

Name distinctiveness in the international market

PREPARED FOR:

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON, April 2019



Introduction

Victoria University of Wellington's Name Simplification Recommendation paper (July 2018) identified that the current name, and particularly the commonly used abbreviation (Victoria University), lacks distinctiveness in the international market and doesn't reflect the identity of the University as a capital city university.

Victoria University of Wellington commissioned Colmar Brunton to further investigate the distinctiveness of the current name and its commonly used abbreviation. The specific objectives of the research were to determine:

- **1.** How well the current name and abbreviation convey the University's physical location.
- **2.** The potential for confusion with similarly named universities overseas.
- How well the current name and abbreviation convey the University's pre-eminent position in Wellington.

The research also sought to evaluate the performance of a key 'sub-brand' that uses the word 'Victoria', the 'Victoria Business School'.



Methodology



The research was conducted amongst three key audiences: international students, the influencers of international students (i.e. parents), and international academics who contribute to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

STUDENTS

1,850 online interviews were completed with actual and potential international students in six countries (China, India, Australia, Malaysia, the USA, and Viet Nam). At least 300 interviews were completed in each country. Interviewing was conducted between 7 and 14 March, 2019.

Actual and potential students were defined as: 'people aged 16 to 29 who are considering tertiary study, currently in tertiary study, or recently graduated and are either considering/have considered studying overseas or have actually studied overseas'. The students were sourced from Colmar Brunton's international panel partners in each country.

Results for a random sample size of 1,850 are normally subject to a maximum margin of error of +/- 2.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results for individual countries are subject to a maximum margin of error of +/-5.7 percentage points.

INFLUENCERS

605 online interviews were completed with parents of actual and potential international students ('influencers') in six countries (China, India, Australia, Malaysia, the USA, and Viet Nam). At least 100 interviews were completed in each country. Interviewing was conducted between 7 and 14 March, 2019.

The influencers were defined as: 'parents of people aged 16 to 29 who are considering tertiary study, currently in tertiary study, or recently graduated and are either considering/have considered studying overseas or have actually studied overseas'. The influencers were sourced from Colmar Brunton's international panel partners in each country.

Results for a random sample size of 605 are normally subject to a maximum margin of error of +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Results for individual countries are subject to a maximum margin of error of +/-9.8 percentage points.

ACADEMICS

249 online interviews were completed with academics and administrators whose research has been published in peer-reviewed literature in the last three years (the same definition Times Higher Education use for its university rankings survey) and who are based outside of New Zealand. Interviewing was conducted between 12 March and 14 April, 2019.

The sample of academics and administrators was sourced from a marketing database which Times Higher Education use as a supplemental source of sample for its ranking survey. The survey invitation was sent to 133,326 academics and administrators, 125,592 received it, 13,049 opened the email, and 249 completed the questionnaire. Because the response rate to the survey was very low we cannot determine the extent to which the survey is representative of the academics and administrators. Therefore, the results of the survey should only be interpreted as **indicative** of the views of academics and administrators.

Questionnaire



In the questionnaires, respondents were randomly assigned one of the three name variants for Victoria University of Wellington: Victoria University of Wellington. Respondents did not see the other two name variants at any point. This was to prevent perceptions of one name influencing perceptions of the others.

In each question that used the randomly selected Victoria University of Wellington name variant, respondents were also shown the names of eight (academics) or ten (students and influencers) other universities. These other universities were selected so that there were two from each country, one of which had a location in its name and one of which didn't. They were also selected on the basis of their Times Higher Education ranking, with all ranked between 200 and 600.

The other universities were:

| | Australia: | University of Canberra | James Cook University |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| | Canada: | University of Manitoba | Laval University |
| | New Zealand: | University of Auckland | Massey University |
| 4 | United Kingdom: | University of Bath | Heriot-Watt University |
| | United States of America: | University of New Mexico* | Clark University* |

Similarly, respondents were randomly assigned one of two names for the Victoria University of Wellington business school: Victoria Business School or Wellington Business School.

In the question that used the randomly selected Victoria University of Wellington name variant, respondents were also shown the names of seven (academics) or nine (students and influencers) other business schools, some of which had a location in their name and some that didn't. The business schools were: Curtin Business School (Australia), Massey University College of Business (New Zealand), Beedie School of Business (Canada), Smeal College of Business* (USA), Dublin City University School of Business, Porto Business School (Portugal), Stockholm School of Economics* (Sweden), Newcastle University Business School (United Kingdom), Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth (USA).





Summary



How well do the names for Victoria University of Wellington convey the University's physical location?

Universities with their location in their name have a stronger association with their home country than do universities without a location in their name. This effect is strongest when the location is a well-known city.

The names 'University of Wellington' (39%, 52%, and 77% amongst students, influencers, and academics respectively) and 'Victoria University of Wellington' (36%, 42%, and 60%) have a much stronger association with New Zealand than does the commonly used abbreviation, 'Victoria University' (4%, 2%, and 12%). The name 'Victoria University' is most associated with Australia and is more also more associated with both Canada and the United Kingdom than it is New Zealand.

The linkage of the university names that include Wellington in them with New Zealand suggests that Wellington is reasonably well known as a city in New Zealand. Wellington doesn't seem as well known as Auckland or Canberra but is better known than the other locations included in the names (Bath, New Mexico, and Manitoba).

What is the perceived distinctiveness of the names for Victoria University of Wellington and is there any potential for confusion?

Students and influencers are confident that the names 'Victoria University of Wellington', University of Wellington', and 'Victoria University' distinguish them well from other universities around the world. However, the confidence in the distinctiveness of the name 'Victoria University' does not appear to relate to the University in Wellington as most think that 'Victoria University' is based in a country other than New Zealand (most commonly Australia). Confidence in the distinctiveness of the names 'Victoria University of Wellington' and 'University of Wellington' do appear to relate to the University in Wellington as these names are most commonly associated with New Zealand.

The high levels of confidence in the distinctiveness of the names do create the potential for universities to be confused. For instance, if students or influencers see a name similar to one they are already familiar with they it may not even occur to them it is a different university.



How well do the name variants for Victoria University of Wellington convey the University's pre-eminent position in Wellington?

Generally, universities with a location in their name are more likely to be considered the pre-eminent university in their city, than universities without a location in their name. This effect is much stronger amongst academics than it is amongst students and influencers.

Each of the name variants for Victoria University of Wellington strongly convey pre-eminence in the city. The 'University of Wellington' (77%, 84%, 83% amongst students, influencers, and academics respectively) conveys pre-eminence more strongly than 'Victoria University' (71%, 73%, and 67%).

Academics were less likely to think that 'Victoria University of Wellington' conveyed pre-eminence compared to the other two names (55% compared to 67% for 'Victoria University' and 83% for 'University of Wellington').

How well do the names for the business school convey its location and prestige?

Similar to university names, business school names which include the location of the business school are much more likely to be correctly associated with the country they are based in. Consistent with this, 'Wellington Business School' (32%, 44%, and 70% amongst students, influencers, and academics respectively) is much more likely to be associated with New Zealand than 'Victoria Business School' (9%, 10%, 17%).

Four business school names were assessed for perceived prestige ('Victoria Business School', 'Wellington Business School', 'New Zealand School of Business and Government', and 'Wellington School of Business and Government'). All four names had similar levels of perceived prestige.

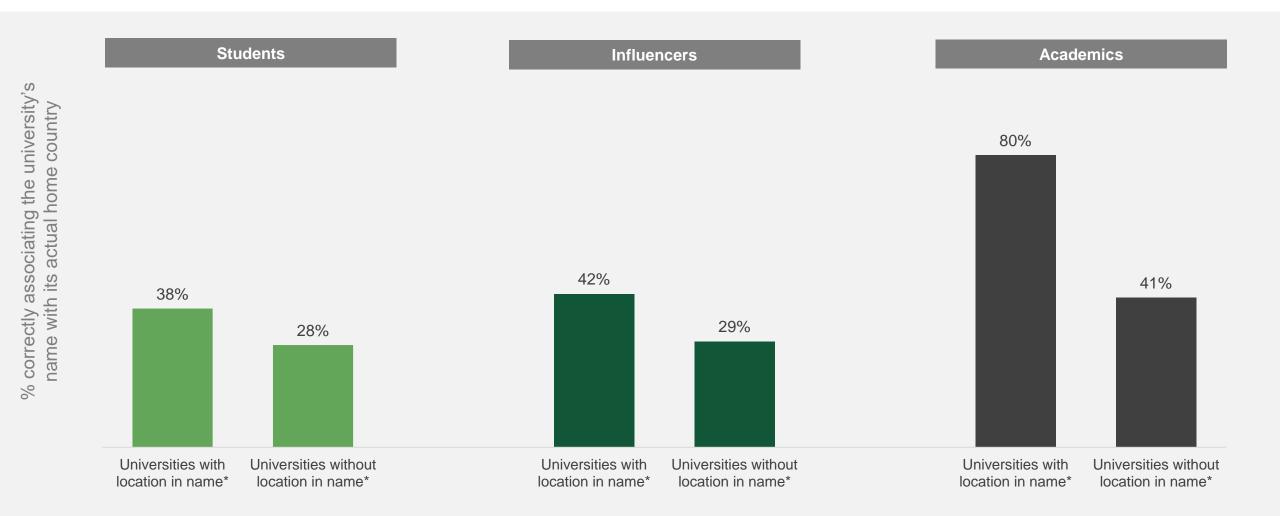




The connection between university names and their physical location

Universities with a location in their name have a stronger association with their home country than those without a location in their name.





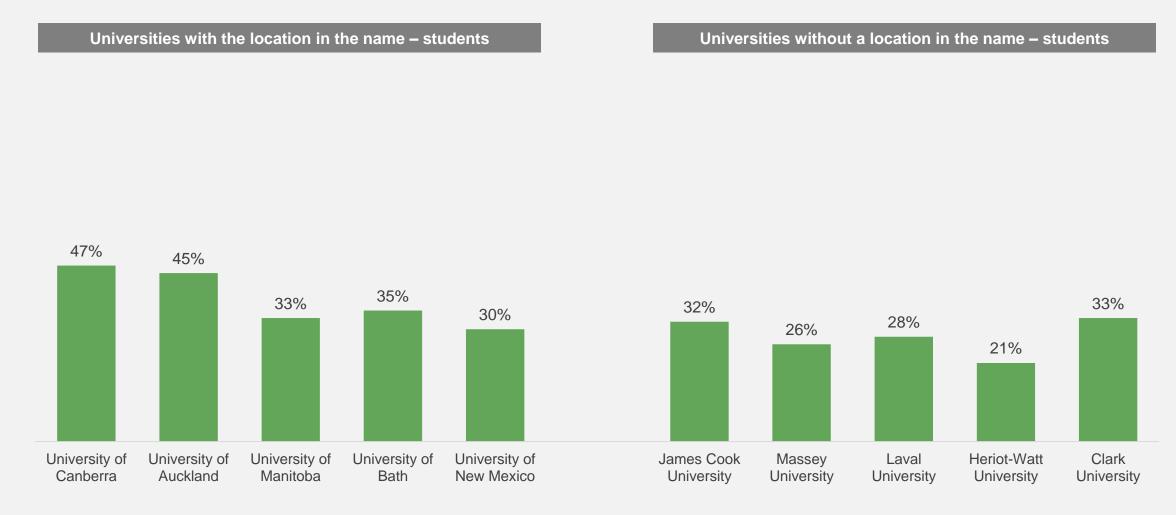
Note. Results for each individual university by students' and influencers' country of origin can be found in the appendix. The results shown on this slide are an average of each individual university's result (calculated to one decimal place).

*Universities with a location in their name: University of Canberra, University of Auckland, University of Bath, University of New Mexico (students and influencers only). Universities without a location in their name: James Cook University, Laval University, Massey University, Heriot-Watt University, Clark University (students and influencers only).

Amongst students, the effect of having the location in the name is strongest when the location is a well known city.

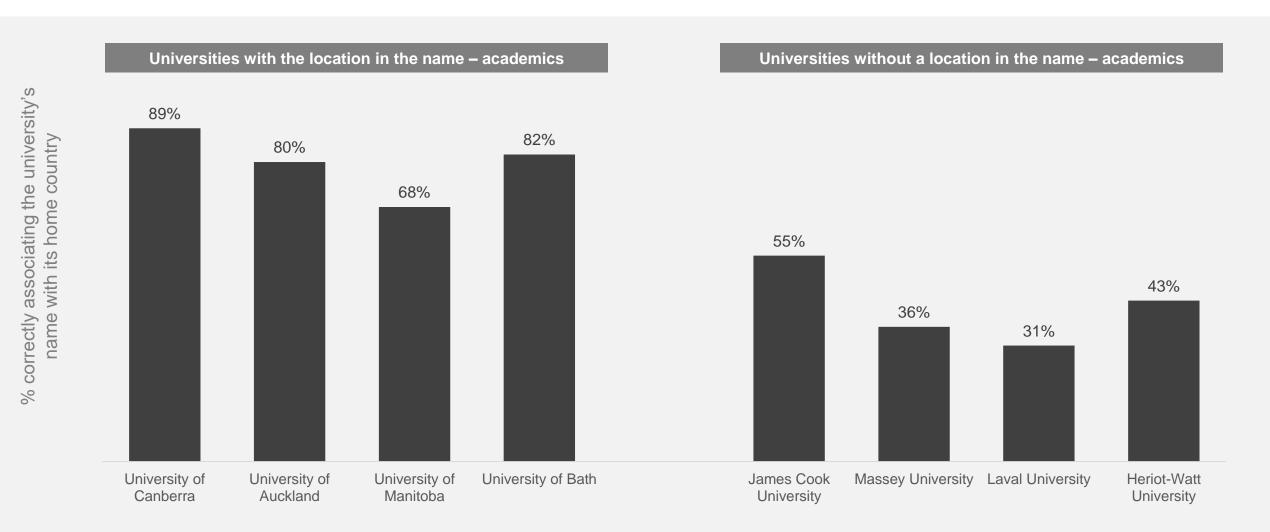




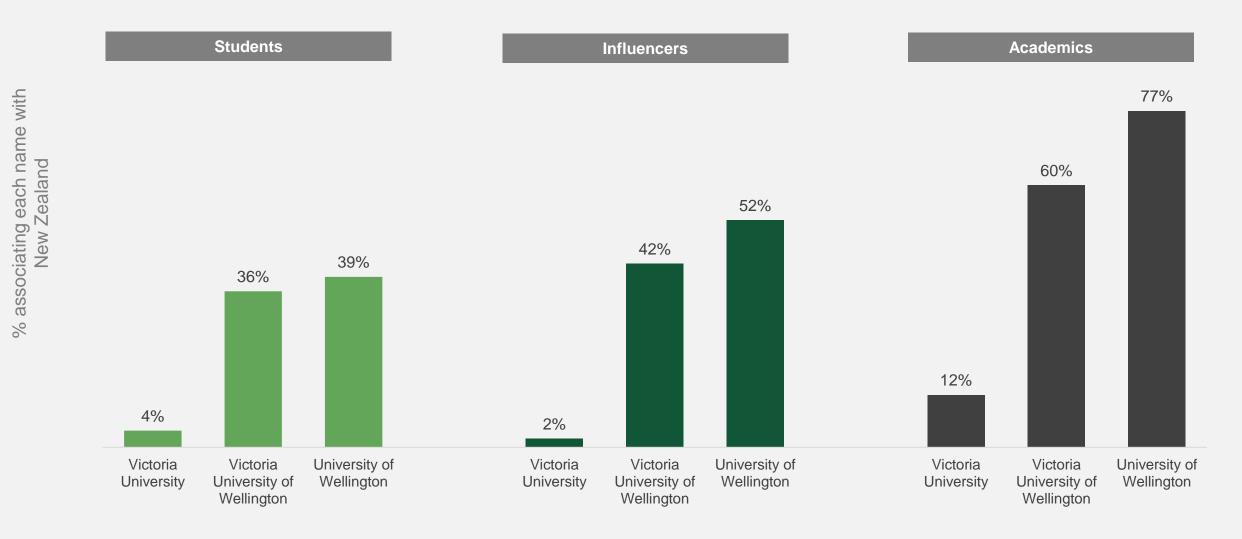


Amongst academics, having any location in the name has a much stronger association with the university's home country than not having a location.



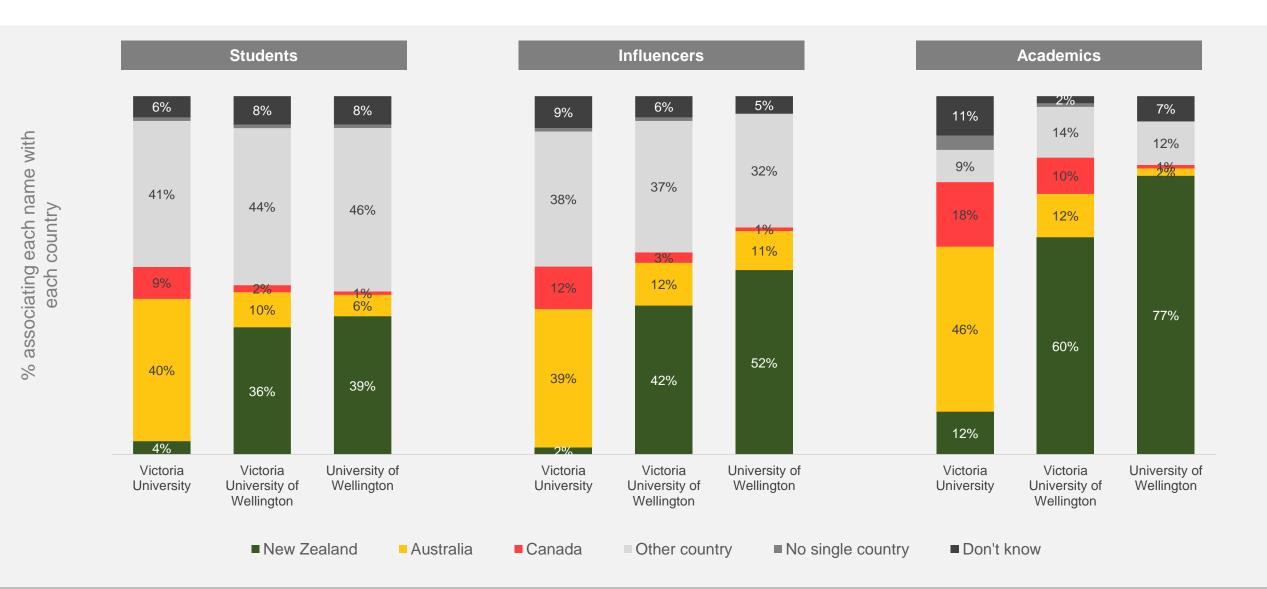






The country that 'Victoria University' is most associated with is Australia.





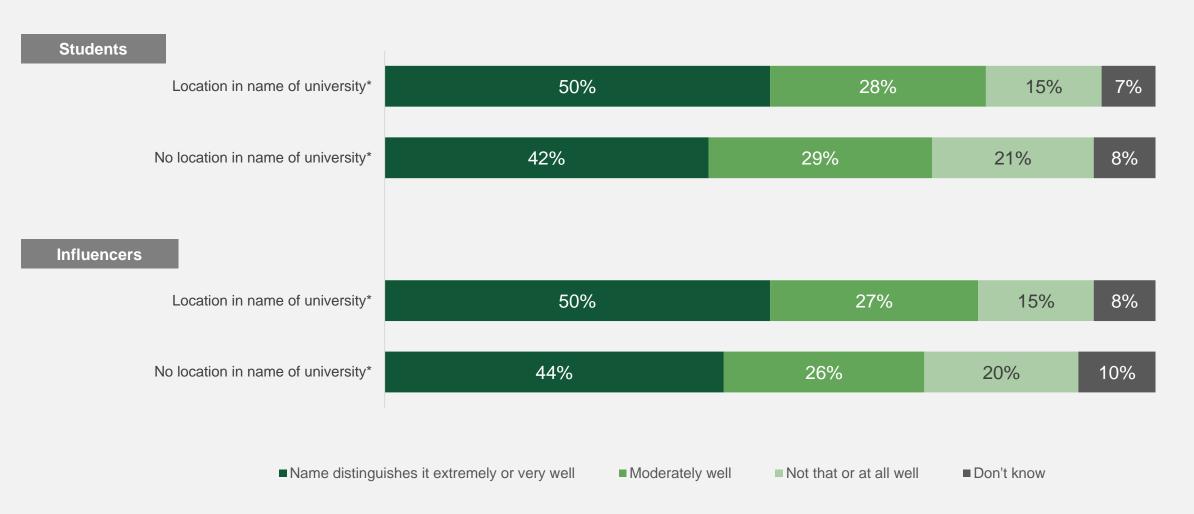




Perceived distinctiveness and the potential for confusion

Students and influencers are generally confident that each university name they were shown distinguishes it well from other universities.



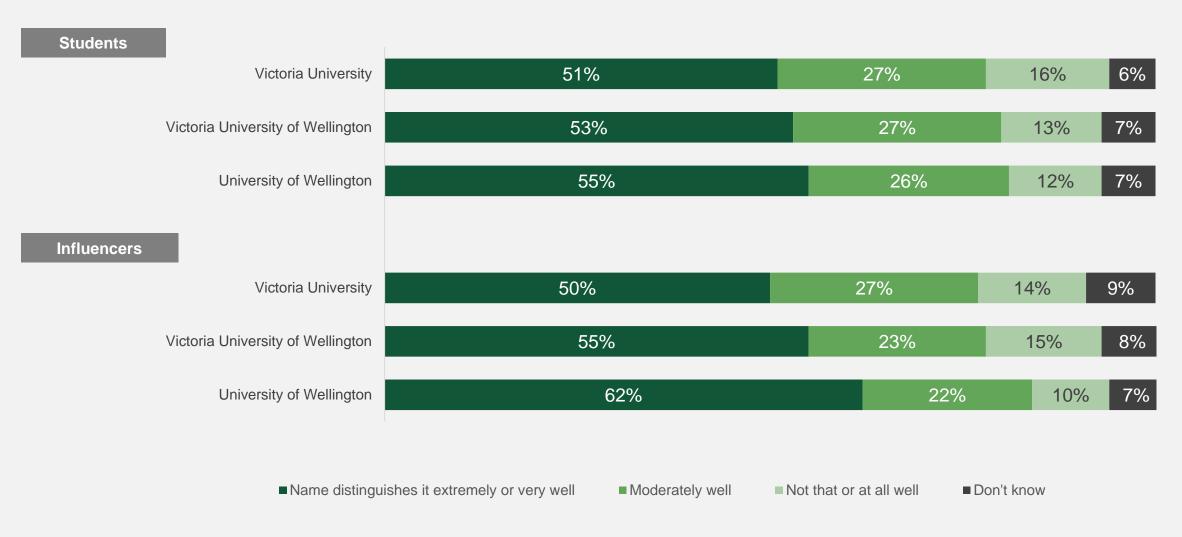


Note. Academics were not asked this question.

^{*}Universities with a location in their name: University of Canberra, University of Manitoba, University of Bath, University of New Mexico. Universities without a location in their name: James Cook University, Laval University, Massey University, Heriot-Watt University, Clark University.

They are also confident that each name for Victoria University of Wellington distinguishes it well from other universities around the world.

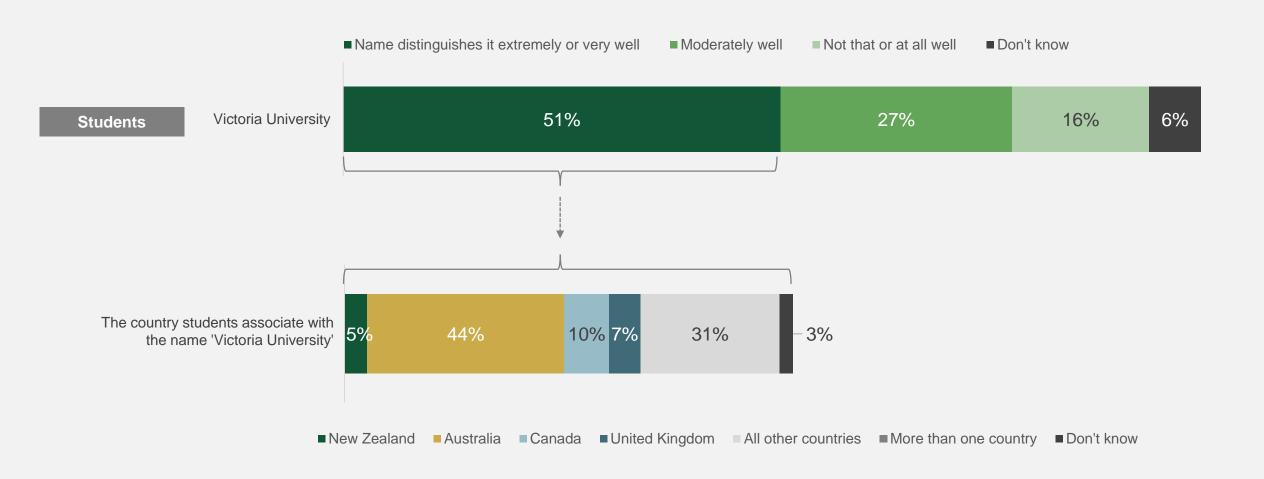




Note. Academics were not asked this question.

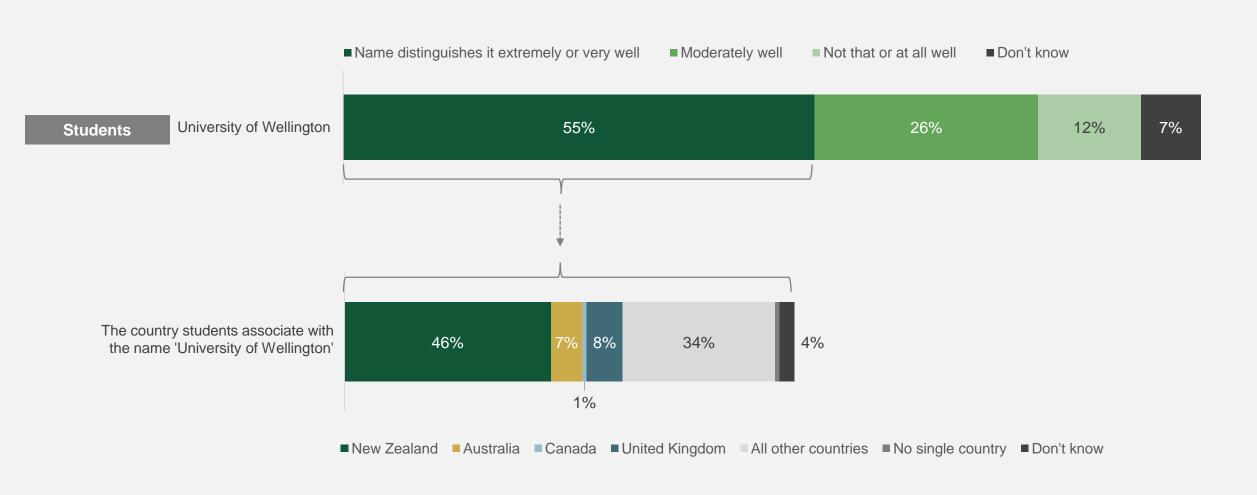
Confidence about the distinctiveness of university names isn't necessarily a positive. For example, if students see a name similar to one they are already familiar with it may not even occur to them it is a different university. The analysis below illustrates this – most of the students who think the name 'Victoria University' distinguishes it well from other universities think it is outside New Zealand and so are likely thinking of a different university to the one in Wellington.





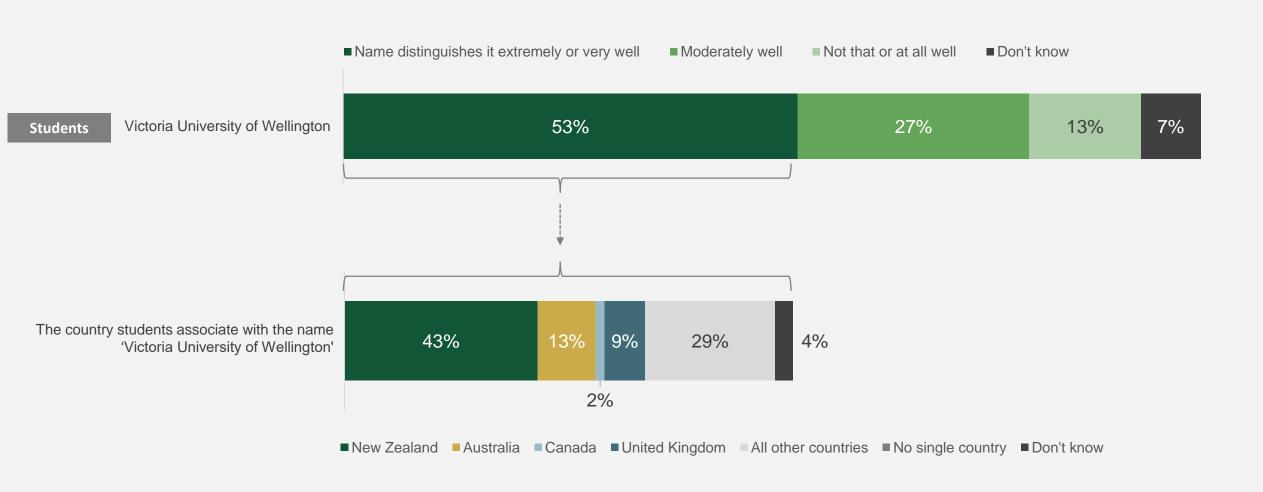
Over-confidence in the distinctiveness of university names is less of a problem for the two names that use Wellington in their names as a much higher proportion associate these names with New Zealand – here: University of Wellington.





Over-confidence in the distinctiveness of university names is less of a problem for the two names that use Wellington in their names as a much higher proportion associate these names with New Zealand – here: Victoria University of Wellington.





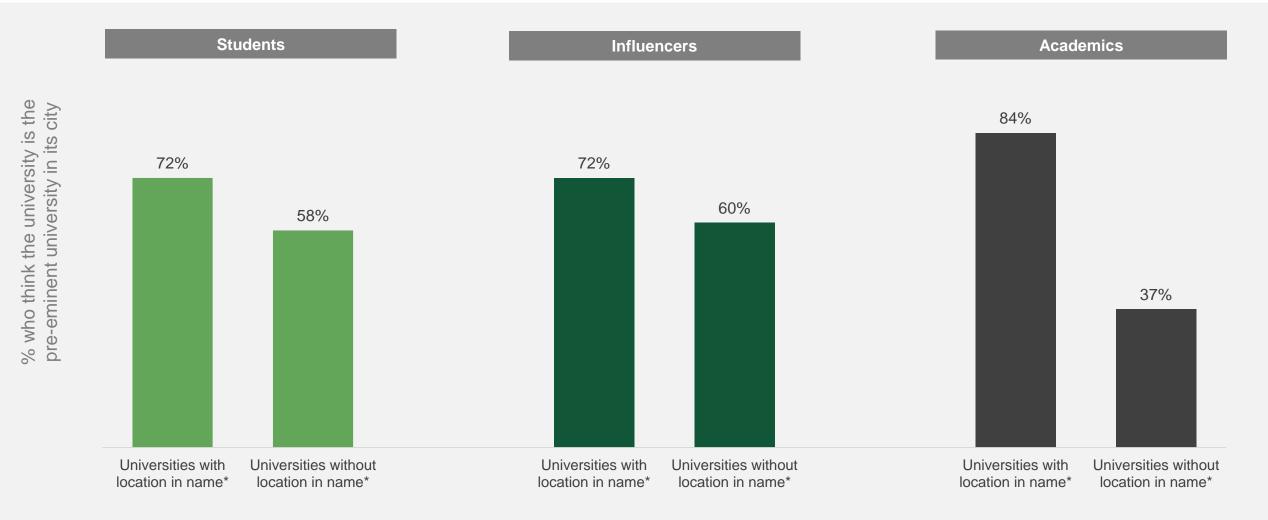




How well do names convey pre-eminence?

University names with a location are more likely to be thought of as the pre-eminent university in their city than those names without a location. This effect is strongest amongst academics.



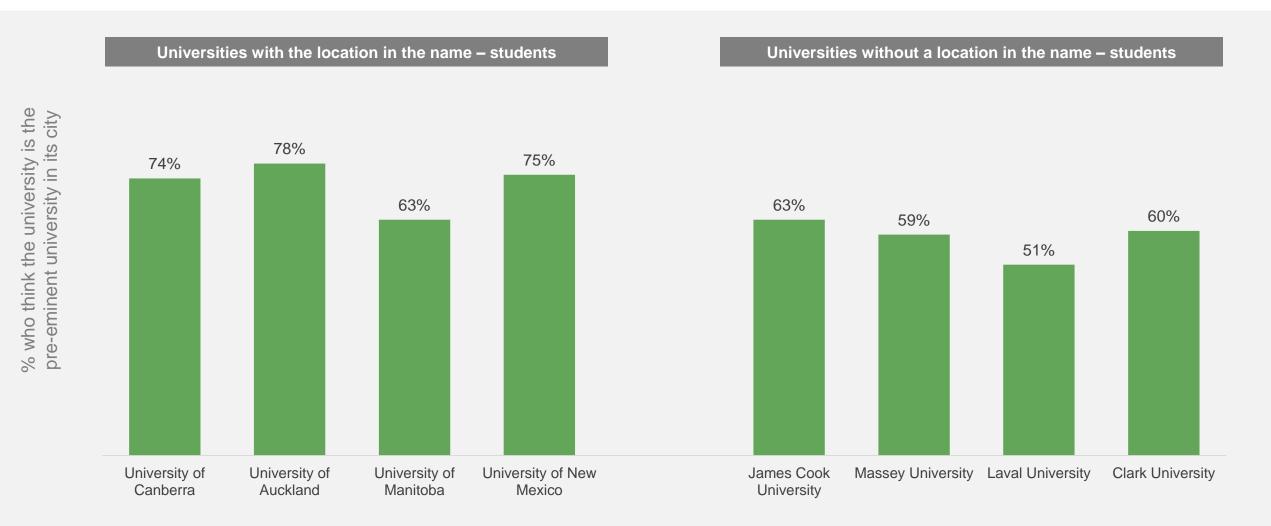


Note. Results for each individual university by students' and influencers' country of origin can be found in the appendix. The results shown on this slide are an average of each individual university's result (calculated to one decimal place).

*Universities with a location in their name: University of Canberra, University, Laval University, Auxel University, Clark University (students and influencers only). University (students and influencers only). The two UK universities are not included in the analysis as Heriot-Watt University in its city.

Amongst students, the effect of location on perceptions of pre-eminence is evident across all university names.

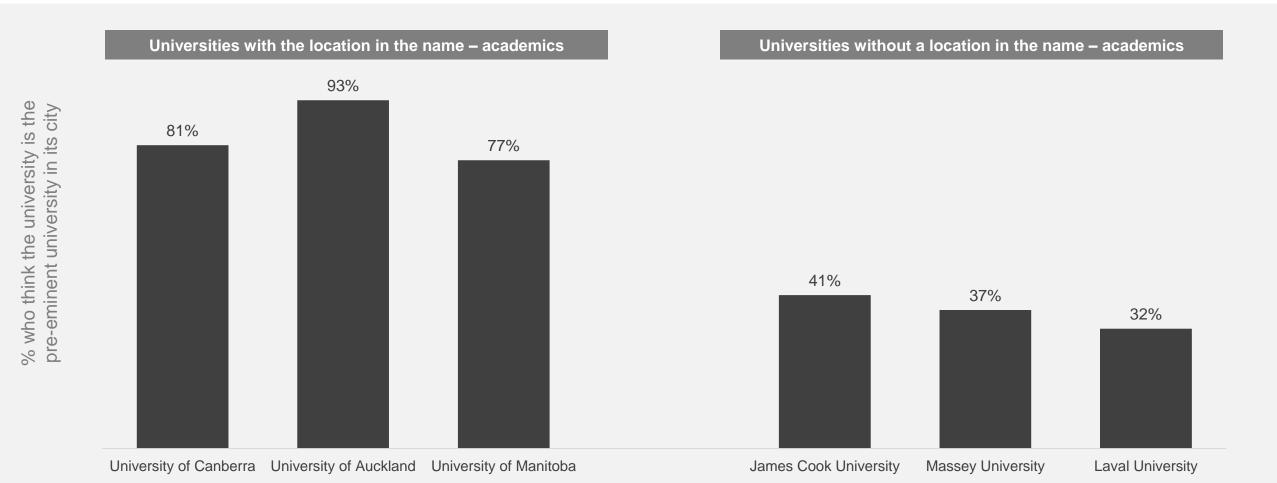




Note. The two UK universities are not included in the analysis as Heriot-Watt University is not the pre-eminent university in its city.

Amongst academics, the effect of location on perceptions of pre-eminence is much stronger for each university name.

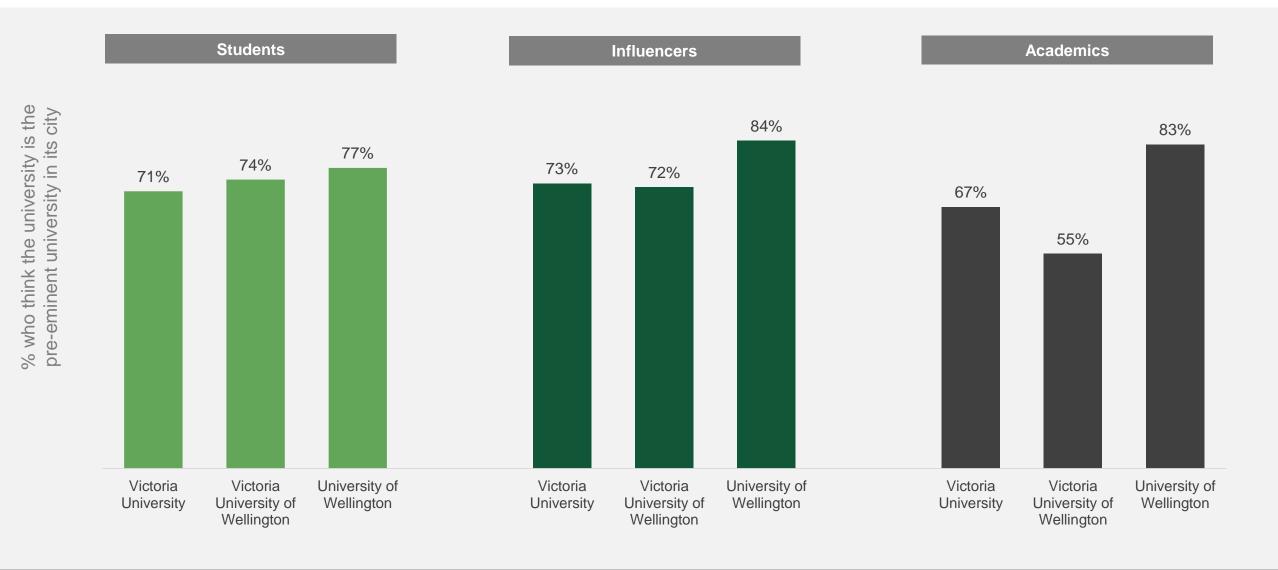




Note. The two UK universities are not included in the analysis as Heriot-Watt University is not the pre-eminent university in its city.

Each of the names for Victoria University of Wellington strongly convey preeminence in the city. The 'University of Wellington' conveys pre-eminence more strongly than 'Victoria University' across all three respondent types.





Few academics thought the universities they were asked about were subsidiaries of other universities. The universities without a location in their name (or had more than just the location in their name) were more likely to be considered subsidiaries.





% who think a university is a subsidiary of another university

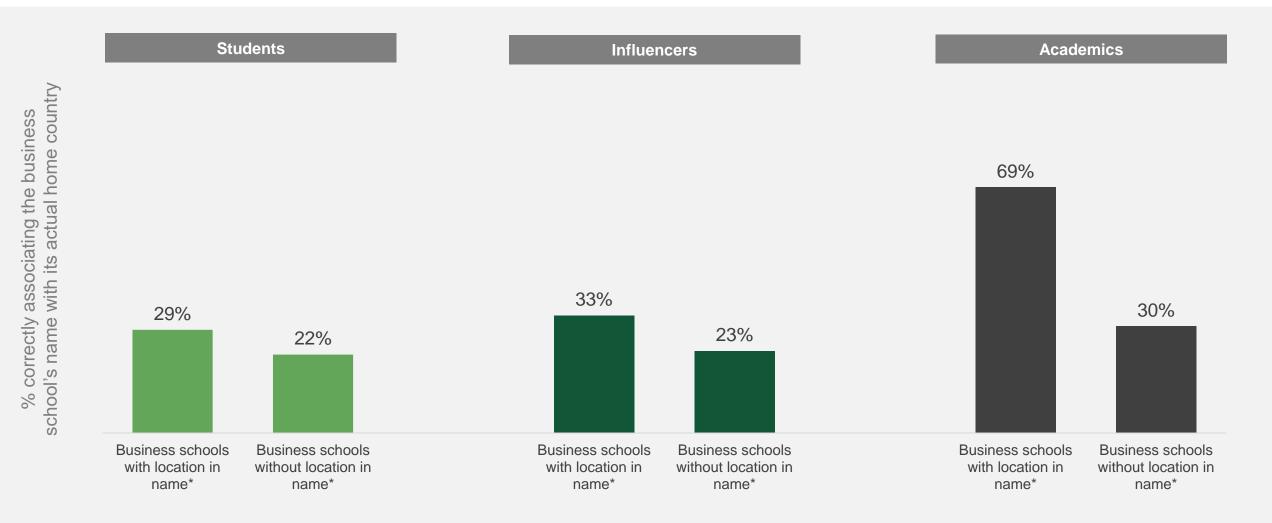




Business school names

Business schools with a location in their name have a stronger association with their home country than those without a location in their name.



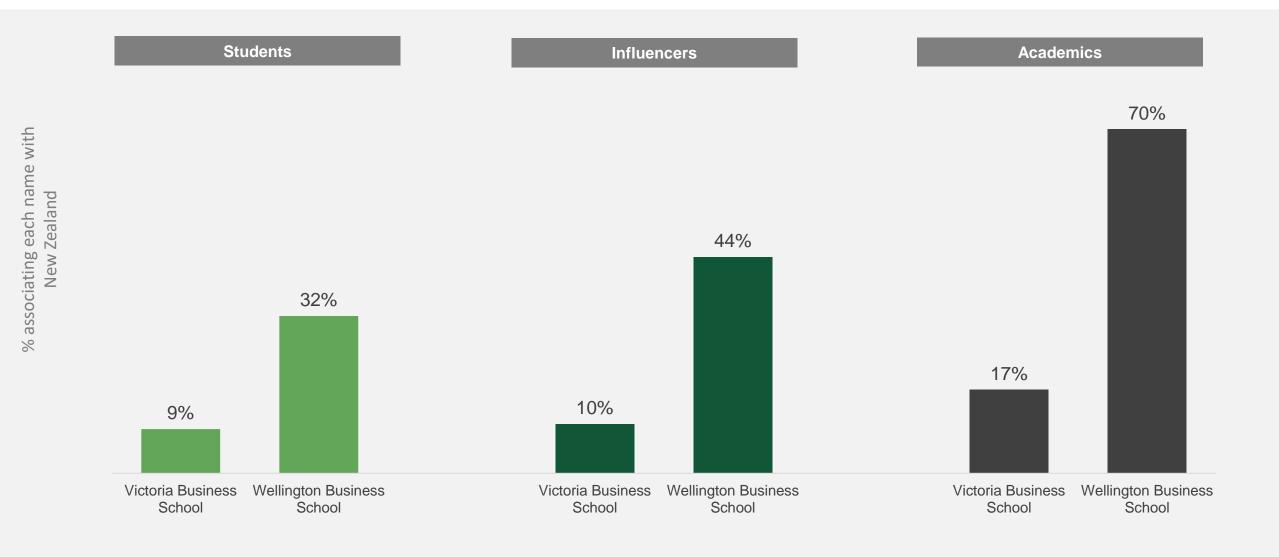


Note. Results for each individual business school by students' and influencers' country of origin can be found in the appendix. The results shown on this slide are an average of each individual business school's result (calculated to one decimal place).

*Business schools with a location in the name: Dublin City University School of Business, Porto Business School, Stockholm School of Economics (students and influencers only), Newcastle University Business School. Business schools without a location in their name: Curtin Business School, Massey University College of Business, Beedie School of Business, Smeal College of Business (students and influencers only), Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth.

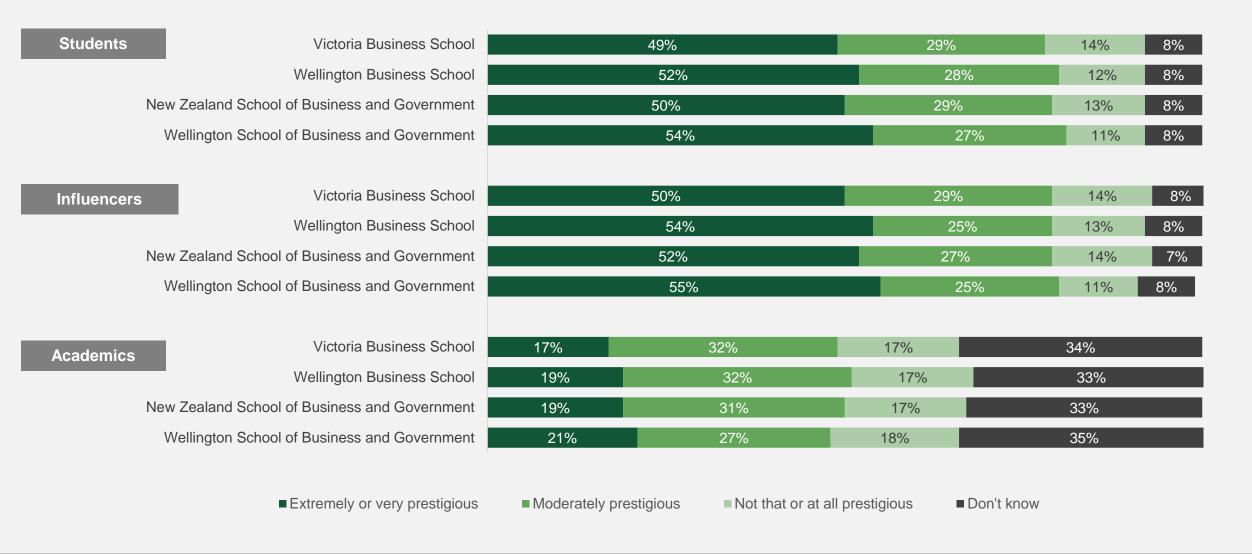
The name 'Wellington Business School' was much more likely to be associated with New Zealand than the name 'Victoria Business School'.





There was little difference in the perceived prestige of the four business school names tested.









Appendix – Results by student/influencer country

Proportion of students associating a university's name with New Zealand (in the case of Victoria University of Wellington, Victoria University, University of Wellington, University of Auckland, and Massey University) or its home country (in the case of the other universities).



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria University of Wellington | Victoria University | University of Wellington | University of Canberra | University of Auckland | University of Manitoba | University of Bath | University of New Mexico | James Cook University | Massey University | Laval University | Heriot-Watt University | Clark University |
|------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Chinese students | 28% | 0% | 30% | 42% | 30% | 30% | 20% | 22% | 30% | 31% | 32% | 17% | 28% |
| Vietnamese students | 47% | 10% | 43% | 68% | 40% | 43% | 33% | 50% | 43% | 44% | 42% | 27% | 44% |
| Malaysian students | 54% | 6% | 52% | 65% | 58% | 49% | 53% | 32% | 47% | 49% | 48% | 32% | 48% |
| Indian students | 14% | 1% | 23% | 35% | 23% | 23% | 16% | 7% | 25% | 9% | 21% | 11% | 17% |
| Australian students | 58% | 1% | 70% | * | 90% | 19% | 48% | 38% | * | 12% | 11% | 22% | 29% |
| US students | 12% | 4% | 15% | 27% | 28% | 34% | 37% | * | 15% | 12% | 15% | 17% | * |

Proportion of influencers associating a university's name with New Zealand (in the case of Victoria University of Wellington, Victoria University, University of Wellington, University of Auckland, and Massey University) or its home country (in the case of the other universities).



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria University of Wellington | Victoria University | University of Wellington | University of Canberra | University of Auckland | University of Manitoba | University of Bath | University of New Mexico | James Cook University | Massey University | Laval University | Heriot-Watt University | Clark University |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Chinese influencers | 39% | 0% | 53% | 57% | 46% | 37% | 28% | 22% | 34% | 47% | 33% | 25% | 42% |
| Vietnamese influencers | 31% | 3% | 27% | 51% | 28% | 27% | 24% | 50% | 33% | 28% | 28% | 18% | 27% |
| Malaysian influencers | 58% | 12% | 62% | 72% | 63% | 52% | 55% | 32% | 51% | 46% | 46% | 44% | 48% |
| Indian influencers | 33% | 0% | 49% | 58% | 37% | 37% | 29% | 7% | 34% | 15% | 33% | 20% | 28% |
| Australian influencers | 75% | 0% | 89% | * | 87% | 34% | 55% | 38% | * | 14% | 9% | 12% | 26% |
| US influencers | 22% | 0% | 24% | 38% | 33% | 52% | 35% | * | 22% | 13% | 21% | 14% | * |

Proportion of students who think that a university is the pre-eminent one its city.



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria University of Wellington | Victoria University | University of Wellington | University of Canberra | University of Auckland | University of Manitoba | University of New Mexico | James Univ |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Chinese students | 75% | 81% | 71% | 73% | 76% | 64% | 71% | 60 |
| Vietnamese students | 93% | 85% | 92% | 87% | 85% | 79% | 89% | 81 |
| Malaysian students | 86% | 85% | 88% | 81% | 91% | 67% | 79% | 72 |
| Indian students | 67% | 64% | 68% | 68% | 63% | 54% | 64% | 60 |
| Australian students | 55% | 55% | 73% | * | 85% | 49% | 72% | |
| US students | 66% | 54% | 73% | 61% | 68% | 64% | * | 43 |

| James Cook University | Massey University | Laval University | Clark University |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 60% | 72% | 64% | 65% |
| 81% | 83% | 78% | 81% |
| 72% | 70% | 62% | 70% |
| 60% | 53% | 48% | 56% |
| * | 32% | 22% | 28% |
| 43% | 41% | 33% | * |

Note. The two UK universities are not included in the analysis as Heriot-Watt University is not the pre-eminent university in its city.

Proportion of influencers who think that a university is the pre-eminent one its city.



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria University of Wellington | Victoria University | University of Wellington | University of Canberra | University of Auckland | University of Manitoba | University of New Mexico | James Cook University | Massey University | Laval University | Clark University |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Chinese influencers | 67% | 74% | 90% | 78% | 78% | 55% | 74% | 55% | 70% | 59% | 65% |
| Vietnamese influencers | 88% | 79% | 88% | 82% | 81% | 81% | 81% | 78% | 76% | 78% | 77% |
| Malaysian influencers | 84% | 91% | 95% | 88% | 91% | 75% | 70% | 78% | 69% | 53% | 71% |
| Indian influencers | 73% | 76% | 79% | 71% | 75% | 53% | 62% | 62% | 52% | 53% | 60% |
| Australian influencers | 68% | 54% | 76% | * | 79% | 49% | 65% | * | 41% | 42% | 34% |
| US influencers | 58% | 66% | 72% | 61% | 62% | 63% | * | 48% | 41% | 42% | * |

Note. The two UK universities are not included in the analysis as Heriot-Watt University is not the pre-eminent university in its city.

Proportion of students associating a business school's name with New Zealand (in the case of Victoria Business School, Wellington Business School, and Massey University School of Business) or its home country (in the case of the other business schools).



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria Business School | Wellington Business School | Dublin City University School of Business | Porto Business School | Stockholm School of Economics | Newcastle University Business School |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chinese students | 1% | 17% | 10% | 17% | 19% | 13% |
| Vietnamese students | 12% | 38% | 19% | 31% | 36% | 18% |
| Malaysian students | 30% | 39% | 42% | 49% | 47% | 56% |
| Indian students | 9% | 19% | 13% | 14% | 16% | 16% |
| Australian students | 0% | 62% | 48% | 19% | 42% | 23% |
| US students | 2% | 15% | 53% | 19% | 38% | 42% |

| Curtin Business School | Massey University College of Business | Beedie School of Business | Smeal College of Business | Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 20% | 22% | 20% | 16% | 15% |
| 42% | 36% | 36% | 32% | 34% |
| 48% | 42% | 40% | 41% | 37% |
| 14% | 13% | 2% | 5% | 11% |
| * | 9% | 6% | 12% | 25% |
| 8% | 7% | 7% | * | * |

Proportion of influencers associating a business school's name with New Zealand (in the case of Victoria Business School, Wellington Business School, and Massey University School of Business) or its home country (in the case of the other business schools).



Location in name

Location not in name

| Country | Victoria Business School | Wellington Business School | Dublin City University School of Business | Porto Business School | Stockholm School of Economics | Newcastle University Business School |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Chinese influencers | 2% | 41% | 20% | 26% | 32% | 29% |
| Vietnamese influencers | 2% | 26% | 17% | 27% | 35% | 17% |
| Malaysian influencers | 29% | 57% | 35% | 49% | 45% | 61% |
| Indian influencers | 15% | 40% | 26% | 19% | 32% | 22% |
| Australian influencers | 4% | 81% | 60% | 30% | 53% | 21% |
| US influencers | 4% | 30% | 46% | 11% | 42% | 34% |

| Curtin Business School | Massey University College of Business | Beedie School of Business | Smeal College of Business | Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth |
|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 28% | 36% | 29% | 22% | 22% |
| 32% | 23% | 22% | 21% | 23% |
| 55% | 45% | 39% | 39% | 41% |
| 33% | 17% | 6% | 11% | 18% |
| * | 11% | 6% | 14% | 9% |
| 10% | 9% | 11% | * | * |

Proportion of students and influencers who think each name is extremely or very prestigious.



Students

| Country | Victoria Business School | Wellington Business School | New Zealand School of Business and Government | Wellington School of Business and Government |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Chinese students / influencers | 52% | 56% | 44% | 48% |
| Vietnamese students / influencers | 67% | 68% | 69% | 68% |
| Malaysian students / influencers | 65% | 69% | 68% | 69% |
| Indian students / influencers | 58% | 62% | 58% | 58% |
| Australian students / influencers | 17% | 23% | 32% | 37% |
| US students / influencers | 33% | 37% | 31% | 44% |

Influencers

| Victoria Business School | Wellington Business School | New Zealand School of Business and Government | Wellington School of Business and Government |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 50% | 59% | 48% | 57% |
| 63% | 67% | 65% | 66% |
| 64% | 67% | 64% | 63% |
| 64% | 73% | 65% | 69% |
| 15% | 20% | 34% | 29% |
| 41% | 39% | 36% | 47% |



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