

# ORIENTING AND REORIENTING GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

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## DEFINING SUCCESS

- **Students' Success**
- **International Students' Success**
- **International Students' Specific Needs**
- **Reconsidering Success Indicators**

## DEFINING SUCCESS

- **Beyond GPA & Defense**
- **Non-academic and life skill**
- **Market and employability**

## DEFINING SUCCESS

- 1) How do we re-orient international students' success?**
- 2) How can we make sure we become intentionally inclusive?**



## Serving All Students Well

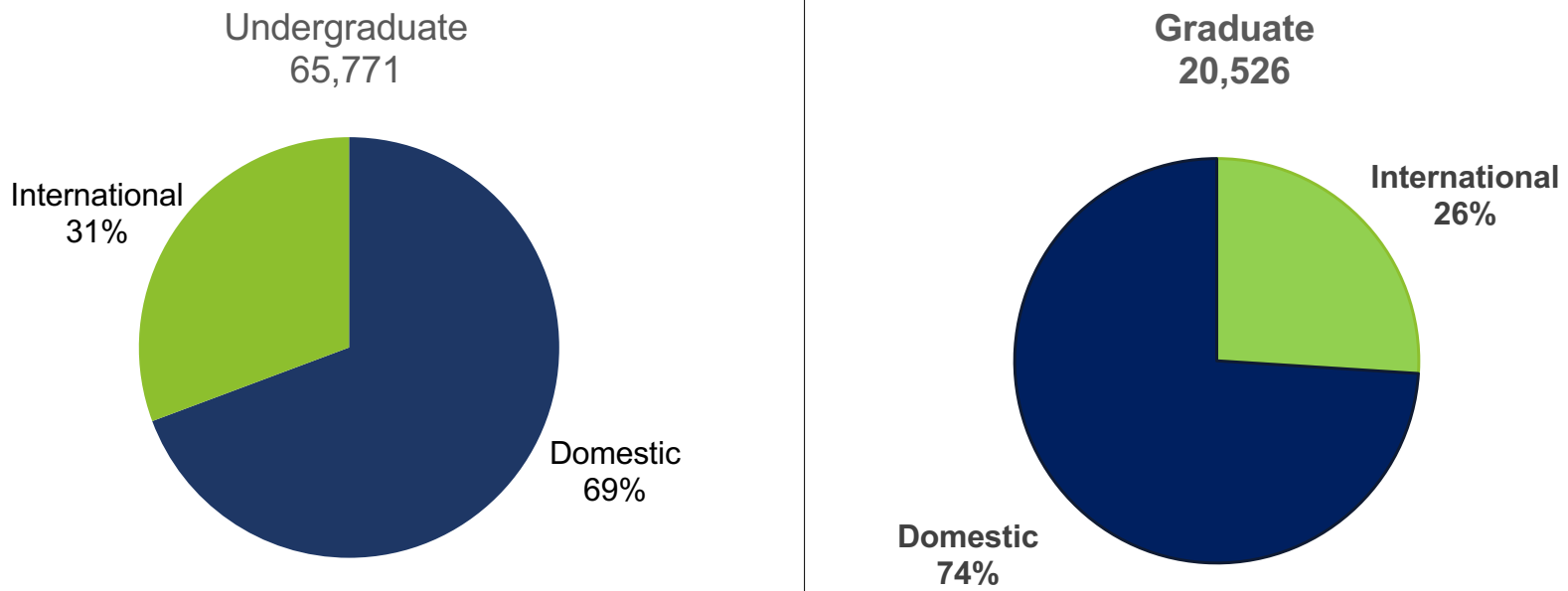
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### Understanding our demographics



## International Graduate Student Enrolment at U of T

1/3 of U of T students are international, representing 170 countries of citizenship



Data source: *Historic Enrolment Count Tool*; Total FTEs Fall 2022

## Committed to Supporting the Well-being and Success of all Graduate Students



**U of T has a robust and comprehensive network of supports for new graduate students designed to serve one of the most diverse student populations in North America, if not the world**



## **Distinct needs and/or Sliding Scale**

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**What distinctions, if any, are there between the needs of new international vs domestic graduate students?**



## TAKEAWAYS FROM gradSERU SURVEY

- **Financial Support:** ‘Debt concerns’ are more pronounced for international students; as is the financial hardship of unexpected increases in living expenses
- **Health and Wellness:** More Domestic than International students reported that they were currently seeking mental health treatment\*\*
- **Research Experience:** International students less satisfied with their advisor’s support for changes to their dissertation/thesis research due to pandemic

## TAKEAWAYS FROM gradSERU SURVEY

- **Educational Experience:** During pandemic, international students reported receiving more instruction online and being less comfortable in participating in online class discussions
- **Teaching Experience:** More international students than domestic agreed with the statement that their teaching experience prolonged the length of their degree
- **Campus Climate:** international students reported a stronger sense of belonging than domestic

## **PRE-ARRIVAL SUCCESS STRUCTURE**

- **International Student Experience Teams**
- **Health & Well-Being Counsellors**
- **Accessibility Advisors**
- **Careers and Global Learning**
- **Immigration Advising**

# International Student Experience Fund

\$3m fund launched in 2018 by Provos's Office and OVPI in response to a report on U of T-wide consultations re the international student experience.

Report defined priority areas for the Fund (*programs and services, interactional diversity, inclusive classrooms, understanding barriers, reaching students early*).

Goal of ISEF is to set U of T's international students up for success by seeding scalable, sustainable, and collaborative "local" projects

## ISEF 1.0 - Impact to Date

At the conclusion of its final competition round, \$2.6m committed to 29 projects. 11 completed projects (remainder will conclude 2023-24) have reached thousands of students.

## EXAMPLES OF ISEF- SUPPORTED ORIENTATION INITIATIVES

### **Speaking with Confidence**

*Early oral communication support for incoming international graduate students with a focus on academic conversation and presentation skills.*

## EXAMPLES OF ISEF- SUPPORTED ORIENTATION INITIATIVES cont.

### **Pre-arrival Teaching e-Orientation Program**

*Program helps new international graduate students who wish to teach to consider their existing strengths and experiences within an intercultural classroom environment, to better understand their own expectations around teaching and those of U of T and connect them to resources early on to build upon their existing knowledge and skills.*

## **Intentional Inclusivity**

- 1) Acknowledging that students are a mixed and heterogeneous body**
- 2) Identifying some key essential needs**
- 3) Educate faculty, students and staff**
- 4) Design a long-term plan**
- 5) Cohort building & tailored programming**