

## DARS File for Student Experiences Abroad

This Excel file is created for Data and Research Services by Global Program Support Effectiveness on an annual basis. The data is drawn from annual data provided from the Study Abroad Programs database in which student travel abroad is tracked.

**Column Header Definitions** – Below are definitions or clarifications related to column headers on the data report.

**Last Name, First Name, Middle Name:** All are from Compass

**Student UIN and DOB:** All are from Compass

### Program Type Definitions:

- 1. Texas A&M Faculty-Led Programs:**  
Texas A&M University courses taught overseas by Texas A&M faculty. These courses are typically taught in English, with the exception of language credit programs. Students are provided with an academically enriching experience in the host country, complemented with culturally relevant excursions.
- 2. Texas A&M Reciprocal Education Exchange Programs (REEP):** These programs are created through an agreement between Texas A&M and an overseas institution in which students have the opportunity to study one, two, or three semesters at the foreign university. Students enroll as full-time, non-degree students at the host university, yet remain in full-time status at Texas A&M University and pay only Texas A&M tuition and fees. State regulations (TAC Chapter 21, Subchapter AA, 21.901-21.910) require a balance in the number of incoming and outgoing students who participate in these programs.
- 3. Texas A&M Hybrid Faculty-Led REEP:** This is a blend of the Reciprocal Educational Exchange Program (REEEP) and a faculty-led program. A faculty member leads a study abroad program and teaches part of the coursework. Students direct enroll in a foreign university as a REEP student for some coursework.
- 4. Transfer Credit Study Abroad:** Students apply directly to an international institution, a sponsoring U.S. institution, or program provider to enroll in coursework overseas and earn academic credit. Students have their coursework pre-approved so it will transfer back to Texas A&M and count towards their degree plan. Tuition and fees are paid to the host institution.
- 5. Texas A&M Supervised Direct Enrollment:** This special type of credit transfer program allows a group of students from Texas A&M to study at a foreign institution together. The programs are developed by academic departments with overseas institutions that

facilitate the greatest number of transferable credits. The credits earned overseas transfer back to Texas A&M to count towards each student's degree plan. Tuition and fees are paid to the host institution.

6. **Short Term Group Trip (called "Field Trip" in 2010-2011):** These programs are designed for a group of students to travel abroad together to complete a specific project, academic focus, or pursue an activity related to the group's mission or purpose. This type of program may also be added as an overseas component to a course taught on campus. They can be credit bearing or non-credit bearing in nature. Texas A&M faculty, staff or student leaders guide and direct the groups. This category is a combination of two more detailed program types used in Study Abroad Programs: Field Trips and Student Group Trips Abroad.
7. **Research:** Students are engaged in research activities or projects outside the U.S. These may be credit or non-credit bearing.
8. **Volunteer:** Students are engaged in volunteer or service learning programs and projects abroad. They may do this as student organizations or as individuals working with various businesses, educational, governmental, or non-governmental entities.
9. **Internship:** Students are engaged abroad in practical experiences related to their degree programs at Texas A&M. These work experiences may be paid or unpaid.
10. **Conference and Conference/Workshop/Training:** Students participated in a conference, meeting, or other similar type of activity abroad. This category name was revised in 2012-2013 from "Conference" to "Conference/Workshop/Training" to more accurately reflect the types of activities contained in it. The broader category may be used for all such previously labelled "Conference" program types.
11. **Teach Abroad:** Students are engaged in teaching as their primary role while abroad. In most cases, these are teaching assistants.
12. **Texas A&M TAMUQ Exchange Program:** Students from the College Station campus enroll in the Qatar campus for a period of time and some students from Qatar enroll on the College Station campus. This "exchange" is internal to the University and not counted for THECB reporting of "REEP" programs as there is no state requirement to report reciprocity for an internal exchange.
13. **Study (courses not for credit):** Students participated in a study abroad experience related to their degree program at Texas A&M, such as a language class, and opted not to receive credit or credit was not transferable.
14. **Internship, Research, Volunteer:** Students have participated in one of these activities but there is insufficient information to definitively categorize the experience.

15. **Other:** The student's experience does not fit the existing category types or there is insufficient information to classify the experience.

**Country:** When a student goes to multiple countries on one trip, all countries are listed in the most current data (early years used "Multiple Countries"). There are occasionally two items in this column that are not "countries". "International Waters" is used for students who are not going ashore after leaving the US (often on research vessels. "Antarctica" is placed in this column since we have no other column to put it.

**Region:** When a student goes to multiple regions on one trip, all are listed in the most current data (early years used "Multiple Regions"). Those whose regions are unknown are listed as "Various".

**Term:** These terms follow national standards for study abroad. They are as follows:

1. **Academic Year** – Student is gone on the same program during both the Fall and Spring semester.
2. **Fall** – Student is abroad on the same program during the Fall semester.
3. **Spring** – Student is abroad on the same program during the Spring semester.
4. **Summer 1** – Student is abroad for the first summer session
5. **Summer 2** – Student is abroad for the second summer session
6. **Summer 10-Week** – Student is abroad for the 10 week session
7. **Winter Break** – Student is abroad after Fall graduation and returning before the start of the subsequent Spring semester
8. **Spring Break** – Student is abroad for the University Spring Break
9. **Maymester** – Student is abroad after the graduation in Spring and returning before the start of the Summer semester

**Year:** The year the study abroad trip took place (corresponds to the term; Academic Year will all be coded as the year for the fall semester since it was the year of departure). Winter Break trips occur after Fall graduation so they are part of the Spring term and will carry the year that corresponds to the spring term.

**Program Sponsorship:** Designates whether the study abroad program was organized and run under the auspices of Texas A&M in some way (e.g. college, department, unit, student organization, etc.) or through a Non-Texas A&M entity.

**Program Exception:** Designates whether the student was participating in a credit bearing or non-credit bearing program while abroad. Note: not all students transfer credit back to a degree program.

**Campus:** See definitions below.

1. **TAMU-CS** – Students were enrolled in the College Station campus during the trip abroad (these could include transient students from other TAMUS or US schools)
2. **TAMU-GV** – Students were enrolled at the Galveston campus at the time of the program abroad
3. **TAMU-Q** – Students were regularly enrolled students at the TAMU-Q campus who are participating in programs abroad run through TAMU-GV or CS. These data do not track all students studying abroad at TAMU-Q because TAMUQ tracks this separately.
4. **TAMU-HSC** – Students were degree-seeking students in the Health Science Center at the time of the program abroad.

**External Student:** Students who are not Texas A&M enrolled students prior to applying for the program to go abroad. Such students may be from SEC, TAMUS or other schools. Students are defaulted to “no” by having an empty field. Those with “yes” are external students. In early years, such students were not separately identified, so this column is blank. Where known, the name of the school the student regularly attends is listed in the “Comment” section.

**Program Name:** Every program has a name used for advertising and record-keeping. Many more than those starting with “A&M” are sponsored by an “A&M” unit. The use of “A&M” in front of these is to ensure that they rise to the top in a search engine used by students who apply for such programs. Program names are selected by trip sponsors and so may change from year to year even though it is the same program. If someone asks for data using program names, it is essential to ask if the program may have changed names over the years. Some program names are generic (e.g. “Career Center Internship” or “Transfer Credit Study Abroad”).

**Comments:** There are some general comments that are self-explanatory.

O:SAPO:Statistics: Annual Reporting Data:DARS Column Header Definitions