

Report on UNC Study Abroad, 2003-2004

Executive Summary

This report on study abroad participation by UNC students is the second collection of data across all University campuses using the format of the Institute of International Education (IIE) national “Open Doors” reports.* Collection of these data has allowed UNC to establish baselines for measuring increases in study abroad and compare UNC data to national trends. This is an important benchmark in measuring UNC institutions’ achievement of the Board of Governors’ Internationalization strategic direction. UNC institutions posted an impressive increase in participation in study abroad and student exchange programs in 2003-2004, up 18% over the previous year.

A total of 4,053 UNC students participated in study abroad (including student exchange) programs offered by their campuses during 2003-2004, an 18% increase over 2002-2003 and nearly double the national increase of 9.6%. Study abroad and exchange students represented 2.2% of total UNC student enrollment. UNC Chapel Hill reported the highest rate of participation among their students (6%).

Females at UNC campuses participate in study abroad at higher rates (57%) than males. The vast majority of UNC students participating in study abroad were white non-Hispanic (87%), although 7% were African Americans, up 2% over the previous year and more than twice the percentage reported nationally (3.4%). Undergraduates made up 85% of study abroad participation. The most frequently reported fields of study among UNC students were business/management, social sciences, and physical/life sciences, although participation by UNC education students increased by 60%. UNC study abroad students visited 75 countries in 2003-2004; the five most popular destinations were the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, and Australia.

See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>.

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This report on 2003-2004 study abroad participation by UNC students is the second collection of study abroad and student exchange data across all University campuses based on the format used by the Institute of International Education (IIE) for its national "Open Doors" report.* These data are being used to track study abroad participation, which is expected to continue to increase as UNC campuses address the Board of Governor's Internationalization strategic direction.

University-Wide and Campus Participation

A total of 4,053 UNC students participated in study abroad programs offered by their campuses during 2003-2004. This represents an 18% increase over the 3,441 reported for 2002-2003 and nearly double the national increase for 2003-2004 of 9.6%. The number of UNC students studying abroad for 2003-2004 represents 2.2% of total UNC student enrollment, up from slightly less than 2% in 2002-2003. UNC Chapel Hill again reported the highest level of participation of its total student enrollment (6.3%, up from 5% in the previous year), followed by ASU (3.4%), UNCW (2.9%), and UNC Asheville (2.5%). UNCW's level of participation doubled compared to 2002-2003, increasing from 1.5% to nearly 3%.

Campus	SA Students as % Of Campus Enrollment	Campus SA Students as % Of Total UNC Study Abroad
ASU	3.4%	12%
ECSU	0%	0%
ECU	0.8 %	4.5%
FSU	0.15%	0.20%
NCA&T	0.15%	0.37%
NCCU	0.28%	0.50%
NCSA	0 %	0%
NCSU	1.9%	13.7%
UNCA	2.5%	2.1%
UNCC	1.3%	6.3%

UNC-CH	6.3%	41.1%
UNCG	2.0%	7.2%
UNCP	0.53%	0.62%
UNCW	2.9%	8.1%
WCU	1.6%	3.0%
WSSU	0.44%	0.45%

UNC Chapel Hill's students accounted for 41% of total UNC participation in study abroad, followed by NCSU (13.6%) and ASU (12%). NCSA and ECSU had no study abroad student participation in 2003-2004.

Student Demographics and Program Duration

Gender: The rate of participation in UNC study abroad by females and males remained fairly constant at 57% and 31% respectively; the gender of 12% of students was not reported. Nationally, females represented 65% of study abroad students.

Ethnicity: The vast majority of UNC students participating in study abroad continued to be white non-Hispanic. Of the 2,672 students whose ethnicity was reported, 87% were white non-Hispanic. Seven percent were African Americans, compared to 3.4% reported nationally. Other ethnic groups represented smaller percentages of UNC students studying abroad: Asian American/Pacific Islander (5%), Hispanic American (2.5%), and Native American (.5%).

Student Status: Undergraduates made up the largest proportion of UNC study abroad participation, 85%. Of those students whose class rank was reported, juniors accounted for 50% of total undergraduate participation and more than a third of the UNC total. Graduate students represented 15% (588) of the total study abroad students, significantly higher than the 6.5% reported nationally. Of the students whose graduate student status was reported, 264 were reported to be Master's level students.

Program Duration: Study abroad programs (which include student exchange programs) may last as long as an academic year or may be as short as one or two weeks. In terms of program duration, a vast majority of UNC students participated in shorter-term programs; while 33% participated in semester or longer term programs, 61% participated in programs lasting more than two weeks but less than a semester. The remaining 6% of UNC students participated in programs of less than two-weeks in duration or no data was reported on the

duration of their programs. UNC's numbers are consistent with national data showing that 56% of U.S. students elected programs of less than one semester.

Field of Study and Destinations

Field of Study: The most frequently reported fields of study among UNC study abroad students were business/management, social sciences, physical/life sciences, and humanities. UNC campuses reported a sharp increase in students studying health sciences for 2003-2004. Nationally, social sciences was the most frequently reported field of study, followed by business/management and humanities. Participation among business/management students at UNC increased 26% over the previous year.

<u>Field of Study</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
Business/management	726
Social sciences	577
Physical/life sciences	388
Humanities	382
Health sciences	377
Foreign language	350
Fine/applied arts	190
Education	133
Journalism/communications	104
Engineering	83
Math/computer sciences	47

Field of study was reported as "undecided, unknown or other" for 968 of UNC study abroad students.

Destinations: UNC study abroad students visited 75 countries in 2003-2004 (12 more than reported in 2002-2003), with the five most popular destinations paralleling those reported by IIE: the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, France, and Australia. Those countries attracting more than 50 UNC students are listed below:

<u>Country</u>	<u>2003-04</u>
United Kingdom	543
Spain	585
Italy	349
France	311
Australia	205
Germany	161
Mexico	217
Costa Rica	108
The Netherlands	84

Austria	18
Greece	66
South Africa	64
Japan	68
China	66

Conclusion

UNC's study abroad participation increased at nearly twice the national rate: 18% versus 9.6%. Participation continues to mirror national data in the preponderance of female and white non-Hispanic students participating in Western European programs and in programs shorter than one semester. However, African American participation at UNC institutions is double the participation rate nationally and increased by 2% over the previous year. UNC students visiting Mexico, Japan, and China increased over the previous year, suggesting that UNC students are choosing less commonly visited destinations. UNC students' fields of study parallel general trends in U. S. study abroad. Such fields as engineering and math/computer sciences continue to be underrepresented at UNC and nationally; however, participation by UNC students in education—traditionally an underrepresented field--increased significantly over 2002-2003, up 60%, from 80 to 133.

As the University Council on International Programs continues to work toward the goal of increasing the involvement of underrepresented students in terms of ethnicity, family income, age, major field of study and other demographic features, it is hoped that study abroad participation will continue to reflect gains in these areas.

* See <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org/>

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