



2013 Spring I-House Exit Survey

Public

Name of Assessment 2013 Spring I-House Exit Survey

Project:

**Name(s) of Person(s)
Responsible for
Assessment Project:**

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Involved in

Assessment Project:

Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project

This project assesses the level of involvement and satisfaction of, and benefit to, the international and domestic undergraduate residents of the International House (I-House). During the spring of 2013, approximately 350 undergraduate students (roughly 50% international and 50% U.S.), from 30 countries, lived in I-House.

I-House is a living/learning residential community where 3rd and 4th year students (and a few 2nd year students) live. Admission to I-House is only through a separate and extensive application process involving 2 blind reviews. Approximately fewer than half of all 4-year and mostly all visiting EAP applicants gain admission to I-House.

International students may be 4-year, transfer or EAP students (here for 1, 2 or 3 quarters).

Because of the school year cycle of the countries from which they arrive, international students attending UCSD for 3 quarters do not always follow the US academic year.

Assessment Project Description

The main purpose of the assessment project is to assess the level of involvement and satisfaction of, and benefit to, the international and domestic undergraduate residents of the International House (I-House). This survey instrument was sent to 326 students. 85 completed the survey. The survey was administered between 5/29 and 6/16/13.

Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes

As a result of living in I-House, it is expected that I-House residents would:

- Gain a greater understanding of and appreciation for global issues and diversity
- Develop greater tolerance to the thoughts and ideas of others
- Feel a part of an international community
- Feel more a part of the UCSD community
- Learn about themselves and grow as individuals

- Learn to express themselves and interact with confidence in a multicultural community
- Have a richer educational experience at UCSD
- Feel better prepared for life after UCSD

Relationship to Student Affairs Learning Outcomes: Think Critically and Solve Problems, Communicate Effectively, Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success, Lead in a Diverse Global Society, Engage in a Healthy Lifestyle, Promote Social Justice and Community Responsibility

Assessment Project Start: 5/29/2013

Assessment Project End: 6/16/2014

Population/Sample

All international and U.S. undergraduate students living in I-House during Spring 2013 were assessed.
 326 surveys sent
 85 completed

Type of Assessment: Satisfaction study, Assessment of culture/climate, Benchmarking , Other: Please enter text below

Other Assessment Type(s): Personal growth and development

Assessment Methods: Surveys

Other Assessment Method(s):

Data Collection Tools

Campus Labs was used to refine the survey instrument, distribute the survey and analyze the results.

Data Analysis Methods

Data will be analyzed using Campus Labs.
 No previous exit surveys have been conducted so comparisons of results is not possible.
 Results of this survey will be used to create a baseline to compare to future surveys, as well as to provide data and feedback for program improvement.

Presentation of Findings

Results of this assessment will be used by the International House and ERC Residential Life staff to enhance and improve and enhance the program.
 Results will also be shared with the Non-Resident Student Engagement (NRSE) committee.

Progress:

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline

Source Name	Project Name
No items to display.	

Summary of Findings

The most noteworthy finding is that living in I-House has had a profound positive impact on enhancing the educational experience of participating students.

88% responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" when asked if they were satisfied with I-House.

The following SALOs were specifically addressed by the assessment:

1. Think Critically and Solve Problems

1.5 Reflect on their own thinking and evaluate their own arguments to confirm or correct their reasoning

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "Participating in I-House helped me improve my cross-cultural awareness."

2. Communicate Effectively

2.4 Confidently approach and engage in meaningful conversation with new people in new settings

2.5 Use unbiased language that reflects respect for others

2.6 Effectively assert themselves while respecting others

2.7 Listen with an open mind and allow others to express different

74% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more open to other's ideas and opinions."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me develop my interpersonal communication skills."

3. Advance a Plan for Personal, Academic, and Professional Success

3.1 Acquire learning skills

3.2 Acquire time management skills

76% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "while participating in I-House, I was able to balance social activities with academic obligations and goals."

3.3 Engage in self-reflection to clarify purpose and determine their career interests

3.4 Develop and enact a plan congruent with their identities and interests

42% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House has changed or encouraged me to reconsider my life path and/or career goals."

4. Lead in a Diverse Global Society

4.6 Show sensitivity to individual and cultural differences within groups and the ability to tailor one's style of leadership based on this knowledge

4.8 Engage with others comfortably in unfamiliar environments either abroad or in the U.S.

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that they "met and interacted with I-House residents from other countries."

85% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "while in the I-House I developed meaningful relationships with other students."

63% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that they "have made lifelong friendships with I-House residents from other countries."

86% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House provided me with opportunities to learn about cultures different from my own."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more internationally aware."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me improve my cross-cultural awareness."

67% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me develop my interpersonal communication skills."

74% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more open to other's ideas and opinions."

5. Engage in a Healthy Lifestyle

5.8 Achieve balance between academic work and personal life

75% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "while participating in I-House, I was able to balance social activities with academic obligations and goals."

6. Promote Social Justice and Community Responsibility

6.1 Demonstrate broader understandings of personal identities, including age, gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, spiritual affiliation, abilities, nationalities, and cultures and their intersectionality

86% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House provided me with opportunities to learn about cultures different from my own."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more internationally aware."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me improve my cross-cultural awareness."

74% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more open to other's ideas and opinions."

6.3 Demonstrate behaviors that reflect awareness of the UC San Diego Principles of Community

74% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me become more open to other's ideas and opinions."

82% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House helped me improve my cross-cultural awareness."

86% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "participating in I-House provided me with opportunities to learn about cultures different from my own."

69% "strongly agreed" or "agreed" that "I-House helped me feel more a part of the UCSD community."

Noteworthy qualitative data / comments include:

- "I-House has been and will continue be a most memorable experience at my time at UCSD."
- "I-House is my home at UCSD. I will definitely make an effort to give back as an alumnus."
- "Best year of my University life."
- "For an international student, this is the best possible place to become fully integrated into UCSD life."
- "Great experience that everyone should have at least once in their lifetime."
- "Where you end up learning a lot about yourself by looking out to other cultures."
- "I-House is an extremely friendly environment that offers a priceless international experience."
- "This has been the most fun and rewarding year of my time at UCSD."

When asked if they learned about cultures other than their own,

86% responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree."

82% responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to improving their cross-cultural awareness.

74% responded "Agree" or "Strongly Agree" to being more open to others' ideas or opinions.

Having a sense of and belonging to a "community" was identified as the greatest strength and benefit of I-House.

And finally, many students commented that American students were not as involved in I-House

events as the international students and that greater efforts should be made to involve the American students.

Impact of Assessment

In addition to using the findings for discussions with I-House and Res Life staff about program effectiveness, we plan on:

- Working more closely with I-Center to better coordinate and enhance the orientation and follow-up support provided to I-House residents, specifically in areas related to community building and cultural adjustment.
- Work with Res Life (and the RAs) to help motivate greater involvement on behalf of our American residents
- Work with representatives from all colleges to help us better connect with and engage all international students throughout UCSD

Lessons Learned

The results of this survey clearly indicate that an experience such as living and participating in I-House* can have an indelible impression and defining impact on the lives of international and US students.

*I-House is not simply a "passive" experience. Great time and effort goes into making sure that the "right" type of student (someone who is interested in actively participating in the community-building events, programs and activities available at I-House) is even selected to be allowed to live in I-House.

Even more time and effort goes into organizing and implementing a variety of programs, events and activities which engage the residents in meaningful ways which build community.

We need to do better at motivating American students to become more involved with our international students.

Students indicate that as a result of their positive experience at I-House, they intend to continue to support I-House even after they leave, as an alum. Efforts need to be made to provide opportunities for such support from alums - US and international.

Supplemental Information

This is the first time that Campus Labs was used or an exit survey conducted with I-House residents at UCSD.

As part of the efforts to develop this survey, the I-House Director contacted the other I-House Directors around the world to examine and review their resident survey efforts and instruments.

The results of this survey were summarized and in a collaborative effort with the I-House at UC Berkeley, an abstract was submitted to the Regional NAFSA conference to be held in San Diego later this year. The numbers and presence of international students are increasing dramatically in colleges and universities throughout the US, and the UCSD I-House provides a successful model for helping ensure that these students, as well as their US counterparts, have a rich and rewarding educational experience.

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