

## Preliminary data from the Monash Postgraduate Association (MPA) HDR survey.

October 2017

These preliminary data have been produced for circulation to Graduate Research Committee members only. A full report including faculty-specific data will be published in due course.

The MPA ran a survey of HDR students in August – September 2017. The survey was advertised in the MPA newsletter, the MPA website, electronic posters and through contacts with HDR faculty groups and Associate Deans, many of whom agreed to forward the advertising of the survey to their entire cohorts. Participants were self-selecting, so an incentive scheme (comprising the opportunity to win one of 20 x \$100 cash cards) was used to assist in attracting a representative sample.

A total of 668 responses were received. Not all respondents answered every question. All faculties and campuses were well represented, as were male/female, international/domestic and full-time/part-time. Appendix 1 provides the demographics of respondents.

Questions requiring an open comment response have not been included in this preliminary report.

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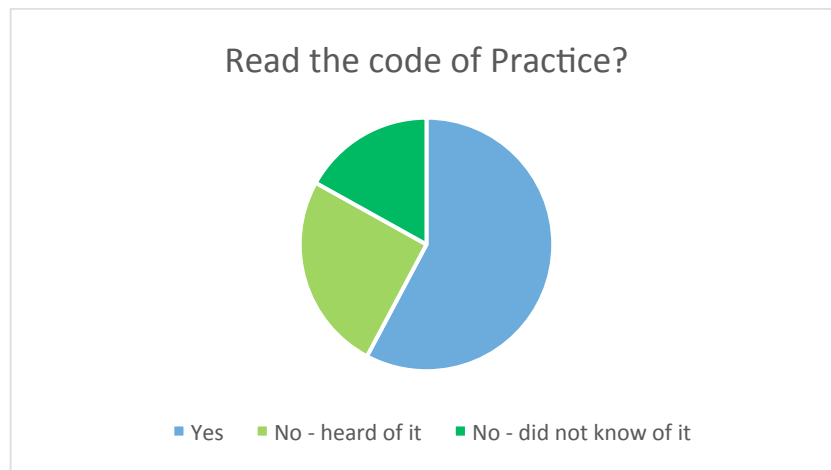
**Stress**

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|-----|--|----|
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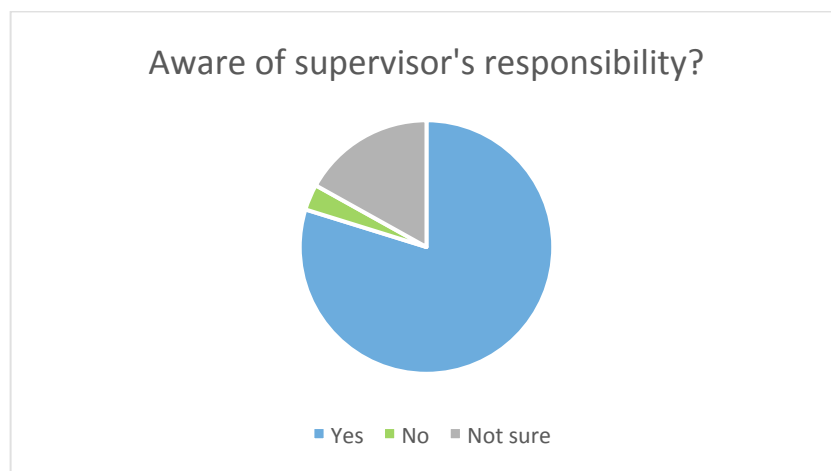
1. Have you read the Code of Practice for supervision of doctoral/research masters students?

Read the Code of Practice	count	percentage
Yes	386	57.8
No, but I've heard about it	169	25.3
No, I didn't know it existed	113	16.9



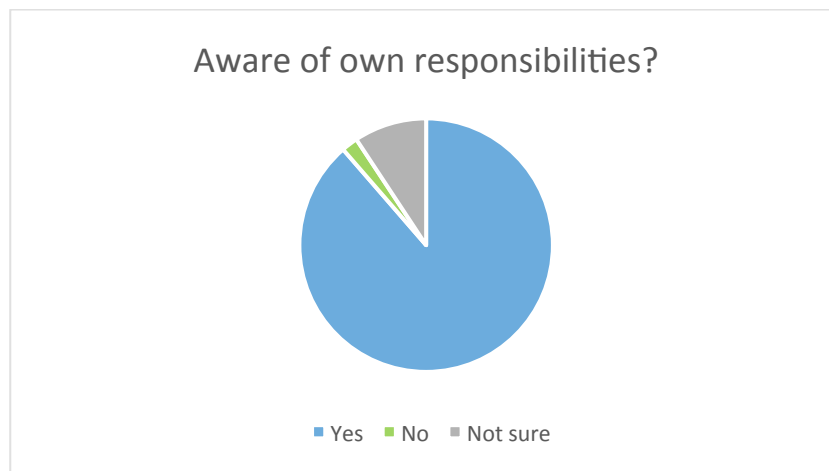
2. Are you aware of your supervisor's responsibilities towards you?

Aware of Supervisor's responsibility	count	percentage
Yes	533	79.8
No	22	3.3
Not sure	113	16.9



3. Are you aware of your own responsibilities as a Monash research postgraduate?

Aware of own responsibilities?	count	percentage
Yes	592	88.6
Not sure	62	9.3
No	14	2.1

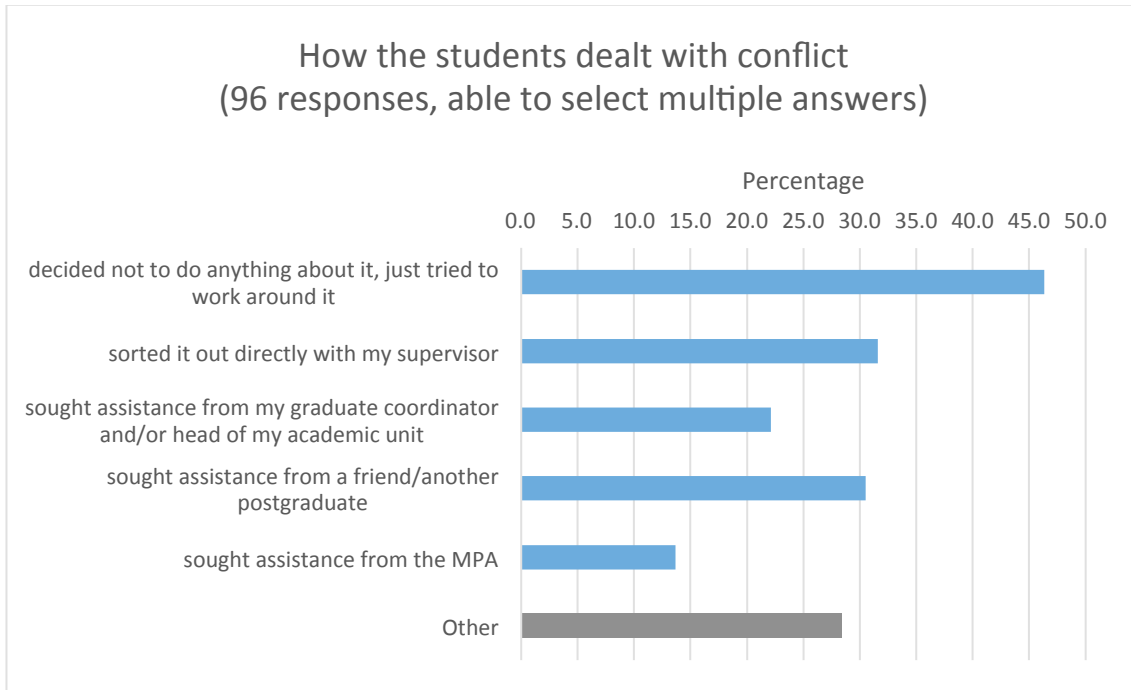


4. Have you had any conflict or misunderstanding with any of your supervisors?

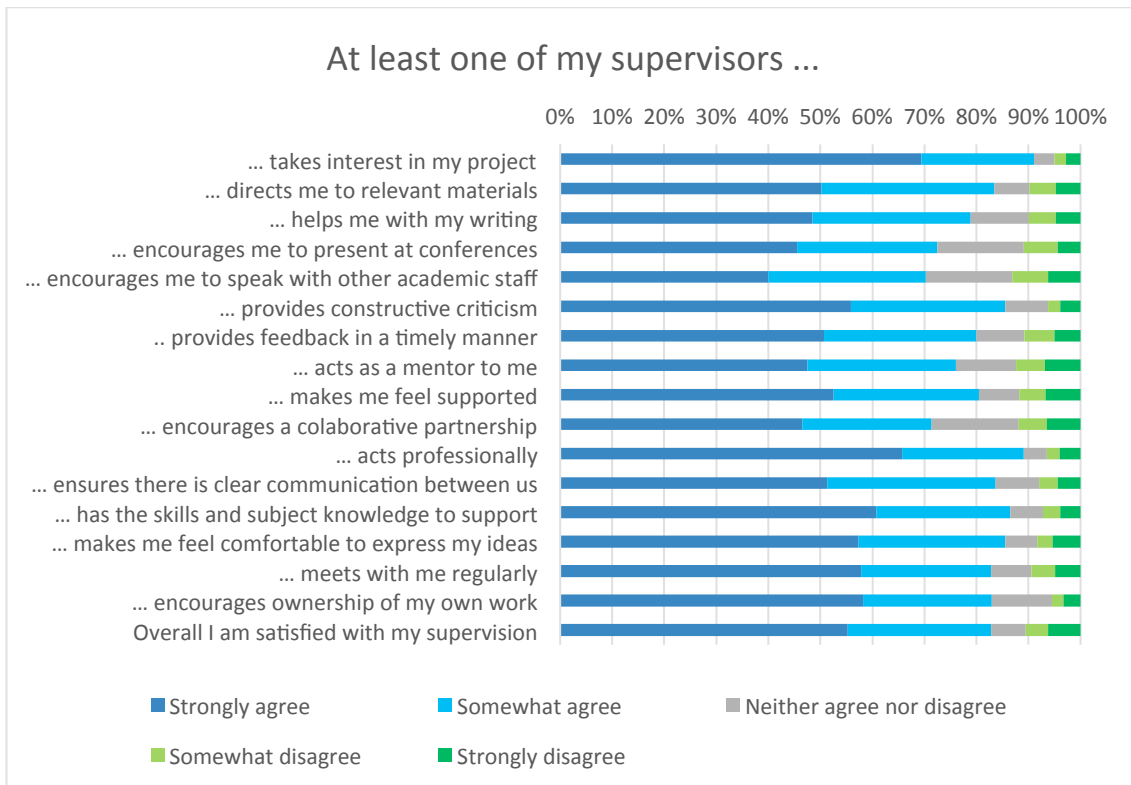
Conflict or Misunderstanding you're your supervisor?	count	percentage
Yes	108	16.2
No	560	83.8



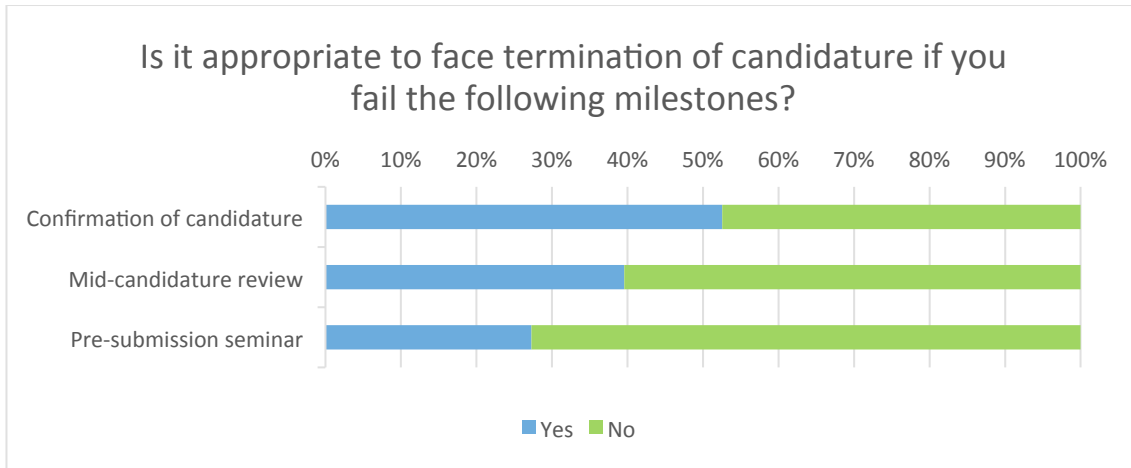
5. How did you deal with your supervisor conflict?



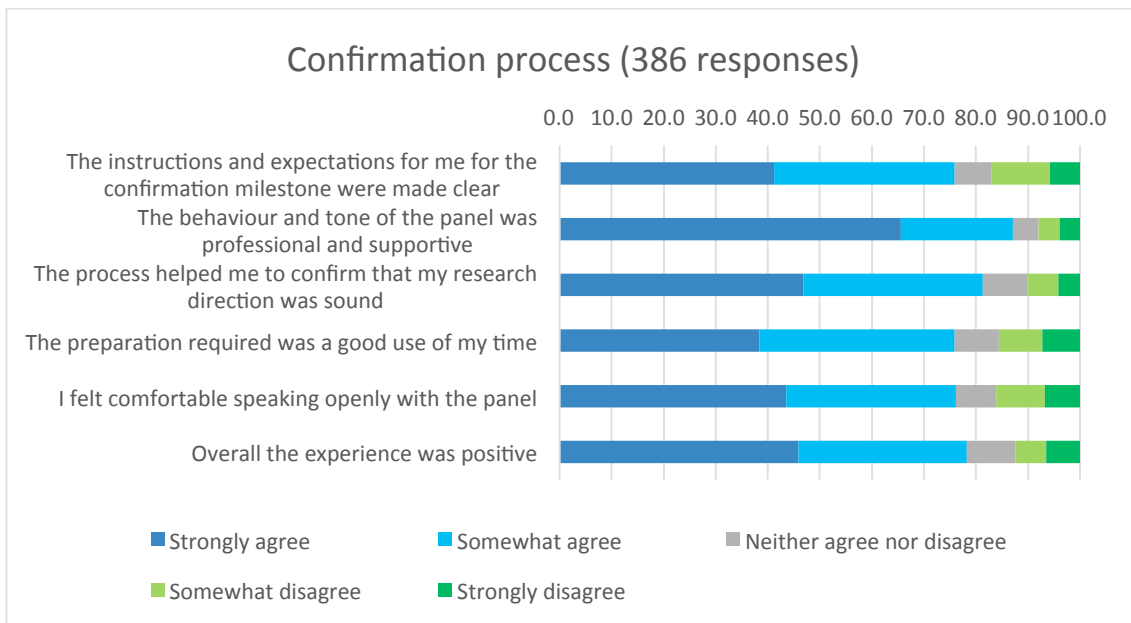
6. Please rate the following statements regarding your supervision experience. Select one option for each statement from the list below where "At least one of my supervisors..."



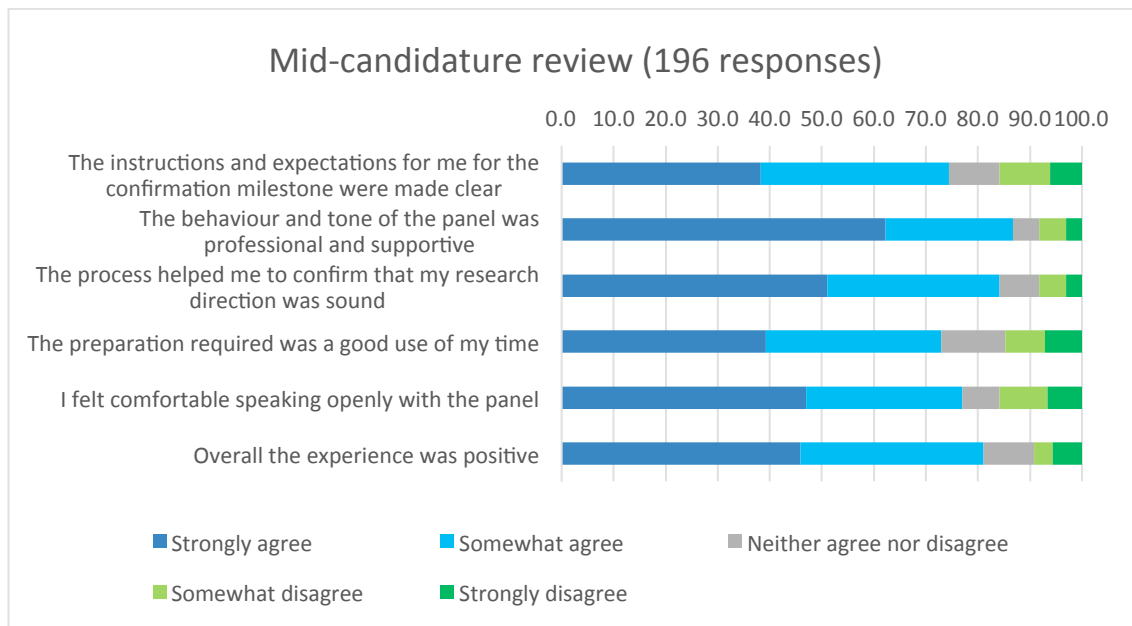
7. The mid-candidature and pre-submission milestones were originally introduced to identify problems and determine appropriate actions to address these. In 2014 all milestones were changed to "hurdles" and are now used as a way to terminate candidature when progress is unsatisfactory. Do you think it's appropriate to face termination of candidature if you fail any of the following milestones?



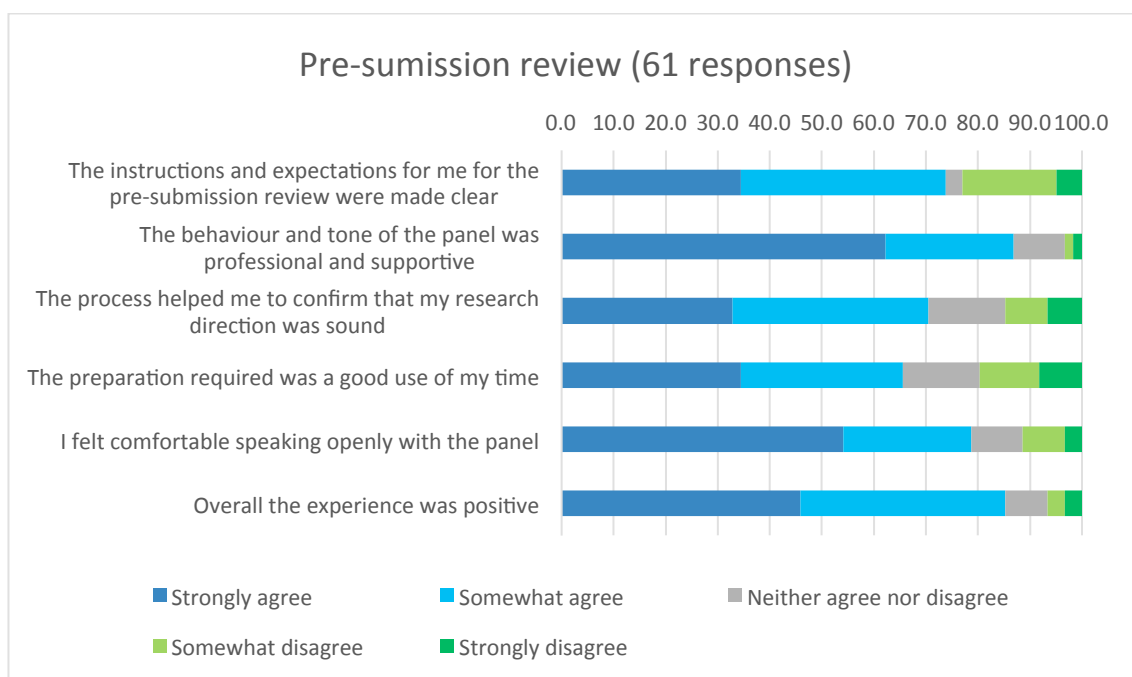
8. Please rate the following statements regarding your experience of the confirmation process.



9. Please rate the following statements regarding your experience of the mid-candidature review process.



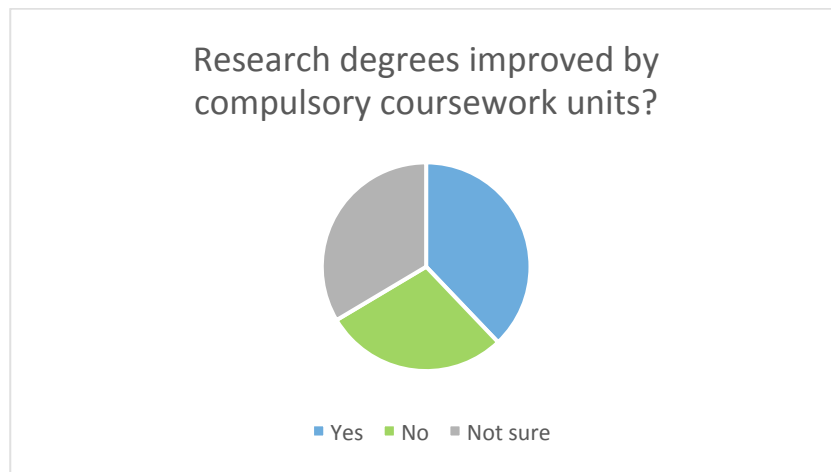
10. Please rate the following statements regarding your experience of the pre-submission review process.



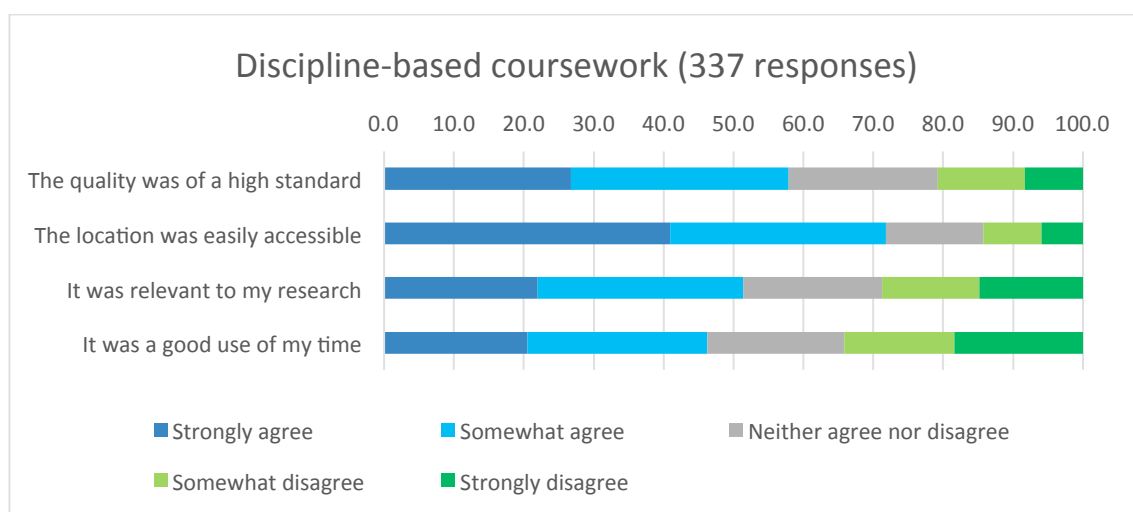


11. Do you believe that research degrees are improved by the inclusion of compulsory discipline-based coursework?

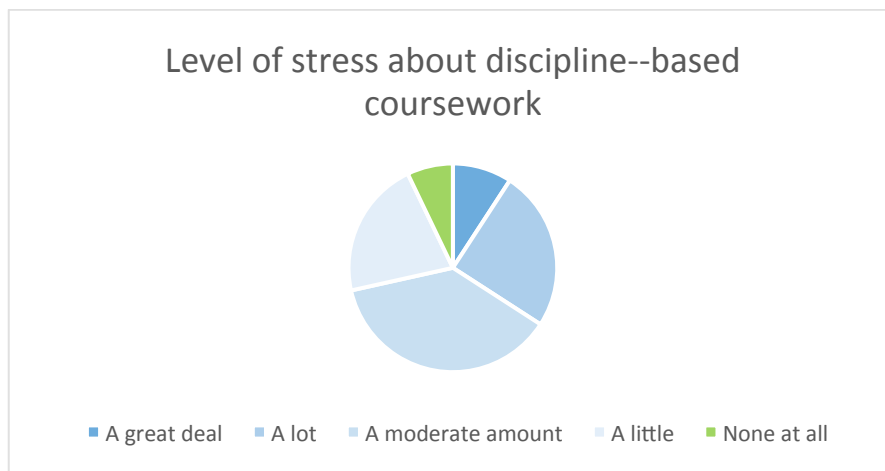
Research degrees improved by compulsory coursework units?	count	percentage
Yes	236	37.9
No	178	28.6
Not sure	209	33.5



12. Please rate the following statements relating to the discipline-based coursework component of your degree.

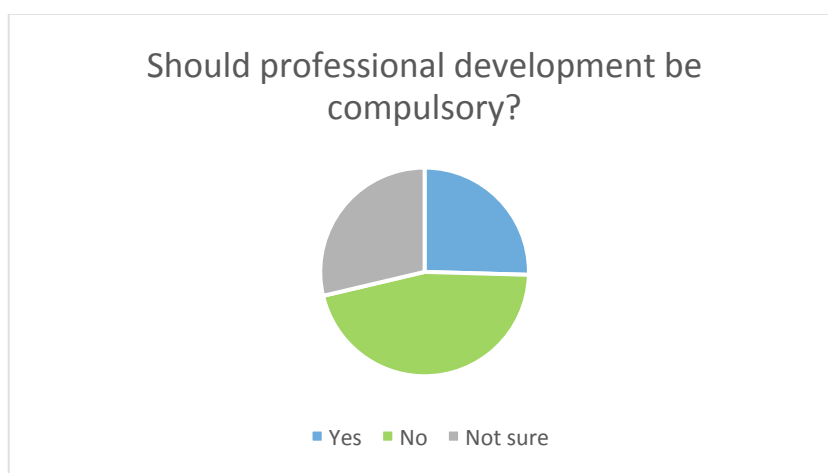


13. Please select the level of stress you have about the compulsory discipline-based coursework component of your degree.

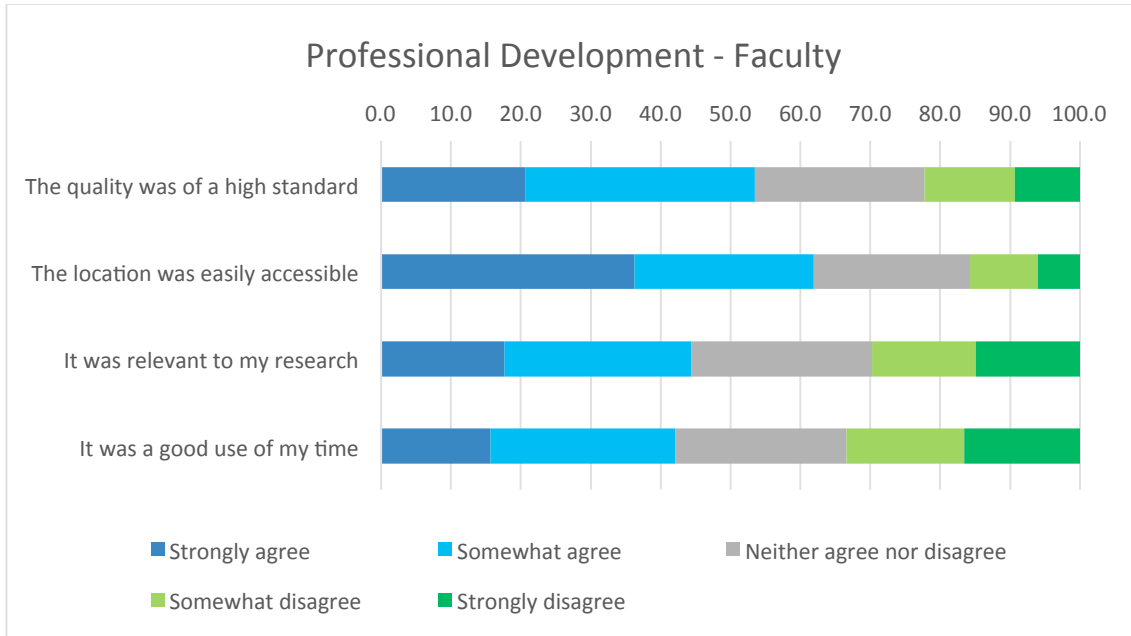


14. Do you believe that professional development units (as offered through "myDevelopment"), should be a compulsory part of a research degree?

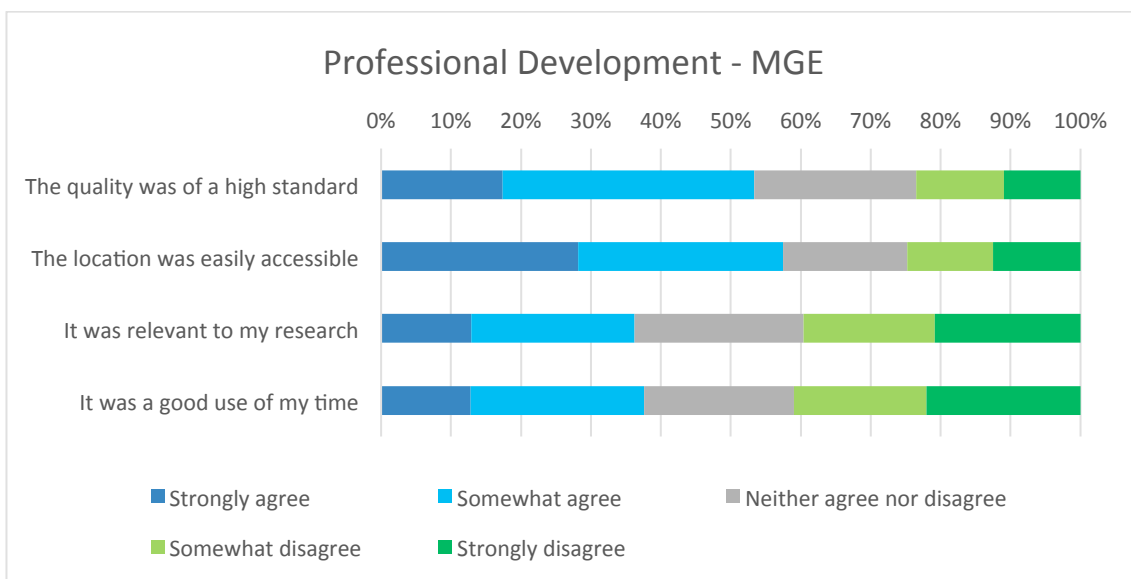
Should professional development be compulsory?	count	percentage
Yes	157	25.4
No	283	45.9
Not sure	177	28.7



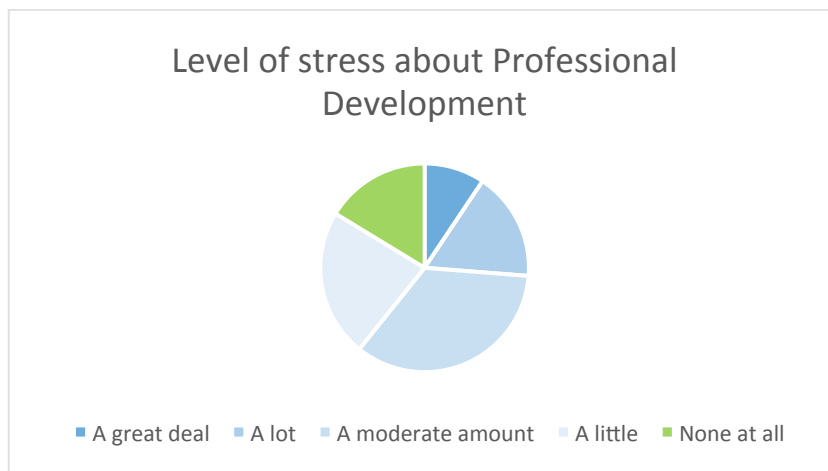
15. Please rate the following statements relating to your overall experience of the professional development component of your degree offered by your faculty. (If your faculty does not offer any professional development or you have not participated in any such courses please skip this question).



16. Please rate the following statements relating to your overall experience of the professional development component of your degree offered by MGE (central). (If you have not participated in any such courses please skip this question).

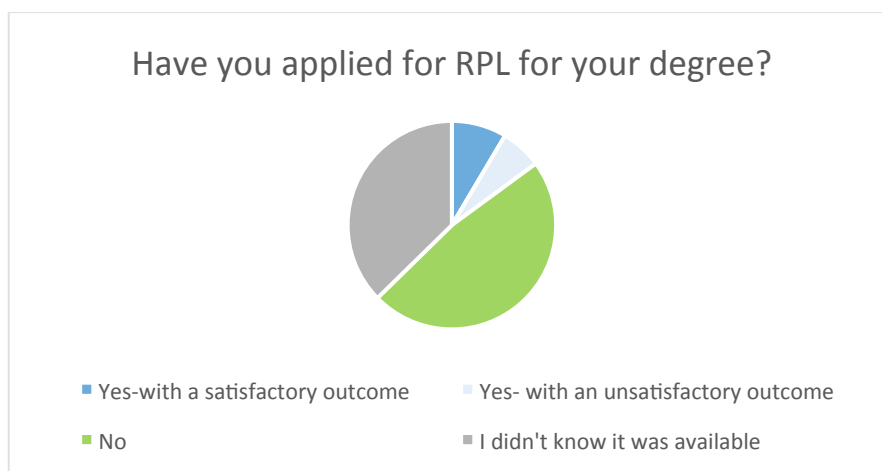


17. Please select the level of stress you have about the professional development component of your degree.



18. Have you applied for Recognition of Prior Learning in relation to the professional development component of your degree?

Have you applied for Recognition of Prior Learning (ROPL) for your degree?	count	percentage
Yes-with a satisfactory outcome	32	8.5
Yes- with an unsatisfactory outcome	24	6.4
No	179	47.7
I didn't know it was available	140	37.3



19. Has anything significantly delayed the progress of your research degree?

	count	percentage
Yes	231	37.8
No	380	62.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	611	

20. Please select all relevant reasons regarding the delay in progress of your research degree. (230 responses)

Reasons for delay	count	Percentage
work commitments	90	41.3
change of research project direction	77	35.3
health issues	77	35.3
family responsibilities	68	31.2
preparing for hurdles/milestones	63	28.9
lack of resources for my research	56	25.7
other, please specify	55	25.2
financial concerns	54	24.8
failed experiments	52	23.9
change of supervisor/s	50	22.9
poor supervision	50	22.9
lack of motivation	48	22.0
writer's block	47	21.6
having to complete compulsory coursework units (only some faculties)	39	17.9
unpleasant environment in research workplace	35	16.1
having to complete compulsory professional development units/myDevelopment (only some faculties)	32	14.7
broken/malfunctioning equipment	27	12.4
ethics problems	25	11.5
English language competency	16	7.3
failing hurdles/milestones	14	6.4
intellectual property issues	4	1.8

Top five reasons for delay by gender

Female – work commitments/health issues/change of research project direction/family responsibilities/poor supervision

Male- work commitments/change of research project direction/family responsibilities/financial concerns/failed experiments

Top five reasons for delay by nationality

International– change of research project direction/lack of resources for research/failed experiments/work commitments/lack of motivation

Domestic – work commitments/health issues/family responsibilities/ preparing for hurdles/change of research project direction

21. Have you ever considered discontinuing your enrolment?

	count	percentage
No	431	70.7
Yes	179	29.3
	610	

22. Please select all relevant reasons regarding why you considered discontinuing your enrolment. (177 responses)

Reasons for considering discontinuing	count	Percentage
work commitments	74	42.3
lack of motivation	66	37.7
financial concerns	64	36.6
change of supervisor/s	53	30.3
poor supervision	53	30.3
health issues	50	28.6
unpleasant environment in research workplace	39	22.3
family responsibilities	36	20.6
other, please specify	34	19.4
change of research project direction	31	17.7
failed experiments	24	13.7
preparing for hurdles/milestones	22	12.6
lack of resources for my research	17	9.7
having to complete compulsory professional development units/myDevelopment (only some faculties)	17	9.7
writer's block	16	9.1
having to complete compulsory coursework units (only some faculties)	14	8.0
failing hurdles/milestones	13	7.4
broken/malfunctioning equipment	9	5.1
English language competency	6	3.4
ethics problems	5	2.9
intellectual property issues	3	1.7

Top five reasons for considering discontinuing by gender

Male – lack of motivation/financial concerns/work commitments/family responsibilities/health issues

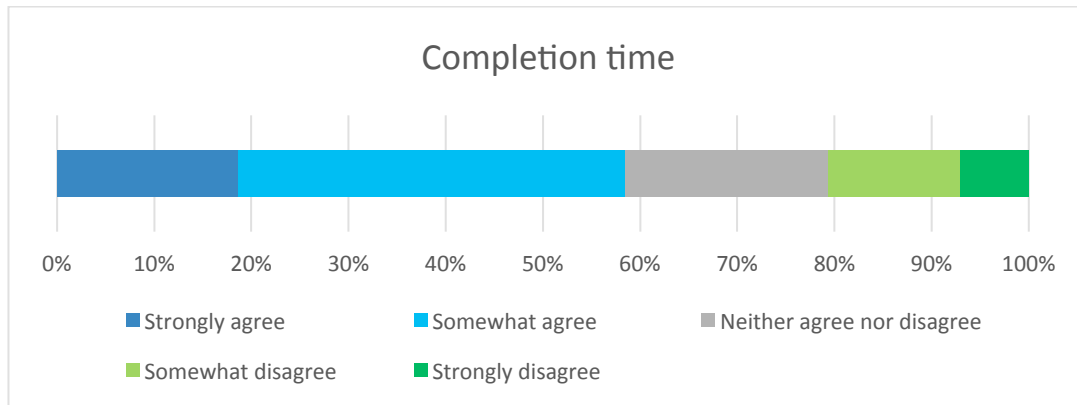
Female – work commitments/lack of motivation/poor supervision/financial concerns/health issues

Top five reasons for considering discontinuing by nationality

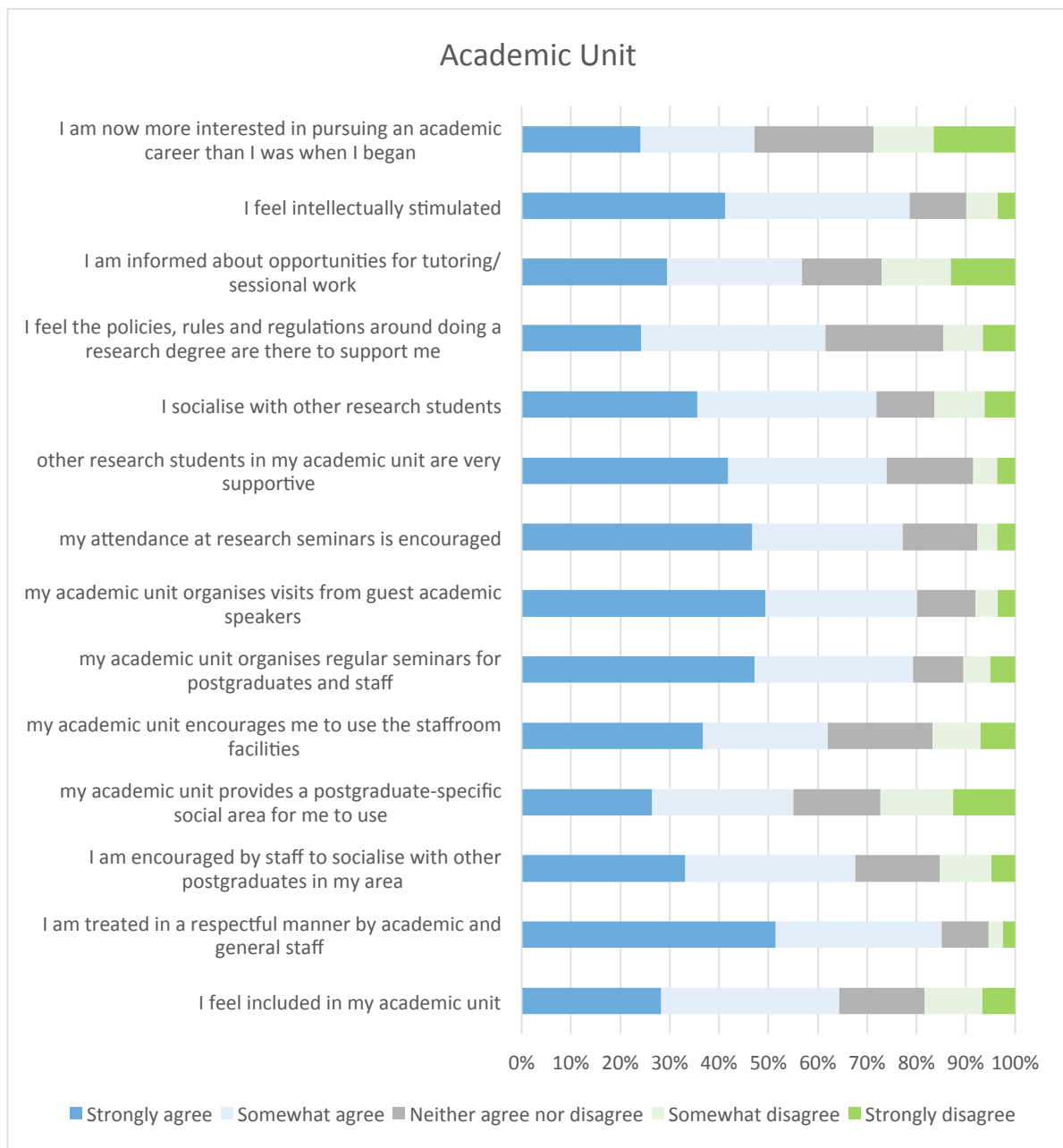
International – lack of motivation/financial concerns/poor supervision/work commitments/change of research project direction

Domestic – work commitments/financial concerns/lack of motivation/health issues/poor supervision

23. The amount of time I have to complete my research, after preparing for and completing compulsory milestones/discipline-based coursework units/professional development, will allow me to produce a quality research project

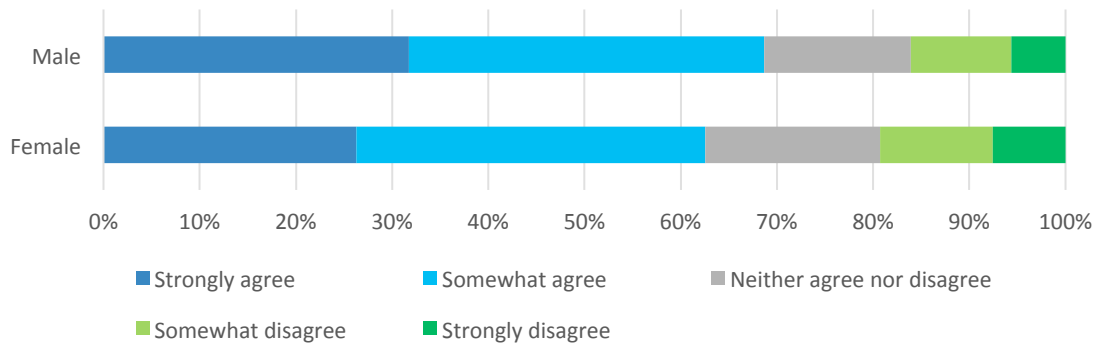


24. Please rate the following statements in relation to your specific experience in your academic unit:

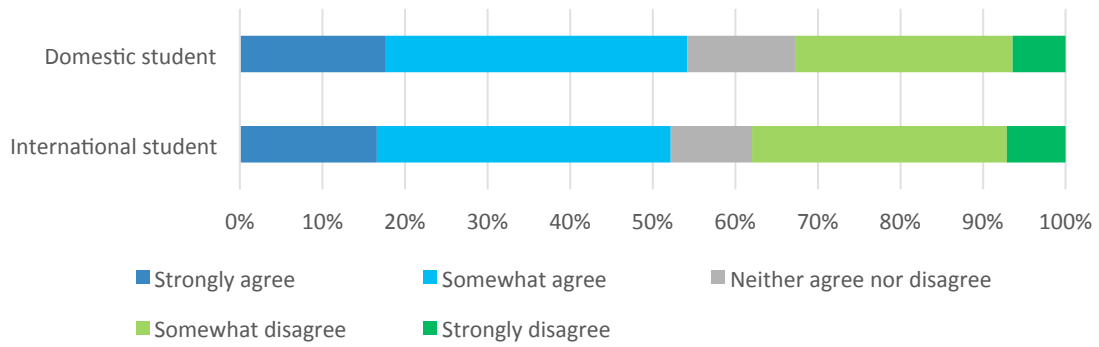




Feeling of inclusion in academic unit by gender

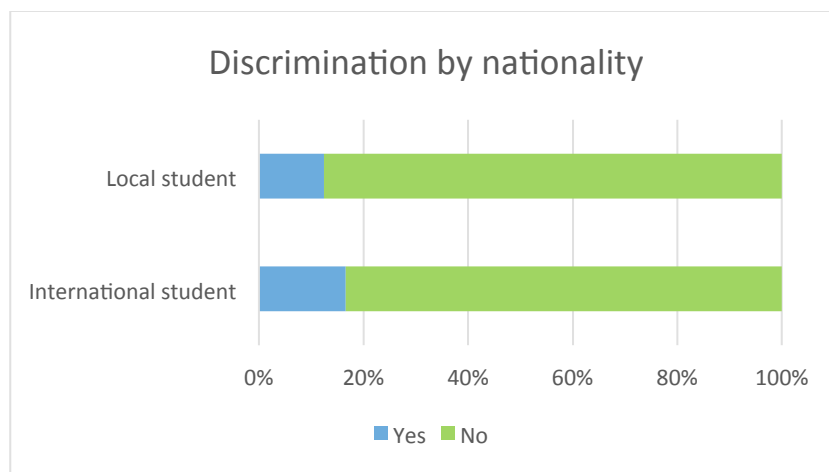
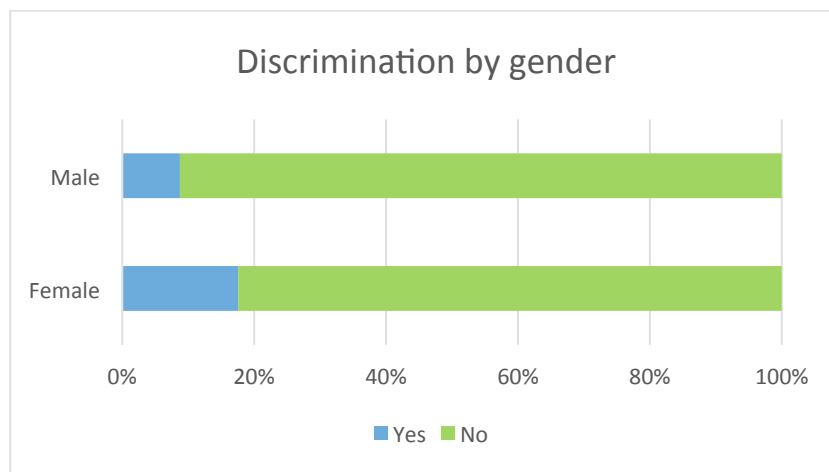


Feeling of inclusion in academic unit by nationality

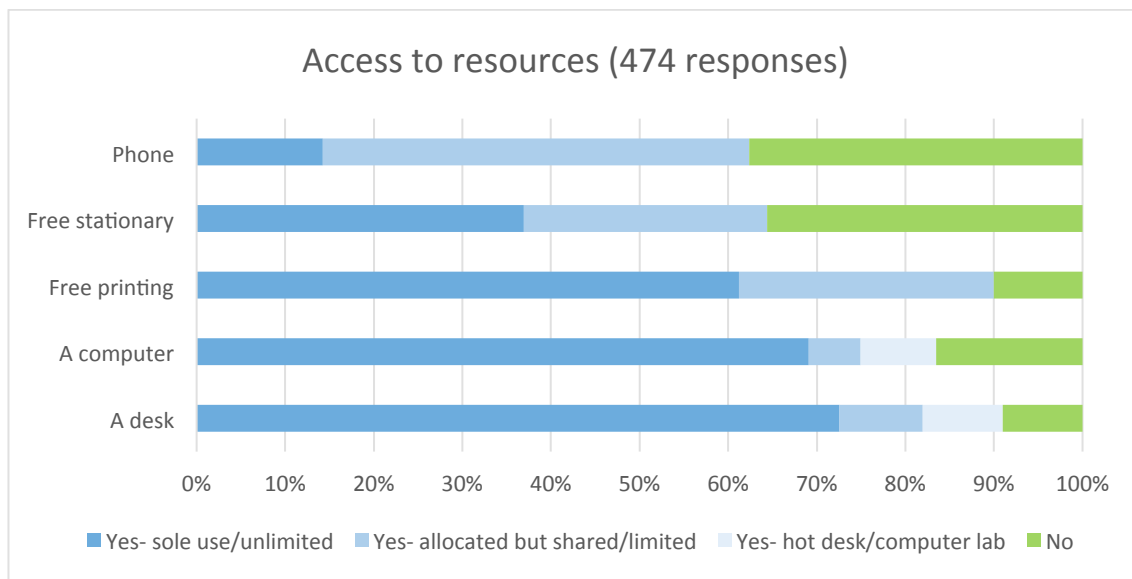


25. Have you ever experienced any discrimination due to gender, race, religion, family responsibilities, etc., within the university?

	count	percentage
Yes	85	14.2
No	513	85.8
	598	

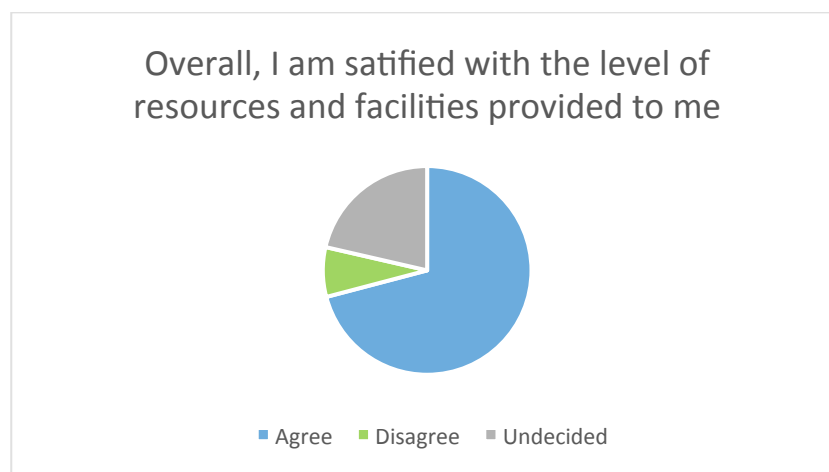


26. Does your academic unit provide any of the following facilities? Please select as many as relevant.

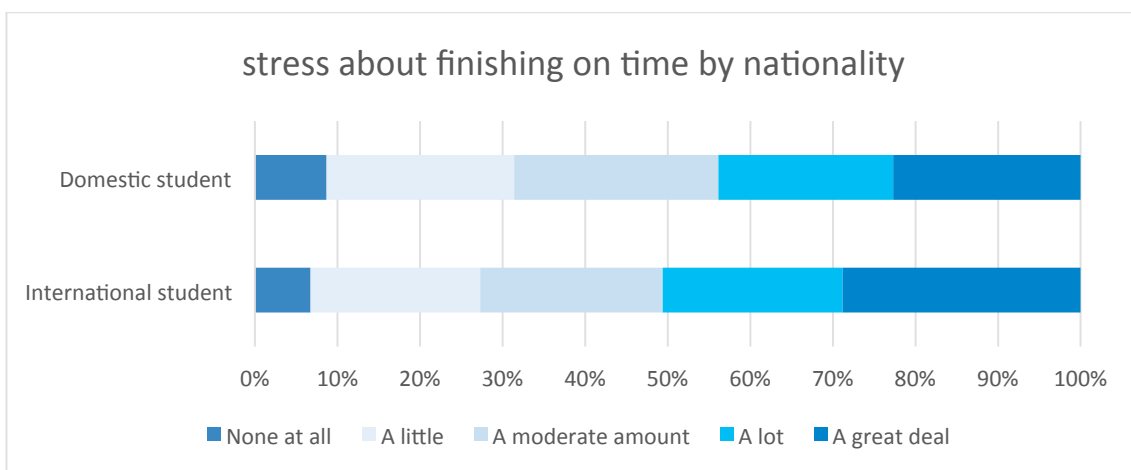
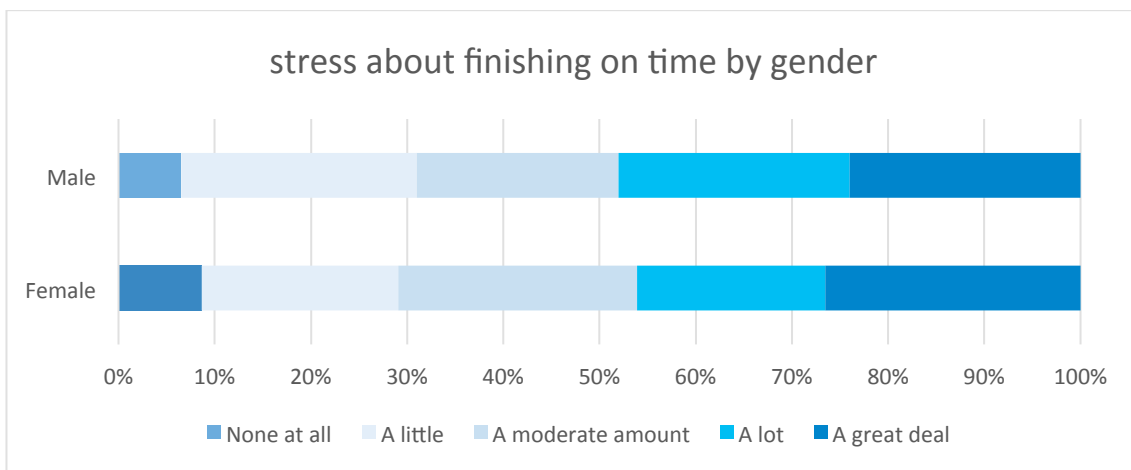
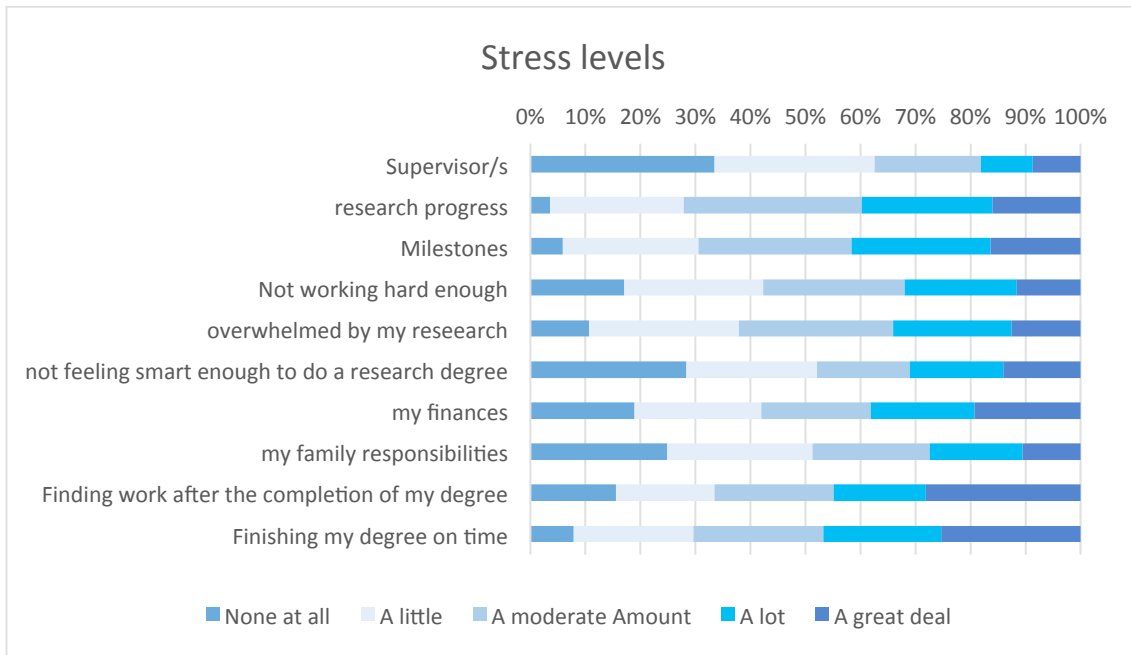


27. Overall, I am satisfied with the level of resources and facilities provided to me.

	Count	%
Agree	424	70.9
Disagree	46	7.7
Undecided	128	21.4
	598	



28. Please select your level of stress regarding any of the following:



29. What kind of health and wellbeing support would you like to receive from the University?

<b>answer (499 responses)</b>	<b>count</b>	<b>percentage</b>
<b>help with stress management</b>	267	53.5
<b>more opportunities to share experiences/debrief with peers</b>	243	48.7
<b>help with overcoming procrastination</b>	233	46.7
<b>help dealing with anxiety</b>	233	46.7
<b>private counselling</b>	187	37.5
<b>more support from my supervisor</b>	152	30.5

## Appendix 1: Demographics of respondents

### Campus

<b>Campus</b>	<b>count</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Clayton	485	72.6
Caulfield	71	10.6
Parkville	46	6.9
Peninsula	17	2.5
other, please specify	4	0.6
Malaysia	45	6.7

### Faculty

<b>Faculty</b>	<b>count</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Art, Design and Architecture	18	2.7
Arts	108	16.2
Business and Economics	22	3.3
Education	38	5.7
Engineering	99	14.8
Information Technology	39	5.8
Law	11	1.6
Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences	191	28.6
Monash Injury Research Institute	3	0.4
Monash Sustainable Development Institute	1	0.1
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences	46	6.9
Science	92	13.8

### Mode of Attendance

<b>Mode of attendance</b>	<b>count</b>	<b>percentage</b>
Internal (on-campus)	609	91.2
External (off-campus)	43	6.4
Multi-modal (mix of internal and external)	16	2.4

### Nationality

<b>Nationality</b>	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Domestic student	383	57.3
International student	285	42.7

## Attendance Type

Attendance type	count	percentage
Full-time	598	89.5
Part-time	70	10.5

## Gender

Gender	count	percentage
Male	253	37.9
Female	404	60.5
Transgender	2	0.3
Prefer to self-describe	4	0.6
Prefer not to answer	5	0.7

## Enrolled Research Program

Enrolled Program	count	percentage
PhD	573	85.8
Masters by research	72	10.8
other, please specify	23	3.4

## Scholarship

Scholarship	count	percentage
Receives Scholarship	543	81.3
No scholarship	101	15.1
Previously held a scholarship	24	3.6