Survey Details

• A survey was sent to all 5,233 UCB Spring 2021 enrolled international students on Wednesday, March 3
• Our goal was to learn about their personal, social and academic concerns
• A total of 469 responses were received, resulting in an approximately 8.9% response rate
• This survey was conducted in collaboration with the Chair of the Academic Senate and ASUC student leaders
What is your current level of study?

- Bachelor’s: Freshman: 20.90%
- Bachelor’s: Sophomore: 8.74%
- Bachelor’s: Junior: 10.23%
- Bachelor’s: Senior: 7.46%
- Master’s - Academic program: 7.46%
- Master’s - Professional Program (MFE, MBA, etc.): 13.65%
- PhD: 30.28%
- J.D. or JSD: 1.28%
What is your College or School? (Top 5 Colleges)

- Engineering: 21.96%
- Environmental Design: 7.68%
- Haas School of Business: 8.32%
- Letters & Science: 42.64%
- Natural Resources: 6.18%
What is your country of permanent legal residence? (Top 5 Countries)

- **China**: 34.33%
- **India**: 9.59%
- **Canada**: 6.61%
- **Hong Kong**: 3.20%
- **Korea, South**: 3.20%
Please provide information about your current location:

- I am in the U.S. and in the Bay Area: 48.40%
- I am in the U.S. but outside the Bay Area: 4.26%
- I am in my home country: 43.92%
- I am in a country other than my home country: 3.41%
If classes are not mostly in person in Fall 2021 I will (choose one):

- Remain in my country and study online through UC Berkeley: 17.70%
- Enter the U.S. to study at UC Berkeley if I am able to: 43.92%
- Enter the U.S. to study at UC Berkeley only if I am able to obtain the vaccine: 10.45%
- Take a break from my studies at UC Berkeley: 5.12%
- I do not plan on returning to the U.S. to study at UC Berkeley: 6.40%
- Not sure: 16.42%
My personal or family income has been impacted by the pandemic (choose one):

- Not at all: 31.30%
- A little: 41.81%
- Somewhat significantly: 18.34%
- Very significantly: 8.56%
I have had difficulties covering basic needs such as utilities, internet and food
I lost my off-campus job or internship
I was unable to secure a job or internship in 2020
I lost my on-campus job
I haven't been able to secure on-campus employment
None of the above
What obligations do you have right now outside of school? (check all that apply)

- I have a paid job or internship: 18.34%
- I am an active member of a student organization: 29.58%
- I care for family members: 24.45%
- I am a competitive athlete: 1.47%
- I do not have any other obligations: 46.21%
- Other (please specify): 3.18%
If any, how many hours per week do your obligations outside of school take you?

- 1-5 hours: 15.16%
- 6-10 hours: 18.09%
- 10-15 hours: 10.02%
- 16-20 hours: 6.85%
- Greater than 20 hours: 7.09%
- Does not apply: 42.79%
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements regarding your general feeling of well-being:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am doing fine</td>
<td>9.29%</td>
<td>19.07%</td>
<td>23.72%</td>
<td>39.12%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am having difficulty being separated from friends</td>
<td>1.39%</td>
<td>21.76%</td>
<td>41.56%</td>
<td>17.60%</td>
<td>17.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am having difficulty coping with isolation</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
<td>20.78%</td>
<td>26.41%</td>
<td>29.83%</td>
<td>14.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am presently experiencing some level of anxiety</td>
<td>9.29%</td>
<td>16.63%</td>
<td>41.32%</td>
<td>26.89%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am presently experiencing some level of depression</td>
<td>12.47%</td>
<td>17.60%</td>
<td>23.72%</td>
<td>28.36%</td>
<td>17.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I feel supported</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
<td>18.83%</td>
<td>31.30%</td>
<td>33.25%</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The following are part of my present support network (choose all that apply):

- My family: 89.24%
- Friends from my home country: 74.57%
- My American friends: 40.59%
- Friends from another country: 23.96%
- Friends I met through a social organization: 16.63%
- Friends I met through a professional organization: 14.67%
- Friends I met in my home country through a local study center: 4.65%
- My spouse/partner: 26.89%
- I do not feel like I have a support network: 4.16%
How are your present social interaction needs being met? (choose all that apply)

- My family: 75.31%
- Friends from my home country: 63.33%
- My American friends: 35.94%
- Friends from another country: 15.89%
- Friends I met in my home country through a local study center: 4.65%
- My spouse/partner: 24.69%
- Student organization or club: 19.56%
- Extracurricular activities: 15.89%
- Study groups/academics: 18.34%
- I do not feel like my social interaction needs are being met: 13.45%
- Other (please specify): 0.73%
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.
I am concerned about:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree Strongly</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Does Not Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>My finances</td>
<td>12.96%</td>
<td>26.65%</td>
<td>18.58%</td>
<td>34.96%</td>
<td>6.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My isolation</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>21.52%</td>
<td>20.29%</td>
<td>45.48%</td>
<td>3.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My academics</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
<td>11.98%</td>
<td>34.23%</td>
<td>46.45%</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My job prospects</td>
<td>4.89%</td>
<td>11.98%</td>
<td>38.88%</td>
<td>35.70%</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My future immigration status</td>
<td>4.40%</td>
<td>16.63%</td>
<td>32.76%</td>
<td>38.14%</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My ability to enter the U.S. in the fall</td>
<td>8.07%</td>
<td>14.91%</td>
<td>28.85%</td>
<td>30.81%</td>
<td>17.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How prepared I will be for work in the future</td>
<td>5.38%</td>
<td>14.43%</td>
<td>33.01%</td>
<td>40.83%</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My physical health</td>
<td>9.05%</td>
<td>22.25%</td>
<td>26.16%</td>
<td>37.65%</td>
<td>4.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My mental health</td>
<td>6.60%</td>
<td>15.89%</td>
<td>33.50%</td>
<td>41.32%</td>
<td>2.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racism or discrimination directed towards me because of the pandemic</td>
<td>20.54%</td>
<td>21.27%</td>
<td>18.83%</td>
<td>30.56%</td>
<td>8.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The political situation between the U.S. and my home country</td>
<td>14.18%</td>
<td>22.49%</td>
<td>20.29%</td>
<td>33.01%</td>
<td>10.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I do not have any concerns</td>
<td>44.25%</td>
<td>21.03%</td>
<td>6.85%</td>
<td>3.18%</td>
<td>1.71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

- I have difficulties accessing my classes and other online needs due to VPN issues.
  - Strongly disagree: 26.07%
  - Disagree: 36.34%
  - Agree: 11.28%
  - Strongly agree: 21.05%
  - Does not apply: 5.26%

- I have difficulties accessing my classes due to intermittent or poor internet connectivity.
  - Strongly disagree: 20.05%
  - Disagree: 39.60%
  - Agree: 23.06%
  - Strongly agree: 8.02%
  - Does not apply: 9.27%

- I am concerned about my privacy when participating in class discussions.
  - Strongly disagree: 20.05%
  - Disagree: 49.37%
  - Agree: 16.79%
  - Strongly agree: 9.27%
  - Does not apply: 4.51%

- I am concerned about my ability to participate in classes due to time zone differences.
  - Strongly disagree: 14.04%
  - Disagree: 19.05%
  - Agree: 17.79%
  - Strongly agree: 27.07%
  - Does not apply: 22.06%

- I have difficulty concentrating in classes due to my personal surroundings.
  - Strongly disagree: 7.27%
  - Disagree: 27.57%
  - Agree: 35.34%
  - Strongly agree: 21.80%
  - Does not apply: 8.02%

- I have difficulty understanding the norms of the U.S. classroom.
  - Strongly disagree: 23.06%
  - Disagree: 42.36%
  - Agree: 16.79%
  - Strongly agree: 14.04%
  - Does not apply: 3.76%
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

My professors have generally accommodated my academic needs.

My professors have made available multiple modalities of instruction (such as synchronous and asynchronous).

I believe the quality of teaching has remained high even during remote instruction.

I believe my ability to learn has remained consistent even during remote instruction.

I understand what is expected of me in my classes.

I find it easier to participate in class discussions because of the online modality.
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

I feel respected in the classroom as an international student.  

- Strongly disagree: 8.07%  
- Disagree: 57.46%  
- Agree: 26.65%  
- Strongly agree: 5.13%

I feel respected for my individual identity that I bring to the classroom.  

- Strongly disagree: 8.07%  
- Disagree: 56.72%  
- Agree: 25.43%  
- Strongly agree: 7.82%

I feel that the contributions I bring to campus as an international student are respected.  

- Strongly disagree: 12.71%  
- Disagree: 53.06%  
- Agree: 21.76%  
- Strongly agree: 9.29%

I feel valued by the university.  

- Strongly disagree: 8.07%  
- Disagree: 19.07%  
- Agree: 51.83%  
- Strongly agree: 17.11%  
- Does not apply: 3.91%

I feel welcomed by the university.  

- Strongly disagree: 13.20%  
- Disagree: 54.28%  
- Agree: 22.98%  
- Strongly agree: 4.89%

I feel I was accepted because of my money, not because I am actually good enough to be at UC Berkeley.  

- Strongly disagree: 32.03%  
- Disagree: 36.43%  
- Agree: 14.91%  
- Strongly agree: 6.60%  
- Does not apply: 10.02%

I believe I am receiving a good value for my tuition during remote instruction.  

- Strongly disagree: 23.47%  
- Disagree: 27.63%  
- Agree: 28.12%  
- Strongly agree: 9.78%  
- Does not apply: 11.00%

I feel that the investment my family has made in my education at UC Berkeley is worthwhile.  

- Strongly disagree: 5.87%  
- Disagree: 16.63%  
- Agree: 42.54%  
- Strongly agree: 18.09%  
- Does not apply: 16.87%

I feel a sense of belonging to the university in spite of the pandemic.  

- Strongly disagree: 13.20%  
- Disagree: 31.54%  
- Agree: 38.63%  
- Strongly agree: 11.49%  
- Does not apply: 5.13%

I feel optimistic about my future.  

- Strongly disagree: 10.76%  
- Disagree: 24.69%  
- Agree: 47.68%  
- Strongly agree: 13.45%  
- Does not apply: 3.42%

I feel optimistic about my future work opportunity in the U.S.  

- Strongly disagree: 18.34%  
- Disagree: 35.21%  
- Agree: 28.85%  
- Strongly agree: 8.31%  
- Does not apply: 9.29%
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Does Not Apply</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The resources available to me as a student are generally sufficient.</td>
<td>9.16%</td>
<td>21.37%</td>
<td>57.51%</td>
<td>8.91%</td>
<td>3.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have difficulty accessing campus resources.</td>
<td>7.63%</td>
<td>45.04%</td>
<td>29.26%</td>
<td>13.23%</td>
<td>4.83%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been able to meet with an academic advisor.</td>
<td>6.34%</td>
<td>13.99%</td>
<td>47.84%</td>
<td>20.61%</td>
<td>12.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have been able to meet with my professor during office hours.</td>
<td>6.36%</td>
<td>10.94%</td>
<td>52.67%</td>
<td>18.32%</td>
<td>11.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with how my academic department has responded to my needs as an international student.</td>
<td>7.63%</td>
<td>17.05%</td>
<td>51.40%</td>
<td>18.32%</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with how other campus services have supported my needs as an international student since the start of the pandemic.</td>
<td>9.92%</td>
<td>21.37%</td>
<td>42.75%</td>
<td>11.20%</td>
<td>14.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am satisfied with the local support I receive in my home country.</td>
<td>7.89%</td>
<td>14.25%</td>
<td>39.69%</td>
<td>15.01%</td>
<td>23.16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

BIO has kept me sufficiently informed about immigration matters since the start of the pandemic.

- Strongly disagree: 3.82%
- Disagree: 9.41%
- Agree: 63.10%
- Strongly agree: 20.10%
- Does not apply: 3.56%

BIO has kept me sufficiently informed about other resources such as financial aid since the start of the pandemic.

- Strongly disagree: 5.60%
- Disagree: 15.78%
- Agree: 54.96%
- Strongly agree: 15.52%
- Does not apply: 8.14%

I am satisfied with how BIO has responded to my needs as an international student since the start of the pandemic.

- Strongly disagree: 6.11%
- Disagree: 12.72%
- Agree: 54.96%
- Strongly agree: 21.37%
- Does not apply: 4.83%
Since the shift to online services, BIO has been accessible to me:
In light of the shift to online services, how likely are you to access BIO online services such as Virtual Student Advising post pandemic?

- More likely: 27.23%
- About the same: 45.04%
- Less likely: 22.39%
- N/A: 5.34%
Student Comments

While the respondents provided a number of comments, no clear pattern emerged other than one recurring theme — students’ frustration with the absence of accommodations related to time differences. It is clear that this concern has taken a toll on their general well being. The following excerpts best illustrate that:

“I am unable to attend a number of courses due to time zone difference and the course not allowing attending asynchronously because of class participation requirement. Some professors and staff are not sensitive about time zone differences when scheduling events, meetings and deadlines, and fail to accommodate the time zone needs of international students. Basically, the needs of international students are unattended to throughout my study.”

“Why do I have to fight my professors for alternate exam times? Why couldn’t you have reached out to the university and asked for that option to be mandatory? I am exhausted by it.”
“My biggest concern is how my sleep schedule is affecting my physical and mental help and how difficult it is for me to be able to go to Office Hours or get any other form of help due to the timezone difference. It’s been difficult to ask for helpful accommodations and I really wish I was able to go to campus so I wouldn’t have to worry about being nocturnal just to take classes at Berkeley.”

“UC Berkeley doesn’t give a s— about their international students, we have been living like an animal getting up in the middle of the night to take classes that could be simply transformed into fully asynchronous mode. We need ALL classes to be transformed into fully asynchronous mode, otherwise if only one section is synchronous we would still be compelled to fully adopt PST to ensure consistency. We need better VPN. I’m literally breaking domestic law to use VPN to access class materials. I know students from other schools have been arrested for the use of VPN and I’m in constant fear of these things happening to me. Despite these fact, the campus VPN is a disaster and it takes 5 minutes to load google. I’m already paying 300$ for another stable VPN, where has my 40000+ tuition gone? We need psychological support. We are unable to use urgent drop in services at Tang Center because we do not have a US phone number and are unable to call. It’s my last semester in Berkeley. I hope campus officials do a better job in the future and better support subsequent international students.”
Next Steps

BIO will:

• Work in collaboration with the Chair of the Academic Senate to address the instructional needs of students
• Engage with IST regarding latest VPN concerns
• Reach out to the ASUC to collaborate in jointly meeting some of the social needs of students
• Work with CAPS to address the mental health needs of students
• Review current programs and services to see how we can be more responsive to the needs that have been identified
• Collaborate with other campus units to better support the international student experience