International Undergraduate Student Experiences: A Global Perspective

26th Annual EAIR Forum

September 7, 2004
Participating Institutions

Boston College
George Washington University
National University of Ireland, Galway
Northeastern University
RMIT University
Tufts University
Universiteit van Amsterdam
Purpose:

• To assess the international student experience

• To obtain comparable data across a number of institutions
Method

- Web-administration at 6 institutions
- Common core of questions
- Same look & feel
- Telephone administration at NEU
Northeastern University Method:

• NUPULSE SURVEY
• Administered over 4 days
• 49 closed-ended questions
• 4 open-ended questions
Method:

- Overall Response Rate: 23%
- Range 11% to 43%
- Definition of International Student varied
- Our definition – all non-citizens or dual citizens
Method:

• 119 closed-ended questions
• 25 open-ended questions
• 14 “other, please specify” fill-ins
• Web surveys active – average, 46 days
Participants

• 2,558 total respondents
• 2,512 usable cases
• 54% men
• 74% non-native language
Positive Feedback

• 70% liked the institution

• 90% satisfied with their education

Of those who were satisfied:

87% would select the school again

91% recommend as a good place
More than 50% experienced difficulty

• Dating students from host country
• Being away from friends
• Being away from home
• Writing papers
• Making friends from host country
Less Difficulty

- Meeting international students
- Making international friends
- Speaking with faculty or staff
- Getting used to host country food
- Living with a roommate
Most popular activities

• Use a computer for pleasure
• Spend time with friends
• Study
• Watch television/movies
• Made friends with students from a country different from yours
Least popular activities

• Participated community service project
• Talked with an academic dean
• Attended religious services
• Attended cultural events, concerts, or art exhibitions
Differences
U.S. vs. Non-U.S.

• Making host country friends
• Getting involved with club sports
• Understanding Slang
• Made friends with students (different religions or academic interests)
• Extra-curricular activities
Differences
Native vs. Non-native

• Dating students from host country
• Writing papers
• Understanding Slang
Next Steps

• Additional analysis
• Develop benchmarks
• Expand to include graduate students
• Expand to include more institutions