

Student Learning Abroad

O	V	UBC		Okanagan		Vancouver		UBC	
				12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12	12-13	11-12
			% of 4th year graduating undergraduate students reporting that they have participated in international learning opportunities (exchange, group study, service learning, study abroad courses, research placements, short term programs)			22%*	23%		

*Survey-based measure – not statistically significant difference between 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Benchmarks:

While not directly comparable, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) allows benchmarking on one form of international learning opportunity: study abroad. On this more narrowly defined metric, on the 2011 NSSE, UBC's graduating class had a higher rate of participation in study abroad than its Canadian peers (17% compared to 13%). However, American institutions in the NSSE report considerably higher rates of participation (24%).

Description:

The percentage of 4th year, graduating undergraduate students who reported having participated in an international learning opportunity (exchange, group study, service learning, study abroad courses, research placements, short term programs) on the Undergraduate Experience Survey (UES). Findings are weighted by Administering Faculty.

Target: by 2015, 30% of UBC undergraduates will learn abroad.

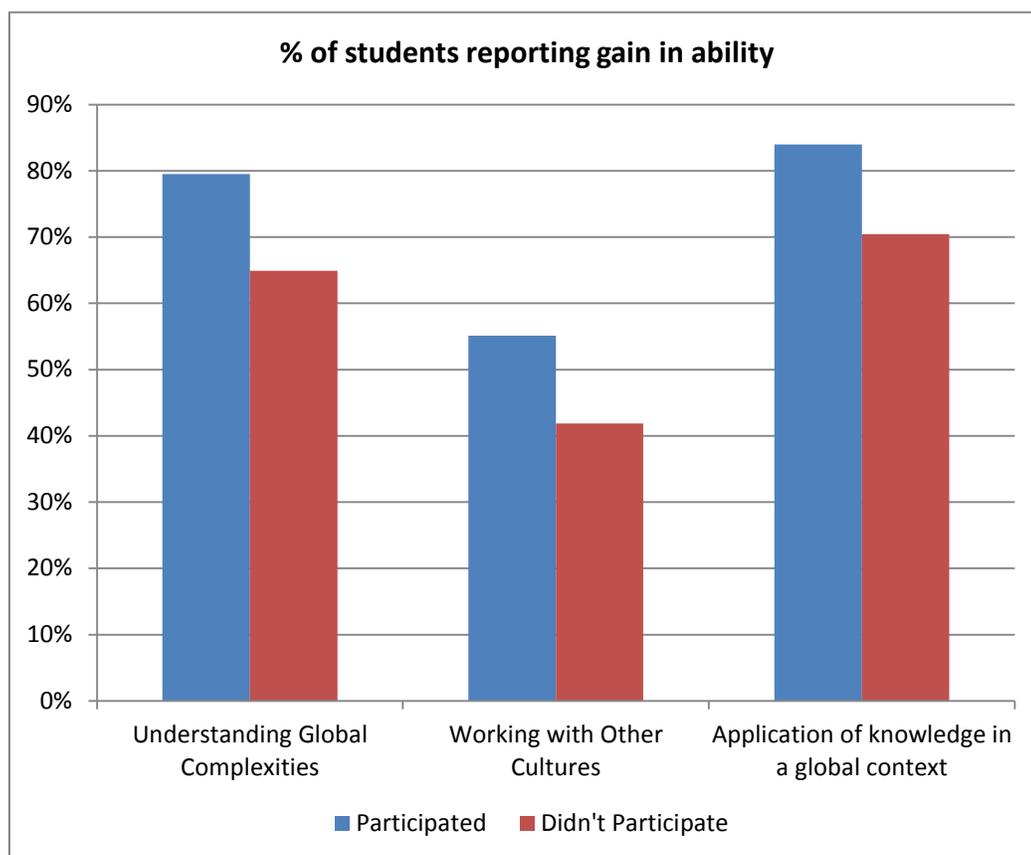
Person with lead responsibility for this metric: Ben Pollard
 Data collection will be from: Undergraduate Experience Survey
 Date: May 1 to April 30 (Academic Year)

To be completed annually, for inclusion in the Place and Promise Annual Report

Explanation of Results

The difference between the reported participation rates between 2011/12 and 2012/13 is not statistically significant.

UBC recognizes the value of international learning opportunities to enhance student learning and foster global citizenship. Students who participate in international learning opportunities report greater gains in ability to work with other cultures, ability to apply knowledge in a global context, and better understanding of the complexity of global issues than those who have not participated (UES 2012 and UES 2013).



*Percentage of 4th year students reporting skill gains, calculated as the difference between their reported ability when they started at UBC and their current ability, and the magnitude of those skill gains, by participation in international learning opportunities. Scale was Very Poor, Poor, Fair, Good, Very Good and Excellent, so an example of a 1 point skill gain would be from Fair to Good or Very Good to Excellent, and an example of a 2 point gain could be from Fair to Very Good or Good to Excellent.

Each year, UBC offers a variety of international learning opportunities to its students through Go Global, International Service Learning and through a variety of offerings in faculties. Offerings range from formal exchange programs and undergraduate study and research to group study, international projects and conferences.

Last year, UBC students engaged in learning abroad in 8 regions and 58 countries. Exchange activity through university partnerships was primarily in Europe, Asia, South Pacific with some activity in Latin America and Africa, while Group Study activity focused in Europe, Asia and Latin America. Students participating in international service learning contributed to local economies and organizations through 26 collaborative projects with 9 partners in 6 countries, with

activity primarily in Africa, and some activity in Latin America.

The table below shows the number of students who participated in various international learning opportunities at UBC Okanagan and UBC Vancouver last year.

	UBCO	UBC-V	UBC Total
Undergraduate Exchange Students	126	707	833
Undergraduate Study and Research (includes ISL)	23	245	268
Other Undergraduate University Activity Abroad**	27	362	389
Graduate Exchange Students	0	42	42
Total graduate student activity**	13	248	261

*Does not include inbound exchange students; reporting only on UBC student participation outbound

** Source: UBC Student Safety Abroad Travel Registry. Includes co-op, field study, internships, educational practicum, international projects, letters of permission, research not otherwise indicated in previous categories, nursing clinical placements, student teams and conferences.

However, while there is significant activity at UBC to support international learning, there is still room for improvement, both to meet the target of 30% of UBC undergraduates learning abroad by 2015, and to meet the expectations of UBC students. UBC's students have higher expectations around participating in international learning than other Canadian students: 52% of all UBC first year students report that they intend to participate in study abroad, compared to 40% in Canadian peer institutions (NSSE 2011).

Meeting our goals will require both increasing opportunities and supports for students to participate, and addressing barriers to participation in international learning opportunities: in 2012, 21% of 4th year students report that they intended to participate in international learning opportunities, but were unable to (UES 2012).

Recommended Action (identify any actions to be taken if results vary from what was expected)

Currently engaged in a project to integrate opportunities to study abroad into academic programs through the departments. For example, see: Political Science <http://www.politics.ubc.ca/undergraduate/learning-abroad-go-global.html>, History <http://www.history.ubc.ca/content/mapping-your-exchange-your-history-major>, Electrical and Computer Engineering <http://www.ece.ubc.ca/Go-Global> and Chemistry <http://science.ubc.ca/students/community>

Reaching the target will require operational resources and award resources to support the current strategy. Planning for these requests is underway.