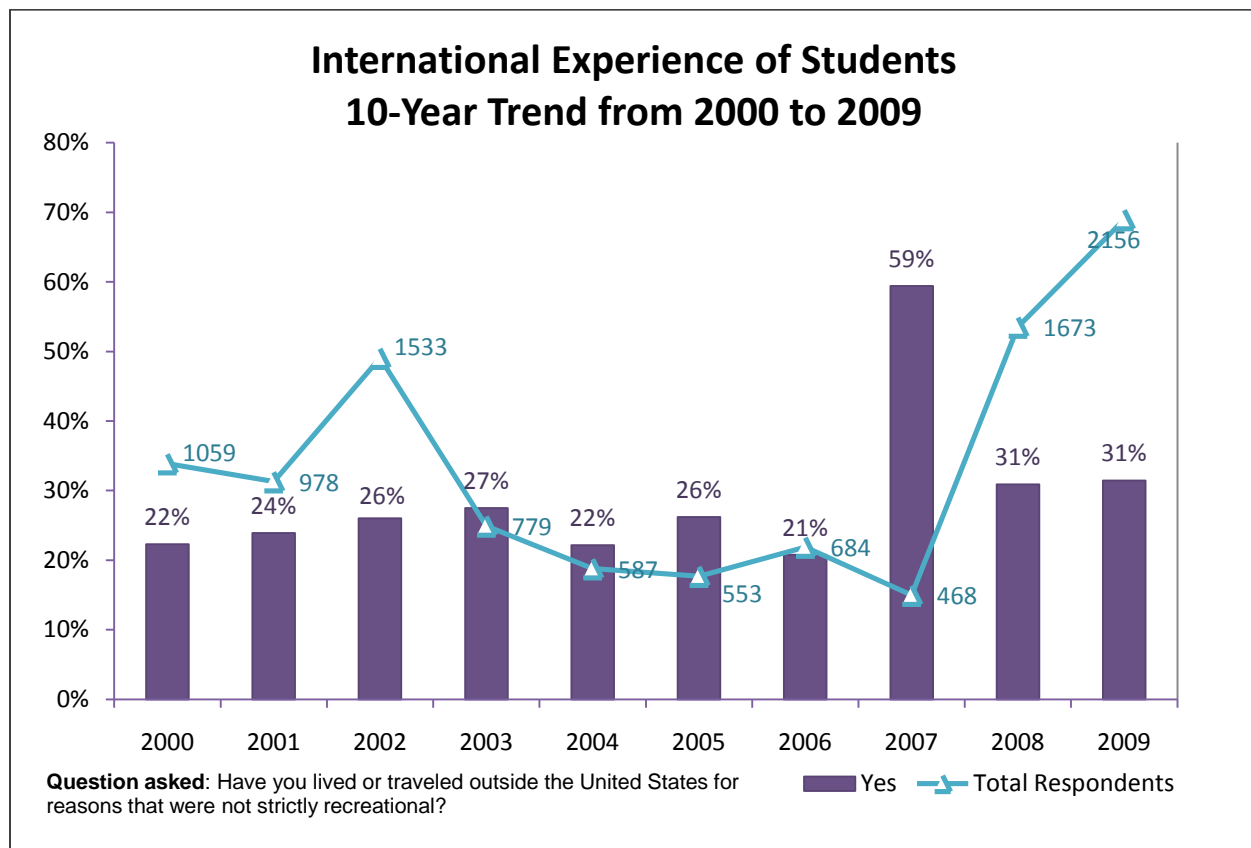


INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF GRADUATING SENIORS

Last Updated: August 23, 2010

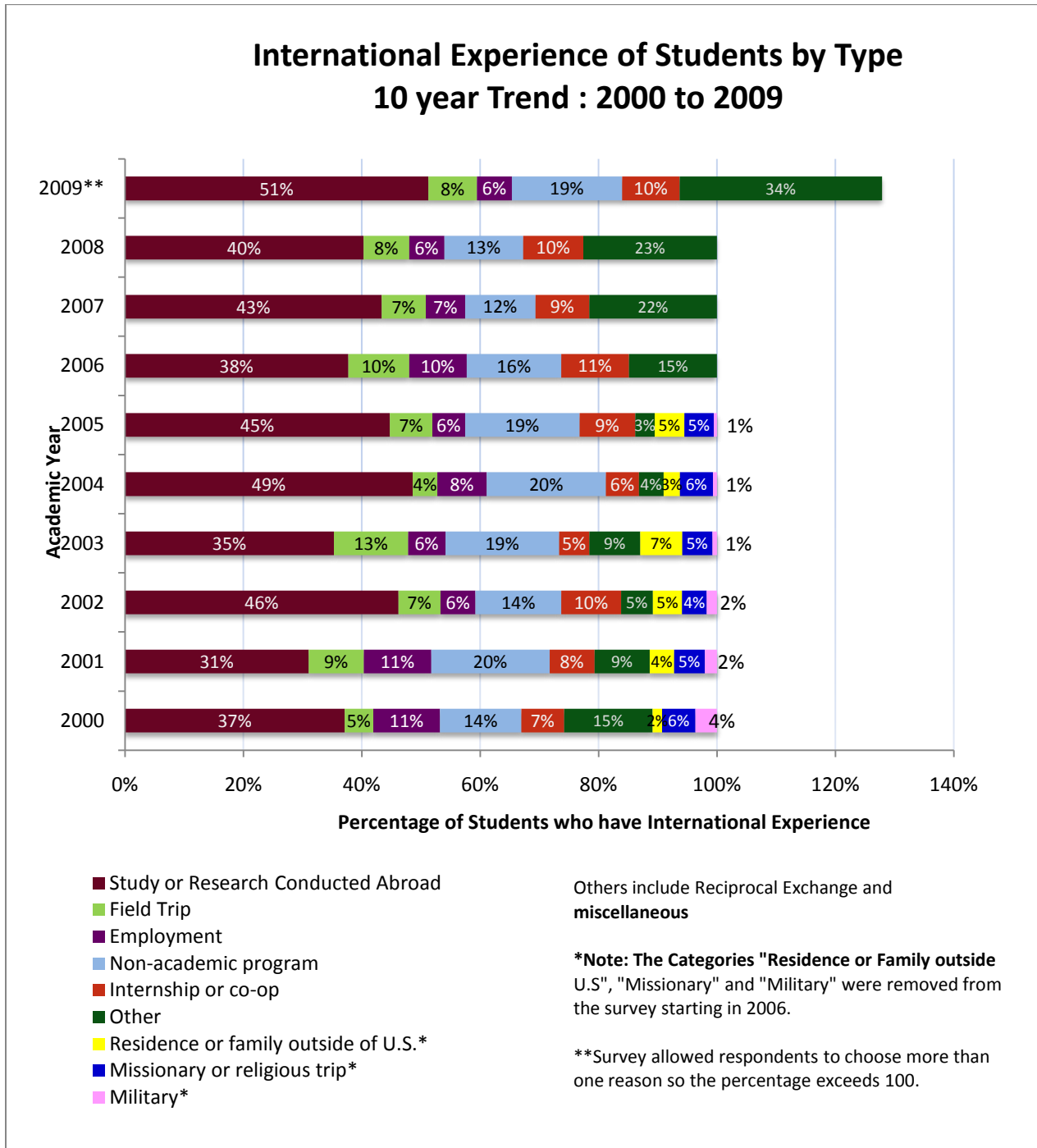
As a part of Texas A&M University’s effort to document participation of students in programs abroad, data is collected annually by Measurement and Research Services (MARS) from the graduating seniors whether they have had an international experience. “International Experiences” are broadly interpreted in the survey as either credit or non-credit and some may be personal activities unconnected with Texas A&M.

From the records of over the last ten years, it is seen that an average of 30% of the total respondents have had an international experience. From the year 2000 to 2003 there was a steady increase in the percentage of total respondents who had international experience from 22.3% to 27.5%. This figure reduced to 22.1% in 2004 but bounced back to 26.2% in 2005. The survey of spring 2007 recorded the highest figure with 59.4% first time in the ten years. In spring 2008 the percentage of those students with an international experience dropped back to a level more consistent with previous years but higher than any previous single year. In spring 2009, 31.4% of the 2156 respondents indicated that they are having an international experience.



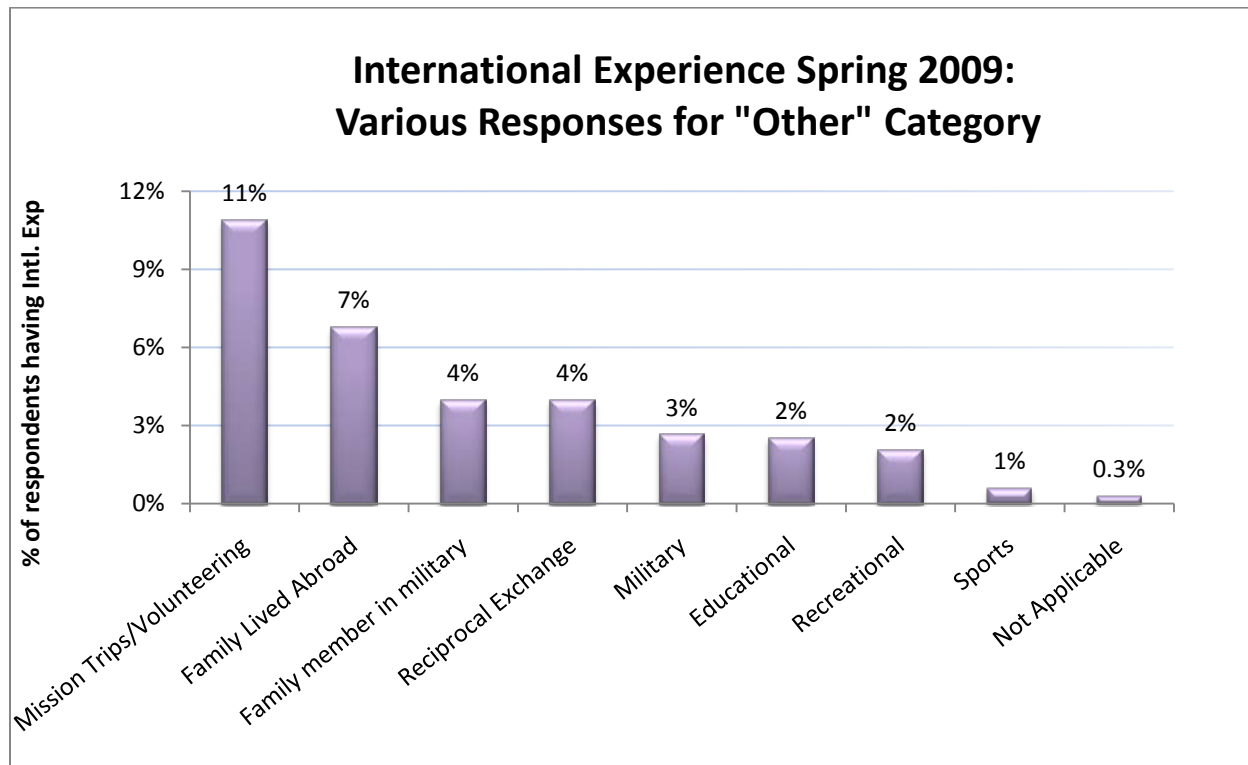
Source: Graduating Senior Survey, MARS

A large number of students who indicated that they had an international experience were those who participated in study or research conducted abroad. In spring 2009, 51% of respondents who had an international experience said they accomplished it through Study or Research Conducted Abroad. The non-academic activities, which include opportunities such as volunteer work and learning community trips, also provided an important type of international experience for Texas A&M students. Internship/employment abroad is also another major category of international experience. In spring 2009 survey, respondents were able to choose more than one reason for travelling abroad; thus the total is more than 100%.



Source: Graduating Senior Survey, MARS

In spring 2009, 633 respondents said they had an international experience. 229 of them said they travelled abroad for reasons other than the major ones such as Research or Study Abroad Programs or Internship/Co-op or Non-Academic Programs. 17% of the total respondents had travelled as they lived abroad, 14% had family members enlisted in the military, and 12% went abroad to participate in a Reciprocal Exchange. Remaining respondents had recreational, military, and sports as the explanation.

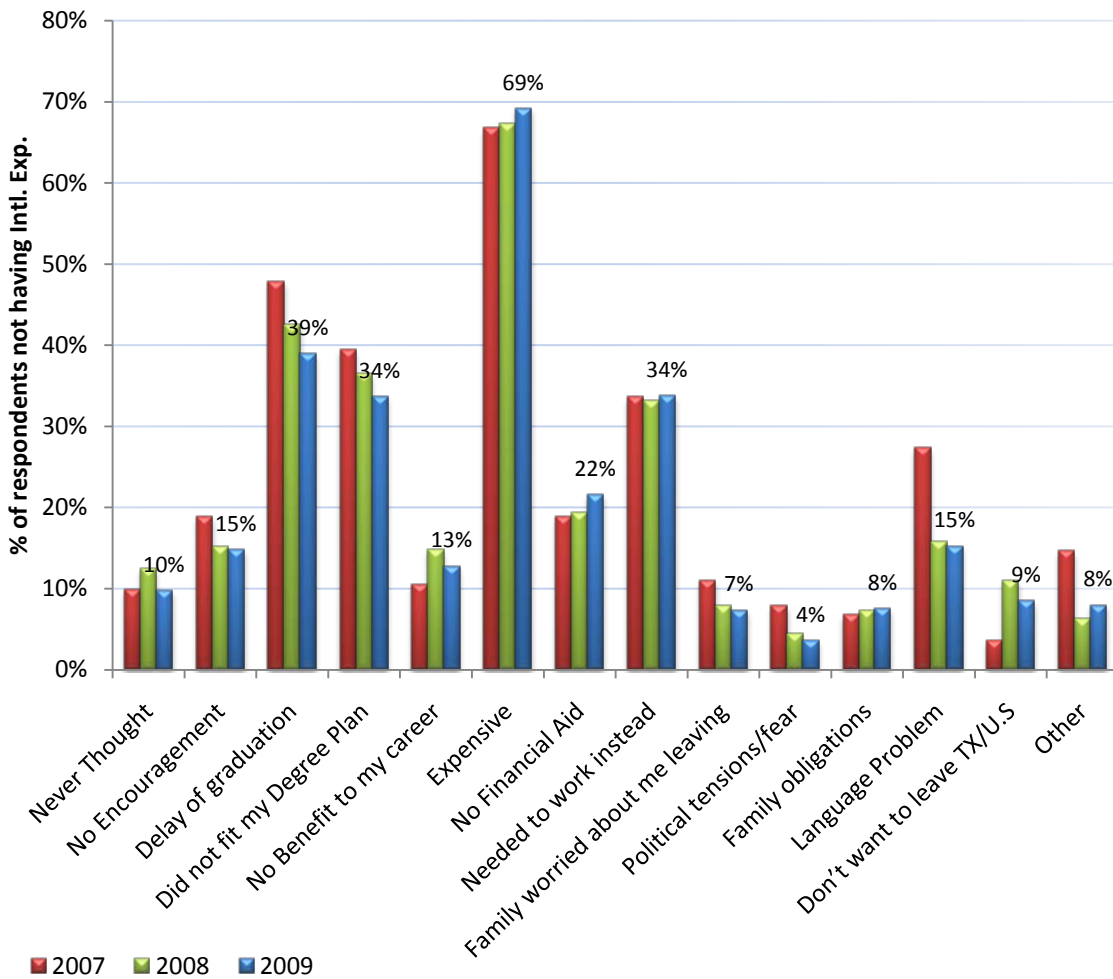


Source: Graduating Senior Survey Spring 2009, MARS

Reasons for not Studying Abroad

In spring 2009, 1,478 students out of the 2,156 respondents who indicated that they did not have international experience, were asked to identify the reasons for not going abroad. The reasons have been plotted as a graph for the years 2007, 2008, and 2009 as below. A few respondents gave more than one reason for not going abroad. Hence, the sum of the percentages of respondents is more than 100%. For the past three years, the largest category of responses, about 69%, felt international experience was “expensive”. Although 39% of respondents felt that it might “delay graduation”, this category has been decreasing since 2007. About 45% of the respondents did not understand how it would benefit their academic and career goals, including that it did not fit into their degree plan, and would not be beneficial to a career. Interestingly, these totals have not changed over the years of surveys of graduating seniors.

Reasons for not Studying Abroad Percentage Distribution : Spring 2007 to 2009



Source: Graduating Senior Survey, MARS

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