

Shape your world



Ritsumeikan
Asia Pacific University

A wide-angle photograph of a university campus. In the foreground, a large, circular paved plaza features a central fountain with water spraying upwards. Several people are walking around the plaza. In the background, a city is visible, followed by a range of mountains under a clear blue sky. A modern university building is partially visible on the right side of the image.

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University Student Survey Basic Summary Report for AY2023

Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University
Office of Institutional Planning IR Team

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Outline of the survey

Purpose of Survey

By investigating the actual state of students as well as their growth during their studies, we will verify the educational results and understand the current situation regarding issues, Leading to improvement.

Subject of Survey

Current undergraduate students from 2nd to 7th semesters as of Fall Semester AY2023 (4,111 students).

Survey Method

Online survey including names

Survey Period

From December, 2023 to the end of January, 2024

Major Survey Items

- 1) Level of use of the opposite language
- 2) Learning time outside class
- 3) Cross-cultural exchange opportunities
- 4) Satisfaction with university life and sense of belonging
- 5) Sense of growth (abilities and qualities acquired since enrollment in APU)
- 6) Career plans

Status of collection

2,220 responses were received from 4,111 survey subjects (54% response rate).

Summary

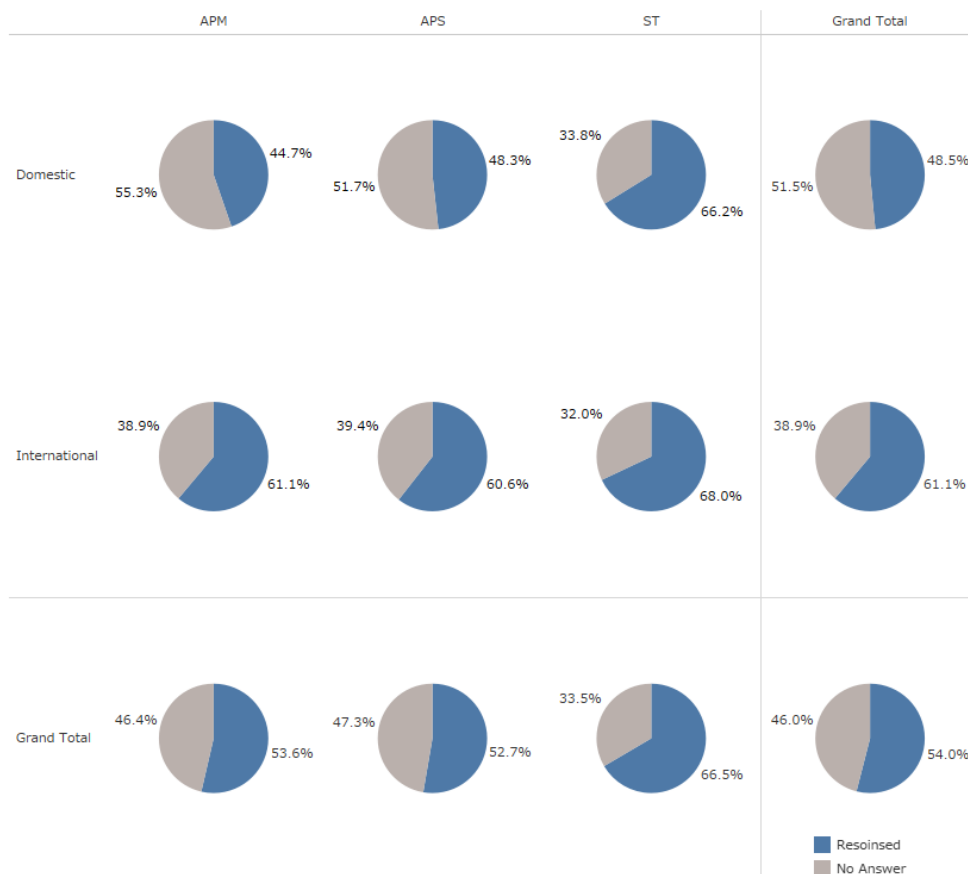
Domestic / I..	APM	APS	ST	Grand Total
Domestic	402/899	584/1,210	137/207	1,123/2,316
International	651/1,065	412/680	34/50	1,097/1,795
Grand Total	1,053/1,964	996/1,890	171/257	2,220/4,111

Attributes of respondents

The chart shows a breakdown of respondents by college, domestic and international students, and by the semester they were in at the time of response.

Looking at the results by college, the response rate of domestic students in ST is higher than that of other faculties. However, when analyzing results by semester, we found that lower-grade students tend to have higher response rates. This trend is particularly evident in ST, which is only had 1st semester students. Comparing domestic and international students, international students showed approximately 10% higher response rate.

Response Rate



Summary (Semester)

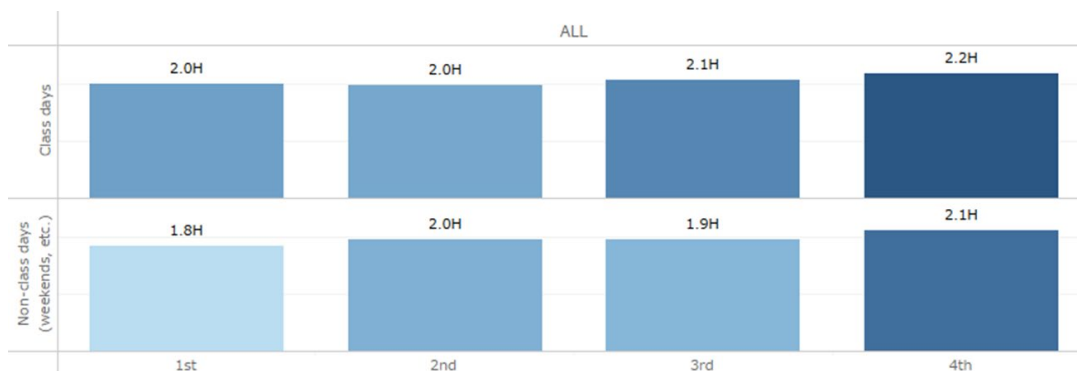
	APM	APS	ST	Grand Total
02	223/379	213/354	171/257	607/990
03	170/274	103/194		273/468
04	200/404	265/471		465/875
05	146/240	83/158		229/398
06	182/411	207/486		389/897
07	132/256	125/227		257/483
Grand Total	1,053/1,964	996/1,890	171/257	2,220/4,111

Response status

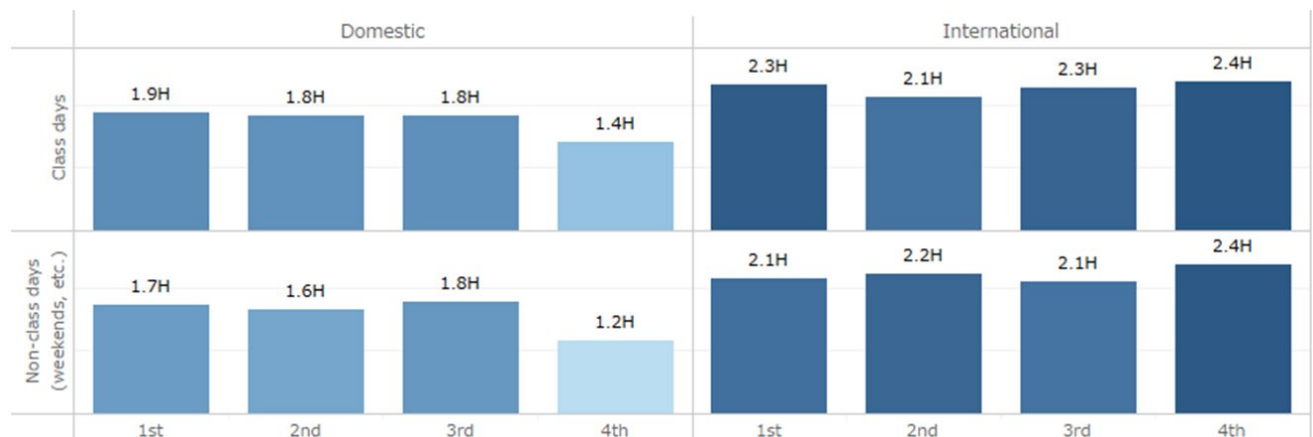
Learning time outside class

The following table shows students daily study time outside of classes during the semester. The options were converted to hours as follows, and the mean value was calculated.

Response options	Number of hours
a. No time	0 hour
b. Less than 30 minutes	0.25 hours
c. Between 30 minutes to 1 hour	0.75 hours
d. Between 1-2 hours	1.5 hours
e. Between 2-3 hours	2.5 hours
f. Between 3 to 4 hours	3.5 hours
g. Between 4-5 hours	4.5 hours
h. Up to 5 hours	5 hours



When comparing days without classes to days with classes, there is not much difference in study time. The results showed that fourth-year students spent the most time studying. Overall, average study time showed a slight increase compared to the previous fiscal year.

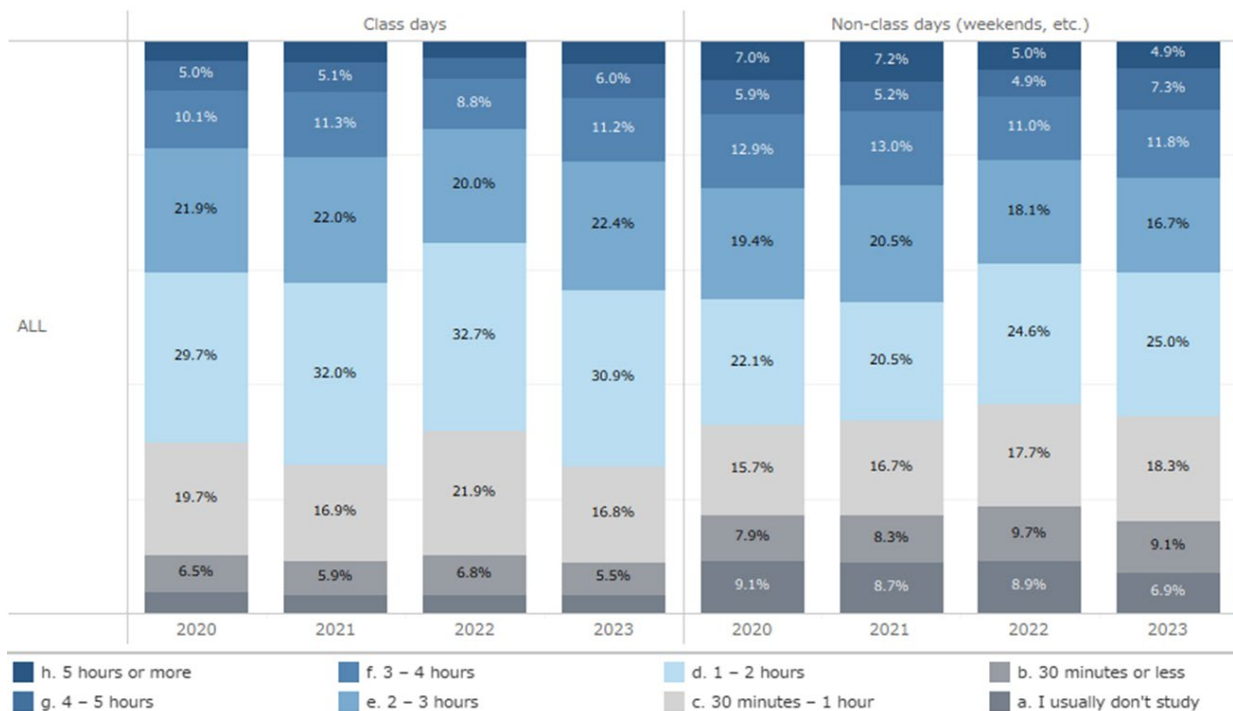


When comparing domestic and international students, data shows international students generally spend more time studying.

In addition, among domestic students, fourth -year students' study time was shorter compared to the overall average.

According to the "National Student Survey (3rd Trial Implementation)" conducted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in FY2022, 76% of the respondents answered that they spend less than 10 hours per week for preparation, review, assignments, and other class-related studies (excluding graduation theses, etc.) (0% for 12 hours, 63% for 1-5 hours, and 1% for 6-10 hours), while the percentage of APU students who answered less than 10 hours per week (less than 2 hours per day) is about 55%, and about 45% study more than 10 hours per week.¹ In addition, the percentage of students who answered 0 hours (no study) was 15.9% in the National Student Survey, while the percentage of APU students who answered 0 hours (no study) was lower at about 3.20% (days with classes) and about 7.25% (days without classes).

During the semester, approximately how many hours per day do you currently spend studying outside of class? (■ : more than one hour ■ : less than one hour)



¹ <https://www.mext.go.jp/kaigisiryoy/content/000245153.pdf>

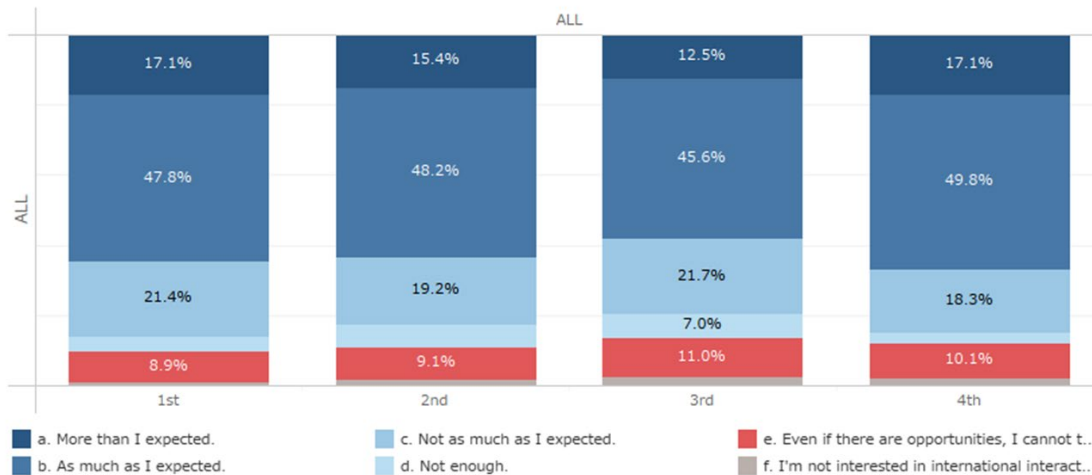
Cross-cultural exchange opportunities

The following are the results of the questions asked of the students about opportunities for international and cross-cultural exchange.

When asked whether there were enough opportunities for diverse international and cross-cultural exchange, about 65% of the respondents answered positively ("More than I expected" or "As much as I expected").

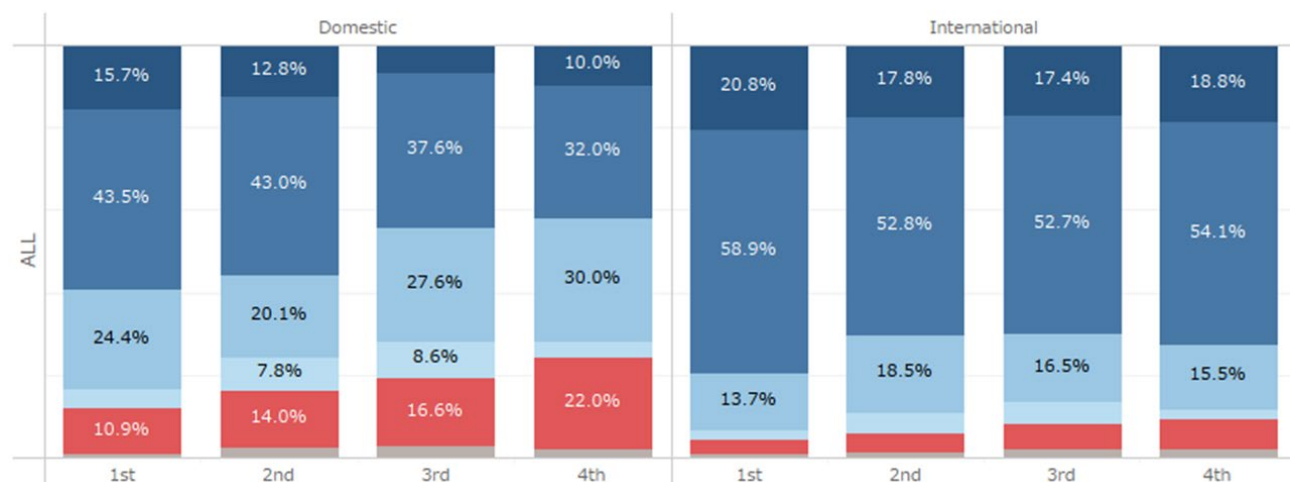
International exchange

APU consistently takes in students from 75 to 85 countries and regions. In addition to lectures, usually, there are many opportunities for international interactions during events and circle activities. Do you feel that there are enough opportunities for international and intercultural interactions from the student perspective?



In particular, during the Corona pandemic, there was an increase in the number of negative responses from domestic students (indicating either insufficient opportunities or inability to utilize existing opportunities), and 59.5% of students gave negative responses in 2021. In the FY2022 survey, both domestic and international students responded positively, but 39.2% of domestic students responded that they did not have enough opportunities or were not able to take advantage of them.

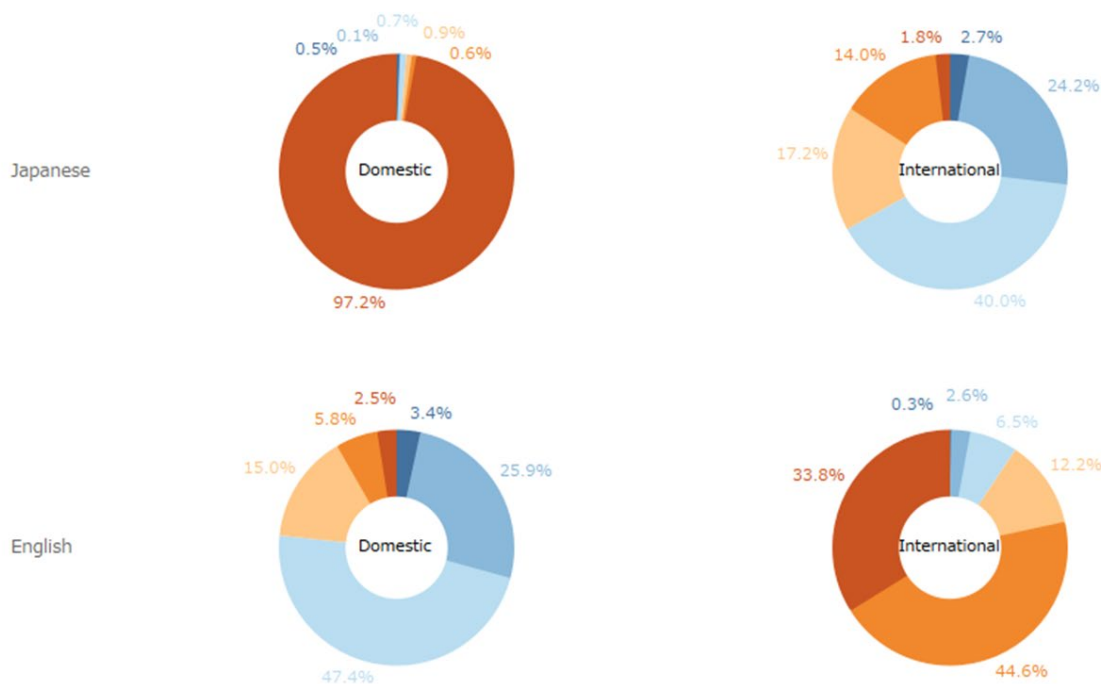
In this survey, the number of respondents who said that there are not enough opportunities for domestic students or that they are not taking advantage of the opportunities has decreased to 22.1%. In addition, the number of positive opinions from international students (73% of the respondents felt it was more than expected or expected) is also significant.



Level of use of the opposite language

The charts below show the results of responses to questions about the level of use of the language other than the student's base language (Japanese or English). While more than 97% of domestic students answered that "Japanese is my native language or native level." only about 34% of international students answered that "English is my native language or native level". (For about 70% of international students, English is not their native language either.)

More than 90% of international students (including native English speakers and those at native level) reported being able to joint discussions on a major or specialized topic or higher, while only 23% of domestic students answered that they are "at a level where they can discuss matters related to their field of expertise" or higher.



LV01:Very basic understanding of words and conversation.	■	LV04:Can join in discussions on major or specialized topics.	■
LV02:Can understand and express short phrases in daily life.	■	LV05:Have a high level of understanding, can express myself on a..	■
LV03:Can join in discussions on everyday matters.	■	LV06:Native language or native level.	■

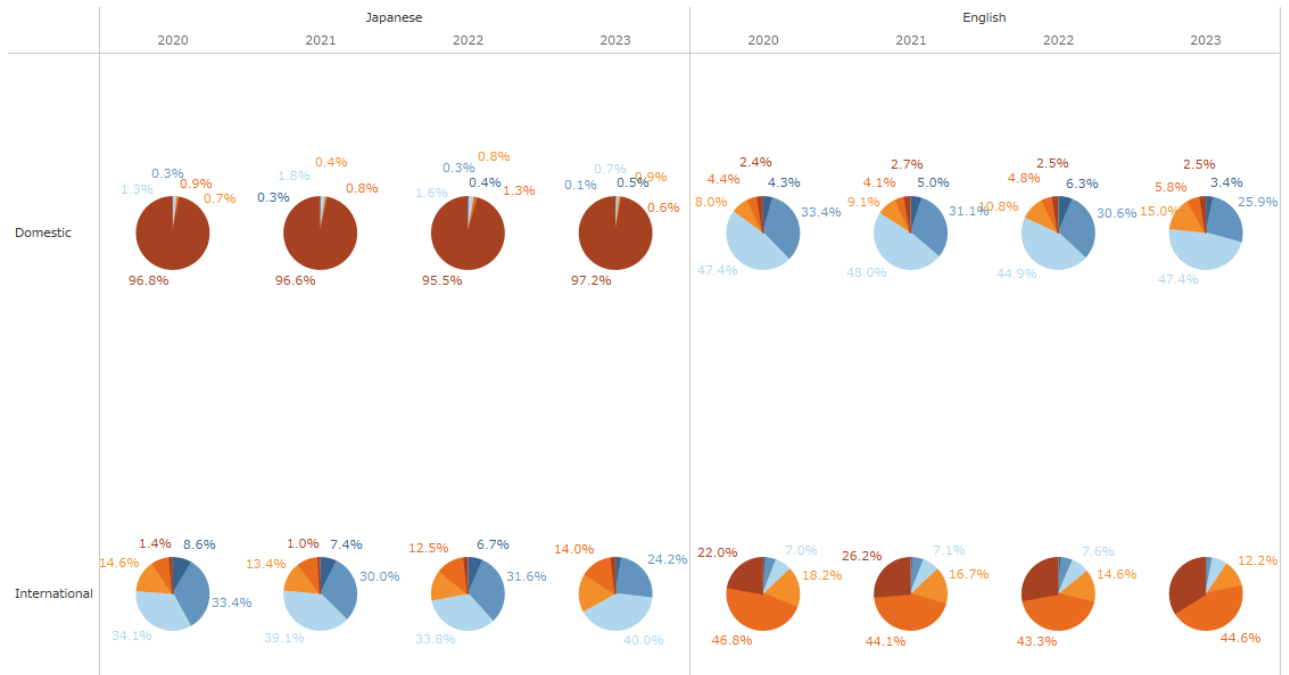
The majority of Domestic students answered that they "Can join in discussions on every day matters." or "Can understand and express short phrases in daily life." indicating that they have not yet reached the level where they can discuss specialized fields or various themes in English. However, the percentage of students who are able to use English to a certain extent is higher in comparison to last year's level of 15-18%.

In addition, 33% of international students (including those for whom Japanese is their "native language or level of Japanese" is Japanese) answered that they are "at a level where they can discuss matters related to their field of expertise" or higher, which is higher than the 23% of domestic students who answered that they are at the same level in English.

Looking at results from previous years, the percentage of students who answered are at the level where they "Can join in discussion on major or specialized topics." or higher has been increasing year by year. This was the first time that over 20% of domestic students (English) and 30% of international students (English) reached this level. The percentage of international students providing this response also exceeded 90% for the first time in English.

(Reference : Responses in Multiple Years)

Please choose the level that best describes your Japanese and English language abilities.



Sense of growth (abilities and qualities acquired since enrollment in APU)

Since AY2021, we have included the following question on APU Rubric competencies, "How much do you agree with achieving those competencies?"

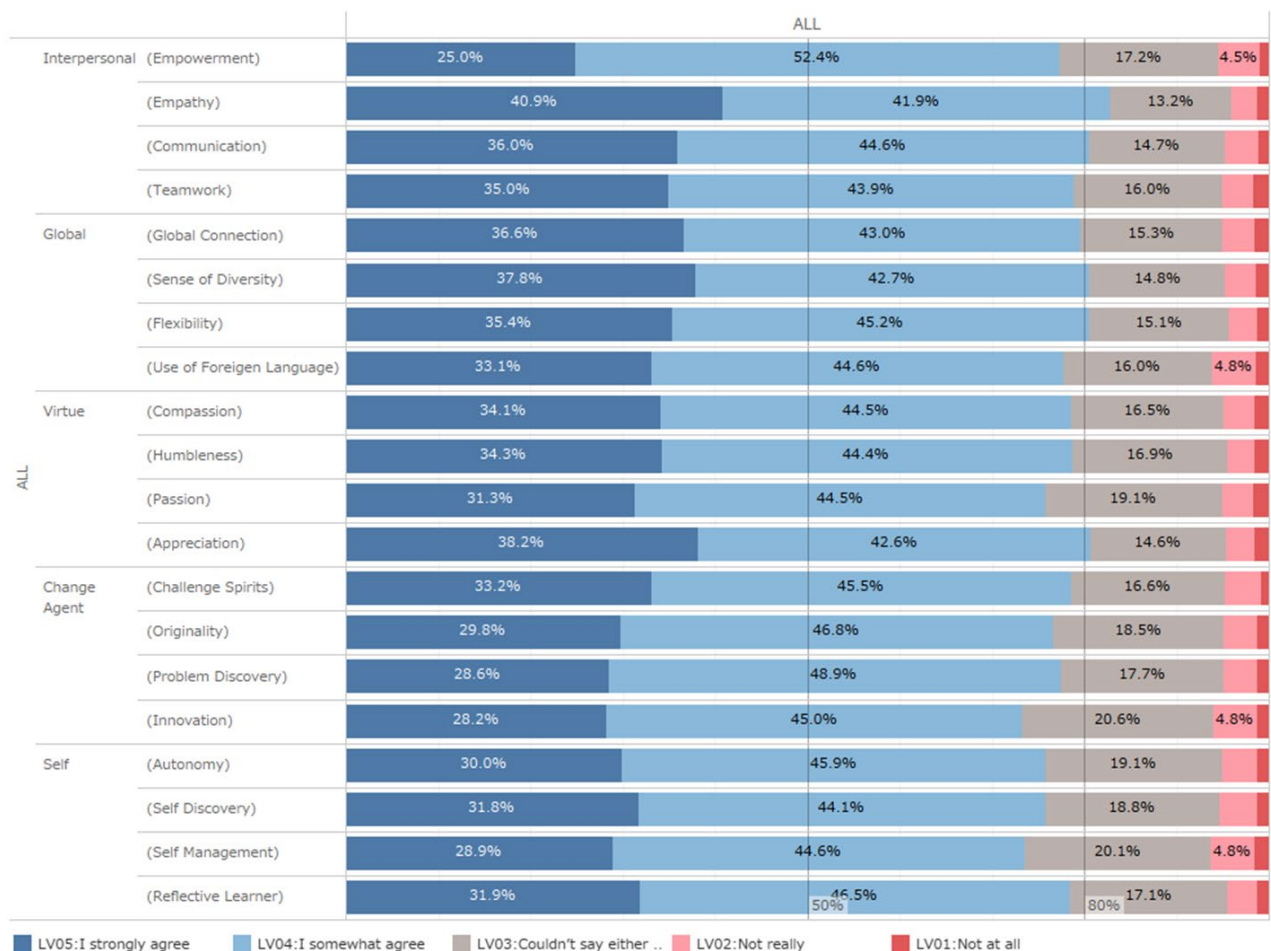
The competency with the highest sense of growth was "empathy" (understanding and accepting the emotions and cultural background of the person involved), and 82.8% of the respondents answered that they agreed they had acquired this skill ("strongly agree" or "somewhat agree").

The results of the AY2021 and AY2022 surveys were similar in terms of the number of responses to the same competency.

On the other hand, the competencies with a low sense of growth were "innovation" (taking actions to change the situation around oneself for the better and creating new and positive changes) and "self-management" (taking an objective view of oneself, strictly disciplined, and striving to improve with ambition), which were slightly less than 75%.

The AY2021 and AY2022 survey results revealed that "self discovery" showed the lowest sense of growth, ranking below "innovation". The competency with the lowest sense of growth was "self discovery" (development of one's own strengths and prominence of their individuality and characteristics while overcoming one's weaknesses), however this has risen slightly over "innovation" and "self-management".

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



Satisfaction with university life and sense of belonging

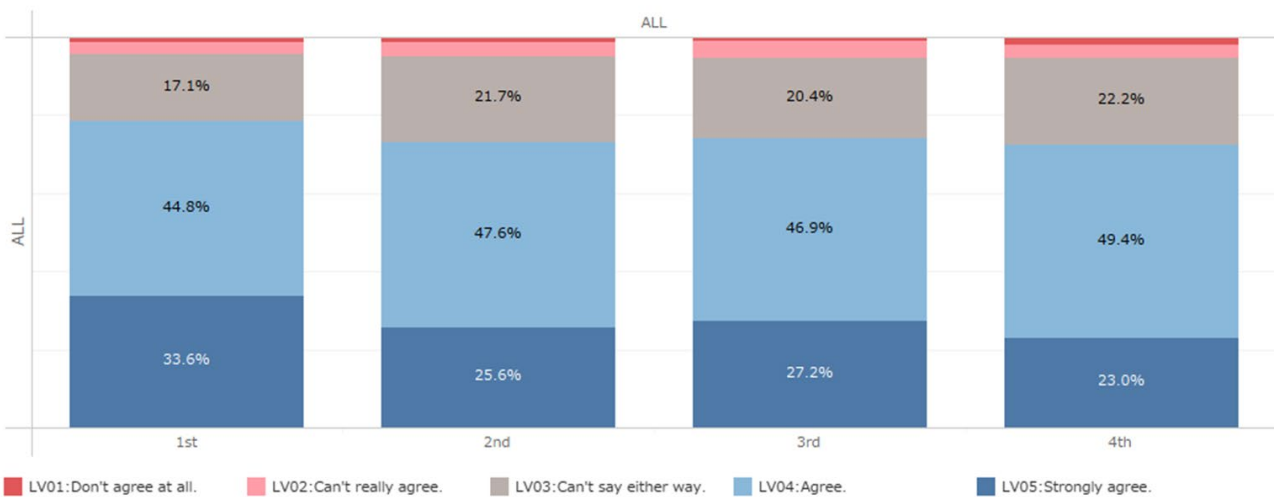
Students were asked about their level of satisfaction and sense of belonging through questions regarding about how proud they are to be an APU student (satisfaction) and how likely they would be to encourage their acquaintances and juniors to apply to APU (recommendation) are shown below.

Approximately 70% of students responded positively to both satisfaction and recommendation levels. This represent a slight upward trend since AY 2020.

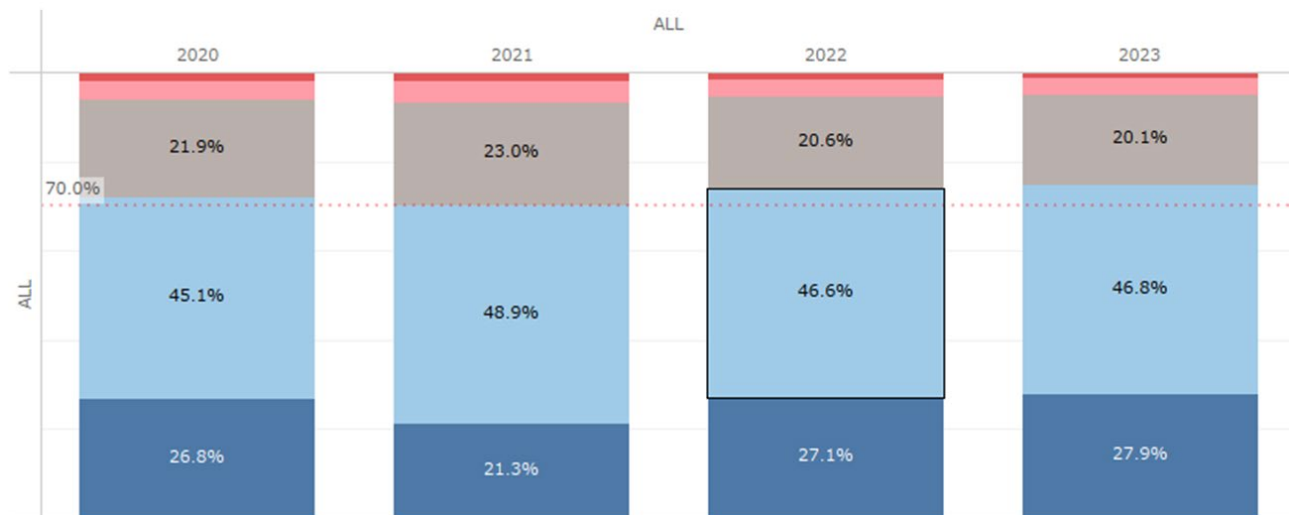
However; regarding the level of satisfaction, it is necessary to pay close attention to the changes over the year's from enrollment to graduation, as the level of satisfaction is lower among upper-class students when viewed by re-enrollment.

Proud to be an APU student

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



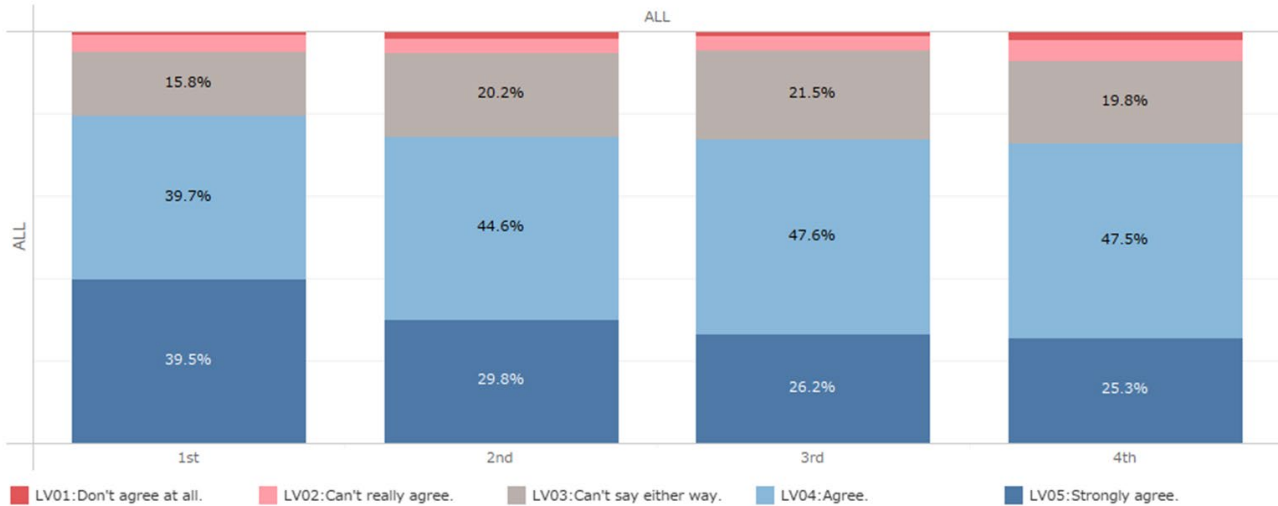
(Reference: Results from Multiple Years)



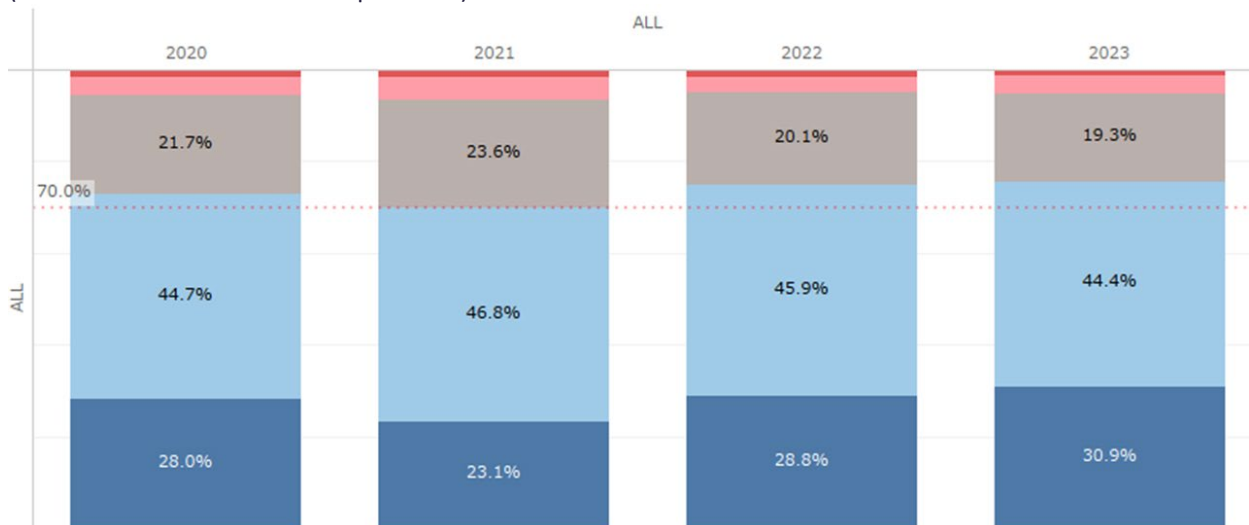
The overall percentage of respondents who would recommend APU ("strongly agree" or "agree") was 75.3%. This is higher than last year's 74.7%, which was the highest recommended rate in the past five years. In addition, since the distribution of responses is similar to that of satisfaction, it can be seen that there is a certain correlation between satisfaction and recommendation.

Encourage APU

Which best describes how you feel about the following statement: I encourage people I know who could make the most of the APU environment to apply to APU, including students younger than me that are not attending APU.



(Reference: Results from Multiple Years)



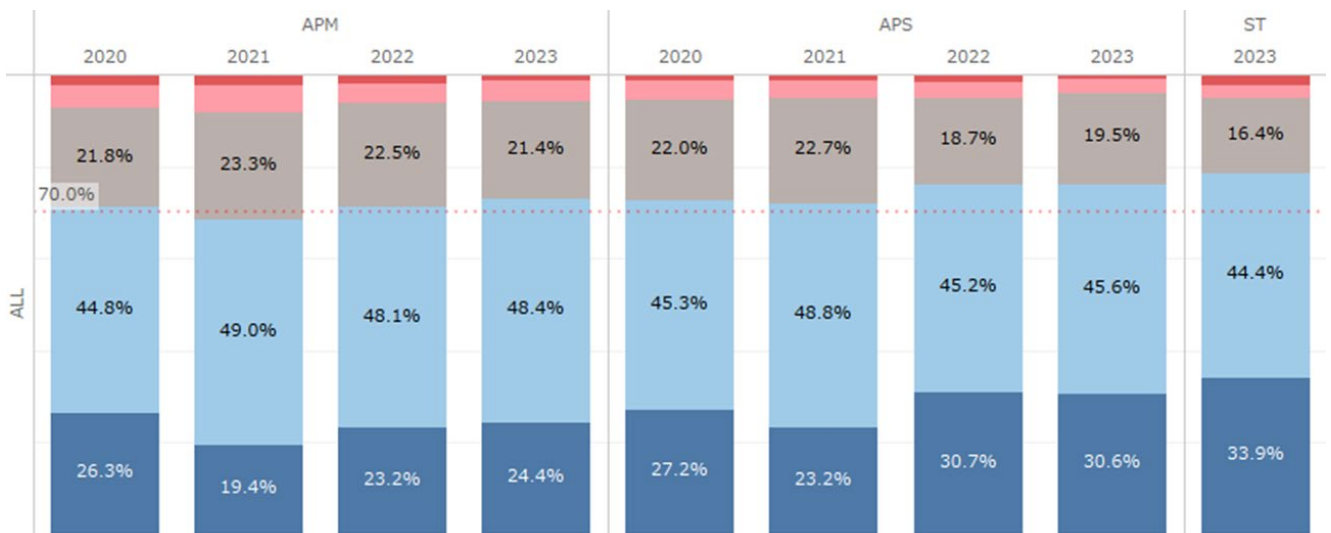
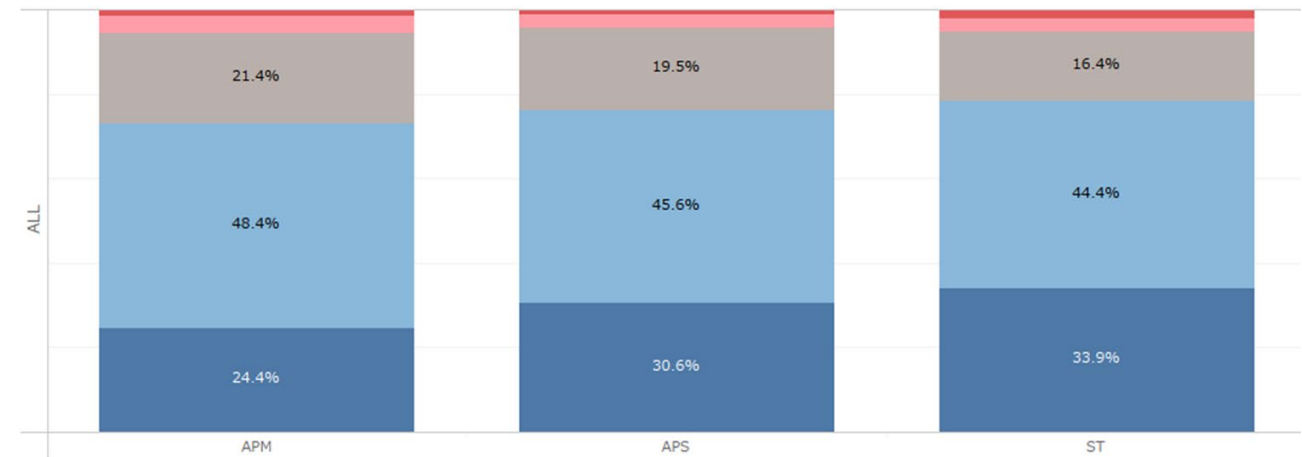
(Reference: Details of satisfaction and recommendation by College)

Satisfaction increased by +6.3 points (+0.3 points from AY2022) in APS and by +4.4 points (+1.5 points from AY2022) in APM in comparison to AY2021, when the least positive results were recorded.

As ST is a newly established college there is no historical data for comparison; however, it achieved the highest satisfaction rate among all college this year.

Proud to be an APU student

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

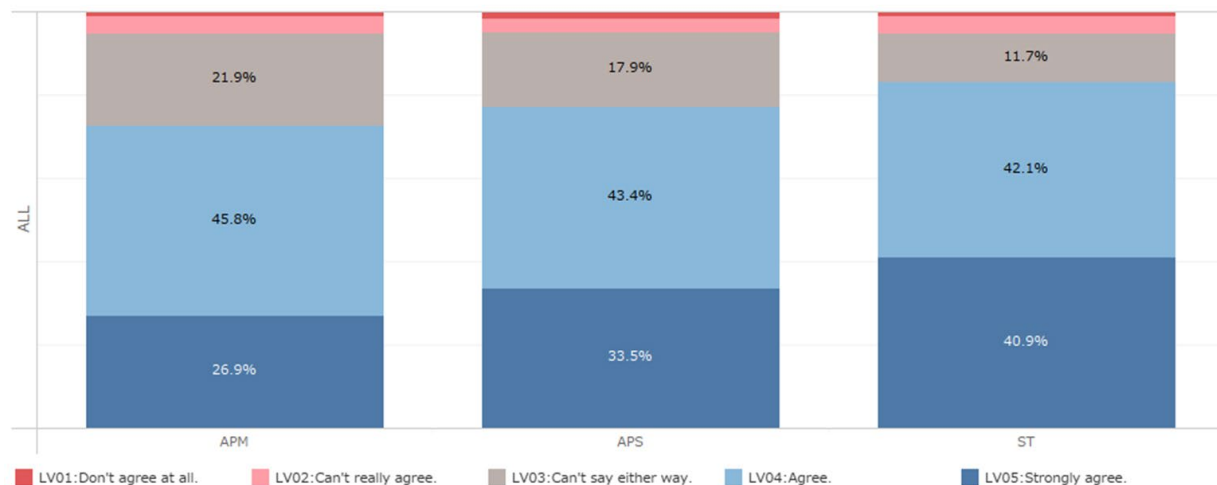


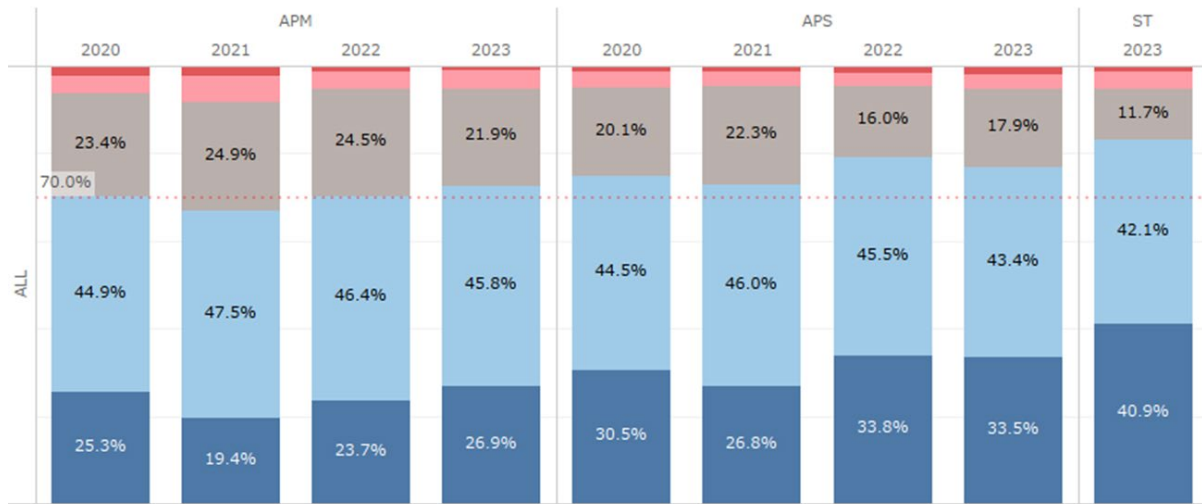
The degree of recommendation was almost the same as the degree of satisfaction.

The results indicate that there is a high degree of correlation between satisfaction and recommendation.

Encourage APU

Which best describes how you feel about the following statement: I encourage people I know who could make the most of the APU environment to apply to APU, including students younger than me that are not attending APU.





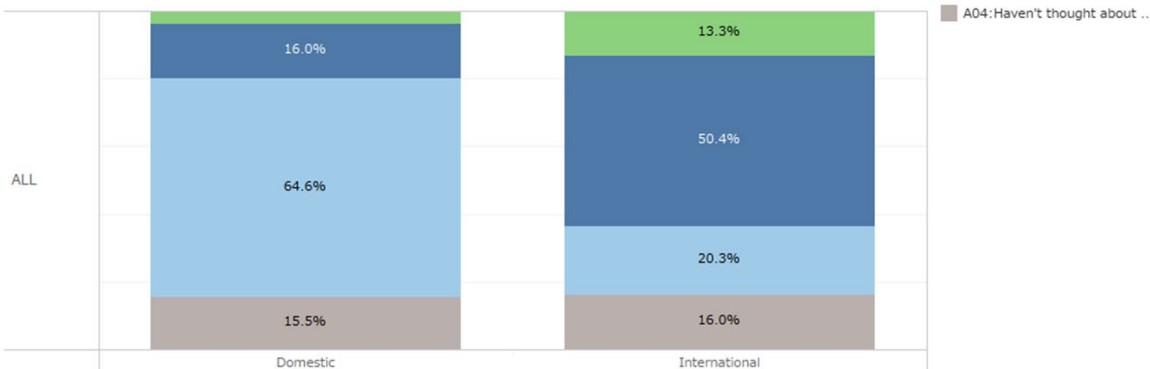
Career Plans

The following shows the results of questions relating pursuing higher education after graduation. More than 65% of domestic students answered that they would like to end their tertiary education at undergraduate level, about 50% of international students answered that they would like to pursue a master's degree and 13% would like to pursue a doctoral degree.

Compared to last year, the number of international students who wish to go on to master's degree has increased from 40% to 50%.

Career plan

What is the highest level of education you are seeking?

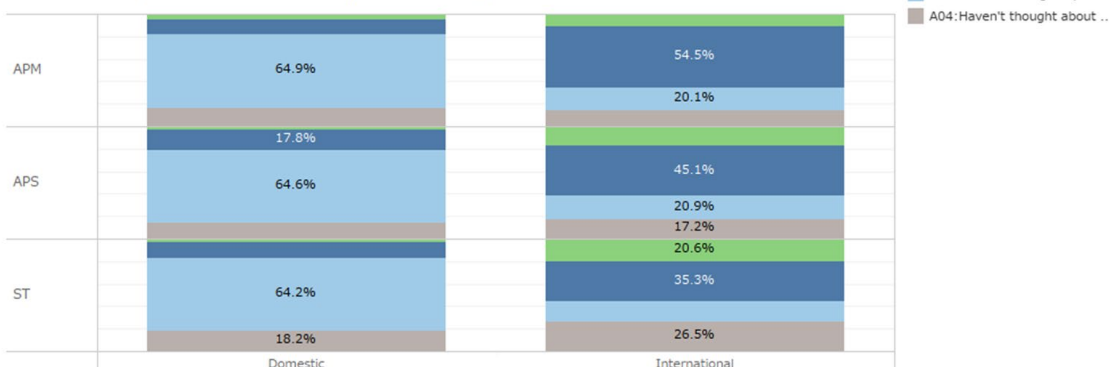


Looking at the results by college, there are no major differences among domestic students. The largest number of students who wish to pursue a master's degree is in APS, but the percentage of students who wish to pursue an undergraduate degree is almost the same.

The percentage of international students who wanted to end their studies at undergraduate level was almost the same. APM had the largest number of students wishing to pursue a master's degree, while ST had the largest number of students wishing to pursue a doctoral degree.

Career plan

What is the highest level of education you are seeking?



Concluding Remarks

<About 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) Li