

Study Abroad Participants at MSU

Fast Facts

Office of Study Abroad

The Office of Study Abroad (OSA) originated in 1970 with 12 programs overseas.

Since then, MSU has come to rank first in the nation for participation at a public university for four years.

Osa staff provide the following services:

- Program development and coordination
- Scholarship administration
- Conducting orientations and coordinating evaluations
- Program review, regular risk assessment and response
- Returnee events to optimize study abroad experience

Study Abroad Participant Statistics

- According to Open Doors 2008, MSU leads the nation in study abroad participation at a public university for the fourth year in a row.
- A record-breaking 3,100 students participated in study abroad programs in 2007-2008, nearly a 10 percent increase over the previous year.
- In 2008, 182 students participated in Freshman Seminars Abroad, a program that sends students abroad before their first semester at MSU.
- MSU awarded nearly \$400,000 in financial aid for studying abroad in 2007-2008, primarily funded by MSUFCU and Forest Akers.
- In the 2007-08 academic year, students participated in study abroad programs in 60 countries, including 15 students who went to Antarctica.
- In the 2007-08 academic year, students from all 17 MSU colleges participated in study abroad programs.
- In the 2007-08 academic year, students allocated more than \$5.7 million of their tuition money to help globalize their own education through a study abroad program, an increase from \$5.3 million in 2006.
- Of the students studying abroad, nearly 50 percent came from 'non-traditional' fields including business, engineering and agriculture.
- Currently, more than 260 programs exist in more than 60 countries.

For more information, trend charts or interview subjects on study abroad participants, see the contact information below.

 www.isp.msu.edu



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Study Abroad Participants

Fact File

Participant Statistics

In 2007-2008, MSU set a new record when 3,100 students participated in a study abroad program: nearly a 10 percent increase over 2006-2007 participation. Of the students participating, 2,588 were undergraduates, 381 were graduate students and 131 were guests from other universities.

In 2008, 182 incoming freshmen participated in Freshman Seminars Abroad.

Countries Represented

In 2007-2008, MSU students participated in study abroad programs in nearly 60 countries. Of the students studying abroad, 38 percent went to 'non-traditional' locations in Africa, Asia and Latin America; 288 to Africa alone. The most popular locations were the United Kingdom (403), Mexico (244) and Italy (235).

In 2008, freshman seminars went to seven countries. The most popular locations were Ireland (59), New Zealand (30), Italy (29) and South Africa (21).

Fields of Study

In 2007-2008, students from all 17 MSU colleges participated in study abroad programs. Of the students studying abroad, 46 percent came from 'non-traditional' fields including business, engineering and agriculture. A majority of students came from the colleges of business (582), social science (429) and arts and letters (298). In 2008, fields of study for Freshman Seminars Abroad were business, engineering/environment/science, social science, education/health and humanities/languages/art.

Funding/Scholarships

Nearly \$400,000 disbursed through one easy application found on the Office of Study Abroad Web site, primarily funded by the MSUFCU and Forest Akers endowments.

Major Events

"Tales from Abroad" Essay Contest – Started in 2005, Oct./Nov. timeframe

International Opportunities Fair – Once per year, Oct. timeframe, intern/volunteer/teach/work abroad

Spartans Abroad Photo Contest – Started in 1996, Oct./Nov. timeframe

Study Abroad Fairs – Two per year, Sept./Jan. timeframe, study abroad opportunities

Unpacking Workshops – Started in 2004, offered on-demand, optimize experience

Talking Points

≡ Why is it important to study abroad?

Study abroad programs focus on helping students develop the academic, intellectual and intercultural knowledge, as well as the professional and personal skills and attitudes, which are crucial to finding employment in the global climate of today.

≡ How flexible are study abroad programs?

With more than 260 programs to choose from, students from every major in every field are able to participate. With locations in more than 60 countries, a background in foreign language is usually unnecessary, and accommodations are available for disabled students through the MSU Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities.

International Studies and Programs

International Studies and Programs (ISP) is a university-level office, headed by a dean, that supports and encourages international activities throughout the institution.

ISP is made up of offices, centers and units including area studies centers focusing on Africa, Asia, Canada, Europe and Russia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Within ISP are offices responsible for study abroad, international students and scholars, international development activities and Peace Corps recruiting.

ISP also has strong ties to thematic international units across the campus focusing on international aspects of agriculture, business, education, gender, health and languages.

For more information, please see the ISP Website at www.isp.msu.edu