

## Graduate Students Exit Survey

Evaluation Report Spring 2023

The Office of Strategy Management and Institutional Effectiveness



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#### INTRODUCTION

The Graduate Student Exit Survey is administered to all graduating students from AUC MA/MS and Ph.D. programs every semester. The survey aims to ensure the continuing quality of education the AUC provides its graduate students. Furthermore, it captures future graduate enrollment through student recommendations or further pursuits of post-graduate studies. The Graduate Student Exit Survey is typically mandatory for all students expecting to graduate each semester.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

This survey was designed and administered by the Office of Strategy Management and Institutional Effectiveness in cooperation with the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies. Graduate students whose last semester was Spring 2023 were invited to participate in the survey on July 16th, 2023, with four reminder emails to boost the response rate. In total, 55 responses were received, yielding an overall response rate of 49%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> There are 125 graduate students whose last semester was Spring 2023; however, since some recipients had opted out of receiving surveys, the number of alumni who received the survey is 112.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> This and all upcoming percentages are rounded up to the nearest digit.

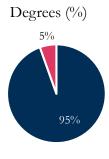


## I. DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

#### DEGREE PURSED AT AUC

Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Master's (MA, MS, MPA, etc.)	95%	52
PhD	5%	3
Total Responses		55





#### **AUC AFFILIATION**

Answer choices	Percentage	Count
AUC Staff	13%	7
AUC Faculty	6%	3
Student Only	82%	45
Total Responses		55

#### AUC Affiliation (%)



#### SCHOOLS REPRESENTED



Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Humanities and Social Sciences	35%	19
Science and Engineering	31%	17
Global Affairs & Public Policy	24%	13
School of Business	11%	6
Total Responses		55



## SINGLE DEGREES BY SCHOOL

Primary Program	Percentage	Count	
Humanities & Social Sciences	35%	19	
Engl. Comp. Literature	7%	4	
Educational Leadership	5%	3	
Int'l & Comparative Education	5%	3	
MA-Community Psychology	5%	3	
Teaching English to Speakers of other Lang	5%	3	
Counseling Psychology	2%	1	
Sociology Anthropology	2%	1	
Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language	2%	1	
Sciences & Engineering	31%	17	
Biotechnology	7%	4	
Construction Engineering	5%	3	
PhD in Applied Science	4%	2	
Architecture	2%	1	
Computer Science	2%	1	
Electronics & Communications Engineering	2%	1	
Global Public Health	2%	1	
Mechanical Engineering	2%	1	
Nanotechnology	2%	1	
PhD in Engineering	2%	1	
Sustainable Development	2%	1	
Global Affairs & Public Policy	24%	13	
MA in Public Administration	4%	2	
MA of Laws LLM in International & Comparative Law	4%	2	
Master of Global Affairs	4%	2	
Middle East Studies	4%	2	
Migration and Refugee Studies	4%	2	
Gender & Women's St. in ME/NA	2%	1	
International Human Rights Law & Justice	2%	1	
Master's in public policy	2%	1	
School of Business	11%	6	
Master of Business Administration	7%	4	
Finance	4%	2	

#### Dual Degrees

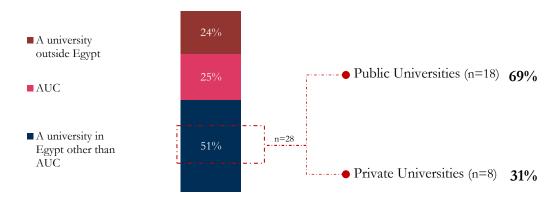
Of the 55 respondents, **four** students obtained dual degrees:

#	Program 1	Program 2	
1	1 Construction Engineering Master of Business Admin.		
2	PhD in Engineering	eering Environmental Engineering	
3	PhD in Applied Science	Chemistry	
4	PhD in Applied Science	MA in Public Administration	



#### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

#### Universities Awarding BA/BS (%)



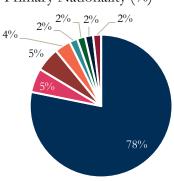
Answer choices	Percentage	Count
A university in Egypt other than AUC <sup>3</sup>	51%	28
AUC	25%	14
A university outside Egypt	24%	13
Total Responses		55

■ EG  $\blacksquare$  US ■ YE PS CD  $\blacksquare$  SS ■ SY ■ UK

## PRIMARY NATIONALITY

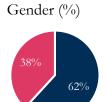
Answer choices	Percentage	Count
EG	78%	43
US	5%	3
YE	5%	3
PS	4%	2
CD	2%	1
SS	2%	1
SY	2%	1
UK	2%	1
Total Responses		55

#### Primary Nationality (%)



#### **GENDER**

Answer choices Percentage		Count
Female	64%	34
Male	36%	21
Total Responses		55



■ Female ■ Male

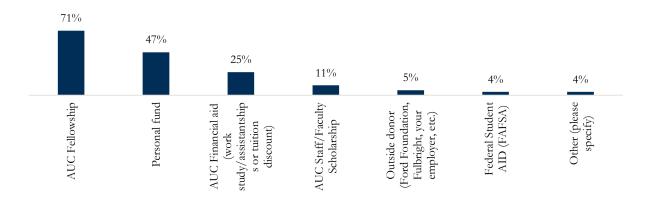
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> One respondent did not provide further details. Accordingly, percentages of public and private degrees were calculated out of n=22.



## TUITION FEES COVERAGE

#### How did you cover the cost of your tuition at AUC? (Check all that APPLY)

#### Tuition Fees Coverage (%)



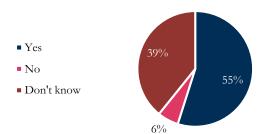
Answer choices	Percentage	Count
AUC Fellowship	71%	39
Personal fund	47%	26
AUC Financial aid (work study/assistantships or tuition discount)	25%	14
AUC Staff/Faculty Scholarship	11%	6
Outside donor (Ford Foundation, Fulbright, your employer, etc.)	5%	3
Federal Student AID (FAFSA)	4%	2
Other (please specify)	4%	2
Commercial bank loans	0%	0
Total Responses		55

#### FUTURE ACADEMIC PLANS

#### DO YOU INTEND TO PURSUE A PH.D. DEGREE?

Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Yes	55%	28
No	6%	3
Don't know	39%	20
Total Responses		51

## Intent of Pursuing PhDs (%)





Which institution(s) and Ph.D. program(s) would you consider joining? Please list your top two options, and specify the name of the institution & Country

Respondents' Primary MA/MS Programs	First Ph.D. Program of Preference	First Institution of Preference	Second Ph.D. Program of Preference	Second Institution of Preference
Ü	Hui	manities & Social Sci	ences	
Educational	Educational Leadership PhD	Canada	TESOL	England
Educational Leadership		Canada (University of Toronto)		Abroad (with fellowship opportunities for Canadians)
Int'l & Comparative Education	Education Leadership		Education policies	
MA-Community Psychology	Not decid	ed yet		States, Canada, Australia
Sociology Anthropology		Harvard		Cambridge
Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages		AUC/ Egypt		Ain Shams University/ Egypt
Teaching Arabic As a Foreign Language		University of Michigan		University of Texas
	Glo	bal Affairs & Public	Policy	
MA of Laws LLM in	PhD in comparative law		PhD in criminal law	
International &Comparative Law	I have not taken th	ne decision yet.		
Master of Global Affairs	PhD in security studies		PhD in political science	
Middle East Studies	Food politics	LSE UK	Food politics	UK food programme
Migration and Refugee Studies	-	Erasmus University Rotterdam	-	University of Oxford
0		Sciences & Engineeri	ng	
Biotechnology		Max planck institution Germany		AUC Egypt
Bioteemiology		karolina Institute		AUC
		AUC		GUC
	Construction			
Construction	PhD in Sustainable Development		PhD in Construction Engineering / Project Management,	an institution in Europe, US or Canada
		Hong Kong Polyu University		Canada
Mechanical Engineering		Carleton University - Canada		TU-Delft - Netherlands
Nanotechnology		University of Fribourg, Fribourg, Switzerland.		Max Planck Institute, Dusseldorf, Germany.
		School of Business		
Finance		University of Manchester- UK		University of Edinburgh- UK



Respondents' Primary MA/MS Programs	First Ph.D. Program of Preference	First Institution of Preference	Second Ph.D. Program of Preference	Second Institution of Preference
		USC, USA		ASU, USA
Master of Business		Rotman School of		
Admin.		management,	Smith School of	
AGIIIII.		Canada	Business, Canada	



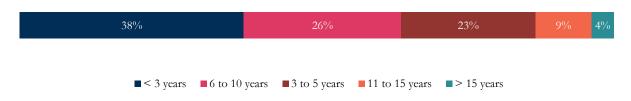
#### **EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**

#### CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS



Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Employed full-time	68%	36
Unemployed, seeking employment	19%	10
Employed part-time	9%	5
Unemployed, not seeking employment	4%	2
Total Responses		53

#### WORK EXPERIENCE AT PROGRAM START



Answer choices	Percentage	Count
< 3 years	38%	20
6 to 10 years	26%	14
3 to 5 years	23%	12
11 to 15 years	9%	5
> 15 years	4%	2
Total Responses		53

#### POSITIVE IMPACT ON SALARIES



■Yes ■No

Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Yes	81%	43
No	19%	10
Total Responses		53



## II. RESPONDENT-PROVIDED FEEDBACK

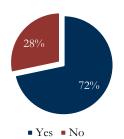
## 01- ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

#### THESIS WRITING EXPERIENCES

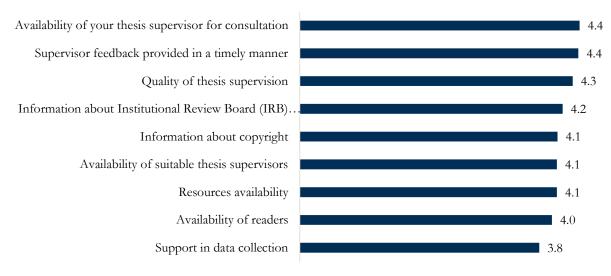
Thesis Requirements (%)

# IS WRITING A THESIS PART OF YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

Answer Choices	Percentage	Count
Yes	72%	38
No	28%	15
Total Responses		53



#### PLEASE INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING:



Answer Choices		Very satisfied		Satisfied		Neutral		Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied		Unable to assess		WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С		
Availability of your thesis supervisor for consultation	61%	22	28%	10	6%	2	6%	2	0%	0	0%	0	36	4.4
Supervisor feedback provided in a timely manner	61%	22	25%	9	8%	3	6%	2	0%	0	0%	0	36	4.4
Quality of thesis supervision	61%	22	22%	8	6%	2	11%	4	0%	0	0%	0	36	4.3
Information about Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the Protection of Human subjects requirements	44%	16	31%	11	22%	8	3%	1	0%	0	0%	0	36	4.2



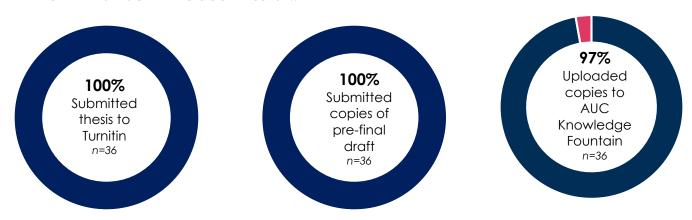
Answer Choices	Very satisfied		Satisfied		Neut	Neutral		Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied		Unable to assess		WA
	0/0	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С		
Information about copyright	42%	15	22%	8	28%	10	3%	1	0%	0	6%	2	36	4.1
Availability of suitable thesis supervisors	56%	20	17%	6	11%	4	14%	5	3%	1	0%	0	36	4.1
Resources availability	31%	11	53%	19	11%	4	6%	2	0%	0	0%	0	36	4.1
Availability of readers	36%	13	36%	13	17%	6	6%	2	3%	1	3%	1	36	4.0
Support in data collection	28%	10	31%	11	31%	11	8%	3	0%	0	3%	1	36	3.8

# HOW HELPFUL WAS/WERE YOUR SUPERVISOR(S) FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES?



Answer Choices		Very helpful		Helpful		Not very helpful		ot ful at ll	Total	WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С		
Support in research methodology	69%	25	25%	9	6%	2	0%	0	36	3.6
Mentoring and academic advising	64%	23	31%	11	6%	2	0%	0	36	3.6
Evaluation of thesis progress	64%	23	28%	10	8%	3	0%	0	36	3.6
Identification of a thesis/dissertation research topic	58%	21	33%	12	8%	3	0%	0	36	3.5
Support in writing a thesis/dissertation proposal	58%	21	28%	10	11%	4	3%	1	36	3.4
Information about IRB	42%	15	44%	16	11%	4	3%	1	36	3.3

## PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING WITH REGARD TO YOUR THESIS SUBMISSION.

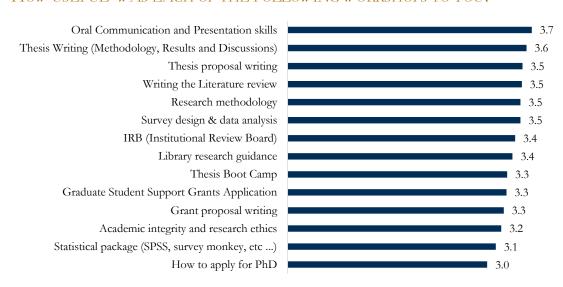




A Ch -:	Ye	es	1	Total	
Answer Choices	%	С	%	С	Total
I have submitted my thesis to Turnitin to check for plagiarism	100%	36	0%	0	36
I have submitted copies of the pre-final draft to my thesis supervisor and readers as directed	100%	36	0%	0	36
I have uploaded a soft copy of my thesis to the AUC Knowledge Fountain	97%	35	3%	1	36

#### WORKSHOPS

#### How useful<sup>4</sup> was each of the following workshops to you?



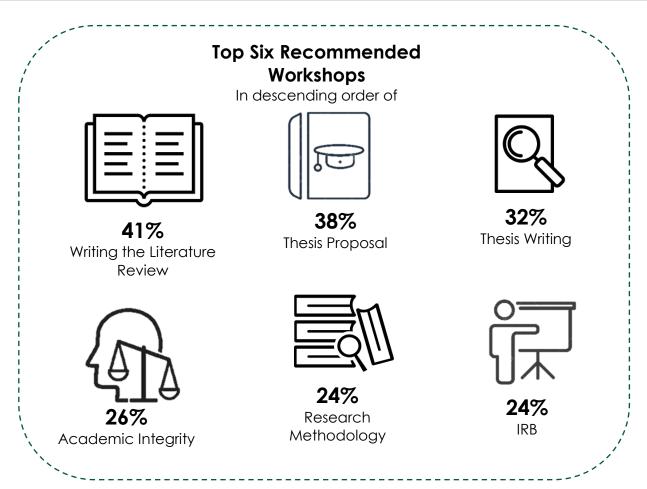
Answer Choices	Very U	Very Useful		Useful		Not Useful		Not Useful at All		Did not Attend		WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С		
Oral Communication and Presentation skills	12%	6	6%	3	0%	0	0%	0	82%	41	50	3.7
Thesis Writing (Methodology, Results and Discussions)	20%	10	14%	7	0%	0	0%	0	66%	33	50	3.6
Thesis proposal writing	20%	10	18%	9	0%	0	0%	0	62%	31	50	3.5
Writing the Literature review	22%	11	20%	10	0%	0	0%	0	58%	29	50	3.5
Research methodology	20%	10	14%	7	2%	1	0%	0	64%	32	50	3.5
Survey design & data analysis	8%	4	8%	4	0%	0	0%	0	84%	42	50	3.5
IRB (Institutional Review Board)	18%	9	18%	9	2%	1	0%	0	62%	31	50	3.4
Library research guidance	12%	6	20%	10	0%	0	0%	0	68%	34	50	3.4
Thesis Boot Camp	8%	4	10%	5	2%	1	0%	0	80%	40	50	3.3
Graduate Student Support Grants Application	6%	3	6%	3	2%	1	0%	0	86%	43	50	3.3
Grant proposal writing	8%	4	6%	3	0%	0	2%	1	84%	42	50	3.3
Academic integrity and research ethics	18%	9	24%	12	4%	2	2%	1	52%	26	50	3.2
Statistical package (SPSS, survey monkey, etc)	6%	3	8%	4	0%	0	2%	1	84%	42	50	3.1
How to apply for PhD	2%	1	0%	0	2%	1	0%	0	96%	48	50	3.0

 $<sup>^4</sup>$  Statements were rated on a scale of 1 - 4: 4-Very useful, 3-Useful, 2-Not useful, 1-Not useful at all.



# WHICH OF THESE WORKSHOPS THAT YOU'VE ATTENDED WOULD YOU RECOMMEND TO YOUR COLLEAGUES AS THE MOST USEFUL?

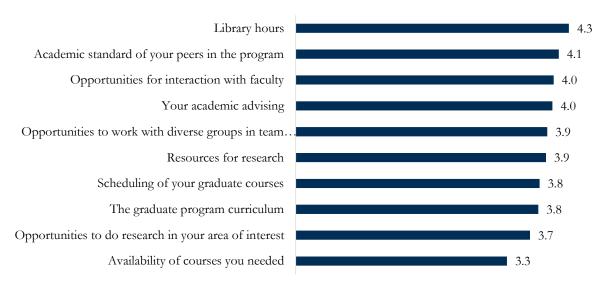
Answer Choices	Percentage	Count
Writing the Literature review	41%	14
Thesis proposal writing	38%	13
Thesis Writing (Methodology, Results and Discussions)	32%	11
Academic integrity and research ethics	26%	9
Research methodology	24%	8
IRB (Institutional Review Board)	24%	8
Library research guidance	18%	6
Thesis Boot Camp	12%	4
Oral Communication and Presentation skills	9%	3
Survey design & data analysis	9%	3
Statistical package (SPSS, survey monkey, etc)	6%	2
Grant proposal writing	3%	1
Graduate Student Support Grants Application	3%	1
How to apply for PhD	3%	1
If there are other workshops you would suggest that are not currently prov	vided, please list them below	3
Total Responses		34





## QUALITY OF ACADEMIC FACTORS

PLEASE RATE<sup>5</sup> THE QUALITY OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:



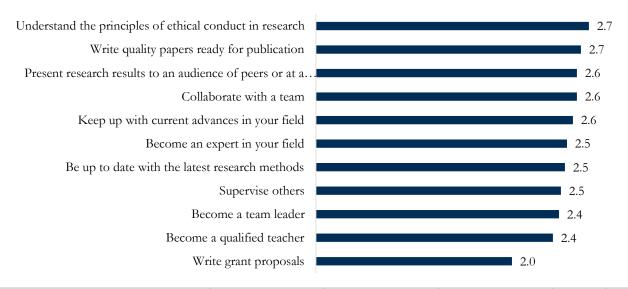
Answer Choices			Very Good		Goo	Good		Fair		Poor		Unable to assess		WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С		
Library hours	43%	21	27%	13	18%	9	0%	0	0%	0	12%	6	49	4.3
Academic standard of your peers in the program	39%	19	43%	21	12%	6	4%	2	2%	1	0%	0	49	4.1
Opportunities for interaction with faculty	43%	21	27%	13	20%	10	6%	3	2%	1	2%	1	49	4.0
Your academic advising	45%	22	20%	10	22%	11	10%	5	0%	0	2%	1	49	4.0
Opportunities to work with diverse groups in team projects	31%	15	41%	20	12%	6	12%	6	0%	0	4%	2	49	3.9
Resources for research	29%	14	43%	21	20%	10	8%	4	0%	0	0%	0	49	3.9
Scheduling of your graduate courses	39%	19	20%	10	27%	13	12%	6	2%	1	0%	0	49	3.8
The graduate program curriculum	35%	17	31%	15	20%	10	8%	4	6%	3	0%	0	49	3.8
Opportunities to do research in your area of interest	33%	16	24%	12	24%	12	8%	4	8%	4	2%	1	49	3.7
Availability of courses you needed	18%	9	33%	16	27%	13	6%	3	16%	8	0%	0	49	3.3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Statements were rated on a scale of 1 – 5: 5-Excellent, 4-Very Good, 3-Good, 2-Fair, 1-Poor



#### SKILL ENHANCEMENT

PLEASE INDICATE THE EXTENT<sup>6</sup> TO WHICH YOUR GRADUATE EDUCATION AT  $\overline{AUC}$  IS ENHANCING THESE SKILLS:



Answer Choices	To a grea	at extent	To some	extent	Not a	at all	Total	WA
Allswei Choices	%	С	%	С	%	С	Total	WA
Understand the principles of ethical conduct in research	73%	36	27%	13	0%	0	49	2.7
Write quality papers ready for publication	69%	34	27%	13	4%	2	49	2.7
Present research results to an audience of peers or at a conference	67%	33	27%	13	6%	3	49	2.6
Collaborate with a team	63%	31	35%	17	2%	1	49	2.6
Keep up with current advances in your field	61%	30	35%	17	4%	2	49	2.6
Become an expert in your field	51%	25	49%	24	0%	0	49	2.5
Be up to date with the latest research methods	51%	25	47%	23	2%	1	49	2.5
Supervise others	51%	25	43%	21	6%	3	49	2.5
Become a team leader	51%	25	41%	20	8%	4	49	2.4
Become a qualified teacher	51%	25	35%	17	14%	7	49	2.4
Write grant proposals	31%	15	35%	17	35%	17	49	2.0

 $<sup>^6</sup>$  Statements were rated on a scale of 1 – 3: 3-To a great extent, 2-To some extent, 1-Not at all

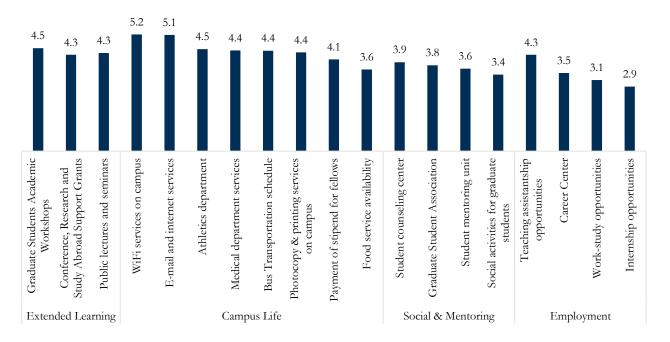


## 02- EXPERIENCES AND SUPPORT SERVICES

## CAMPUS LIFE & SUPPORT SERVICES

PLEASE RATE  $^7$  THE QUALITY OF EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT SERVICES:

#### Satisfaction with Support Services (WA)



#### Extended Learning

Answer Choices	Exce	llent	Ver Goo	-	Go	od	Avera	age	Fa	air	Poor		Unable to assess		Total	WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	С	
Graduate Students Academic Workshops	22%	11	16%	8	20%	10	14%	7	0%	0	2%	1	24%	12	49	4.5
Conference, Research and Study Abroad Support Grants	18%	9	10%	5	18%	9	10%	5	4%	2	4%	2	35%	17	49	4.3
Public lectures and seminars	14%	7	29%	14	18%	9	12%	6	6%	3	2%	1	18%	9	49	4.3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Statements were rated on a scale of 1 – 6: 6-Excellent, 5-Very Good, 4-Good, 3-Average, 2-Fair, 1-Poor



#### Campus Life

Answer Choices	Exce	llent	Vei God	•	Goo	od	Aver	age	Fa	ir	Poo	or	Una to ass		Total	WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	С	
WiFi services on campus	49%	24	24%	12	18%	9	4%	2	0%	0	2%	1	2%	1	49	5.2
E-mail and internet services	49%	24	14%	7	27%	13	2%	1	2%	1	0%	0	6%	3	49	5.1
Athletics department	16%	8	10%	5	18%	9	10%	5	2%	1	0%	0	43%	21	49	4.5
Medical department services	14%	7	18%	9	20%	10	8%	4	2%	1	2%	1	35%	17	49	4.4
Bus Transportation schedule	18%	9	18%	9	10%	5	6%	3	2%	1	6%	3	39%	19	49	4.4
Photocopy & printing services on campus	18%	9	18%	9	20%	10	10%	5	0%	0	6%	3	27%	13	49	4.4
Payment of stipend for fellows	18%	9	18%	9	16%	8	10%	5	8%	4	8%	4	20%	10	49	4.1
Food service availability	14%	7	20%	10	18%	9	16%	8	8%	4	18%	9	4%	2	49	3.6

#### Social & Mentoring

Answer Choices	Exce	llent	Ver Goo		Goo	od	Aver	age	Fair		Poo	Poor		ble sess	Total	WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	С	
Student counseling center	6%	3	12%	6	16%	8	12%	6	2%	1	4%	2	47%	23	49	3.9
Graduate Student Association	14%	7	12%	6	18%	9	4%	2	10%	5	10%	5	31%	15	49	3.8
Student mentoring unit	8%	4	8%	4	8%	4	8%	4	4%	2	8%	4	55%	27	49	3.6
Social activities for graduate students	8%	4	14%	7	12%	6	8%	4	14%	7	12%	6	31%	15	49	3.4

#### **Employment**

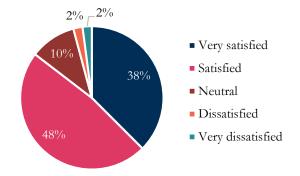
Answer Choices	Exce	llent	Vei Goo	•	Goo	od	Aver	age	Fa	ir	Poor		Unable to assess		Total	WA
	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	С	
Teaching assistantship opportunities	20%	10	10%	5	18%	9	6%	3	2%	1	8%	4	35%	17	49	4.3
Career Center	8%	4	10%	5	14%	7	14%	7	2%	1	14%	7	37%	18	49	3.5
Work-study opportunities	6%	3	6%	3	16%	8	8%	4	6%	3	16%	8	41%	20	49	3.1
Internship opportunities	8%	4	4%	2	12%	6	2%	1	0%	0	27%	13	47%	23	49	2.9

## 03- OVERALL STUDENT SATISFACTION

#### OVERALL GRADUATE STUDENT SATISFACTION

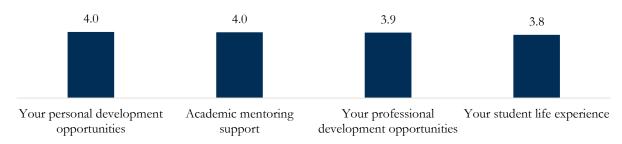
OVERALL, INDICATE YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION AS A GRADUATE STUDENT AT AUC.

Answer Choices	Percentage	Count
Very satisfied	38%	18
Satisfied	48%	23
Neutral	10%	5
Dissatisfied	2%	1
Very dissatisfied	2%	1
Total Responses		48



#### SATISFACTION WITH GRADUATE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Overall, as a graduate student at AUC, how would you rate the following?



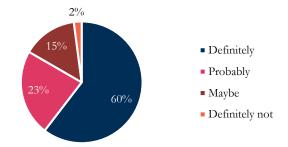
Answer Choices	Excellent		Very Good		Good		Fair		Poor		Total	WA
Allswer Choices	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	%	С	С	WA
Your personal development opportunities	38%	18	35%	17	17%	8	8%	4	2%	1	48	4.0
Academic mentoring support	40%	19	29%	14	21%	10	8%	4	2%	1	48	4.0
Your professional development opportunities	33%	16	42%	20	15%	7	6%	3	4%	2	48	3.9
Your student life experience	31%	15	35%	17	21%	10	8%	4	4%	2	48	3.8



#### AUC RECOMMENDATION

Would you recommend AUC to a friend or colleague considering your field of study?

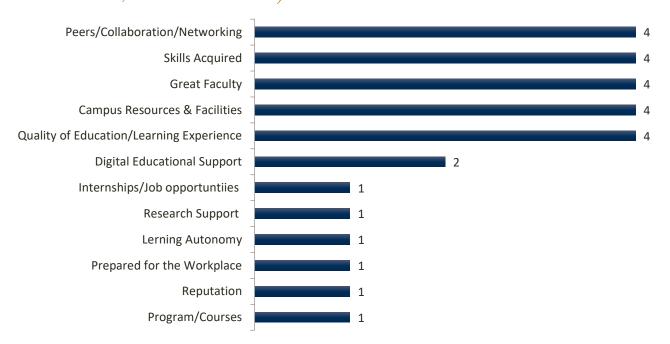
Answer choices	Percentage	Count
Definitely	60%	29
Probably	23%	11
Maybe	15%	7
Definitely not	2%	1
Please elaborate:		7
Total Responses		48



## 04- OPEN-ENDED QUESTION RESPONSES

#### STRENGTHS OF GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

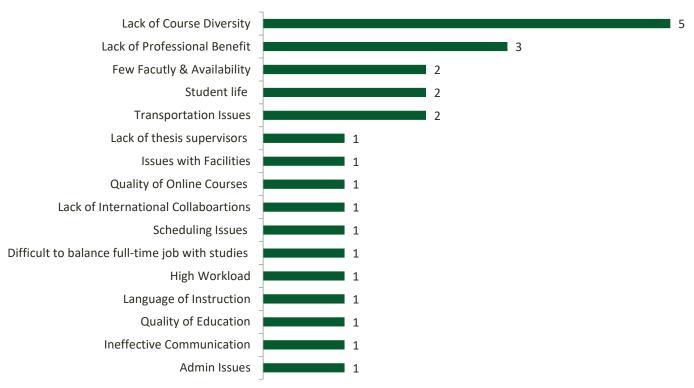
What are the strengths of your graduate experience at AUC? (14 Responses; 28 Point Mentions)





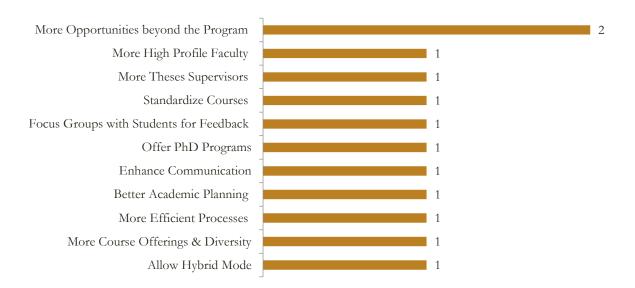
#### WEAKNESSES OF GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCES

What are the Weaknesses of your graduate experience at AUC? (13 Responses; 25 Point Mentions)



#### SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Any Suggestions for Improvement are Welcome (8 Responses; 12 Point Mentions)

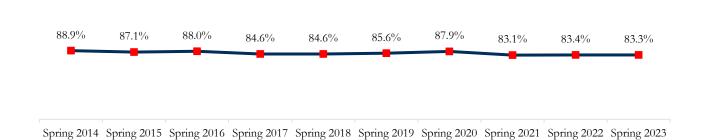




## III. TRENDS ON KEY METRICS

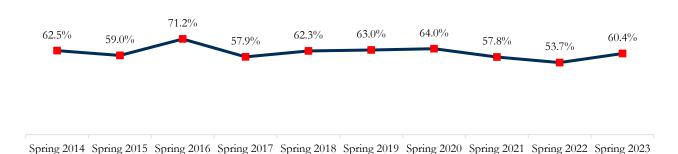
#### OVERALL GRADUATE STUDENT SATISFACTION<sup>8</sup>

#### Overall Satisfaction with the Graduate Experience



#### POTENTIAL OF AUC RECOMMENDATION

I would definitely recommend AUC to my friends considering my field of study

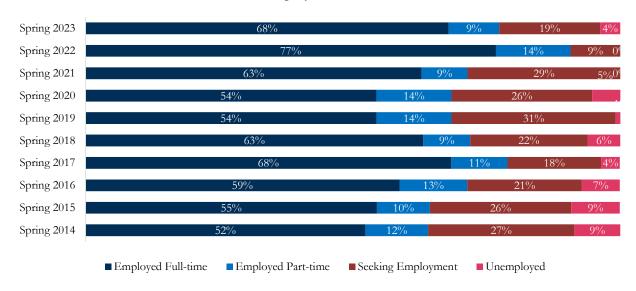


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Reported on an overall weighted average on a scale from 1 – 5: 5-Very satisfied, 4-Satisfied, 3-Neutral, 2-Dissatisfied, 1-Very dissatisfied



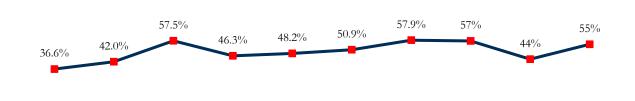
#### STUDENT EMPLOYMENT STATUS

#### **Employment Status**



#### INTENT TO PURSUE PHDS

#### Trends in Intent to Pursue PhDs (%)



Spring 2014 Spring 2015 Spring 2016 Spring 2017 Spring 2018 Spring 2019 Spring 2020 Spring 2021 Spring 2022 Spring 2023