

Report on

Student-led Orientation Feedback Survey (2023)

Basic Information

An invitation email was sent by DSTO-SSA to all new students admitted in 2023-24 to complete an online survey in late Aug 2023 to collect their views about student-led O'Camps or O'Days.

Based on the available records in 2023-24:

Total no. of new students admitted	~2800	100%
Total no. of new students joined O'Camps or O'Days	~1300	47%

The no. of the collected responses:

- Total Valid response collected: 268 #, in which

Joined Student-led OCamps/O'Days	176*	65.7%
Did not join Student-led OCamps/O'Days	92	34.3%

~9.6% of the new students.

* 176 out of 1300, that is 14% of the O'Camps/O'Days participants.

Survey Result

A. For Students who have joined O'Camps/O'Days

How many O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s) have you participated in?	
No. of O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s)	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
1	106 (60.2%)
2	49 (27.8%)
3	15 (8.5%)
4 or above	6 (3.4%)

What are the primary reasons for you to participate in O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s)? (Select all that apply)	
Reasons	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Meeting new friends	156 (89.1%)
Enjoy and have fun	117 (66.4%)
Receive advice from seniors	102 (58.0%)
Gain a better understanding of HKUST/university life	98 (55.7%)
Be better prepared for university studies	63 (35.8%)

How do you agree with the following statements after attending O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s)?	
I have met new friends and seniors and enlarged my social circle.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	42 (23.9%)
Agree	101 (57.4%)
Neutral	26 (14.8%)
Disagree	3 (1.7%)
Strongly disagree	4 (2.3%)
I have a better understanding of HKUST and university life.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	37 (21.0%)
Agree	115 (65.3%)
Neutral	19 (10.8%)
Disagree	3 (1.7%)
Strongly disagree	2 (1.1%)
It better equipped me for my university studies.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	25 (14.2%)
Agree	81 (46.0%)
Neutral	54 (30.7%)
Disagree	11 (6.3%)
Strongly disagree	5 (2.8%)
I had an enjoyable experience.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	40 (22.7%)
Agree	93 (52.8%)
Neutral	33 (18.8%)
Disagree	5 (2.8%)

Strongly disagree	5 (2.8%)
I wish to participate in future O'Camp or O'Day as organizer/group leader.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	20 (11.4%)
Agree	56 (31.8%)
Neutral	66 (37.5%)
Disagree	24 (13.6%)
Strongly disagree	10 (5.7%)
I will actively join other activities organized by the same society/group afterwards.	
Options	No. (% out of 176 respondents)
Strongly agree	23 (13.1%)
Agree	94 (53.4%)
Neutral	44 (25%)
Disagree	10 (5.7%)
Strongly disagree	5 (2.8%)

For those you've indicated "Strongly disagree" or "Strongly agree" at above, would you like to tell us why? (Optional)

- I'm introvert and I am a bit scared when joining such kind of event.
- Inappropriate arrangements during O'Camp, always need to wait for enter hall, meals; Preparation not good, unclear instructions, don't know what was going on, activities were quite boring.

What did you **enjoy most** about the O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s) you participated in, and why?

- **Group games:** interesting, break the ice and make friends, listen to interesting stories, connects with different freshmen and year 2/3 students (*51 comments related*)
- **Campfire:** quite impressive to see a big ball of fire in front of you, fun dancing around it (*19 comments related*)
- **Campus tour:** efficiently helps me to understand the campus and routes around. (*9 comments related*)
- **Senior students:** nice and charming. They help us a lot and treat us so well during O'Camp (*9 comments related*)
- Meeting other freshmen: broadened my social circle and we keep in touch after the camp. (*5 comments related*)
- Sleep in school hall: to get familiar with its environment (*3 comments related*)

- Knowing class enrollment details

What activities or arrangements did you **dislike the most** during the O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s)?

- **Outdoor activities, such as water game, campfire.** For example: keep splashing water on me and my eyes felt uncomfortable, urged us to run for long with slippers. It was tiring and made both my feet bled. (*20 comments related*)
- **Intensive schedule**, not enough sleep each day (*5 comments related*)
- **Pub night**, because too loud music, stuffy (*4 comments related*)
- **Alcohol game** (*3 comments related*)
- **Unclean venues** (*2 comments related*)
- **Insufficient hall facilities**, for example, not enough bed for everyone, insufficient bathing facility, 3-4 people in a double room and no pillow/quilt/blanket provided (*2 comments related*)
- **Poor planning**
- Seniors forced freshmen to play games together till 5am
- A game called "UST train"; physical violence is involved

Did you experience any negative effects after participating in the O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s)? (put "N/A" if not applicable)

- **Getting Sick** (*20 comments related*)
- **Physical tiredness** (sleep late) (*5 comments related*)

Do you have any suggestions or comments regarding your O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s) experience?

- **Ban alcohol**, prepare some non-alcohol games (*3 comments related*)
- **More engaged/meaningful games**, e.g., team-sports orientated (*2 comments related*)
- **Longer duration**, 3-day camp schedule too packed (*2 comments related*)
- **Equipped first aid kit**
- **Stop asking sex-related questions**
- **Offer some academic information for new students**
- **Prepared back-up or contingency plans**
- **Optional participation**, e.g., **opt out for room games** as it ended late and not everyone is interested
- **More cultural diversity** (local and international students)
- Better off-campus venue arrangement: **avoid insect bite, muddy/slippery**
- **Be welcoming to the freshmen, not ignoring them**

For those who had joined more than one camp:

- Spread out the dates for O'Camps or O'Days
- **Avoid choosing the same venue**, some societies had same schedule and games, boring

B. For Students who did not join O'Camps/O'Days

If you did not join the student-led orientation, what was the primary reason(s) for not participating? (Select all that apply)	
Reasons	No. (% out of 92 respondents)
Personal disinterest	36 (39.1%)
No companion to join with	30 (32.6%)
Expensive participation fee	26 (28.3%)
Lack of promotion for the event	19 (20.7%)
Negative incidents shared on media	18 (19.6%)
Worries about being bullied	11 (12.0%)
Lack of support from family	6 (6.5%)
	39 (42.4%)
Other (please specify)	insufficient time, being sick, time conflict, not in HK yet, cultural/language barrier

What is your opinion of O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s) at the university?

- **Not necessary to attend/may not have useful information** (*5 comments related*)
- **Looks fun but too expensive** (*4 comments related*)
- **Mostly for local students** (*4 comments related*)
- Great chance to get new friends (*3 comments related*)
- An exhausted and crazy event (*2 comments related*)
- More promotion
- The events lack personality
- Not suitable for introverts
- Know more about the university and help adapting to the university life
- Activities that are held in different o'camps or o'days are similar

What can O'Camp(s) or O'Day(s) organizers do to encourage you to register for orientation activities?

- **Advertise more or through more media** (*18 comments related*)
- **Lower the price** (*5 comments related*)
- **Be considerate to non-local students, e.g., speak more English** (*4 comments related*)
- **Conduct O'Camps later (in late Aug)** (*4 comments related*)
- More interesting (*3 comments related*)
- Provide more/specific info. to participants, e.g., goal, activities, differences with other O'Camps (*2 comments related*)
- Promote it in a less aggressive way

- Share tips on how to get high marks
- Don't be pushy when it comes to drinking
- Allow participants to opt out at anytime

Do you have any suggestions for support or activities that HKUST should provide to new students?

- **More orientation activities for international students and increase cultural diversity (5 comments related)**
- Giving a clear timetable to students about all officially organized OCamps since the freshmen may not have enough time to do research on it (2 comments related)
- Conduct essential orientations (e.g., study abroad, library, IT services) on more dates
- Give chances to students get along with mainland and overseas students. Like an orientation day or can have a gathering or dinner together
- Organize some less stressful activities for introverted students

Summary of the Result

- Most of the students (~60%) participated only one student-led O'Camps or O'Day activities.
- Over half of them (~60-85%) strongly agreed or agreed that the activities were enjoyable, helpful in expanding their social circle, and help them better understand university life.
- There is also a positive impact on 67% of the respondents' participation in the future activities organized by the same society/group.
- Group games and campfire were the two most popular activities.
- On the other hand, there were students disliked outdoor activities like campfires and water games, alcohol-related activities, and the prolonged or intensive schedule.
- About the negative impact, some students (15%) reported that they fell ill or exhausted afterwards.
- For those who did not participate in O'Camp or O'Day, lacked interest, found the cost to be too high, and had no companions were three mostly indicated reasons.
- There were suggestions for student-led orientations to enhance promotion, set a cheaper camp fee, accommodate also non-local students, and to conduct later in August.

Remarks by DSTO

Based on the feedback collected, we want to highlight the following points:

- Organizers should avoid conducting activities that may make participants uncomfortable. Participants should have the freedom to opt out of any activity they don't want to take part in, at any time.
- Alcohol consumption and storage are strictly prohibited in all student activities, including O'Camps/O'Days, whether on or off-campus. Organizers who violate this rule will face penalties.