



Intercultural Fluency - Students (Vancouver Campus)

	Vancouver	Okanagan
	2012/13	2012/13
% of 4th year graduating students who reported an improvement in their comfort working with people from other cultures since starting at UBC	57%	
% of 4th year graduating students who report that they currently are very good or excellent at working with other cultures	73%	
% of 4th year graduating students reporting an increase in their understanding of racial and ethnic differences/issues since starting at UBC	55%	35%
% of 4th year graduating students reporting that they currently have a very good or excellent understanding of racial and ethnic differences/issues	66%	76%
% of 4th year graduating students who reported an improvement in their ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity since starting at UBC		39%
% of 4th year graduating students who report that they currently are very good or excellent at appreciating cultural and global diversity		71%

Description

Data is from the Undergraduate Experience Survey.

- It is a comparison of responses from two questions:
 - As a UBC student, how would you rate your competencies when you started here?
 - How would you rate your current ability?
- It measures the following:
 - Comfort working with people from other cultures (asked only on the Vancouver campus)
 - Understanding racial and ethnic differences/issues
 - Ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity (asked only on the Okanagan campus)
- Scale used: Very Poor, Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good, Excellent
- For filtering purposes, student year level is determined by linking to data from SISC. “Graduating students” are respondents who self-report on the UES that they intend to graduate and not return next year.

Person with lead responsibility for this metric: Director, VPS Portfolio Initiatives; Director, Campus Research and Analysis

Data collection will be from: Undergraduate Experiences Survey

Date: May 1 to April 30 (Academic Year)

Explanation of Results

UBC students report arriving with a fairly high level of intercultural fluency:

- 41% (Vancouver) and 57% (Okanagan) of 4th years reported having arrived with Very Good or Excellent ability to understand ethnic and racial differences, and another 32% (V) and 31% (O) reported Good ability (73% (V) 89% (O) good, very good or excellent)
- On the Vancouver campus, 48% of 4th year students reported having started UBC with Very Good or Excellent ability to work with other cultures, and another 29% reported Good ability (77% Good, Very Good or Excellent)
- A slightly different question was posed to students on the Okanagan campus about the ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity and 48% reported Very Good or Excellent with an additional 36% indicating Good when they started at UBC (85% Good, Very Good or Excellent)

Even starting with this fairly high baseline, time at UBC does show improvements for the majority of students:

- 53% of 4th year students on the Vancouver campus reported an increase in their ability to understand ethnic and racial differences, and
- 56% of 4th year students reported an increase in their ability to work with other cultures.
- 35% of Graduating 4th years students on the Okanagan campus reported an increase in their ability to



understand and appreciate racial and ethnic differences, while 39% reported an increase in their ability to appreciate cultural and global diversity.

Overall, UBC graduating students report a relatively high level of intercultural competencies at graduation:

- 73% of students report Very Good or Excellent comfort in working with other cultures, with a further 19% reporting Good comfort (92% Good, Very Good or Excellent)
- 66% (V) and 76% (O) of graduating 4th year students report Very Good or Excellent ability to understand racial and ethnic differences, with a further 26% (V) and 19% (O) reporting a Good ability level. (92% (V), 95% (O) Good, Very Good or Excellent)

UBC is currently developing an intercultural strategy that will, in part, support the further development of these intercultural competencies among students.

Students gain these intercultural skills in a variety of ways. UBC currently supports students to gain intercultural competencies through a variety of mechanisms:

- Through their coursework and academic study
- Diversity programming
- Providing space for dialogues through open booking
- Experiential learning opportunities and programming through Go Global and Community Service Learning, Centre for Student Involvement and Careers, international student development services, UBC Rec, and Residence Life
- Student Union Clubs, including cultural clubs, issue based clubs and general clubs

Recommended Action

Identify priorities and strategies to further deepen intercultural understanding through the intercultural strategic planning process and in response to the equity review.