INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXIT SURVEY
JUNE 2021

Overview

In order to better understand international student’s outcomes and experiences, Global Engagement distributes an annual exit survey to undergraduate and graduate students in F-1 status graduating from Santa Clara University. The survey was distributed through Qualtrics to students’ SCU emails on May 4, 2021 and the survey closed on May 25, 2021.

The survey was sent to 169 students (49 undergraduate students and 120 graduate students from all 6 SCU schools & colleges). Seventy-one students responded to the survey with an overall response rate of 42%. Eleven of the respondents were undergraduate students, and sixty of the respondents were graduate students.

Student respondents came from nine different countries with students from India (58%) and China (17%) having the most representation.
Survey Highlights

97%  felt welcome on the SCU campus

88%  met friends outside their home culture

61%  felt it was easy to find activities to do outside of school / work

50%  were involved in on-campus student clubs and activities

96%  felt their time at SCU increased their sense of self confidence

91%  felt an increased appreciation for diversity and different ways of seeing the world

The most rewarding aspect of my time at Santa Clara University was...

“The sense of confidence and independence that has been instilled in me.”

“Connecting with people from multiple countries and being able to adapt and to build long lasting ties with them.”

The most challenging aspect of my time at Santa Clara University was...

“Housing primarily.”

“It was a radical shift for me to live away from family and manage everything on my own.”

“Working with the academic supervisor assigned me.”

“It’s a whole new system that I learned to understand and navigate - sometimes by myself, sometimes with my roommates. But understanding “how things are done in the States” was the most challenging for me. Everything from - greeting style, banking terms, public transportation to essay writing styles, examination styles. It was definitely an interesting and confidence-boosting challenge!”
While living abroad at Santa Clara University I learned...

“That I have the ability and natural curiosity to learn more about other cultures. My culture has played an important role in shaping my personality and respect myself and others equally."

"To cherish the things I have and to be open to what others prefer for themselves."

"At least three things: to look for a deeper understanding of my culture, to embrace other cultures in their otherness, and to be able to borrow whatever is good or positive from any culture other than mine."
How much has your experience at SCU contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?

- Encouraging your sense of global responsibility: 86% (A great deal or A lot), 12% (A moderate amount), 2% (A little or None at All)
- Preparing for life and work in an increasingly globalized era: 81% (A great deal or A lot), 16% (A moderate amount), 4% (A little or None at All)
- Understanding how your actions affect global communities: 79% (A great deal or A lot), 17% (A moderate amount), 3% (A little or None at All)
- Seeking international or global opportunities out of your comfort zone: 78% (A great deal or A lot), 16% (A moderate amount), 7% (A little or None at All)
- Speaking a second language: 53% (A great deal or A lot), 28% (A moderate amount), 19% (A little or None at All)
- Being informed about current international and global issues: 85% (A great deal or A lot), 9% (A moderate amount), 7% (A little or None at All)

Working on Campus

49% of respondents had a campus job. The most common campus jobs reported were:

- Teaching Assistant: 26%
- Research Assistant: 13%
- University Library: 6%
- Bon Appetit: 27%
- Other: 28%
ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

53% participated in an academic internship (CPT) while at SCU

17% engaged International Students and Scholars on academic matters

60% thought SCU emphasizes courses that focus on global and international topics “a great deal” or “a lot”

69% thought SCU emphasizes activities and experiences (speakers, events) that focus on global and international topics “a great deal” or “a lot”

78% thought SCU emphasizes opportunities that focus on career success in a global world “a great deal” or “a lot”

83% thought SCU emphasizes coursework that teaches skills they can apply to their future career / academic plans “a great deal” or “a lot”

How much has your coursework at SCU encouraged you to do the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>A great deal or A lot</th>
<th>A moderate amount</th>
<th>A little or None At All</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Understand the viewpoints, values or customs of different world cultures, nationalities and religions</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop skills for interacting effectively and appropriately with those from different world cultures, nationalities and religions</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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### What are your future plans?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Return to home country</td>
<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work temporarily in the USA for practical training (OPT)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work in the USA beyond practical training (OPT and STEM OPT if eligible)</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remain in California indefinitely</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remain in the USA indefinitely</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for an advanced degree in the USA</td>
<td>7%</td>
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92% of respondents plan to stay in the United States after graduating from SCU.