



Career outcomes of learning abroad

Short-term programs

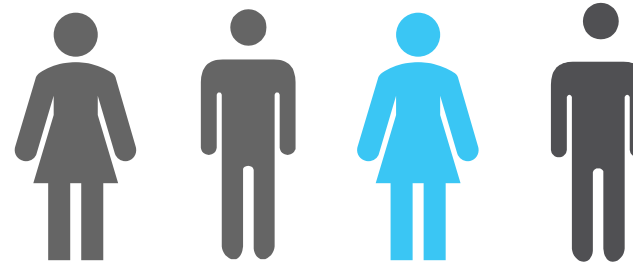
Dr Davina Potts | December 2019

Learning abroad

Australian students learning abroad

1 in 4

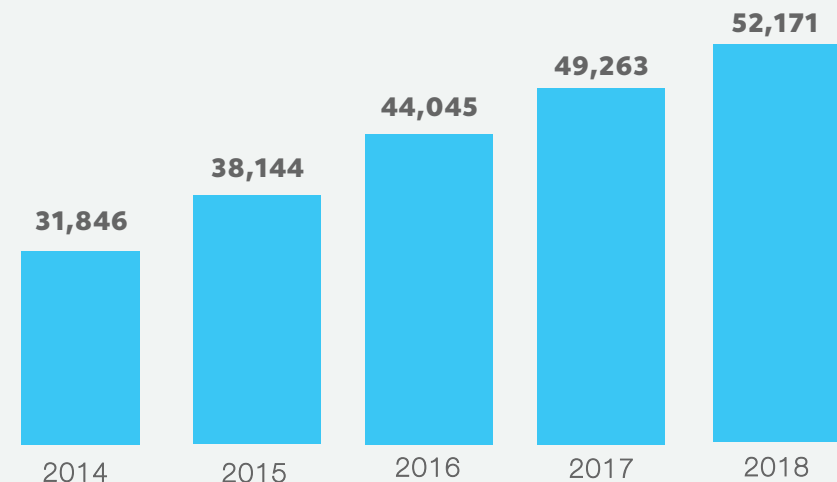
Australian undergraduate students undertook study in an overseas country in 2018.



320,000+

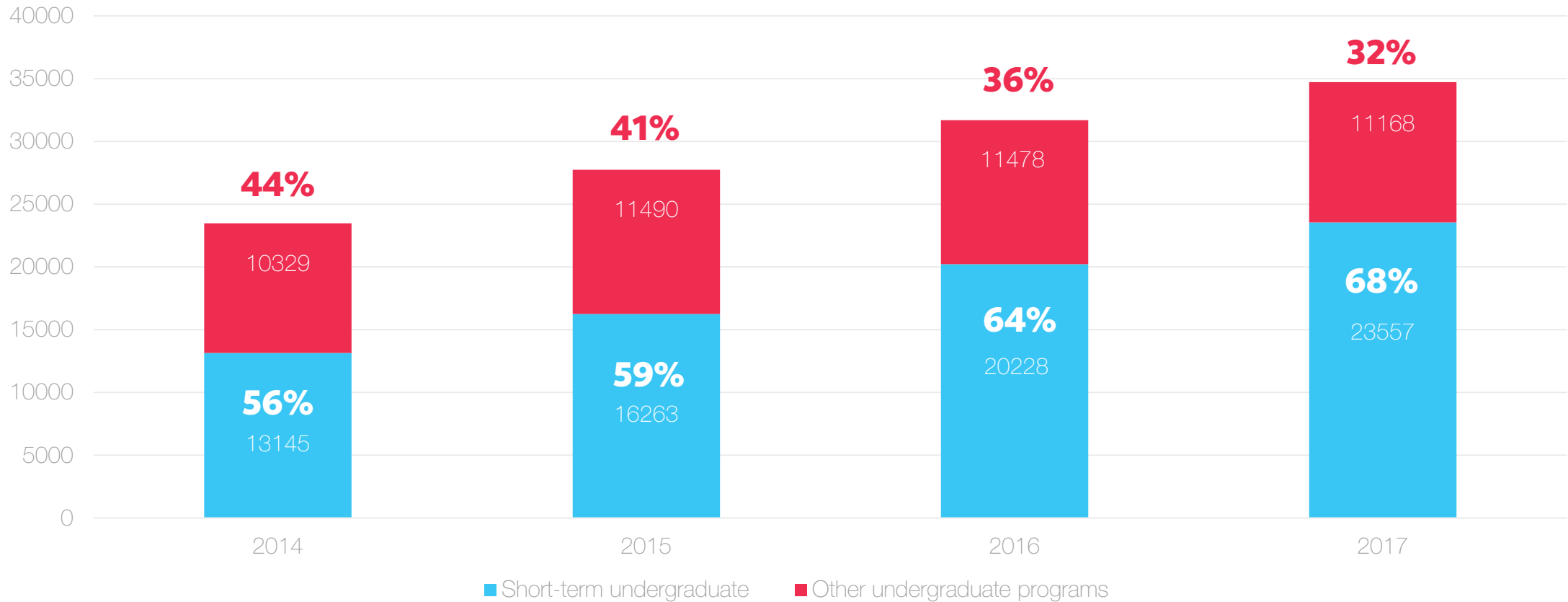
between 2009 – 2018

In 2018, almost **52,171** Australian students had an overseas study experience – up by 5.9% on 2017.



Source: AUIDF 2014–2018

Undergraduate learning abroad + duration



Source: AUIDF 2015–18

About the study

Respondents studied at **36 Australian universities**

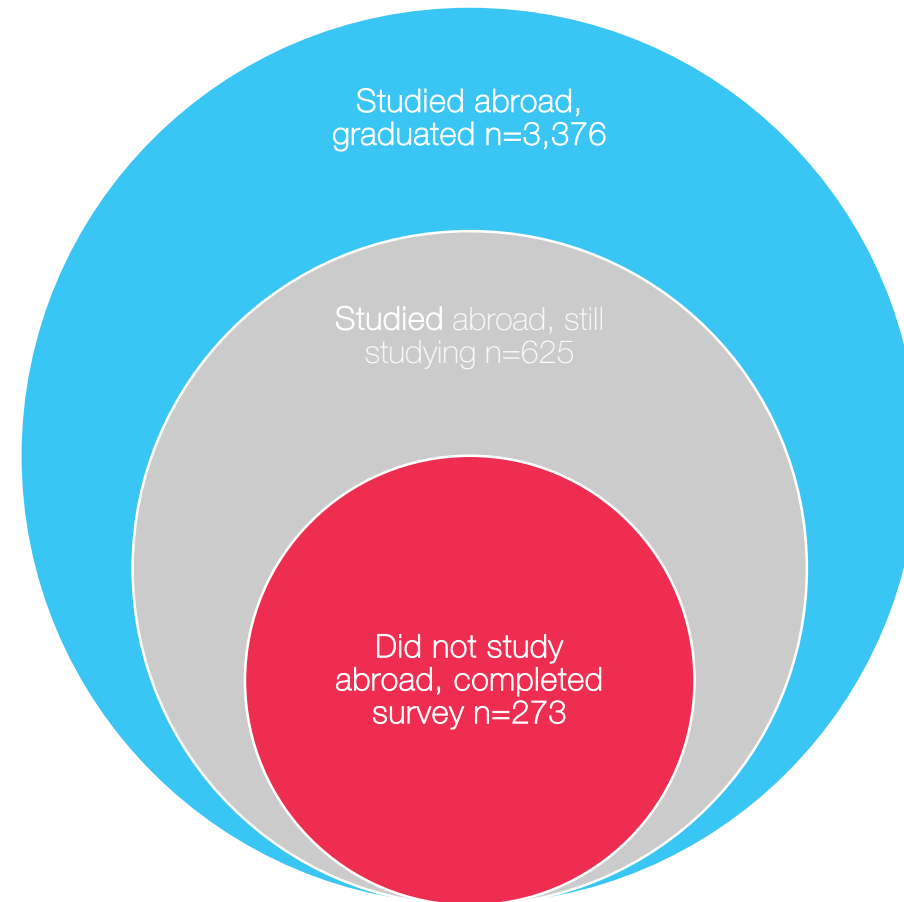
Survey conducted: **March – July 2019**

Total responses: **3,376**

This report analyses 800 responses for short-term learning abroad participants (graduates) from 31 institutions

Four sections:

- About the learning abroad experience (did not appear for non-participants)
- Career impact questions
- Current work situation
- Study and personal background



Research questions



1. What is the perceived impact of learning abroad on skill development, job attainment and career prospects of participants?
2. Are former participants engaged in international work (organisations, tasks, location)?




the
typical
student
short-term
learning
abroad

 **73%**
female


 **93%**
domestic students

 **80%**
undergraduate
(84% study credited)

 **52%**
funded by my uni
(16% New Colombo Plan)

 **28%**
program type:
academic classes
at a host institution

 **41%**
first in family

 **11%**
low SES
(44% medium SES)

 **21%**
studied abroad
in 2017

 **19%**
multiple study
abroad experiences

 **75%**
language of study
abroad (English)

 **27%**
speak two or
more languages

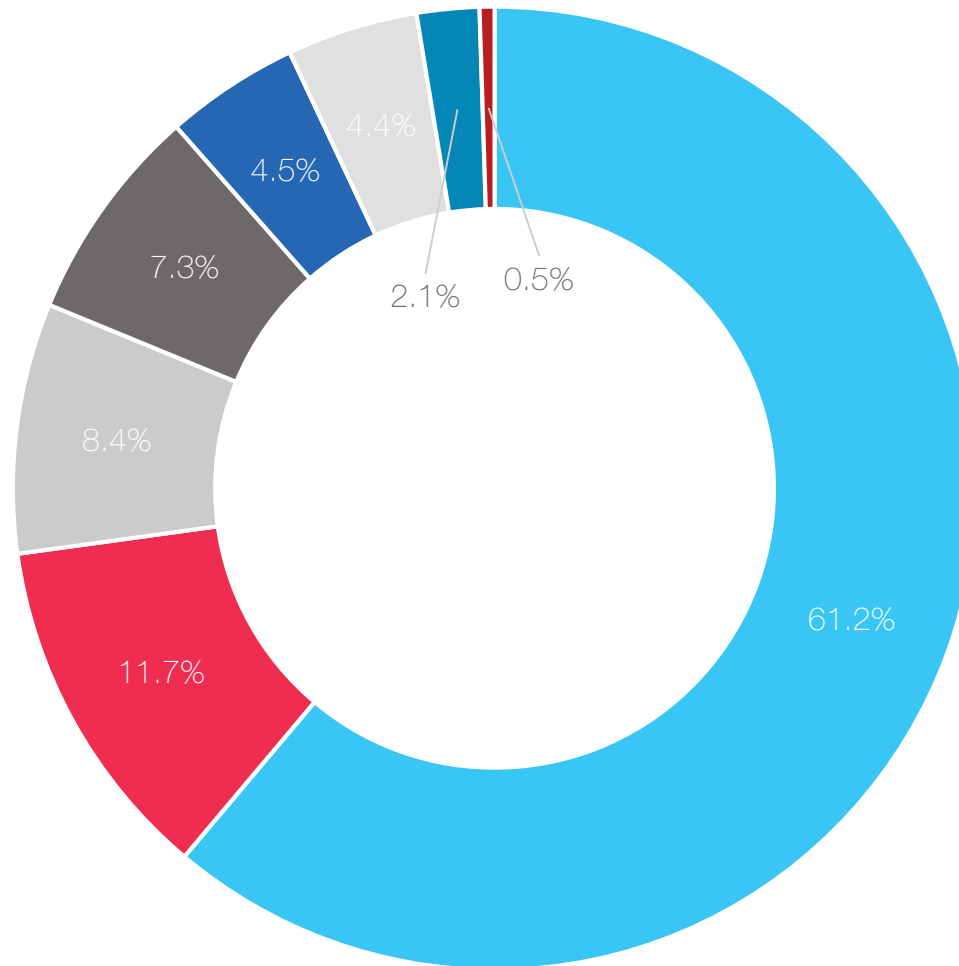
 **45%**
most visited region:
Asia Pacific

Student type

- Preference for duration, activity and destination may differ across socio-economic status and first in family status
- First in family students are more likely to study in Asia, less likely to study in Europe
- Low SES students are more likely to undertake a short-term program, less likely to undertake a long-term program

What are they doing now?

- Full-time employed (61.2%)
- Part-time employed (11.7%)
- Full-time study (8.4%)
- Part-time employed + study (7.3%)
- Seeking employment (4.5%)
- Self-employed (4.4%)
- Taking a break (2.1%)
- Family care (0.5%)



Current work activity



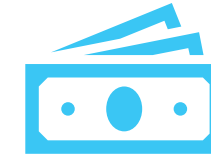
92%
Australia

Job scope

28% International
28% National
44% Local/regional

Salary (mode)

\$60,000–69,999



Sector

Private 50%
Public/Gov 40%
Non-profit 10%

8%

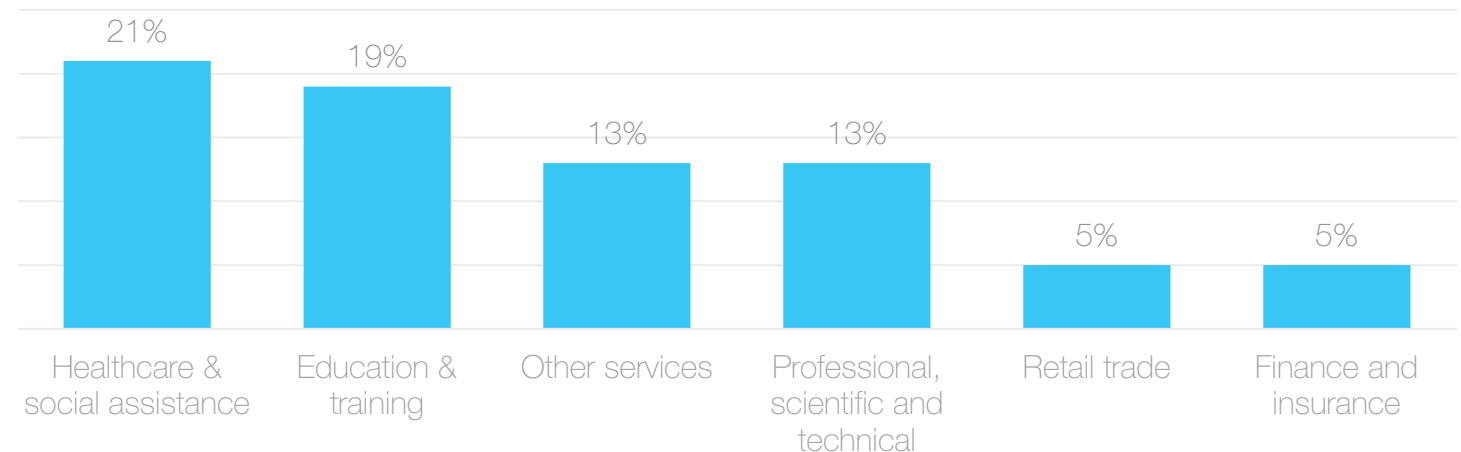
work abroad



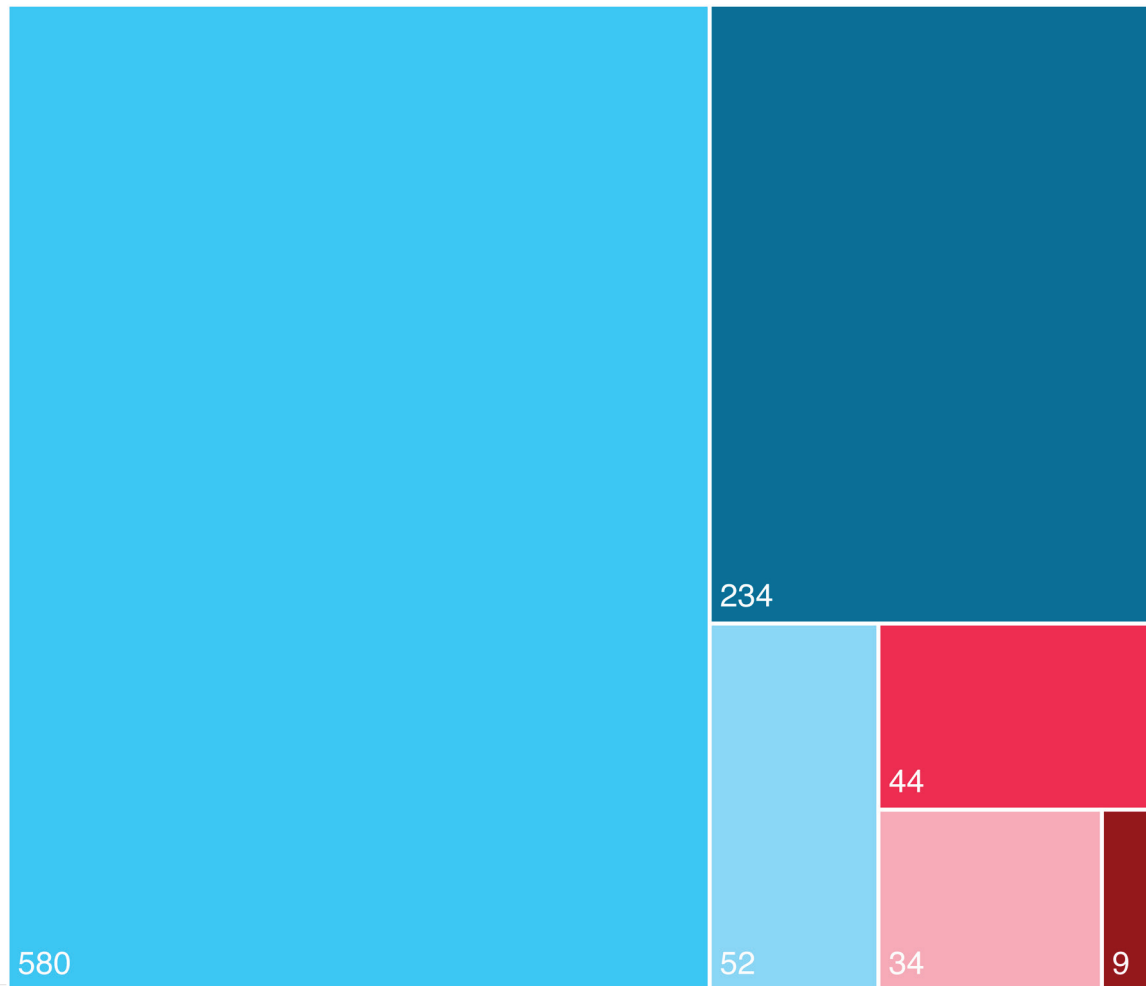
Top countries







UK
USA
Singapore
Germany
Canada
Indonesia

Top industries



International work experience since graduation



-  I have mostly worked in Australia or my home country since graduation.
-  I have lived abroad for the purpose of employment after graduation, independent of an employer.
-  I have been posted (sponsored) overseas by my employer.
-  I have been sent overseas on short-term work assignments by my employer.
-  I plan to work abroad in the future
-  I have mostly worked in a country other than Australia or my home country since graduation

Overall findings

- Former participants of learning abroad programs are very positive about the impact of their international experience on many aspects of their career
- Learning abroad supports the development of skills employers are looking for

Overall impact

Very positive and positive

the extent
to which your
experience
has impacted your
employment

- 83%** Developing skills to support your professional role
- 63%** Long-term career prospects
- 53%** Obtaining your first job in your field of study
- 51%** Obtaining subsequent career-related jobs
- 17%** Income level in current role



Skills development

Extremely positive and somewhat positive



Skills development

Employability skills impacted by short-term learning abroad
Extremely positive and somewhat positively

Career Outcomes of Learning Abroad 2019



95%

Ability to interact with others



94%

Communication



88%

Teamwork

Three of the top four skills employers agree are lacking in Australian graduates

AAGE Employer Survey 2018



Interpersonal skills



Oral communication



Teamwork

Highest impact



95%

Ability to interact
with diverse
individuals



94%

Communication



90%

Capacity to adapt
and learn quickly



88%

Teamwork skills



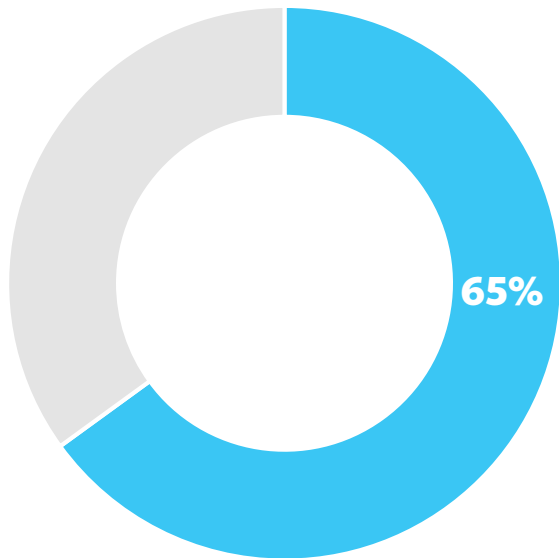
86%

Critical thinking

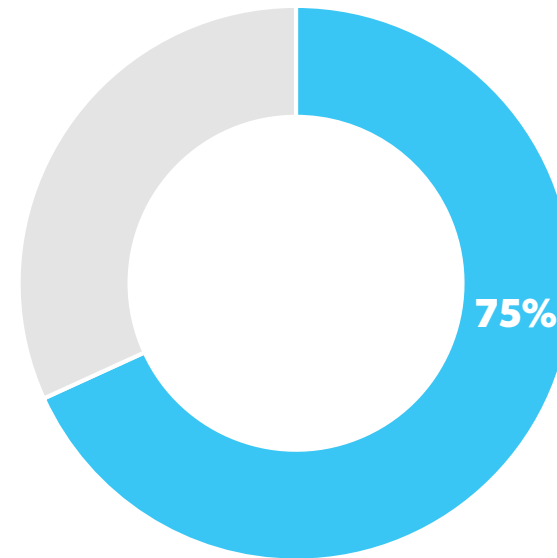
Work satisfaction

Question: Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements (0=totally disagree, 100=totally agree)

Job satisfaction



Work interest



Does activity type matter?

Respondents who had participated in an internship reported the highest impact of their international experience on their career and skills development.

Study tours have specific strengths, including the development of teamworking skills.



Their stories

1

**5-7 weeks
academic
classes France**

Absolutely undertake a study abroad program - even if it means doing summer semester or postponing your graduation. It is worth it.

2

**Internship
in Nepal**

My supervisor told me directly he hired me specifically because of my international experience. I would not have my job if I did not have the international experience I had.

3

**Conference
in Hong Kong
SAR**

A large network of contacts that has helped my work in the Asia Pacific immensely.





Their stories

1

**3-4 weeks
academic
classes
Vietnam**

You will develop as a person and the skills and memories you make you'll carry on for life.

2

**Study tour
to India**

This has also made me stand out and gain employment in my current position so it was amazing.

3

**Criminal
Justice
study tour**

The funding granted was amazing-I came from a low socio economic, single parent and with refugee background and this helped me substantially.



Respondent quotes

My international study experience made me realise that I am both interested in and capable of working in clinical (nursing) fields that I initially thought perhaps were not suited to me.

Opened up my ideas about possible work options other than Australia, The Australian workforce generally does not value overseas experience.

It was a fantastic opportunity for me to grow in maturity, and gain life skills. Which benefits all parts of my life - including my career.

My internship in Belize was a waste of money and time in which I learnt very little. I wish I had gone to Africa instead where I know I would have learnt an incredible amount





Absolutely do it. It is a great way to open yourself up to new experiences and will prepare you better to tackle challenges.

It also sets you apart in applications and I think prospective employers appreciate your ability to go the extra mile and often devote months of your own time to travel and engage with that level of professional development.

Advice to current students

ieaa

International Education
Association of Australia



Thank you
