

LEARNING ABROAD CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



# Annual Report

Academic Year 2022–23



# Message from Ann

Dear Friends,

As we prepare this report, I am nearing the one-year mark in the Learning Abroad Center (LAC). The LAC is the innovative, collaborative place that its reputation holds, and the staff demonstrates outstanding knowledge and expertise at every turn. As a field, we continue the post-pandemic process of rebuilding—celebrating benchmarks such as our first students back in mainland China this fall, and with an overall goal to reach pre-pandemic participation in the near future.

As a start to our focus on climate action and sustainability, the LAC staff participated in a day-long carbon literacy workshop in May. This provided us with a foundation of knowledge as well as the chance to identify some action steps. The University's newest Climate Action Plan helps guide us in both integrating the U.N.'s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into student learning and implementing sustainable practices in our operations and programming (both here and abroad).

Providing comprehensive high-quality programming abroad “takes a village/takes a campus.” Thank you for everything you do to support learning abroad.

Sincerely,  
**Ann Hubbard, PhD**  
Assistant Dean, Learning Abroad



## About the Learning Abroad Center

The Learning Abroad Center in the Global Programs and Strategy Alliance is the University of Minnesota's comprehensive resource for study, intern, community engagement, and research experiences worldwide.

LAC staff and University of Minnesota faculty and staff participate in numerous leadership opportunities and serve on the advisory boards of organizations that provide and/or support education abroad programs. Through collaboration and individual attention, the LAC continues to promote empowerment, development, understanding, and responsibility in the global community.

The LAC creates a learning climate that respects and celebrates diversity. We are committed to and accountable for strategically addressing barriers affecting marginalized groups by providing inclusive advising, program and curriculum design, global faculty and staff recruitment and training, and campus stakeholder engagement.

# Student Advising & Support Services

We offer a full range of advising and support services to students, including program selection, academic planning, financial planning, registration, credit, cultural adjustment, and re-entry.

Advising is a critical part of supporting students through the program selection process and helping them prepare to go abroad once they have applied for a program. Our 20 full-time advisers meet individually with students to answer their questions about study abroad and guide them through the application and enrollment process.

## 2022–23 Highlights

- **48** students attended our You Can Afford to Study Abroad information session to learn about how financial aid can be applied to study abroad, available scholarship opportunities, and how to write a strong scholarship application essay.
- **1,265** students met one on one with an adviser in the LAC to discuss program options that fit their academic, career, personal, and financial goals and needs.
- **2,528** students completed a First Step session to learn the basics about choosing a study abroad program, academic planning, and financial aid and scholarship opportunities.
- **158,658** unique users visited [UMabroad.umn.edu](https://UMabroad.umn.edu).

## On-Site Mental Health Training

Laura Dupont-Jarrett, assistant director for education abroad mental health, visited five of our most popular study abroad sites during summer 2023 to gain information about the availability of local mental health resources for students, including the availability of English-language counselors, prescription-refill options, and urgent inpatient care, should it be needed. Staff will use this information to advise students and help ensure they're selecting a program that can meet their mental health support needs. She also provided training to on-site leaders and student services staff about how to support student mental health.

*“Over winter break, I am looking forward to taking students through the traditional food ‘hawker centers’ to taste delicious Asian cuisines. I worked in Singapore during 2018–2020, so I am excited to show the students what makes Singapore so special.”*

*–Carlye Lauff, PhD  
Assistant professor of product design, College of Design,  
University of Minnesota*



# Student Participation

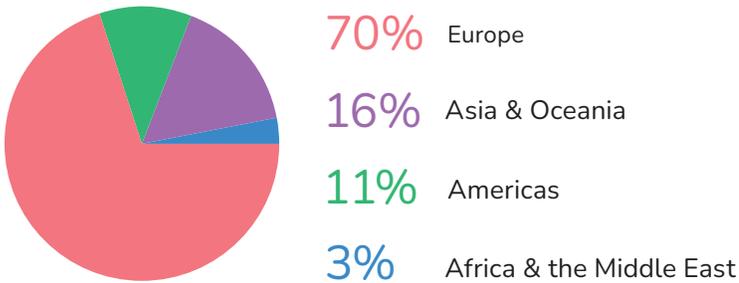
## Open Doors

Open Doors is an annual report that provides statistics on study abroad participation by US students and international student enrollment at US institutions. The report is published by the Institute of International Education (IIE) in New York with support from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State. In November 2022, the Twin Cities campus ranked (in number of students sent abroad on credit-bearing programs): **1st in the Big Ten** and **2nd among doctorate-granting universities**.

## US News and World Report

We're happy to be **ranked #22** in the US News and World Report's **Best Study Abroad** category. As a large, land-grant public institution and national program provider, it's an honor to be surrounded by these schools and be nominated and positively perceived by the public in this qualitative study. We're collectively committed to constantly improving our work and offering high-quality programs.

## Where Do Gophers Go?

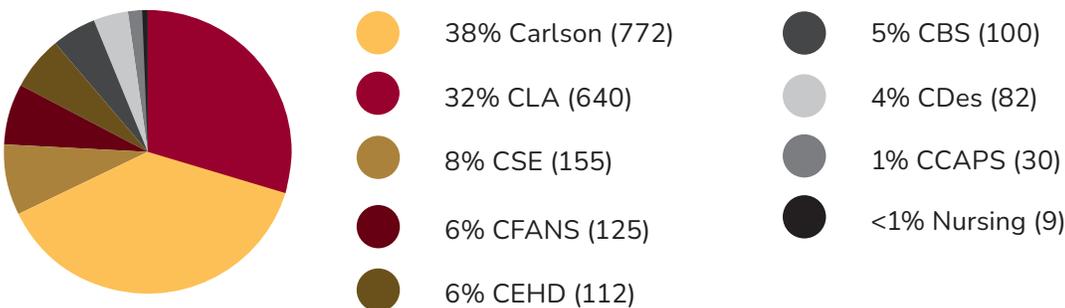


## Top 5 Destinations

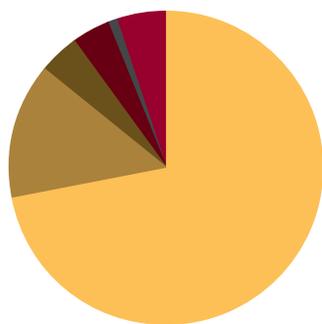


- 1 Spain
- 2 United Kingdom
- 3 France
- 4 Italy
- 5 Germany

## % Enrollments by College

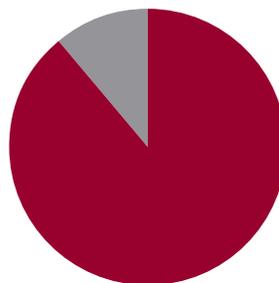


## Race/Ethnicity



- 72% White
- 14% Asian
- 4% Hispanic/Latino
- 4% Black/African American
- 1% American Indian/Alaska Native
- 5% No information/Not specified

## UofM vs. Non-UofM Students



- 2042 UofM students
- 256 non-UofM students

## First-Generation Students

**23.9%** of students **on campus** are the first in their families to attend college

**14%** of students **who study abroad** are the first in their families to attend college



*"I love [students'] creativity and broad thinking....Then putting them in a space that they've never traveled before where there's lots of newness and spaces to be curious—it's very exciting to work with students abroad."*

*—Daheia Barr-Anderson  
Associate professor, School of Kinesiology,  
University of Minnesota*



## Institutional Relations

We recruit undergraduate students from around the US for 20+ learning abroad programs. The addition of students from other institutions creates a more diverse and better learning environment for UMTC students. With the addition of these non-UofM students, we run more programs and add more courses to our existing programs, thereby creating more opportunities for UofM students. To date, we have more than **125 affiliate partnerships**.

The Institutional Relations team has shifted to an almost entirely in-person enrollment, including all fairs in person. Visits to campus remain in hybrid form, with some in person and some on Zoom.

For the 2022–23 year, the team attended and exhibited at five different conferences. We also continued our affiliate partner site visits to France and Senegal.

## Scholarships & Funding

- **1,326** applications were submitted by students, of which **247** were awarded a scholarship by the LAC.
- **77** advisers, faculty, and staff from across the UMTC campus helped review study abroad scholarship applications and select award recipients.

# International Educator Outreach Events & Training

## UMTC Education Abroad Network

The UofM Twin Cities Education Abroad Network (EAN) includes and serves professional advisers, faculty members, administrators, and others involved with education abroad. Meetings involve sharing of practices, benchmarking, and updates to foster communication and expanded, multidisciplinary collaboration with study abroad. EAN Advisory Board members come from a variety of units and colleges across campus. This year's meeting topics included:

- Global Identity: Connecting Your International Experience to Your Future
- Health-Related Programs Abroad
- Internships Abroad
- Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID)
- Undergraduate Research Abroad
- University Study Abroad

## Excellence in Leading Learning Abroad Series

Throughout fall and spring semester 2022–2023, we hosted several highly interactive sessions facilitated by program leaders and campus experts that were attended by approximately 75 past, current, and future program leaders and education abroad staff. Topics included:

- Creating Your Study Abroad Program Syllabus
- Student Mental Health Abroad—Supporting Leaders Supporting Students (multiple sessions)
- Guiding Leaders on Student Misconduct
- ELLAS & ICC (Internationalizing the Curriculum & Campus) Collaboration—mini training series
  - Leveraging Interactions for Intercultural Learning
  - Navigating the Unfamiliar (DAE: Describe, Analyze, Evaluate)
  - Toward More Inclusive Participation; Communication Styles

*"The professors were just the best at what they [were] doing. I'm learning a different side of history. I'm gaining new perspectives, and it's on such a deeper level."*

—Kimberly  
MSID Ecuador student



# Curriculum & Program Oversight

## Learning Abroad Center Advisory Committee (LACAC)

LACAC was established with the specific responsibility of assisting the Learning Abroad Center with program and curriculum oversight and review, as well as assisting with program development and school of record mechanisms with a focus on undergraduate education. It meets 2–4 times annually. The committee membership is designed to provide a breadth of guidance from across the University.

### Responsibilities

- Assist with program and curriculum oversight
- Assist with academic policy
- Assist with program development
- Assist with school of record mechanisms
- Participate on program reviews
- Participate on occasional task forces
- Assist with Global Seminar proposals
- Engage with affiliate and university partners



## 2022–23 Members

Chair: <b>Christine Anderson, PhD</b>	Learning Abroad Center, Academic Director
<b>Nicola Alexander, PhD</b>	College of Education and Human Development, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education, Diversity, and International Initiatives
<b>Kirsten Canterbury</b>	Carlson Global Institute, Director, Education Abroad
<b>Sauman Chu, PhD</b>	Office of Undergraduate Education, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Assessment
<b>Scott Daby</b>	Learning Abroad Center, Director of Enrollment
<b>Ann Hubbard, PhD</b>	Learning Abroad Center, Assistant Dean, Learning Abroad
<b>Nicola Imbraccio, PhD</b>	College of Liberal Arts, Assistant Dean
<b>Nikki Letawsky Shultz, PhD</b>	College of Biological Sciences, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and International Programs
<b>Zach Mohs</b>	Learning Abroad Center, Director of Programs
<b>Marc Skjervem</b>	College of Science and Engineering, Assistant Dean and Director of Collegiate Life
<b>Tricia Todd</b>	Pre-Health Student Resource Center, Director
<b>Michael White, PhD</b>	College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, Associate Dean for Academic Programs
<b>Juanjuan Wu, PhD</b>	College of Design, Associate Dean for Academic Programs

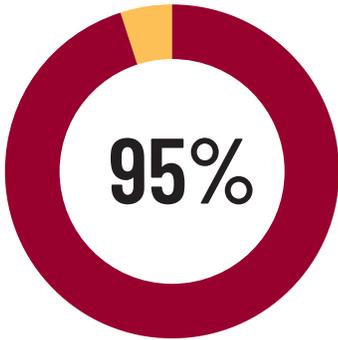


"I chose the London program because it came with an internship, and I really wanted to get that experience into my time here at the University of Minnesota. I'm a marketing and production intern at Live Canon, a nonprofit organization that does poetry publishing and live theatre production."

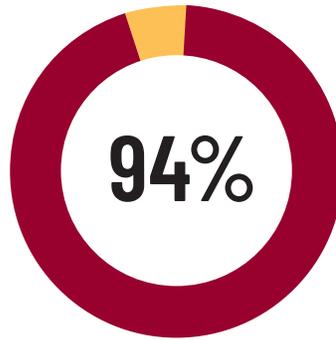
—Andrew  
Study & Intern in London student

# Student Evaluations

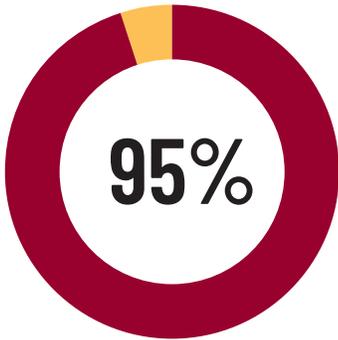
In 2022–23, of students who responded to our program evaluations:



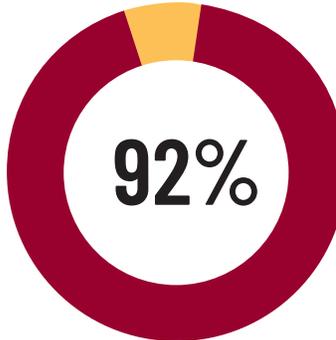
said their experience **met or exceeded their expectations**



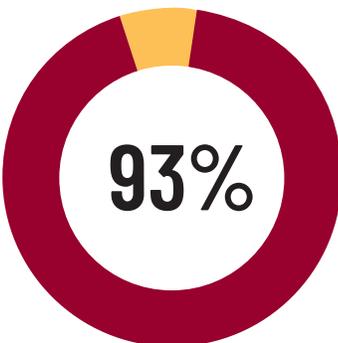
**enjoyed** their study abroad experience



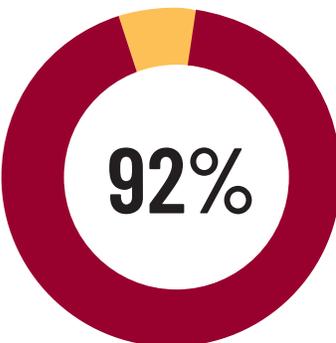
said this **program's nonacademic experiences** helped them expand their knowledge of the world



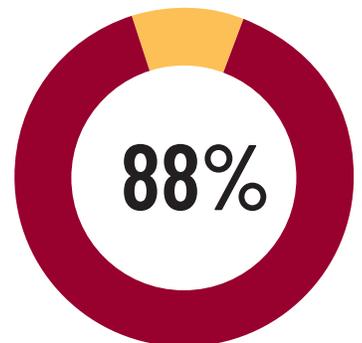
said this **program's academic experiences** helped them expand their knowledge of the world



said this program has helped them function and communicate effectively in **different cultural contexts**



said this program helped them **develop and enhance their sense of independence**



said this program helped them **develop and enhance their self-awareness** by deepening their understanding of their own culture

# Staff Awards & Publications



**2022**  
**October**

**Jill Reister, PhD**, contributed to the e-book *Mid-Career Professionals in International Education*, edited by Thomas V. Millington, M.A. and Abi Cavazos, Ed.D.



**2022**  
**November**

**Jackie Gmitterko** received the Outstanding New Professional Award at the NAFSA Region IV Conference



**2023**  
**June**

**Kate Meyer** received the Lily von Klemperer Award at the NAFSA Annual Conference

"Even though I am the instructor, I feel like I learn so much from leading international programs....It is always gratifying to see how much students appreciate the course activities."

—John Ward  
Professor, Plant and Microbial Biology,  
University of Minnesota



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[UMabroad.umn.edu](http://UMabroad.umn.edu)