

SPS Sense of Belonging

Survey Results • 01.05.2024 – 17.05.2024

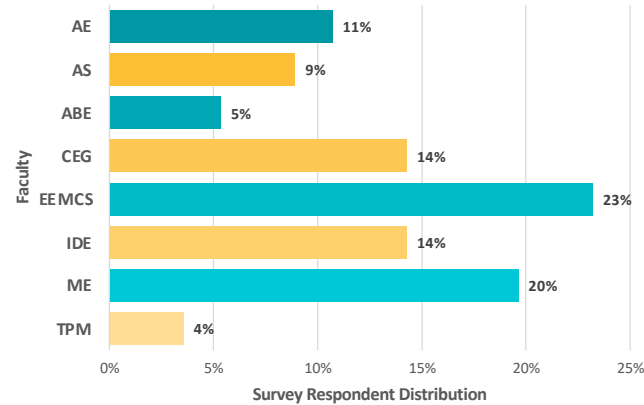
Topic of research

This survey explored how students at TU Delft connect with each other to develop a sense of belonging and community for themselves and their peers. We asked students to think back on experiences and instances at TU Delft, where new friendships developed, or old ones strengthened.

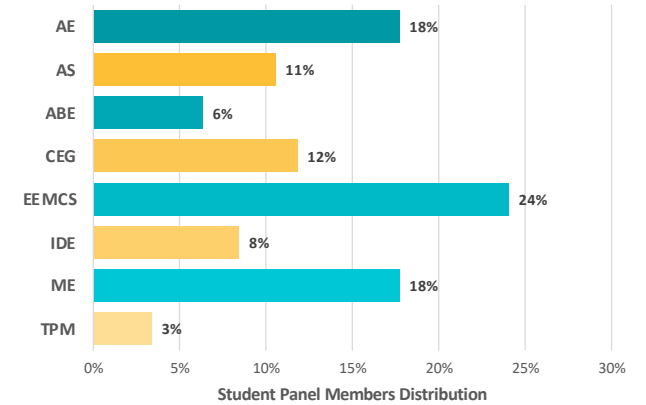
Topic of research

- Most students indicated **being outside, walking, in need of green/nature to recharge themselves**. Ways to facilitate this could be, for instance, sharing routes for a walk (with different lengths), sharing some fun facts about the nature around campus, more benches to sit/meet each other, maybe even a “bare foot trail”.
- In terms of connecting with others, students **prefer spaces where they can work together, or meet for a small talk**, not too formal and made to relax, for smaller groups of people. Study and student associations are also contributing by organizing activities. Connecting with people on a personal level starts with bringing them together.
- Students feel a sense of belonging mostly at their own faculty. X comes second and Echo third.
- In general, students create a sense of belonging **by being open and being available for others**. And that’s what they expect from TU Delft in terms of making **‘space’ to connect with other students and educators**.

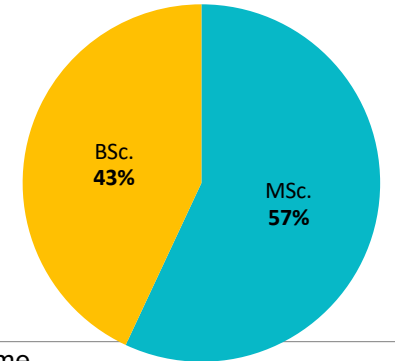
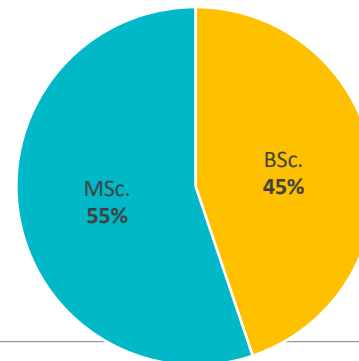
Survey Respondents | 58 Respondents



Total SPS Members | 237 Members



Distribution per faculty



Distribution per programme

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Q1 - Where on campus do you recharge yourself and how? (Take a bit of a break or just some time off?)

(58 responses)

- Most students recharge themselves by either going for a **walk** (n=18) or simply **being outdoors** (n=21). Especially when the weather is nice to **sit around campus**. Spaces like mekelpark, X, the grass next to IDE and Pulse, Echo, on top of the library were frequently mentioned.
- Many students (n=20) responded that they like **to spend time somewhere around or in the faculty** building, either in the cafeterias or in the corridors or lecture halls.
- Few students (n=7) mentioned being around people or chatting with friends.
- Some of the other spaces mentioned included **Coffeestar, library or hub of their study association** in cold weather.

“In the warm periods, on campus outside Aula near the grassy areas. When it is colder, either the library or at the hub of my study association in the university”

- AS BSc. Student

“In the building of Civil at a free seat. Having a nice chat with fellow students or doing something for myself.”

- CEG BSc. Student

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Q2 - Describe a scenario at TU Delft, where you felt connected with people on a personal level.

What contributed to this sense of connection?

(55 responses)

- Most students (n=13) mentioned **simply hanging out with** friends or other students, at faculty bars, coffee points or sitting outside in the sun. Few students (n=6) described **doing activities** such as sports and hobbies, lunch with friends or events with peers.
- Students mentioned **organised events**, mostly by study associations (n=9) and one student described feeling connected by being part of a study association board. Couple of students mentioned events by X, or during the TU Delft wellbeing week.
- Many students (n=11) pointed out **shared experiences or struggles**.
- Few students (n=4) also described **positive educator and student interactions** at the university. For instance, *“A professor encouraged me to give a pitch to 150 aerospace students about an event that we're organising and gave us a great introduction.”* - ME BSc. student
- 2 students mentioned they did not know what made them feel connected with others.

“We went to the Delftse hout...for an assignment which gave a feeling of connection. The fact that we were doing something with good weather with little pressure and a lot of fun helped for this”

- CEG BSc. Student

“There was a social well-being event featuring a game called 'Campfire Talks',.....The activity fostered a supportive atmosphere, encouraging openness and connection.

- AS BSc. student

“We had a barbecue with the students and programme coordinators (BSc. Nanobiology Honours programme) which was really nice and made me feel connected to the group.”

- AS MSc. student

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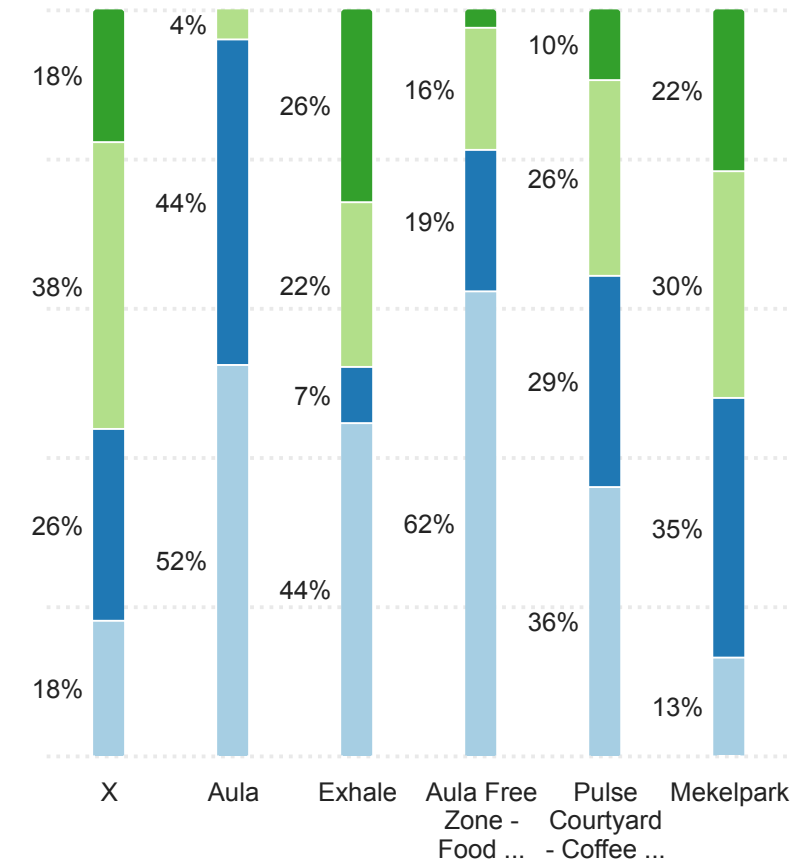
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Q3 - Indicate for these locations on campus to what extent you feel a sense of belonging there:

(53 responses)

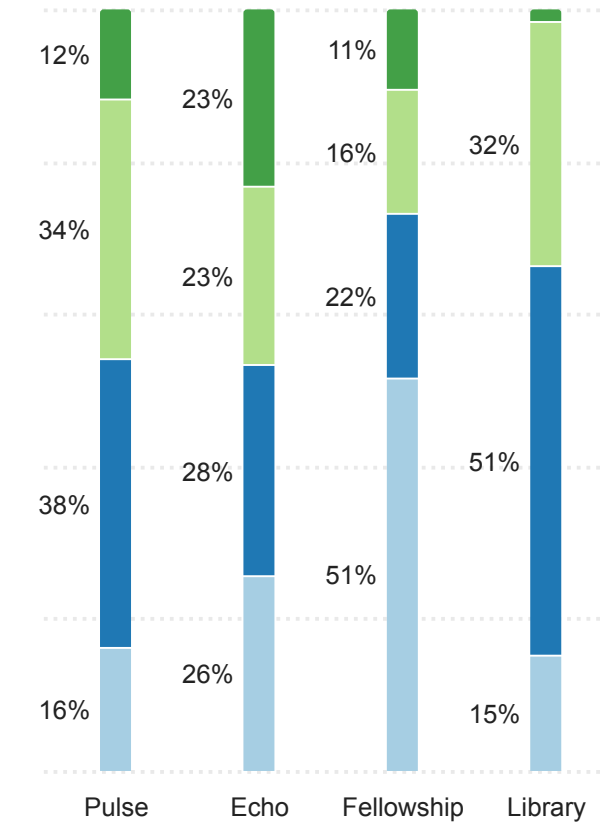
Social/ Recreational spaces

56 Responses



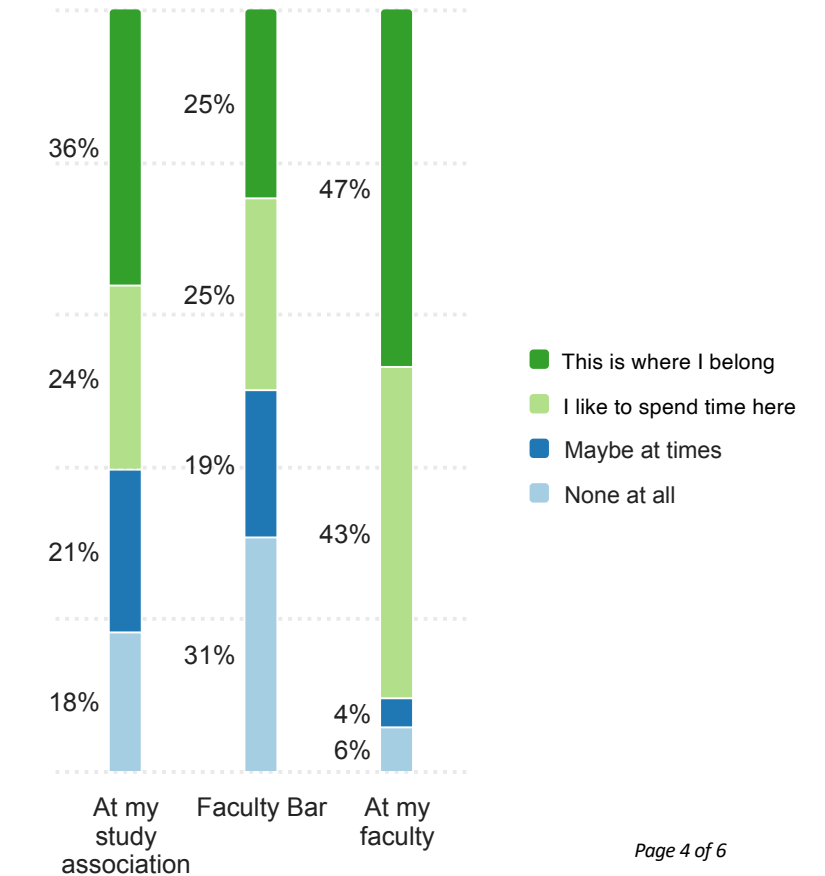
Study Spaces

54 Responses



At the faculty

53 Responses



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Q4 - How do you create or contribute to a sense of belonging for yourself and your peers?

(55 responses)

- Most students (n=24) create or contribute to a sense of belonging by **being open, friendly**, and helpful, engaging in conversations, being kind and **having respect for others**.
- Students (n=19) also mentioned spending time with friends, working or studying together and **being available to talk**.
- Few students (n=8) mentioned participating in events organised by TU Delft or their study associations. Also, inviting friends to go to **events or activities together**.
- Couple of students mentioned they did not know, and others mentioned,
"I want there to be space for other things alongside topics to do with studies."
- IDE MSc. student

and
"Surrounding myself with like-minded people."
- ABE BSc. student

"Openheid en respect naar anderen tonen"

- ABE BSc. student

"Maybe by being open to going to new places to discover what is nice and inviting people to come along."

- AS BSc. student

"Actief zijn bij mijn studievereniging door naar activiteiten te gaan, op het hok zijn en door commissies te doen. Ook groepsprojecten met vrienden helpt."

- EEMCS BSc. student

Q5 - What can TU Delft offer to enhance students' sense of belonging on campus?

(51 responses)

- Most students (n=24) mentioned **improving study spaces**, spaces to spend time together, food options and **spaces to rest** like X. Students expressed appreciation for Exhale at X.
“Absoluut Exhale aanhouden! Exhale is uitermate geschikt om die verbondenheid te vermeerderen en doet dit op dit moment ook al.”
- IDE BSc. student
- 13 students think TU Delft can continue and organise **more events, activities, or workshops** where students can get to know each other. *“More non-party/drinking events and facilities.”* - ABE MSc. student
- 10 students think the faculty can help improve sense of belonging by **listening to what students want**, making sure they feel heard, encourage/assist study associations to organise events with the faculty and **making it part of the curriculum**.
“Like professional speed dating made mandatory instead of something that can maybe be done. Would be more encouraging.”
- IDE MSc. student
- 3 students (6%) think this is something they have to work on themselves or do not know what TU Delft can do. And a student pointed out: *“I think you're doing a great job!”* - CEG BSc. student