



**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY**  
MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

*The Importance of Cultural and Economic Influences  
Behind the Decision to Attend Higher Education*

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<i>Variable</i>	<i>Description/Survey Question</i>	<i>Scale</i>
<i>English not spoken at home</i>	Is English spoken at home?	0 = No 1 = Yes
<i>Socio-Economic Status (SES)</i>	Mothers/Fathers highest education level	If one parent attended university then SES was assigned a one, otherwise zero.
<i>Gender</i>	Gender	0 = Male 1 = Female
<i>Views of Parents</i>	My parents want me to do a degree course	1 = Strongly disagree 5 = Strongly agree
<i>School Effects<sup>1</sup></i>	School attended by the student which was then reduced to two dummy variables by education sector	CS =1 if attended a Catholic school; IS =1 if attended an independent school.
<i>Views of Teachers</i>	My teachers have encouraged me to go to university to do a degree	1 = Strongly disagree 5 = Strongly agree
<i>Losing friends</i>	If I did a degree I would lose touch with my friends	1 = Strongly disagree 5 = Strongly agree
<i>Only for the wealthy</i>	University is really only an option for wealthy people	1 = Strongly disagree 5 = Strongly agree
<i>Internet</i>	Internet access at home	0 = No 1 = Yes