

STUDY ABROAD SURVEY, SUMMER 2007

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During the summer 2007 orientation sessions, students and their parents were asked to complete a short survey of their international experiences and their perceptions of study abroad.

METHOD

Three different surveys were prepared with overlapping questions for 1) Freshman, 2) Parents and 3) Transfer students. Each survey took approximately three minutes to complete. These surveys were distributed and collected during the orientations in a paper version. The completed surveys were then entered into Student Voice.

RESULTS (Survey and results attached)

A. Freshman , n = 1150

Surveys were collected from 1150 entering freshman who attended both the Overnight Orientations and the One-Day Orientations. Sixty-six percent of freshmen enter the University with some experience outside of the U.S., primarily from travel, with 12% having participated in an international experience as part of a High School program. Those who have spent time outside of the country have a much higher interest in study abroad than those who have never left the U.S. with 75% of those who have left the country have a Very Strong or Somewhat Strong interest compared to 58% for those who have never left the U.S. A high percentage of all students rate their interest in Study Abroad as Very Strong (32%) or Somewhat Strong (37%). Interestingly, 50% say they would prefer to spend one to two semesters abroad, rather than participate in a shorter program. More telling is that, of those whose interest is Very Strong, 73% would prefer to spend one or two semesters abroad.

When asked about types of programs which would be of interest, 59% were interested in international internships, as opposed to 33% who marked academic coursework, and 23% for service-oriented programs. Thirty-one percent stated they were fluent or somewhat fluent in another language. When asked about barriers preventing them from pursuing Study Abroad, the primary concern was financial with 46% listing this as the major impediment. This was particularly true for those who indicated a very or somewhat strong interest in pursuing study abroad. For those who said they had weak or no interest, their biggest factor, not surprisingly, was "Lack of Interest".

Differences exist between the students who attend the Overnight Orientation and those who attend the One-Day Orientation. Forty-one percent of the former group indicated a Very Strong interest in Study Abroad compared to 25% of the latter. They were twice as likely to have studied abroad during high school (17% versus 8%). There appears to be little difference in strength of study abroad

interest by race/ethnicity. However, women tend to have a stronger interest in study abroad with 43% indicating very strong interest in study abroad with only 19% of men doing so.

B. Parents, n = 337

Three-hundred and thirty-seven parents who attended orientation in conjunction with their entering freshman completing the survey. In general, they are well-traveled with 81% having been outside of the U.S., primarily for travel but 12% went outside of the U.S. for work and 8% with the military. While 63% saw study abroad as desirable and realistic, only 23% of these said their child definitely or probably would study abroad. Another 49% said their child 'might' study abroad. Twenty-three percent indicated a low or no possibility of this happening. The major factor in preventing this was financial concern with 54% indicating money as the major impediment. Next was lack of information (12%), doesn't relate to major (12%) and lack of interest (9%). Similar to their students, the preferred length of study abroad was one or two semesters (79%) and participation in an internship (58%). A frequently expressed reason for not studying abroad was participation in an athletic sport.

Not surprisingly, there seems to be a direct correlation between parental education and indication of study abroad plans. In looking at the parents who marked a 4 or 5 with 5 being "Will Definitely Study Abroad", no one who indicated little or no high school endorsed these responses. This percentage increases to 12.5% for those who had graduated from high school, 14.6% for those with some college, 21.9% for a two-year degree, 22.5% for a four-year degree and 30.8% for those with post graduate education. Although these responses might appear to be financially-driven, parents with more formal education endorsed "financial concerns" more often as a factor for NOT studying abroad than those with less formal education.

In addition, 32.4% of parents who attended the Overnight Orientations endorsed that their child would probably or would definitely study abroad while only 18% of parents who attended the One-Day Orientations were as definite with regard to study abroad plans.

C. Transfer Students, n = 135

Slightly lower than freshman, 64% of transfer students are coming to the University with experience outside of the U.S. Thirty percent of students have been abroad with church service while 16% have had family who lived outside of the U.S. Nine percent have participated in a study abroad program or internship for credit. As opposed to freshman, where 69% indicate a very or somewhat strong interest in study abroad, only 56% of transfer students indicate this level of interest. Of those who have never been outside the U.S., only 36% ranked their interest in study abroad as very or somewhat strong as opposed to 66% for those who have been outside of the U.S. Although financial concerns are a primary factor the student might NOT study abroad (40%), work obligations (13%), family

obligations (30%) and delay of graduation (11%) are also major concerns. Forty-five percent would like a program of less than two months. Forty-seven percent would most prefer this in the form of an internship. Forty percent of respondents are married and 17% have children under 18 living at home. Thirty-seven percent are fluent in another language.

APPLICATION

The above data has been included in *Student Internationalization: Expanding study abroad programs at the University of Utah*, a report presented to President Michael Young in an effort to increase the number of students participating in study abroad programs. As a direct result of the assessment, several recommendations have been included:

1. Ensure that Study Abroad programs have an active presence at every Orientation, beyond staffing a “table” along with other service providers. Highlight Study Abroad options with a brief presentation at all orientations and have this office be a stop on the campus tour. Specific attention should be paid to students participating in Overnight Orientations since this population seems particularly open to the possibility.
2. Develop an expanded spectrum of possible of programs including – traditional study abroad, expanding service learning, and integrating internships.
3. Increase promotion of semester or year-long programs.

FRESHMAN STUDY ABROAD PERCEPTIONS N=1149, Summer Orientation 2007

Q1. Have you spent time in a foreign (non-U.S.) environment?

Count	Percent	
753	65.54%	Yes, I have spent time outside of the U.S.
396	34.46%	No
1149		Respondents

Q2. If yes, was it for: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
15	1.99%	1.69%	Military
36	4.79%	4.04%	Church Service
5	0.66%	0.56%	Work
127	16.89%	14.27%	Family lived outside of U.S.
635	84.44%	71.35%	Travel
72	9.57%	8.09%	Other (please specify)
752			Respondents
890			Responses

Q3. What is the longest amount of time you have spent outside of the US at one time?

Count	Percent	
552	73.40%	Less than a month
89	11.84%	One to three months
13	1.73%	Four to six months
4	0.53%	Six to twelve months
26	3.46%	One to two years
68	9.04%	Over two years
752		Respondents

Q4. What country/countries have you spent time in?

Count	Percent	
748	100.00%	
748		Respondents

Q5. Have you ever participated in an experience outside of the U.S. as part of a High School program?

Count	Percent	
87	11.57%	Yes (please specify where and for how long)
665	88.43%	No
752		Respondents

Q6. In the next few years, I maybe spending time outside of the U.S for: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
13	1.13%	0.99%	Military
149	12.98%	11.40%	Church Service
34	2.96%	2.60%	Work
614	53.48%	46.98%	Travel
295	25.70%	22.57%	Other (please specify)
202	17.60%	15.46%	I don't anticipate leaving the U.S. in the next few years.
1148			Respondents
1307			Responses

Q7. How strong do you rank your interest in Study Abroad?

Count	Percent	
363	31.62%	Very Strong
430	37.46%	Somewhat Strong
286	24.91%	Weak
69	6.01%	No interest at all
1148		Respondents

Q8. What would be the most important factor preventing you from pursuing Learning/Study Abroad? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
533	46.43%	39.75%	Financial Concerns
104	9.06%	7.76%	Work Obligations
83	7.23%	6.19%	Family Obligations
145	12.63%	10.81%	Lack of Information
114	9.93%	8.50%	It would delay my graduation
136	11.85%	10.14%	It doesn't relate to my major
169	14.72%	12.60%	Lack of interest
57	4.97%	4.25%	Other (please specify)
1148			Respondents
1341			Responses

Q9. If you were to consider a Learning/Study Abroad program, how much time do you believe you would want to spend?

Count	Percent	
213	18.55%	Less than a month
365	31.79%	One to two months
456	39.72%	One Semester
114	9.93%	Two Semesters
1148		Respondents

Q10. What would be the type of Learning/Study Abroad experience of most interest to you? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
376	32.75%	27.25%	Academic Coursework
680	59.23%	49.28%	Internship in my field of study
247	21.52%	17.90%	Service-oriented program
77	6.71%	5.58%	Other (please specify)
1148			Respondents
1380			Responses

Q11. Did you participate in an overnight orientation?

Count	Percent	
449	39.11%	Yes
699	60.89%	No
1148		Respondents

Q12. Gender:

Count	Percent	
544	47.68%	Male
595	52.15%	Female
2	0.18%	Other

Q12. Gender:

Count	Percent
1141	Respondents

Q13. Age:

Count	Percent	
166	14.49%	Under 18
935	81.59%	18-19
28	2.44%	20-22
7	0.61%	23-25
8	0.70%	26-30
2	0.17%	Over 30
1146	Respondents	

Q14. Race/Ethnicity: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
24	2.09%	2.03%	African American/Black
73	6.37%	6.19%	Asian/Asian American
952	83.07%	80.68%	Caucasian/White
74	6.46%	6.27%	Hispanic/Latino(a)
9	0.79%	0.76%	Native American/Alaska Native
13	1.13%	1.10%	Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
17	1.48%	1.44%	Multi-Ethnic/Multicultural
18	1.57%	1.53%	Other (please specify)
1146	Respondents		
1180	Responses		

Q15. Major:

Count	Percent
1075	100.00%
1075	Respondents

Q16. Are you a native speaker of English?

Count	Percent	
1090	95.11%	Yes
56	4.89%	No
1146	Respondents	

Q17. Are you fluent/somewhat fluent in a language besides English?

Count	Percent	
359	31.33%	Yes (please list your language(s))
787	68.67%	No
1146	Respondents	

Q18. Additional comments:

Count	Percent
4	100.00%
4	Respondents

PARENTS (FRESHMAN) STUDY ABROAD PERCEPTIONS
N=337, Summer Orientation 2007

Q1. Have you spent time in a foreign (non-U.S.) environment?

Count	Percent	
266	81.35%	Yes, I have spent time outside of the U.S.
61	18.65%	No
327		Respondents

Q2. If yes, was it for: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
28	10.57%	7.69%	Military
18	6.79%	4.95%	Church Service
42	15.85%	11.54%	Work
16	6.04%	4.40%	Study Abroad program
203	76.60%	55.77%	Travel
24	9.06%	6.59%	I am not originally from the U.S.
12	4.53%	3.30%	Family was from the U.S. but lived outside of U.S. growing up
21	7.92%	5.77%	Other (please specify)
265			Respondents
364			Responses

Q3. What is the longest amount of time you have spent outside of the US at one time?

Count	Percent	
139	52.45%	Less than a month
40	15.09%	One to three months
2	0.75%	Four to six months
11	4.15%	Six to twelve months
28	10.57%	One to two years
45	16.98%	Over two years
265		Respondents

Q4. What country/countries have you spent time in?

Count	Percent
258	100.00%
258	

Respondents

Q5. Which statement best describes your view of Study Abroad?

Count	Percent	
16	4.92%	Not an option
27	8.31%	Not important
78	24.00%	Study Abroad is desirable but not realistic
204	62.77%	Study Abroad is desirable and realistic
325		Respondents

Q6. How likely is it that your student will participate in a Study Abroad program?

Count	Percent	
27	8.31%	5-Definitely will study abroad
47	14.46%	4
160	49.23%	3-Might study abroad
63	19.38%	2
28	8.62%	1-Definitely will not study abroad
325		Respondents

Q7. What would be the most important factor preventing your student from pursuing Learning/Study Abroad? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
177	54.46%	46.70%	Financial Concerns
15	4.62%	3.96%	Work Obligations
7	2.15%	1.85%	Family Obligations
39	12.00%	10.29%	Lack of Information
20	6.15%	5.28%	It would delay my student's graduation
40	12.31%	10.55%	It doesn't relate to my student's major
29	8.92%	7.65%	Lack of interest
52	16.00%	13.72%	Other (please specify)
325			Respondents
379			Responses

Q8. If your student were to consider a Learning/Study Abroad program, how much time do you believe s/he would want to spend?

Count	Percent	
39	12.00%	Less than a month
63	19.38%	One to two months
191	58.77%	One Semester
32	9.85%	Two Semesters
325		Respondents

Q9. What would be the type of Study Abroad experience of most interest to your student? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
123	37.85%	29.64%	Academic Coursework
188	57.85%	45.30%	Internship in my field of study
66	20.31%	15.90%	Service-oriented program
38	11.69%	9.16%	Other (please specify)
325			Respondents
415			Responses

Q10. Gender:

Count	Percent	
106	32.72%	Male
218	67.28%	Female
0	0.00%	Other
324		Respondents

Q11. Race/Ethnicity: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
7	2.15%	2.14%	African American/Black
20	6.15%	6.12%	Asian/Asian American
279	85.85%	85.32%	Caucasian/White
14	4.31%	4.28%	Hispanic/Latino(a)
1	0.31%	0.31%	Native American/Alaska Native
3	0.92%	0.92%	Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
2	0.62%	0.61%	Multi-Ethnic/Multicultural
1	0.31%	0.31%	Other (please specify)
325	Respondents		
327	Responses		

Q12. Your highest level of formal education:

Count	Percent	
3	0.92%	No High School
2	0.62%	Some High School
32	9.85%	High School Graduate
41	12.62%	Some college/university
32	9.85%	Two-year College degree
111	34.15%	Four-year college degree
104	32.00%	Post graduate study
325	Respondents	

Q13. Are you a native speaker of English?

Count	Percent	
307	94.46%	Yes
18	5.54%	No
325	Respondents	

Q14. Are you fluent/somewhat fluent in a language besides English?

Count	Percent	
70	21.54%	Yes (please list your language(s))
255	78.46%	No
325	Respondents	

Q15. Did you attend an overnight orientation?

Count	Percent	
0	0.00%	Yes
217	100.00%	No
217	Respondents	

Q16. Additional comments:

Count	Percent	
1	100.00%	
1	Respondent	

TRANSFER STUDENT STUDY ABROAD PERCEPTIONS N=135, Summer Orientation 2007

Q1. Have you spent time in a foreign (non-U.S.) environment?

Count	Percent	
86	63.70%	Yes, I have spent time outside of the U.S.
49	36.30%	No
135		Respondents

Q2. If yes, was it for: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
2	2.33%	1.92%	Military
26	30.23%	25.00%	Church Service
0	0.00%	0.00%	Work
14	16.28%	13.46%	Family lived outside of U.S.
54	62.79%	51.92%	Travel
8	9.30%	7.69%	Other (please specify)
86			Respondents
104			Responses

Q3. What is the longest amount of time you have spent outside of the US at one time?

Count	Percent	
35	40.70%	Less than a month
14	16.28%	One to three months
3	3.49%	Four to six months
0	0.00%	Six to twelve months
15	17.44%	One to two years
19	22.09%	Over two years
86		Respondents

Q4. What country/countries have you spent time in?

Count	Percent	
85	100.00%	
85		Respondents

Q5. Have you ever participated in a Learning/Study Abroad program for academic credit or internship?

Count	Percent	
8	9.30%	Yes (please specify where and for how long)
78	90.70%	No
86		Respondents

Q6. How strong do you rank your interest in Study Abroad?

Count	Percent	
33	25.19%	Very Strong
40	30.53%	Somewhat Strong
33	25.19%	Weak
25	19.08%	No interest at all
131		Respondents

Q7. What would be the most important factor preventing you from pursuing Learning/Study Abroad? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
53	40.46%	36.55%	Financial Concerns
17	12.98%	11.72%	Work Obligations
39	29.77%	26.90%	Family Obligations
4	3.05%	2.76%	Lack of Information
14	10.69%	9.66%	It would delay my graduation
12	9.16%	8.28%	It doesn't relate to my major
0	0.00%	0.00%	Lack of interest
6	4.58%	4.14%	Other (please specify)
131	Respondents		
145	Responses		

Q8. If you were to consider a Learning/Study Abroad program, how much time do you believe you would want to spend?

Count	Percent	
32	24.43%	Less than a month
27	20.61%	One to two months
55	41.98%	One Semester
17	12.98%	Two Semesters
131	Respondents	

Q9. What would be the type of Learning/Study Abroad experience of most interest to you? (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
43	32.82%	30.28%	Academic Coursework
62	47.33%	43.66%	Internship in my field of study
19	14.50%	13.38%	Service-oriented program
18	13.74%	12.68%	Other (please specify)
131	Respondents		
142	Responses		

Q10. Gender:

Count	Percent	
72	55.38%	Male
58	44.62%	Female
0	0.00%	Other
130	Respondents	

Q11. Age:

Count	Percent	
1	0.77%	Under 18
11	8.46%	18-19
49	37.69%	20-22
34	26.15%	23-25
24	18.46%	26-30
11	8.46%	Over 30
130	Respondents	

Q12. Race/Ethnicity: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
2	1.54%	1.50%	African American/Black
3	2.31%	2.26%	Asian/Asian American

Q12. Race/Ethnicity: (Check all that apply)

Count	Respondent %	Response %	
100	76.92%	75.19%	Caucasian/White
5	3.85%	3.76%	Hispanic/Latino(a)
3	2.31%	2.26%	Native American/Alaska Native
0	0.00%	0.00%	Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian
0	0.00%	0.00%	Multi-Ethnic/Multicultural
20	15.38%	15.04%	Other (please specify)
130			Respondents
133			Responses

Q13. Status:

Count	Percent	
78	60.47%	Single
51	39.53%	Married/Partnered
129		Respondents

Q14. Do you have children under 18 living at home?

Count	Percent	
22	16.92%	Yes
108	83.08%	No
130		Respondents

Q15. Major:

Count	Percent	
126	100.00%	
126		Respondents

Q16. Number of credits transferred:

Count	Percent	
112	100.00%	
112		Respondents

Q17. Are you a native speaker of English?

Count	Percent	
127	97.69%	Yes
3	2.31%	No
130		Respondents

Q18. Are you fluent/somewhat fluent in a language besides English?

Count	Percent	
48	36.92%	Yes (please list your language(s))
82	63.08%	No
130		Respondents

Q19. Additional comments:

Count	Percent	
3	100.00%	
3		Respondents