Measuring Education Abroad Participation on a National Scale: Strategies and Benefits

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## U.S. Study Abroad Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual survey of study</td>
<td>Accredited U.S. higher education institutions</td>
<td>Study abroad during 2011/12 academic year,</td>
<td>U.S. citizens &amp; permanent residents receiving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abroad for academic</td>
<td>awarding credit for study abroad</td>
<td>including summer 2012</td>
<td>credit from their home institutions for study</td>
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<tr>
<td>credit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>abroad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
283,332 U.S. students received academic credit for study abroad in 2011/12, a 3.4% increase from the prior year.
Non-Credit Education Abroad

Work, Internships, & Volunteering

- Introduced a survey question in *Open Doors®* last year
- **11,862** students at **213** institutions in 2011/12

Drivers of Non-Credit Education Abroad

- To prepare students for careers at home & abroad
- To offset the costs of an education abroad experience
In 2010, 43,300 U.S. students were obtaining full degrees abroad.

Over 72 percent were in Anglophone countries (including Canada).

Non-Anglophone Western Europe hosts 23 percent of U.S. degree students.
What Degrees Do U.S. Students Pursue Abroad?

- New Zealand has the highest percentage of undergraduate students (82%)
- Germany has the highest percentage of master’s degree students (75%)
- United Kingdom has the most doctoral degree students from the U.S. (23%)
U.S. Degree Study Abroad in 2012: 46,000

Source: IIE’s Project Atlas.

United Kingdom: +7.8%
Canada: -0.1%
France: +7.9%
Germany: +24.1%
Australia: -6.3%
China: +46.2%
Total U.S. Education Abroad

- Study abroad for academic credit: 283,332
- Full degrees abroad: 46,090
- Non-credit work, internships & volunteering: 11,862

Total U.S. education abroad: 341,284
International Exchange Balance, 2011/12

- Total U.S. Students Abroad
- Total International Students in U.S.

- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Middle East & North Africa
- North America
- Oceania
- Sub-Saharan Africa
## Measuring Education Abroad to China

### Total U.S. student participants in education abroad activities in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of study</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study abroad for credit (all types)</td>
<td>15,647</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study tours (faculty-led or facilitated by outside organizations)</td>
<td>4,019</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. students pursuing full degrees in China</td>
<td>2,184</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese language courses</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student exchanges (reciprocal)</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships or work abroad</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school students</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteering or service-learning projects</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals not enrolled in formal course of study</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Dual and joint degrees, stand-alone teaching abroad programs, research projects and other types of educational activities</td>
<td>1,006</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>26,686</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Institution’s Ability to Report Data on Education Abroad in China

- Study abroad for credit (all types): 80.1%
- Study tours (faculty led or facilitated by outside organizations): 53.5%
- Student exchanges (reciprocal): 51.2%
- Chinese language courses: 46.4%
- Internships or work abroad: 41.7%
- Dual or joint-degree programs: 38.9%
- Research projects supported by institution or independent research by students: 37.5%
- Other types of educational activities (such as independent study abroad, educational travel abroad, etc.): 35.3%
- Volunteering or service-learning projects: 35.2%
- Stand-alone teaching abroad programs: 33.2%
Challenges in Data Collection

• Education abroad categories not always mutually exclusive, given institutional differences in student database.

• Significant gaps in institutional data collection and reporting across categories of education abroad (i.e. volunteering and service-learning activity)

• Education abroad data might be maintained by different types of offices on campus

• Low response rate from education provider organizations (limited reporting on some key groups, including high school students).
Learn More:

The *Open Doors* Project: 
[www.iie.org/opendoors](http://www.iie.org/opendoors)

Center for Academic Mobility Research: 
[www.iie.org/mobility](http://www.iie.org/mobility)

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