

LINGNAN UNIVERSITY
Non-academic Background of New Students 2018/19

1. Objectives

The report gives a summary of findings of the survey on the non-academic background of new full-time local undergraduate students admitted by Lingnan University in the year 2018/19. The findings may facilitate the planning of student services and facilities. It is hoped that the data will also be useful to academic staff and other interested parties in knowing more about our newly-admitted students.

2. Methodology

The survey was conducted in August 2018. Questionnaires were sent to all new full-time local undergraduate students at Reporting Days or New Student Orientation (NSO). Students were asked to return the completed questionnaires at the end of NSO. Participation was entirely voluntary.

3. Response Rate

As at 31 Oct 2018, a total of 736 new students registered for a full-time local undergraduate degree programme in the University which includes 604 first year intakes and 132 senior year intakes, of whom 629 responded to this survey which includes 528 first year intakes and 101 senior year intakes, representing an overall response rate of 85.5% (Last Year: 85.4%).

4. Personal Particulars

4.1 Sex

The ratio of female respondents and male respondents were 1:0.60 including full time local first year intakes and senior year intakes. The ratio of female students and male students registered with the University were 1:0.59 including full time local first year intakes and senior year intakes.

4.2 Age (As at 1 September 2018)

89.8% of the respondents were between 17 and 20 years old and 21.1% of the respondents were below 18. The overall average was 18.5.

Age (as at 1 Sept 2018)	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
17 or below	21.2	17.4	16.4	16.1	16.7
18	44.9	44.5	41.2	51.3	48.8
19	12.9	17.6	21.6	14.7	18.0
20	11.0	10.7	12.3	9.0	10.5
21	6.0	5.6	4.4	4.9	4.3
22	2.0	1.6	2.9	3.2	1.4
23-24	1.3	2.1	0.9	0.8	0.2
25-26	0.5	0.5	0.2	0	0
27-29	0.2	0	0.2	0	0
30 or above	0	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Mean	18.5	18.6	18.6	18.6	18.5

4.3 Years of Residence in Hong Kong

78.9% of the respondents were born in Hong Kong while 21.1% of the respondents were born outside Hong Kong.

Years of residence in Hong Kong (as at 1 Sept 2018)		% of Respondents				
		2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Born in Hong Kong	Since birth	74.0	72.3	72.2	70.3	72.4
	7 years or more (not since birth)	4.3	3.9	4.9	5.2	6.7
	3 to less than 7 years (not since birth)	0.3	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.4
	Less than 3 years (not since birth)	0.3	0	0.3	0.2	0
Not born in Hong Kong	7 years or more	15.8	19.4	18.3	14.6	11.7
	3 to less than 7 years	1.6	1.6	1.2	2.0	2.1
	Less than 3 years	3.7	2.0	1.5	7.2	6.7
Total		100	100	100	100	100

4.4 Religion

78.5% of the respondents indicated that they had no religious belief, 14.8% of the respondents were Protestants/ Christians.

Religion	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
No religious belief	79.5	78.5	74.6	73.6	75.6
Buddhist	1.6	1.8	1.7	3.9	2.5
Catholic	2.4	1.8	3.4	1.8	1.7
Islam	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.7	0
Protestant/Christian	14.3	14.8	15.8	16.1	18.2
Traditional Chinese religion	0.9	2.3	2.4	1.8	0.8
Others	0.8	0.5	1.2	2.0	1.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

5. Living Condition

5.1 District of Residence

The survey shows that 13.9 of the respondents lived on Hong Kong Island, 26.2% in Kowloon and 57.7% in the New Territories. Students came from various districts, but relatively speaking, more students live in Yuen Long (12.7%), Tuen Mun (10.7%) and Kwun Tong (9.9%). This was the first time in five years that less than 60% of respondents were from New Territories.

Residential Districts	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Hong Kong Island					
Central & Western	1.7	2.6	1.0	1.0	1.7
Wan chai	1.9	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.4
Eastern	7.9	5.3	6.8	6.1	6.0
Southern	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.4	2.9
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>13.9</i>	<i>10.2</i>	<i>10.6</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>

Kowloon					
Yau Tsim Mong	1.4	1.8	2.6	1.7	3.3
Sham Shui Po	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.9	4.2
Kowloon City	3.3	3.0	5.6	3.9	2.9
Wong Tai Shin	7.2	7.7	3.9	6.2	6.3
Kwun Tong	9.9	7.9	8.5	7.9	9.0
Subtotal	26.2	24.8	25.0	24.6	25.7
New Territories					
Kwai Tsing	7.2	9.2	9.1	7.6	8.3
Tsuen Wan	3.2	5.6	3.9	4.4	3.8
Tuen Mun	10.7	9.0	10.4	12.1	12.1
Yuen Long	12.7	13.0	14.0	11.3	10.2
North (e.g. Sheung Shui, Fanling, etc.)	3.7	5.7	5.8	4.2	5.6
Tai Po	4.0	3.3	2.9	2.9	3.1
Sha Tin	7.3	8.4	6.7	10.5	8.5
Sai Kung	7.2	6.2	6.2	7.1	6.5
Islands	1.7	3.6	4.1	1.9	2.1
Subtotal	57.7	64	63.1	62	60.2
Others	2.2	1.0	1.2	3.6	3.1
Total	100	100	100	100	100

5.2 Travelling Time

Most of the respondents (76.1%) spent more than 1 hour on a return trip between home and the University.

Travelling Time (in minutes)	% of Respondents		
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Less than 60	23.8	27.9	28.5
60-119	43.7	43.8	42.5
120-179	17.6	16.2	17.1
180-240	9.7	8.7	9.2
More than 240	5.2	3.4	2.7
Total	100	100	100

5.3 Type of Housing

The survey reveals that majority of the respondents (59.9%) lived in public or Home Ownership Scheme flats.

Type of Housing	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Private flats	36.3	32.5	33.2	38.7	38.7
Public rental/sale flats & Home Ownership Scheme flats	59.9	61.9	63.4	57.8	56.7
Others	3.8	5.6	3.4	3.5	4.6
Total	100	100	100	100	100

5.4 Study Environment at Home

Slightly more than half of the respondents (59.9%) have their own rooms in their living areas.

Home Environment	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Own Room	59.9	57.1	54.4	58.2	56.2

5.5 Size of Household

The average size of household and also the most common household size are 4 people, which are similar to the previous years.

Household Size	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
1	0.8	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2
2	7.3	7.6	5.2	4.6	6.2
3	31.5	27.7	28.9	27.0	26.6
4	39.6	42.1	43.3	40.8	43.7
5	15.3	14.6	15.3	17.4	13.9
6	3.8	4.1	4.8	6.9	7.3
7	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.9	0.2

8	0.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
9 or above	0.2	0	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Average size	3.8	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9

6. Parent Background

6.1 Parents' Highest Educational Attainment

The survey shows that around 17% of fathers & mothers had undertaken post-secondary education, which was the highest among the past few years.

Highest Educational Attainment	% of Respondents					
	Father			Mother		
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
No Formal Schooling	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.2	4.5	3.6
Primary School	22.5	27.5	25.0	22.7	24.3	24.8
Secondary School	55.6	55.4	56.8	57.2	60.6	59.6
Post-Secondary	17.3	13.3	14.6	16.9	10.6	12.0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

6.2 Monthly Household Income

29.6% of the respondents' household incomes were less than HK\$20,000 per month. Surprisingly 21.3% of the respondents' household incomes were over HK\$40,000 per month and increased by 12.1% when comparing to 2017/18.

Monthly Household Income (HK\$)	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Under 10,000	6.2	7.7	9.4	7.4	11.1
10,000 to 19,999	23.4	27.7	27.7	28.5	28.7
20,000 to 29,999	24.8	26.2	26.4	24.3	25.1
30,000 to 39,999	13.5	17.2	14.9	13.7	13.2
40,000 to above	21.3	9.2	11.6	13.8	8.8
Not applicable	10.8	12.0	9.9	12.3	13.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

6.3 Occupation of Parents

The pattern of occupation of the parents are similar to the previous year.

Occupation	% of Respondents					
	Father			Mother		
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Manager/ administrator	13.7	13.2	12.6	6.4	6	5.7
Professional	5.9	3.7	6.1	5.2	3.5	3.8
Associate professional	3.5	3.7	4.0	1.9	2.3	3.6
Clerk	4.9	4.5	4.7	11.9	11.3	11.2
Service worker/ shop sales worker	12.1	11.9	11.1	15.4	16.7	15.3
Craft & related worker	10.0	9.9	9.8	1.3	1.8	1.9
Plant and machine operator/ assembler	5.9	7.8	7.9	0.8	1	0.3
Elementary occupation	6.8	8.5	9.3	5.1	5	7.2
Skilled agricultural/ fishery worker/occupations not classifiable	7.0	5.8	5.8	1.3	1.3	1.4
Housewife	0.2	0.2	0.5	38.0	40.4	40.8
Not applicable	30.0	30.8	28.1	12.7	10.7	8.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

6.5 Source of Financial Support for University Education

The survey shows that the majority of the respondents (first year intakes and senior year intakes) relied on the family to finance their university education.

Degree of Dependence (%)	% of Respondents					
	Family Contribution	Personal savings	Part-time work	Government Grant/ Loan	Scholarship	Others
0	6.5	54.8	50.9	74.7	91.1	97.1
1-19	5.6	25.1	27.2	4.5	6.2	1.3
20-39	9.7	15.0	13.2	4.8	2.1	1.1
40-59	14.1	4.1	5.6	5.2	0.3	0.5
60-79	10.2	0.2	1.9	3.8	0.3	/

80-100	53.9	0.8	1.2	7	/	/
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

7. Travelling Experiences

Only 2.5% of the respondents had no travelling experience outside Hong Kong and this was the first time the figure was lower than 3%.

Travelling Experiences	% of Respondents				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
No travelling experiences	2.5	4.9	4.1	7.6	5.7
Mainland China	25.4	30.2	30.6	35.6	41.1
Other Asian Countries	64.4	65.4	61.8	56.3	54.6
Countries outside Asia	25.8	21.5	21.0	23.1	26.9

8. Preferences for Extra-curricular Activities While at University

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferences for participation in different types of activities while at University. They ranked Academic-related Activities, Cultural and Recreational Activities as the top two activities that they would like to participate most in Lingnan and the pattern was similar with previous years. However, it was surprising that fewest people would like to serve on Students' Union or other student bodies and this was the first time this category ranked the lowest among the choices.

Rank	Type of Activities				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
1	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities
2	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities
3	Leadership Programmes/ Personal Skills Training	Social/ Community Services	Leadership Programmes/ Personal Skills Training	Social/ Community Services	Social/ Community Services
4	Social/ Community Services	Leadership Programmes/ Personal Skills Training	Social/ Community Services	Leadership Programmes/ Personal Skills Training	Leadership Programmes/ Personal Skills Training

5	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports
6	Serve on Religious Activities	Serve on Students' Union/ Other Student Bodies	Serve on Students' Union/ Other Student Bodies	Serve on Students' Union/ Other Student Bodies	Serve on Students' Union/ Other Student Bodies
7	Students' Union/ Other Student Bodies	Religious Activities	Religious Activities	Religious Activities	Religious Activities

9. Self-Assessment of Skills and Abilities

9.1 Common Survey Questions among SSC, OSL and OGE

Students were asked to indicate how much they agreed with the following statements which are common survey questions regarding skills and abilities among Student Services Centre, Office of Service-Learning and Office of Global Education. Questionnaire surveys are conducted before and after students joining the experiential learning programmes offered by the three offices. The self-evaluation on abilities and skills by the respondents are as follows:

Common Survey Questions	Rating of Respondents (1 strongly disagree and 10 strongly agree)				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
<i>Interpersonal Skills</i>	7.26	7.18	7.11	7.17	7.34
I feel comfortable building relationships with people from different backgrounds.	7.21	7.21	7.09	7.19	7.39
I learn from interpersonal relationships.	7.42	7.25	7.18	7.27	7.35
I cooperate successfully with other students in a variety of situations.	7.16	7.09	7.05	7.05	7.28
<i>Communication Skills</i>	6.71	6.76	6.71	6.69	6.96
I feel comfortable to present my ideas in front of others.	6.75	6.79	6.72	6.73	7.04
I know how to communicate my ideas in a situation that is new to me.	6.75	6.81	6.72	6.69	6.98
I participate effectively in group discussions and activities.	6.63	6.68	6.69	6.64	6.87
<i>Management Skills</i>	6.63	6.58	6.53	6.53	6.79
I trust my abilities to lead others.	6.51	6.54	6.45	6.47	6.81
I know how to allocate tasks to group members.	6.54	6.53	6.48	6.47	6.66
I can plan activities independently.	6.81	6.67	6.67	6.64	6.89
<i>Problem Solving & Analytical Abilities</i>	7.13	7.12	7.02	6.97	7.22
I feel confident in tackling problems.	6.77	6.81	6.68	6.63	6.99
I understand that problems usually have more than one cause.	7.49	7.40	7.32	7.31	7.52
Before I solve a problem, I gather as	7.14	7.16	7.06	6.98	7.14

many facts about the problem as I can.					
<i>Social Responsibility & Civic Awareness</i>	7.31	7.23	7.23	7.31	7.42
It is my responsibility to help improve the community.	7.23	7.20	7.20	7.28	7.40
I believe that taking care of people who are in need is everyone's responsibility.	7.44	7.38	7.37	7.54	7.58
I act as if my behaviors make a difference in other people's lives.	7.26	7.11	7.13	7.11	7.28
<i>Global Perspective</i>	7.48	7.35	7.31	7.27	7.55
I like to explore and appreciate new cultures.	7.71	7.55	7.54	7.48	7.80
I have the sense of the global dimensions of citizenship.	7.35	7.20	7.16	7.12	7.38
I am able to work with people from other cultural backgrounds.	7.37	7.31	7.22	7.22	7.48

9.2 Self-Assessment of Abilities and Skills

Students were asked to assess their various abilities. The top three ratings of abilities and skills were Independence, Chinese writing ability and communication skill, which were exactly the same with last year. On the other hand, more respondents rated themselves weak in computer literacy, leadership and time-management. In overall, the overall average ratings were higher than previous years.

Areas of Abilities	Rating of Respondents (1 very weak and 5 very strong)				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Independence	3.70	3.57	3.60	3.63	3.70
Chinese writing ability	3.61	3.52	3.51	3.63	3.72
Communication skill	3.55	3.48	3.51	3.51	3.66
Learning skill	3.53	3.44	3.51	3.54	3.63
Critical thinking	3.52	3.43	3.47	3.52	3.54
General knowledge	3.53	3.47	3.47	3.49	3.56
Problem-solving	3.50	3.44	3.45	3.53	3.51
Adaptability	3.51	3.43	3.45	3.49	3.59
Analytical ability	3.45	3.43	3.42	3.46	3.51
Organizing ability	3.41	3.30	3.38	3.39	3.39
Social skill	3.40	3.29	3.36	3.41	3.51
Stress-coping	3.44	3.34	3.33	3.33	3.41
Self-confidence	3.31	3.20	3.29	3.28	3.44
Putonghua	3.39	3.35	3.26	3.38	3.46

English language ability	3.27	3.14	3.26	3.27	3.39
Creative ability	3.26	3.16	3.23	3.19	3.21
Time management	3.24	3.21	3.22	3.32	3.36
Leadership	3.23	3.09	3.18	3.23	3.31
Computer literacy	2.94	2.88	2.98	3.02	3.03

10. Expectation of University Education

Most of the respondents considered university education as an opportunity for studying an interesting subject and preparing for future career, followed by enjoying university life.

Expectations of University Education	% of Respondents Considered it Important or Very Important				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
To study an interesting subject	76.8	78.0	78.9	84.1	87.4
To enjoy university life	62.9	62.0	66.1	68.1	74.8
To prepare for future career	64.7	66.2	64.9	70.3	75.0
To develop character	57.7	54.2	57.6	62.2	64.9
To prepare for postgraduate study	53.7	55.2	53.6	58.4	61.4

11. Adaptation to University Life

41.0% and 44.8% of the respondents expected to encounter difficulties in adaptation to the new study mode and hostel/campus life respectively, which were obviously higher than the other two difficulties.

Difficulties	% of Respondents Considered it Likely or Very likely				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Adaptation to the new study mode	44.8	40.4	43	46.8	44.9
Adaptation to hostel/ campus life	41.0	44.3	39.6	42.9	43.7
Financial problem	31.8	32.0	31.2	32.5	32.2
Speaking English in class	31.4	29.4	29.6	33.4	33.9

12. Plan at University

When the respondents includes first and senior year intakes were asked how to plan their university life, they indicated that they would devote most of their time on study rather than extra-curricular activities and part-time job. However, it was the first time that there were students indicated that they did not plan to spend time on study.

% of Time	% of Respondents			
	Study	Participation in Extra-curricular Activities	Part-time Job	Others (Community Service, family activities or personal activities)
0	1.1	4.5	13.8	0
1 – 19	0.5	25.1	38.8	83.1
20 – 39	6.4	57.9	44.2	9.1
40 – 59	37.4	11.9	0	6.7
60 – 79	42.4	0.6	2.9	0.8
80 – 100	12.2	0	0.3	0.3
Total	100	100	100	100

13. Attributes of University Student

Students were asked what made them a university student. They considered self-discipline and independence as more important attributes in making them a better university student.

Attributes	% of Respondents Considered it Strong or Very strong				
	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16	2014/15
Self-discipline	71.9	66.2	72.4	79.2	77.8
Independence	69.6	70.9	70.3	77.8	76.9
Autonomy	69.3	72.9	69.2	77.4	75.4
Integrity	69.2	68.9	69.1	74.4	73.9
Academic excellence	65.2	67.2	67.3	71.0	75.0
Passion in seeking knowledge & truth	63.8	66.3	64.4	72.1	71.2