

What is the AUSSE?

The Australasian Survey of Student Engagement (AUSSE) is an annual survey of students enrolled in Australian and New Zealand universities. In 2009, 14,879 first-year and 15,743 later-year bachelor degree students from 35 universities took part in the AUSSE. A sample of 800 students took part in the AUSSE at your uni.

The idea of student engagement captures how you interact with uni, and how unis support your learning. Obviously, both these things are important for high-quality education. Your uni can use AUSSE data to improve your experience and outcomes. The AUSSE provides your uni with information on important things like:

- your experiences and activities
- the interactions you have with staff and other students
- your future study intentions
- your perceptions of the values and quality of your uni, and
- student demographics.

The AUSSE is managed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) in close collaboration with your university. Further information about the AUSSE and the publications that result from this annual survey can be found at www.acer.edu.au/ausse.

What are students at your university up to?

You know that you, and other students, have to put in a lot of time and effort to do well at uni. So, how much work are students at Australasian University actually doing?

In a typical week, Australasian University students spend an average of 11 hours on homework, and 13% spend more than 20 hours a week studying! On average, students complete 3 pieces of work that take less than an hour each week, and in an average week, 92% of students complete at least one piece of work that takes longer than an hour.

Australasian University students spend a significant amount of time reading and writing, and completing assignments. Over the course of a year, Australasian University students read an average of 7 assigned textbooks, books and subject reading packs. Students also write an average of 4 short assignments (less than 1000 words), 5 medium length assignments (between 1000 and 5000 words) and 1 assignment of more than 5000 words. That's a lot of writing!

71% of Australasian University students say that they keep up-to-date with their study most of the time, and 67% of students usually complete their readings and assignments for class.

Apart from studying, what else are students at Australasian University up to?

Study is not the only thing that keeps students at your uni busy. 68% of Australasian University students work for pay either on or off campus, and students report working an average of 10 hours per week off campus and 1 hour per week on campus. Students spend an average of 5 hours per week travelling to uni with 10% of students spending more than ten hours per week commuting. On average, students spend 17 hours per week on campus, and 8 hours per week on campus when not in class.

Although students like you are very busy, they still make time for fun stuff. During 2009, 66% of students attended an art exhibition or performance, 50% exercised frequently and students read an average of 5 books for their own enjoyment.

What are students' plans for next year?

Next year, most students at Australasian University plan to continue their current study (80%) or leave university having completed their degree (18%). Others plan to change to another qualification (7%) or shift to a different university (6%). Only 1% of students plan to leave university before finishing their qualification.

Overall, most students (84%) rated their entire educational experience at Australasian University as good or excellent, and 88% would attend the same institution again given the chance to start over.

What do universities do with the information?

The AUSSE results provide a foundation of evidence that can be used for planning and monitoring how universities are going. The AUSSE provides evidence for identifying areas where improvement in engagement can be achieved.

Universities use the data in many ways, like:

- running seminars with students, managers and teachers
- comparing results between institutions
- preparing reports for specific divisions
- running student focus groups and interviews
- enhancing teaching practices and learning space designs
- holding institution-wide meetings to address problem areas, and
- integrating student management activities.

More information on the AUSSE, student engagement, and tips on how you and your university can increase student engagement is on the AUSSE website: www.acer.edu.au/ausse.

