



MONASH
University

Orientation Survey 2008

Part 1: Faculty of Science

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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 Science	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 Clayton Campus	16
11	Orientation experience summary for Gippsland Campus	16

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 1113 Faculty of Science students eligible to participate in this survey, 283 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 25.4%.

This report covers the student responses from the Faculty of Science 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 Science 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 Science 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 1113 Faculty of Science students eligible to participate in this survey, 283 completed and submitted online responses, resulting in an overall response rate of 25.4%. Response rates for all campuses are reported in Table 1.

Table 1: Campus response rates

Campus	Number of Responses	Population Size	Response rate (%)
Berwick	0	0	
Caulfield	2	0	
Clayton	261	1041	25.1
Gippsland	13	69	18.8
Parkville	0	0	
Peninsula	3	3	100
Faculty of Science	283	1113	25.4

Mode of Study

A total of 94% reported that their main mode of study was on-campus with 2.1% indicating that their main mode of study was a mixture of on campus and off campus. 3.9% reported that their main mode of study was primarily off campus.

Study Load

A total of 95.8% reported that they were pursuing their studies on a full-time basis and 4.2% reported that they were part-time students.

Origin

Table 2 shows the origin of Faculty of Science students.

Table 2: Origin of Students

Origin	Percentage
Australian/New Zealand/Australian Permanent residents	92.6
International	7.4

Age

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

Table 3: Age

Age	Percentage
Under 17	0.4
17-19	73.5
20-22	16.6
23-29	7.1
30-39	2.5
40-49	0
50 and over	0

Gender

A total of 62.2% of Faculty of Science students participating in the survey were female compared to 37.8% male.

Intake into Faculty of Science

The student intake is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Intake into Faculty of Science

Route	Percentage
Straight from secondary school	76.3
Transferring from another university or TAFE college	6.7
As a non-school leaver	3.9
Following deferment of one year	7.4
Other	5.7

Attendance at Open Day

A total of 57.2% of Faculty of Science students participated in the survey attended the Monash Open Day in 2007 with the remaining 42.8% 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	55.1
Faculty Enrolment	47.3
Friends/Family	27.2
School/Teachers/CareersCoordinator	11.3
Showbag	36.4
Web Site	50.2
Other	2.8

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 3.69-4.06 with percentage aggregate distribution of responses for rating in the Strongly Agree/Agree categories ranging from 68.7%-86.8%.

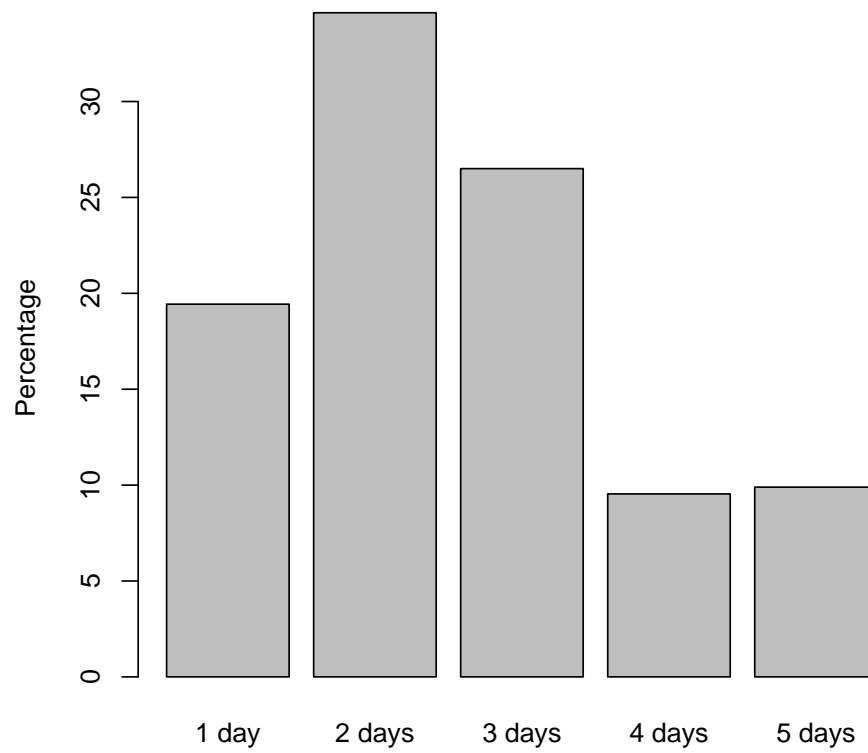


Figure 1: Breakdown of attendance for Orientation Activities

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	4.064	86.8	25.3	61.6	8.2	4.3	0.7
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	3.694	68.7	12.1	56.6	21	9.3	1.1
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	3.854	78.6	17.8	60.9	11.4	8.9	1.1
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	3.932	76.1	24.6	51.4	17.5	5.4	1.1
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	3.964	82.4	20.4	62	11.8	5	0.7

Part C: eOrientation planner and the Orientation website

eOrientation Planner

A total of 68.6% of Faculty of Science students participating in the survey reported using the eOrientation planner with the remaining 31.4% not using the planner. A number of reasons were reported by Faculty of Science students on why they did not use the planner, with the main reason being that Faculty of Science students were unaware of the availability of the planner. Other reasons included that Faculty of Science 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	2	10	64	33.9
Somewhat useful	7	35	101	53.4
Neutral	3	15	18	9.5
Not very useful	2	10	6	3.2
Did not read	6	30	0	0
Not applicable	69		5	

Use of Monash University Orientation website

A total of 81.3% Faculty of Science students who participated in this survey reported that they had used the website. The remaining 18.7% 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 2.493 or greater. The percentage “Agreement” ranged from 27.5%-89.4%.

Welcome Centre

A total of 32.2% of Faculty of Science 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?	3.143	81.4	0.8	12.3	53.8	27.5	1.7	3.8
24	What's on during Orientation?	3.458	89.4	0	7.2	37.9	51.5	0.9	2.6
25	Where do I start?	3.005	70.8	3.8	18.2	44.5	26.3	3	4.2
26	Vice-Chancellor's Message	2.5	40.5	8.4	30.4	32.9	7.6	13.9	6.8
27	Transition to University	2.811	62.9	5.1	21.5	48.1	14.8	6.8	3.8
28	Academic Life	2.885	64.8	4.2	19.5	47	17.8	7.2	4.2
29	Uni Life	2.953	67.4	3.4	18.6	46.2	21.2	6.4	4.2
30	IT Services	2.94	62.3	5.1	16.9	40.3	22	9.3	6.4
31	The Library	3.143	72.8	3.3	8.8	45.2	27.6	2.5	12.6
32	Contact Us	3.041	62.7	3.8	16.5	35.2	27.5	9.7	7.2
Campus Specific Information									
33	Academic Director's Welcome	2.725	47.3	4.1	23.5	36.2	11.1	16	9.1
34	Student President's Welcome	2.88	49.6	2.9	22.5	30.3	19.3	16.4	8.6
35	Monash Postgraduate Association President's Welcome	2.493	27.5	6.2	26.2	19.2	8.3	20.8	19.2
36	A-Z of where to go and who to know	3.039	65.8	4.9	12.8	39.9	25.9	10.3	6.2
37	Six Essential things to do	2.92	60.6	6.2	15.8	39	21.6	8.7	8.7
38	On-campus activities	3.248	82.3	1.2	9.5	47.3	35	3.3	3.7
39	Key Contacts	2.97	61	2.5	20.3	38.2	22.8	9.5	6.6

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 Science students surveyed, 97.4% agreed or strongly agreed that the environment is important at Monash.

A total of 60.8% of Faculty of Science 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	3.577	97.4	0	0.4	2.2	36.7	60.7
As a Monash student, do you get the feeling that you ought to:								
44a	Save Energy	3.199	84.6	0.4	6	9	43.8	40.8
44b	Recycle	3.479	91.8	0.7	1.9	5.6	34.9	56.9
44c	Reduce Waste	3.362	88.1	0.4	3.7	7.8	36.8	51.3
44d	Use Sustainable transport	3.117	79.1	0.7	6.7	13.4	40.7	38.4

Appendix A: Campus Breakdown (Questions 13-17)

Table 10: 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	4.081	87.3	24.7	62.5	7.7	4.6	0.4
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	3.716	68	12.4	55.6	21.2	10	0.8
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	3.872	78	17.4	60.6	11.6	9.7	0.8
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	3.961	75.6	24.4	51.2	18.2	5.4	0.8
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	3.988	82.5	20.6	61.9	12.1	5.1	0.4

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

No	Item	Mean	Strongly Agree, Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
13	Orientation was of benefit to me	4.417	76.9	46.2	30.8	15.4	0	7.7
14	The range of orientation activities helped me to adjust to the University environment	4.167	84.6	15.4	69.2	7.7	0	7.7
15	Orientation provided me with the information I needed to adjust to the University environment	4.167	84.6	15.4	69.2	7.7	0	7.7
16	My faculty (school or department) orientation provided me with the necessary information and confidence to begin my academic program	4.083	76.9	23.1	53.8	7.7	7.7	7.7
17	Overall I was satisfied with the Orientation program provided by Monash University	4	76.9	15.4	61.5	7.7	7.7	7.7