

LINGNAN UNIVERSITY
Non-academic Background of LOCAL New Students 2019/20

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 2019/20. The findings may facilitate the planning of student services and facilities. 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 from Aug to Nov 2019. Questionnaires were sent to all new full-time local undergraduate students via emails and questionnaires in paper format are also available in SSC counter. Participation was entirely voluntary.

3. Response Rate

Gender	Total Number of Local First-year students	Total Number of Local Senior-year students	Total Number of Students	Number of Local First-year Respondents	Number of Local Senior-year Respondents	Total Number of Respondents
Female	323	74	397	282 (87.3%)	68 (91.9%)	350 (88.1%)
Male	195	53	248	142 (72.8%)	45 (84.9%)	187 (75.4%)
Total	518	127	645	424 (81.9%)	113 (89.0%)	537 (83.3%)

Survey Summary

4. Personal Particulars

4.1 Sex (Valid Response = 537)

	Female	Male	Total
Total Number of Local Students	397 (61.6%)	248 (38.4%)	645
Total Number of Respondents	350 (65.2%)	187 (34.8%)	537

4.2 Age (As at 1 September 2019) (Valid Response = 537)

85.4% of the respondents were between 17 and 20 years old and 14.7% of the respondents were below

Age	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
17 or below	14.7	21.2	17.4	16.4	16.1
18	44.1	44.9	44.5	41.2	51.3
19	15.1	12.9	17.6	21.6	14.7
20	11.5	11.0	10.7	12.3	9.0
21	7.1	6.0	5.6	4.4	4.9
22	4.5	2.0	1.6	2.9	3.2
23-24	1.5	1.3	2.1	0.9	0.8
25-26	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.2	0
27-29	0.4	0.2	0	0.2	0
30 or above	0.2	0	0	0	0
Mean	18.9	18.5	18.6	18.6	18.6

Years of Residence in Hong Kong (Valid Response = 537)

80% of the respondents were born in Hong Kong while 20% of the respondents were born outside Hong Kong.

Years of residence in Hong Kong		% of Respondents				
		2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Born in Hong Kong	Since birth	76.4	72.3	72.2	70.3	72.4
	7 years or more (not since birth)	3.2	3.9	4.9	5.2	6.7
	3 to less than 7 years	0.2	0.8	1.5	0.5	0.4
	Less than 3 years	0.2	0	0.3	0.2	0
Sub Total		80	77	78.9	76.2	79.5
Not born in Hong Kong	7 years or more	17.7	19.4	18.4	14.6	11.7
	3 to less than 7 years	1.3	1.6	1.2	2.0	2.1
	Less than 3 years	1	2.0	1.5	7.2	6.7
Sub Total		20	23	21.1	23.8	20.5

5. Living Condition

5.1 District of Residence (Valid Response = 537)

The survey shows that 10.1 of the respondents lived on Hong Kong Island, 27.7% in Kowloon and 62% in the New Territories. The top three districts this year were Yuen Long (14.7%), Kwai Tsing (11.9%) and Kwun Tong (10.4%) respectively.

Residential Districts	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Hong Kong Island					
Central & Western	2.8	1.7	2.6	1.0	1.0
Wan chai	0.6	1.9	0.3	0.9	0.5
Eastern	4.3	7.9	5.3	6.8	6.1
Southern	2.4	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.4
Subtotal	10.1	13.9	10.2	10.6	10

Kowloon					
Yau Tsim Mong	3.0	1.4	1.8	2.6	1.7
Sham Shui Po	5.0	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.9
Kowloon City	3.9	3.3	3.0	5.6	3.9
Wong Tai Shin	5.4	7.2	7.7	3.9	6.2
Kwun Tong	10.4	9.9	7.9	8.5	7.9
Subtotal	27.7	26.2	24.8	25.0	24.6
New Territories					
Kwai Tsing	11.9	7.2	9.2	9.1	7.6
Tsuen Wan	4.5	3.2	5.6	3.9	4.4
Tuen Mun	7.6	10.7	9.0	10.4	12.1
Yuen Long	14.7	12.7	13.0	14.0	11.3
North (e.g. Sheung Shui, Fanling, etc.)	6.9	3.7	5.7	5.8	4.2
Tai Po	2.8	4.0	3.3	2.9	2.9
Sha Tin	6.5	7.3	8.4	6.7	10.5
Sai Kung	6	7.2	6.2	6.2	7.1
Islands	1.1	1.7	3.6	4.1	1.9
Subtotal	62	57.7	64	63.1	62
Others	0.2	2.2	1.0	1.2	3.6

5.2 Travelling Time (Valid Response = 537)

Most of the respondents (75%) spent more than 1 hour on a return trip between home and the University.

Travelling Time (in minutes)	% of Respondents		
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Less than 60	25.0	23.8	27.9
60-119	47.3	43.7	43.8
120-179	17.5	17.6	16.2
180-240	8.8	9.7	8.7
More than 240	1.5	5.2	3.4

5.3 Type of Housing (Valid Response = 537)

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

Type of Housing	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Private flats	38.7	36.3	32.5	33.2	38.7
Public rental/sale flats & Home Ownership Scheme flats	57.7	59.9	61.9	63.4	57.8
Others	3.5	3.8	5.6	3.4	3.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

5.4 Study Environment at Home (Valid Response = 532)

Slightly more than half of the respondents (59.0%) have their own rooms in their living areas.

Home Environment	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
With a own room	59.0	59.9	57.1	54.4	58.2

6. Parents Background & Family Information

6.1 Size of Household (Valid Response = 534)

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

Household Size (including the respondent)	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
1	0.9	0.8	1.5	1.2	1.2
2	7.5	7.3	7.6	5.2	4.6
3	29.2	31.5	27.7	28.9	27.0
4	40.6	39.6	42.1	43.3	40.8
5	14.0	15.3	14.6	15.3	17.4
6	5.8	3.8	4.1	4.8	6.9
7	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.9
8	0.9	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Average size	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9

6.2 Parents' Highest Educational Attainment

The survey shows that 75% of the respondents are the first-generation university students in their families (neither of their parents have a college degree).

Highest Educational Attainment	% of Respondents					
	Father (Valid Response = 519)			Mother (Valid Response = 530)		
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2018/19	2017/18
No Formal Schooling	2.5	4.6	3.8	3.0	3.2	4.5
Primary School	20.6	22.5	27.5	20.9	22.7	24.3
Secondary School	58.4	55.6	55.4	60.8	57.2	60.6
Post-Secondary	18.5	17.3	13.3	15.3	16.9	10.6

6.1 Monthly Household Income (Valid Response = 537)

23.6% of the respondents' household incomes were less than HK\$20,000 per month. This year, more respondents did not disclose the monthly household income than the previous years.

Monthly Household Income (HK\$)	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Under 10,000	4.7	6.2	7.7	9.4	7.4
10,000 to 19,999	18.6	23.4	27.7	27.7	28.5
20,000 to 29,999	23.1	24.8	26.2	26.4	24.3
30,000 to 39,999	17.9	13.5	17.2	14.9	13.7
40,000 to above	14.3	21.3	9.2	11.6	13.8
Not applicable or not willing to disclose	21.5	10.8	12.0	9.9	12.3

6.5 Source of Financial Support for University Education

The survey shows that the majority of the respondents 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	11.7 (6.5)	53.0 (54.8)	54.6 (50.9)	72.0 (74.7)	95.5 (91.1)	97.0 (97.1)
1-19	6.1 (5.6)	25.5 (25.1)	18.8 (27.2)	3.0 (4.5)	2.8 (6.2)	1.1 (1.3)
20-39	10.1 (9.7)	15.5 (15.0)	16.2 (13.2)	5.6 (4.8)	1.1 (2.1)	0.6 (1.1)
40-59	14.9 (14.1)	5.2 (4.1)	5.8 (5.6)	6.7 (5.2)	0.2 (0.3)	0.4 (0.5)
60-79	10.2 (10.2)	0.6 (0.2)	2.4 (1.9)	3.2 (3.8)	0 (0.3)	/ (0)
80-100	47 (53.9)	0.6 (0.8)	2.2 (1.2)	9.6 (7)	0.4 (0)	0.9 (0)

**Figures in the bracket were the % of the survey in 2018/19.*

7. Travelling Experiences (Valid Response = 534)

Only 4.3% of the respondents had no travelling experience outside Hong Kong.

Travelling Experiences	% of Respondents				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
No travelling experiences	4.3	2.5	4.9	4.1	7.6
Mainland China	32	25.4	30.2	30.6	35.6
Other Asian Countries	70.2	64.4	65.4	61.8	56.3
Countries outside Asia	26.0	25.8	21.5	21.0	23.1

8. Preferences for Extra-curricular Activities While at University (Valid Response = 534)

Respondents were asked to indicate their preferences for participation in different types of activities while at University. They ranked Cultural and Recreational Activities and Academic-related Activities as the top two activities that they would like to participate most in Lingnan and the pattern was similar with previous years. This was the first time in five years that Academic activities were not in the top rank.

Rank	Type of Activities				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
1	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities	Academic-related Activities
2	Academic-related Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities	Cultural and Recreational Activities
3	Social/Community Services	Leadership Programmes/Personal Skills Training	Social/Community Services	Leadership Programmes/Personal Skills Training	Social/Community Services
4	Leadership Programmes/Personal Skills Training	Social/Community Services	Leadership Programmes/Personal Skills Training	Social/Community Services	Leadership Programmes/Personal Skills Training
5	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports	Sports
6	Serve on Students' Union/Other Student Bodies	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
7	Religious Activities	Students' Union/Other Student Bodies	Religious Activities	Religious Activities	Religious Activities

9. Self-Assessment of Skills and Abilities (Valid Response = 529)

9.1 Common Survey Questions among SSC, OSL and OGEIS

Students were asked to indicate how much they agreed with the following statements which are common survey questions regarding skills and abilities among three different departments of the University. Questionnaire surveys will also be 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)				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
<i>Interpersonal Skills</i>	7.29	7.26	7.18	7.11	7.17
I feel comfortable building relationships with people from different backgrounds.	7.19	7.21	7.21	7.09	7.19
I learn from interpersonal relationships.	7.33	7.42	7.25	7.18	7.27
I cooperate successfully with other students in a variety of situations.	7.36	7.16	7.09	7.05	7.05
<i>Communication Skills</i>	6.75	6.71	6.76	6.71	6.69
I feel comfortable to present my ideas in front of others.	6.82	6.75	6.79	6.72	6.73
I know how to communicate my ideas in a situation that is new to me.	6.71	6.75	6.81	6.72	6.69
I participate effectively in group discussions and activities.	6.73	6.63	6.68	6.69	6.64
<i>Management Skills</i>	6.68	6.63	6.58	6.53	6.53
I trust my abilities to lead others.	6.54	6.51	6.54	6.45	6.47
I know how to allocate tasks to group members.	6.58	6.54	6.53	6.48	6.47
I can plan activities independently.	6.93	6.81	6.67	6.67	6.64
<i>Problem Solving & Analytical Abilities</i>	7.20	7.13	7.12	7.02	6.97
I feel confident in tackling problems.	6.85	6.77	6.81	6.68	6.63
I understand that problems usually have more than one cause.	7.52	7.49	7.40	7.32	7.31
Before I solve a problem, I gather as many facts about the problem as I can.	7.22	7.14	7.16	7.06	6.98
<i>Social Responsibility & Civic Awareness</i>	7.49	7.31	7.23	7.23	7.31
It is my responsibility to help improve the community.	7.39	7.23	7.20	7.20	7.28
I believe that taking care of people who are in need is everyone's responsibility.	7.54	7.44	7.38	7.37	7.54
I act as if my behaviors make a difference in other people's lives.	7.54	7.26	7.11	7.13	7.11

<i>Global Perspective</i>	7.59	7.48	7.35	7.31	7.27
I like to explore and appreciate new cultures.	7.87	7.71	7.55	7.54	7.48
I have the sense of the global dimensions of citizenship.	7.47	7.35	7.20	7.16	7.12
I am able to work with people from other cultural backgrounds.	7.43	7.37	7.31	7.22	7.22

9.2 Self-Assessment of Abilities and Skills (Valid Response = 529)

Students were asked to assess their various abilities. The top three ratings of abilities and skills were Independence, Critical Thinking and Communication Skills. On the other hand, more respondents rated themselves weak in Computer Literacy, Time Management and Self-confidence.

Areas of Abilities	Rating of Respondents (1 very weak and 5 very strong)				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Adaptability	3.46	3.51	3.43	3.45	3.49
Analytical ability	3.45	3.45	3.43	3.42	3.46
Chinese writing ability	3.53	3.61	3.52	3.51	3.63
Communication skill	3.54	3.55	3.48	3.51	3.51
Computer literacy	3.04	2.94	2.88	2.98	3.02
Creative ability	3.28	3.26	3.16	3.23	3.19
Critical thinking	3.58	3.52	3.43	3.47	3.52
English language ability	3.25	3.27	3.14	3.26	3.27
General knowledge	3.53	3.53	3.47	3.47	3.49
Independence	3.75	3.70	3.57	3.60	3.63
Leadership	3.27	3.23	3.09	3.18	3.23
Organizing ability	3.48	3.41	3.30	3.38	3.39
Problem-solving	3.47	3.50	3.44	3.45	3.53
Putonghua	3.28	3.39	3.35	3.26	3.38
Self-confidence	3.21	3.31	3.20	3.29	3.28
Social skill	3.32	3.40	3.29	3.36	3.41
Stress-coping	3.39	3.44	3.34	3.33	3.33
Learning skill	3.48	3.53	3.44	3.51	3.54
Time management	3.15	3.24	3.21	3.22	3.32

10. Expectation of University Education (Valid Response = 527)

Most of the respondents considered university education as an opportunity for studying an interesting subject and to develop character, followed by enjoying university life. The pattern is somehow different when comparing with previous years.

Expectations of University Education	% of Respondents Considered it Important or Very Important				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
To study an interesting subject	80.0	76.8	78.0	78.9	84.1
To enjoy university life	64.1	62.9	62.0	66.1	68.1
To prepare for future career	56.7	64.7	66.2	64.9	70.3
To develop character	64.3	57.7	54.2	57.6	62.2
To prepare for postgraduate study	50.4	53.7	55.2	53.6	58.4

11. Adaptation to University Life (Valid Response = 527)

42.5% 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 three categories.

Expect to come across difficulties	% of Respondents Considered it Likely or Very likely				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Adaptation to the new study mode	37.4	44.8	40.4	43	46.8
Adaptation to hostel/ campus life	42.5	41.0	44.3	39.6	42.9
Financial problem	33.9	31.8	32.0	31.2	32.5
Speaking English in class	33.3	31.4	29.4	29.6	33.4

12. Plan at University (Valid Response = 527)

Respondents 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 (1.1)	6.8 (4.5)	17.8 (13.8)	2.9 (0)
1 – 19	0.9 (0.5)	19.7 (25.1)	33 (38.8)	86.3 (83.1)
20 – 39	7.2 (6.4)	59.6 (57.9)	43.3 (44.2)	6.1 (9.1)
40 – 59	36.6 (37.4)	13.3 (11.9)	5.3 (0)	0.8 (6.7)
60 – 79	40.0 (42.4)	0.6 (0.6)	0.4 (2.9)	0.4 (0.8)
80 – 100	14.4 (12.2)	0.6 (0)	0.2 (0.3)	0.6 (0.3)

**Figures in the bracket were the % of the survey in 2018/19.*

12. Attributes of University Student (Valid Response = 527)

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				
	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17	2015/16
Academic excellence	58.6	65.2	67.2	67.3	71.0
Passion in seeking knowledge & truth	66.7	63.8	66.3	64.4	72.1
Integrity	71.7	69.2	68.9	69.1	74.4
Independence	73.4	69.6	70.9	70.3	77.8
Autonomy	73.4	69.3	72.9	69.2	77.4
Self-discipline	72.5	71.9	66.2	72.4	79.2