



# Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Graduation Survey

## Basic Summary Report AY2023

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University  
Office of Institutional Planning IR Team

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# Outline of Survey

## Purpose of the Survey

To gauge graduating students' sense of growth and level of satisfaction with university life at the time of graduation. The survey will also ascertain the progress of students' English language abilities and career paths, thereby verifying educational outcomes and ascertaining the current situation of key issues, enabling improvements to be made.

## Survey Subjects

1147 undergraduate students who graduated in AY2023 (in September,2023 and March,2024)

## Survey Methodology

Online survey (names identified)

## Survey Period

Students graduating in September 2023: September,2023  
Students graduating in March 2024: March,2024

## Main Survey Items

- ① Student development (sense of growth)
- ② Acquired competencies
- ③ Language proficiency
- ④ Friendships during time at APU (friendships with people of other nationalities)
- ⑤ Overseas travel experience
- ⑥ Sense of belonging and level of satisfaction with APU
- ⑦ Career opportunities after graduation
- ⑧ Satisfaction with career plans

## Response Rate

The survey was conducted on 1147 students, with responses received from 707 students, a response rate of 62%. This response rate is largely in line with response rate in previous years.

Looking at the affiliations of respondents, the ratio of responses for domestic and international students was largely the same for each college, with no great difference identified between colleges. Looking at both domestic and international students, the response rate was higher for international students than for domestic students.

	APS		APM	
Domestic	198	148	144	119
International	155	70	210	103

# Responses Status

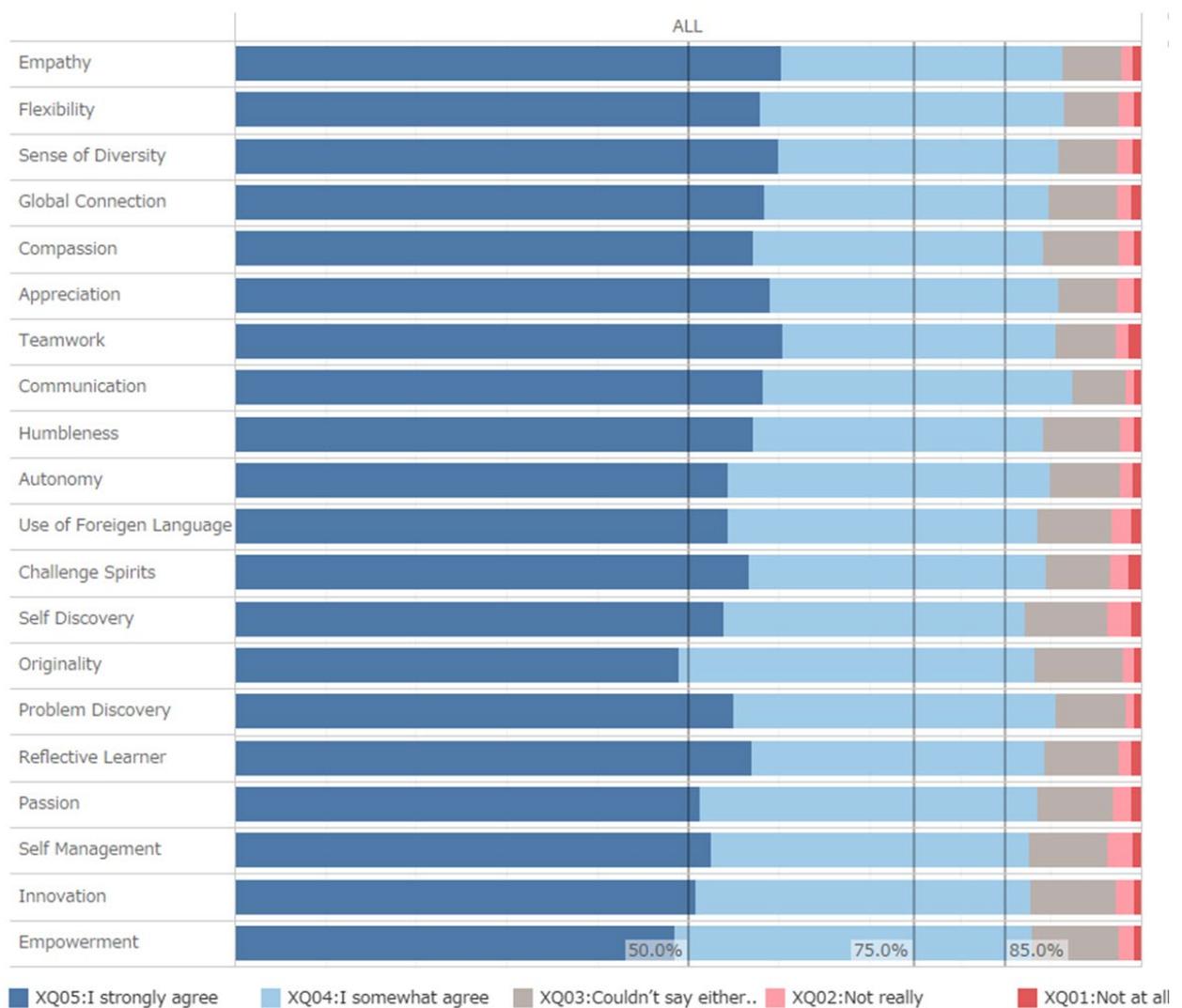
## Student development and acquired skills

### Acquired competencies

The list below shows the results of questions relating to qualities and skills acquired during their time as students at APU, asked in line with the 20 competencies of the APU Rubric, with 5 response options ranging from “I strongly agree” to “Not at all”.

All competencies showed positive responses (“I strongly agree” and “I somewhat agree”) of over 85%. The competency with the highest percentage of positive responses was Communication, followed by Empathy, Flexibility, Sense of diversity, Appreciation, and Teamwork, with 60.4% of respondents saying that they strongly agreed that they had achieved the Teamwork competency.

<Competency> How much do you agree that you have achieved the following competencies?

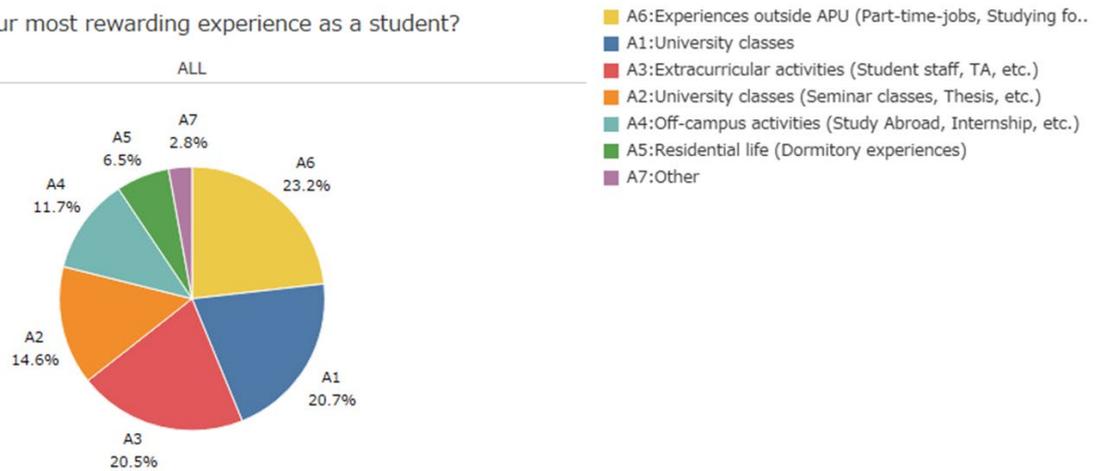


## Growth through Experiences

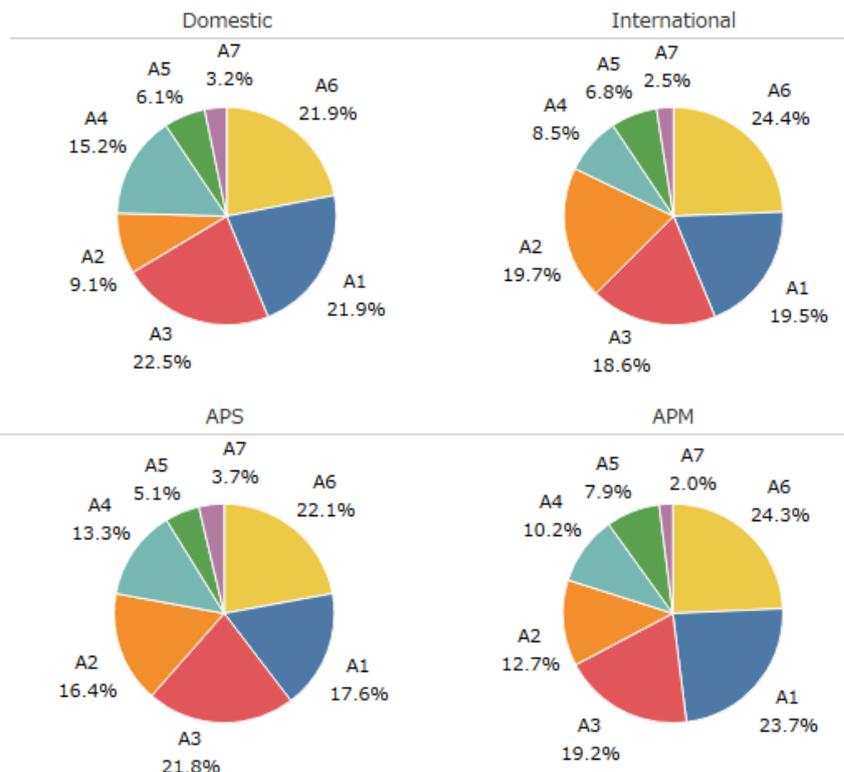
The chart below shows the results of responses to the question "What has been your most rewarding experience as a student?", where students were asked to select from the listed curricular, extra-curricular and external activities (selection of multiple responses not possible).

The results indicate that many students experience growth through on-campus experiences, with "University classes" accounting for 20.7%, "Extracurricular activities (Student staff, TA, etc.)" accounting for 20.5%, and "University classes (Seminar classes, Thesis, etc.)" accounting for 14.6%, with these three categories combined accounting for approximately 55% of total responses, or a total of approximately 60% when "Residential life (Dormitory experiences)" (6.5%) is included in the total.

What has been your most rewarding experience as a student?



Looking at domestic and international students separately, the percentage of the response "University classes (Seminar classes and Thesis, etc.)" is high for international students, while the percentage of responses for "University classes and Off-campus activities (Study abroad, Internship, etc.)" is high for domestic students. When considering responses by College, there are differences in the distribution of the responses "University classes" and "University classes (Seminar classes, Thesis, etc.)" between APM and APS, however if they are broadly grouped as "University classes," there is no significant difference in the ratio of responses..



## Language Proficiency

The following is a summary of the survey results on the language proficiency including AP languages.

For the English language proficiency of domestic students, 68.7% of students responded that they have daily life-level proficiency (combining responses "Can join in basic discussions on every day matters" and "Can understand and express short phrases in daily life"), while 23.1% of students responded that they "Can join in discussions relating to my major and other topics."

While the percentage of respondents with daily life-level proficiency has decreased, the number of respondents who answered "Can join in discussions relating to my major and other topics" and "Native level proficiency" has increased.

In terms of the Japanese language proficiency of international students, approximately 50% of international students responded that they had daily life-level proficiency while 41.9% responded that they "Can join in discussions relating to my major and other topics". The percentage of international students with daily life-level Japanese language skills has also decreased compared to the previous year, while the number of students who answered that they have higher level of Japanese language skills has increased.

In terms of AP languages, the language with the highest level of proficiency amongst domestic students was Korean, while for international students the highest proficiency language was Chinese. In the previous year's survey, Korean was also the language with the highest proficiency for international students, followed by Chinese.

What languages are you able to use? Please indicate your language proficiency level.



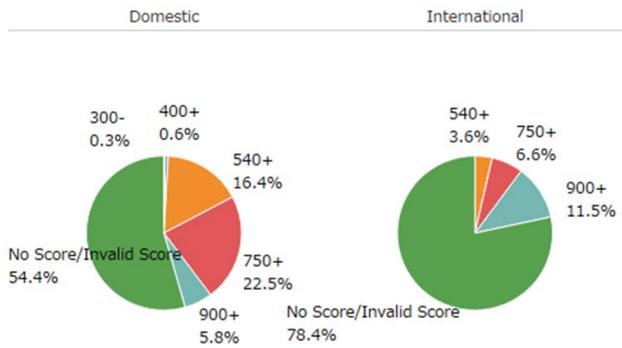
## English Scores

The graphs below show the results of responses regarding the English scores held by students.

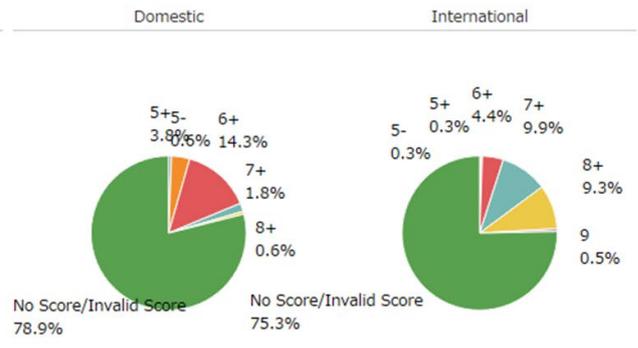
Of domestic students, 45.6% have TOEIC-IP scores, while 21.1% have IELTS scores. In the previous year, 55.5% held TOEIC-IP scores, a decrease of approximately 10%. Conversely, the percentage of IELTS scores has increased slightly. In addition, the percentage of students with scores of 6+ or higher is increasing.

For international students, the percentage of students with TOEIC scores remains largely the same as the previous year, while the percentage of IELTS scores has slightly decreased.

TOEIC-IP(10-990)(Graph)

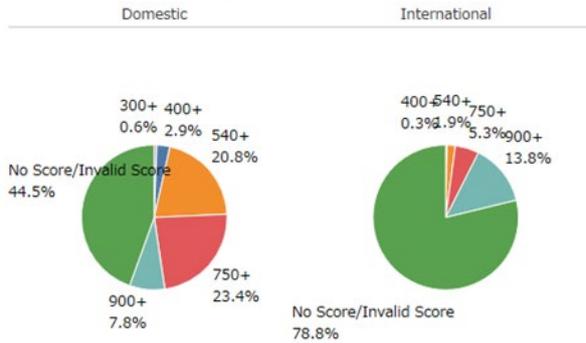


IELTS(1-9)(Graph)

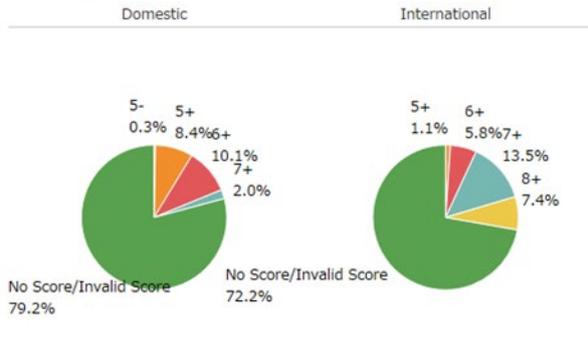


(Reference: last year's data)

TOEIC-IP(10-990)(Graph)



IELTS(1-9)(Graph)



# Friendships during time at APU

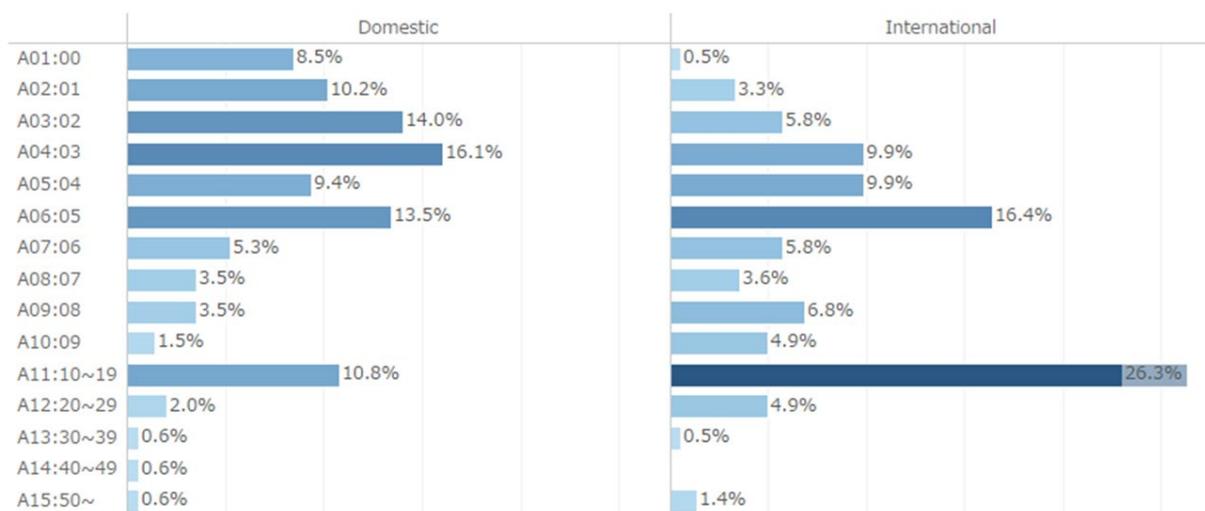
## Friendships with people of other nationalities

Students were asked about their friendships with people of other nationalities, being asked about the number of "friends you enjoyed spending time with" as well as the number of nationalities of those friends.

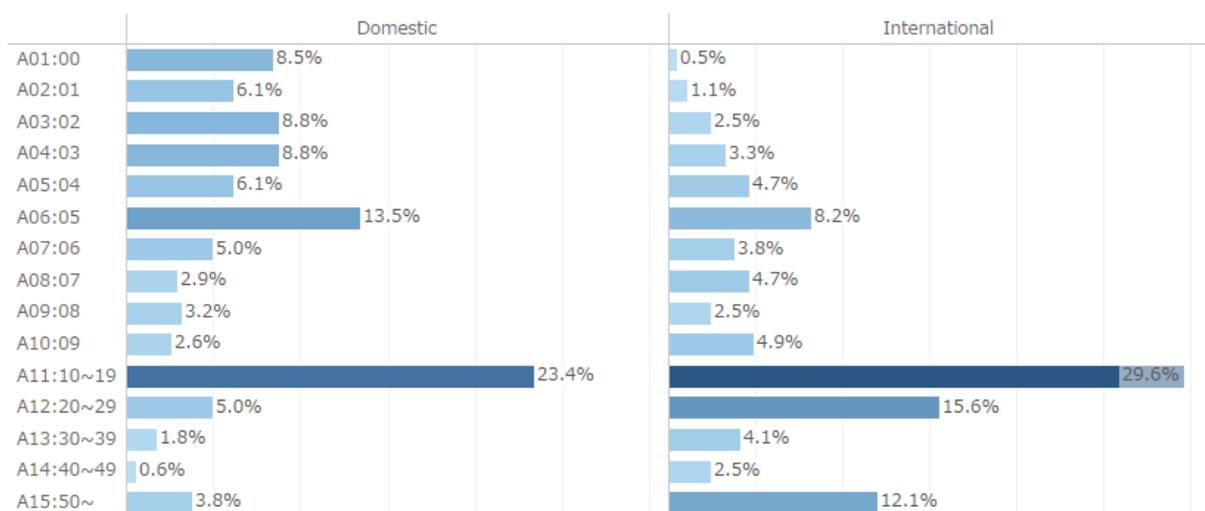
On average, domestic students responded that they had 10 friends from 6 different countries, while international students responded that they had 19 friends from 9 different countries. On the other hand, among domestic students, 8.5% (29 students) answered that there had 0 friendships with people from different nationalities.

While the average number of friendships for both domestic and international students is decreasing compared to the previous year, the number of students who answered 0 friendships with people of different nationalities is decreasing.

Please tell us about the friends you enjoyed spending time with while at APU.(Number of Nationalities)



Please tell us about the friends you enjoyed spending time with while at APU (Number of friends)



Average number of friends' nationalities

	Mean	Median
Domestic	5.81	4.00
International	9.37	6.00

Average number of friends

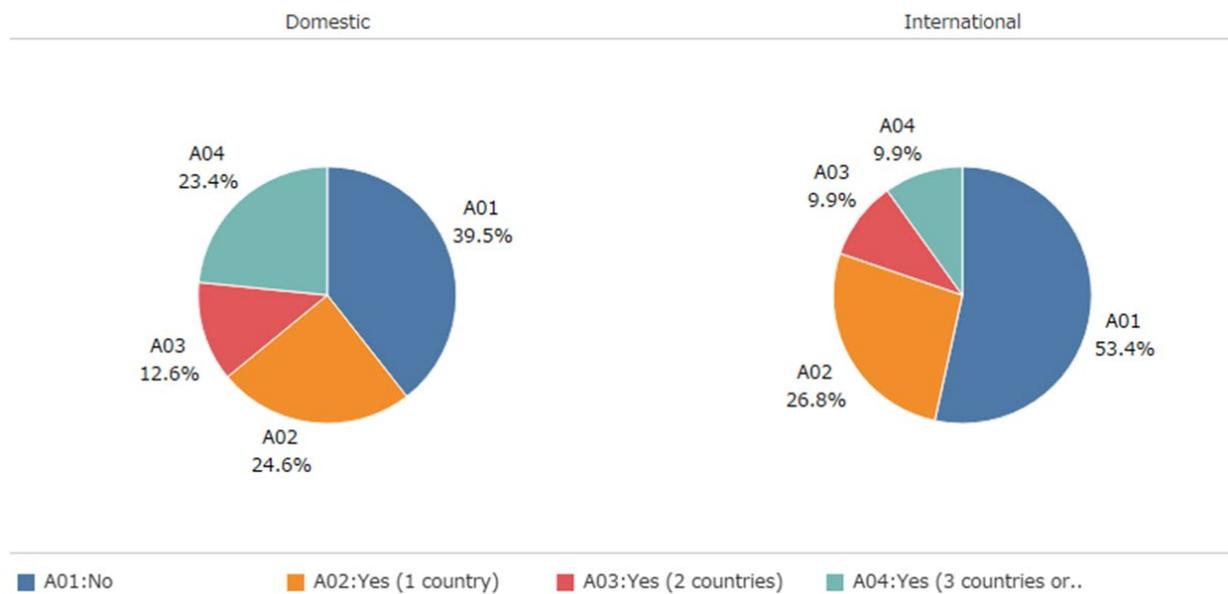
	Mean	Median
Domestic	10.13	5.00
International	19.47	15.00

## Overseas Travel

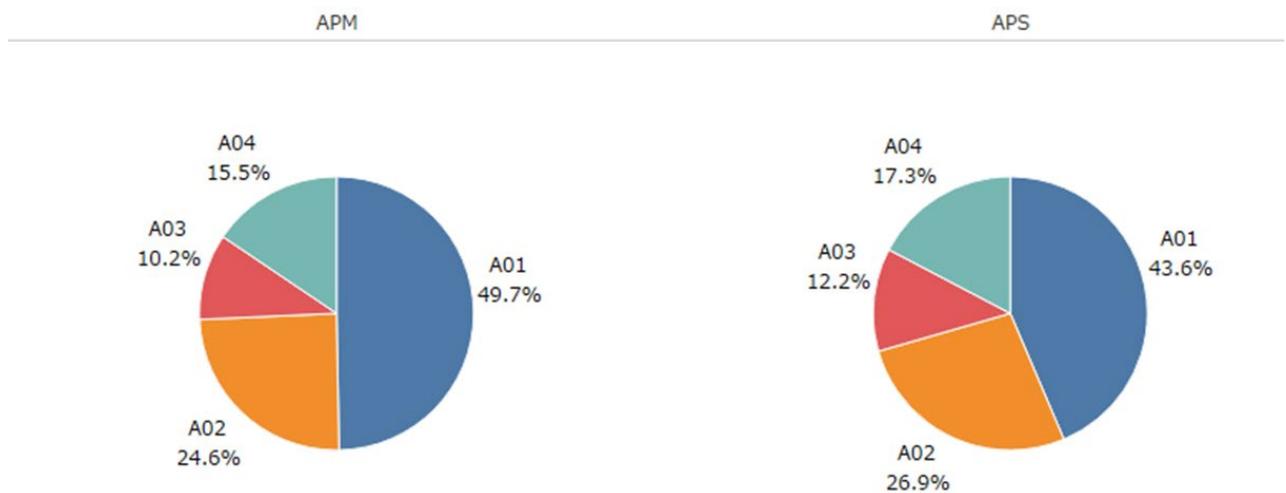
The following are the results of questions asked regarding whether or not students had any experience of traveling abroad during a leave of absence or vacation.

Given that graduates in AY2023 were affected by having fewer opportunities to travel overseas in their first and second years due to overseas travel restrictions during the COVID pandemic (Spring 2020 to Fall 2021), there is still a difference in comparison to previous years (in March 2020 the percentage of students that did not travel outside Japan was 21.6%), however in comparison to AY2022 there was an increase in the number of students who responded that they had traveled and the number of countries where they had traveled.

Did you travel outside of Japan while you were at APU? Examples include holiday travel and internships. Do NOT include programs offered by the University.



When considering responses by college, less than half of the students have never traveled outside of Japan, while the results show that APS shows a larger percentage of students who have travelled outside Japan as well as a larger number of countries.



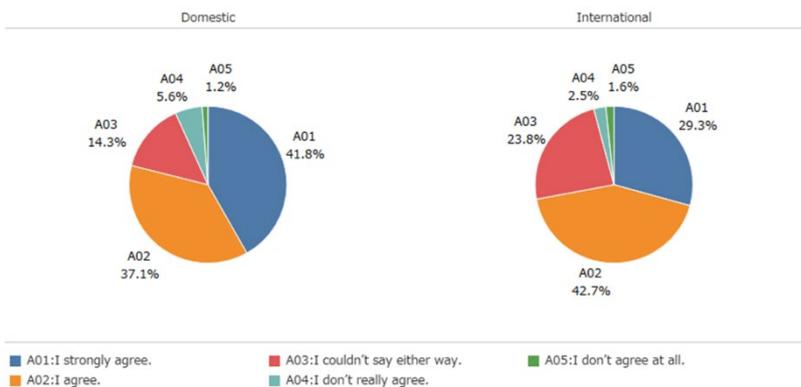
# Satisfaction with APU

Students were asked about their level of satisfaction with the University, with their responses to three questions about recommendation, sense of belonging, and pride shown below.

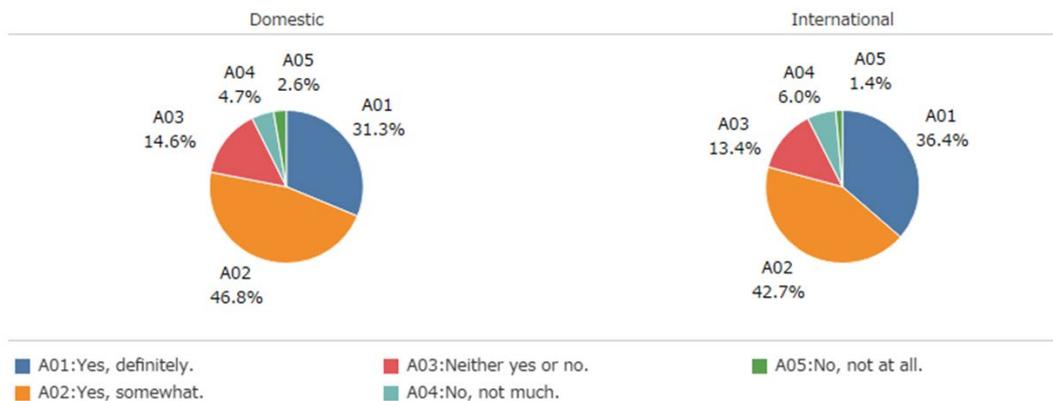
In all three questions, the overall average of positive responses exceeded 75% (Recommendation to others":75.5%; Sense of belonging: 78.6%; pride: 80.5%). While the figures are lower in comparison to the previous year (82%/80%/85% respectively in the previous year), the results were higher than those before the COVID pandemic (73%/77%/78% respectively for AY2019 graduates).

When comparing the satisfaction level of domestic and international students, positive responses in terms of recommendation to others and pride was higher amongst domestic students.

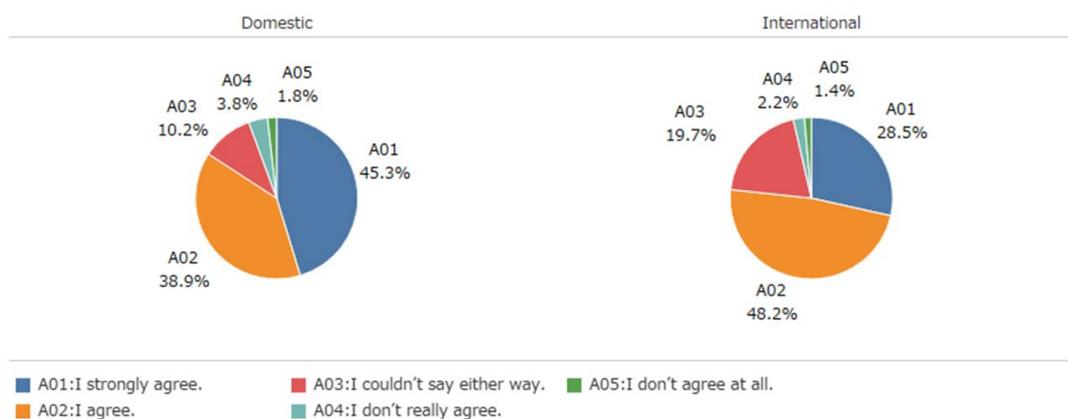
Which best describes how you feel about the following statement: "I encourage my friends who are not APU students to apply if I think they would suit the APU environment."



Do you feel as though you have become a part of the APU community?



Which best describes how you feel about the following statement: "I am proud to be an APU student."



# Career Opportunities after Graduation

## Career Opportunities after Graduation

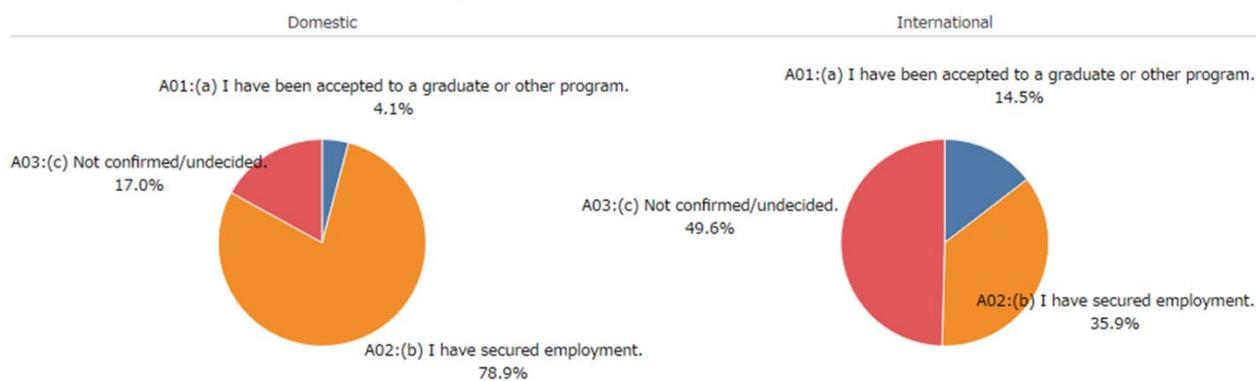
The results of the questions about career paths after graduation are shown below.

In contrast to the 83% of domestic students who responded that they had already decided on their future career plans when seeking employment (4.1% further education, 78.9% employment), the percentage for international students was only just over 50% (14.5% further education, 35.9% employment), with 49.6% graduating without having decided. The percentage of students who have decided on their future career plans has decreased by several points compared to the previous year, while the percentage of students who decided to go on to higher education has increased by several points.

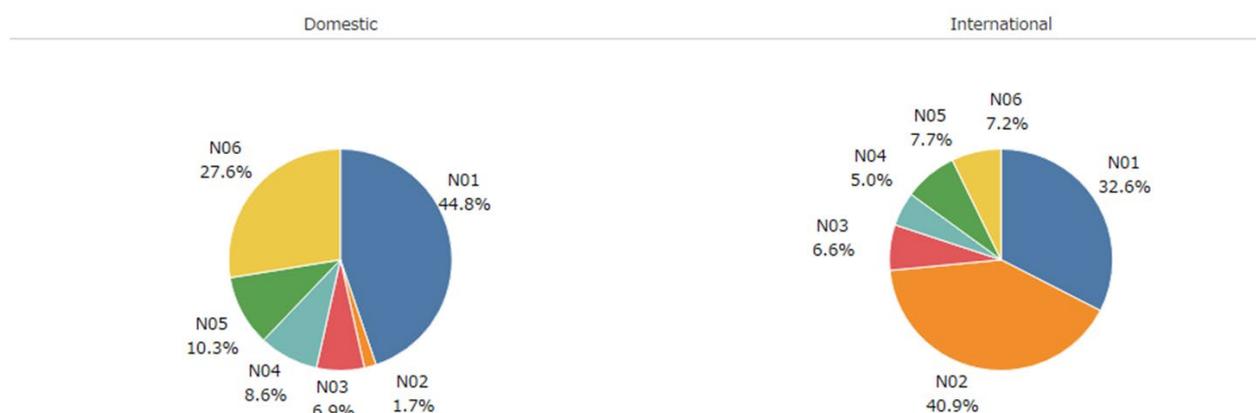
Of the international students who had yet to decide on their future career path, 32.6% of students responded they would continue their job-hunting activities in Japan, 47.5% would continue their job-hunting activities in countries other than Japan, and 12.7% would prepare for higher education, with the percentage of students who responded they would continue their job-hunting activities being the same as last year. The percentage of students preparing for higher education has decreased, while the number of students deciding to go on to higher education has increased.

The total number of students who choose to go on to graduate school (those who have decided to go on to graduate school and those who plan to take the exam) was 101, accounting for 14% of all graduates.

Please tell us about your future plans. Have you decided on your career path, job, or further education?



If your plans are not yet confirmed or if you are undecided



- N01: I will continue job hunting in Japan.
- N02: I will look for a job in my home country.
- N03: I will look for a job in the country that is neither Japan nor my home country.
- N04: I have applied to graduate school(s) in Japan.
- N05: I have applied to graduate school(s) in a country other than Japan.
- N06: Other

## Satisfaction with Career Path

The chart below shows the results of survey questions on the degree to which students were satisfied with their career path.

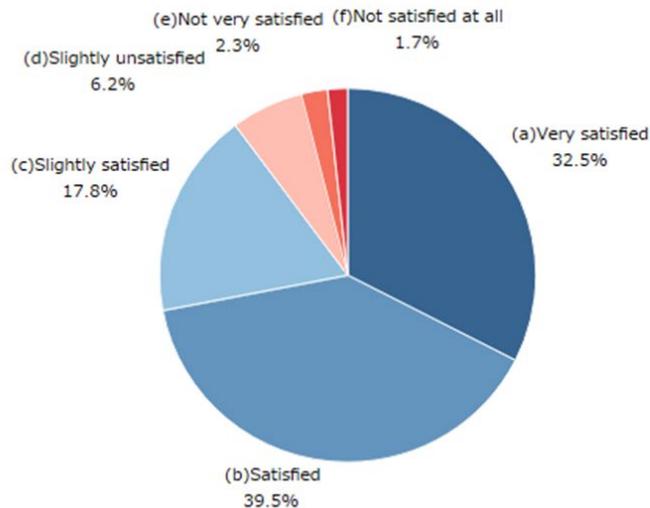
Positive responses were at 89.8% overall. 93.8% of domestic students provided a positive response ("Very satisfied", "Satisfied," and "Slightly satisfied"). For international students, 86.1% recorded a positive response, 7.7 points lower than that of domestic students.

For many domestic students, the reasons for being satisfied were "future prospects", "business/field", and "atmosphere," while many international students answered "Future prospects", "Location", and "Ability/Skill development".

In terms of the reasons for not being satisfied, domestic students increasingly cited "income", "sense of fulfillment", and "future prospects". Among international students, responses of "future prospects", "income," and "stability" increased.

Are you satisfied with the career path you will take after graduation?

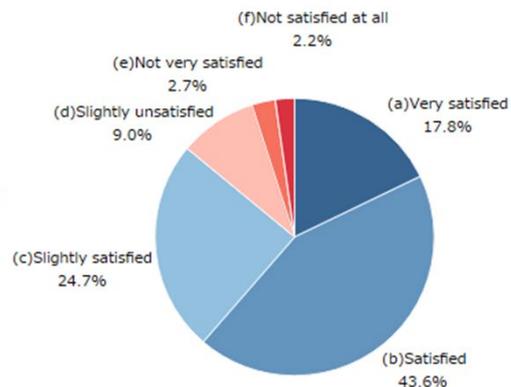
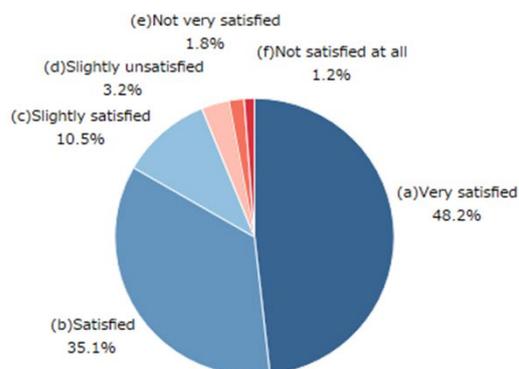
ALL



Are you satisfied with the career path you will take after graduation?

Domestic

International



# Conclusion Remarks

<About the provision of data>

If you would like to request raw data from the survey, please contact the Office of Institutional Planning IR Team.

<Contact information>

Office of Institutional Planning IR Team ([irteam@apu.ac.jp](mailto:irteam@apu.ac.jp)) Li, Hara