Survey for students who accept UI admission offer

Dear ________,

Thank you for notifying our office about your plans to pursue graduate studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We are very pleased that you will be joining us!

We would appreciate your willingness to complete a short survey. Your responses will help us improve our graduate programs and recruitment processes.

The survey will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential. Members of your academic department will receive only aggregated data. Your decision to participate will not affect your relationship with the University of Illinois or your program in any way. If you have questions about the survey, you may contact us at gradpgmassess@illinois.edu.

We sincerely thank you for your time,

Dr. Sarah Lubieniski
Associate Dean, Graduate College
University of Illinois

1. How did you first hear about the XXXX program at Illinois?
   - Former professor/advisor
   - UI faculty member
   - Current or former UI student
   - UI website
   - Gradschools.com
   - Petersons.com
   - US News and World Report
   - Mailing from UI
   - Other (please specify) ______________

2. How many institutions did you apply to for graduate study? (pull down menu with 1-20 as options with “more than 20” as final option)

3. Which institution was UI’s primary competition (the “runner-up” in your decision)? (pull down menu, should include “I only seriously considered Illinois.”)

4. Several factors may have contributed to your decision to attend Illinois instead of XXXX. Please indicate which of the following were better at Illinois than at XXXX (choose up to three):
   - Academic quality/reputation of the institution
     - Follow up: You noted that the quality/reputation of Illinois was better than that of XXXX. Which of the following influenced your assessment of institutional quality? (Select all major decision factors.)
       - National/International (media) rankings
       - Opinion of former teacher/mentor/advisor
       - Opinion of friends or family
       - Your own assessment/experience
       - Other: ______________
• Academic quality/reputation of the program (including rankings, others’ opinions, post-graduation placement data)
  o Follow up: You noted that the quality/reputation of the xxx program at Illinois was better than that of the program at xxxxxxx. Which of the following influenced your assessment of program quality? (Select all major decision factors.)
    ▪ National/International (media) rankings
    ▪ Opinion of former teacher/mentor/advisor
    ▪ Opinion of friends or family
    ▪ Your own assessment/experience
    ▪ Post-graduation placement record
    ▪ Other: ________________________

• Program faculty/advisor
  o Follow up: You marked program faculty as one decision factor. Which of the following were better at Illinois than at xxx? (Select all major decision factors.)
    ▪ General quality/reputation of program faculty
    ▪ Quality/reputation of research group
    ▪ Quality/reputation of assigned faculty advisor
    ▪ Opportunity to work with faculty member of your choice
    ▪ Other: ________________________

• Program content, structure and climate (including program size, requirements, specializations, opportunities, length, collegiality)
  o Follow up: You marked program content/structure/climate as one decision factor. Which of the following were better at Illinois than at xxx? (Select all major decision factors.)
    ▪ Smaller program size (you wanted fewer students/faculty in the program)
    ▪ Larger program size (you wanted more students/faculty in the program)
    ▪ Opportunity to study a specific area of interest (specialization)
    ▪ Program course requirements
    ▪ Online course availability
    ▪ Internship opportunities
    ▪ Research opportunities
    ▪ Teaching opportunities
    ▪ Professional development opportunities
    ▪ International research/study opportunities
    ▪ Shorter program length
    ▪ Flexibility of program calendar/timeline
    ▪ Supportive, collegial environment
    ▪ Other (please explain) ________________________

• Availability of equipment or resources for conducting research

• Cost: Tuition, health benefits, financial package (including assistantships, fellowships)
  o Follow up: You marked cost as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at Illinois than at xxx? (Select all major decision factors.)

  Financial package
  • Research assistantship opportunities
  • Teaching assistantship opportunities
  • Dollar amount/duration of research or teaching assistantship stipend
    o (Pops up if they mark this) What annual stipend would you have received at XXXX? $______ (pull down – nearest 1000 – 0, 1000, 2000 up to 30, more than 30) ___________________
• How many years were you guaranteed that stipend? (pull down menu – less than 1, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8)
• Dollar amount/duration of annual fellowship(s) awarded
  o (Pops up if they mark this) What annual fellowship stipend were you promised at XXXX? (pull down – 0, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000, 4k, 5k, 6k, 7k, ....up to 30k, more than 30k)
  o How many years were you guaranteed that stipend?
• Tuition/fee waiver
• Other (please explain)

Cost
• Lower tuition/fees in relation to financial package awarded
• Lower cost of living in Champaign-Urbana than at XXXX

Benefits (e.g. health, dental and vision)
• Preferable health benefits
• Lower cost of health benefits

• Timeliness of acceptance -- Illinois notified you earlier than did xxxx

• Communication with faculty, graduate students and/or staff (verbal or written communication)
  o Follow up: You marked communication with faculty, graduate students and/or staff as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at Illinois than at xxxxx? (Select all major decision factors.)
    Verbal Communication
    ▪ Interaction with program faculty
    ▪ Interaction with graduate students
    ▪ Interaction with program or department staff
    ▪ Interaction with University staff
    Written Communication
    ▪ Emails/letters from program faculty
    ▪ Emails/letters from graduate students
    ▪ Emails/letters from program or department staff
    ▪ Emails/letters from the university
    ▪ Other (please explain)

• Clarity/availability of information about the program (e.g., web pages, publications)
  o Follow up: You marked clarity/availability of information about the program as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at Illinois than at xxxxx? (Select all major decision factors.)
    ▪ University website
    ▪ Program/department website
    ▪ University publications
    ▪ Program/department publications
    ▪ Other (please explain)

• Geographic location (e.g., weather, scenery, proximity to family, general quality of life in Champaign-Urbana)

• Student life/campus climate
  o Follow up: You marked student life/campus climate as one decision factor. Which of the following aspects were better at Illinois than at xxxxx? (Select all major decision factors.)
4) Did you visit the University of Illinois campus prior to making your decision?
   In what capacity did you visit? (Please check all that apply.)
   - Formal campus visit for prospective students
     - How much of the cost of your visit was covered by the program/university?
       100% 75% 50% 25% 0%
     - Was your visit part of any of these programs? (please mark all that apply)
       - Campus visit event hosted by your program/department/college
       - Community of Scholars program for under-represented students
       - None – Individual visit hosted by program/department
   - Informal visit (self-directed)
   - Campus research experience such as REU or SROP
   - Other opportunity (e.g., previous participation in sports program, arts program, summer camp)
   - Attended UI previously as a student

   For those who mark “No” – Why didn’t you visit the Illinois campus? (Choose all that apply.)
   - No funding to visit
   - No time to visit
   - I did not know that I could visit campus

5) Did you visit the XXXX campus prior to deciding to attend Illinois?
   In what capacity did you visit? (Please check all that apply.)
   - Formal campus visit for prospective students
     - How much of the cost of your visit was covered by the program/institution?
       100% 75% 50% 25% 0%
   - Informal visit (self-directed)
   - Campus research experience such as REU or SROP
   - Other opportunity (e.g., previous participation in sports program, arts program, summer camp)
   - Attended XXXXXXX previously as a student

6) What is your primary career goal?
   ( ) Research-intensive faculty position
   ( ) Teaching-intensive faculty position
   ( ) Balanced research+teaching faculty position
   ( ) Higher education administration
   ( ) Non-teaching research position
   ( ) Work in preschool or K-12 education
7) Where would you like to pursue your career?
   ( ) In the United States
   ( ) In another country (Please tell us where: ________)
   ( ) I am not sure yet

Thank you for filling out this survey. We appreciate your feedback!