

The Pandemic's Impact on University Life: A Survey

Survey Results (Digest)

August 3, 2021

Public Relations and Research Department & Student Committee
National Federation of University Co-operative Associations

About this survey

Survey method: Web survey (call for respondents were done via NFUCA website and social media)

Survey targets: Undergraduate and graduate students across Japan

Survey period: Monday, July 5, 2021 - Monday, July 19, 2021

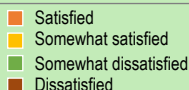
Number of responses: 7,832 responses

Notes on the results of the questionnaire

- As the survey was anonymous, non-students may have responded, multiple responses may have been made, and incorrect responses may have been submitted.
- There are biases, such as a high number of responses from certain universities and academic years.

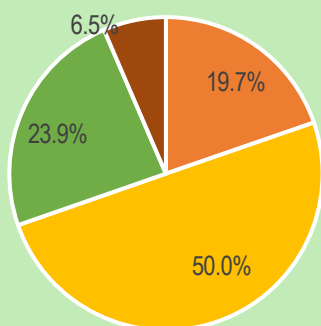


Do you have a satisfying student life?



1st year

69.7% of respondents said it was satisfying, the highest rate of all years. Some, however, said they still did not feel like university students.



Satisfied

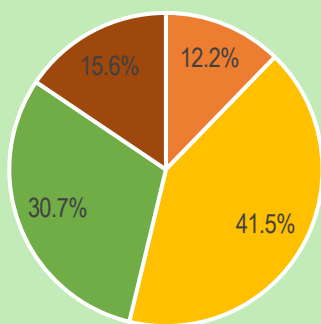
- ✓ College classes and assignments seem typical to me, and I feel like I have become a college student.
- ✓ Studying what I want and building relationships with people are both possible.
- ✓ Despite their limitations, I am able to take part in extracurricular activities and club activities.

Dissatisfied

- ✓ I do not feel like I have a chance to experience real university life because I go to school less than ten times in total and my club activities are limited.
- ✓ Online classes are also an issue for me. I have no idea who my teachers are or who my classmates are, especially in on-demand classes.
- ✓ There is not as much time to enjoy myself as when I was in high school.

2nd year

53.7% of the respondents said that they were satisfied. Many of the respondents said that they were satisfied because they were able to go to school and make more friends than last year.



Satisfied

- ✓ Having faced-to-face classes now allows me to live like a university student.
- ✓ There are things I can do online that I thought I couldn't (classes, clubs, committee activities, etc.).
- ✓ My social circle has grown since last year, and I enjoy learning new things.

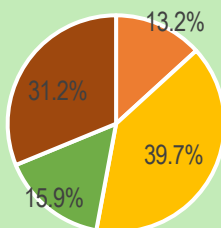
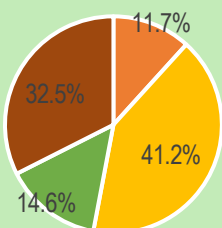
Dissatisfied

- ✓ While I couldn't go to university, I spent a great deal of time managing to turn in as many assignments as possible.
- ✓ Since I entered the university, I never experienced campus life as I had envisioned.
- ✓ Even though we pay normal tuition, face-to-face classes are few, and many facilities are restricted.

3rd year

4th year

Students tend to find it less satisfying than their first- and second-year peers. It seems that they miss the interaction and experience from before the pandemic.



Satisfied

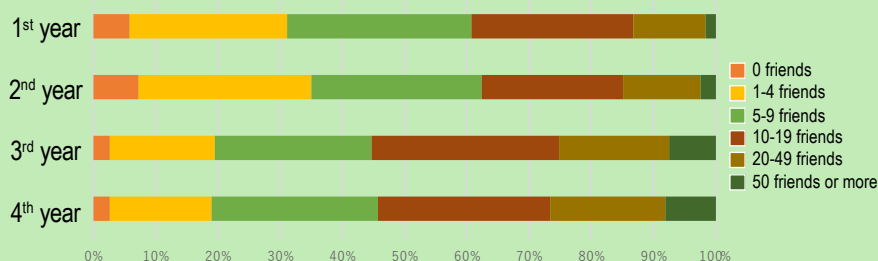
- ✓ I can take a lot of classes online.
- ✓ It's easy for me to do research in my laboratory every day.
- ✓ I have found a job and have more time to spend with my friends.

Dissatisfied

- ✓ Since I cannot attend school and I am not able to participate in club activities, I feel stagnant.
- ✓ There is no time for me to spend with my friends during breaks or after school.
- ✓ I don't know why I enrolled at the university anymore.



The number of friends at the university

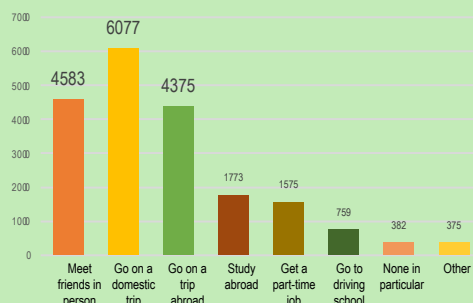


[1st year] How many friends have you made at university? / [2nd year] How many friends do you have at university now?

Among first-year students, **5.8%** said they had no friends. So, it appears that **more than 90% of them can make friends**. **7.3%** of the current sophomores who started their first year when the pandemic hit said they had no friends. Approximately 27.7% of those surveyed in July 2020 indicated that they made friends during the previous year. Students in their first and second years tend to have fewer friends than those in their third and fourth years.



Things students want to do after the pandemic ends



It seems there is a desire to enjoy things that are currently restricted after the pandemic ends. The majority of respondents chose both "meet friends in person" and "go on a domestic trip" or "go on a trip abroad".



Things students are struggling with

Hybrid classes are hard

- ✓ Face-to-face classes are scheduled in between online classes, so the commute takes up the time that would normally be spent taking on-demand classes.
- ✓ It is hard to predict how many times I will have to commute, and I have trouble purchasing a commuter pass.
- ✓ Having to switch between face-to-face and online classes makes it hard to make plans, so I can't get a part-time job, which lowers my income.

Wanting to feel like I'm in college

- ✓ Because of the pandemic, I have no concept of what college is like in the first place.
- ✓ Sadly, I feel like I'll graduate without attending any lectures in person.
- ✓ I want to get an experience I can only get as a college student.

My job hunting is affected

- ✓ Because I am unsure how long this situation will continue, I am extremely worried about the future.
- ✓ During a job interview, if I am asked, "What did you focus on during your university years?", I don't know if I have any good answers.
- ✓ I don't know how to do job hunting online, let alone how to do it properly. There is no one to ask for advice.



Message to the university, society and the government

Look at what's happening to college students!

- ✓ While society is progressing in various ways, I cannot understand why the time has stood still since last year with all the restrictions placed on my college life.
- ✓ Just a few steps away from entering the workforce, we now live in an environment where we are most cut off from society. Please remember that there are university students as well.
- ✓ I think society doesn't recognize the university student situation enough. I think many first- and second-year university students feel isolated currently.
- ✓ There is little support for university students, so much so that I wonder if we are included as "citizens."

Are young people bad? We are doing our best

- ✓ When there is a tendency to blame the young while also claiming that they will create the future society, I can only feel uneasy about it.
- ✓ Mass media should stop blaming the youth. Often, when you say young people, you mean people in their 20's or 30's, but to most viewers, they seem like college students.
- ✓ When I see people drinking, it annoys me. Some people have lost their part-time jobs and are somehow living off of their scholarships.



Words of appreciation were also given to university officials and to support provided to university students.

Several survey respondents indicated that they are thinking about how they can make a positive difference in their lives. In addition to studying everyday, students also gain qualifications, study languages in preparation for their future, as well as pursue hobbies and part-time jobs.

つながる元気、ときめきキャンパス。



If you have any questions, please contact the NFUCA Student Committee (nfuca-gakusei@univ.coop).