

Entering Freshman Survey: Chance of Participating in Study Abroad Program 2002 - 2006

The Cooperative Institutional Research Program (CIRP) Freshman Survey is administered by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA. Since 1966, the CIRP Freshman Survey conducted through colleges and universities has collected data on over 13 million students at over 1,900 institutions, and is the largest American study of higher education. Incoming first-year students are asked to take the CIRP Freshman Survey before they start classes.

Comparing the results of the three surveys taken by Texas A&M first year students in 2002, 2004 and 2006, the percentage who responded negatively about whether they would study abroad decreased by 51%. Indeed, the percentage of students who chose “no chance” decreased from 19% to 13% and those who selected “very little chance” decreased from 38% to 30%. It is clear that the incoming freshmen are increasingly more inclined to study abroad during their matriculation at Texas A&M. This is shown by the 77% percentage increase in the number of freshman that say there is “some chance” or a “very good chance” for them to study abroad during their undergraduate program.

General Results

Category	Valid Percentage (%)		
	2002	2004	2006
No chance	19.20	16.57	13.12
Very little chance	38.09	32.56	30.80
Some chance	28.58	32.92	33.31
Very good chance	14.13	17.95	22.77
Total Number of Student Participants	2922	1382	4971

Source: Office of Institutional Studies and Planning (OISP)

Challenge

The Academic Master plan and Action 2015 endorse high student engagement activities that include opportunities abroad. Such activities could include study, research, volunteer work, or internships. Identifying options appropriate to students’ degrees and careers is critically important as are additional funding sources. In surveying graduating seniors, about 70% say they did not study abroad for one of two reasons: 40% did not understand how the program abroad fit their degree plan or career and 30% didn’t have the funds or needed to stay in the U.S. to earn money. A \$12.5 million capital campaign is underway to increase the available scholarship for study abroad. For more information, contact Mr. Jody Ford, Director of Development, Texas A&M Foundation at j-ford@tamu.edu. Study Abroad Programs can help to identify options for any degree program using a variety of models (faculty-led, reciprocal exchange, short-term, non-credit field trips, etc.). For more information, contact Dr. Jane Flaherty at 845-0544.