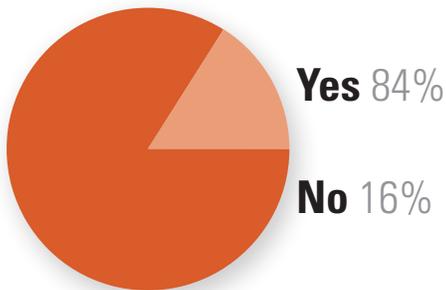


Impact of Study Abroad on Career Development

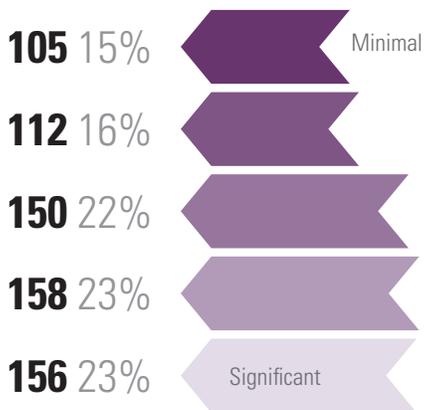
University of Minnesota Learning Abroad Center

Did study abroad influence your subsequent educational experiences?



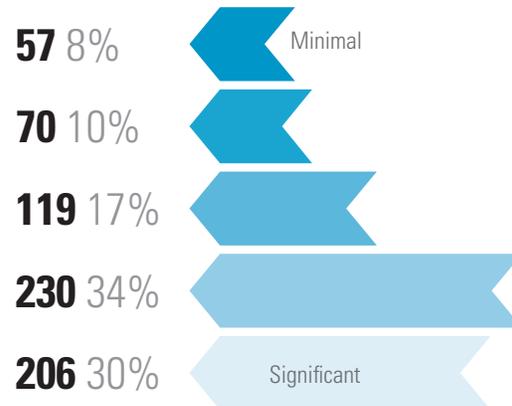
"Though mostly indirect, study abroad has probably had the biggest impact on the direction in my life of any single experience I can point to. It drove me to seek an advanced degree in an international field, and it has kept me in professional roles that all have at least some degree of international contact since the time I graduated."

To what extent do you consider your study abroad experience worthwhile for igniting an interest in a career direction?



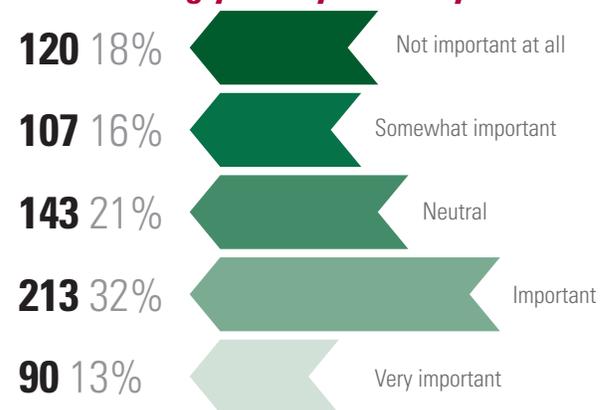
"My study abroad experience gave me a whole new perspective on the world, a greater self-confidence, and led me to find my true calling in life as a world language educator. It was the best experience of my life and changed me deeply in very positive ways. I hope as an educator I can pass on the desire to see the world, experience other cultures, and learn a language other than English."

To what extent do you consider your study abroad experience worthwhile for acquiring skills that influenced your career?



"It enabled me to understand the different government and belief systems of the world. I was able to better understand how to approach a solution for someone from another country, because I understood what the underlying issues were."

In your opinion, how important to your employer was your study abroad experience for recruiting you in your early career?

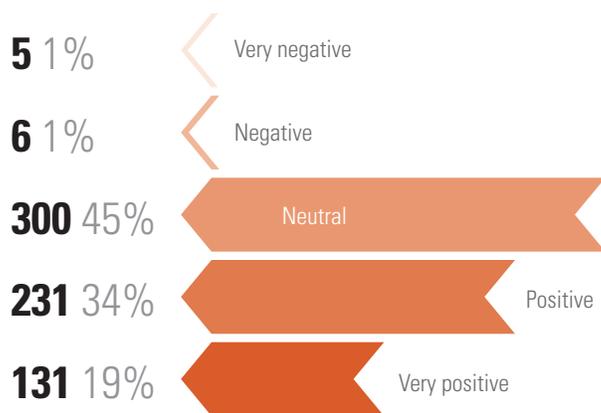


"The professor leading my study abroad put me in contact with my first employer. My class paper served as my 'interview.' I was brought on as an intern, kept on retainer during graduate school in Boston, and hired on full-time after school. I would not have this position without having studied abroad."

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

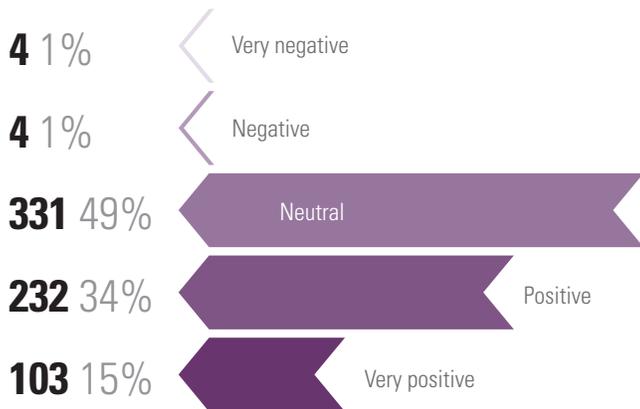
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

What impact has your study abroad experience had on obtaining your first job?



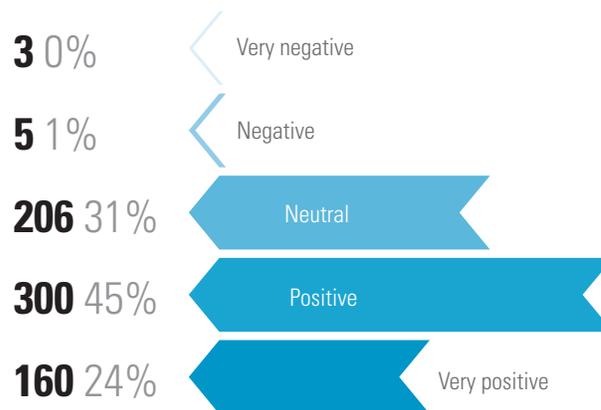
"I don't know that I can draw a direct line from study abroad to preparedness for global business and career but it was an enabler. It opened my eyes to ways of thinking, approaches and perspectives on issues, and impacts of events from a completely different angle. It taught me not to be scared of the world and rather to explore, be curious, ask questions and take risks."

What impact has your study abroad experience had on the type of work tasks you currently do?



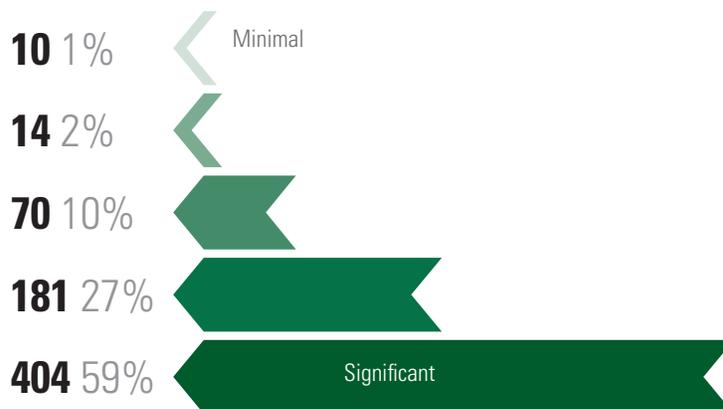
"I studied abroad in the UAE and through this experience I got to experience the Middle East/Gulf for what it really is. It made me realize that the worldview of other is not always accurate. I've since moved back and was able to find a job with a U.S. law firm. I have been able to use Arabic in my career and it has proven very helpful. I would highly recommend studying abroad to anyone. It really opens your mind to so many different things."

What impact has your study abroad experience had on your long-term career plans?



"In today's job market, intercultural sensitivity and communication along with emotional intelligence are essential. Until you yourself have felt like an 'other,' it is possible that you may never be able to empathize with that kind of vulnerability. Being able to tune in to these experiences, understand the way you felt and reacted, and know how you worked through it is a priceless skill that not everyone has and not all study abroad programs focus on fostering."

To what extent has your study abroad experience made a lasting impact on your worldview?



"Not only have I achieved language proficiency but also I have a much wider view on the world. I accept differences easier and I can adjust to life as I see fit."