

Trends

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A Research Newsletter Prepared by the Office of Institutional Planning, Research, and Communication

Study Abroad Participation Rates Among CSB/SJU Students

International and global learning is an increasingly important expectation of a liberal arts education. The College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University for years have been among the leading baccalaureate institutions in the nation in the number and percentage of students who study internationally. In the 2005 *Open Doors* annual report on international education published by the Institute for International Education, CSB/SJU was ranked third among baccalaureate institutions nationally in the number of students who study abroad. The following data summarize trends in participation rates in study abroad programs at CSB/SJU and the characteristics of students who study abroad.

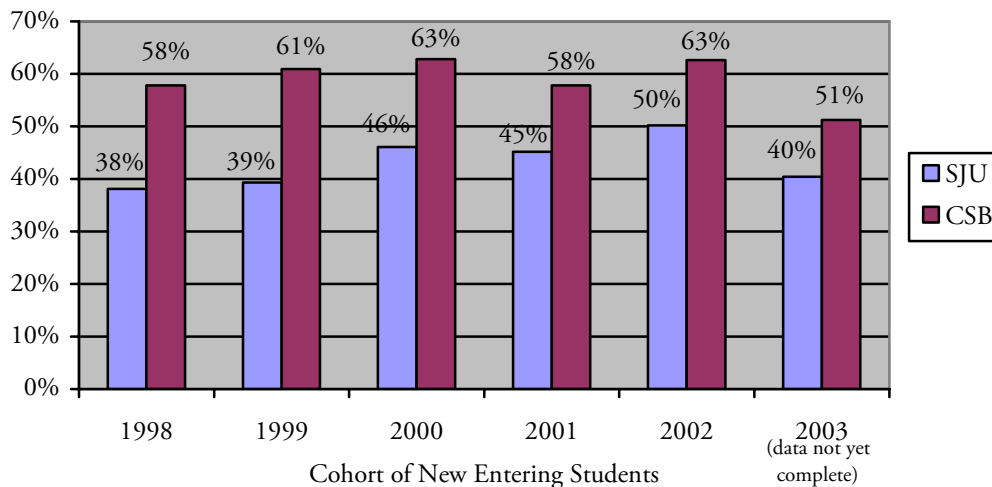
Study Abroad Participation Rates and Characteristics of Participants

- Between fall 1999 and spring 2006, over 3,000 students from the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University participated in an international study program. Nearly all participated in semester-long programs. More than half of all new students who enrolled at CSB/SJU between fall 1999 and fall 2001 and either graduated or remain enrolled studied abroad. For the new entering class of 2002, 63% of CSB students and 50% of SJU students studied internationally.
- International study at CSB/SJU is increasingly popular. The number of CSB/SJU students who study abroad has increased by nearly 25% in the last five years. About 75% of students who spend a semester abroad do so in their junior year. While the majority of students who started college in fall 2003 will not graduate until 2007, nearly half have already studied abroad.

Since 1999, more than 3,000 College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University students have studied abroad.

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Percent of Students Studying Abroad (by New Entering Class)



Note: Percentages refer to all students in a new entering class who have either graduated or are still enrolled.

- Among new entering students in fall 2005, nearly 8 in 10 said there was at least some chance they would study abroad while attending CSB/SJU. Interest in international study is higher among CSB/SJU students than among new college students nationally. Last fall, only 3 in 10

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Saint Benedict

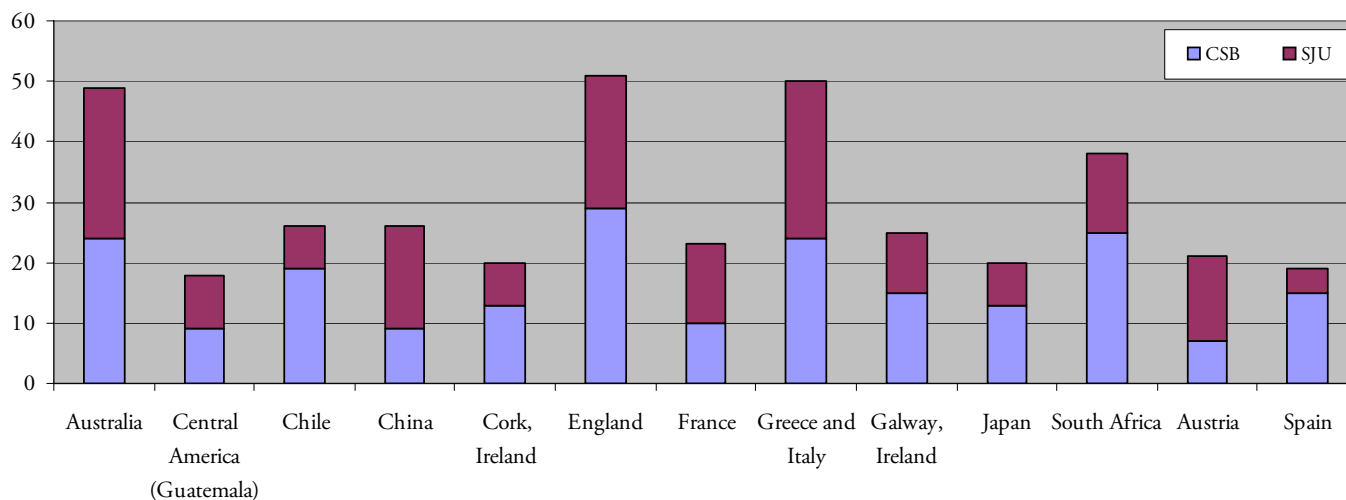


Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

new entering students at private institutions nationally indicated a desire to study abroad. CSB/SJU students' interest in studying abroad is not passing or fleeting; nearly half (49%) described their chances of studying abroad as "very good." Women were more likely than men to indicate a strong desire to study abroad (56% vs. 40%). More than three-quarters of students indicating likely majors in all four divisions indicated some interest in studying abroad.

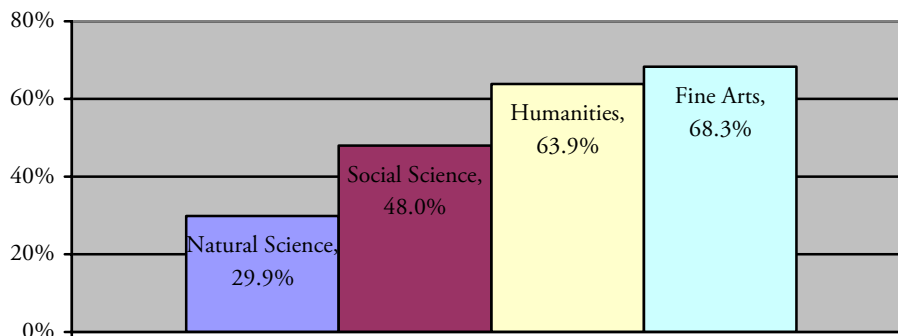
- Nearly 400 CSB/SJU students studied in semester-long international programs this academic year. Nearly half of study abroad participants studied in English-speaking countries, and the London program enrolled the most students. Fifty-four percent of all participants this year were women and most trips enrolled nearly equal numbers of men and women. China and Austria were more popular with SJU students while Spain and Chile were more popular among CSB students.

Number of Participants in Semester-long Study abroad Programs, 2005-2006



- Over three-quarters of all students who studied internationally since 1999 were affiliated with a major either in the Social Sciences (48%) or the Humanities (29%). Among the graduating class of 2005, over two-thirds of Fine Arts majors studied abroad, although the total number of students was less than in other divisions. Over 60% of all students majoring in one of the Humanities studied abroad, as did half of all Social Science majors and nearly a third of all Natural Science majors.

Percent of Students Studying Abroad in Each Division (2004-2005 Graduates)



The next issue of *Trends* will focus on the outcomes of international education experiences as indicated by student responses on the 2005 CSB/SJU Senior Survey and the *Study Abroad Program Evaluation*.

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