

# Sending Your Student to Study Abroad

## Current Top Destinations

*Open Doors 2006*, a report on international education published annually by the Institute of International Education, lists the 20 most popular destinations for studying abroad as: United Kingdom, Italy, Spain, France, Australia, Mexico, Germany, China, Ireland, Costa Rica, Japan, Austria, New Zealand, Czech Republic, Greece, Chile, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil and India.

The report's findings also suggest that US college students are no longer only engaging in the typical "junior year abroad experience," and instead are seeking opportunities that vary in duration. Additionally, some are going abroad more than once during their collegiate career. Students are increasingly seeking experiences in non-traditional destinations and non English-speaking countries.

To view statistics from this report and learn more information about host regions and fields of study, go to <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/?p=89211>.

## Helpful Resources

Here are several helpful study abroad websites that offer information on available programs, the pros and cons of participating in a study abroad experience, and nitty-gritty details for specific countries:

## Choosing Not to Study Abroad

Don't let your student fool you. There are many students who choose not to include international education in their collegiate career. For students who determine studying abroad for a semester is not an option, there are other ways to get international experience and develop the related skill-sets. Many students participate in condensed educational opportunities, such as six-week sessions or spring break immersion trips. Others choose to backpack with friends or travel with family on vacation overseas.

There are plenty of ways to build a resume and develop marketable skills. Weighing the pros and cons of participating in a study abroad program will make things easier. Plus, there are always professionals on campus willing to talk with you about this big decision.

## Top 5 Reasons to Study Abroad

1. International experience can help students gain self-confidence, self-reliance, and independence. Living abroad necessitates the development of certain life skills students can't nurture without this unique opportunity.
2. International experience helps students gain fluency in another language, as they are immersed in the culture. Living abroad can also help them satisfy college language requirements.
3. International experience is an impressive resume note, especially in today's competitive job market and global society.
4. International experience helps students truly understand what it means to be a citizen of their country, while gaining new world perspectives and exploring different belief and value systems.
5. International experience offers a structured opportunity for students to explore a new country with their peers, while engaging from both an intellectual and a social perspective.

### [www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com)

Includes information on a variety of countries, discussion forums, searchable databases, and a comprehensive listing of study abroad programs offering international education.

### [www.intstudy.com](http://www.intstudy.com)

Includes information on colleges all over the world, the pros and cons of studying abroad in specific fields/majors, travel and living logistics.

### [www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

Includes information on studying, working, and volunteering abroad, including travel logistics and links to specific program websites.

### [www.iiepassport.org](http://www.iiepassport.org)

Includes information organized by country and field of study, a program directory and detailed search options for exploring travel logistics.

### [www.studyabroadfunding.org/](http://www.studyabroadfunding.org/)

Includes information and resources on funding opportunities through a comprehensive database.