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**Division of
Student Affairs and
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Dennis A. Pruitt
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for Student Affairs
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Academic Support
Executive Editor

Maegan Gudridge
Editor

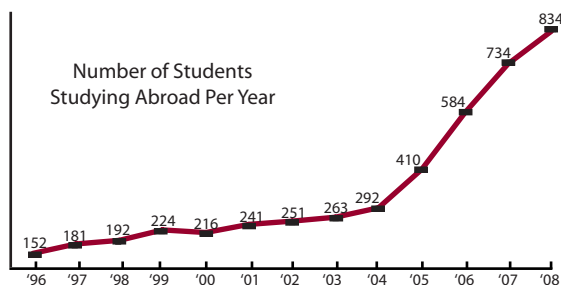
Michelle Gannon
Production

Contact us at:
www.sa.sc.edu
p 803.777.4172
f 803.777.9354
saas@mailbox.sc.edu

March/April 2009 • Study Abroad Each year hundreds of students take advantage of South Carolina's study abroad opportunities. The Study Abroad Office helps guide students through the study abroad process by providing them with details on available programs, guidance in choosing study abroad programs that will enrich their academic experiences and information about scholarship opportunities to help finance their international study. The office also helps faculty develop international programs and organizes and oversees exchange opportunities for students from other countries.

Number of students studying abroad continues to increase

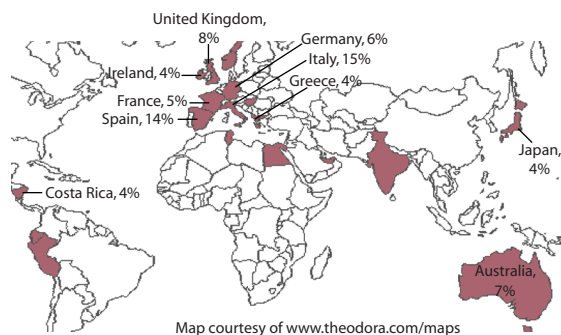
The number of undergraduate study abroad participants increased by 13.6% to 834 in 2007-2008 from 734 in 2006-2007. The total number of students earning credit by studying abroad was 788.



Top study abroad destinations

During 2007-2008, students studied abroad in 50 countries. Students' top overseas study destinations were Italy (118 students), Spain (110 students) and the United Kingdom (65 students). Other students traveled to countries including Hungary, Ecuador, Fiji, Egypt, India, Peru, Norway, Macao, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, 42 students participated in multi-country programs.

Top Destinations of Students Studying Abroad in 2007-2008

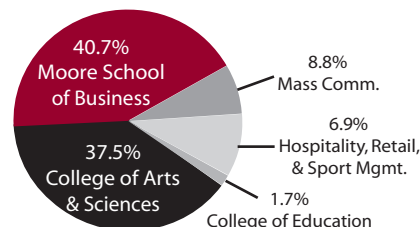


Characteristics of students who participate in study abroad programs

Of the 834 study abroad participants, 25% were South Carolina Honors College students. Capstone Scholars represented 19% of students studying abroad, a 146% increase from the previous academic year.

The top majors of students who studied abroad last year were international business, journalism (tied for first), political science, marketing, finance (tied for third), business administration and management.

Top Five Colleges and Schools of Students Studying Abroad



Scholarships and financial aid make studying abroad more attainable

Last year, 74.4% of students studying abroad received financial aid, including USC Passport Travel Grants, USC Summer Study Abroad Fellowships, National Security Education Program and Gilman International Scholarships.

In total, between fall 2007 and summer 2008, students received \$328,337 in additional scholarship funding for study abroad, a 2.3% increase from the \$320,850 awarded the previous year.

All data in this issue is from the 2007-2008 Study Abroad overview. To read this report, go to www.sa.sc.edu/SA/stats.htm. For pdf files of current and past issues, go to www.sa.sc.edu/publications.htm

Resources to help make our students *better* students.

Faculty involvement

<http://www.sa.sc.edu/sa/faculty.htm>

Last year, 495 students engaged in international study through Maymester and summer programs, many of which were led by University of South Carolina faculty. These programs included a Maymester program for journalism students, who studied in Munich, Germany, and a Summer I program for language students in Valladolid, Spain.

To learn about faculty involvement opportunities, visit the Web site above. Information about developing a faculty-led program can be found in the Faculty-Led Program Development Handbook available at www.sa.sc.edu/sa/docs/USCProgramDevHandbookFinal8-27-07.pdf.

Other relevant information for academic advising for study abroad, including an overseas Credit Conversion Guide and general study abroad timeline, is available in the advisor section at www.sa.sc.edu/sa/advisors.htm.

Peer advisors

www.sa.sc.edu/sa/returnees-peerAdvisorInfo.htm

Peer advisors are study abroad participants who have returned to campus and promote education abroad and provide support to prospective, current and returned study abroad participants.

Some of their duties include:

- Presenting information about their experiences overseas to other students.
- Conducting general-information sessions for prospective study abroad participants.
- Presenting study abroad information to classes, residence halls and student organizations.

Student blogs

www.sa.sc.edu/sa/osc.htm

Some students currently abroad are documenting their experiences on blogs. Keep up-to-date on each student's educational adventures and learn what life is really like studying abroad by reading their posts.

R.J. May, *senior political science and criminal justice major studying in Dubai, United Arab Emirates:*

- "I had finally arrived after 2 days of travel and it felt like it too. Many of the people in the airport had traditional garb and burqas covered the faces of women. The sweater and pants combo that didn't keep me warm enough in London was causing me to sweat in Dubai. I had to change in the bathroom where I noticed all the stalls were equipped with sink hoses to provide a means to cleanse and prepare the body for prayer time."

Jesse Barnes, *sophomore film studies major, computer science minor, studying in Tokyo, Japan:*

- "This flower shop, or Hana Ya, is such a cute place. I love it because I feel it is something that truly represents traditional Japan. In Art History, I...have learned that flower arranging was a hobby of the elite back before the Meiji period. Homes of Japanese aristocrats had flower arrangements in every room...I love this little shop, because it is a beautiful place to get lost in. I feel, once I step into it, I have completely left the Tokyo smog, traffic, etc and have entered into a garden."

A Note about *Causerie*

This is your last issue of *Causerie* for the 2008-2009 academic year. Starting in September, we will begin distributing the newsletter exclusively via e-mail.

For your reference file

For additional copies, call 777.4172 or e-mail gudridge@sc.edu.

Comments

Your comments and suggestions for future issues of "Causerie" are welcome. Please e-mail saas@mailbox.sc.edu.

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Division of Student Affairs and
Department of Academic Support
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208

