

Community & Connection:

Developing the International Student Experience



Eoin Kiveney & Gregory Van Buskirk
International Student Experience Officers, TUS Global

Maria Sandmark
Senior Sales Manager, Goin'

Background of ISE Team

The student experience begins well before arrival in Ireland

Significant & unique challenges facing international students

Need for additional support

International & Inter-departmental collaboration





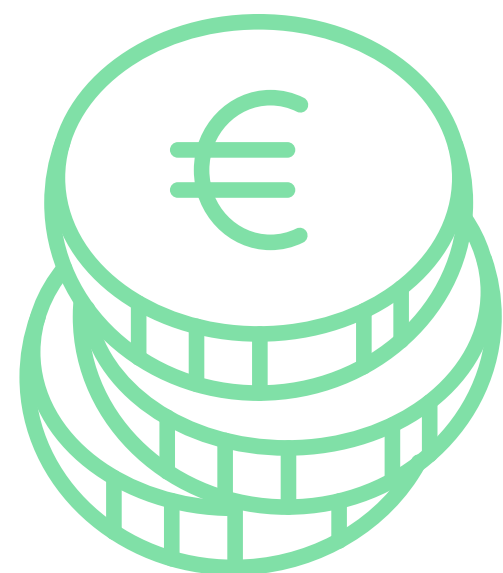
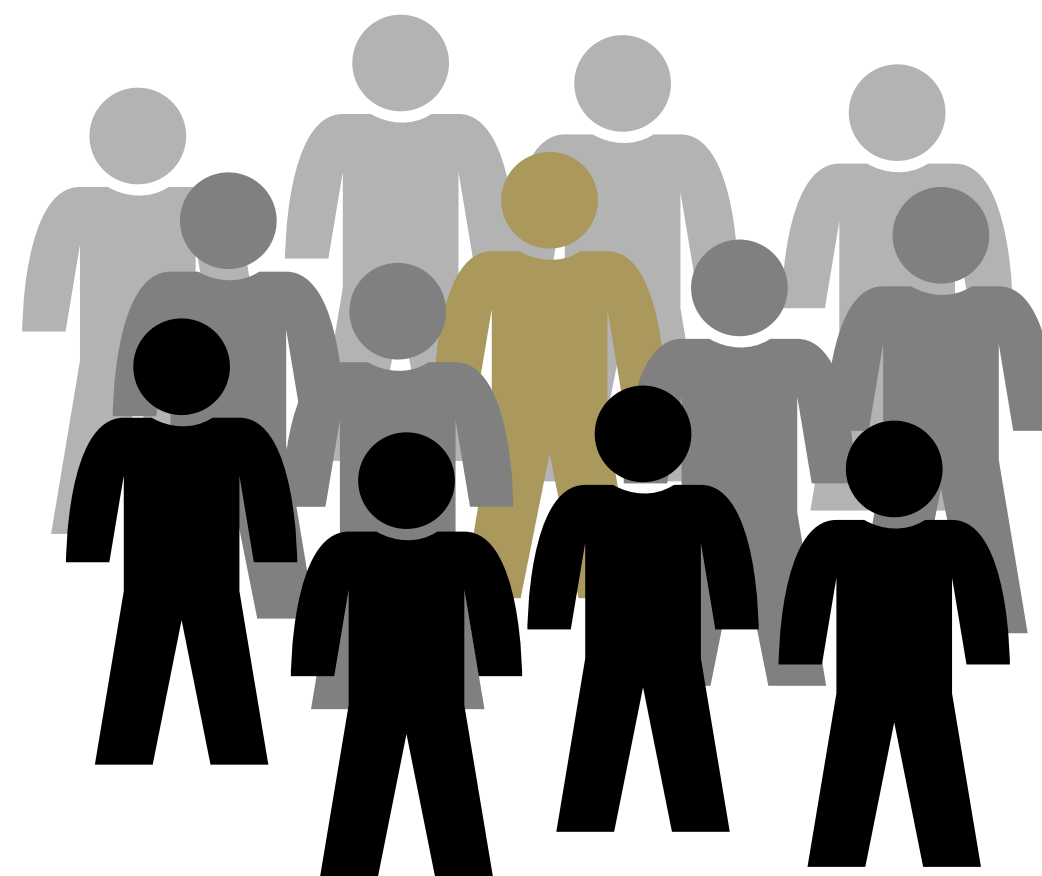
Isolation & loneliness

Challenges Facing Students

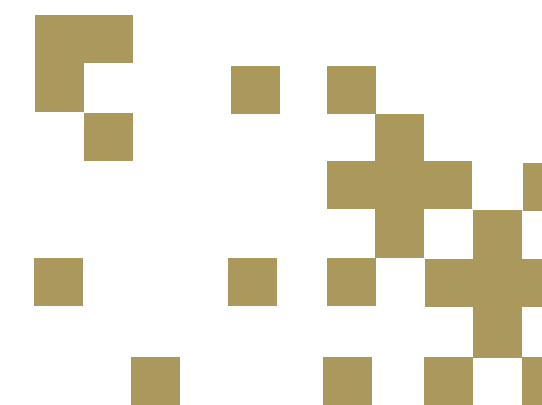


Accessing & Understanding Information

Culture Shock



Financial Burden



Goals of ISE Team

- Build Community
- Identify Needs
- Student empowerment
- Align TUS Global operations with student needs
- Each interaction & experience is positive



Become A



Ambassador



Share your story!
Promote fun trips
& events!
Meet incoming students!



Learn more & apply here:

Social Programming

- From Day 1: Orientation is a social experience
- Forming bonds week-to-week
- Combatting loneliness, ideally long-term
- Inter-campus attempts
- Work w/ student society



Cultural Celebrations & Events

- Student-led with empowerment & support
- Challenge: lack of initiative
- Challenge: well what about us (some not participating or taking charge)
- Celebrate culture & diversity, make students feel like this is home & we're family because that's where/who you celebrate holidays with
- Students get to share the gift of culture as well, they're so excited
 - Integrating the cultures, showing other international & domestic students
 - Internationalization at home



Personal Support

Visibility & accessibility from Day 1

Communication

Direct

Personal

Follow-up & Follow-through

Knowledgeable & thorough

Build trust



Successes & Strides

Feedback:

20% response rate

71.1% recommend trip or activity

Attendance: 1500

Testimonials

Seeing students progress

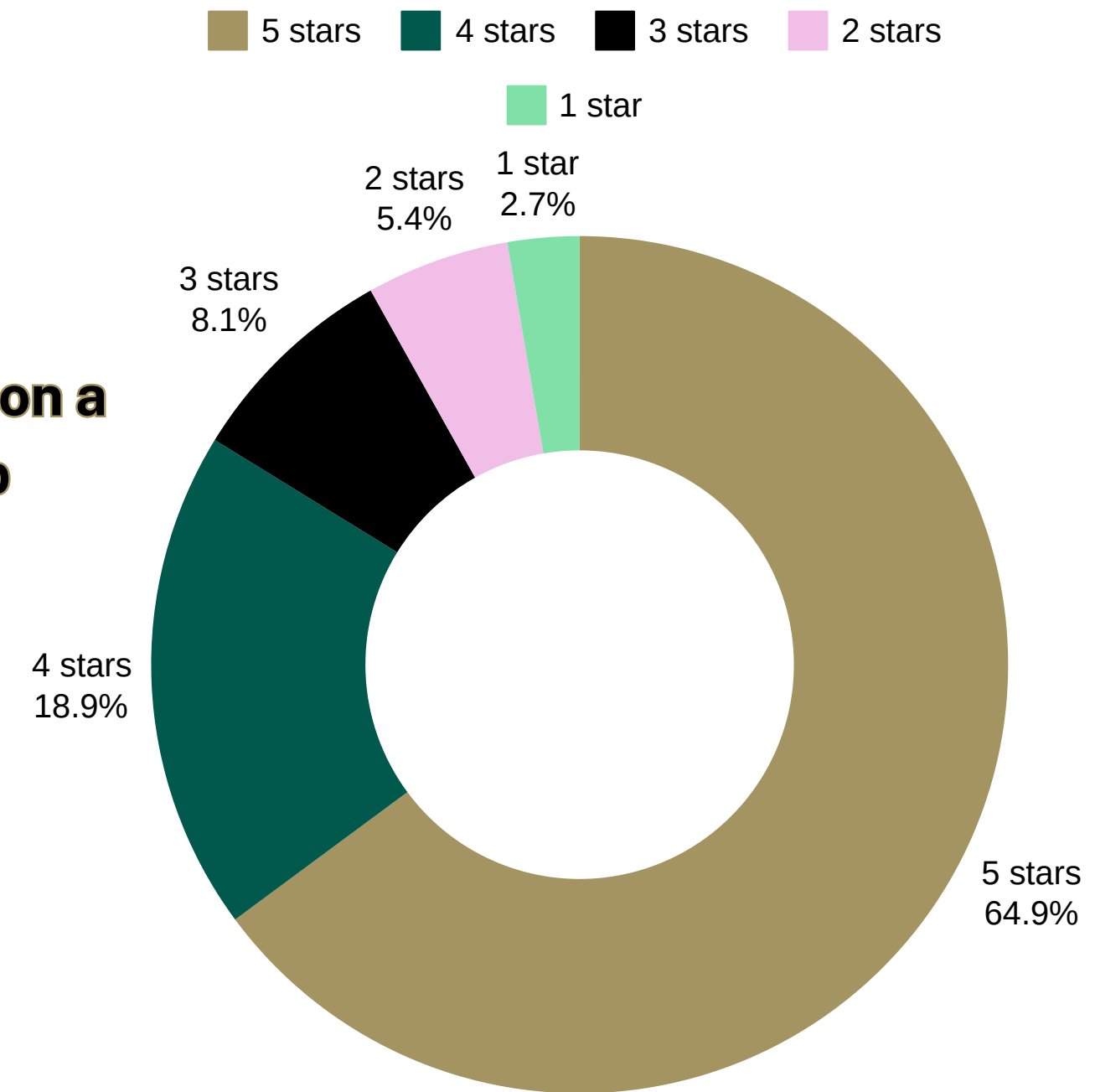
Crises students staying on

32 Student Ambassadors

Trips as affordable & ways of seeing Ireland & making friends

Inter-campus initiatives improved

Overall Experience on a TUS Global Trip



Student Comments

“Had a really good time meeting people and learning about the history of Limerick”

“Thank you for arranging this trip”

“the trip was amazing I really enjoyed it! Greg as always really helpful and cheerful.”

“Amazing ideas and activities keep on the good work”

“TUS is really leading amongst the colleges in Ireland for engagement of people, cultural experience and work opportunities.”

Shortcomings & Struggles

Multi-Campus approach

Engagement & Attendance

Integration & Multiculturalism

Collaboration throughout University

Loneliness



Learning & Revising

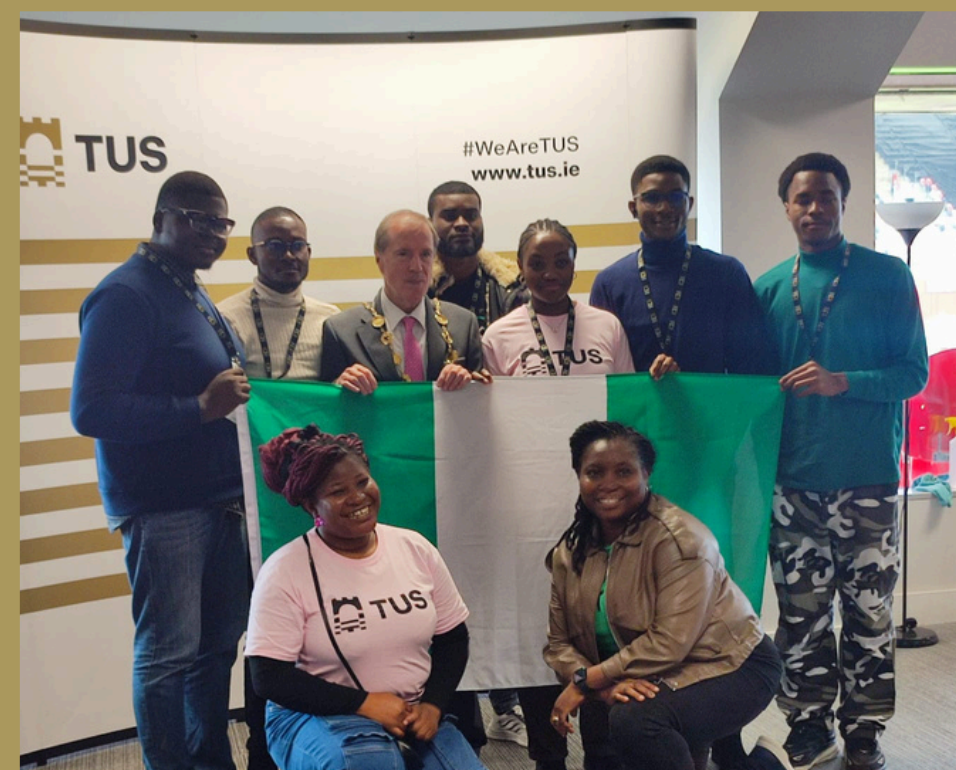
Staff training / unified front to Student Experience

Drive student authorship

Tasks / activities = collision

Accessibility of other campus resources

Evolve communications strategy





A Digital Community

Begin student experience & community building as early as possible

Student-driven

Goin' : student-to-student online community

Elevating the student life through supportive and engaging student-led communities

Connection Invites (7)

+ Create

Join the group

Carlos

Exchange Pro...

Travelling

Connect

TUS

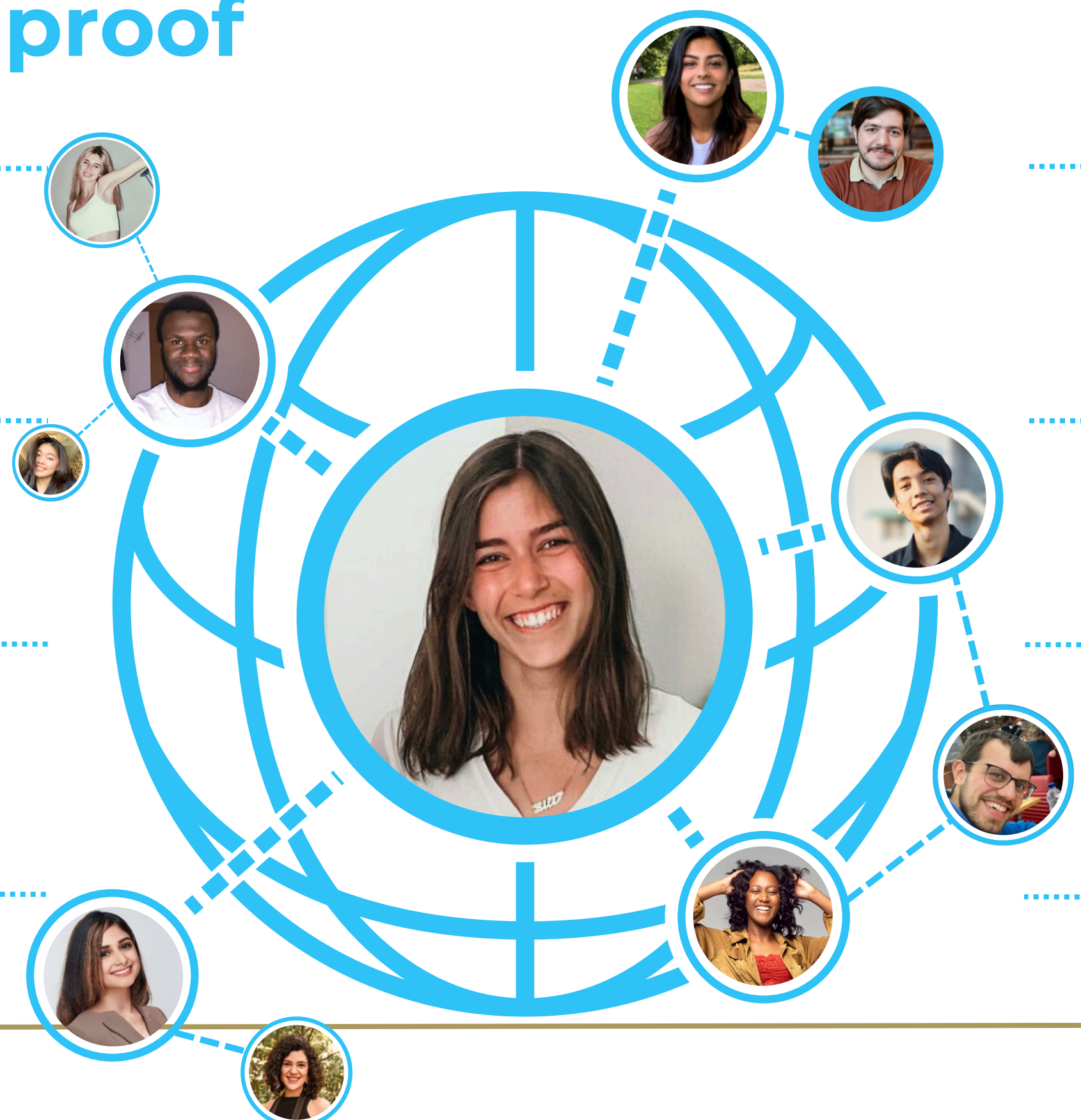
QS ★ 5

A complementary layer of communication that boosts social proof

Many to many

One to one

One to many



Social focus

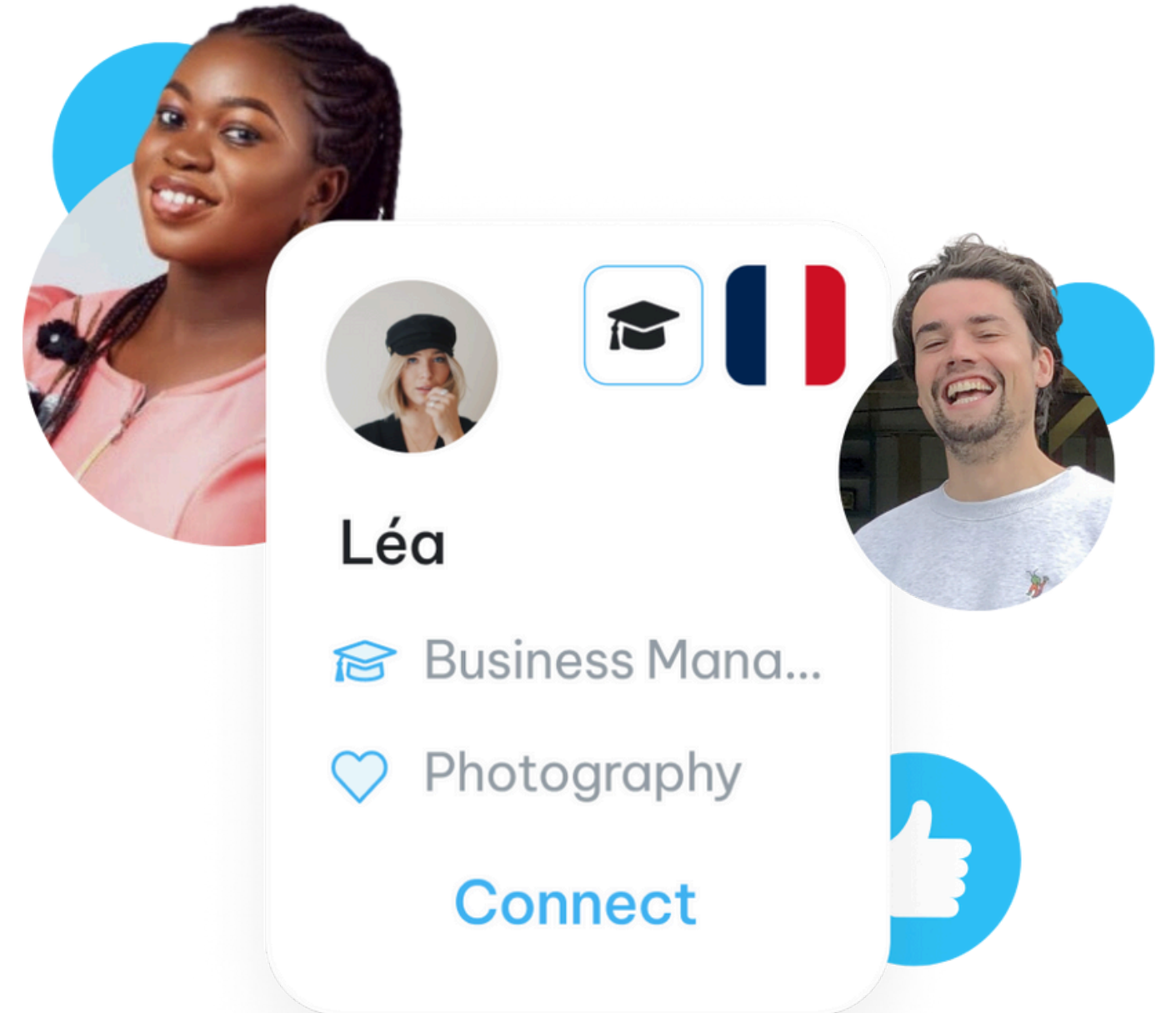
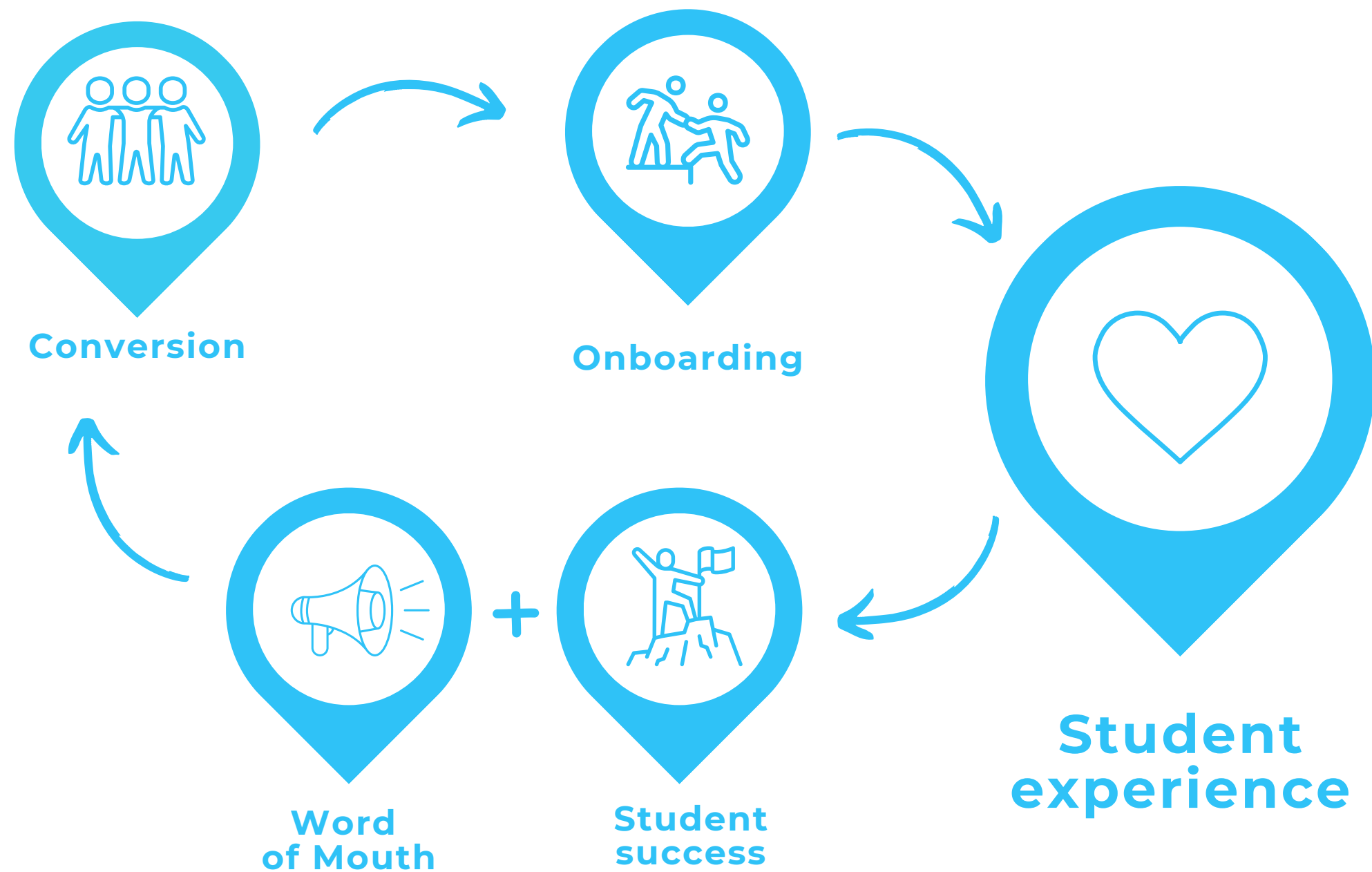


Practical focus

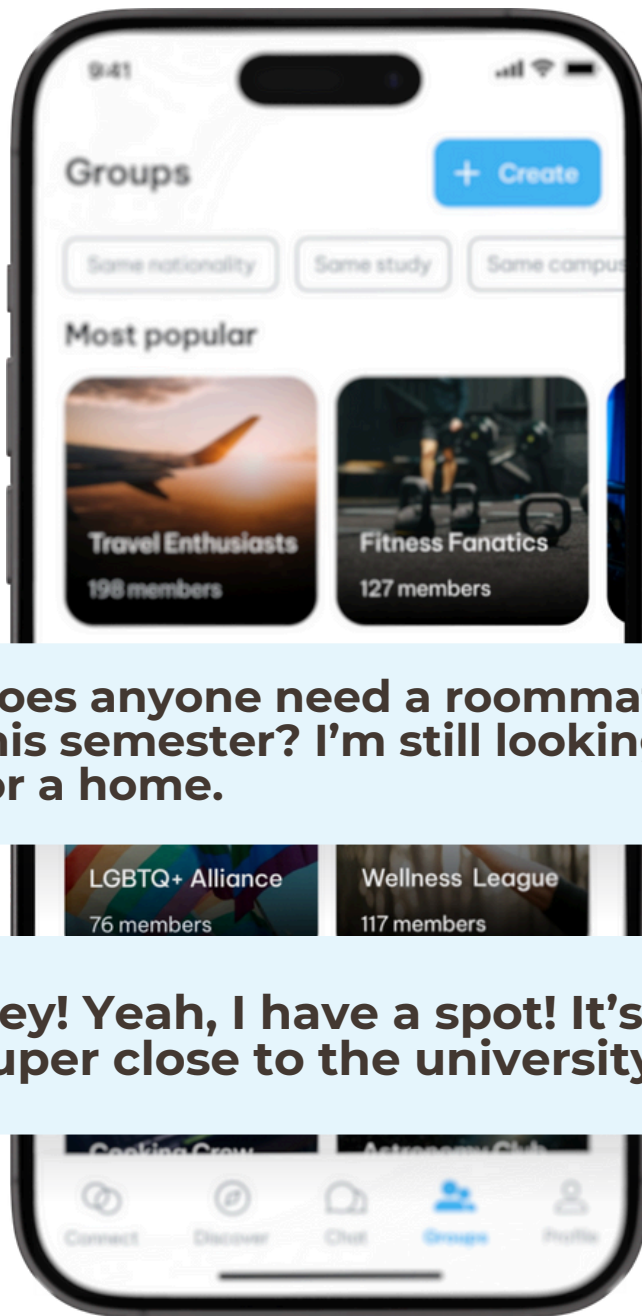


Marketing focus

Student experience at the heart of what we do!



Student experience at the heart of what we do!



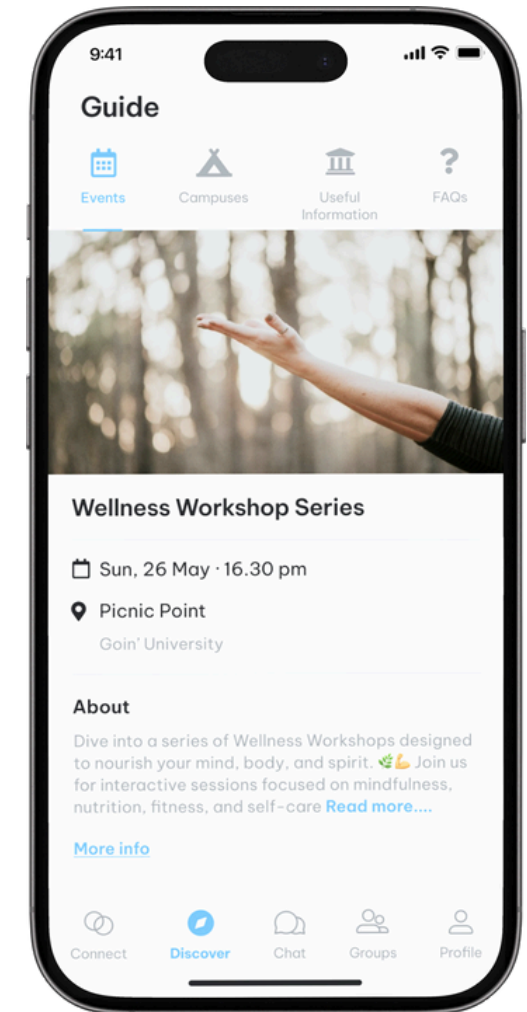
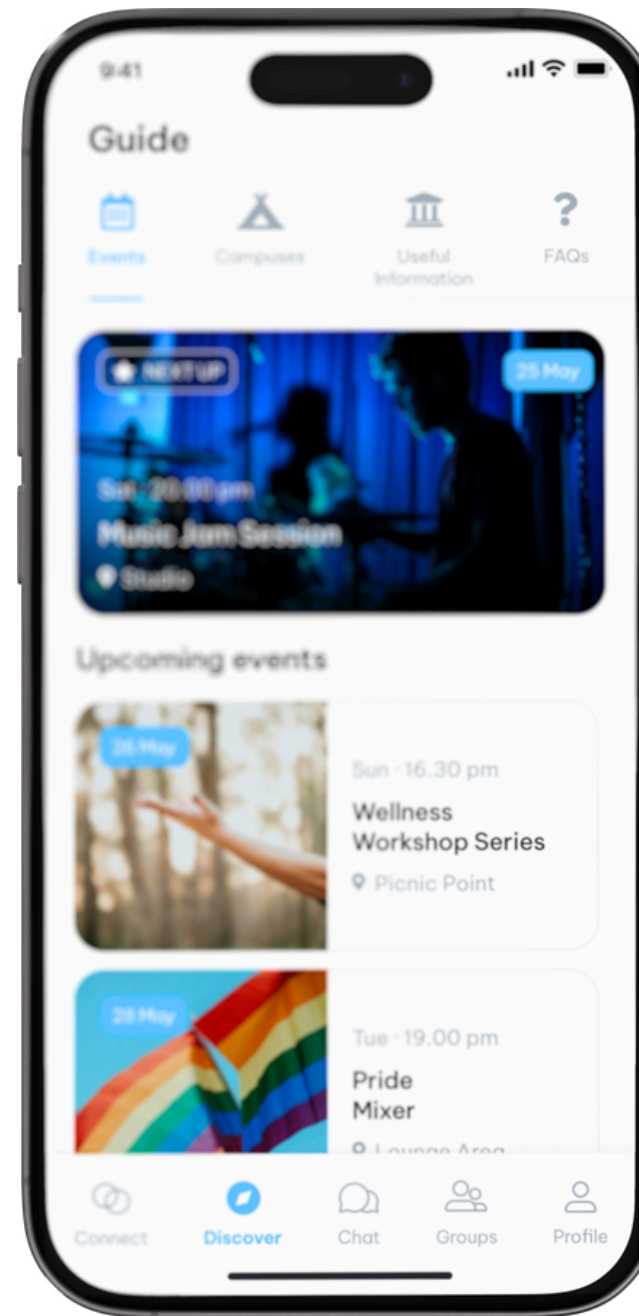
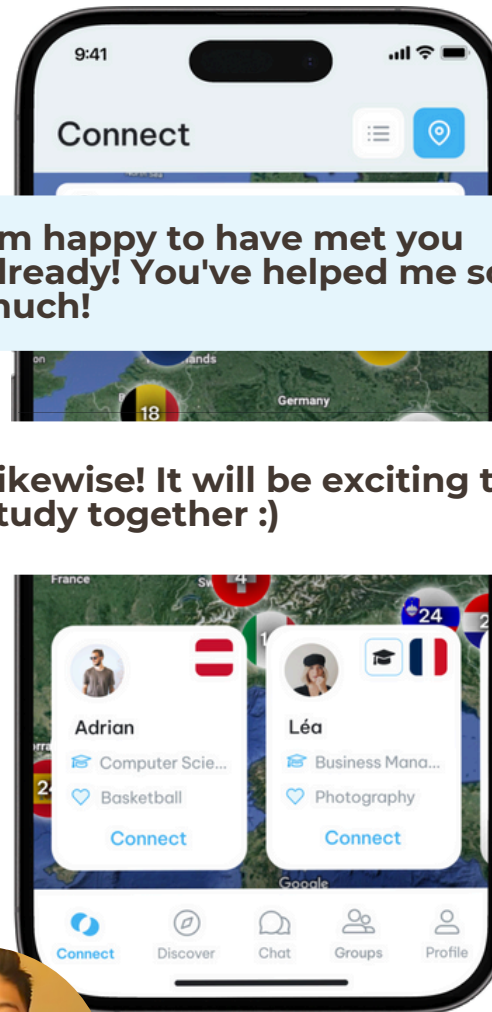
Does anyone need a roommate this semester? I'm still looking for a home.

Hey! Yeah, I have a spot! It's super close to the university!

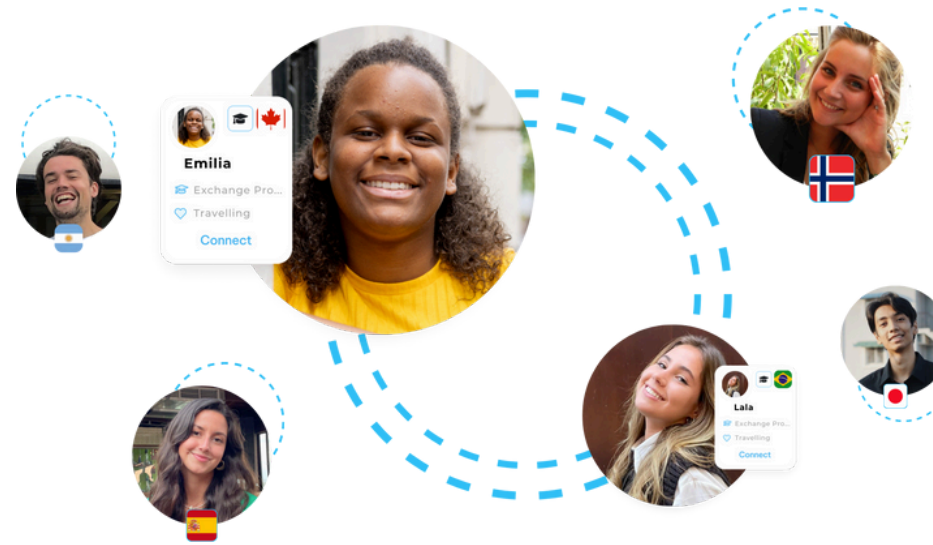


I'm happy to have met you already! You've helped me so much!

Likewise! It will be exciting to study together :)



Value for Students



PRACTICAL PREPARATION

76% of the students expresses Goin' helps them with **practical matters from fellow peers**



EXPERIENCE IMPROVEMENT

92% Of the students expresses Goin' **boosts the student experience to uni**



REDUCING LONELINESS

88% Of the students expresses Goin' helped them **feeling less anxious**



STUDENT SUCCESS

97% Of the students believe it helps them becoming **more succesful in class**



CROSSING THE LINE

84% of the students expresses it **helps them cross the line**



STUDENT EXCITEMENT

97% of the students expresses it makes them **more excited** about starting at the university



TUUS
GLOBAL

Thank you!