

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
New Colombo Plan experience survey

Cumulative survey findings of recently
completed NCP program participants

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Australian Survey Research Group Pty Ltd is accredited under the AS ISO 20252 quality standard applying to market and social research.

This research project was carried out in compliance with the AS ISO 20252 quality standard.

Executive summary

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned Australian Survey Research Group (ASR) to conduct a student experience survey for New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship and Mobility student participants once they had completed / returned to Australia.

This report presents the cumulative results of the Scholarship and Mobility completion surveys that have been administered online. Separate results are presented for each program, that is, Scholarship and Mobility.

Survey period and response rate

Online Scholarship and Mobility surveys were conducted from 1 August 2016 to 5 December 2017. Usually each month, recently returned students are surveyed. This report details the cumulative findings for the period.

The table below outlines the number of survey invitations sent and responses received. Overall response rates were relatively high compared with similar studies of this nature: 56% for Scholars 45% for Mobility students.

Cohort	Invitations emails sent	Completions	Non-completions	Response rate
Scholarship	225	127	98	56%
Mobility	8,107	3,667	4,389	45%

Scholarship survey results summary

Scholar profile

Born in Australia	94%
Lived in a major city	67%
Lived in an inner regional area	17%
Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	1%
Reported having a disability	2%
Travelled overseas before participating in their NCP program	98%
Only speak English at home	85%

Host institution, program duration and field of study

National University of Singapore (10%), University of Hong Kong (5%), Nanyang Technological University (6%) and Gadjah Mada University (6%) were the most common host institutions.

21% of Scholars had a program duration of up to 6 months, 46% Scholars between 6 and 12 months, and 33% between 12 and 19 months.

16% of Scholars had a primary field of study in Law and Law Enforcement, followed by Language and Literature (14%) and Political Science and Policy Studies (12%). Language and Literature was the most common secondary field of study for 24% of Scholars.

Language training

- 73% of Scholars undertook formal language training prior to their NCP Scholarship.
- 41% of Scholars studied or worked primarily or entirely in the language of their host location.
- The most common languages undertaken by Scholars were Chinese / Mandarin (33%), Indonesian / Bahasa (19%) and Japanese (16%).
- All Scholars found the language course useful to some extent. 48% of Scholars found the language training *extremely useful*, 26% *very useful* and 21% *moderately useful*.

Pre-departure & cross-cultural training

47% of NCP Scholars found the pre-departure training *extremely useful* (16%) or *very useful* (37%); 25% indicated that it was *moderately useful* and 12% *did not attend*.

Work based experience

Overall 96% of Scholars undertook some form of internship, practicum, mentorship, clinical placement or other work-based experience during their program.

Of those who had completed one work-based experience, 54% found that experience extremely valuable and 32% found it very valuable. Of scholars who had completed a second work-based experience, 60% found it *extremely valuable* and 19% *very valuable*.

Cross-cultural communication skills and professional and personal networks were equally selected (77%) as the most useful elements of their work based experiences while 76% of Scholars indicated working in multi-cultural teams and 75% indicated exposure to an organisation's operations as the most useful elements.

Challenges

Understanding the processes of their host university or organisation (40%) and visa issues (40%) were the main challenges for Scholars followed by arranging work based experience (25%).

Most Scholars were able to **meet** the challenges they faced such as understanding the processes of my host university or organisation (70%), visa issues (76%) and arranging work based experience (81%). 45% of Scholars were able to meet the challenge of learning a new language.

NCP program benefits and outcomes

Overall, the experience was a very positive one for NCP Scholars.

- 98% Scholars agreed (*strongly agreed* 86% and *agreed* 12%) that the NCP experience was a **life changing** experience.
- Every scholar who participated in the survey (100%) also agreed (*strongly agreed* 90% and *agreed* 10%) that they had **improved knowledge** and understanding of their host location(s).
- 99% agreed (*strongly agreed* 89% and *agreed* 10%) that they were confident that they were **better able to engage with people** in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 98% agreed (*strongly agreed* 85% and *agreed* 13%) that they were **more enthusiastic about engaging** with the Indo-Pacific region in future.
- Every scholar who participated in the survey (100%) agreed (*strongly agreed* 97% and *agreed* 3%) that they would **recommend** the NCP Scholarship program to other students.
- 99% of Scholars agreed (*strongly agreed* 88% and *agreed* 11%) that their NCP experience had **enhanced their cross-cultural awareness** and skills.
- 98% of Scholars agreed (*strongly agreed* 91% and *agreed* 7%) that they had a **rewarding NCP Scholarship Program**.

Mobility survey results summary

The following sections report the key findings of the online Mobility completion survey. Results are cumulative from 1 August 2017 to 5 December 2017. There were 3,667 respondents in total during this period.

Respondent profile

- The majority of Mobility students were born in Australia (85%).
- 56% of Mobility students grew up in a major Australian city. This contrasts with the (roughly) 70% in the general population. 38% grew up in an Australian regional or remote area (compared to 30% of the general population).
- 21% of students spoke a language other than English at home.
- The three most common broad fields of study for Mobility students were Business, Accounting, Banking, Finance, Marketing and Management (13%), followed by Education (10%) and Law and Law Enforcement (6%).
- 90% of Mobility students had travelled overseas before they participated in the program; 48% had travelled to the Indo-Pacific region and another part of the world, 25% had travelled to another part of the world only and 17% had travelled to the Indo-Pacific region only.

Host location

The main three host countries were China (17%), Indonesia (12%) and India (11%).

Value of activities undertaken as part of NCP

The majority of students listed all activities as extremely valuable or very valuable. The top three (based on combined percentage of *extremely* and *very valuable*) were:

- Working in small groups/teams with local people (*extremely valuable* at 60% and *very valuable* at 31%).
- Field or site visits (*extremely valuable* 61% and *very valuable* 28%).
- Cultural events (*extremely valuable* 55% and *very valuable* 34%).

Language training

- 17% of Mobility students undertook formal language training, 4% undertook formal language training and also studied or worked primarily in the language of their host location.
- Of these students, 28% indicated that they had improved their language skills by studying or working primarily in the language of their host location.
- The top three languages that Mobility students formally trained in were Chinese/Mandarin (31%), Indonesian/Bahasa (28%) and Japanese (10%).

Cross cultural training

- 60% of Mobility students undertook formal cross-cultural training as part of their NCP experience.
- For 58% of Mobility students, the formal cross-cultural training was delivered by their home university and for 37%, it was delivered by their host institution.
- 63% Mobility students found the cross-cultural training *extremely useful* (27%) or *very useful* (36%).

Work based experience

39% of Mobility students undertook some form of work based experience as part of their NCP project.

91% of Mobility students indicated their work based experiences helped them develop their professional skills and knowledge (62% to a *great extent* and 29% to a *moderate extent*) and 81% of Mobility students indicated it helped them make professional connections with people or organisations in their host location (*to a great extent* 47%, to a *moderate extent* 34%).

Challenges

The top three challenges faced by NCP Mobility students during their overseas project were:

1. adapting to the local culture and customs (36%)
2. adapting to local environment/weather (29%) and
3. learning a new language (28%).

90% of Mobility students were able to *fully meet* the challenge of adapting to the local culture and customs while 10% *partially met* the challenge. 85% of Mobility students *fully met* the challenge of adapting to a new workplace culture while 82% and fully met the challenge of adapting to a new teaching and learning style.

Grant allocation

84% of Mobility students indicated that it was clear how much NCP funding they would receive. However, 11% only partially knew and 5% were not clear about the process. For 77% of Mobility students it was clear in advance which elements of the program would be covered by their NCP grant and which they would have to pay for themselves. This was partially clear to 16% and 8% were unclear.

Mobility students were most unclear around the fact that a financial contribution was required from them [in advance] (20% were unclear about this, and for 9% this was only partially clear).

Benefits and outcomes of the NCP Mobility program

Feedback on benefits and outcomes of the Mobility NCP program was highly positive among participants.

- 97% agreed they had a **life changing experience** (*strongly agreed* 69% and *agreed* 28%).
- Nearly all Mobility students (99%) agreed that they had **improved knowledge** and understanding of their host location(s) (*strongly agreed* 78% and *agreed* 21%).
- 94% agreed they were more confident that they were **more Asia-capable** and better able to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region (*strongly agreed* 63% and *agreed* 32%).
- 94% of Mobility students agreed (*strongly agreed* 65% and *agreed* 29%) that they were **more enthusiastic about engaging** with the Indo-Pacific region in future.
- Nearly all (98%) Mobility students indicated that they would **recommend** the NCP program to other students (*strongly agreed* 83% and *agreed* 15%).
- 60% of Mobility students undertook formal **cross-cultural training** as part of their NCP experience. Of this group, 63% found the training *extremely* (27%) or *very useful* (36%).
- A similar proportion (97%) of Mobility students *agreed* with that they had a **rewarding NCP program** (81%).

Introduction

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) commissioned Australian Survey Research (ASR) to conduct a student experience survey for recently returned New Colombo Plan (NCP) Scholarship and Mobility student participants.

This report presents the cumulative results of Scholarship and Mobility surveys from 1 August 2016 to 5 December 2017.

Methodology

Data collection

Online

ASR administered either an online Scholarship or a Mobility survey to respective students who were returning to Australia within 2 to 4 weeks after completing their NCP experience. Using DFAT-provided lists of students, ASR emailed each student and provided a unique link to their respective online survey.

Sample and response rates

The surveys were conducted, usually each month, from 1 August 2016 to 5 December 2017. This report details the cumulative findings for this period.

The table below outlines the number (count) of survey invitations sent and responses received. Overall response rates were relatively high compared with similar studies of this nature: 56% for Scholars 45% for Mobility students.

Cohort	Invitations emails sent	Completions	Non-completions	Response rate
Scholarship	225	127	98	56%
Mobility	8,107	3,667	4,389	45%

Incentives

No incentives were offered for the completion of the surveys. This was not deemed necessary as all survey participants had received a grant to study or undertake a project overseas.

Survey sample profile

Please refer to each section below (Scholars and Mobility) for detailed information on participant profiles.

Reading charts and tables

Within this report, data labels in the charts with values less than 2% have been removed for readability. Only values 2% or higher have been labelled.

Both the Mobility and the Scholarship surveys were voluntary, this means that respondents were not forced to answer all questions. The total counts (n counts) presented in the tables and charts throughout the reports are based on valid counts, that is, missing values have been excluded and only valid answers have been included. Therefore, n counts fluctuate throughout the report depending on how many people answered a question.

Scholarship completions

The following sections report the cumulative results of the online Scholarship completion survey from inception on 1 August 2016 to 5 December 2017. A total of 127 respondents completed the survey during this period.

Scholar profile

The majority of Scholars were born in *Australia* (94%) and lived in a *major city* (67%) or an *inner regional area* (17%). Refer to the tables below.

Country of birth	% n=115
Australia	94
Hong Kong SAR	2
Indonesia	1
Philippines	1
Thailand	1
China	1
Singapore	1
Total	100

Where participants mainly grew up	% n=127
Australia - major city	67
Australia - inner regional	17
Australia - outer regional	13
Overseas - Indo-Pacific region	2
Australia - remote	1
Total	100

1% of Scholars identified as Aboriginal. 2% of Scholars had a disability.

Identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	% n=126
No	98
Yes, Aboriginal	1
Prefer not to say	2
Total	100

Have a disability	% n=124
Yes	2
No	98
Total	100

98% of Scholars had travelled overseas before their NCP program; 85% do not speak a language other than English at home. Refer to the tables below.

Travelled overseas prior to undertaking NCP Scholarship	% n=126
Yes, to the Indo-Pacific region and another part of the world	69
Yes, to the Indo-Pacific region	20
Yes, to another part of the world	9
No	2
Total	100

Language other than English is spoken at home	% n=125
Yes	15
No	85
Total	100

Host institution, program duration, and field of study

65% of Scholars had attended multiple NCP host institutions. 35% attended only one NCP host institution.

Number of NCP host institutions attended*	% n=127
One	35
Two	35
Three	16
Four	14
Total	100

*Based on open ended responses as given by respondents, these may include internship hosts.

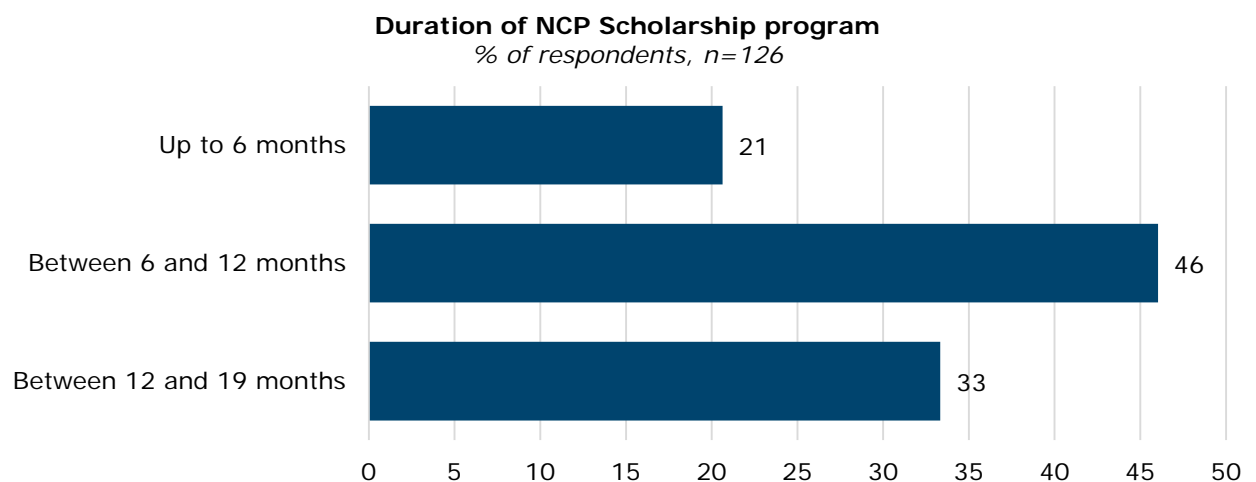
The table below shows Scholars first NCP host institutions. National University of Singapore (10%), University of Hong Kong (5%), Nanyang Technological University (6%) and Gadjah Mada University (6%) were the most common host institutions.

NCP host institution*	% First host institution% n=127
National University of Singapore	10
University of Hong Kong	7
Nanyang Technological University	6
Gadjah Mada University	6
University of Tokyo	4
University of Malaya	4
University of South Pacific	2
National Taiwan University	2
Total	43

*Only NCP host institutions with $\geq 2\%$ are displayed.

Based on information provided by DFAT.

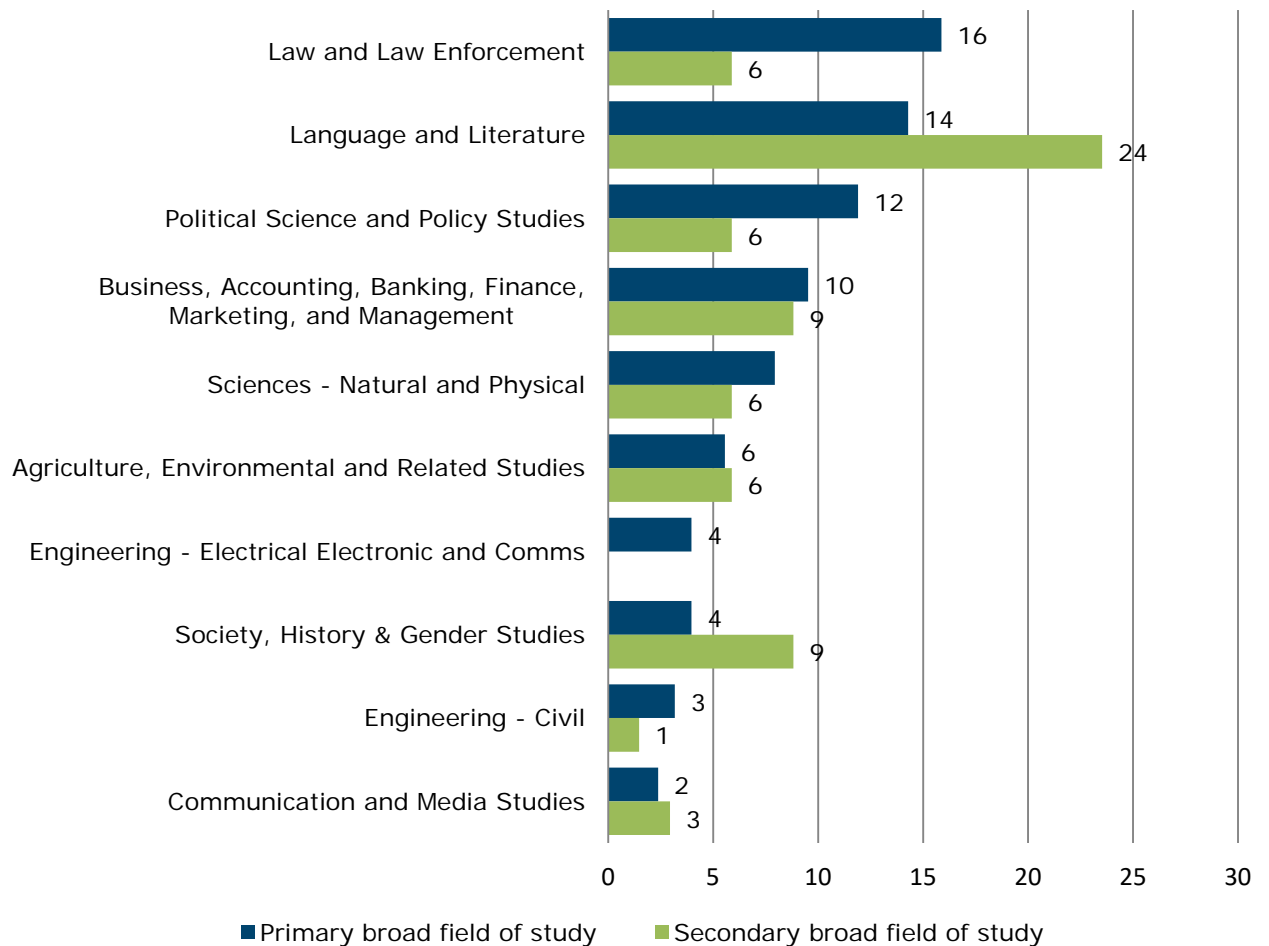
21% of Scholars had a program duration of up to 6 months, 46% Scholars 6 to less than 12 months, and 33% between 12 and 19 months. Refer to the chart below.



16% of Scholars had Law and Law Enforcement as their primary broad field of study; 6% had this as their secondary field of study. Language and Literature was the primary field of study for 14% of Scholars and secondary for 24%. 12% had Political Science and Policy Studies as their primary field with 6% as their secondary. Refer to the chart below.

Scholars' Primary and Secondary NCP program broad fields of study*

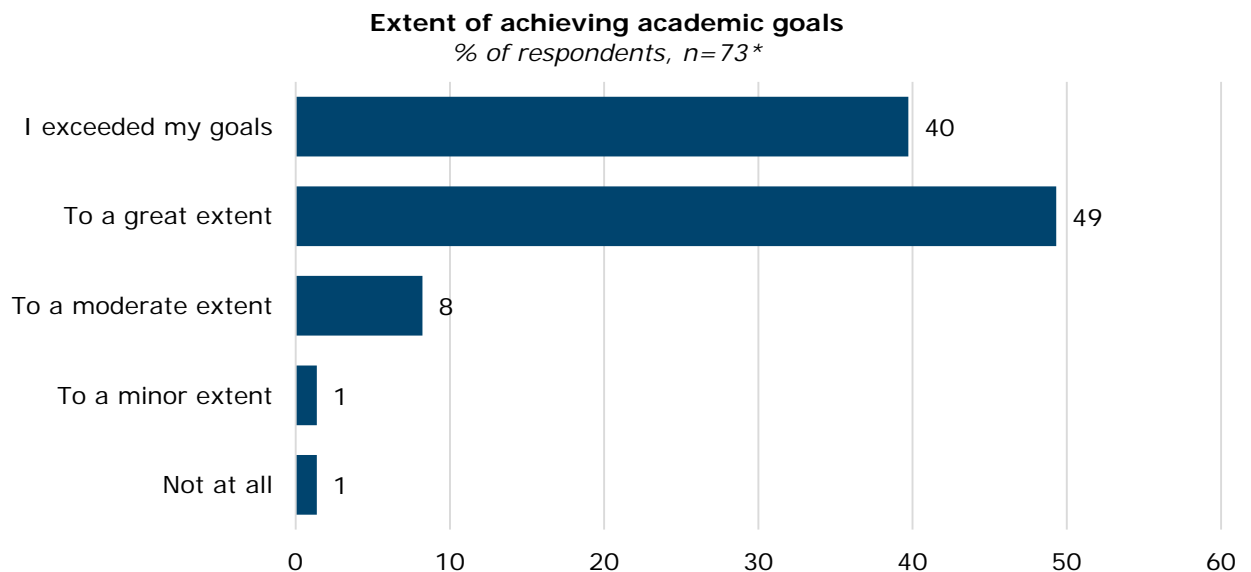
Multiple answers allowed so total > 100%; % based on n=126



**Only displays top 10 fields of study based on Primary NCP program.*

Academic goals

40% of Scholars stated they exceeded their academic goals and 49% achieved their goals to a great extent. Refer to the chart below.

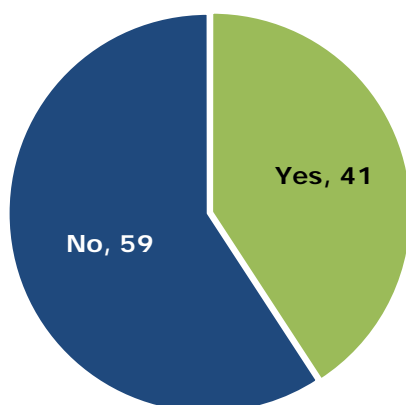


**Note that this question was not presented to all survey participants*

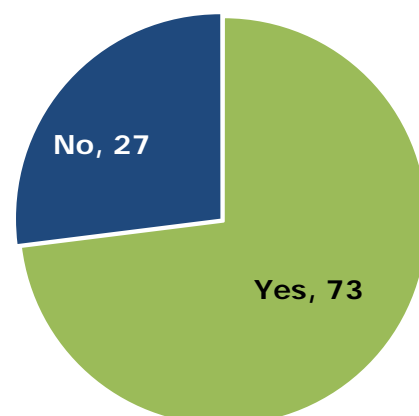
Language training

41% of Scholars studied or worked primarily or entirely in the language of their host location. 76% of Scholars undertook formal language training. Refer to the charts below.

Studied or worked primarily or entirely in the language of host location
% of respondents, n=125



Undertook formal language training as part of Scholarship program
% of respondents, n=126



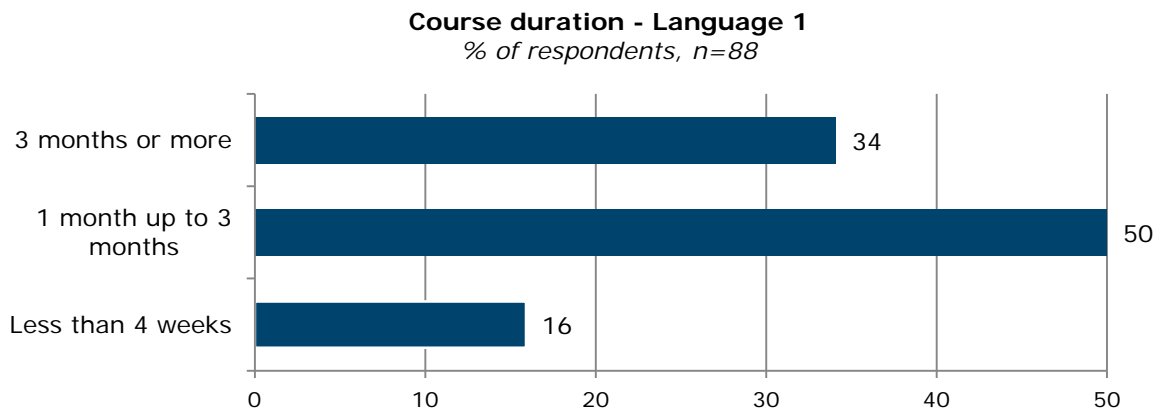
Of those Scholars who undertook formal language training as part of the Scholarship program, 56% attended one language course as part of their Scholarship program while 32% attended two and 12% attended three courses.

Number of different language courses attended as part of Scholarship program	% n=91
One	56
Two	32
Three	12
Total	100

The most common languages that Scholars studied were Chinese / Mandarin (26%), Indonesian / Bahasa (15%) and Japanese (13%). Refer to the table below.

Language studied - Language course 1	% n=127
Chinese / Mandarin / Cantonese	37
Indonesian / Bahasa	21
Japanese	18
Korean	10
Thai	1
Other	13
Total	100

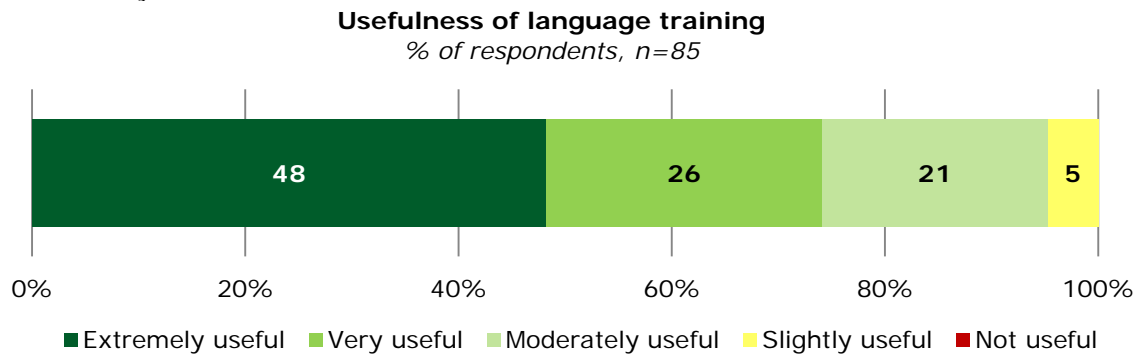
Of those Scholars who undertook formal language training, 34% undertook a language course for 3 months or more. Refer to the chart below.



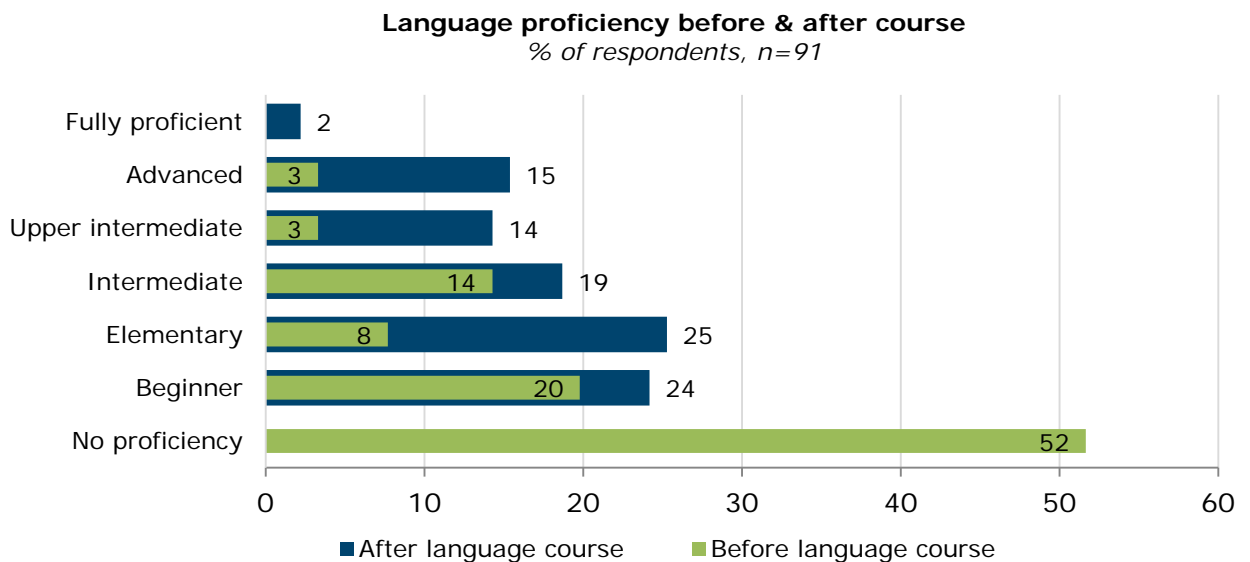
Of those Scholars who undertook formal language training, 46% spent 16+ hours per week on their language course, 43% spent 1-10 hours. Refer to the table below. All Scholars undertook their language course in their host location (100%).

Number of hours per week - Language course 1	% n=90
1-5 hours	23
6-10 hours	20
11-15 hours	11
16+ hours per week	46
Total	100

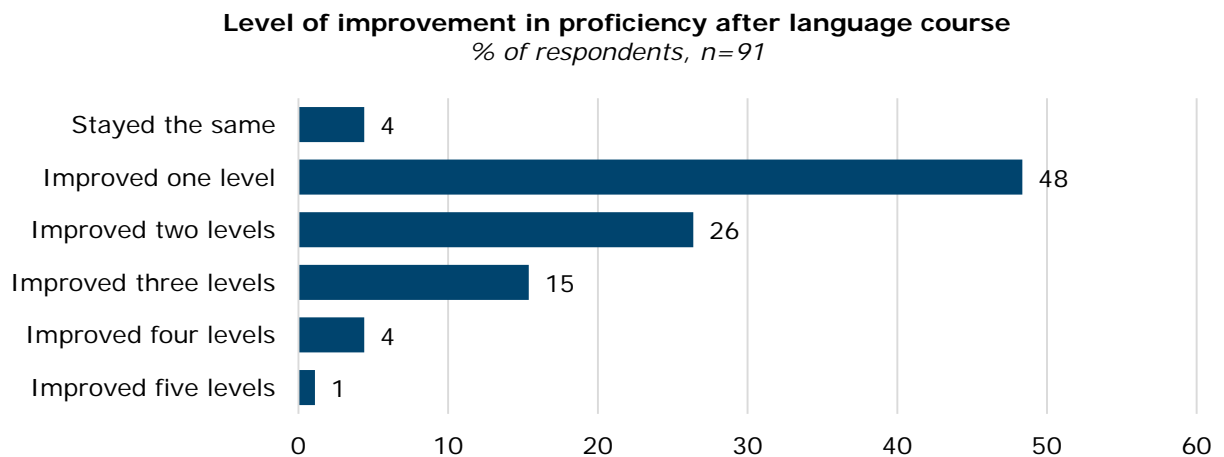
Of those Scholars who undertook formal language 48% found the language training *extremely useful*, 26% *very useful* and 21% *moderately useful*. Refer to the chart below.



52% of Scholars who undertook a language course indicated that they had *no proficiency* in the language before taking their course. This level reduced to zero after the taking the language course, meaning that all Scholars reported some proficiency after their training. Nearly all levels of proficiency had increased after training because those who reported lower levels before their course migrated to higher levels of proficiency afterwards. Refer to the chart below.



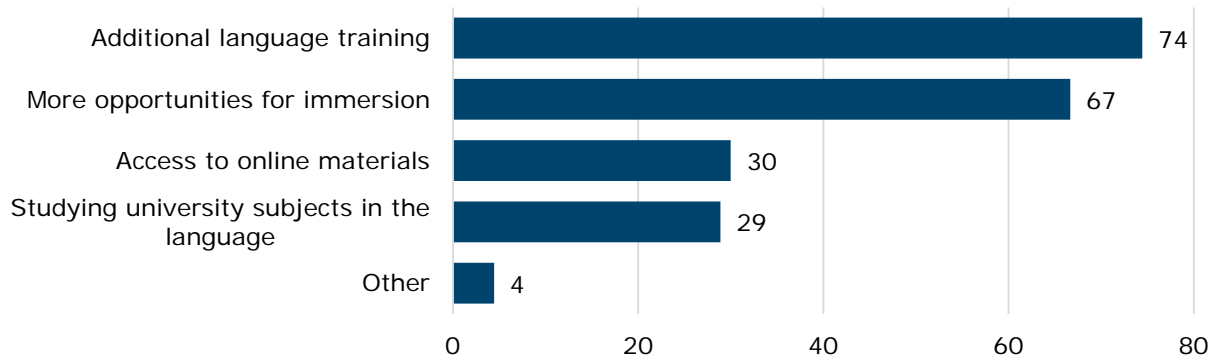
The chart below shows that 48% of Scholars improved their language proficiency by one level, 26% improved two levels and 15% improved three levels. For example, increasing one level of proficiency may be from no proficiency to beginner or from beginner to elementary.



Of Scholars who undertook a language 74% indicated that *additional language training* would have helped improve

their language skills, while 67% indicated that they would have liked more opportunities for immersion to help them improve their language skills. Refer to the chart below.

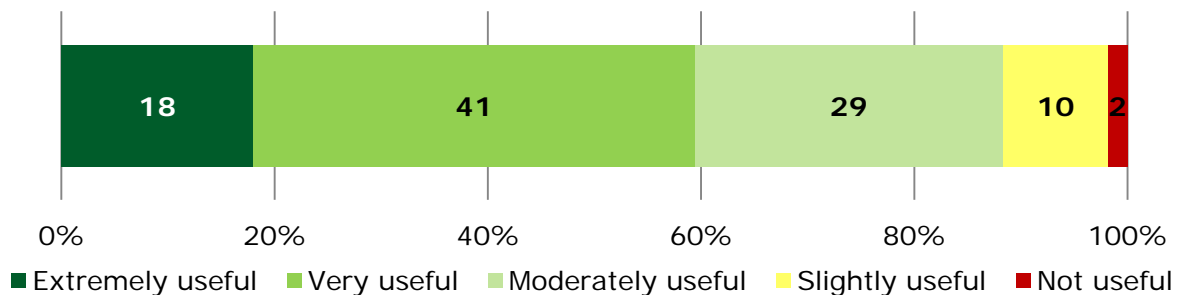
Other activities that help improve language skills
Multiple answers allowed so total > %; % based on n=90



Pre-departure training and cross cultural training

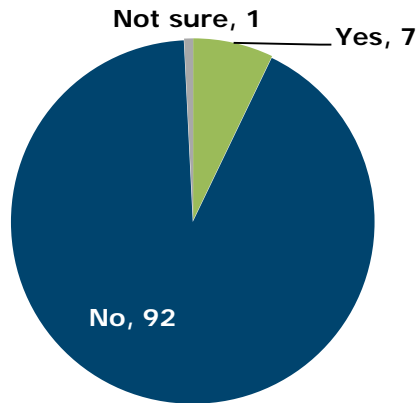
88% of Scholars attended New Colombo Plan Pre-Departure training provided by DFAT. Of those Scholars who attended the training, 59% found the pre-departure training *extremely useful* (18%) or *very useful* (41%) and 29% indicated that it was *moderately useful*. Refer to the chart below.

Usefulness the New Colombo Plan pre-departure training provided by DFAT in Canberra
% of respondents, n=126



While 7% of Scholars completed additional cross cultural training other than DFAT- provided pre-departure training, 92% did not complete any other pre-departure training. Refer to chart below.

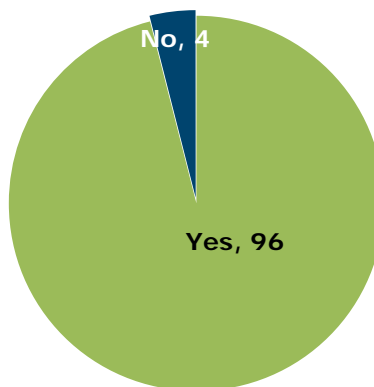
Completed any formal crosscultural training aside from DFAT pre-departure training in Canberra
% of respondents, n=126



Work based experience

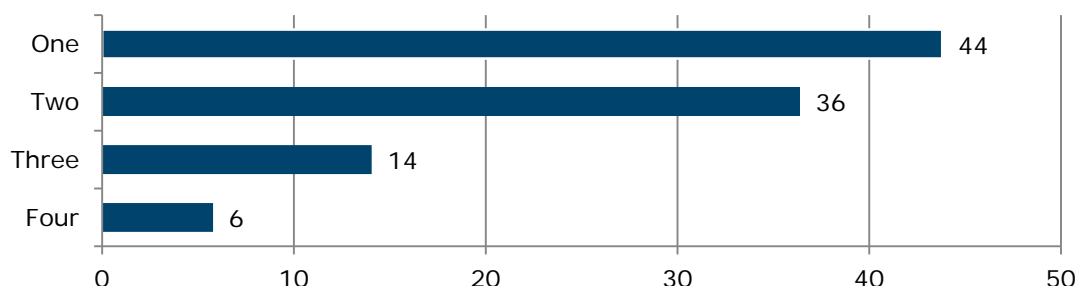
Overall 96% of Scholars undertook some form of internship, practicum, mentorship, clinical placement or other work based experience during their program. Refer to the chart below.

Undertook any internships, practicums, mentorships, clinical placements, or other workbased experiences during NCP Scholarship
% of respondents, n=126

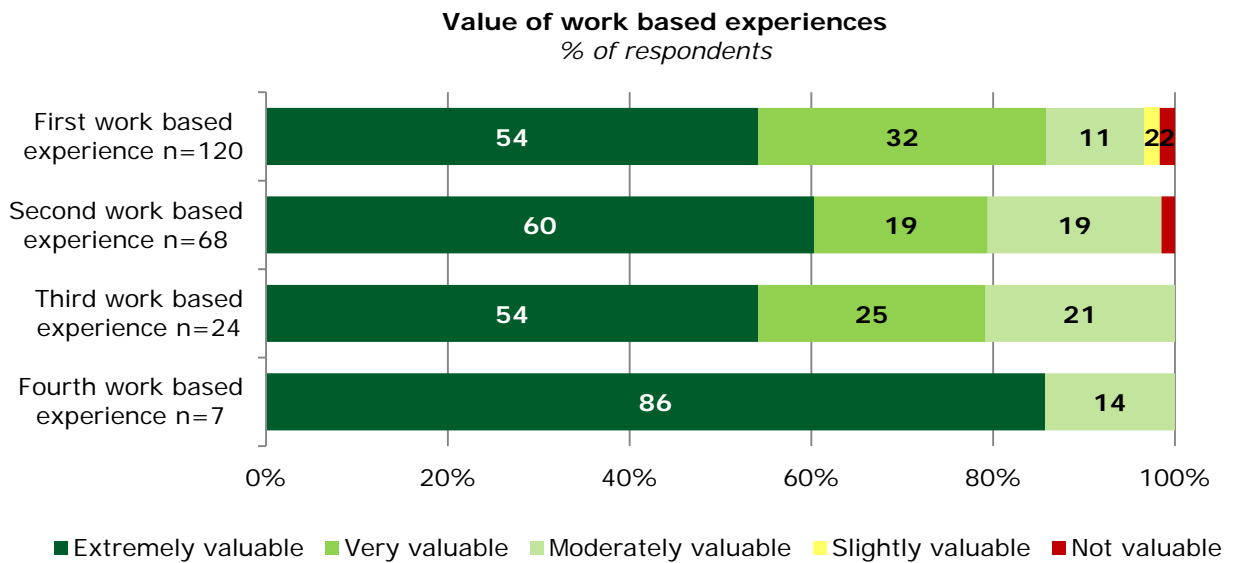


44% of Scholars had only one work based experience while 56% had more than one. Refer to the chart below.

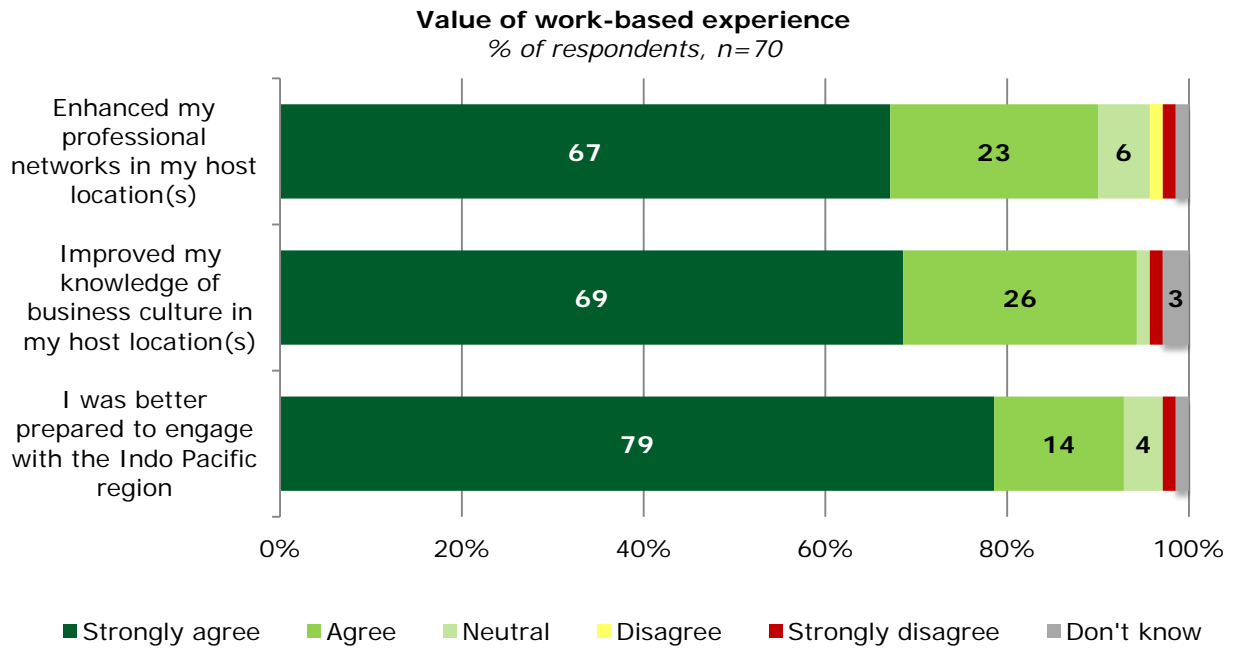
Number of work based experiences
% of respondents, n=121



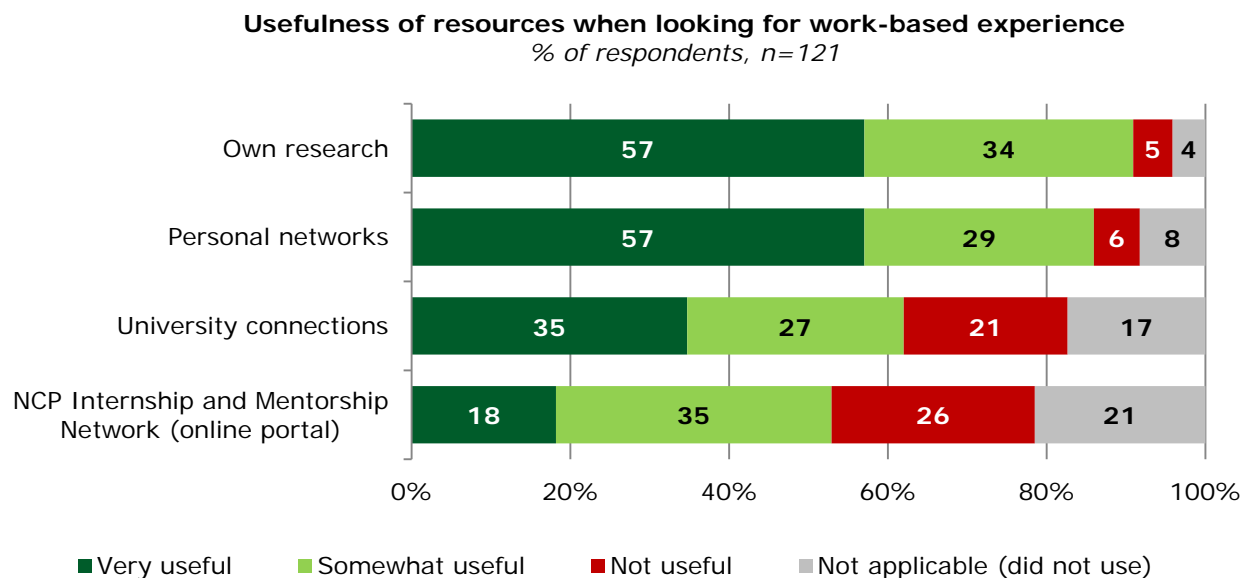
86% of those who had completed their first work based experience found that experience *extremely valuable* (54%) or *very valuable* (32%), while 79% found the second experience *extremely valuable* (60%) or *very valuable* (19%). Refer to the chart below.



67% of Scholars *strongly agreed* that their work-based experience enhanced their professional networks in their host location. 69% *strongly agreed* that their work based *experience* improved their knowledge of the business culture in their host location. 79% *strongly agreed* they were better prepared to engage with the Indo-Pacific region as a result of their work based experience. Refer to the chart below.

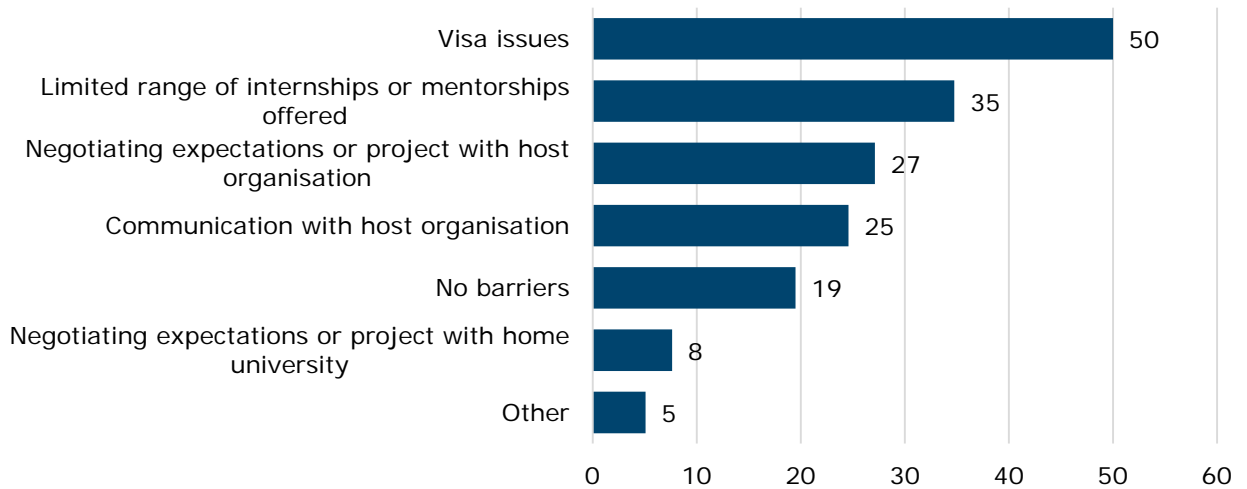


91% of Scholars found their own research *very useful* (57%) or *somewhat useful* (33%) when looking for work based experience opportunities. 86% found personal networks *very useful* (57%) or *somewhat useful* (29%). Refer to the chart below.



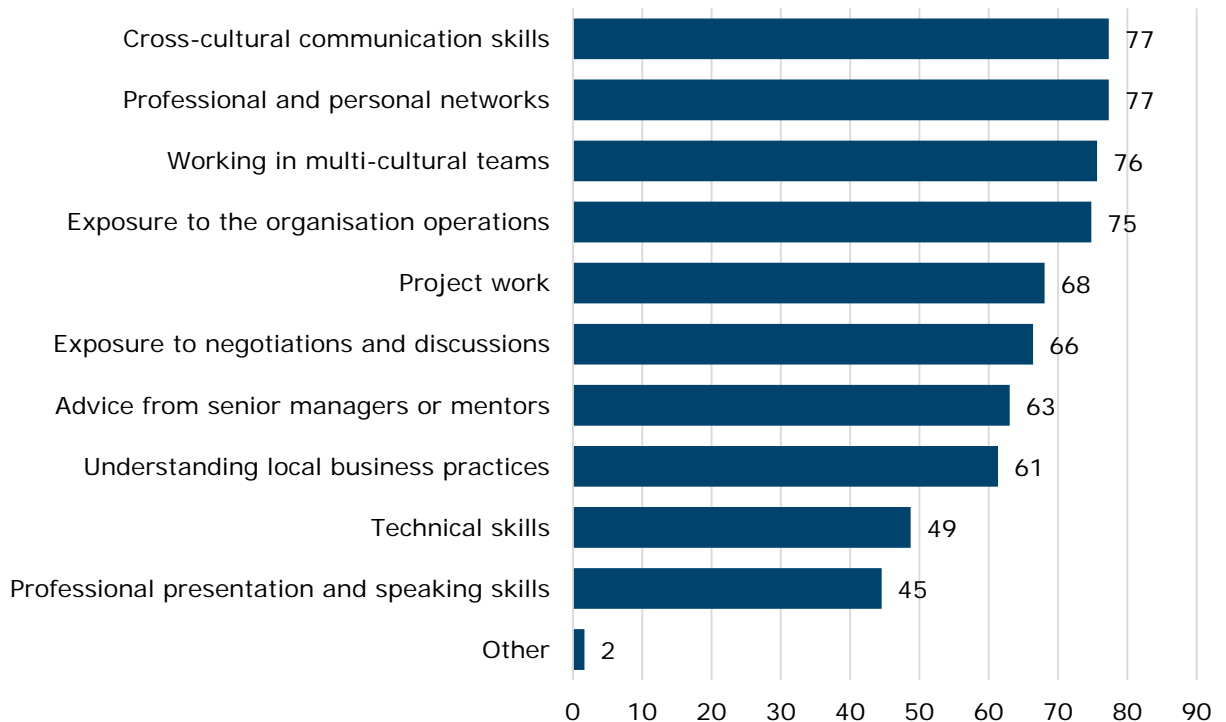
The main barriers when arranging a work based experience were related to visa issues (50%), the limited range of internships or mentorships offered (35%) and negotiating expectations or a project with the host organisation (27%). Refer to the chart below.

Barriers encountered when arranging work based experience
Multiple responses allowed so total > 100%; % based on n=118



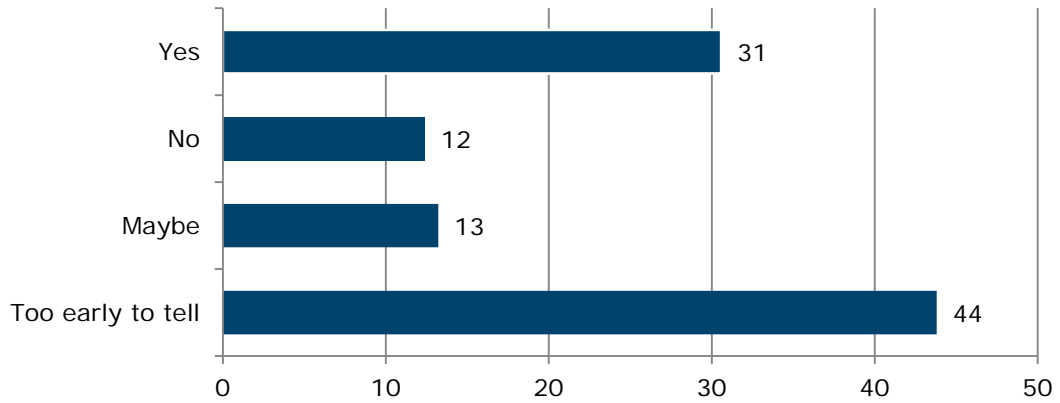
77% of Scholars found cross cultural communication skills and professional and personal networks the most useful elements of work based experience. 76% of Scholars found working in multi-cultural teams the most useful. Refer to the chart below.

Most useful elements of workbased experience
Multiple responses allowed so total > 100%; based on n=118



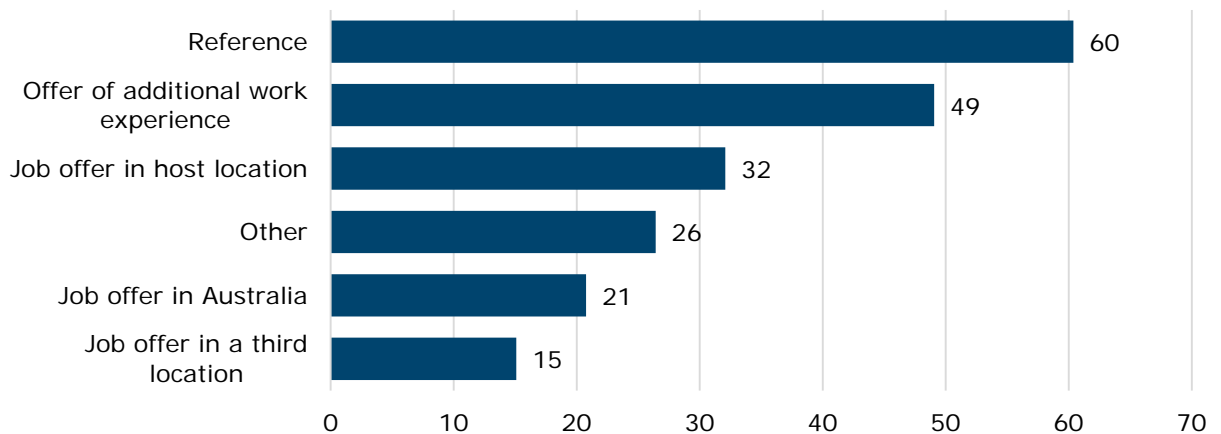
31% of Scholars who undertook some form of work based experience indicated that some type of professional opportunity resulted from the experience. 13% indicated that this was maybe the case.

Professional opportunities arisen from work-based experience
% of respondents, n=121



When analysed further, 60% of the professional opportunities were offers for a reference. 49% were offered additional work experience and 32% were offered a job in their host location. Refer to the chart below.

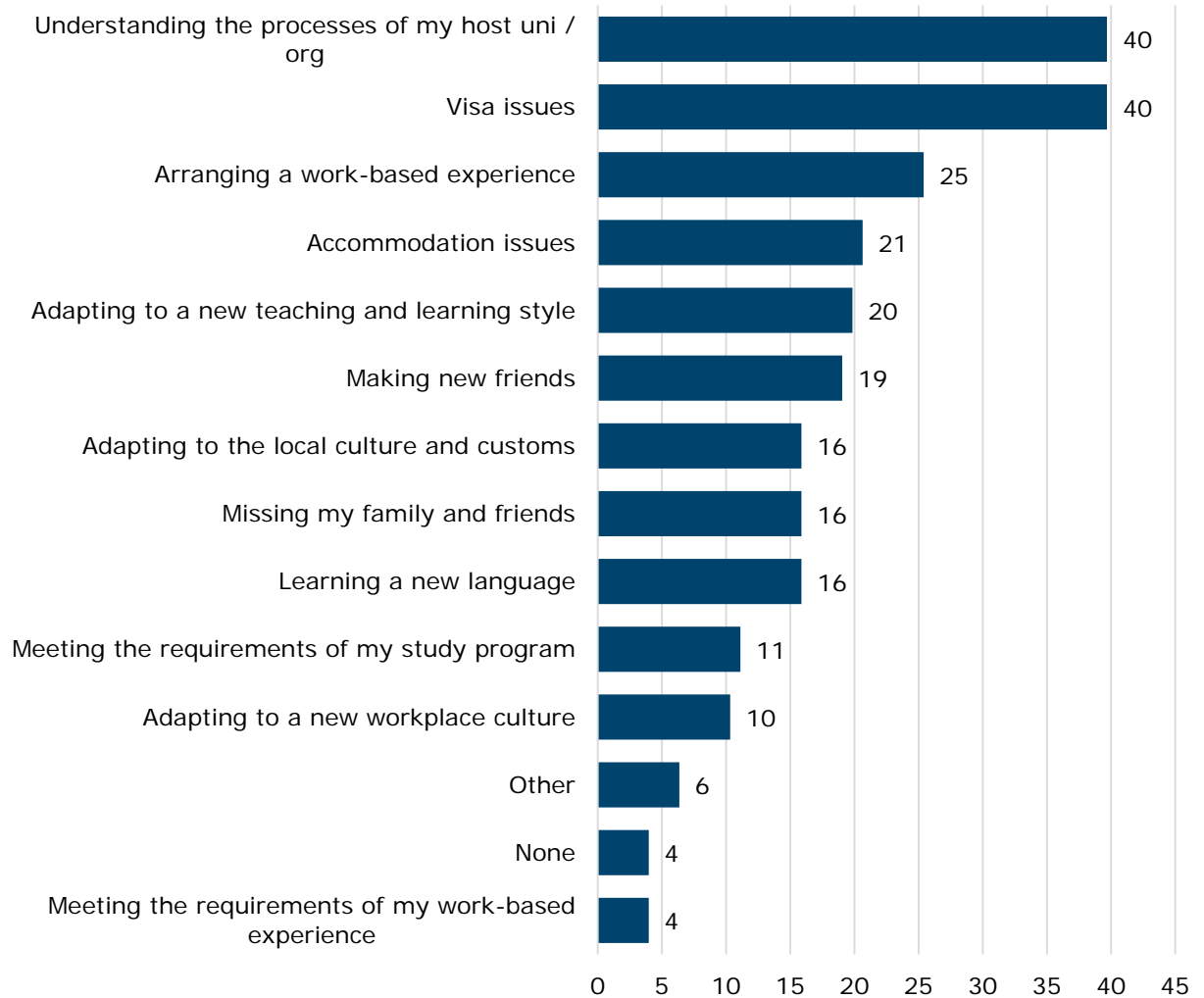
What type/s of opportunity have resulted?
Multiple answers allowed so total >%; based on n=53



Challenges

Understanding the processes of their host university or organisation (40%) and visa issues (40%) were equally the main challenges for Scholars followed by arranging work based experience (25%). Refer to the chart below.

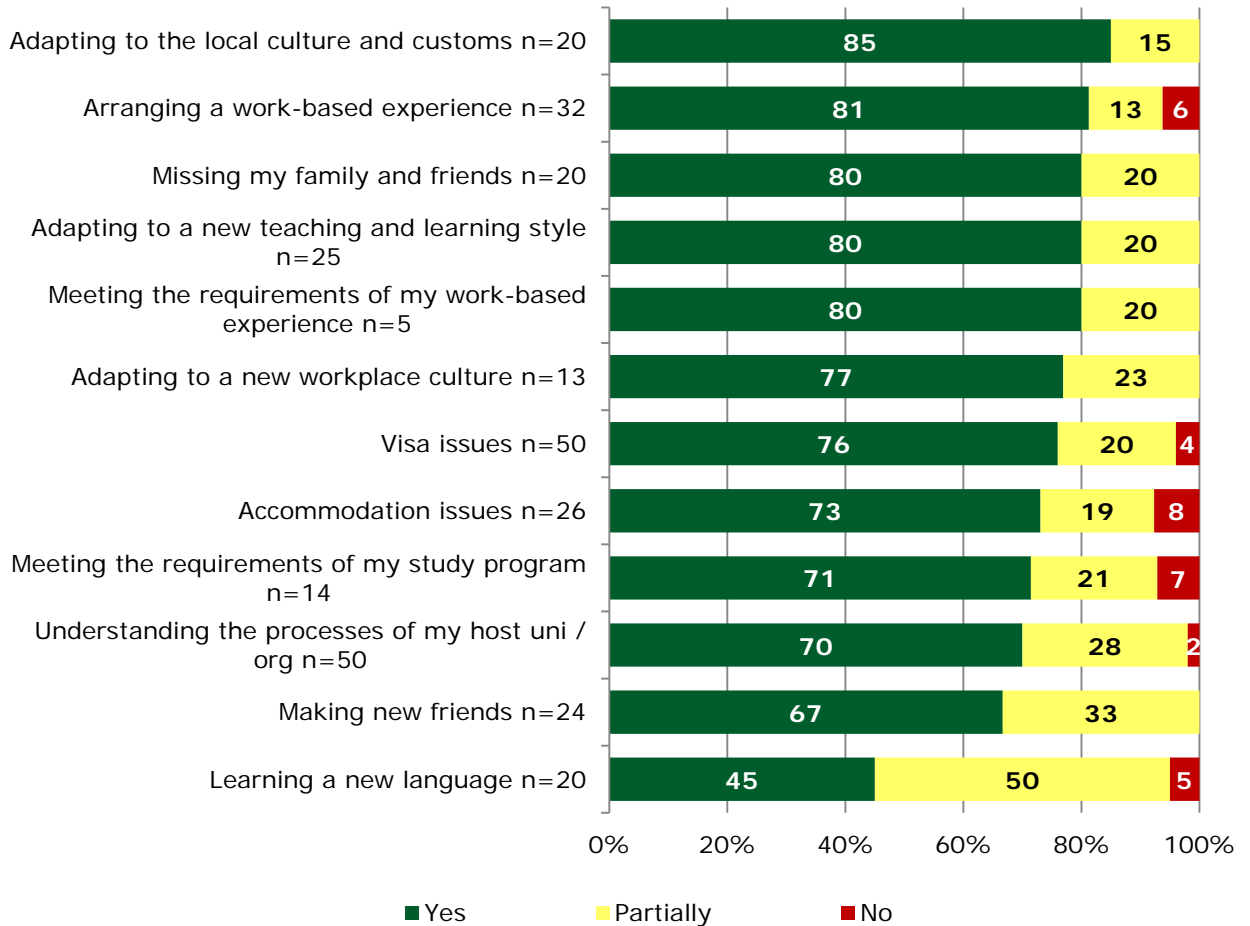
Main challenges experienced during NCP experience
Multiple answers allowed so total >%; based on n=126



Scholars were able to meet the challenges most of them faced such as visa issues (76%), understanding the processes of their host university or organisation (70%) and arranging work based experience (81%). Refer to the chart below.

Meeting challenges experienced during the NCP program

Multiple responses allowed; % based on n in row description



Addressing challenges

A positive attitude and own research were most frequently mentioned as helping to address the challenges for most issues, followed by local people and other students. Refer to the table below. Note that rows total 100%.

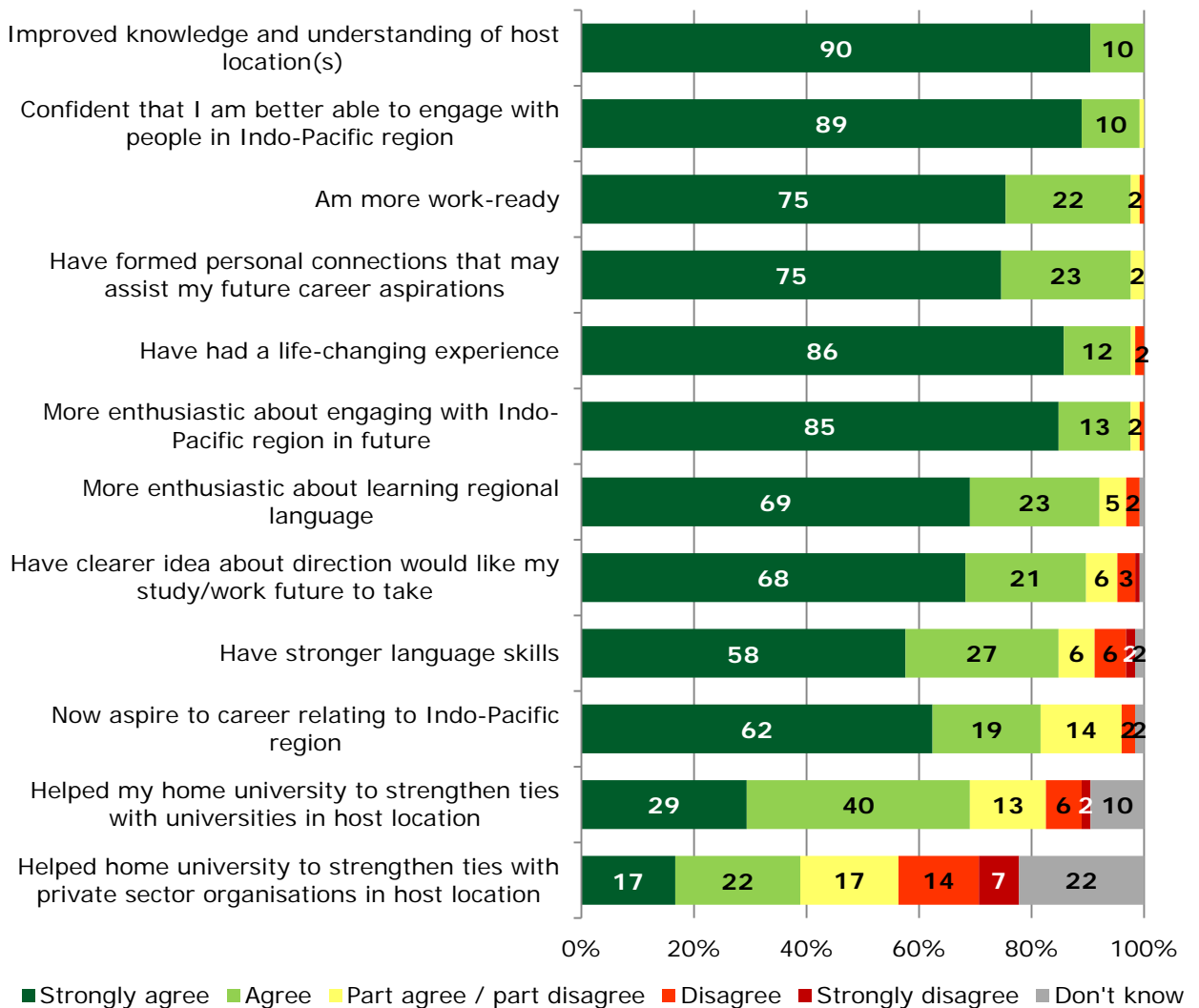
What helped address the challenge <i>% based on row n count</i>	Case manager	Home university	Host institution	Other students	Friends & family	NCP Secretariat	Own research	Positive attitude	Local people	Other
Adapting to the local culture and customs n=20	0	0	5	30	5	0	0	35	25	0
Understanding the processes of my host university or organisation n=50	4	0	16	36	2	2	6	18	16	0
Making new friends n=24	0	0	4	17	4	0	0	50	25	0
Meeting the requirements of my study program n=14	7	43	14	0	0	0	21	14	0	0
Meeting the requirements of my work-based experience n=5	0	0	40	0	20	0	40	0	0	0
Adapting to a new teaching and learning style n=25	0	0	4	28	0	0	8	48	0	12
Missing my family and friends n=20	0	0	0	10	30	0	0	50	5	5
Arranging a work-based experience n=32	3	6	0	3	3	6	63	3	0	13
Adapting to a new workplace culture n=13	0	0	8	0	8	0	0	54	31	0
Learning a new language n=20	0	5	0	5	0	0	20	15	45	10
Accommodation issues n=26	15	0	0	8	8	0	35	19	15	0
Visa issues n=50	12	2	8	4	2	4	42	6	6	14

NCP program benefits and outcomes

Overall, the experience was a positive one for NCP Scholars. 98% of Scholars agreed (*strongly*, 86% or *agreed* 12%) that the NCP experience was a life changing experience.

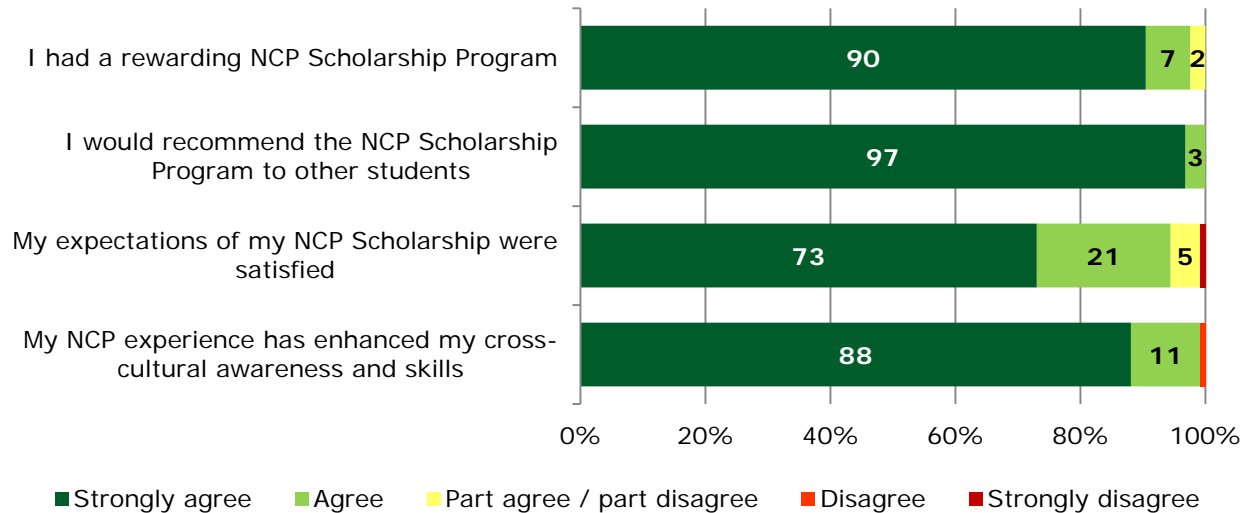
All Scholars had improved knowledge and understanding of their host location(s) (*strongly agreed* 90% or *agreed* 10%). Similarly, all Scholars (100%) agreed to some extent that they were able to better engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region (89% *strongly agreed*, 10% *agreed*). Refer to the chart below.

Benefits and outcomes of the NCP experience
% of respondents, n=126



100% of NCP Scholars agreed (strongly, 97% or agreed 3%) that they would recommend the NCP Scholarship program to other students. 99% of Scholars agreed (strongly, 88% or agreed 11%) that their NCP experience has enhanced their cross-cultural awareness and skills and 97% of Scholars agreed (strongly, 90% or agreed 7%) they had a rewarding NCP Scholarship Program. Refer to the chart below.

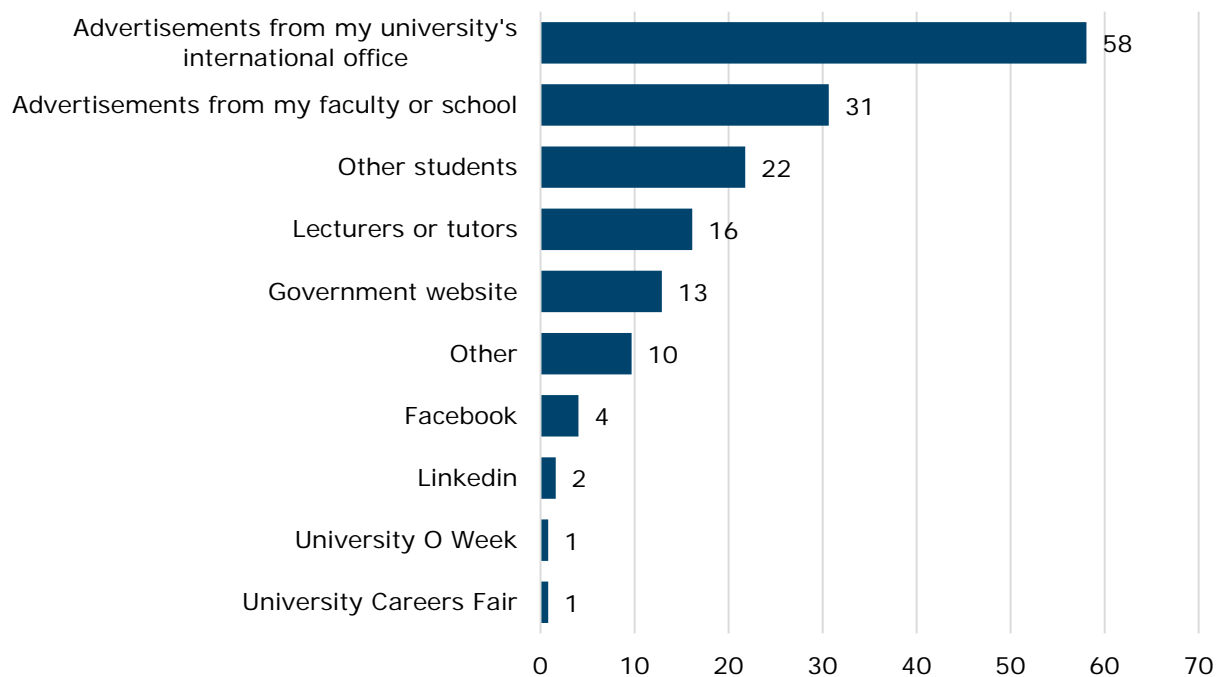
Benefits and outcomes of the NCP experience
% of respondents, n=126



Learning about and choosing the NCP

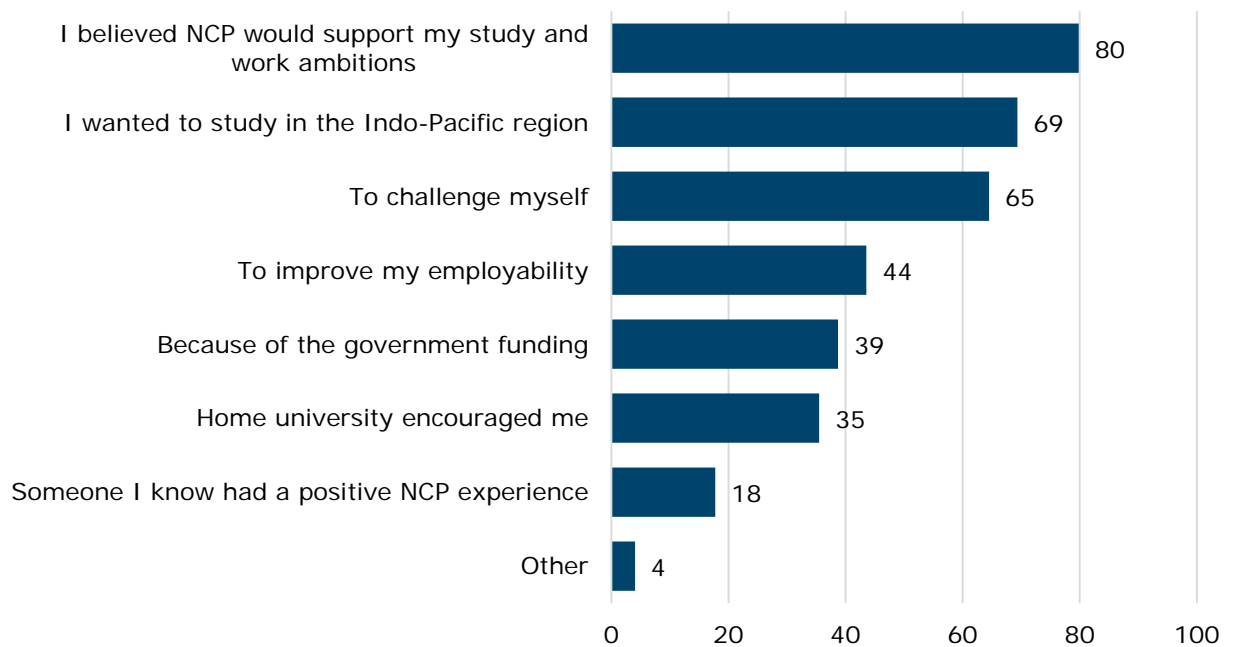
Most commonly, 58% of NCP Scholars found out about the program through advertisements from their university international office. Advertisements from my faculty or school (31%), Other students (22%), lecturers and tutors (16%) and a government website (13%) were also common ways of learning about the program. Refer to the chart below.

Finding out about the NCP
Multiple responses allowed so total >%; based on n=124



Most Scholars (80%) participated in the program because they believed NCP would support their study and work ambitions. 69% wanted to study in the Indo-Pacific region and 65% sought to challenge themselves. Refer to the chart below.

Reason for participating in an NCP program
Multiple responses allowed so total >%; based on n=124

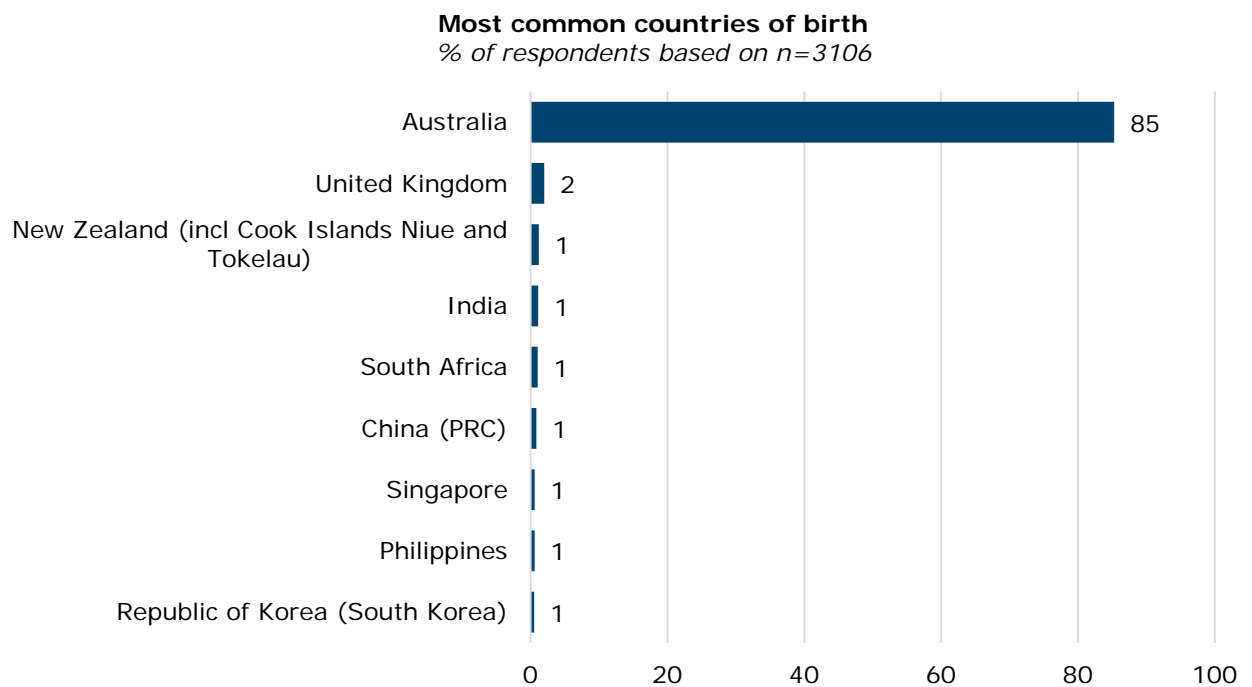


Mobility completions

The following sections report the key findings of the Mobility completion survey. Results are cumulative from 1 August 2017 to 5 December 2017. A total of 3,667 respondents completed the survey during this period.

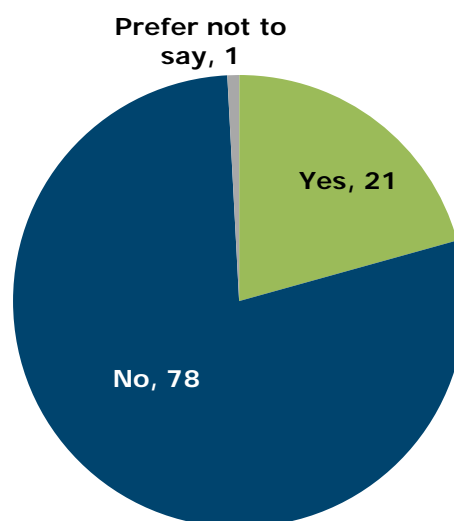
Respondent profile

85% of Mobility students were born in Australia. Refer to the chart below.



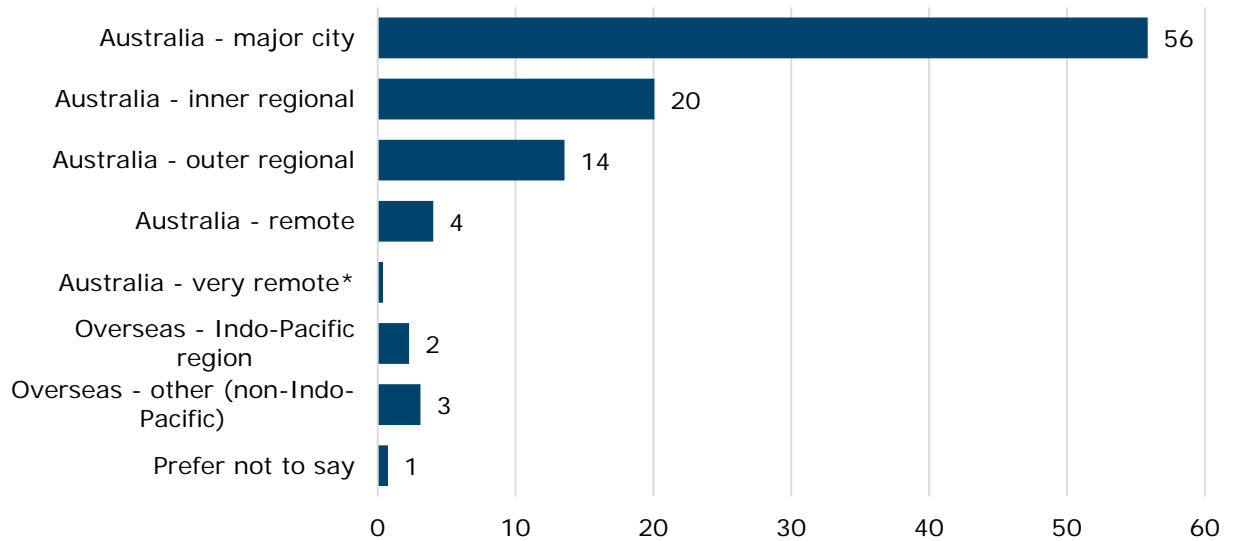
21% of students spoke a language other than English at home. Refer to the chart below.

A language other than English is spoken at home
% of respondents, n=3606



56% of students grew up in a major city in Australia, compared to 38% growing up in a regional or remote area. This contrasts with the (roughly) 70:30 ratio of city to regional residential distribution in the general population.

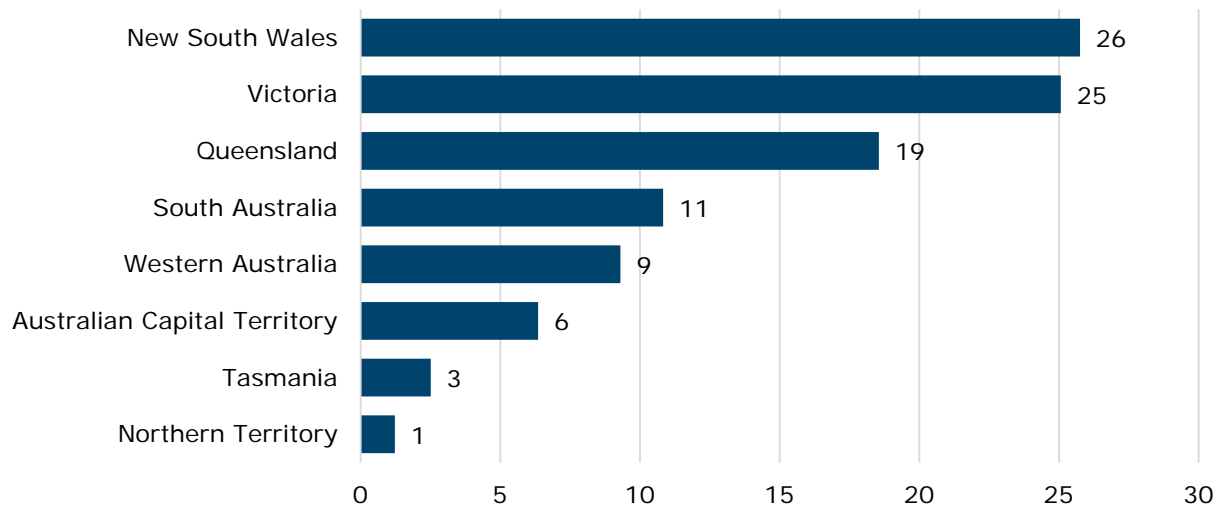
Where participants mainly grew up
% of respondents, n=3647



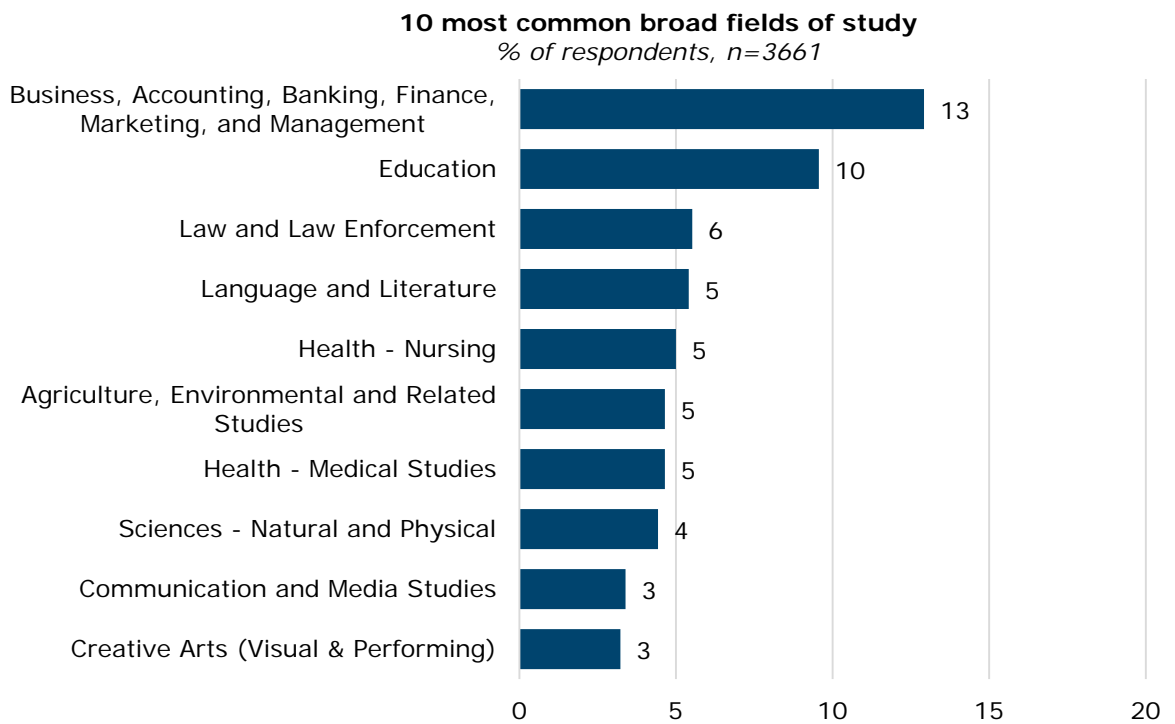
*Less than 1%

26% of Mobility students currently resided in NSW, 25% in Victoria and 19% in Queensland. Refer to the chart below.

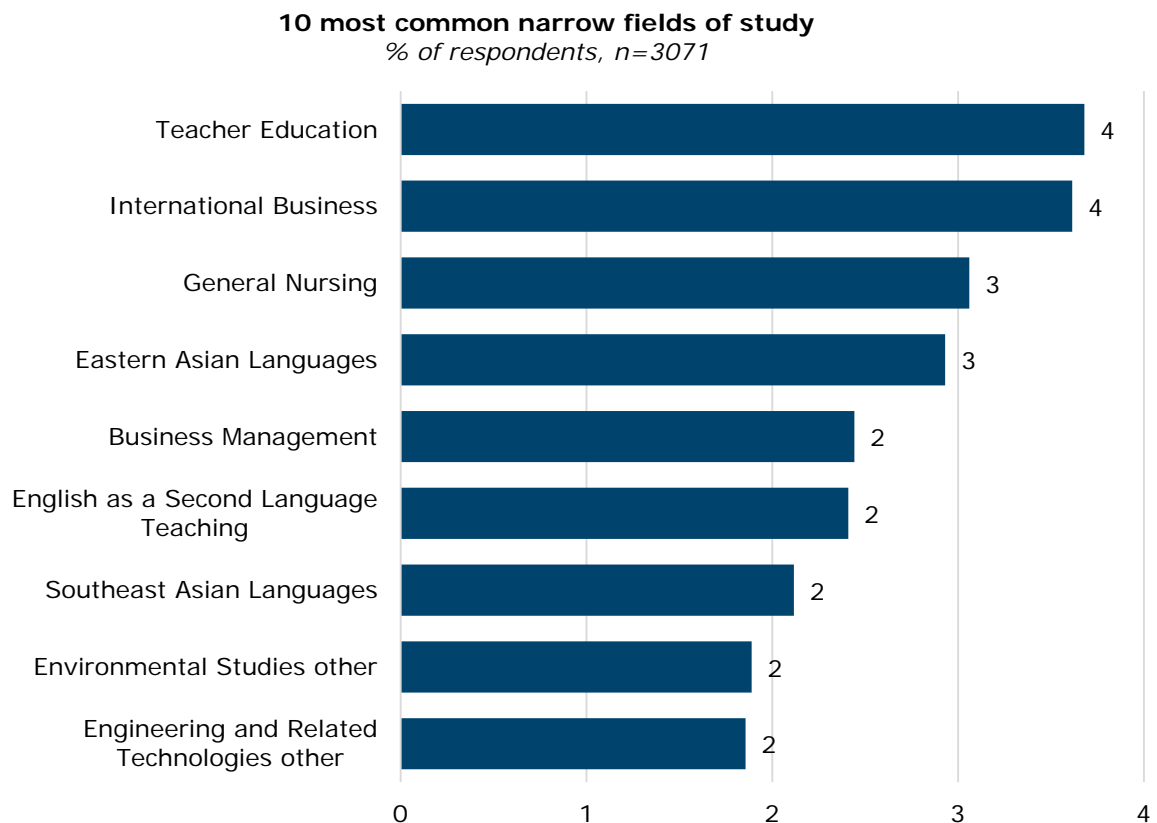
State of current residence
% of respondents, n=3666



The chart below shows the top ten most common broad fields of study. Business, Accounting, Banking, Finance, Marketing and Management had the highest proportion of Mobility students (13%), followed by Education (10%), Law and Law enforcement (6%) and Language and Literature (5%).

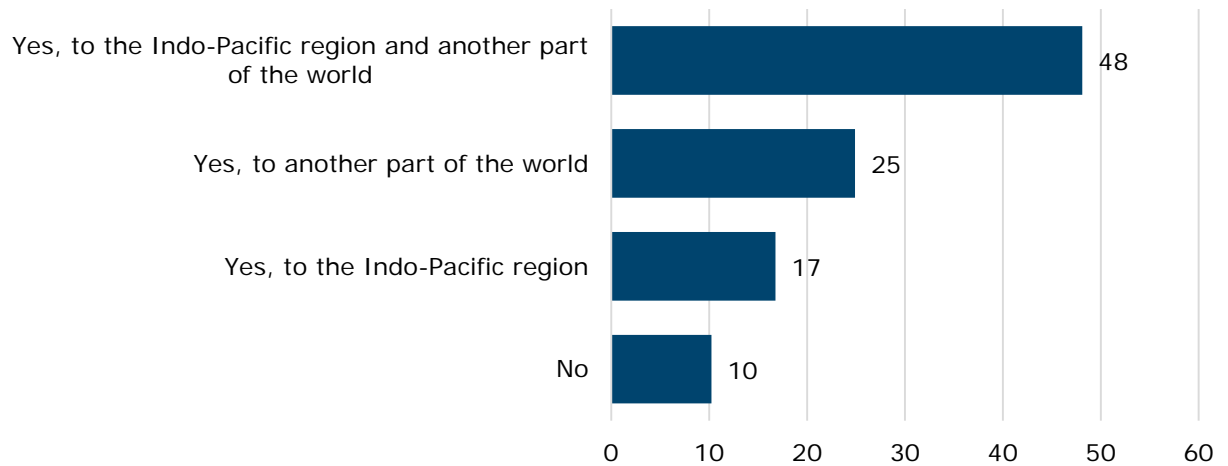


The chart below shows the ten most common narrow fields of study. Teacher Education: Primary (4%), International Business (4%) and Eastern Asian languages (3%) were the top three. While the chart below shows the 10 most common narrow fields, there was a large spread in range of fields.



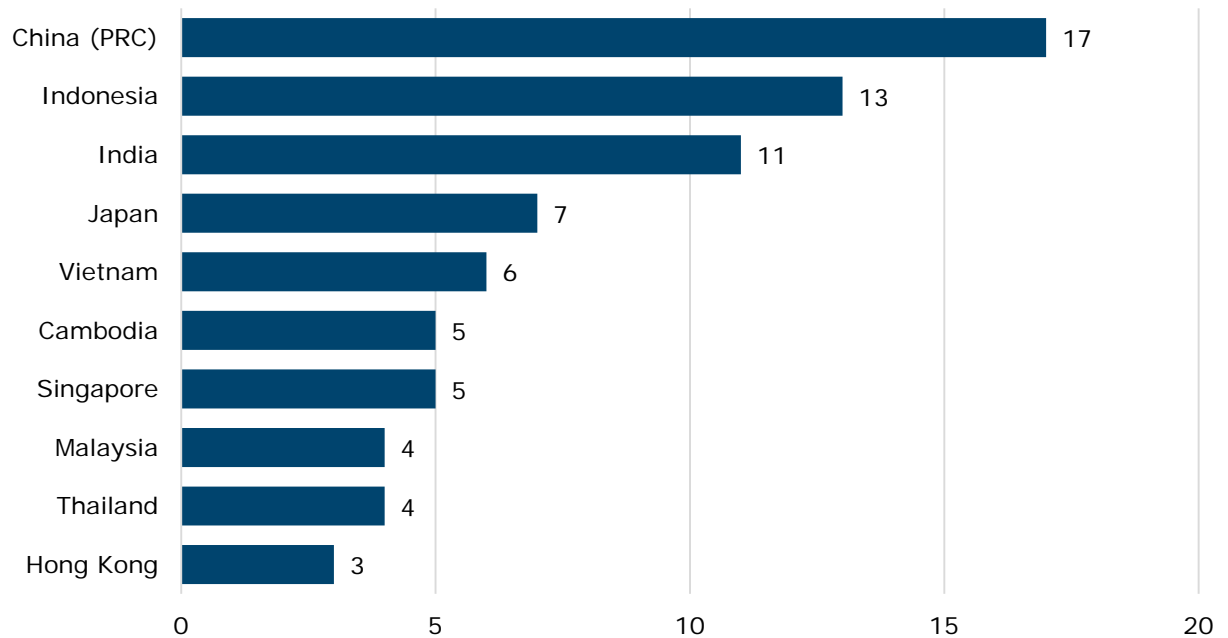
90% of Mobility students had travelled overseas before they participated in the program; 48% had travelled to the Indo-Pacific region and another part of the world, 25% had travelled to another part of the world only and 17% had travelled to the Indo-Pacific region only. Refer to the chart below.

Travelled overseas prior to NCP experience
% of respondents based on n=3,656

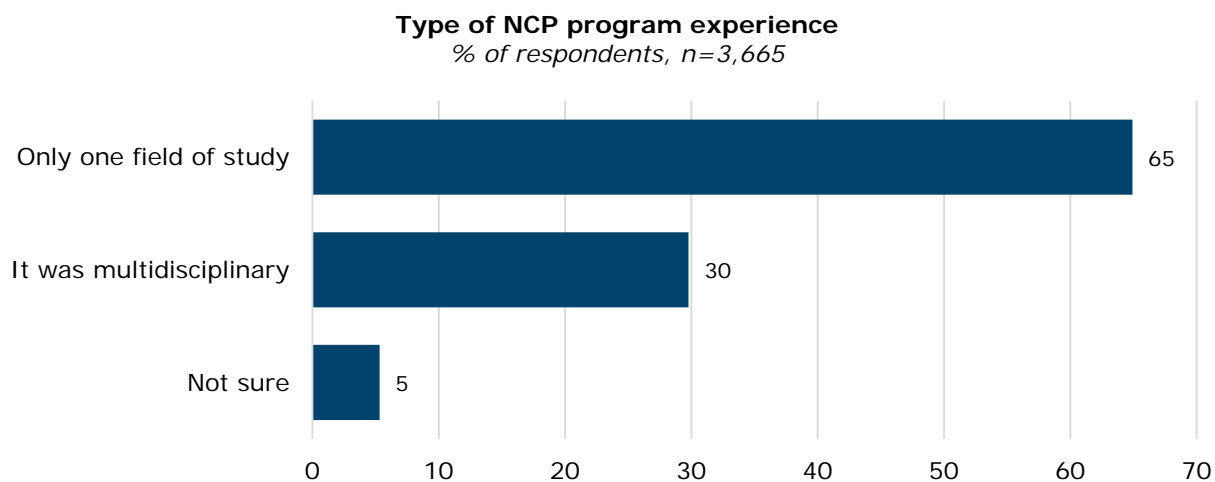


Of the top 10 most common host countries, China (15%), Indonesia (12%) and India (11%) were the main three. Refer to the chart below.

10 most common host countries
% of respondents, n=3,667



For 65%, their NCP program experience involved one field of study. For 30% it was multidisciplinary.



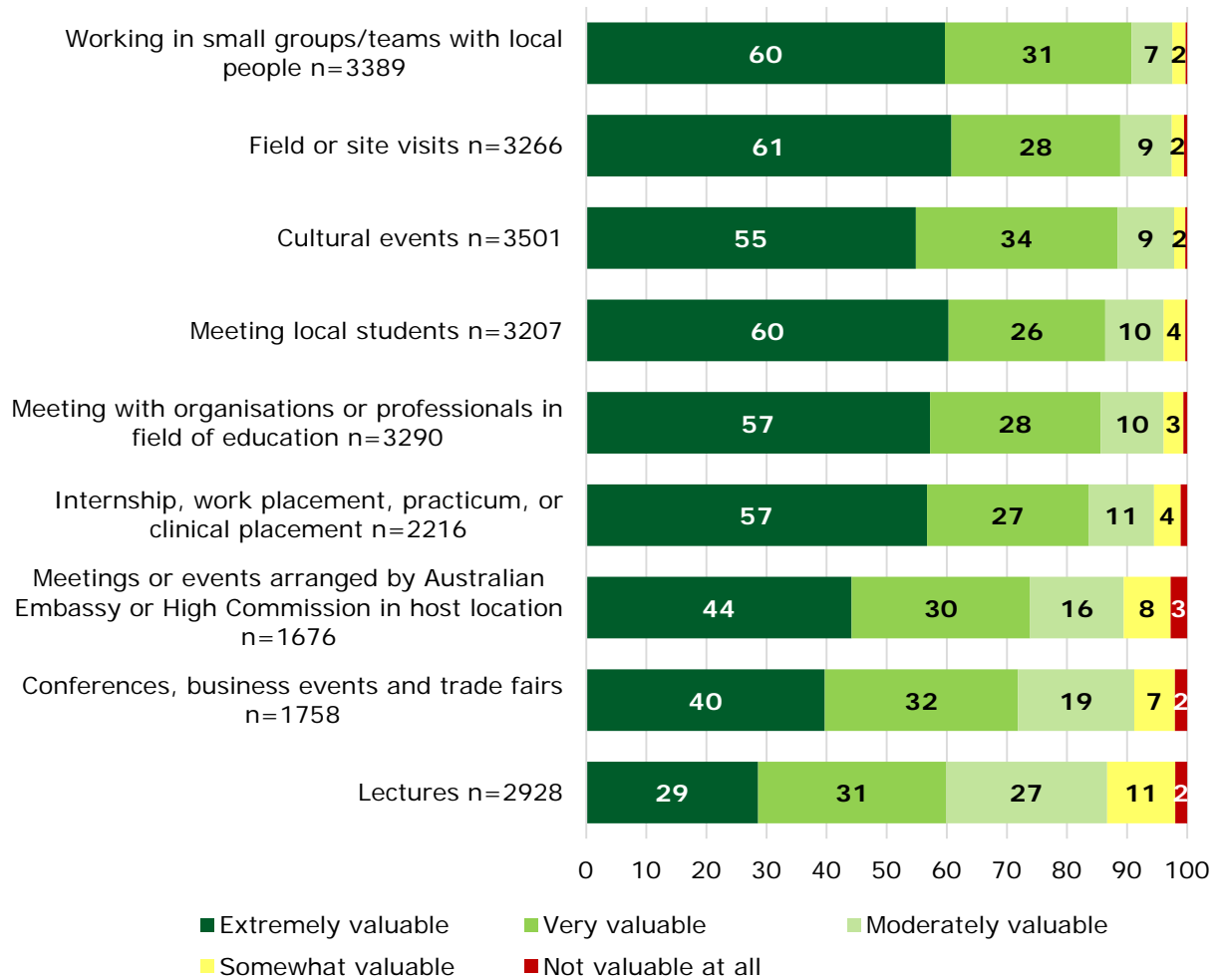
Value of activities undertaken as part of NCP

Mobility students were asked to rate the value of activities that they undertook as part of the NCP program. Refer to the chart below.

The majority of students listed all activities as extremely valuable or very valuable. The top three (based on % extremely/very valuable) were:

- Working in small groups / teams with local people (60% indicated *extremely valuable* and 31% *very valuable*).
- Field or site visits (61% indicated *extremely valuable* and 28% *very valuable*)
- Cultural events (55% indicated *extremely valuable* and 34% *very valuable*).

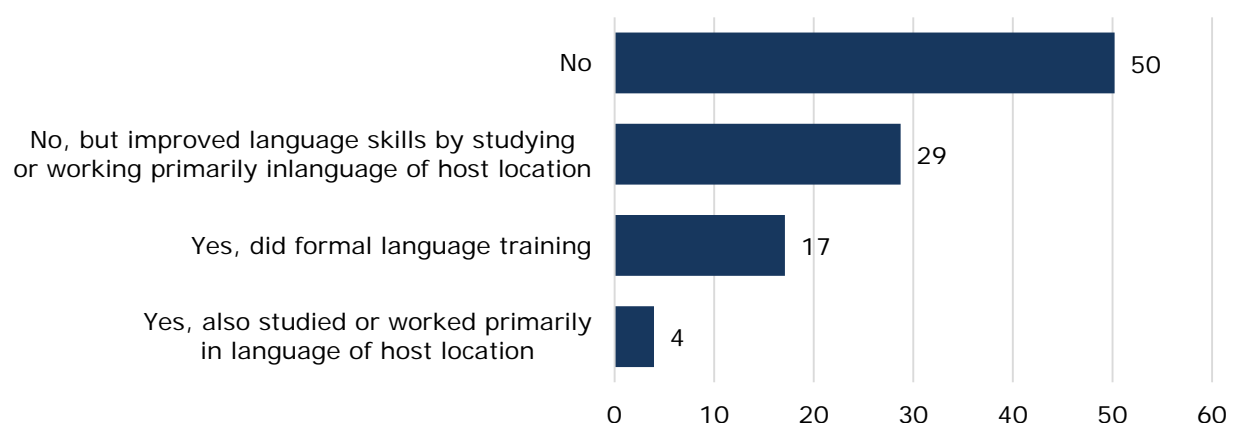
Activities undertaken as part of NCP Mobility experience
% of respondents



Language training

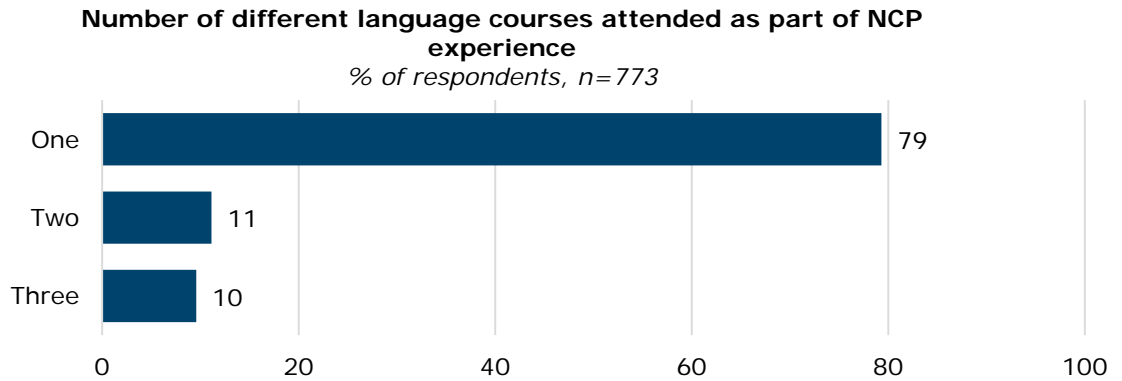
17% of Mobility students undertook formal language training as part of their NCP experience and 4% undertook formal language training and also studied / worked primarily in the language of their host location. 29% indicated they did not undertake formal training, but they had improved their language skills by studying or working primarily in the language of their host location. Refer to the chart below.

Undertook formal language training as part of NCP experience
% of respondents, n=3,666

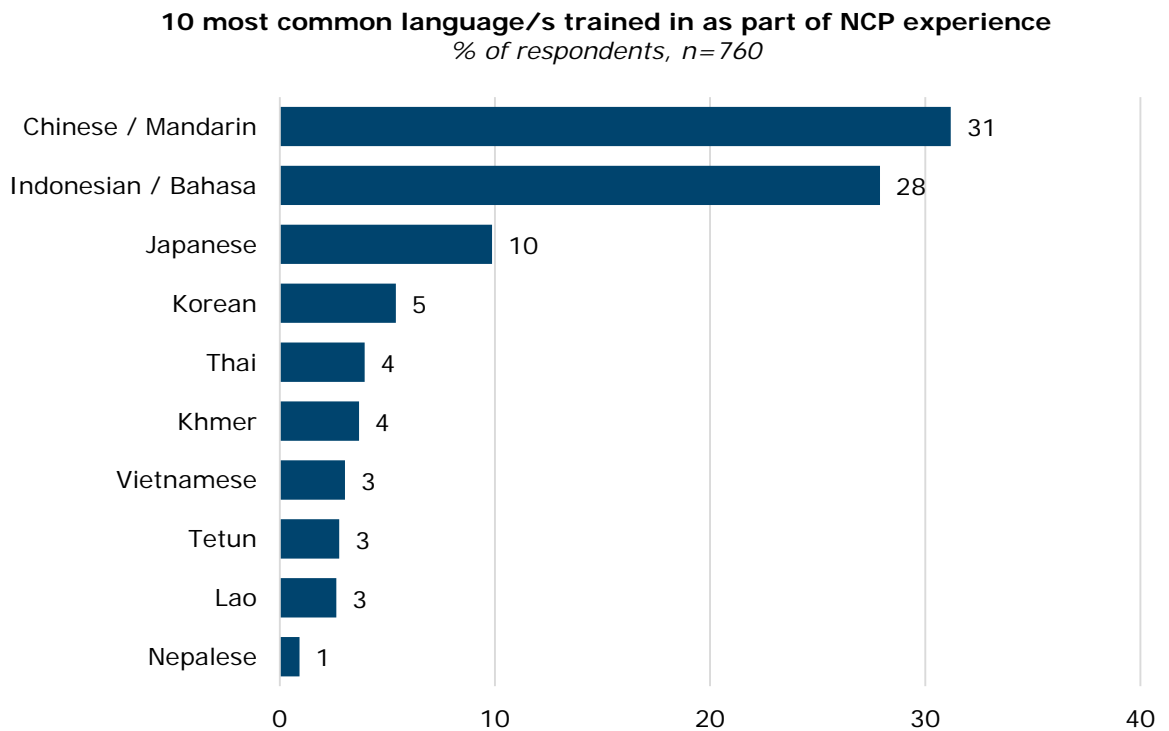


The next section of charts are based on Mobility students who had formal language training as part of their NCP experience and those who had formal language training and also studied / worked primarily in the language of their host location.

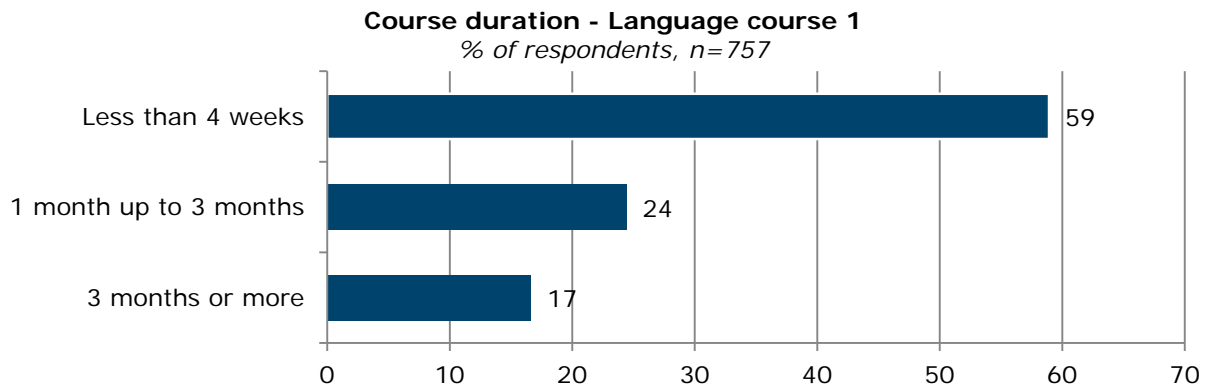
79% of these Mobility students attended one language course as part of their NCP experience, 11% attended two and 10% attended three. Refer to the chart below.



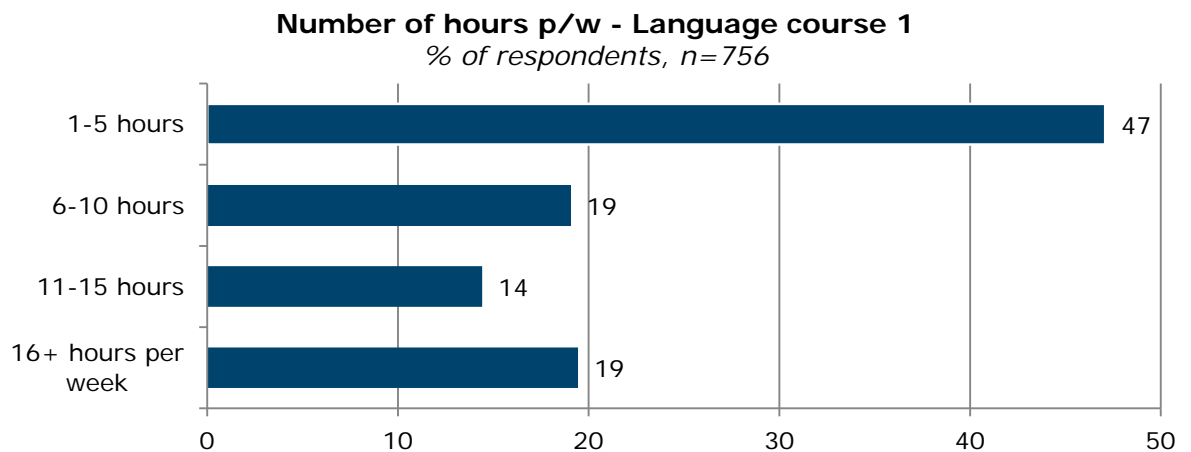
The top three languages they trained in were Chinese/Mandarin (31%), Indonesian/Bahasa (28%) and Japanese (10%). Refer to the chart below.



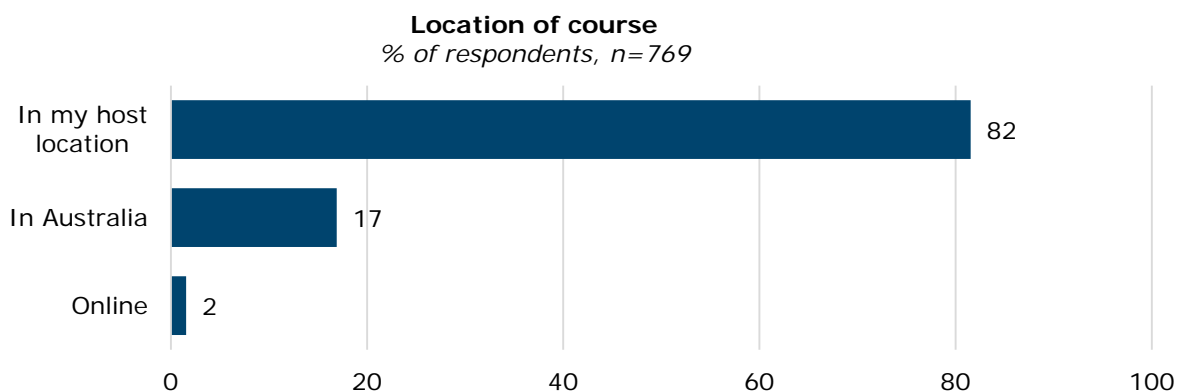
59% of these Mobility students undertook their first language course for less than 4 weeks, 24% for 1 month up to 3 months and 17% for 3 months or more.



47% of these Mobility students spent 1-5 hours per week on their language course, 19% spent 6-10 hours per week and 33% spent more than 10 hours per week. Refer to the chart below.



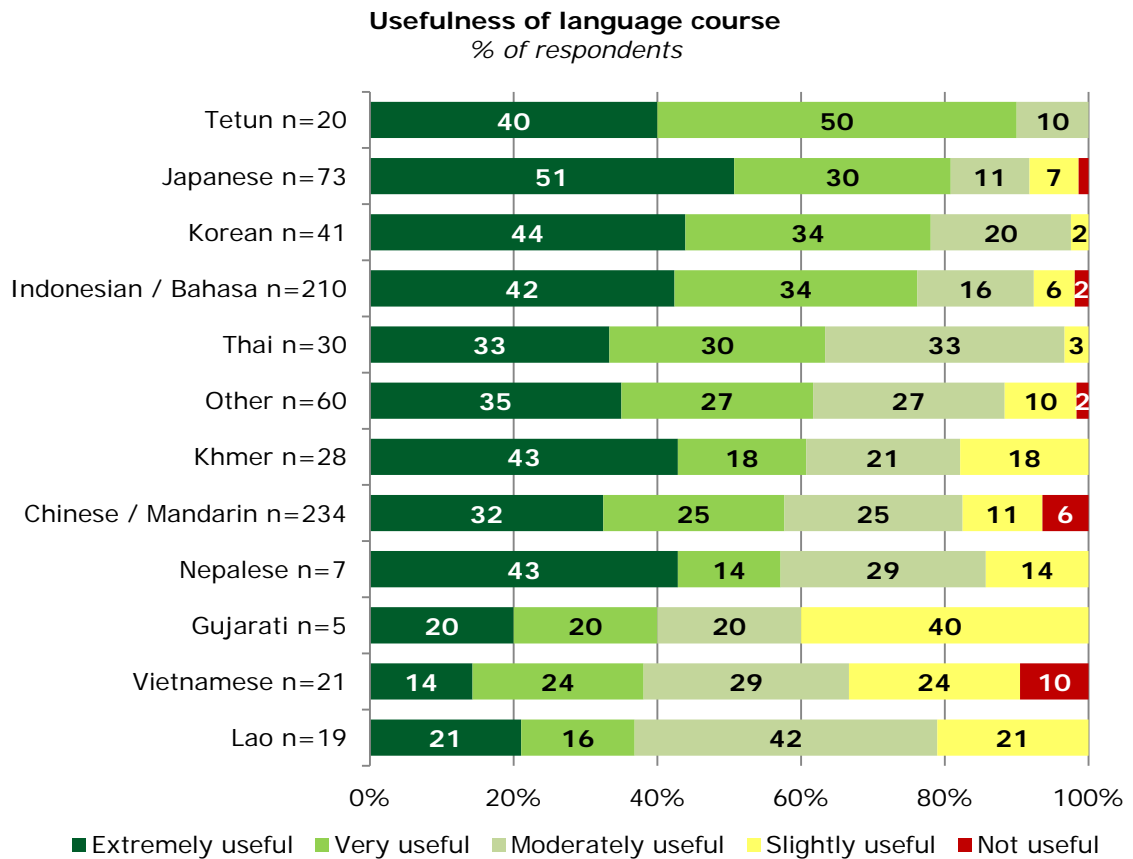
82% of these Mobility students attended their language course in their host location, 17% in Australia and 2% online. Refer to the chart below.



The 4 courses that scored 75% or above in terms of their level of usefulness (extremely or very useful) were:

1. Tetun
2. Japanese
3. Korean
4. Indonesian / Bahasa

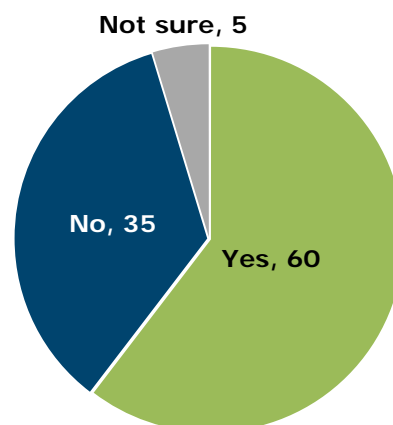
Note that 17% of Chinese / Mandarin language students rated their course as slightly useful or not useful. 35% of Vietnamese language students stated that their language course was slightly or not useful.



Cross cultural training

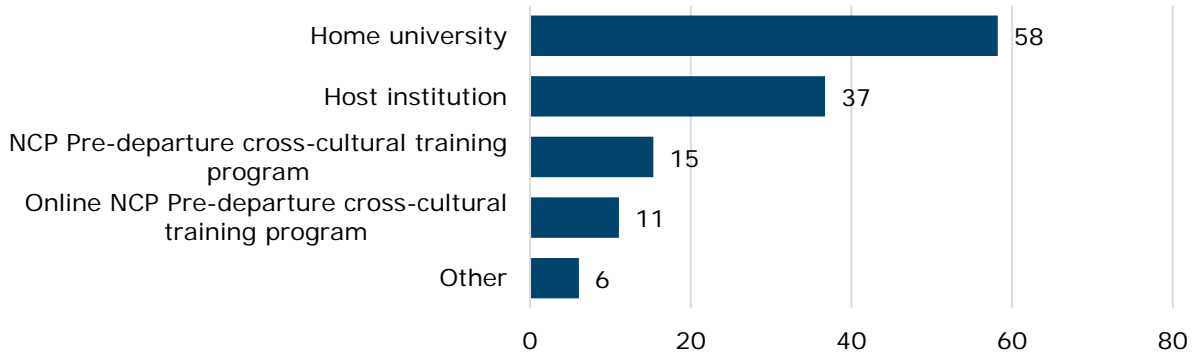
60% of Mobility students undertook formal cross-cultural training as part of their NCP experience.

Undertook formal cross cultural training as part of NCP experience
% of respondents, n=3,667



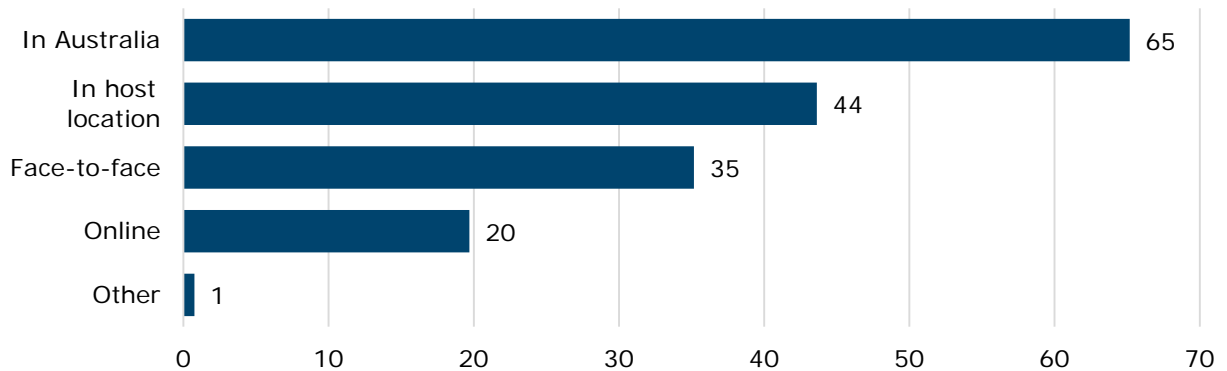
The following charts refer to the 60% of Mobility students who undertook cross-cultural training. For 58% of Mobility students their formal cross-cultural training was delivered by their home university and for 37% it was delivered by their host institution.

Provider of cross-cultural training
% of respondents, n=2,386



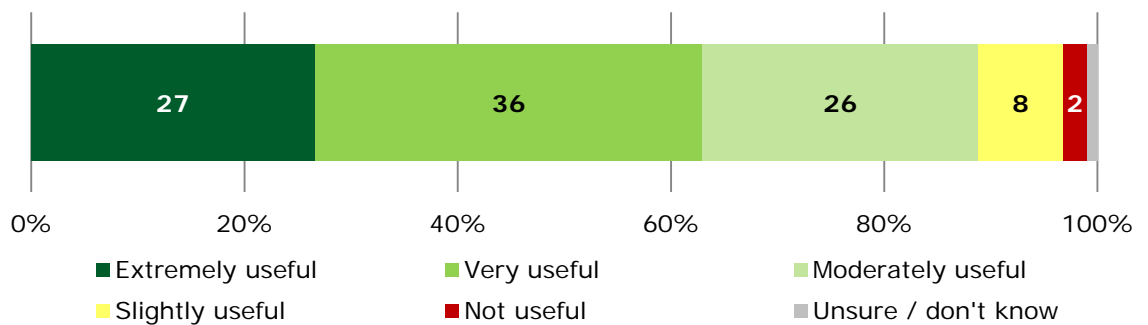
65% of cross-cultural training was conducted in Australia, 44% was conducted in a student's host location, 35% was face to face instruction and 20% online. Refer to the chart below.

Location of cross-cultural training
Multiple answers allowed so total > 100%; % based on n=2,386



63% Mobility students undertaking cross-cultural training found the cross-cultural training *extremely useful* (27%) and *very useful* (36%). Refer to the chart below.

Usefulness of cross-cultural training
% of respondents, n=2352



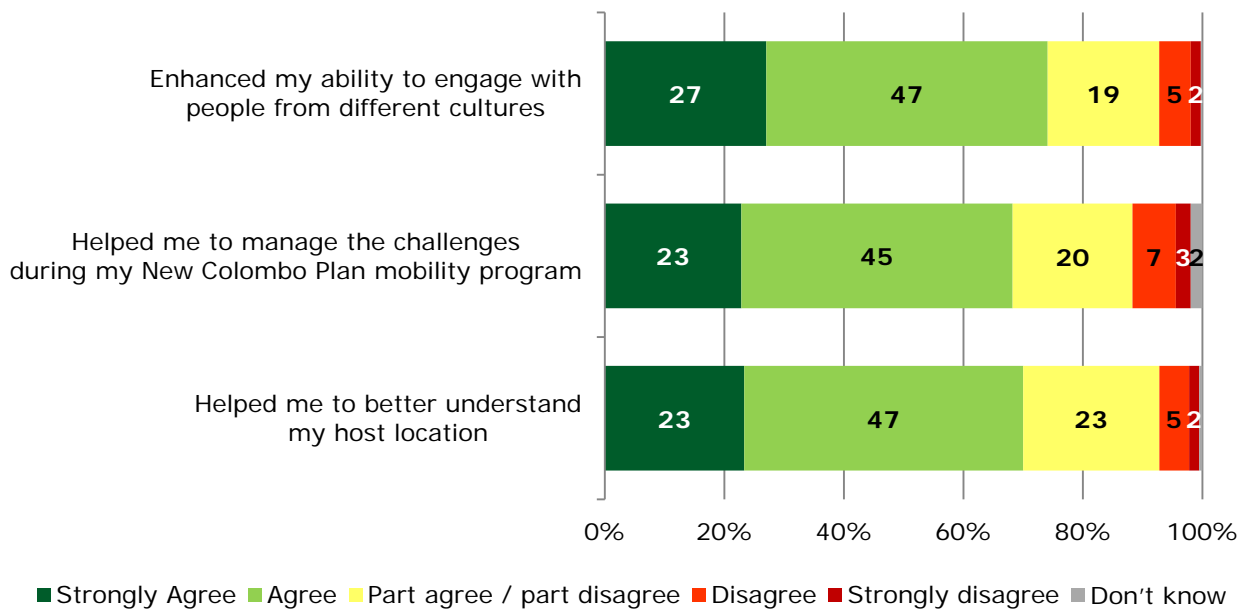
Mobility students undertaking cross-cultural training provided by Asialink Business found the training helpful throughout their NCP experience:

- 74% indicated that it enhanced their ability to engage with people from different cultures (*strongly agree 27%, agree 47%*)
- 68% indicated that it helped me to manage the challenges during my New Colombo Plan Mobility program (*strongly agree 23%, agree 45%*)
- 71% indicated that it helped me to better understand my host location (*strongly agree 23%, agree 47%*)

Refer to the chart below.

Ratings of cross-cultural training provided by Asialink Business either online or face to face

% of respondents, n=360

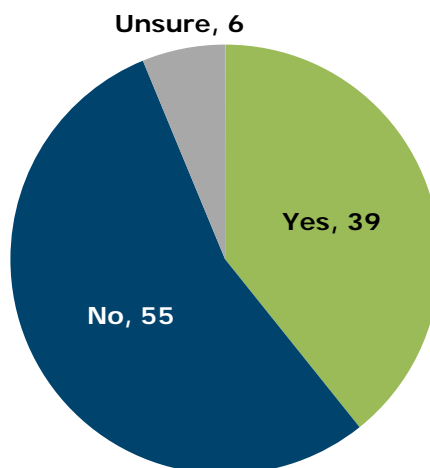


Work based experience

39% of Mobility students undertook some form of work based experience as part of their NCP project. Refer to the chart below.

NCP project included an internship, practicum, clinical placement

% of respondents, n=3,667



91% of Mobility students who undertook some form of work based experience indicated their work based experiences helped them develop their professional skills and knowledge (62% to a great extent and 29% to a moderate extent). 81% of these Mobility students indicated it helped them make professional connections with people or organisations in your host location (47% to a great extent and 34% to a moderate extent).

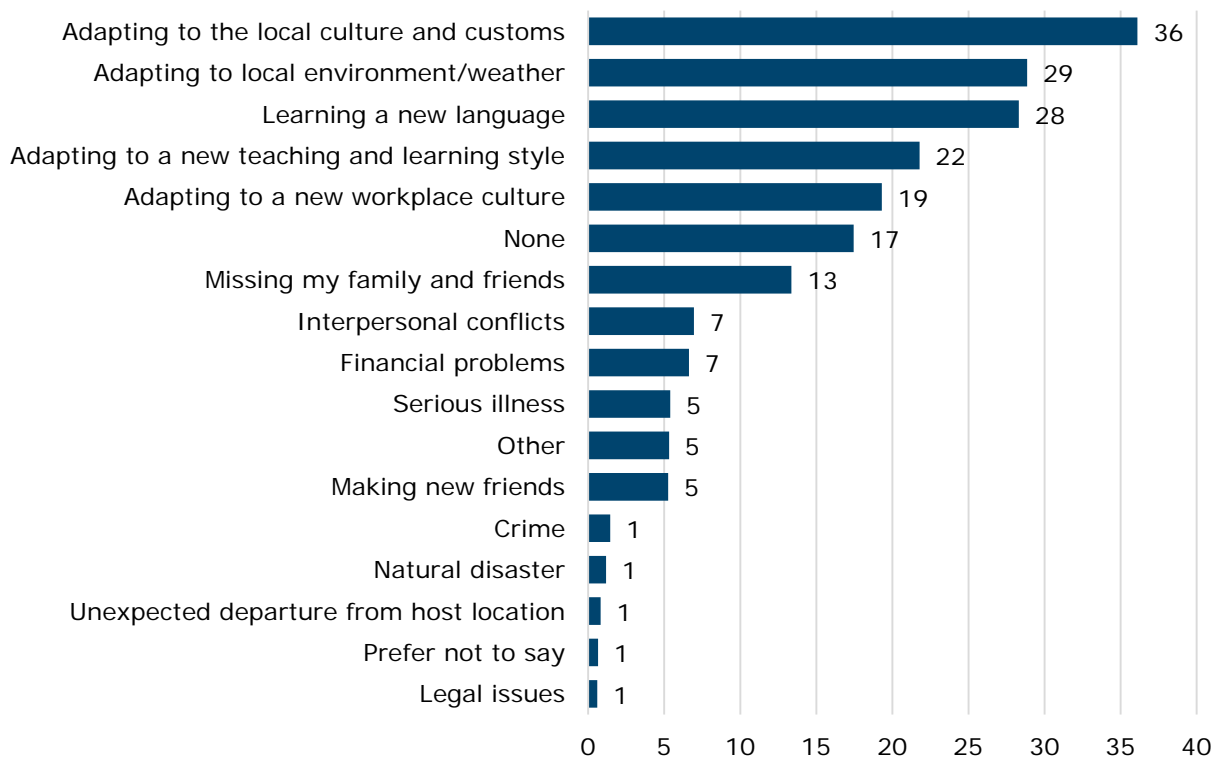
Benefits of work based experiences
% of respondents, n=1,438



Challenges

The chart below lists the top 10 challenges faced by NCP Mobility students during their overseas project. Adapting to the local culture and customs (36%), adapting to local environment/weather (29%) and learning a new language (28%) were the top 3. Refer to the chart below.

10 most common challenges experienced during NCP experience
Multiple responses allowed; % based on n=3,667

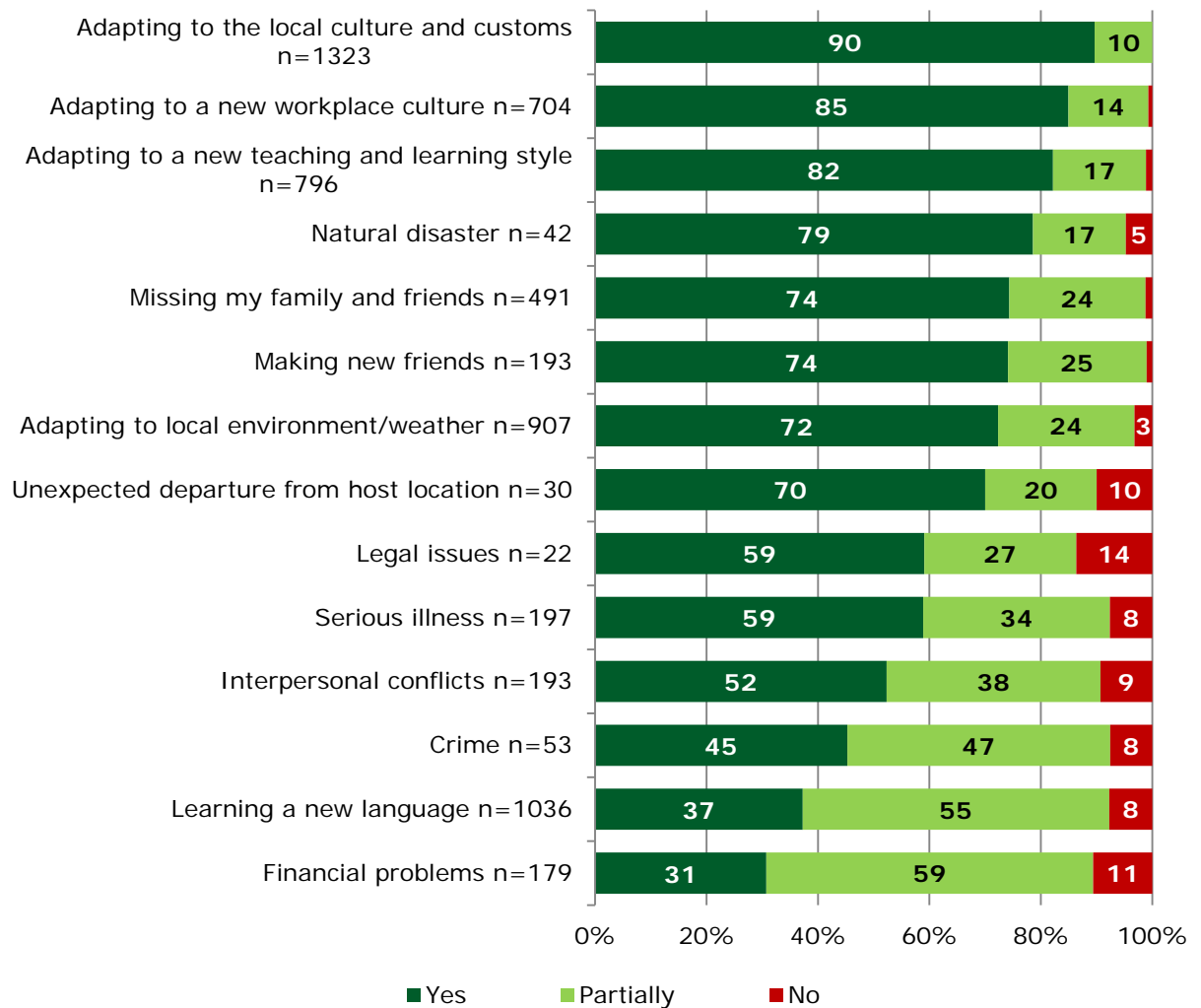


The following chart and discussion is based on the challenges selected by a student, as shown in the previous chart.

90% of Mobility students who had the challenge of adapting to the local culture and customs were able to fully meet it. 85% of those who had the challenge of adapting to a new workplace culture were able to fully meet it. 82% of those who had the challenge of adapting to a new teaching and learning style was fully meet it.

Areas where a higher proportion of challenges were not met included legal issues (14%); financial problems (11%); and unexpected departure from host country (10%). However note that legal issues had a very small sample size (n=22).

Meeting challenges experienced during the NCP program
Multiple responses allowed; % based on n in row description



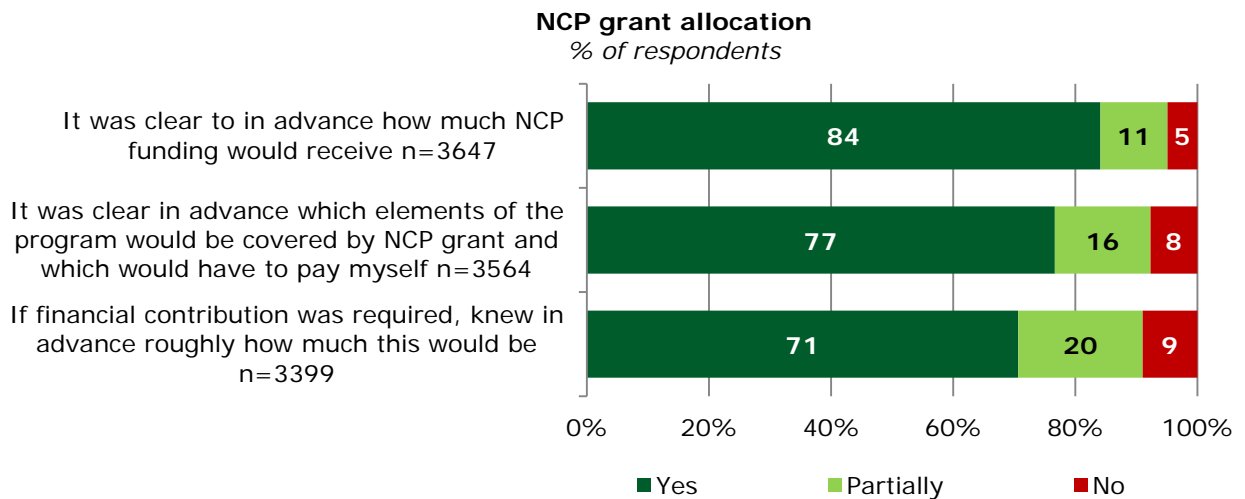
Addressing challenges

A positive attitude and other students were most frequently mentioned as helping to address the challenges for most items, followed by host institution and home university. Refer to the table below.

What helped address the challenge <i>% based on row n count</i>	Home university	Host institution	Other students	Family	Australian embassy or other staff	Own research	A positive attitude	Local people	Other
Adapting to the local culture and customs n=1312	6	15	22	0	0	4	31	19	2
Adapting to a new workplace culture n=700	7	18	20	0	1	3	33	15	3
Adapting to a new teaching and learning style n=790	12	16	25	0	0	5	33	6	2
Natural disaster n=40	28	25	5	3	0	5	15	13	8
Missing my family and friends n=489	1		33	27	0	0	29	3	7
Making new friends n=192	2	8	35	2	0	3	39	7	4
Adapting to local environment/weather n=891	1	2	10	1		6	61	5	14
Unexpected departure from host location n=28	25	7	4	32	4	4	18	0	7
Legal issues n=22	14	23	9	9	5	9	14	9	9
Serious illness n=196	9	14	16	9	3	4	16	8	20
Interpersonal conflicts n=191	4	2	35	5	1	2	43	2	6
Crime n=52	13	12	17	4	4	4	19	15	12
Learning a new language n=1020	5	25	17	0	0	7	10	32	3
Financial problems n=173	16	0	4	44	2	3	9	2	20

Grant allocation

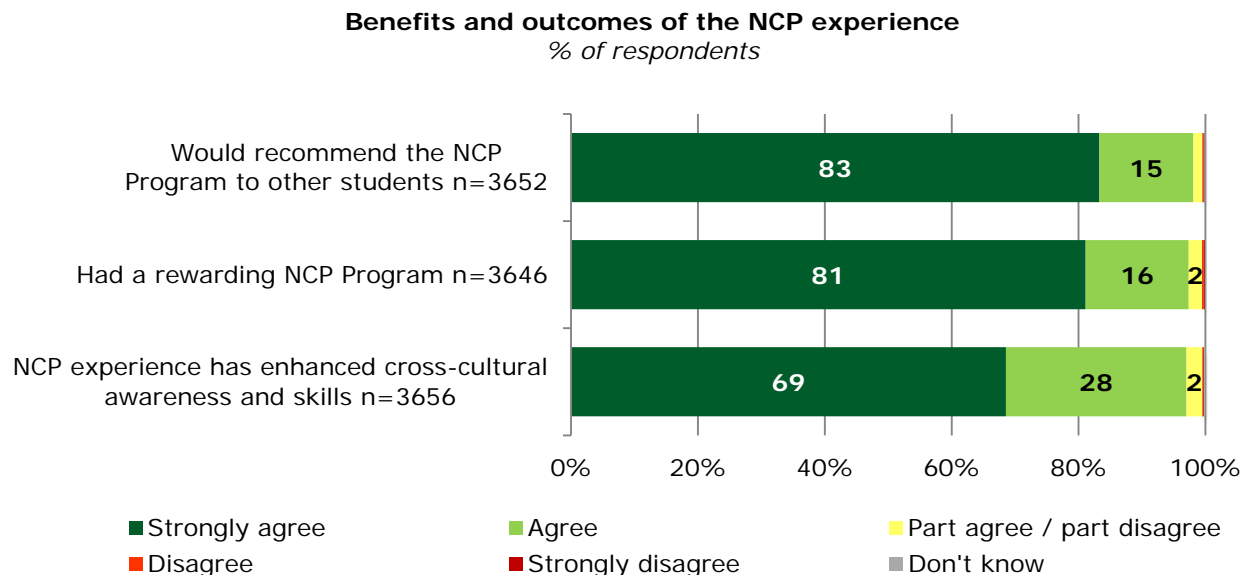
84% of Mobility students indicated that it was clear how much NCP funding they would receive, however, 5% were not clear about the process and 11% partially knew. To 77% of Mobility students it was clear in advance which elements of the program would be covered by their NCP grant and which they would have to pay for themselves, this was partially clear to 16% and 8% were unclear. 71% of Mobility students were clear in advance about how much their financial contribution would be, if a financial contribution was required, 20% were partially clear and 9% were unclear.



Benefits and outcomes of the NCP Mobility program

Student feedback on benefits and outcomes of the Mobility NCP program was highly positive.

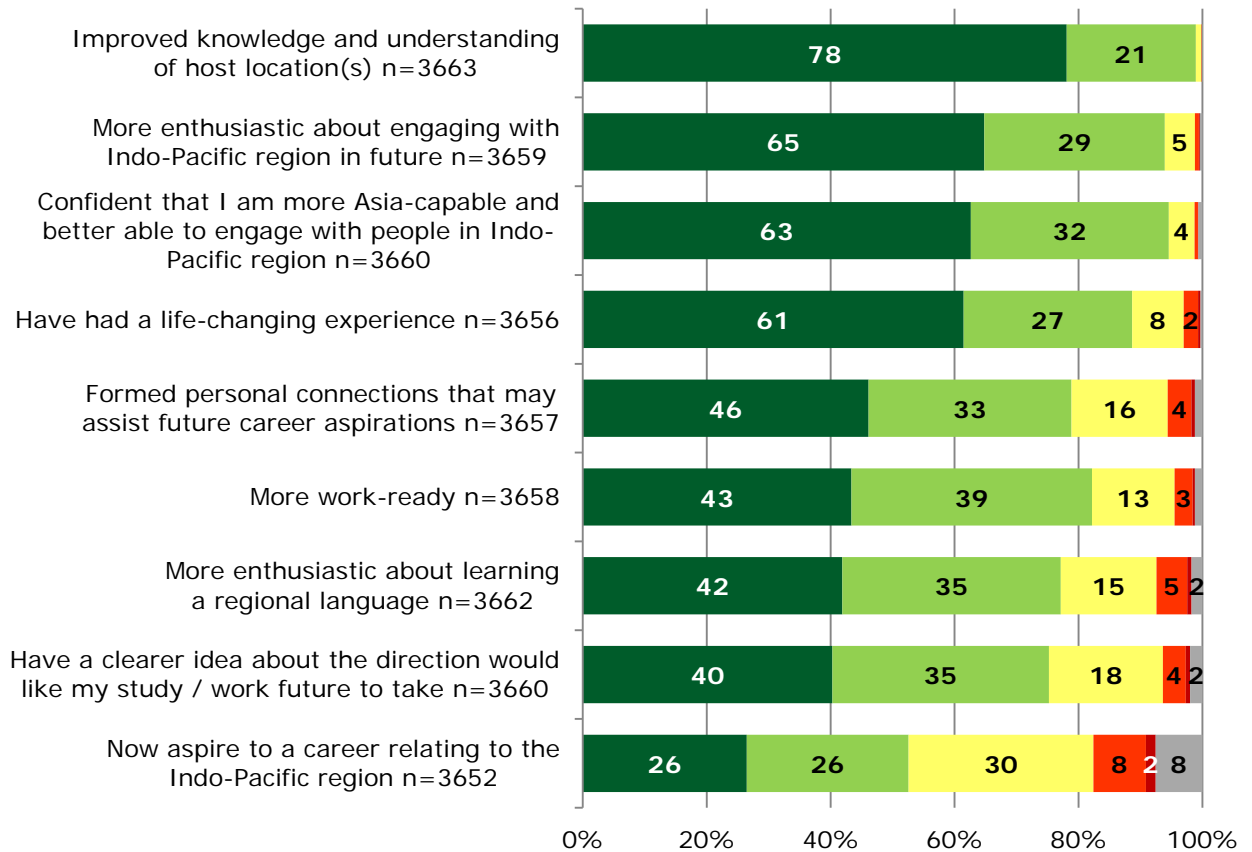
Nearly all Mobility students (98%) stated they would recommend the NCP program to other students (*strongly agreed* 83% and *agreed* 15%). A similar proportion of Mobility students (97%) agreed with the statement "I had a rewarding NCP program" (*strongly agreed* 81% and *agreed* 16%). 97% agreed with the statement "I have had a life changing experience" (*strongly agreed* 69% and *agreed* 28%).



Nearly all Mobility students (99%) *agreed* with the statement I have improved knowledge and understanding of my host location(s) (78% *strongly* or 21% *agree*). 94% of Mobility students *agreed* (65% *strongly* or 29% *agree*) with the statement I am more enthusiastic about engaging with the Indo-Pacific region in future and 94% *agreed* with the statement I am confident that I am more Asia-capable and better able to engage with people in the Indo-Pacific region (63% *strongly* or 32% *agree*). Refer to the chart below.

Benefits and outcomes of the NCP experience

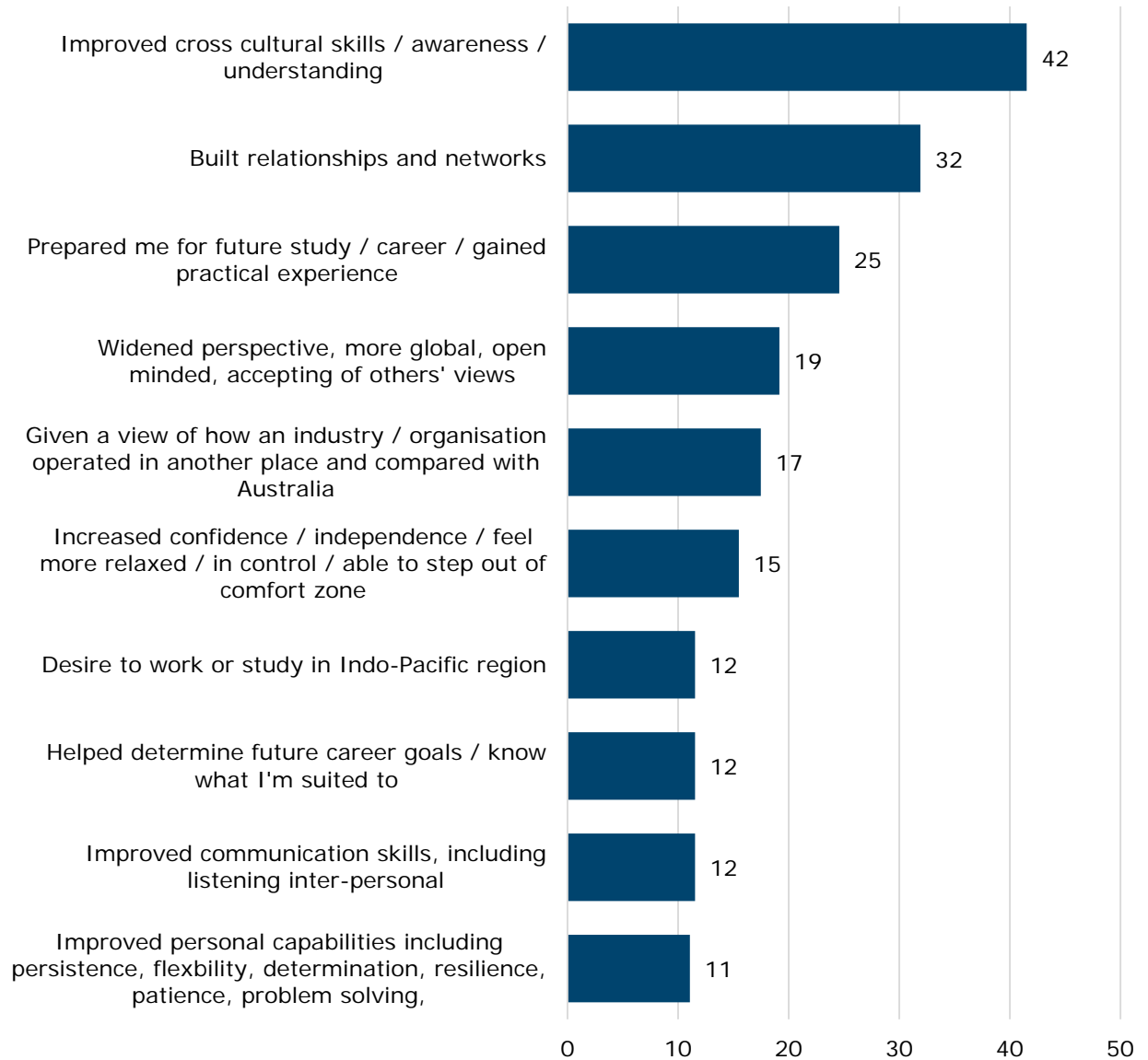
% of respondents



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Part agree / part disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly disagree ■ Don't know

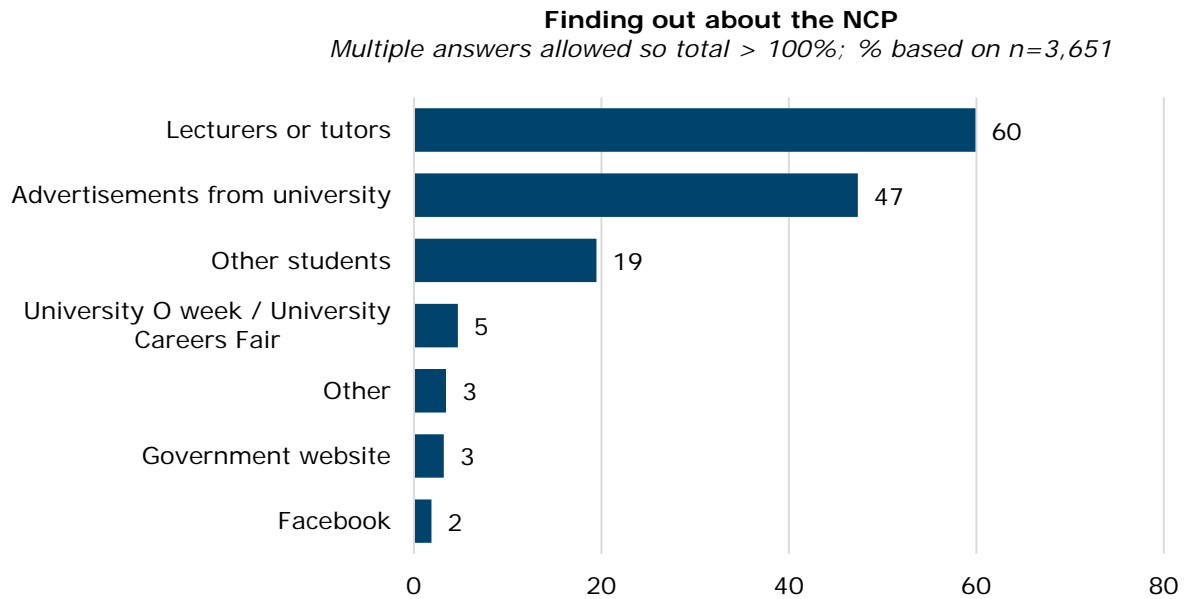
NCP Mobility students were asked to describe in an open ended response what they gained through their NCP experience that they believed will help them in future. The chart below displays the 10 most comment responses. Note that not all students responding to the survey provided comments so there is a lower n count than for many other questions in the survey. Refer to the chart below.

10 most common benefits gained through NCP experience
Multiple answers allowed so total > 100%; % based on n=1,310



Awareness of NCP

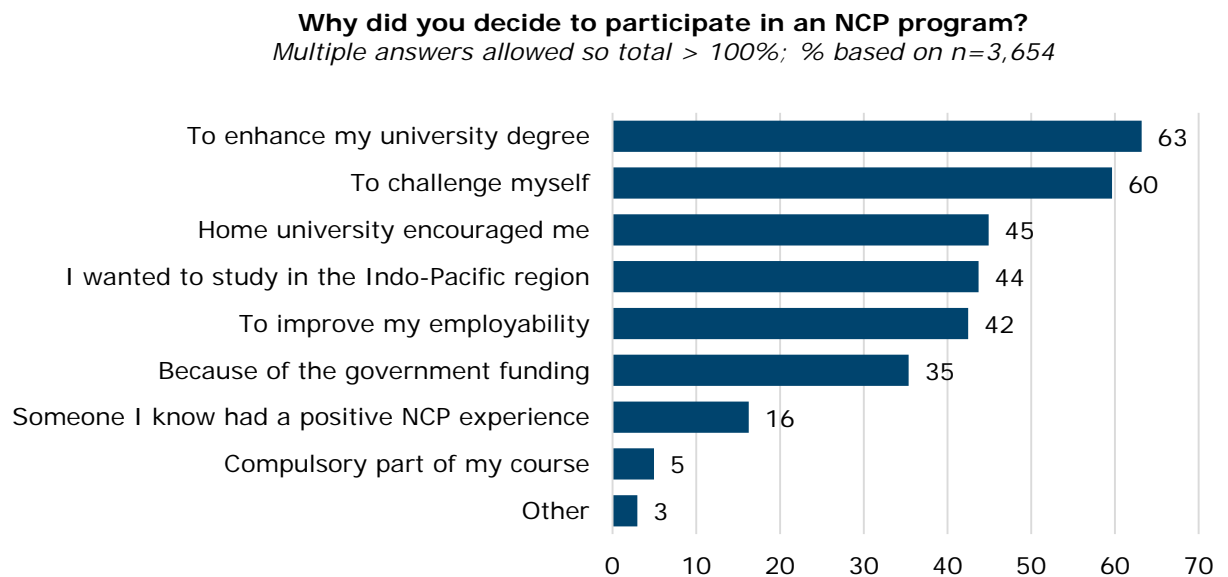
60% of NCP Mobility students found out about the NCP program through lectures and tutors, 47% through Advertisements from their university and 19% through other students.



Note: Chart only shows results with 1% or more responses.

Reason for participation

The top three reasons for Mobility students participation in the NCP program were to enhance my university degree (63%), to challenge myself (60%) and Home University encouraged me (45%). Refer to the chart below.

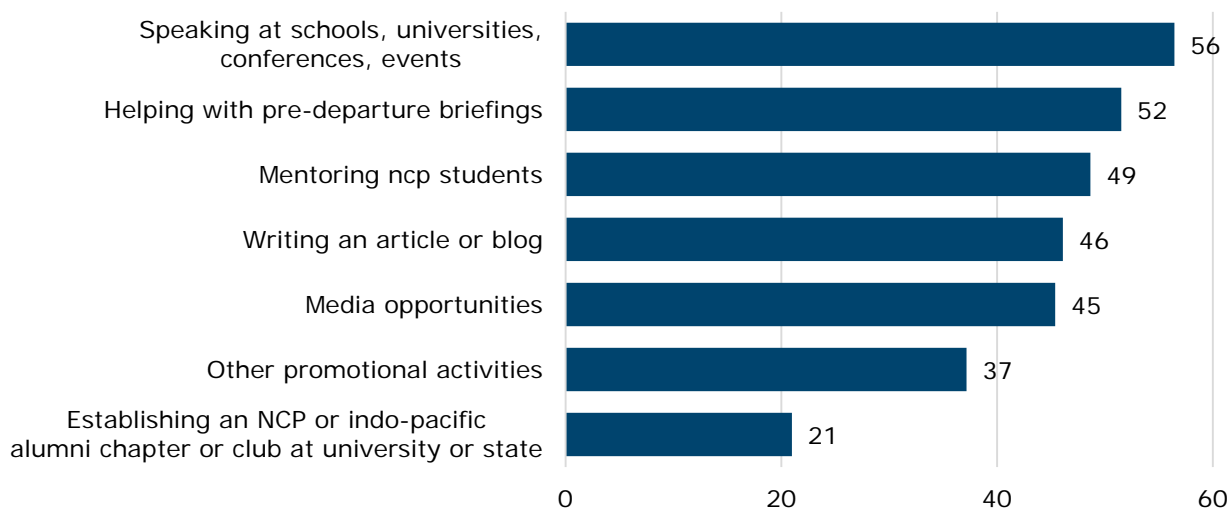


Willingness to promote NCP

56% of NCP Mobility students were willing to promote the NCP program by speaking at schools, universities, conferences, events, 52% through helping with pre-departure briefings and 49% were willing to promote the program by mentoring NCP students. Note that approximately 20% of survey respondents did not select any activity to promote the NCP program. Refer to the chart below.

Willingness to participate in promotional activities promoting the NCP program

Multiple answers allowed so total > 100%; % based on n=2,941



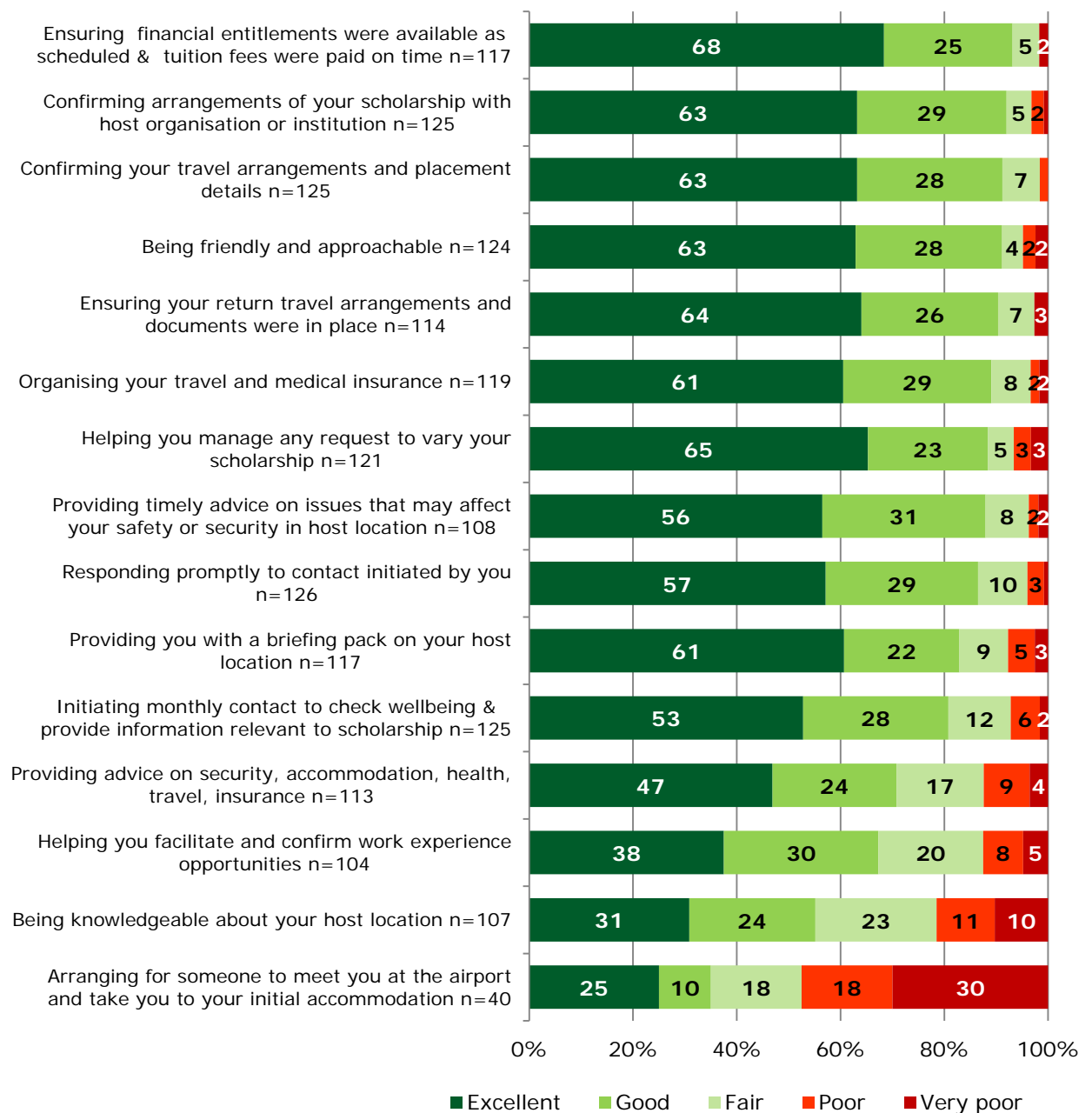
Appendix A - Case managers

NCP Scholars were asked to rate their case manager on a range of areas as presented in the chart below.

The highest rating for case managers was for ensuring your financial entitlements were available as scheduled and that your tuition fees were paid on time (*excellent* 68% and *good* 25%), followed by confirming arrangements of your Scholarship with host organisation or institution (*excellent* 63% and *good* 29%) and confirming your travel arrangements and placement details (*excellent* 63% and *good* 28%).

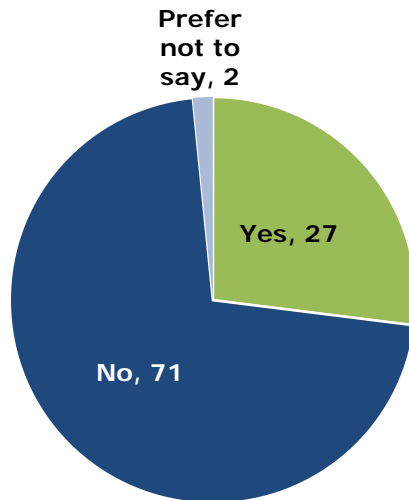
Case managers were rated well except for two items: arranging for someone to meet you at the airport and take you to your initial accommodation (18% rated this *poor* and 30% as *very poor*) and being knowledgeable about the host location where Scholars rated them *poor* (11%) and *very poor* (10%).

Rating of Case Manager
% of respondents, n variable, refer to chart

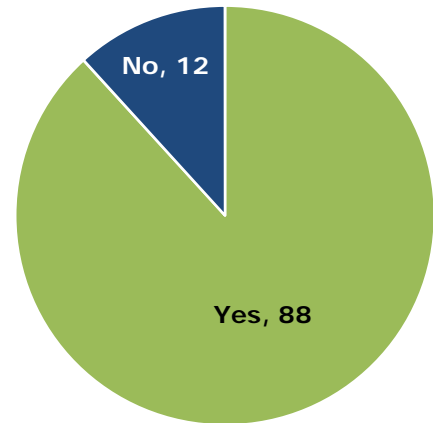


27% of Scholars had experienced a critical or welfare incident. Of those who experienced an incident, 88% indicated that their case manager was aware of the incident.

Experienced critical / welfare incident
% of respondents, n=126

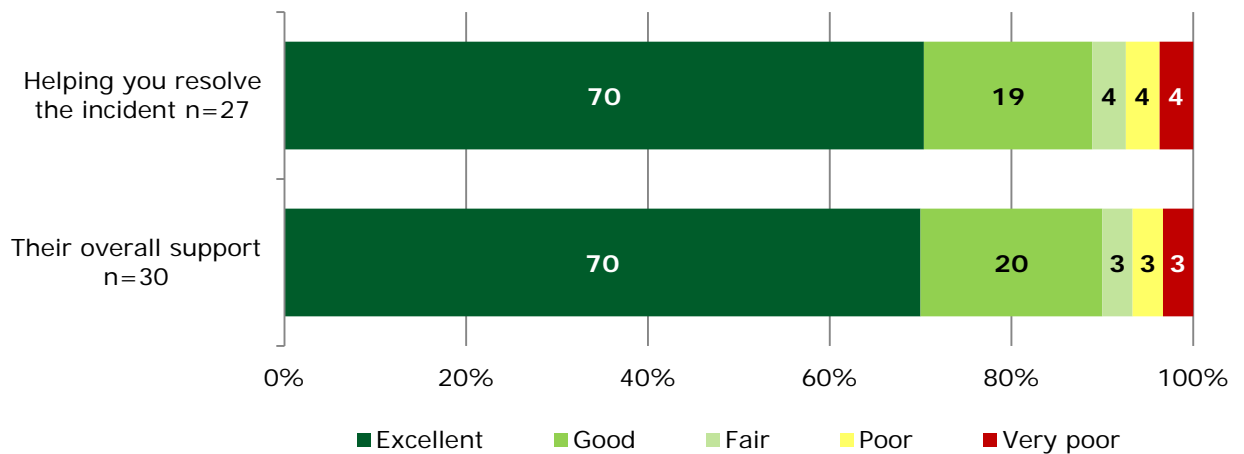


Case manager aware of critical / welfare incident
% of respondents, n=34



70% of Scholars who experienced a critical or welfare incident rated their case manager as excellent for helping you resolve the incident and 70% rated their overall support as excellent.

Case manager ratings (in regards to incident)
% of respondents, n variable, refer to chart



Appendix B - Analysis by round year

The following tables show selected results by Round year for both Scholars and Mobility students.

Scholars

Attribute	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
	n=2	n=24	n=89	n=12	n=127
	%	%	%	%	%
% Born outside of Australia	0	5	8	0	6
% Grew up in regional Australia	0	21	34	33	31
% Never travelled overseas prior to NCP	0	4	0	17	2
% Speak language other than English at home	50	13	16	8	15
% Program duration 12 or more months	50	42	33	17	33
% Undertook formal language training as part of NCP	50	88	75	33	73
% Undertook some form of work based experience as part of NCP	100	96	95	100	96
% Professional opportunity arose from NCP work-based experience	100	67	71	100	73
% Found NCP internship & mentorship network (online portal) useful	50	52	52	58	53
% Undertook more than one work based experience as part of NCP	100	57	58	33	56

Note: small sample sizes, results indicative only

Mobility students

Attribute	2015	2016	2017	Total
	n=879	n=2057	n=731	n=3667
	%	%	%	%
% Born outside of Australia	15	14	15	15
% Grew up in regional Australia	36	38	40	38
% Never travelled overseas prior to NCP	9	10	12	10
% Speak language other than English at home	22	21	18	21
% Undertook formal language training as part of NCP	22	23	14	21
% Undertook some form of work based experience as part of NCP	37	38	46	39