changed.

Table 9: Percentile Distribution on questions related to the environment

No	Item	Mean	% Agreement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree
43	The environment is important at Monash	3.629	98.1	0	0	1.9	33.3	64.8
As a Monash student, do you get the feeling that you ought to:								
44a	Save Energy	3.236	86.8	0	2.8	10.4	47.2	39.6
44b	Recycle	3.43	95.3	0	0	4.7	47.7	47.7
44c	Reduce Waste	3.267	88.6	0	1.9	9.5	48.6	40
44d	Use Sustainable transport	3.037	77.6	0	5.6	16.8	45.8	31.8

Appendix A: Faculty Breakdown (Questions 13-17)

Table 10: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for the Faculty of Arts

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.048	90.5	28.6	61.9	0	4.8	4.8
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	3.762	76.2	14.3	61.9	14.3	4.8	4.8
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	3.857	76.2	23.8	52.4	14.3	4.8	4.8
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	3.762	71.4	23.8	47.6	14.3	9.5	4.8
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	3.714	66.7	19	47.6	23.8	4.8	4.8

Table 11: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for the Faculty of Business & Economics

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.329	92.1	42.1	50	6.6	1.3	0
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4.039	78.9	28.9	50	17.1	3.9	0
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.197	88.2	34.2	53.9	9.2	2.6	0
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.158	88.2	28.9	59.2	10.5	1.3	0
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4.237	92	37.3	54.7	8	0	0

Table 12: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for the Faculty of Information Technology

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.786	100	78.6	21.4	0	0	0
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4.286	85.7	42.9	42.9	14.3	0	0
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.357	92.9	42.9	50	7.1	0	0
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.429	92.9	50	42.9	7.1	0	0
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4.643	100	64.3	35.7	0	0	0