Queens College
Education Abroad
Alumni Survey

Conducted by The Queens College
Office of Global Education Initiatives

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This survey was implemented through Survey Monkey. Email addresses from students were accesses through Education Abroad, a division of The Office of Global Education Initiatives at Queens College.
I. Introduction

The Queens College Office of Global Education Initiatives conducted this student survey in order to assess the impact that Queens College Education Abroad programs have had on our students.

These alumni, students who studied abroad with Queens College between the years of 2008 and 2013, were invited to complete our survey. The Office of Global Education Initiatives sent out approximately 1,000 surveys and received 97 responses. The survey asked a series of questions regarding the impact that studying abroad has had on the students’ academic, professional and personal lives. They were given options of “strongly agree,” “agree,” “neutral,” “disagree” or “strongly disagree.” They were then given the opportunity to elaborate on their responses.

Here are the results:

71% of students studied abroad during their Junior or Senior year.
II. Foreign Language Skills:

Upon asking students if Study Abroad developed or complemented their ability to write, speak or understand a foreign language, approximately 50% of students either agreed or strongly agreed.

“In Spain, I had to use Spanish no matter what, there was no way around it. This forced me to learn it better, thereby making me more confident.”
–Spain 2013

“Thanks to this program, I have a French proficiency certificate and I can fluently communicate and work in French.”
–France, 2009

“The academic level in Rabat in studying Arabic was far superior to my on-campus training. Additionally, I was forced to use my studies in an unofficial manner when trying to communicate with my host family and others in the country.”
–Morocco, 2013

III. Resumé & Employability:

Approximately 65% of students agreed or strongly agreed that studying abroad has contributed to their resumé and employability.

“After graduating from Queens I was accepted into an internship program that would not have been possible without previous field experience.”
–Belize 2008

“By the end of my exchange program, I decided to change my major in order to become a translator for refugees and asylum seekers.”
–France 2009

“This experience provided me with an opening discussion for my statement of purpose for my graduate school applications.”
IV. Life Skills:

This survey proposed the question, “Did study abroad contribute to your ability to be independent, flexible, and/or more open-minded?” Approximately 90% of students responded that they agreed or strongly agreed.

“I’d never been away from my family more than a week. Through this experience I gained a sense of individuality from my family, and I believe that they did too. I believe my abroad experience helped prepare them for my career choice and moving out/away.”

–Japan 2013

“After my year studying abroad, I have decided to stay in Europe and continue my studies. It was the best and most important decision I have ever made which help me become a better person.”

–CUNY Paris Exchange, 2009

It was the first time I was away from home and my parents for any extended amount of time. It has allowed me the opportunity to figure things out for myself and be confident on my own.


V. Academic Choices:

38% of students agreed or strongly agreed when they were asked if studying abroad influenced their future course of study.

“Study abroad expanded my world view and sparked my desire to learn more about the world beyond my backyard.”

–Italy 2012

“I was not satisfied with what I was studying at my home university, studying abroad gave me new ideas.”

–France, 2009

“My study abroad experience encouraged me to apply for a Fulbright and likely influenced me being awarded a scholarship to study Chinese in Beijing”

–Italy, 2010
VI. Personal Growth & Relationships:

83% of students agreed or strongly agreed that studying abroad has contributed to their own personal growth and/or relationships with family and friends.

“I learned a lot about myself being in a different environment and isolated from my family/friends for so long.”
-Tanzania, 2012

“I have made lifelong friends from my time abroad. Many come visit me here in NY, and I’ve gone back to visit them as well.”
-Italy, 2011 & 2013

“I was quite shy before study abroad. I became more independent and more career oriented after I came back. Study abroad was one of the major factors as to why I am now attending graduate school and pursuing my future career.”
-Japan, 2011-2012

VII. Civic Engagement:

Over 40% of students agreed or strongly agreed when they were asked if studying abroad contributed to their involvement with a global issue, civic cause, and/or defining political views.

“Living outside of your normal environment allows you to see the world differently. People have different points of views and ideas which shape your thinking, you essentially become more globally minded”
-Italy 2011 & 2013

“We went to Pardada Pardadi, a school which seeks to empower young girls by giving them an education, as opposed to having them be sold to prostitution, married off early, etc. Being there was extremely fulfilling and I always keep looking for opportunities to return there.”
-India, 2013