



MONASH
University

Orientation Survey 2008

Part 1: Caulfield

Campus

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Report for

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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 3724 Caulfield campus students eligible to participate in this survey, 432 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 11.6%.

This report covers the student responses from the Caulfield 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 Caulfield 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 Caulfield campus 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 3724 Caulfield campus students eligible to participate in this survey, 432 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 11.6%. Response rates for all faculties are reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Faculty response rates Caulfield campus

| Faculty | Number of Responses | Population Size | Response rate (%) |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Art & Design | 66 | 455 | 14.5 |
| Arts | 107 | 729 | 14.7 |
| Business & Economics | 240 | 2043 | 11.7 |
| Education | 0 | 64 | 0 |
| Engineering | 0 | 0 | |
| Information Technology | 35 | 366 | 9.6 |
| Law | 2 | 0 | |
| Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences | 9 | 276 | 3.3 |
| Pharmacy | 0 | 0 | |
| Science | 2 | 0 | |
| Caulfield campus | 432 | 3724 | 11.6 |

Mode of Study

A total of 93.1% reported that their main mode of study was on-campus with 2.5% indicating that their main mode of study was a mixture of on campus and off campus. 4.4% reported that their main mode of study was primarily off campus.

Study Load

A total of 91.4% reported that they were pursuing their studies on a full-time basis and 8.6% reported that they were part-time students.

Origin

Table 2 shows the origin of Caulfield campus students.

Table 2: Origin of Students

| Origin | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| Australian/New Zealand/Australian Permanent residents | 74.3 |
| International | 25.7 |

Age

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

Table 3: Age

| Age | Percentage |
|-------------|------------|
| Under 17 | 0.9 |
| 17-19 | 54.4 |
| 20-22 | 15.7 |
| 23-29 | 19.2 |
| 30-39 | 6.9 |
| 40-49 | 2.3 |
| 50 and over | 0.5 |

Gender

A total of 62.5% of Caulfield campus students participating in the survey were female compared to 37.5% male.

Intake into Caulfield campus

The student intake is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Intake into Caulfield campus

| Route | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| Straight from secondary school | 51.4 |
| Transferring from another university or TAFE college | 9.1 |
| As a non-school leaver | 13.7 |
| Following deferment of one year | 8.3 |
| Other | 16.4 |

Attendance at Open Day

A total of 51.6% of Caulfield campus students participated in the survey attended the Monash Open Day in 2007 with the remaining 48.4% 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 | 44.2 |
| Faculty Enrolment | 36.6 |
| Friends/Family | 17.6 |
| School/Teachers/CareersCoordinator | 8.8 |
| Showbag | 38.9 |
| Web Site | 57.9 |
| Other | 2.3 |

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 3.8-4.11 with percentage aggregate distribution of responses for rating in the Strongly Agree/Agree categories ranging from 72.6%-87.9%.

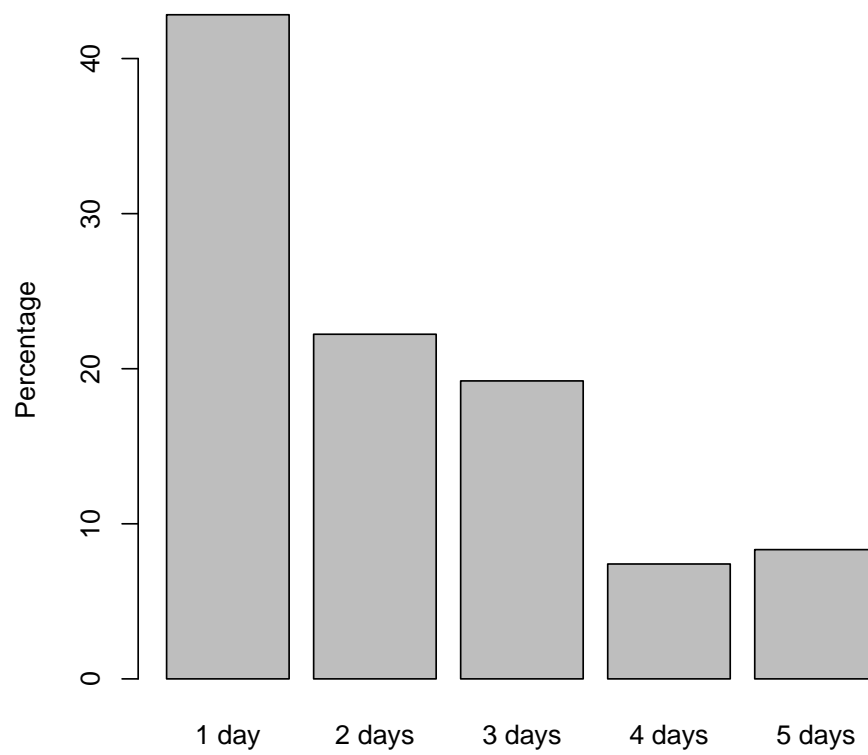


Figure 1: Breakdown of attendance for Orientation Activities

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 | 4.105 | 87.9 | 28.7 | 59.1 | 6.8 | 4.7 | 0.7 |
| 14 | The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment | 3.796 | 72.6 | 15.5 | 57.1 | 19.9 | 6.6 | 0.9 |
| 15 | Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment | 3.932 | 81.7 | 18.3 | 63.5 | 12.2 | 5.4 | 0.7 |
| 16 | My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program | 3.953 | 77.8 | 24.8 | 53.1 | 15.8 | 5.4 | 0.9 |
| 17 | Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University | 3.943 | 82.5 | 19.9 | 62.6 | 10.9 | 5.2 | 1.4 |

Part C: eOrientation planner and the Orientation website

eOrientation Planner

A total of 63.4% of Caulfield campus students participating in the survey reported using the eOrientation planner with the remaining 36.6% not using the planner. A number of reasons were reported by Caulfield campus students on why they did not use the planner, with the main reason being that Caulfield campus students were unaware of the availability of the planner. Other reasons included that Caulfield 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 | 8 | 19 | 100 | 37.5 |
| Somewhat useful | 4 | 9.5 | 131 | 49.1 |
| Neutral | 18 | 42.9 | 24 | 9 |
| Not very useful | 4 | 9.5 | 11 | 4.1 |
| Did not read | 8 | 19 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Not applicable | 116 | | 7 | |

Use of Monash University Orientation website

A total of 79.2% Caulfield campus students who participated in this survey reported that they had used the website. The remaining 20.8% 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 2.453 or greater. The percentage “Agreement” ranged from 37.4%-84.6%.

Welcome Centre

A total of 47.2% of Caulfield 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? | 3.207 | 82.1 | 2.2 | 9.2 | 49 | 33.1 | 2.2 | 4.2 |
| 24 | What's on during Orientation? | 3.33 | 84.6 | 1.7 | 9.2 | 40.5 | 44.1 | 0.6 | 3.9 |
| 25 | Where do I start? | 3.066 | 73.1 | 4 | 17.3 | 41.6 | 31.4 | 1.1 | 4.5 |
| 26 | Vice-Chancellor's Message | 2.453 | 37.4 | 10.2 | 34.3 | 27.5 | 9.9 | 12.5 | 5.7 |
| 27 | Transition to University | 2.846 | 61.1 | 3.1 | 23.4 | 45.1 | 16.1 | 7.3 | 5.1 |
| 28 | Academic Life | 3.016 | 71.1 | 1.1 | 16.7 | 50.7 | 20.4 | 5.9 | 5.1 |
| 29 | Uni Life | 3.095 | 71.8 | 1.7 | 15.5 | 44.4 | 27.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| 30 | IT Services | 2.984 | 65.2 | 2.8 | 18.5 | 42.5 | 22.8 | 7.7 | 5.7 |
| 31 | The Library | 3.12 | 67.7 | 4.2 | 11.7 | 37.6 | 30.1 | 2.5 | 13.9 |
| 32 | Contact Us | 3.119 | 68.8 | 2.8 | 14.5 | 38.4 | 30.4 | 9.1 | 4.8 |
| Campus Specific Information | | | | | | | | | |
| 33 | Academic Director's Welcome | 2.695 | 45.8 | 6.6 | 24.9 | 31.2 | 14.5 | 15.9 | 6.8 |
| 34 | Student President's Welcome | 2.716 | 49.5 | 6.3 | 24.5 | 35.2 | 14.3 | 12.9 | 6.9 |
| 35 | Monash Postgraduate Association President's Welcome | 2.657 | 38.8 | 6.1 | 23 | 26.9 | 11.9 | 17.5 | 14.7 |
| 36 | A-Z of where to go and who to know | 3.065 | 65.3 | 2.2 | 16.8 | 38.6 | 26.7 | 9.1 | 6.6 |
| 37 | Six Essential things to do | 2.993 | 62.4 | 3.3 | 18.4 | 37.9 | 24.5 | 8.6 | 7.2 |
| 38 | On-campus activities | 3.114 | 74 | 3.3 | 14.6 | 42.3 | 31.8 | 2.8 | 5.2 |
| 39 | Key Contacts | 3.05 | 65.5 | 3.4 | 15.4 | 39.2 | 26.3 | 9.5 | 6.2 |

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 Caulfield campus students surveyed, 95.8% agreed or strongly agreed that the environment is important at Monash.

A total of 62% of Caulfield 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 | 3.518 | 95.8 | 0 | 0.2 | 3.9 | 39.6 | 56.3 |
| As a Monash student, do you get the feeling that you ought to: | | | | | | | | |
| 44a | Save Energy | 3.051 | 76.9 | 0.5 | 5.3 | 17.2 | 43.9 | 33 |
| 44b | Recycle | 3.259 | 87.3 | 0.2 | 2.7 | 9.7 | 46.5 | 40.9 |
| 44c | Reduce Waste | 3.132 | 81.5 | 0.2 | 4.1 | 14.1 | 45.9 | 35.6 |
| 44d | Use Sustainable transport | 3.143 | 78.5 | 1 | 3.2 | 17.4 | 40.6 | 37.9 |

Appendix A: Faculty Breakdown (Questions 13-17)

Table 10: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for the Faculty of Art & Design

| No | Item | Mean | Strongly Agree, Agree | Strongly Agree | Agree | Undecided | Disagree | Strongly Disagree |
|----|--|-------|-----------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| 13 | Orientation was of benefit to me | 3.954 | 86.2 | 15.4 | 70.8 | 9.2 | 3.1 | 1.5 |
| 14 | The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment | 3.545 | 60.6 | 9.1 | 51.5 | 25.8 | 12.1 | 1.5 |
| 15 | Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment | 3.803 | 72.7 | 15.2 | 57.6 | 19.7 | 7.6 | 0 |
| 16 | My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program | 3.955 | 74.2 | 28.8 | 45.5 | 19.7 | 4.5 | 1.5 |
| 17 | Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University | 3.591 | 70.8 | 13.8 | 56.9 | 13.8 | 10.8 | 4.6 |

Table 11: 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 | 3.944 | 80.4 | 24.3 | 56.1 | 10.3 | 8.4 | 0.9 |
| 14 | The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment | 3.708 | 67 | 11.3 | 55.7 | 25.5 | 7.5 | 0 |
| 15 | Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment | 3.792 | 70.8 | 16 | 54.7 | 21.7 | 7.5 | 0 |
| 16 | My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program | 3.696 | 66.7 | 16.7 | 50 | 21.6 | 9.8 | 2 |
| 17 | Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University | 3.792 | 76.9 | 20.2 | 56.7 | 14.4 | 6.7 | 1.9 |

Table 12: 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 | 4.213 | 91.2 | 34.7 | 56.5 | 4.6 | 3.8 | 0.4 |
| 14 | The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment | 3.912 | 78.7 | 18.8 | 59.8 | 15.5 | 5.4 | 0.4 |
| 15 | Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment | 4.038 | 88.2 | 21 | 67.2 | 6.7 | 4.6 | 0.4 |
| 16 | My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program | 4.025 | 82.7 | 24.5 | 58.2 | 13.1 | 3.8 | 0.4 |
| 17 | Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University | 4.025 | 88.2 | 21.9 | 66.2 | 8 | 3.4 | 0.4 |

Table 13: 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 | 4.206 | 88.2 | 35.3 | 52.9 | 8.8 | 2.9 | 0 |
| 14 | The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment | 4.03 | 81.8 | 21.2 | 60.6 | 18.2 | 0 | 0 |
| 15 | Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment | 4.059 | 88.2 | 17.6 | 70.6 | 11.8 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 | My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program | 4.088 | 82.4 | 29.4 | 52.9 | 14.7 | 2.9 | 0 |
| 17 | Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University | 4.121 | 85.3 | 17.6 | 67.6 | 11.8 | 2.9 | 0 |