No. 1 Again

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University of Dayton, Ohio (url: http://www.udayton.edu/index.php)

No. 1 Again

04.07.2008 | Students, International, Campus and Community

The University of Dayton continues to receive highest ratings in international student satisfaction even as more schools are included in the International Student Barometer, the largest survey of international student satisfaction in the world.

UD ranked first overall among more than 80 universities and colleges worldwide, according to an ISB survey conducted during the fall 2007 semester. The University had the highest score in three out of four categories, taking the top spot for living, support and arrival services.

The survey drew on feedback from 67,000 students at 84 schools, up from the winter 2007 semester survey of 28,000 students at 56 schools.

"We are very pleased that international students and scholars recognize the quality of the total education they receive at UD," said Amy Anderson, director for the Center for International Programs. "The UD community strives to provide an excellent learning environment and service at every stage of their experience. This survey has been a great tool to benchmark our service over time and against other institutions worldwide."

A new category in the survey asked international students to consider the application process to the University of Dayton as well as their arrival experience. Respondents expressed 100 percent satisfaction with the arrival and welcome process, including international student orientation, their initial meetings with staff and the process of setting up a bank account, according to the survey.

Other areas UD received high marks include the quality of the professors, learning spaces on campus, performance feedback from professors regarding academic success in the classroom, the quality of friendships with American students, access to worship facilities and University clubs and organizations.

In addition, 94 percent of the students surveyed said they would recommend the University of Dayton to others.

"(UD) is a relatively small community which makes it easier to feel at home," one student wrote in the anonymous survey.

"(The University of Dayton) is a perfect atmosphere to conduct research and study ... The quality of education is perfect," wrote another.

The survey works as a tool to encourage international students to be honest about areas where the University can improve and give the University an opportunity to respond.

The most recent survey reveals students have a need for more guidance in finding employment both during their time at UD and following graduation. Career Services and the Center for International Programs are responding with an International Student Employment Seminar April 23 as one response to this feedback. International students will have an opportunity to speak with an immigration lawyer and learn about employment assistance offered through Career Services.

Thirty percent of UD's international student population responded to the survey. Respondents included undergraduate and graduate students, students in the Intensive English Program and exchange students.

Approximately 300 international students and visiting scholars attend and conduct research at UD, accounting for 3 percent of the overall student population, according to the Center for International Programs. The most highly represented countries are India, China, Saudi Arabia and Germany.

The International Student Barometer is a product of i-Graduate, an independent education benchmarking and research service.

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