



MONASH
University

Orientation Survey 2008

Part 1: Faculty of Information Technology

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Report for

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Contents

Administration and Analysis	4
Part 1: Summary Report	4
Part 2: Open-ended comment	4
PART A: Student Detail	5
Mode of Study	5
Study Load	5
Citizenship	5
Age group	6
Gender	6
Attendance at Open Day	6
Part B: Orientation Experience	7
Participation in Orientation Activities	7
Orientation Experience (Questions 13-17)	7
Part C: eOrientation planner and the Orientation website	10
eOrientation Planner	10
Use of Monash University Orientation website	10
Uni Basics & Campus Information	10
Welcome Centre	11
Part D: The Environment	13
Appendix B: Campus Breakdown (Questions 13-17)	15
List of Tables	
1 Campus response rates	5
2 Origin of Students	5
3 Age	6
4 Intake into Faculty of Information Technology	6
5 Student Access to Orientation Information and Activities	7
6 Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience	9
7 Student's opinion on Usefulness of the information provided via the eOrientation Planner	10

8	Percentile Distribution on University Basics and Campus Specific Information . .	12
9	Percentile Distribution on questions related to the environment	14
10	Orientation experience summary for Berwick Campus	16
11	Orientation experience summary for Caulfield Campus	16
12	Orientation experience summary for Clayton Campus	17

List of Figures

1	Breakdown of attendance for Orientation Activities	8
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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 741 Faculty of Information Technology students eligible to participate in this survey, 93 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 12.6%.

This report covers the student responses from the Faculty of Information Technology orientation experience, with breakdowns by campus 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 Faculty of Information Technology 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 Faculty of Information Technology 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

Campus Response

Of the 741 Faculty of Information Technology students eligible to participate in this survey, 93 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 12.6%. Response rates for all campuses are reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Campus response rates

Campus	Number of Responses	Population Size	Response rate (%)
Berwick	14	29	48.3
Caulfield	35	366	9.6
Clayton	43	270	15.9
Gippsland	1	76	1.3
Parkville	0	0	
Peninsula	0	0	
Faculty of Information Technology	93	741	12.6

Mode of Study

A total of 97.8% reported that their main mode of study was on-campus with 1.1% indicating that their main mode of study was a mixture of on campus and off campus. 1.1% reported that their main mode of study was primarily off campus.

Study Load

A total of 98.9% reported that they were pursuing their studies on a full-time basis and 1.1% reported that they were part-time students.

Origin

Table 2 shows the origin of Faculty of Information Technology students.

Table 2: Origin of Students

Origin	Percentage
Australian/New Zealand/Australian Permanent residents	73.1
International	26.9

Age

The age groups of Faculty of Information Technology students completing the survey are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Age

Age	Percentage
Under 17	0
17-19	54.8
20-22	23.7
23-29	12.9
30-39	4.3
40-49	3.2
50 and over	1.1

Gender

A total of 24.7% of Faculty of Information Technology students participating in the survey were female compared to 75.3% male.

Intake into Faculty of Information Technology

The student intake is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Intake into Faculty of Information Technology

Route	Percentage
Straight from secondary school	53.8
Transferring from another university or TAFE college	17.2
As a non-school leaver	7.5
Following deferment of one year	8.6
Other	12.9

Attendance at Open Day

A total of 68.8% of Faculty of Information Technology students participated in the survey attended the Monash Open Day in 2007 with the remaining 31.2% 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	49.5
Faculty Enrolment	44.1
Friends/Family	33.3
School/Teachers/CareersCoordinator	45.2
Showbag	64.5
NA Other	12.9

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, while breakdown by Campus can be found in Appendix B.

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 4.05-4.22 with percentage aggregate distribution of responses for rating in the Strongly Agree/Agree categories ranging from 81.3%-88%.

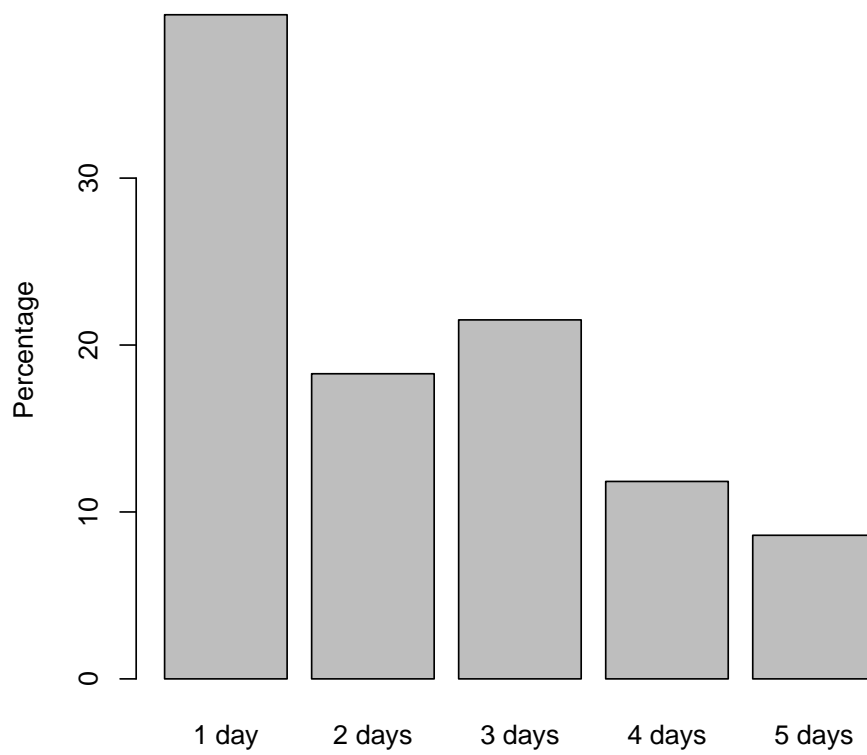


Figure 1: Breakdown of attendance for Orientation Activities

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	4.217	87	40.2	46.7	7.6	5.4	0
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4.055	81.3	26.4	54.9	16.5	2.2	0
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.196	88	32.6	55.4	10.9	1.1	0
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.185	83.7	35.9	47.8	15.2	1.1	0
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4.098	88	27.2	60.9	6.5	5.4	0

Part C: eOrientation planner and the Orientation website

eOrientation Planner

A total of 65.6% of Faculty of Information Technology students participating in the survey reported using the eOrientation planner with the remaining 34.4% not using the planner. A number of reasons were reported by Faculty of Information Technology students on why they did not use the planner, with the main reason being that Faculty of Information Technology students were unaware of the availability of the planner. Other reasons included that Faculty of Information Technology 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	0	0	23	38.3
Somewhat useful	2	25	28	46.7
Neutral	2	25	6	10
Not very useful	2	25	3	5
Did not read	2	25	0	0
Not applicable	24		1	

Use of Monash University Orientation website

A total of 82.8% Faculty of Information Technology students who participated in this survey reported that they had used the website. The remaining 17.2% 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 2.578 or greater. The percentage “Agreement” ranged from 42.3%-89.7%.

Welcome Centre

A total of 51.1% of Faculty of Information Technology 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?	3.236	81.8	1.3	10.4	46.8	35.1	2.6	3.9
24	What's on during Orientation?	3.453	89.7	0	6.4	39.7	50	1.3	2.6
25	Where do I start?	3.056	76.6	7.8	9.1	46.8	29.9	2.6	3.9
26	Vice-Chancellor's Message	2.578	42.3	7.7	32.1	29.5	12.8	14.1	3.8
27	Transition to University	2.958	70.5	3.8	16.7	50	20.5	5.1	3.8
28	Academic Life	3.169	82.1	2.6	6.4	55.1	26.9	5.1	3.8
29	Uni Life	3.153	76.9	2.6	12.8	44.9	32.1	3.8	3.8
30	IT Services	3.141	76.3	2.6	14.5	43.4	32.9	3.9	2.6
31	The Library	3.076	67.9	6.4	10.3	38.5	29.5	2.6	12.8
32	Contact Us	3.029	70.1	2.6	16.9	45.5	24.7	7.8	2.6
Campus Specific Information									
33	Academic Director's Welcome	2.846	55	5	21.2	36.2	18.8	15	3.8
34	Student President's Welcome	3.015	66.7	2.6	14.1	46.2	20.5	12.8	3.8
35	Monash Postgraduate Association President's Welcome	2.817	48.8	2.5	23.8	33.8	15	16.2	8.8
36	A-Z of where to go and who to know	3.07	75	2.5	11.2	52.5	22.5	7.5	3.8
37	Six Essential things to do	3.015	62.5	1.2	21.2	37.5	25	10	5
38	On-campus activities	3.127	73.1	3.8	14.1	39.7	33.3	6.4	2.6
39	Key Contacts	2.985	69.3	2.7	16	49.3	20	9.3	2.7

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 Faculty of Information Technology students surveyed, 95.5% agreed or strongly agreed that the environment is important at Monash.

A total of 55.9% of Faculty of Information Technology 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	3.545	95.5	0	0	4.5	36.4	59.1
As a Monash student, do you get the feeling that you ought to:								
44a	Save Energy	3	77.3	0	6.8	15.9	47.7	29.5
44b	Recycle	3.322	94.3	0	1.1	4.6	55.2	39.1
44c	Reduce Waste	3.011	78.2	0	4.6	17.2	50.6	27.6
44d	Use Sustainable transport	2.943	73.6	0	10.3	16.1	42.5	31

Appendix A: Campus Breakdown (Questions 13-17)

Table 10: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for Berwick Campus

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

Table 11: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for Caulfield Campus

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	85.3	17.6	67.6	11.8	2.9	0

Table 12: Mean and Percentage Distribution for the Orientation Experience for Clayton Campus

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.023	81.4	30.2	51.2	9.3	9.3	0
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4	79.1	25.6	53.5	16.3	4.7	0
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.256	86	41.9	44.2	11.6	2.3	0
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.163	81.4	34.9	46.5	18.6	0	0
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4	86	23.3	62.8	4.7	9.3	0