

**IFP Staff/Student Liaison committee 24 October 2022**

**Present: Anya Clayworth (Programme Director) and student rep (Asumi Kato)**

**Apologies: Regina Abascal Lomeli (student rep) and Sally Crumplin (Director of Quality)**

Regina and Asumi created an online form for students to use to provide feedback and offered two in-person drop-in sessions at Levels. 30/74 students completed the form, and no one attended the in-person drop-ins.

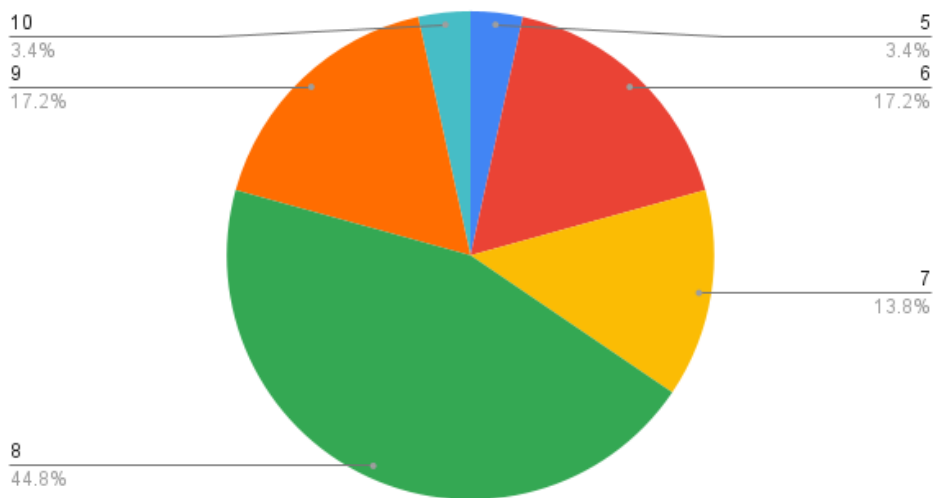
Survey link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefl1YXM7YexdPGv53OYB6yPd5RxKN46u4M9Q\\_SMrU8xt\\_eLA/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSefl1YXM7YexdPGv53OYB6yPd5RxKN46u4M9Q_SMrU8xt_eLA/viewform?usp=sharing)

Asumi and Regina have provided the data below and I have added responses in purple where discussions were undertaken.

How much do you enjoy IFP so far?

How much do you enjoy IFP so far? (In the scale of 1-10)



**Range: 5-10**

**Average: 7.66**

**Mode: 8**

AC: I am delighted to see such high scores here and also the excellent response rate from the students to the online survey.

\*What the reps thought was important was highlighted in blue

What do you enjoy in the programme?

**Quality of teachers and education system:**

- The teachers, the education system.
- Study various subjects in one term.

- Students can discuss their opinion and we don't have a heavy workload.
- Group work.
- I enjoy the teachers, the non academic, and academic advisors.
- I do like how interactive the classes are.
- Classes/tutorials with a small number of students, student support system

**Subject-specific:**

- FEAP x 2
- Philosophy lessons x 4
- Art & Design x2
- LLiB
- Psychology
- Social science tutorials

**Friendship and interaction:**

- Friendship.
- Making new friends.
- Good relationships with the professors.
- Learning about other cultures.
- Discussion exercises.
- Exchange different opinions within our classmates.

**Learning and knowledge/skill gain:**

- Learning new things.
- Learning about subjects I'm curious about.
- I really enjoy the topics approached in classes and the group of people we have gathered in it.
- Very useful for my understanding of English

**Satisfactory learning environment:**

- The academy is nice and the city is beautiful.
- Adapting to a new life.
- The inclusive environment the IFP has.

AC: I am pleased to see a range of responses here which include course-related positivity, as well as a recognition that the IFP is supporting friendships, class discussion and belonging. We work hard to ensure that the Programme has an inclusive learning environment for all so I was particularly pleased to see that as one of the aspects being enjoyed by the students.

**Why do you enjoy it?**

- I also think it's the most important part to help me to improve my English.
- The teachers are very lovely and cooperative. The education system aims to develop our critical thinking skills and our English skills which could help us perform better in our undergraduate majors.
- They are informative and fun.

- Because I would like to study design as an undergraduate, this course helps me a lot, and the teacher is very nice.
- Because I like the things about design and company with friends.
- All these classes are very fun, I really enjoy having a conversation time with my classmates.
- diversity of knowledge.
- To learn different perspectives.
- Because it stimulates my mind.
- Because I enjoy acquiring new knowledge and experiencing a totally new culture and lifestyle.
- Contribute to my further study
- I love to see many topics I once thought to be silly ideas of mine being studied, and having the opportunity to intellectually discuss them in psychology and social science classes. But my favorite part of the program is being able to interact with people from all different backgrounds, who are in the same boat as me at the end of the day.
- I feel in a learning environment that encourages me to explore my academic abilities and learn from great teachers.
- What I want to improve the most is my spoken English so I appreciate when in lessons we do speaking activities.
- I can improve my English Learning skills.
- Because the course atmosphere is relaxing.
- Mainly because the course content intrigues me a lot.
- The learning method and also the material we discuss in class is so interesting.
- I can learn a lot from the teachers.
- Almost all classes are insightful and interesting. I especially like philosophy and social sciences. Every topic philosophy covers is interesting, and the group activities we do in social sciences tutorials are fun and insightful.
- I like the fact that we have a small number of students in a class and it is easier to interact with each other and with the teacher.

AC: Again, great to see positive comments here about the small class size and opportunities for discussion and inter-cultural communication.

What do you think can be improved about the programme?

**6 people think the programme is perfect as is.**

**Schedule and time management (lunch break):**

- The schedule could be improved, Long breaks are annoying cause you get stuck around campus for a long period of time with nothing to do.
- I would like to suggest that maybe we can adjust the time on schedule, because sometimes we don't have time for lunch. / I do hope the 30-minute break time at noon can be extended because sometimes it is not enough for me to have my lunch. / I often struggle to have time to eat enough lunch because of my class schedule
- Teachers should be stricter about the finishing time since some classes go a lot longer than it's supposed to be.

AC: I recognise that the time given for lunch can be short. In timetabling, we are trying to balance staff availability, room availability but also ensuring that students finish earlier in the day to mitigate anxiety from previous students about walking home in the dark at the end of Term 1. Students should check the PDF timetable on our Programme LEARN site for class times as it may differ from their Outlook timetable.

#### Course content

- The FEAP classes could be more challenging or just taken out and replaced by another subject for students with an IELTS grade above a certain level.

AC: In the revised IFP (starting 2025/26), Plus students will learn a language instead of taking FEAP for two teaching blocks. AK was interested in this as an idea as she is already learning German. However, there were some questions about the languages being offered.

- I think FEAP class should be 3 courses for those with high IELTS scores/academic essay writing experiences: entry, plus, advanced.
- More art classes.
- I think we should have more subjects that are related to the thing we major, not just learning things that we probably will never use in my whole life.

AC: The IFP is about learning skills that students can apply to their UG programmes, not about teaching content that will be repeated in Yr 1 of a UG programme. IFP students should think less about content and more about how they can use the skills they're learning to apply to their future learning.

- I believe that there could be more focus on the progression into our undergraduate studies rather than spending so much class time revising so many basic writing elements.

AC: I am hoping that students are now seeing this in the UCAS teaching in LLiB in Weeks 6, 8 and 9.

- I think there should be more classes connected to business/economics.

AC: See my comment above.

- I feel like LLiB should've been explained more clearly because I don't really understand what's the point of it plus, I don't know what to expect each week as it is usually a different topic + teacher so I don't really get a chance to practice the previous weeks' topics.

AC: The workbook is for practising what you have learned in LLiB and all teachers are very happy to answer questions. I also offered a drop-in session for students with questions in Week 6.

#### Course style

- If the psychology class offered a summary reading material for helping us review.
- It's almost perfect! But I hope the tutorial classes could be more detailed.
- The organization and the structure of topics in social sciences class, especially in the tutorial classes is done poorly.
- The social science professors aren't organized with each other, and it makes it difficult to link the lecture with the tutorial.
- Make the lessons longer.
- I think in social sciences lectures there are too many people and that makes it hard to engage.

AC: I have asked the Course Organiser and Head of Subject Area to look into the questions about the Social Science course.

- Lessons could go slower.

AC: Students should always feel free to put their hands up if the teacher is moving too quickly or to ask questions in person or by email to make sure they get what they need for their classes.

#### **Other**

- Many undergraduate students don't know about the foundation programme, and i often have to explain what it is, why i have to go through the foundation programme, etc, and it makes me feel isolated from the whole university community. I hope there will be opportunities for undergraduate students to learn about our course and its necessity.

AC: Our Head of Transitions, Liz MacDougall is doing work in this area and the more that our students get involved in the wider university community through sports, clubs and societies, the better-informed other student communities will be!

- It'd be nice if the course could provide more opportunities for students to learn about each other's culture.

AC: I hope all IFP students are taking the opportunities within their courses to share discussion about their cultures and food. LLiB reflections are a great place to do this, particularly through the peer feedback comments on reflective pieces and the mini presentation task.

#### **Any other business**

##### **IFP social events**

AC: We are planning a number of trips in the next few months, but I asked Asumi about whether she felt there would be interest in a social event. We agreed that an 'opt-in' event would be best. There is the end of Term 1 party in the final teaching week of term for students to spend time together before the Winter break.