

BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD



Study Abroad and Careers, Salaries, and Job Skills

- 97%** of study abroad students found employment within 12 months of graduation, when only 49% of college graduates found employment in the same period. (1) That means they were twice as likely to find a job. Among study abroad alumni, 90% landed a job within 6 months. (2) A UK study supports US findings that study abroad returnees are more likely to find employment within six months. (12)
- 25%** higher starting salaries: that's how much more study abroad students earn than those college graduates who do not study abroad.(1) A British study found their study abroad graduates out-earned their peers by 17%. (12) This equates to approx. \$7,000 annually for US students and £3,120 for UK students. Maintaining this earning advantage translates to earning an extra \$567,500 over one's career in the US. (3)
- 90%** of study abroad alumni who applied got into their 1st or 2nd choice grad school. (1)
- 84%** of study abroad alumni felt their studies abroad helped them build valuable skills for the job market. (4) A second study confirms this at 85%. (10)
- 80%** of study abroad students reported that study abroad allowed them to better adapt better to diverse work environments. (4)
- 70%** of study abroad alumni claimed that because of study abroad they were more satisfied with their jobs. (4)
- 59%** of employers said study abroad would be valuable in an individual's career later on with their organization. (11)
- 34%** of study abroad alumni claimed that study abroad helped them choose their career field. (4)
- 19%** lower unemployment rates were found among study abroad alumni according to a British study. (4)
- +** A British study found the greatest increases salary earnings among study abroad alumni (compared to their peers) among seven majors: sociology, computer science, theology and religious studies, electronic and electrical engineering, and physical geographical sciences. (4)

Study Abroad and Graduation and Academic Performance

- 100%** greater improvement in GPA post-study abroad. Student GPAs tend to rise as they approach the completion of their undergraduate degree. Students who studied abroad saw their GPAs rise twice as quickly as a result of going abroad compared to students who stayed in town according to a Georgia study. (8)
- 19%** more likely to graduate: that describes how study abroad participants are more likely to graduate than non-participants by six years. Even at four years, study abroad participants are 15% more

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likely to graduate based on a UC San Diego study. (5) UT Austin and Georgia data show a similar trend. (6,7)

Study Abroad and Personality

- 97% A University of Maryland study on IES Abroad study abroad alumni found that students attributed study abroad to increased maturity. (13)
- 96% of study abroad alumni claimed an increase in self-confidence attributed to study abroad. (13)
- 89% of study abroad alumni reported that study abroad facilitated a greater tolerance for ambiguity. (13)
- + A German study compared personality development and found that students who studied abroad showed improvements in five core traits compared to their peers who did not study abroad: openness, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and emotional stability. (9)

Resources

- 1 [Career Benefits of Study Abroad](#)
- 2 [New Survey Shows College Graduates Who Study Abroad Land Career-Related Jobs Sooner, with Higher Starting Salaries](#)
- 3 [How Higher Education Affects Lifetime Salary](#)
- 4 [AIFS Study Abroad Outcomes](#)
- 5 [UC San Diego Study: 2011 EAP and OAP Retention, Graduation, & Time-to-Degree Combined](#)
- 6 [UT Austin Study: Go Abroad and Graduate On-Time: Study Abroad Participation, Degree Completion, and Time-to-Degree](#)
- 7 [Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative: The Effect of Study Abroad on College Completion in a State University System](#)
- 8 [Study Abroad May Lead to Better GPA, Graduation Rates](#)
- 9 [Studying Abroad Boost Students' Emotional Development](#)
- 10 [The Impact of Studying Abroad on Recent College Graduates' Careers](#)
- 11 [Employers Value Candidates Who Study Abroad](#)
- 12 [\(UK\) Mobile students more likely to have a job – Report](#)
- 13 [How More Study Abroad Programmes Could Benefit Society](#)