

FirstBridge beginning of the year questionnaire

Summary report – October 2015

Claudia Roda

This report only analyses the responses to the *beginning of the year* questionnaire, further analysis and comparison will be carried out at the end of the year once the responses to the *end of the year questionnaire* will have been collected.

Question: Which FirstBridge or EnglishBridge group are you in?

The two FirstBridges that had the highest **percentage of responses** (relative to the number of students in class) are FB1 - *Reading Ourselves and Others* and FB2 - *Thinking (Through) Minds and Machines* with, respectively, 94% and 83% of students who have responded. However, the two largest FirstBridges, FB5 - *Global History of Cities* and FB6 - *Marketing In A Global Environment: I Buy Therefore I Am*, which only have respectively 70% and 61% responses rates, count for the largest percentages of responses in total: 28.7% and 27.1%. We only have one responded in the EnglishBridge but the questionnaires were distributed later to this group of students (7 total).

Question: If you already have one or more majors in mind, please tell us what you are planning to major in (please select as many as appropriate).

On average respondents selected two **prospective majors** and the selections confirm established trends but also forecast sharp raises in majors that are currently smaller. Confirmed trends include: Global Communications with 20% of expressed intentions versus the current 16% of majors, International Business Administration with 17% of expressed intentions also currently at 16% and International and Comparative Politics with 17% of expressed intentions versus the current 13% of majors. The two majors showing the largest increase in the percentage of students intending to pursue the discipline are Psychology (currently at 7%, with 22% intentions) and Journalism (currently lower than 1%, with 15% intentions). Other growing trends appear for Marketing, Film Studies, and History, Law and Society.

Question: During your time at AUP you will be able to select some elective courses, please tell us in which disciplines you might be interested (please select as many as appropriate).

On average respondents selected five **prospective electives** with some interesting results: 40.3% of the selected electives are in Psychology, 38.8% in French, 30.2% in Film Studies, 27.1% in Communication and 26.4% in Politics.

Open questions

Open questions will be further analyzed by the FirstBridge coordinator, Elizabeth Kinne, so far only a simple word cloud analysis was performed. The word cloud analysis (see next section) of the responses to the question **“What skills would you like to strengthen to improve your chances of success at university?”** indicates that writing, time management, French and

English are the skills most required. With respect to the **skills that need strengthening in order to improve the chances of success in the future career**, the word cloud analysis highlights writing, time management, confidence, and communication skills.

Words that recur most often in the answers provided to the question about **world problems that require multiple perspectives to be solved** include: country, people, different, culture, poverty, hunger, war (see word cloud below).

Questions about language ability

While 74% of the respondents define as *strong* or *very strong* their ability to express their ideas in **writing in their own language**, only 46% of those who do not consider English as their primary language (about 42% of respondents), defines as *strong* or *very strong* their ability to express their ideas in **writing in English**. Similarly, while 74% of the respondents define as *strong* or *very strong* their ability to express their ideas **orally in their own language**, only 59% of those who do not consider English as their primary language, defines as *strong* or *very strong* their ability to express their ideas **orally in English**.

Question: Please describe your ability to concentrate and maintain deep attention on a problem or an artifact that interests you (e.g. book, painting, building, piece of computer code, newspaper article).

Only 3% of the respondents judge *poor* or *very poor* their ability to maintain **deep attention** on a problem or an artifact that interests them.

Questions: How confident are you in participating in group discussions? and How confident are you in presenting to a group?

20% of the respondents declare to be only *slightly confident* or *not confident* in **participating in group discussions** and 27% are only *slightly confident* or *not confident* when **presenting to a group**.

Question: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement: The online pre-arrival FirstBridge selection process was informative and clear.

49% of the respondents either *agree* or *strongly agree* that the online **pre-arrival FirstBridge selection process** was informative and clear.

Question: Please list any other topics that you would like to have seen in the selection of FirstBridge courses.

The word cloud of the answers to the question about **topics that respondents would like to see in the selection of FirstBridge courses**, highlights: history, arts, psychology and politics. (as the other open questions, the answers to this question will be further analyzed by FirstBridge coordinator, Elizabeth Kinne)

Questions: What is the importance to you of learning subjects outside your major or natural interest? and How useful do you think it is for you to be part of a learning community where you learn from your peers as well as your teachers?

79% of the respondents judges either *important or very important* **learning subjects outside their major or natural interest** and 93% judges either *important or very important* to be part of a learning community where they **learn from their peers** as well as their teachers.

The following section presents a simple word-cloud analysis of the **open questions**. Note that only individual words are considered, pair of words (e.g. art history) have not been taken into account in this analysis. For each question two clouds are presented: the first one includes all responses in their complete form, the second cloud is formed by removing some, less relevant, words and by grouping words of the same type (e.g. creative and creativity).

What skills do you believe you need to strengthen in order to improve your chances of success in your future career?



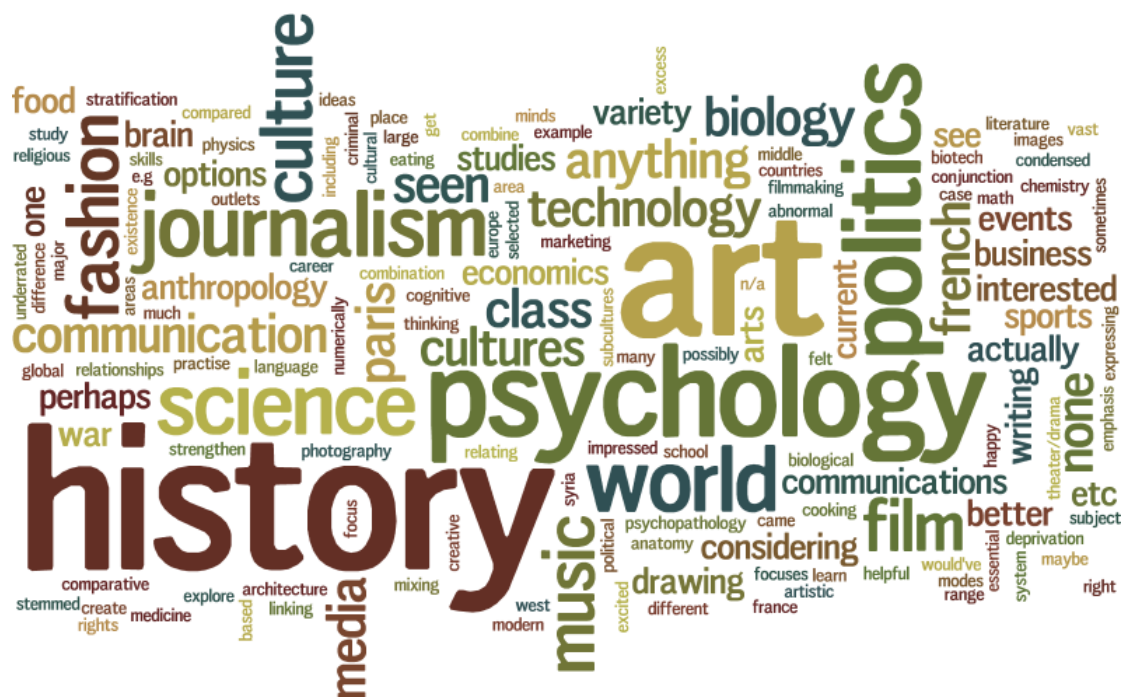
In the cloud below, the following words were removed: like, skill/s , improve, strengthen, better, help, also, “english => English”, “french => French”, able, want, “Writing => writing”, get, especially, cover, mainly, throughout, “Time => time”, need, “Confidence => confidence”, “creative => creativity”, “confident => confidence”, take, “Public => public”, “thinking => think”, “Think => think”, “languages => langue”, important, future, become



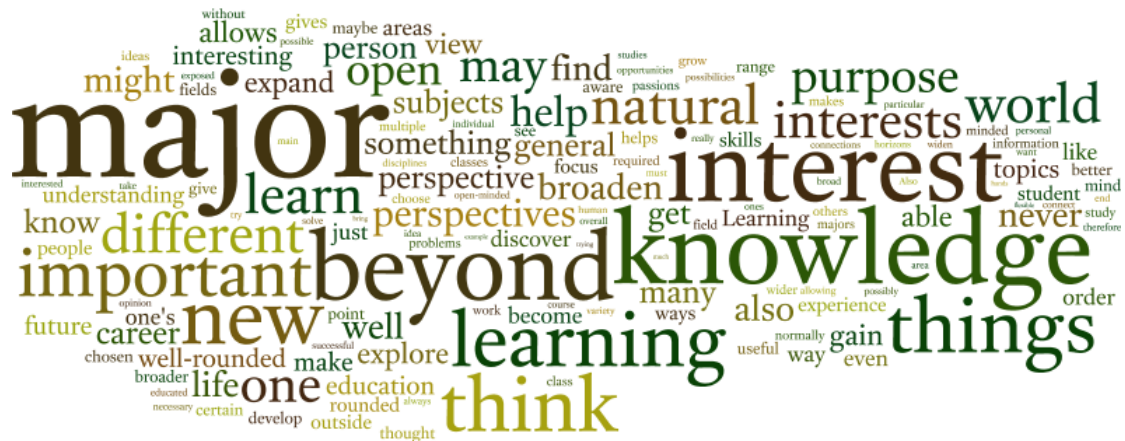
Please list any other topics that you would like to have seen in the selection of FirstBridge courses.



In the cloud below, the following words were removed: firstbridge, course/s, topic/s, like/d, related, first, something, think, good, bridge, around, offered, especially, new, now, Art => art, History => history



In your opinion, what is the purpose of learning beyond your major or natural interest?



In the cloud below, the following words were removed: major, beyond, learning, important, thing/s, interest/s, purpose, allow, may, allows, also, get, one, one's

