

2016 Pre-departure Events Assessment Report

The 2016 Pre-departure Events were held in Beijing and Shanghai. In total, there were 97 students and 94 parents participated in the events, including 53 students and 51 parents from the Beijing event, and 44 students and 43 parents from the Shanghai event. We did 3 sets of assessments – a student survey, a parent survey, and a training assessment and a post-event assessment for current student volunteers. We collected 87 student survey (89.7% response rate), 31 parent survey (33% response rate), as well as 11 post-event volunteer survey (84.6% response rate).

1. How helpful was the pre-departure event? (1 means not helpful at all, and 5 means very helpful)

	Students	Parents
5	54%	74%
4	24%	23%
Mean	4.58	4.71

2. Would you recommend the pre-departure event to future incoming students and their parents?

Response	Students	Parents
Yes	81.61%	100%
No	3.45%	0%

3. What did students learn from the pre-departure events?

- a. Welcome Remark:

- i. Great place to study and live (28%)
- ii. Hawkeye culture (10%)
- iii. College town (8%)
- iv. Large number of Chinese students (7%)
- v. Small class/large faculty-student ratio (7%)

- b. Academic Expectations and Adjustment:

- i. Seeking help when needed (17%)
- ii. Plan a realistic schedule (13%)
- iii. Success at Iowa course (13%)
- iv. Studying is your own responsibility (13%)
- v. Language courses/language resources (11%)

- c. FAQ:

- i. Obey laws (20%)
- ii. Transportation (19%)
- iii. Pick One/Extracurricular involvement (11%)
- iv. How to pay tuition (11%)
- v. Phone plan (6%)

- d. Student Panel:

- i. Pick One: student organizations (20%)

- ii. Pick One: on campus part-time job (9%)
 - iii. Residence halls (7%)
 - iv. Time management (7%)
 - v. Don't be shy to seek help (6%)
 - e. Pre-arrival Checklist & Orientation:
 - i. Finish pre-arrival checklist (46%)
 - ii. Pre-arrival checklist items (32%)
 - iii. The importance of participating in orientation (8%)
 - iv. Academics/courses (8%)
 - f. Small Groups:
 - i. Classes (20%)
 - ii. Living details & suggestions (16%)
 - iii. Packing (13%)
- 4. What went well, and what didn't?
 - a. Overall, incoming students and their parents, as well as the current student volunteers think the event went well, answering a lot of their questions and helping them better prepared. 85% of the student respondents said that they were better prepared after attending the pre-departure events.
 - b. Both the students and the volunteers think the small group session should be longer. The students want to have more time interacting with the volunteers as well as other incoming students.
 - c. Some of the challenges volunteers faced during small groups are 1) dealing with all the questions at once/not having enough time for questions; 2) some students were too shy to ask questions; and 3) feeling not completely prepared when being asked questions that they could not answer.
 - d. The introduction session and the student panel received mix feedback.
 - e. Based on the volunteer survey and the student survey, it might be necessary to revisit how to give advice during and after volunteer training with the volunteers.
- 5. Suggestions for future events (based on the assessment)?
 - a. Longer session for the small groups. Students would like to interact with current students, alumni, and other incoming students.
 - b. Parents suggested to have materials in written form.
 - c. The assessment result can be separated by location.
 - d. Re-evaluate some of the volunteer training materials or methods.
 - e. For surveys/assessment that has pre- and post-, it will be helpful to have some type of comparison questions, or questions to revisit.