Why Generation Study Abroad

Through education abroad, students can gain important global competencies such as language, cross-cultural communications, empathy, adaptability, and problem solving skills. Strong evidence indicates that students who study abroad have better grades, experience less attrition and graduate from college at higher rates than students who do not study abroad, and have a competitive edge on the job market.

Yet the number of U.S. students studying abroad is far too low. Fewer than 10% of U.S. undergraduates study abroad during their degree program and only one quarter of those are from underrepresented groups. Our aim is to encourage meaningful, innovative action to drive up the number of U.S. students who have the opportunity to gain international experience through academic study abroad programs, internships, service learning, and non-credit educational experiences.

Expanding Study Abroad

2.24 Million students earn an undergraduate degree each year

Only 300,000 of these have studied abroad before graduating

Our Goal: 600,000 students studying abroad annually by the end of the decade

A Global Movement

In the United States, more than 400 U.S. colleges and universities have set targets and actions to significantly expand study abroad. Study abroad organizations, language, K-12 community, and international partners are supporting them by increasing funding and scholarships, expanding student diversity, designing new programs and engaging alumni.
Teachers, administrators, and study abroad alumni are on board.

Preparation for study abroad must begin long before college.

1,000+ Teachers & administrators have pledged to engage their students

15,000+ Students & study abroad alumni have joined the campaign as advocates

45% of organizations and educational associations are targeting the K-12 community to help build study abroad pipeline

Commitment partners are meeting goals.

42 U.S. campuses have reported reaching their end of the decade study abroad target in 2016/17.

79% of U.S. colleges & universities have accomplished 1 or more of their pledged actions.

74% of the total goal of combined target number of students abroad has been reached by U.S. college & university commitment partners.

Our network is addressing the barriers to study abroad by:

Increasing Funding

$90 Million in Student Scholarships

$3.2 Million in Faculty Grants

Changing Perceptions

78% of study abroad offices at U.S. higher education institutions are engaging with their career office to help students articulate the value of study abroad.

Internationalizing the Curriculum

65% of international partners are collaborating with U.S partner institutions to improve credit transfer.

70% U.S higher education institutions are integrating study abroad into curriculum.

Increasing Access and Awareness

58% of institutions reported that they were pledging to increase the diversity of their students studying abroad. Of those, more than half achieved their pledged diversity actions.

Reaching New Populations Institutions saw an increase in study abroad among these students:

73% Students Pursuing Fields of Study Underrepresented in Study Abroad

71% Students with High Financial Need

67% Community College Students

66% Ethnic Minority Students

62% Student Athletes

62% Students with Disabilities

57% First Generation Students

56% Non-Traditional Students

50% Male Students

33% LGBTQ Students

13% Transfer Students

Figures listed here reflect responses submitted to the 2017 Generation Study Abroad Annual Progress Survey, completed between January and July 2017 and reflects impact as of December 31, 2016. Figures represent U.S. colleges & universities that pledged to increase the diversity of their students studying abroad.

Are you on board? IIE leads the Generation Study Abroad coalition in raising awareness of the need for students to gain language and cultural skills, identify and break down barriers, share innovative strategies, and to mobilize additional financial resources. We are actively seeking new partners and resources to give U.S. students the study abroad opportunities they need to succeed. For more info on how to join: www.generationstudyabroad.org

#generationstudyabroad