

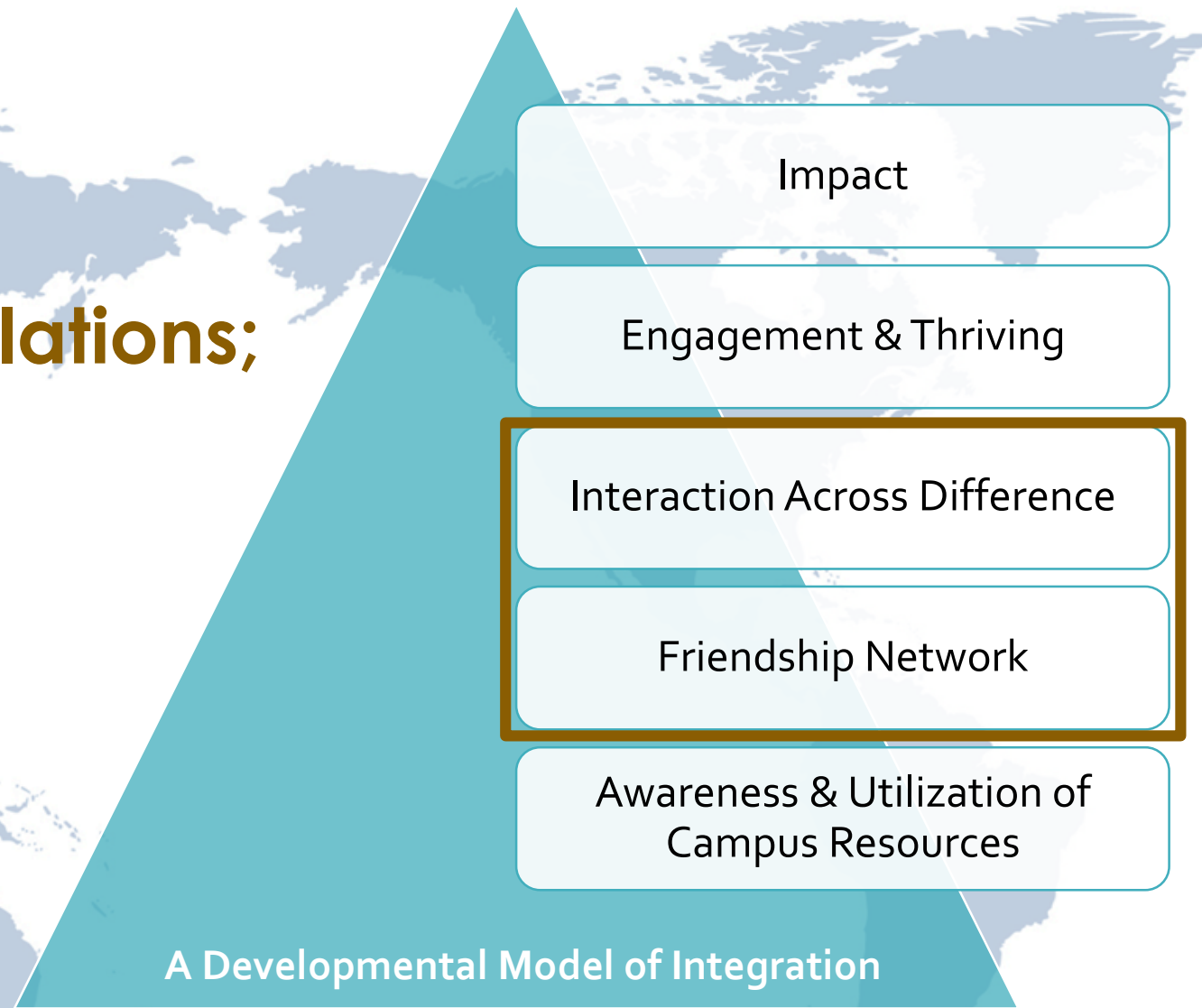


Research Roundup & Counter-Narratives: International Students at UCLA

Integration & Friendship Networks

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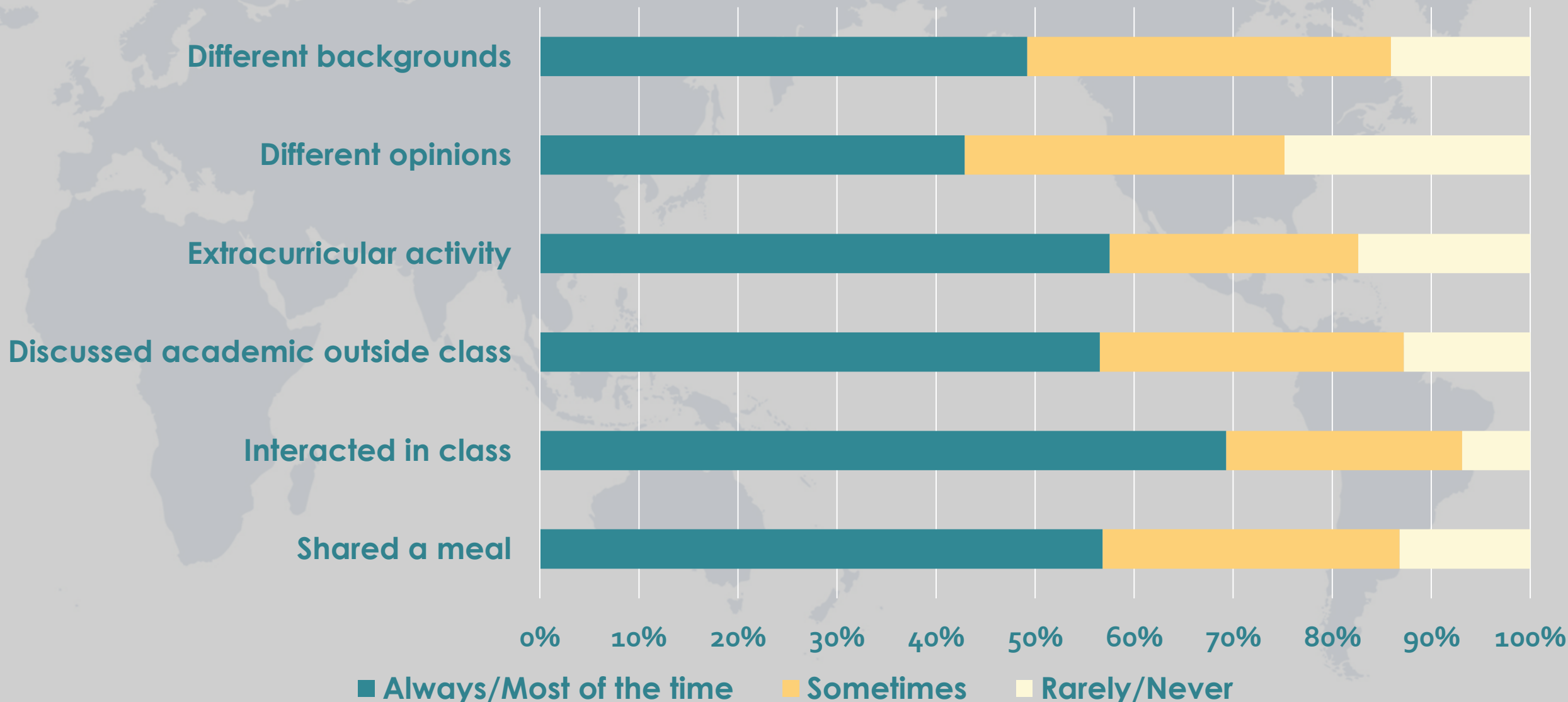
**Better than we assume;
Consistent with other populations;
Still more work to do**



Integration: Our Work & Yours

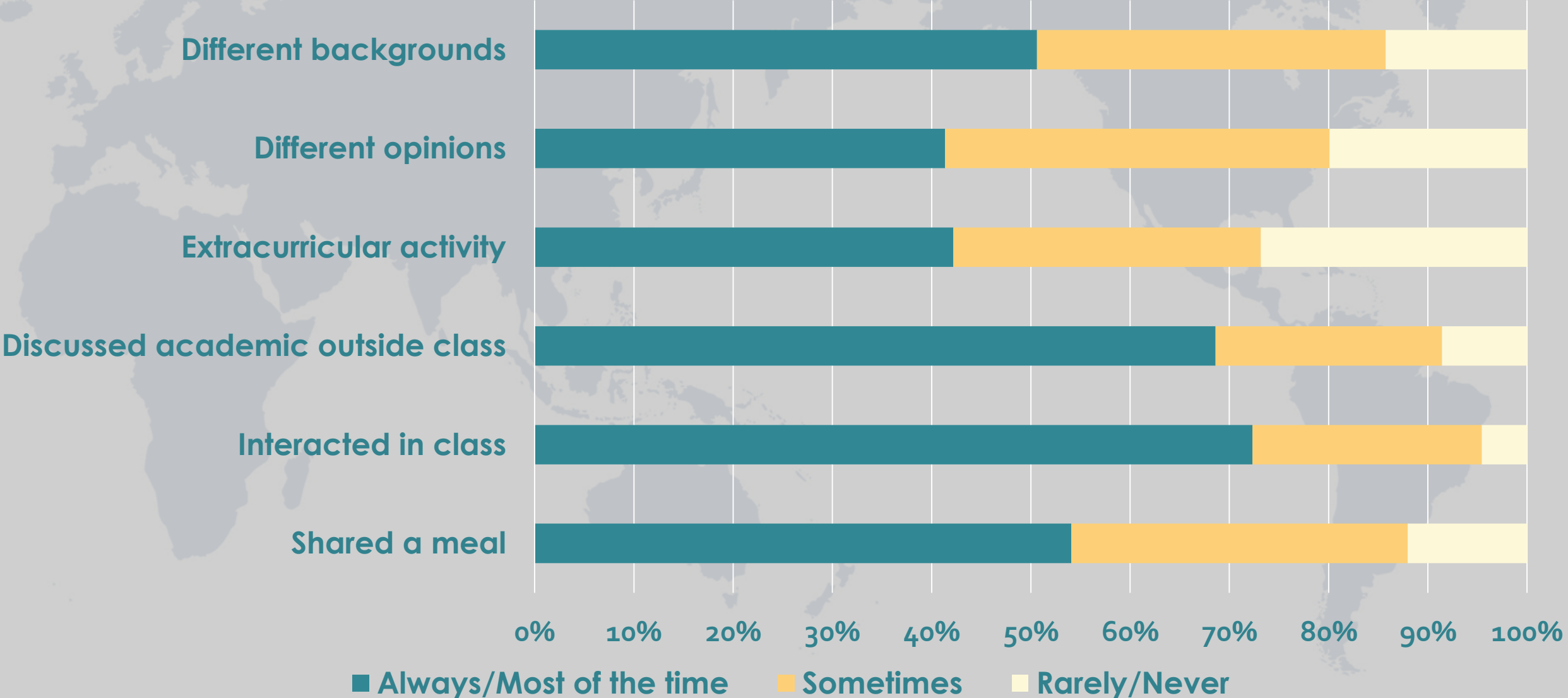
Interaction Across Difference

International Undergraduate Students, n = 697



Interaction Across Difference

International Graduate Students, n = 723

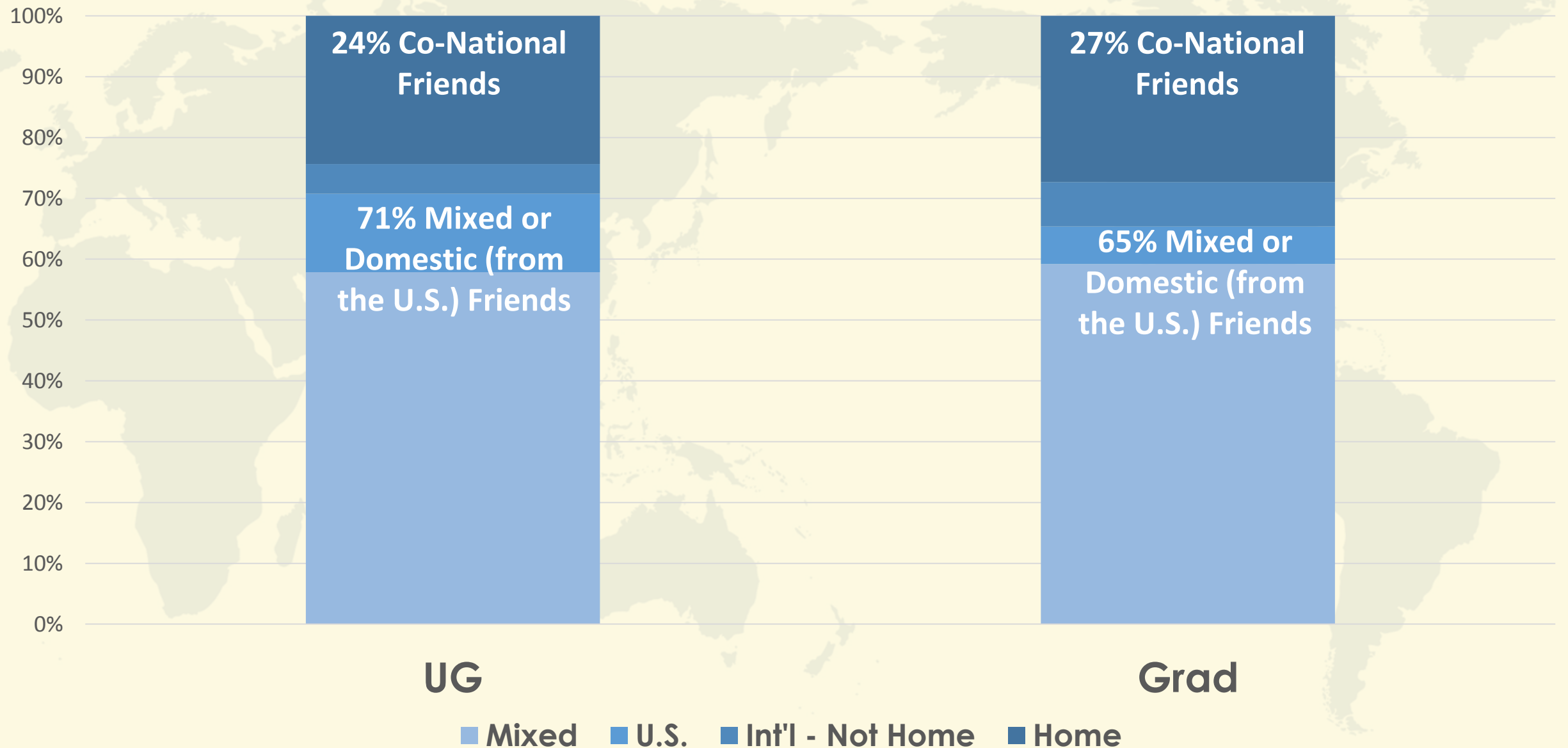


Snapshot

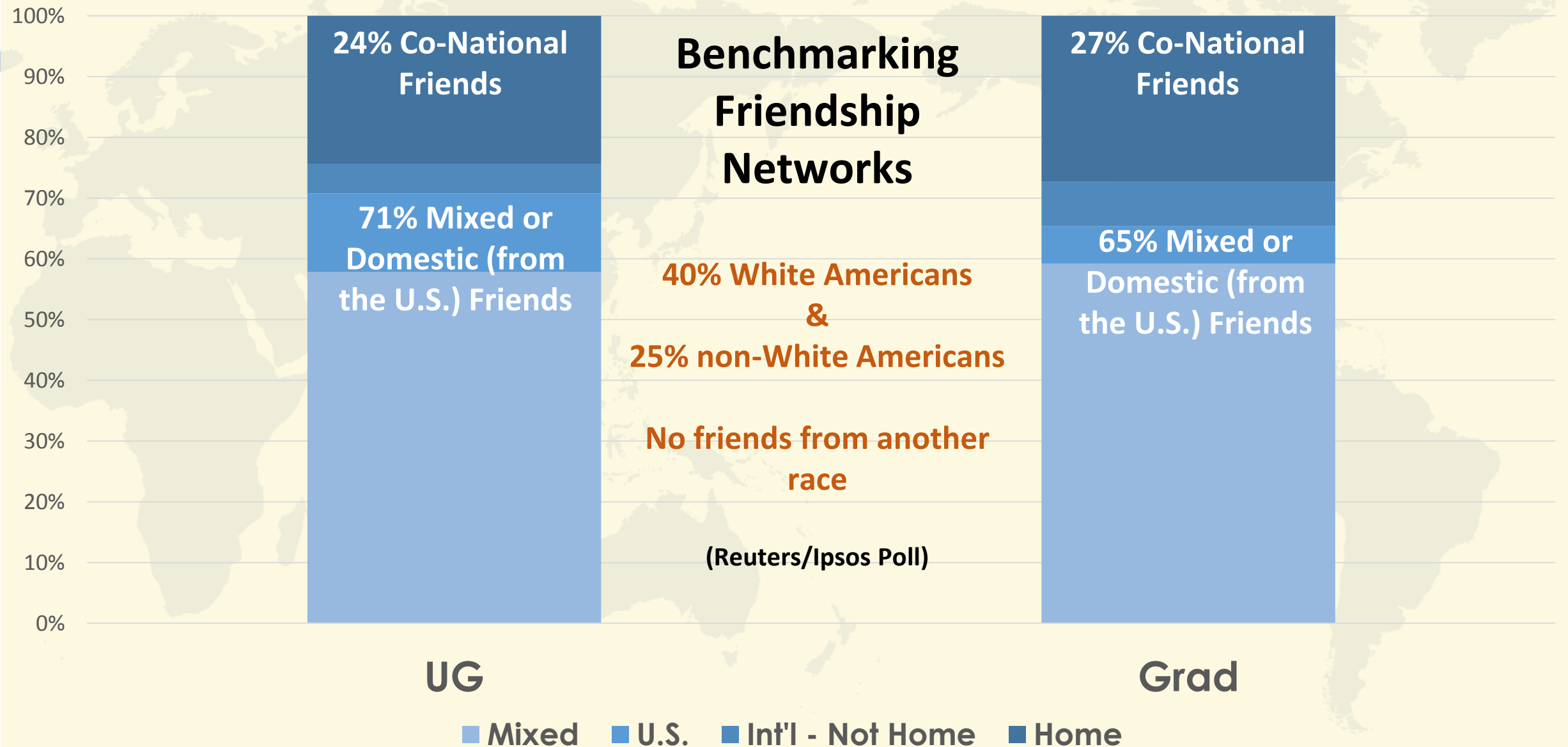


- International students interact across difference (race/nationality) most often in the classroom
- International graduate students also interact across difference when discussing academics outside the classroom
- Discussing different opinions across difference occurs least often (perhaps because it requires the most risk)
- For graduate students, interacting across difference in extracurricular settings also occurs infrequently
- About half of all international students (UG/G) discuss their different backgrounds frequently with others

Friendship Network



Friendship Network



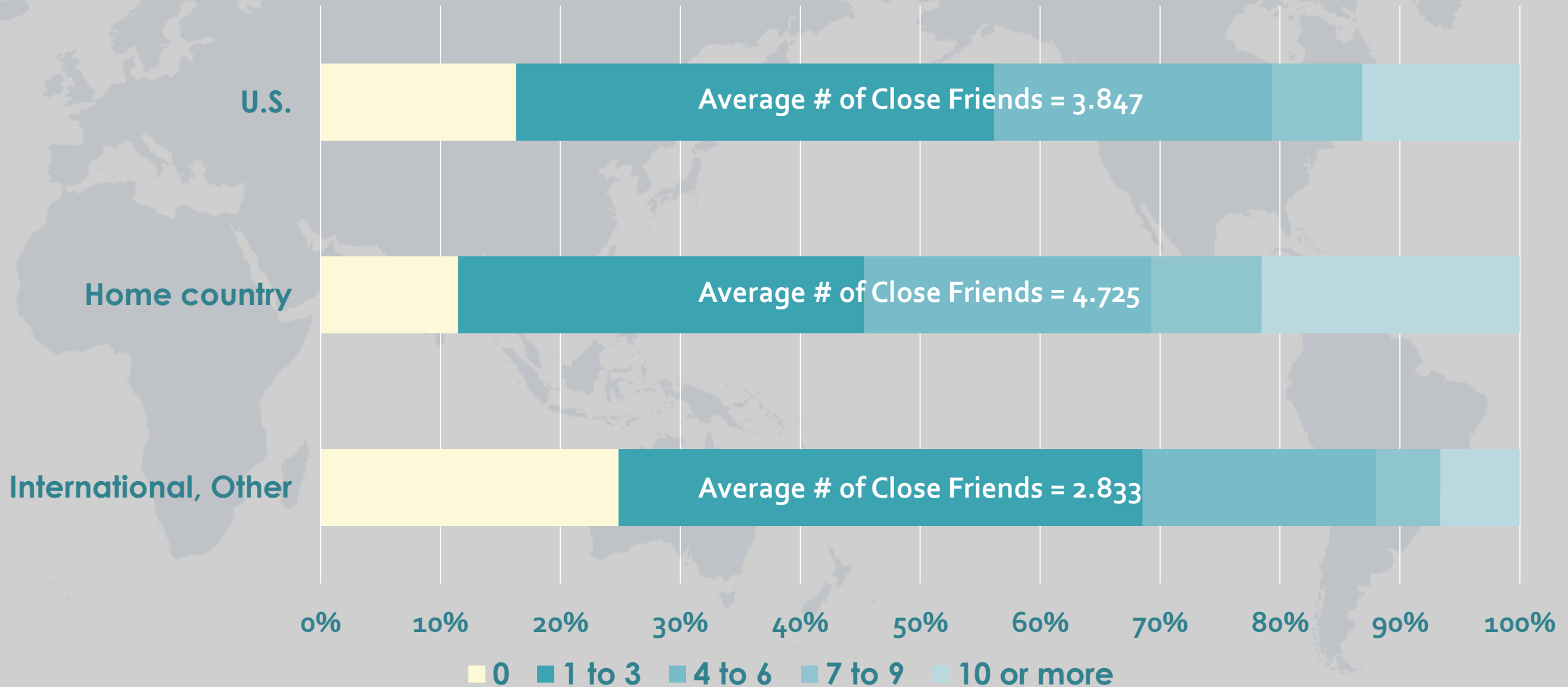
Snapshot



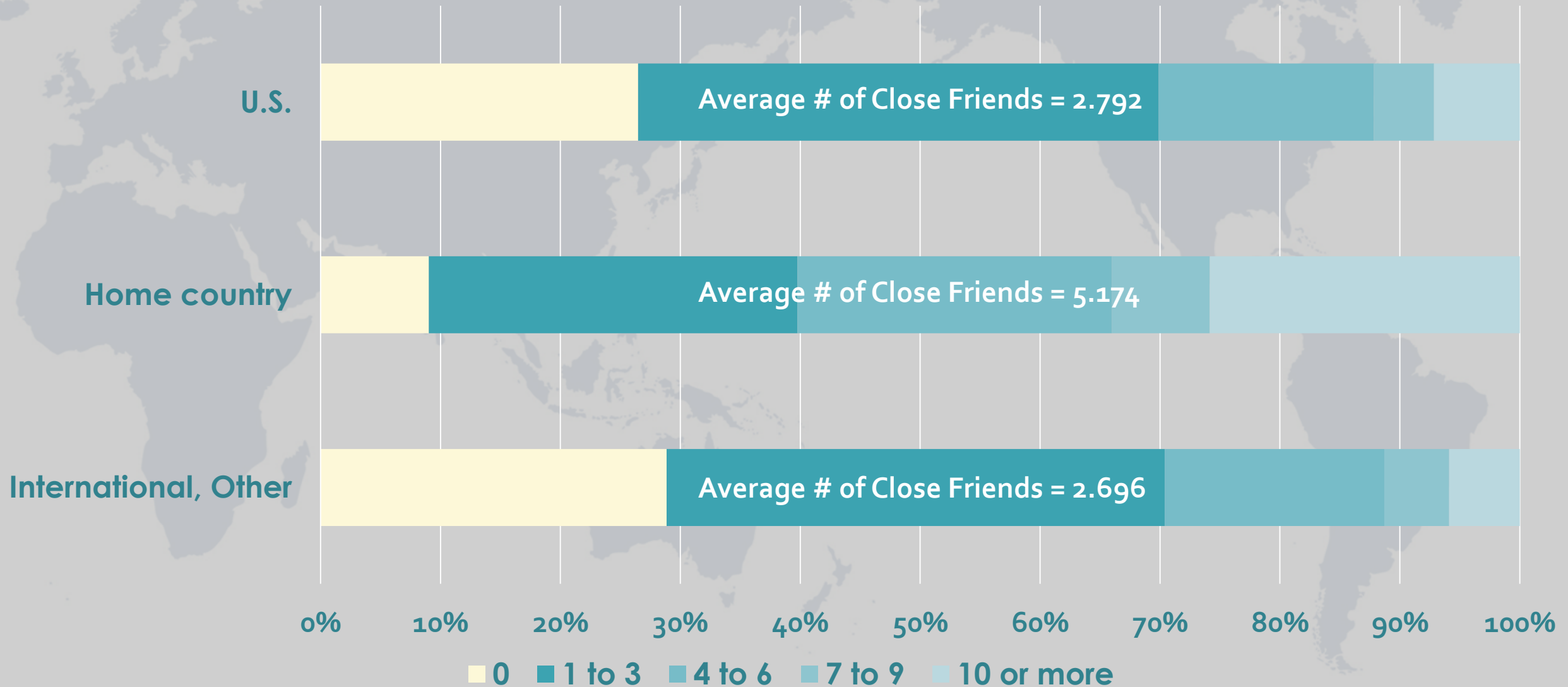
- Most international students report diverse friendship networks, which pushes on the common narrative that international students “only spend time with their own” (NOTE: friendships with co-nationals serve an important purpose as well)
- **Benchmarking.** About a quarter of all international students report friendship networks comprised of mostly co-national friends, which means they are forming more diverse networks than white people and similar networks to people of color

Approximate Number of Close Friends From...

International Undergraduates, n = 785



Approximate Number of Close Friends From... International Grad Students, n = 797



Spotlight



- About 15% of international undergraduates have no friends from the U.S.; over 10% have no friends from their home country; and around 25% have no international friends from other countries
- Over 25% of international graduate students have no friends from the U.S.; nearly 10% have no friends from their home country; and nearly 30% have no international friends from other countries
- International undergraduate students have more diverse friendship networks and close friendship groups than international graduate students

Cultural Brokers & Cultural Distance



Shared
Nationality

Shared
Ethnicity

Common
Experience

Friendship
Across
Difference

Impact

Engagement & Thriving

Interaction Across Difference

Friendship Network

Awareness & Utilization of
Campus Resources

A Developmental Model of Integration

What's the Function of Co-National Friendships, etc.

Spotlight



- A focus on diverse friendship networks comes from 1) a value for diversity, and 2) a research finding from the Dashew Center (and elsewhere): those with more diverse friendship networks typically report better outcomes
- Yet co-national friendships serve an important purpose. They preserve home culture, which can be important for identity development, self-efficacy, and, indeed, integration (which is not assimilation). Also, international students can act as cultural brokers to newer students who share parts of their identity. As students become more comfortable with their environment, they may also be more comfortable making friends across difference.