SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Simon Fraser University's Office of Graduate Studies wished to obtain insights into graduate student experience across a number of fields, including: overall satisfaction, quality of education (e.g. instruction, advising, opportunities for collaborative team work, availability of cross-discipline opportunities, course work), quality of support (e.g. advice/workshops on teaching, standards for academic writing, publishing work, writing grant proposals, etc.), financial support, university resources, student life, etc.

A total of 1,315 invitations were sent out to SFU graduates who had completed the requirements for their degree – the "completers" in 2011. In all, 561 completed surveys were received; this represents a 42.7% response rate. Many of the responses were also examined across Faculties, disciplines and credential.

Qualitative analysis of the 142 comments submitted by survey respondents focused on four lines of inquiry: major trends in comments; trends in comments related to particular programs; emerging problem areas; and student feeling toward the university and potential as alumni. Students most frequently commented on the following five themes:

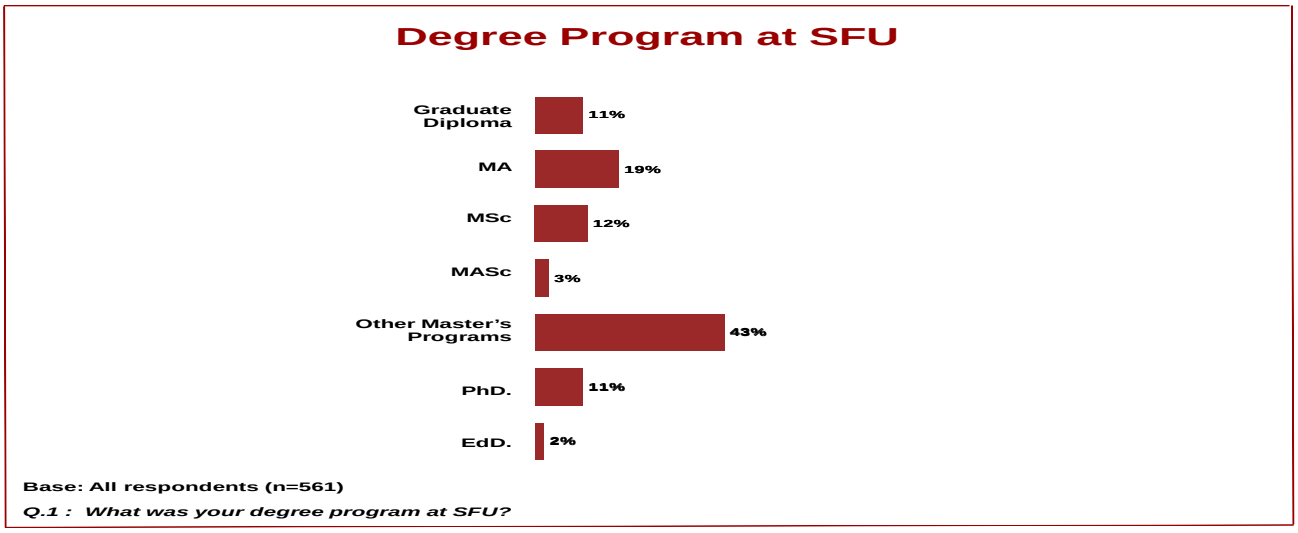
a) Program structure
b) Support for students (including campus life)
c) Career relevance
d) Supervision
e) Instruction/Course appropriateness

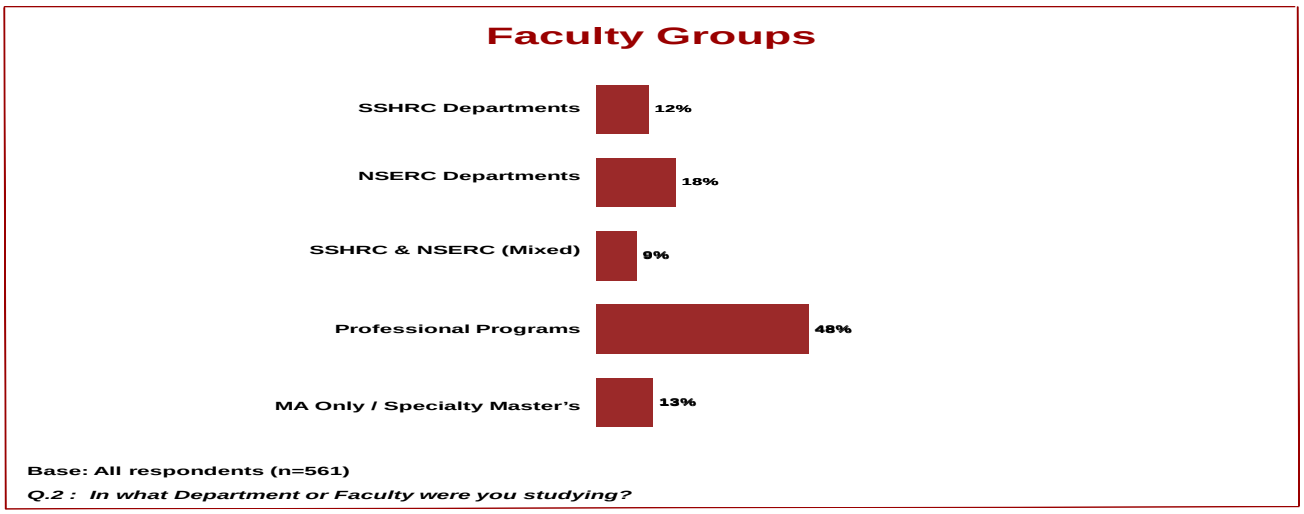
Highlights

O2 Tvgn8-3(n)2 G2 Tra(en)2(t37 Ta-2(o)11e E(u)x(r)-22(g)1-2(i)13(r)-411(r)-2)13(r)-2(i)8(at)2.30ness

Quality of Support and Training Opportunities

Detailed Survey Data





Communications, Arts & Technology	41	7.3
Communication	7	1.2
Contemporary Arts	1	0.2
Publishing	10	1.8
School of Interactive Arts & Technology	23	4.1
Education	160	28.5
Edu cation	160	28.5
Environment	18	3.2
Archaeology	2	0.4
Geography	8	1.4
Resource and Environmental Management	10	1.8
Health Sciences	25	4.5
Health Sciences	25	4.5
Science	55	9.8
Biological Sciences	8	1.4
Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology	8	1.4
Chemistry	5	0.9
Earth Sciences	7	1.2
Mathematics	10	1.8
Molecular Biology & Biochemistry	3	0.5
Physics	7	1.2
Statistics & Actuarial Science	7	1.2

Note: Certain Departments within each Faculty were combined. These included:

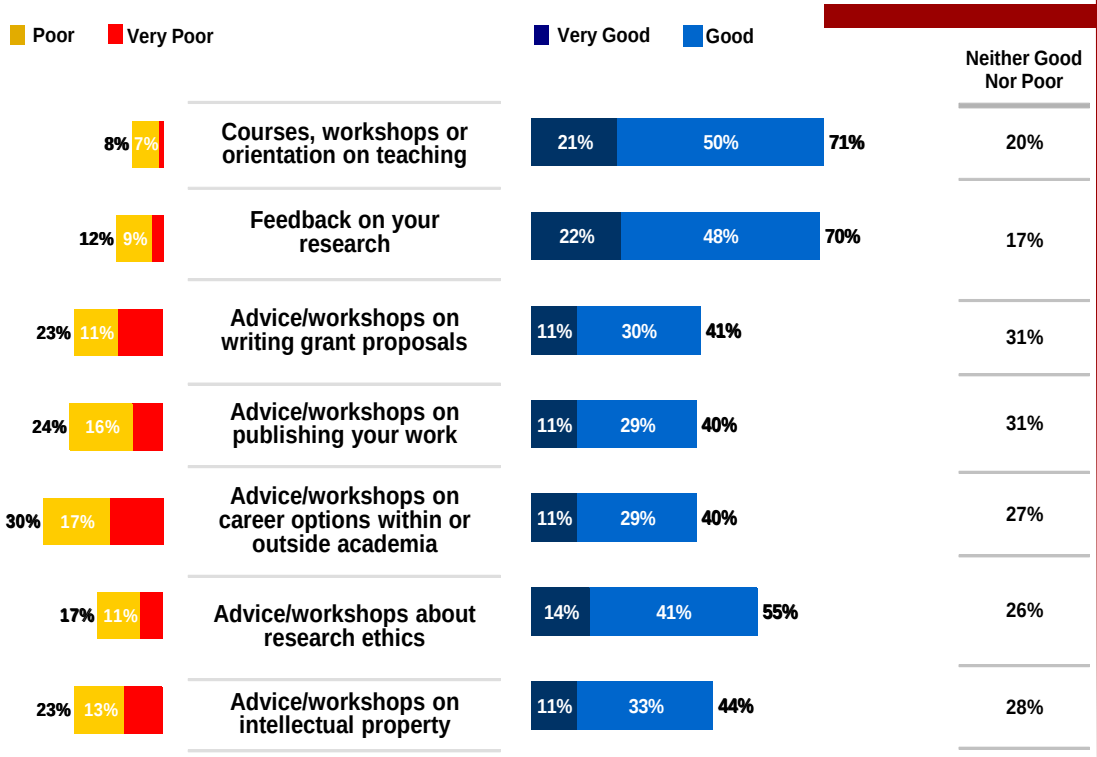
Aspect of Graduate Experiences

	% Very Good/Good							
	App. Science	Arts/Soc. Science	Bus. Admin	Comm., Art & Tech	Educ.	Environ.	Health Sci.	Science
Exceeded/Fully Met Expectations	35%	51%	41%	43%	61%	56%	29%	60%
Somewhat Met	35 %	29 %	42 %	38 %	26 %	33%	43%	28%

CS0 cs 1.8 re

Dimension of Graduate Program	% Very Good/Good							
	App. Science	Arts/Soc. Science	Bus. Admin	Comm., Art & Tech	Educ.	Environ.	Health Sci.	Science
Intellectual quality of faculty	65%	94%	85%	88%	96%	100%	91%	87%
Quality of program administration	56%	73%	85%	73%	73%	94%	73%	

Rating Quality of Support & Training Received at SFU



Base: n=varies between 281 and 500 (For many respondents, this was not applicable or they did not participate in the various support/training opportunities, and were thus excluded from the analysis).

Q.9 : How would you rate the quality of the support and training you received at SFU in each of the following areas?

Dimension of Training and Support	% Very Good/Good							
	App. Science	Arts/Soc. Science	Bus. Admin	Comm., Art & Tech	Educ.	Environ.	Health Sci.	Science
Courses, workshops or orientation on teaching	**53%**	**62%**	**76%**	**65%**	**82%**	**86%**	**44%**	**66%**
Feedback on your research	**56%**	**70%**	**65%**	**66%**	**74%**	**72%**	**58%**	**83%**
Advice/workshops on writing grant proposals	**27%**	**46%**	**49%**	**46%**	**41%**	**25%**	**20%**	**32%**
Advice/workshops on publishing your work	**36%**	**34%**	**45%**	**43%**	**36%**	**47%**	**11%**	**62%**

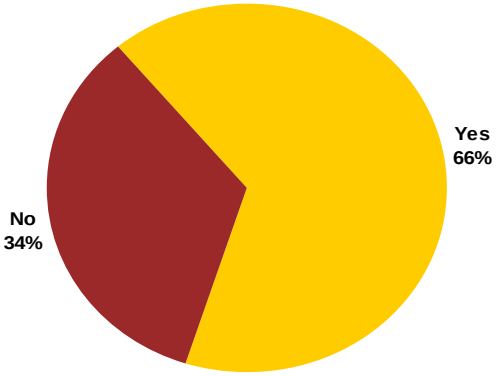
	App. Science	Arts/Soc. Scien ce	Bus. Admin	Comm., Art & Tech	Educ.	Environ.	Health Sci.	Science

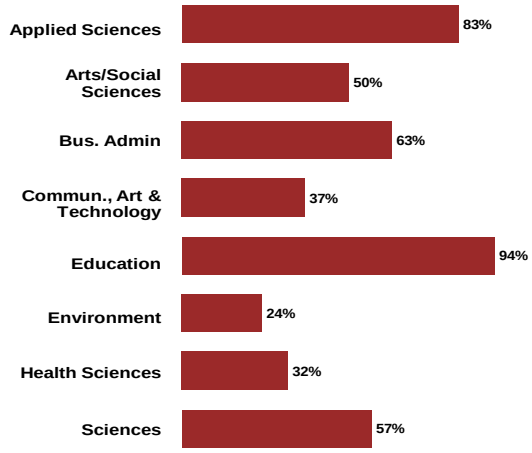
	Graduate Diploma	MA	MSc/MASc	Other Master's	PhD.
Worth the Financial Investment	83%	70%	75%	71%	74%
Worth the Time Investment	92%	74%	69%	79%	84%

Source of Financial Support:	App. Science	Artg1 2 Tm

Source of Financial Support:	SSHRC Depts.	NSERC Depts.	SSHRC & NSERC (Mixed)	Prof. Programs	MA Only/ Specialty Master 's 68686868
Personal					
Savings	44%	33%	42%	53%	68%

Regularly Employed Majority of Time While Doing Degree
(More than 20 hours/week)





Base: All respondents (n=561)

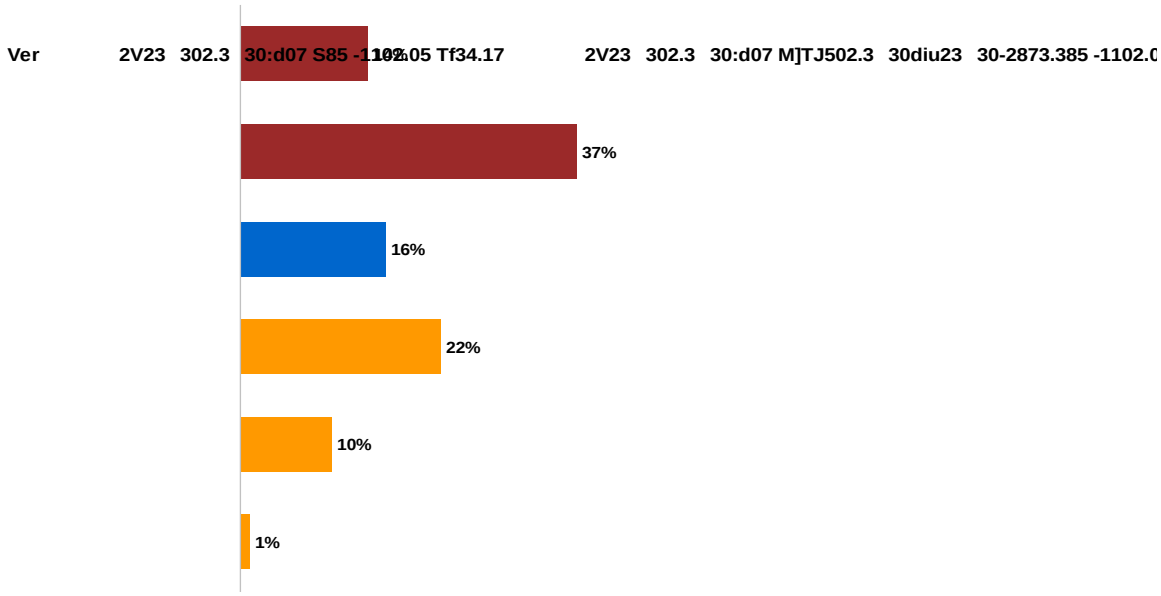
Q.4 : Do you consider yourself to have been regularly employed (more than 20 hours per week) the majority of time while you were doing your degree?

Gender:	
Male	46%
Female	54%
Age:	
22 to 25	14%
26 to 30	31%
31 to 35	20%
36 to 40	11%
41 to 45	8%
Over 45	15%

Current Marital Status:	
Single	39%
Common Law	12%
Married	45%
Divorced, Widowed, Separated	4%
Current Employment Status:	
Employed full -time	66%
Employed part -time or self- employed	11%
Unemployed	12%
Student/Other	12%

If started graduate career again, would…	% Definitely/Probably							
	App. Science	Arts/Soc. Science	Bus. Admin	Comm., Art & Tech	Educ.	Environ.	Health Sci.	Science
Select SFU	63 %	62 %	68 %	67 %	82 %	76 %	50 %	77 %
Select same academic unit/program	74%	61%	72%	59%	78%	72%	68%	83%
Recommend SFU to someone considering your program	68%	64%	78%	59%	81%	88%	64%	78%

Degree of Personal Attachment to Simon Fraser University



Base: n=548

***Q.16*: What is the degree of attachment you have currently to Simon Fraser University? Please use a 7-point scale where 1 means you have a very weak personal attachment to SFU, and 7 means you have a very strong personal attachment to SFU. "Very strong"=7 out of 7; "strong"=5,6; "medium"=4; "weak"=2,3; "very weak"=1.**