

# A Notice for AY2015 Graduates about the APU Graduation Survey Results

## Messages from the President and the Deans



KORENAGA Shun  
President

Hello everyone. I hope you have all been doing well since your graduation from APU. I am writing to you to report on the results of the APU Graduation Survey that you completed when you graduated. Please let me take this opportunity to thank you again for your cooperation with this survey. As you know, APU conducts several types of surveys in an effort to get a better grasp on the student situation and improve university administration. Looking at your responses, you hold the multicultural environment we have spent the past 16 years creating in high regard, but some of you commented on improving the quality of education and student services. At APU, we aim to incorporate the voices of students and alumni into academic improvements, including the curriculum reforms scheduled for AY2017, faculty development activities, and other initiatives. As alumni, I hope you will keep your alma mater in mind and continue offering your frank input for the betterment of APU. I kindly request your cooperation and wish you continued success in all that you do.

### A Message for Graduates of APS

Hello College of Asia Pacific Studies alumni. Next academic year, the College of Asia Pacific Studies will implement reforms that aim to evolve the curriculum, making it easier for students to take full advantage of what APS has to offer. With this, we will enhance the specialization of each area of study to facilitate systematic enrollment and offer seamless advising to help students devise suitable plans for their studies from the point of admission until graduation. After ample discussion among the faculty and staff, we were able to create the plan for these reforms because we incorporated feedback from you in the form of survey results. You also commented extensively on the quality of lectures. Together with the new and improved curriculum, efforts to improve the quality of education are an integral part of the academic reforms, and this year, we have undertaken a series of faculty development initiatives to this end. Going forward, I hope you will continue to provide us with your input to help us make your alma mater even better.

TODOROKI Hiroshi  
Dean, College of Asia Pacific Studies

### A Message for Graduates of APM

Hello alumni of APM and GSM. First, let me thank you for cooperating with the Graduation Survey. This past August, APM and GSM were successfully accredited by AACSB, and we have implemented numerous reforms at both the undergraduate and graduate levels to get to where we are today.

Many of you graduated having acquired a global perspective from learning in our multicultural environment, and indeed, this is a goal of both APM and GSM. On the other hand, you have also pointed out several issues with academic affairs. We plan to seriously address these issues as we strive to further improve our college and graduate school. With AACSB accreditation comes expectations for continuous improvement. In five years, we will be re-screened, so I hope we can resolve as many of the academic issues that you raised as possible by then.

Your feedback will be invaluable in this continuous improvement process. Going forward, I intend to hold discussions with alumni from the various Alumni Association chapters around the globe, and I kindly ask you to offer your frank appraisal of our activities. I wish you all success in your future endeavors.

OTAKE Toshitsugu  
Dean, College of International Management

## Summary of the AY2015 Graduation Survey Results

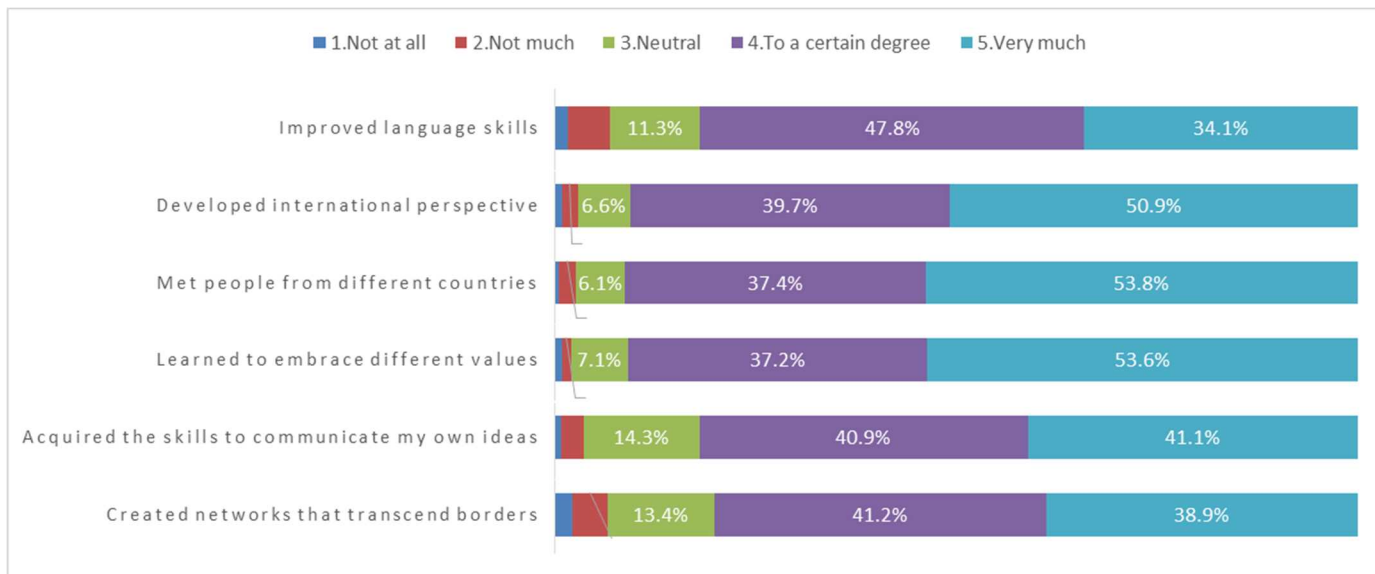
- Survey Period  
Fall 2015 graduates: July 23 - September 11, 2015 / Spring 2016 graduates: February 15 - March 20, 2016
- Survey Target / Number of Valid Responses

	Domestic/International	2015 Fall			2016 Spring			Total
		APS	APM	Subtotal	APS	APM	Subtotal	
Number of Research Subjects	Domestic Student	51	29	80	323	198	521	601
	International Student	79	194	273	77	114	191	464
	Total	130	223	353	400	312	712	1065
Number of Respondents	Domestic Student	44	23	67	313	189	502	569
	International Student	75	167	242	72	100	172	414
	Total	119	190	309	385	289	674	983
Response Rate	Domestic Student	86.3%	79.3%	83.8%	96.9%	95.5%	96.4%	94.7%
	International Student	94.9%	86.1%	88.6%	93.5%	87.7%	90.1%	89.2%
	Total	91.5%	85.2%	87.5%	96.3%	92.6%	94.7%	92.3%

## Results (Excerpts from the Graduation Survey)

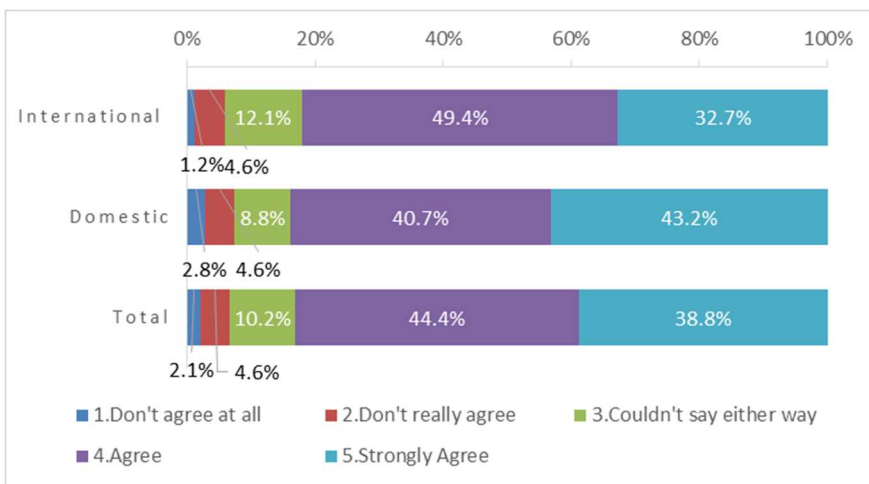
Please indicate the degree to which you experienced growth in the following areas as a student at APU.

Over 90% of respondents selected “very much” or “to a certain degree” when asked if they were able to “develop international perspective” or “meet people from different countries,” and this shows that APU’s unique multicultural environment is having a positive impact on its students.



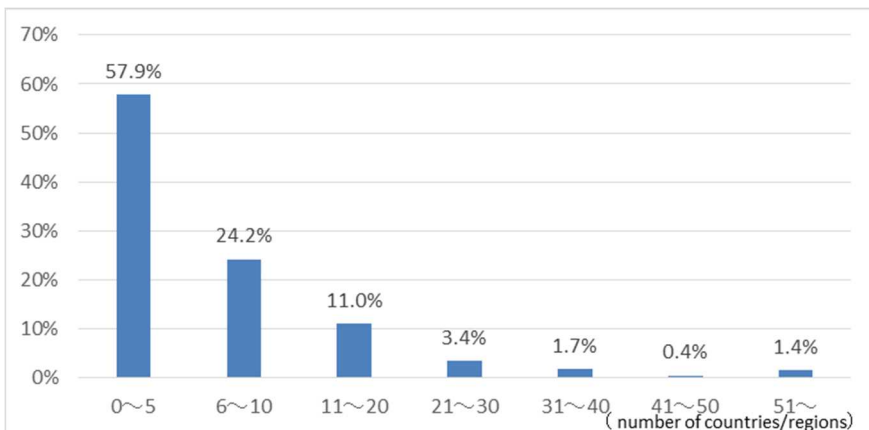
Which best describes how you feel about the following statement: ‘I am proud to be an APU student’?

About 80% of both international and domestic students said they are “proud” or “somewhat proud” to be APU students. In particular, over 40% of domestic students said they are proud to be APU students, which indicates they are more satisfied with APU than international students.



## Number of Friends of Other Nationalities

About 40% of students said they have friends from at least six different countries and regions.



## Open-Ended Comments

A total of 418 students (40% of all respondents) left comments in the open-ended comments box. About 60% of all comments were positive, and they focused primarily on four topics: individual actions, experiences and changes; the multicultural environment and international exchange; APU students and friends; and extracurricular activities. This suggests that respondents are satisfied with the personal growth they have achieved through a range of positive experiences on APU's multicultural campus, including making friends with various values and backgrounds and participating in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Meanwhile, about 30% of comments touched on improvements that APU should make, with a primarily focus on (i) office counter services, student support, and information dispatching, and (ii) education (i.e., specialization and lecture content). The remaining 10% of comments concerned other matters.

### *Excerpts from the Open-Ended Comment Box*

- I think it was good to spend time at APU where various cultures come into contact with each other because it broadened my horizons and taught me how to think about things more flexibly. I realized that communication will become increasingly important for people to understand each other, and I gained a sense of enjoyment from learning how easy it can be to change your own perceptions and how hard it can be to get others to understand something. I think this is what makes APU a good environment.
- During my job search, I was impressed at how hard the staff in the Career Office work to provide students with job placement support. If the Campusmate explanation session reservation system and other systems could all be viewed in one calendar, I think it would make it easier for job-hunting students to conduct their job search on campus.
- APU is a very good school. I was exposed to many different values which allowed me to become a person with broader horizons. I also met friends who helped me grow as a person. That being said, I wanted more events and classes that afforded me the opportunity to get to know more international students. Students in their third year who have returned from study abroad are highly motivated; it is a shame that this is not taken advantage of.
- I wish that the classes offered in English had more discussion. Once we reach the third or fourth year, most of us have completed our English classes, so the university should create opportunities for us to speak English.
- APU has broadened my views about the world and Japan. This environment has trained me to be globalized with advanced intercultural communication skills. I often call this knowledge the "APU Mind". Thanks to this kind of training, I joined many Multicultural Weeks at APU with ease, from the member level to higher leadership positions. I utilized my skills to work, discuss and conduct research with students from many backgrounds in the seminar classes. In the local community, I was very active in exchange with local people. Being chief coordinator for many cultural events in the local area was one of the most wonderful experiences I had during my time at APU. To be honest, APU has changed my character, and yes, it did "shape my world".
- I think I got a lot of help from APU especially regarding my career path. I cannot imagine myself being enrolled in my home country and doing job hunting by myself. And during my job hunting activities, I think I experienced how companies highly evaluate APU and its international environment.
- There should be more support services for student life for both Japanese and international students, as it is our first time out in the world as adults, and a lot of times we need assistance or guidance in everyday events.
- It has been great journey since I first entered the university with the great people I encountered. I believe APU is the best place for anyone who would like to develop social skills and to experience diverse cultures. However, in order to continue developing APU as the best international university, it needs to strengthen the educational side as well. The university needs more variety in major subject selection, and it also has to have more qualified and enthusiastic professors. If that can be done, I have no doubt that APU will satisfy many of the students who are thirsty for professional learning.

We are already using your comments from this survey to make APU an even better place. For example, in AY2016, we held a staff development session called "Using Student Feedback to Make a Better APU." Going forward, we will continue taking concrete action aimed at advancing the university. Thanks again to all of you who cooperated with the Graduation Survey. As you reflect on your time at APU, if there is anything else you would like to let us or the currently enrolled students know about, feel free to contact us at the e-mail address below.