

## J-1 Scholar Orientation Survey

Public

**Name of Assessment Project:** J-1 Scholar Orientation Survey

**Name(s) of Person(s) Responsible for Assessment Project:** international Scholar Advisor (Kevin Delmastro)

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**Providing Department:** International Center

**Units/Departments Involved in Assessment Project:**

**Program, Service, or Event Related to Assessment Project:** The International Faculty & Scholar Office (IFSO) conducted a survey during its weekly orientation for J-1 scholars. J-1 scholars are exchange visitors, mostly researchers and professors, who visit the campus for short or long visits. Some are full-time employees who will transition to other visa classifications, and ultimately U.S. permanent residency, while others are temporarily here to work on specific projects or guest lecture.

**Assessment Project Description:** IFSO administered the survey to measure satisfaction with the current orientation format and content, and to glean ideas to improve the orientation in the future.

**Unit/Program Specific Goals and Learning Outcomes:** IFSO strives to educate its J-1 scholars on immigration regulations, health insurance, driver's license, SSN, off-campus work, and other legal issues, as well as programs, events, family issues, and cross-cultural issues. IFSO attempts to present this material in a welcoming format and environment, encouraging J-1 scholars to ask questions. Retention of this information is highly important to enhance the J-1's working and living experiences in San Diego and to avoid negative legal consequences.

**Relationship to Student Affairs:** Not related to any SALOs

**Learning Outcomes:**  
**Assessment Project Start:** 1/22/2015

**Assessment Project End:** 5/28/2015

**Population/Sample:** A total of 85 J-1 scholars completed the survey of approximately 285 who attended those Orientations and were invited to participate, which is a 30% completion rate.

**Type of Assessment:** Satisfaction study

**Other Assessment Type(s):**

**Assessment Methods:** Surveys

**Other Assessment Method(s):**

**Data Collection Tools:** After Orientation, J-1 scholars were emailed a link to complete our survey in Survey Monkey. Since participation was low, IFSO began also distributing iPods with the survey in Baseline during the last few minutes of Orientation. Most participants completed the survey in Baseline because participation was much higher when scholars had the option to complete the survey at Orientation. Participation was always optional.

**Data Analysis Methods:** IFSO used Survey Monkey to collect survey responses, then aggregate data.

**How Your Results Will Be Presented:** Results were distributed to all IFSO staff. A link to the data was emailed to all staff for review, then at an IFSO staff meeting the IFSO Assistant Director gave a summary and led a discussion about results and areas for improvement.

**Progress:** 100%

Link Assessment Project in Campus Labs Baseline :	Name	Source
	No items to display.	

**Summary of Findings:** Most respondents reported they were very satisfied or moderately satisfied with our orientation as far as clarity of the information and the PowerPoint presentation, the welcoming atmosphere created during Orientation, the facilitator's effectiveness, the presentation length, the International Center tour, and ability to ask questions throughout the experience. Overall, the Orientation was rated Excellent or Good by 96% of respondents.

When asked about their favorite aspect, most just said the whole Orientation overall was good. Many cited the information presented, while some mentioned the presenter. When asked for suggestions to improve Orientation, most said there was nothing they would change, that it was already good. A few respondents indicated their interest in hearing more detail about specific topics like childcare, schools, campus, off-campus housing, and life in San Diego.

As far as demographics, most respondents were male, in the J-1 Research Scholar category, had no family members with them, and were from Asian countries. Interestingly most did not review our scholar arrival information on the IFSO website prior to arrival in the U.S.

.....  Survey

**Impact of Assessment:** This assessment will guide IFSO in making small changes that will hopefully improve the overall experience of scholars. It gave us several ideas that will be implemented in the next quarter. However, we will weigh the benefit of adding more content that was desired by just a few scholars against the cost of making the presentation too long, which was a concern voiced by others.

**Lessons Learned:** Although the Summary of Findings above contains more details, it is clear that our Orientation is hitting the mark in most aspects, with just a few edits to possibly improve the experience.

**Supplemental  
Information:**

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