**Introduction**

Many thanks to all 733 first-year students who have completed our online survey. The survey was targeted at first-year students across all faculties at the University Sydney who commenced their degree in March 2015. In this review we take a first glance at the data collected in the survey. We collected information on the students family background, whether they are the first to go to university, their personality, their perceptions about other people’s personality, their health, how much financial support they receive from their parents, among others. In the near future we will link these responses to the students’ university application files and examination record. This linkage will allow us to assess how well students are prepared for the intellectual challenges at university, to identify which students will perform better in their first year of study, and why this may be the case. We will focus our analysis specifically on students who are the first in their family to go to university - the educational pioneers of their families.
What are the characteristics of our sample members?

**Relationship Status**

- **Married or de facto**
  - Number of Observations: 769
  - 91.9% Yes
  - 8.1% No
  - 0.0% Don’t know

**Hand for writing**

- Number of Observations: 769
  - 99.3% Right
  - 0.9% Left
  - 0.8% Both
  - 0.0% Don’t know

**Paid Work**

- **Have children**
  - Number of Observations: 768
  - 97.9% No
  - 2.0% Yes
  - 0.1% Don’t know

- **Does paid outside work**
  - Number of Observations: 762
  - 49.0% Yes
  - 51.0% No
  - 0.0% Don’t know

**Number of children**

- Number of Observations: 14
  - 57.1% 1
  - 28.6% 2
  - 14.3% 3

**How many hours per week do you work?**

- Number of Observations: 372
  - Hours per week: 0 to 50
Help with Decision to Uni

Personality

Locus of Control

Figure 1: Openness to Experiences
Openness to Experiences relates to imagination and intelligence.

Figure 2: Conscientiousness
Conscientiousness relates to self-discipline.

Figure 3: Extraversion
Extraversion describes whether a person is outgoing and sociable.

Figure 4: Internality
Internality measures the belief in control of one’s own life.
Grit

**Figure 5: Grit**
Grit measures perseverance.

Anxiety

**Ever treated for depression or anxiety**

- Yes: 62.7%
- No: 29.6%
- Don't know: 6.7%

**Currently being treated for depression or anxiety**

- Yes: 56.2%
- No: 39.8%
- Don't know: 4.0%

Conclusions

From this preliminary analysis, we can find some astonishing facts about our first-year students. For example:
• almost 40% of the students live with their parents;
• 30% of the students have had treatment for anxiety;
• almost 30% of the students are not confident of where to look for help when they need it.

These statistics are just for you to have a general idea of the survey sample. After we link the relevant data sources, we will be able to do more formal analysis. Stay tuned for our updates!

Forthcoming Research

• Methodological analysis: A study analysing the usefulness of anchoring vignettes in correcting for measurement error in self-reported personality instruments.
• Economic analysis: A study on the relative university readiness of students from low socioeconomic backgrounds and sorting into field of study.

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