Los Angeles Southwest College
Campus Climate Report
International Students

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**Method:**
Six international students were surveyed/interviewed for this climate report. I conducted three in-person interviews and three students responded by email. Each international student answered the ten following questions.

1. How did you first hear about LASC?
2. Why did you choose to apply and attend LASC?
3. What was your expectation prior to attending LASC?
4. What has your experience been attending LASC?
5. How often are you on the LASC campus?
6. What do you wish was different at LASC?
7. What do you like about LASC?
8. How do you feel about your experience/the services at LASC International Student Office?
9. How do you feel about your classes and professors at LASC?
10. What other comments/feedback do you have about LASC?

**Goal:**
The questions were geared towards international students’ experience and feelings about the campus environment, services, and classes. In addition to student experience and feelings, the survey included a few questions that will help the International Student Office understand how and why the students decided to attend Los Angeles Southwest College.

**Findings:**
Nearly every student has had a positive experience at Los Angeles Southwest College. They find the professors and staff to be helpful. One student stated that the campus is “overall just okay”. It meets his needs, but nothing extra.

A few students mentioned that they wish there were fewer students in their classes, especially too high school students. One student mentioned that her professor was not able to control so many students in her class. She feels that the high school students in her classes are not mature and are distracting and disruptive. Students also wished that the scheduling of classes would be better. The timing makes it difficult to make a good schedule for the semester. Courses are either offered very early in the day or very late in the evening. This conflict means that students who live a bit further have to stay on campus all day. These students wish that there were more classes and sections offered.
Most surveyed international students like the diversity on campus. They like the easygoing setting, and really appreciate the quality of services given. One student mentioned the reasonable price for international students.

All students found the International Student Office to be helpful, and reported having positive experiences. They like that they are able to ask questions at any time. The office helps them get classes and other F-1 visa related services.

Several students mentioned their excellent English/ESL professors. Most of them like their classes. One student mentioned that her physiology professor did not allow questions, and the lecture was hard to understand. Another student mentioned again that there are too many high school students in his classes.

Some final comments included the need for more restaurants or access to food on campus. One mentioned that there seems to always be talks of budget cuts. She also mentioned that the restrooms are often dirty and do not have toilet paper. International students also wish there were more jobs on campus for international students.

**Findings for recruitment:**
In this survey/interview, most students found out about LASC through friends and family. In one case, a student was referred to by a local language school. Most students have heard about the Los Angeles Community College District as a whole. Students find that our office provides excellent services and is willing to work with the student through the whole application process, which is not something they find at other college’s International Student Office.

**Future Changes for Survey:**
I found that most questions asked were useful, but I would take out the question of expectations (#3). Most students found it difficult to understand what that meant, since they either didn’t know or didn’t remember their expectations. Lastly, I would highly encourage in-person interviews or group interviews. There were answers on the email survey that I wish I had been able to follow up on. My in-person interviews allowed me to ask more follow up questions and I was able to observe how engaged the student was.