

Education- International Programs

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Background

International programs, such as studying abroad are common in universities in America. These programs allow students to study internationally for a certain amount of time and many value these experiences as it can be enlightening to be placed in a different country for the first time.

At the University of Minnesota, 35% of students study abroad in their undergraduate studies.

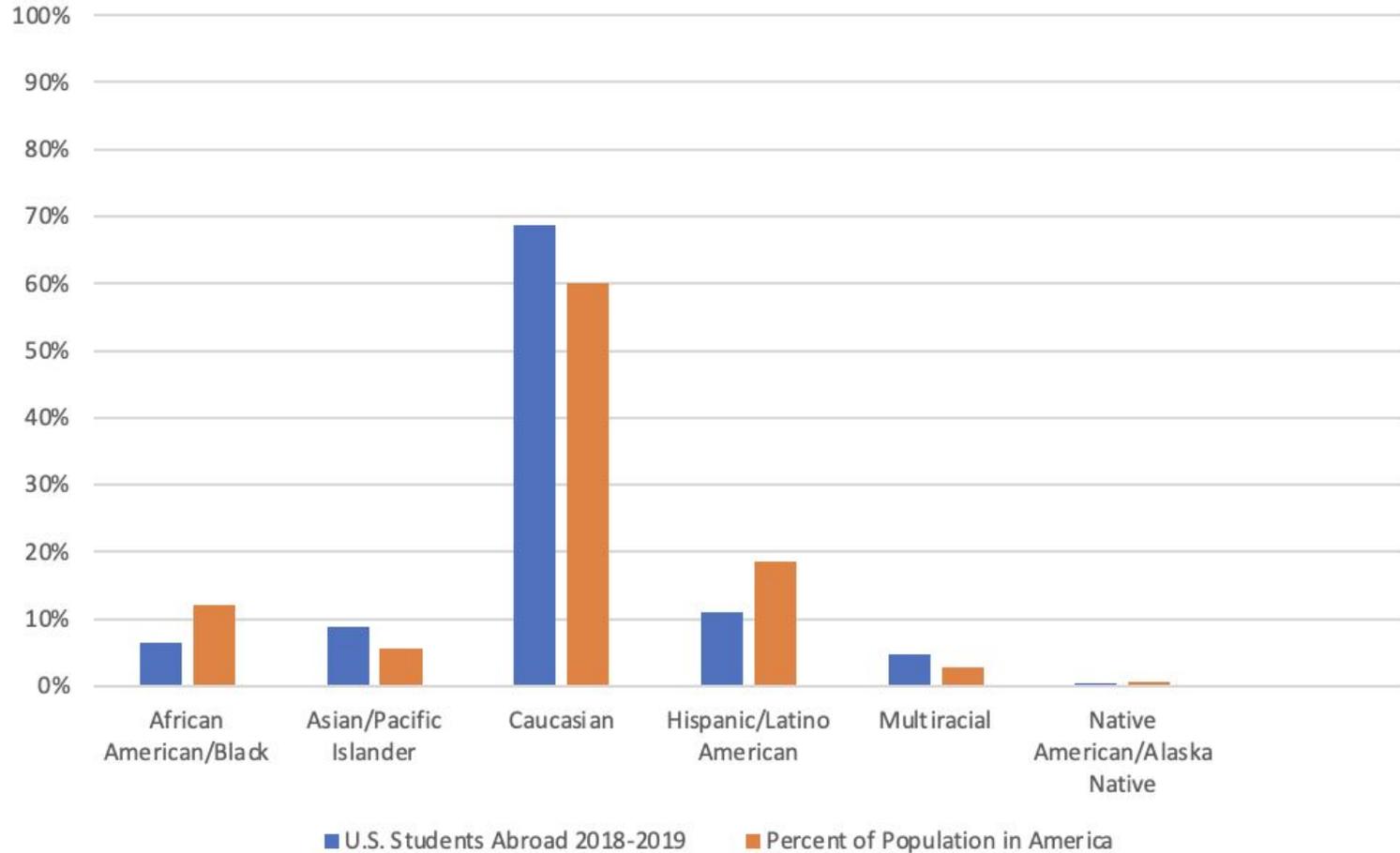
Privilege

Something to consider about studying abroad is that often, only a certain group of people can experience this. Studying abroad means that the person is in college, has the money to be able to travel internationally, and has enough academic freedom to take classes at another university.

Minorities and lower class students are less likely to participate in study abroad [JL22].

The relevant question is, are the consequences of studying abroad worth expanding to make international experiences available for more people to experience life in another country?

Diversity in Study Abroad Programs



Soft Skills

In a short term study abroad program (21-27 days), students' levels of global awareness are **significantly larger** after the program in:

- general global awareness
- functional knowledge
- foreign media [JL7]

Aspects of Studying Abroad

In one study, the aspects of studying abroad that yielded **greater perceived benefits** for students' development of global, international, and intercultural competencies were:

- Participation in on-campus global/international activities such as enrollment in global/international coursework
- interactions with international students
- participation in global/international co-curricular activities

[JL19]

Global Citizenry

One paper studied whether global citizenry could be cultivated through studying abroad. Global citizenry was defined as:

- **social responsibility** (concern for others, for society at large, and for the environment)
- **global awareness** (understanding and appreciation of one's self in the world and of world issues)
- **civic engagement** (active engagement with local, regional, national, and global community issues) [JL20]

Aspects of Studying Abroad

The results of that study show that studying abroad itself isn't optimal for nurturing a global citizenry, but rather the combination of being abroad and academic focus in experiential/field learning yields the greatest increases in global citizenry.

Note: Significant increments in global citizenship were brought about after only 4 weeks of instruction. [JL20]

Key Takeaways

- Study abroad programs effects are seen 4 weeks into the program, meaning that short term study abroad programs are a viable option
- Just “studying abroad” is not enough. Being immersed in a different country and its culture is most important in gaining global awareness.

References

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- [JL20] Tarrant, Michael A, Rubin, Donald L, & Stoner, Lee. (2014). The Added Value of Study Abroad. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, 18(2), 141-161.