

# Highs and Lows of Advising Students Going to Non-Traditional Destinations

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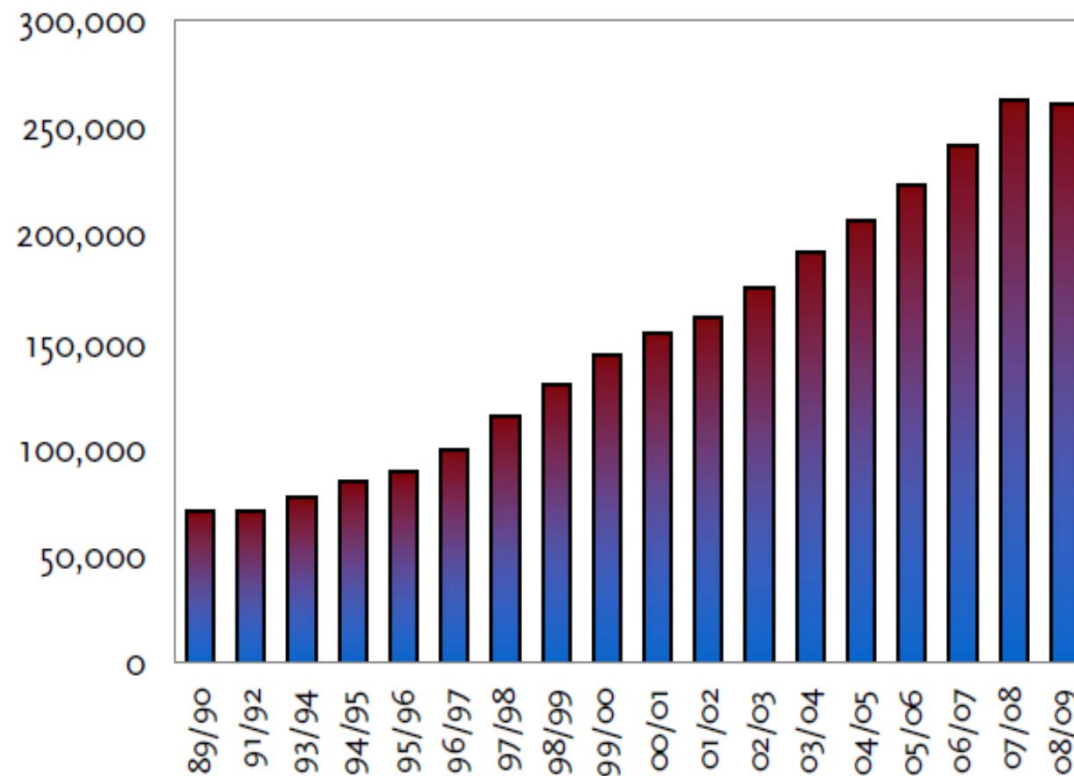
- I. How to Prepare Ourselves
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# How to Prepare Ourselves

## I. U.S. STUDY ABROAD TRENDS

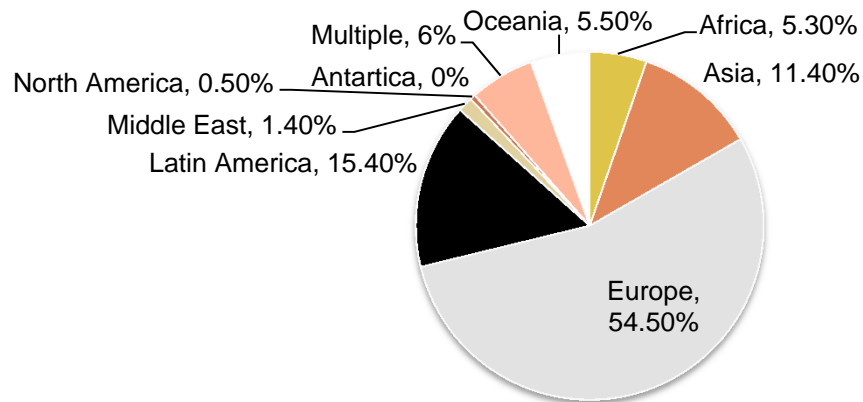
260,327 U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit in 2008/09. U.S. student participation in study abroad has more than doubled over the past decade.



## L. HOST REGIONS of U.S. Study Abroad Students, 2007/08 & 2008/09












Host Region*	2007/08		2008/09		% Change
	Total	%	Total	%	
Africa	11,844	4.5	13,681	5.3	15.5
Asia	29,125	11.1	29,737	11.4	2.1
Europe	147,676	56.3	141,955	54.5	-3.9
Latin America	40,181	15.3	40,044	15.4	-0.3
Middle East	3,362	1.3	3,670	1.4	9.2
North America	1,159	0.4	1,355	0.5	16.9
Oceania	14,028	5.3	14,261	5.5	1.7
Antarctica	78	0.0	60	0.0	-23.1
Multiple	14,963	5.7	15,564	6.0	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>262,416</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>260,327</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>

\* Cyprus and Turkey are included in Europe; Mexico is included in Latin America



## J. LEADING DESTINATIONS, 2007/08 & 2008/09

Non-traditional destinations are increasing in popularity – 14 of the top 25 destinations are outside Europe and 19 out of 25 are destinations where English is not a primary language.

Rank	Destination	2007/08	2008/09	% of Total	% Change	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>262,416</b>	<b>260,327</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>	
1	United Kingdom	33,333	31,342	12.0	-6.0	
2	Italy	30,670	27,362	10.5	-10.8	
3	Spain	25,212	24,169	9.3	-4.1	
4	France	17,336	16,910	6.5	-2.5	
	5	China	13,165	13,674	5.3	3.9
6	Australia	11,042	11,140	4.3	0.9	
	7	Germany	8,253	8,330	3.2	0.9
8	Mexico	9,928	7,320	2.8	-26.3	
9	Ireland	6,881	6,858	2.6	-0.3	
	10	Costa Rica	6,096	6,363	2.4	4.4
	11	Japan	5,710	5,784	2.2	1.3
	12	Argentina	4,109	4,705	1.8	14.5
	13	South Africa	3,700	4,160	1.6	12.4
14	Czech Republic	3,417	3,664	1.4	7.2	
	15	Greece	3,847	3,616	1.4	-6.0
	16	Chile	2,739	3,503	1.3	27.9
	17	Ecuador	2,814	2,859	1.1	1.6
18	Austria	3,356	2,836	1.1	-15.5	
	19	Brazil	2,723	2,777	1.1	2.0
20	New Zealand	2,629	2,769	1.1	5.3	
	21	India	3,146	2,690	1.0	-14.5
22	Netherlands	2,038	2,318	0.9	13.7	
23	Denmark	1,855	2,244	0.9	21.0	
24	Peru	1,638	2,163	0.8	32.1	
25	South Korea	1,597	2,062	0.8	29.1	

# How to Prepare Ourselves

## Ways to Learn More about Non-Traditional Destinations

- Site Visits (ISA, CIEE, etc)  
Grants (Fulbright, USAC, etc)  
Exploratory Trips (setting up a new program)
- Online Pre-Departure Orientations

## Personal Experiences (Panelists)

- Morocco, Southeast Asia, China, Ghana, Brazil, India

## Address your own Stereotypes & Fears



# How To Prepare Our Students for Non-Traditional Destinations

*Advantages of Non-Traditional Destinations*

*Combating Stereotypes*

*Dealing with Health & Safety Issues/Culture Shock*



## Advantages of Non-Traditional Destinations

### ❑ More scholarship opportunities

- ❑ Gilman, NSEP Boren, Freeman Asia, Bridging Japan
- ❑ US government interested in exposure in these countries

### ❑ Unique experience

- ❑ less U.S. students
- ❑ More intimate experience, sometimes easier to absorb culture, more “bragging rights”

### ❑ More affordable

- ❑ Typically these countries are less explored often because they are emerging countries and/or don't have a steady tourism stream from the US yet
- ❑ USD usually favorable compared to local currency: “more bang for the buck”

### ❑ Greater rewards/academic benefits

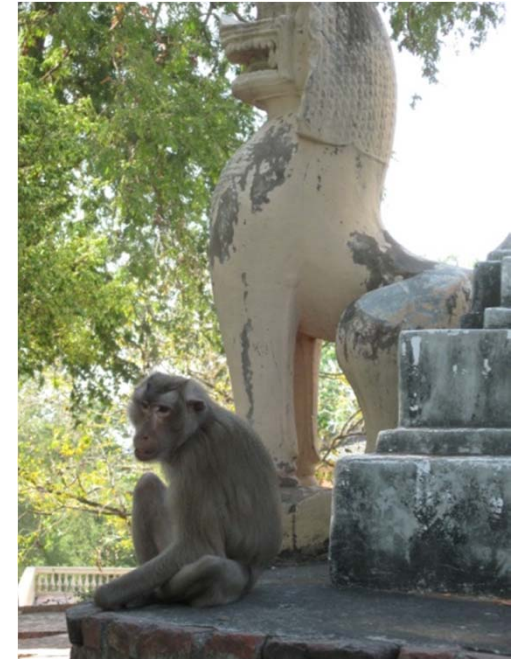
- ❑ “Off the beaten path” can mean more direct interaction with community
- ❑ Stands out on a resume more—can help show flexibility
- ❑ More “unfriendly” majors can be accommodated: ENGR, Health, Education, etc.





## Combating Stereotypes

- **Media coverage of disasters often generalized**
- **Know your program providers**
- **Knowledge is power!**
  - Educate yourself about regions of the world
  - Make use of resources
  - Attend trainings & workshops
- **Involve parents in the process**
  - Advisors should be available to address concerns
  - Provide information and keep lines of communication open
  - Put parents in touch with other parents of returnees
- **Take advantage of opportunities to visit for yourself**



## Health & Safety Considerations

- Students should start early planning & preparing
- Students **MUST** read and understand program pre-departure materials
- Assess their readiness & identify needs
- Understand local health issues affecting the host country
- Encourage students to see their physician
- Understand immunization/vaccination requirements for host country - follow guidelines of CDC
- Register with US Embassy
- Encourage students to stay in touch



## Health & Safety Considerations

- **Everyone plays a role – students, advisors, program directors, and parents**
- **Know where you are sending your students**
- **Due diligence in approving programs abroad**
  - Ask questions regarding health/safety
  - What does the on-site orientation cover
  - How do they handle emergencies
- **Advisor's toolkits - know your resources (NAFSA & FORUM, etc)**



## Health & Safety Risks

- **Lack of everyday conveniences**
- **Food & water safety**
- **Environmental hazards**
  - Pollution, dangerous plants/animals/insects, sanitation
- **Local travel/road accidents**
  - Lack of infrastructure, poor roads, driving styles, poorly maintained vehicles, and traffic volume
- **Political instability/strikes/protests**
- **Crime in underdeveloped regions of the world**
- **Communication with home may be limited**



## How To Prepare Our Students for Non-Traditional Destinations

### *Advising Tips:*

- Promote non-traditional destinations
- Assess your own knowledge
- Learn as much as you can about the world
- Research resources for students
- Refer students to other people (past participants, campus contacts, community resources and orgs)
- Discuss fears, hopes and expectations
- Discuss health and safety
- Talk to families to ease their fears
- Conduct orientations, encourage online orientations
- Combating stereotypes of students and families



# Student Testimonials

**Solange O'Brien (ISA Argentina)**  
**Maria Copp (SIT Cameroon)**



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