

## ***Students Who Study Abroad Achieve Greater Success***

Much of our learning takes place outside the classroom. We learn how to maintain budgets, forge friendships, develop business relationships, and more. Imagine extending those skills on a global level. We would immediately cease to believe the world only contains the people and things we can see but, rather, a wide variety of opinions, customs, beliefs, and ethics. This is why every college-level student must study abroad during their undergraduate years. They will learn more in that semester abroad than in any other academic year.

According to IES Abroad, a company that encourages students to become international leaders, students who study abroad are more likely to be accepted into the graduate degree program of their choice. In fact, 90% of students who studied abroad with IES are admitted to their first or second choice for graduate school.

Imagine walking into an interview and being able to discuss preparing the most popular dish in India or organizing the best route to take from Sydney, Australia to Perth. Not only does this strike up a memorable conversation, but it also demonstrates a student's fierce independence and determination. All this makes someone who has studied abroad a more desirable candidate for their dream job. As if the IES Abroad's Statistic above was not astounding enough, it has been proven that 97% of students who study abroad find employment within 12 months of graduation (Smith, 2019, p. 17).

Beyond college, students who study abroad will be better equipped to succeed in the workplace. Their broadened worldview will help them relate to their co-workers, especially in a worldwide organization. This increased scope of knowledge allows 25% of students who study abroad to receive higher starting salaries. That is clear evidence that their experiences and views are valued by employers.

In spite of all these benefits, some parents simply will not allow their children to study abroad. A portion will argue that it is not safe. Others will argue that studying abroad costs too much money. In these cases, it is important to take a look at one semester's financial aid statement. How much does it cost to be a student at a local university? When tuition, housing, textbooks, transportation, and meal plans are

considered, it becomes difficult to argue that there's a stark difference in the cost of a semester at home versus a semester abroad.

Studying abroad will have long-lasting, positive implications on a student's future as an academic and a professional. New windows of opportunity will be flung open the moment an undergraduate boards a plane. Why not make an appointment with the study abroad center at your university? You have nothing to lose by starting a conversation today.