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Study Abroad Health and Safety Report

To provide the public with a more accurate understanding of the risks of studying abroad, the Office of Higher Education (OHE) reports study abroad health and safety incident data along with student participation data. This information is submitted annually to OHE by Minnesota postsecondary institutions whose students studied abroad in the prior academic year.

The following data reflects study abroad participation and incidents of Minnesota students that occurred between August 1, 2014 and July 31, 2022.

Study Abroad Key Takeaways

- Since 2015, 70,612 Minnesota students have participated in study abroad programs.
- Of 70 thousand students who traveled abroad, only 232 incidents have occurred.
- None of the incidents have resulted in a student death.
- Europe continues to be the preferred continent of study abroad students. The United Kingdom (7,816), Italy (5,735), Spain (4,803), and France (3,364) are the most popular study abroad destinations.
- Ecuador, Spain, and Italy have the most recorded incidents involving hospitalizations but their incident rates are only 1.52%, 0.33%, and 0.28%.
- The University of Minnesota - Twin Cities sends the largest number of students to study abroad (19,281). The next largest institution is the University of St. Thomas (7,633).

Minnesota Study Abroad Participants by Country 2015 to 2022

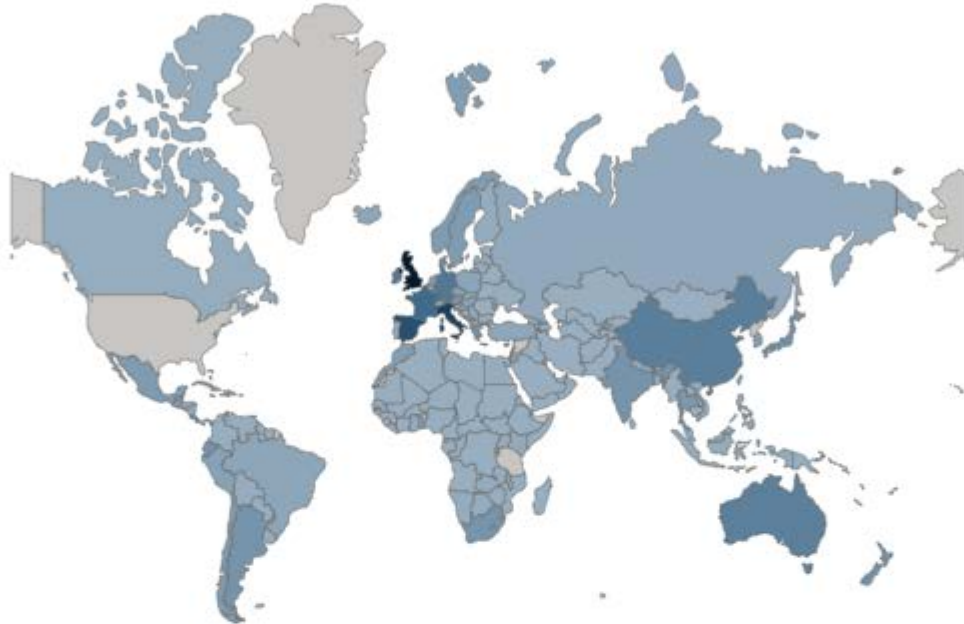
School Year

All

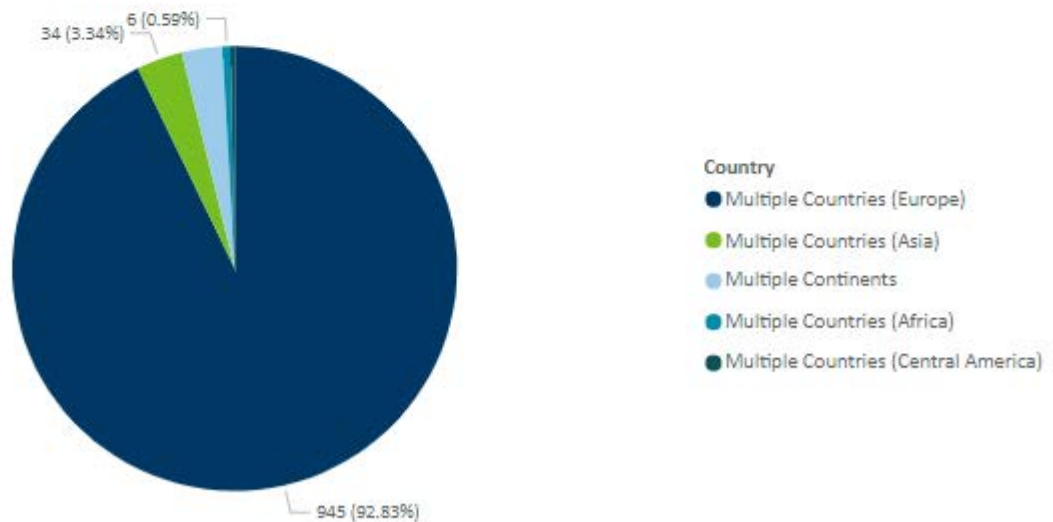
Country

All

Minnesota students studied abroad in a wide variety of countries. Scroll over each country to see the number of students who studied there during the years listed above.



Among students who visited multiple countries while studying abroad, the majority studied in Europe.



Minnesota Study Abroad Incidents as a Percentage of Participants 2015 to 2022

0.33%

Incident Rate by Year

School Year

All

Program Host	Total Incidents	Total Participants	Incident Rate	
All Other Program Hosts		129	26651	0.48%
Home University		103	43082	0.24%
Total		232	69733	0.33%

Country	Incidents Total	Participants Total	Incident Rate
Ecuador	20	1313	1.52%
Italy	16	5735	0.28%
Spain	16	4803	0.33%
Guatemala	13	585	2.22%
India	11	1345	0.82%
Multiple Countries (Europe)	11	945	1.16%
United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)	11	7816	0.14%
Thailand	10	1078	0.93%
Australia	7	2349	0.30%
China, People's Republic of	7	2370	0.30%
Germany	7	2738	0.26%
Peru	7	647	1.08%
Mexico	6	977	0.61%
Denmark	5	1661	0.30%
South Africa	5	1300	0.38%
Austria	4	1179	0.34%
Costa Rica	4	1348	0.30%
France	4	3364	0.12%
Ireland	4	2570	0.16%
Kenya	4	218	1.83%
South Korea (Republic of Korea)	4	807	0.50%
Japan	3	1472	0.20%
Jordan	3	268	1.12%
Netherlands	3	810	0.37%
New Zealand	3	1502	0.20%
Nicaragua	3	272	1.10%
Sweden	3	962	0.31%
Argentina	2	1343	0.15%
Total	232	69733	0.33%

Minnesota Study Abroad Participation and Incidents by Institution 2015-2022

School Year	Total Participants	Total Incidents	Total Deaths
2015	12144	38	0
2016	11569	36	0
2017	11504	15	0
2018	11795	36	0
2019	11421	43	0
2020	6947	10	0
2021	390	0	0
2022	3963	54	0
Total	69733	232	0

Institution

School Year

All

All

Institution	School Year	Total Participants	Total Incidents	Incident Rate
Augsburg University	2015	276	0	0.00%
Bemidji State University	2015	36	2	5.56%
Bethany Lutheran College	2015	27	0	0.00%
Bethel University	2015	580	0	0.00%
Carleton College	2015	575	4	0.70%
Central Lakes College (Brainerd)	2015	40	0	0.00%
College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University	2015	516	2	0.39%
College of Saint Scholastica	2015	207	1	0.48%
Concordia College	2015	307	2	0.65%
Concordia University-St. Paul	2015	37	0	0.00%
Crown College	2015	2	0	0.00%
Dunwoody College of Technology	2015	6	0	0.00%
Gustavus Adolphus College	2015	494	1	0.20%
Hamline University	2015	617	1	0.16%
Itasca Community College	2015	42	0	0.00%
Lake Superior College	2015	24	0	0.00%
Macalester College	2015	315	4	1.27%
Martin Luther College	2015	27	0	0.00%
McNally Smith College of Music	2015	1	0	0.00%
Minneapolis College of Art and Design	2015	12	0	0.00%
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	2015	13	0	0.00%
Minnesota State University Moorhead	2015	149	0	0.00%
Minnesota State University, Mankato	2015	399	2	0.50%
Mitchell Hamline School of Law	2015	48	0	0.00%
Normandale Community College	2015	68	1	1.47%
North Central University	2015	36	0	0.00%
North Hennepin Community College	2015	1	0	0.00%
Northland Community & Technical College	2015	2	0	0.00%
Northwestern Health Sciences University	2015	10	0	0.00%
Ridgewater College	2015	5	0	0.00%
Rochester Community and Technical College	2015	13	1	7.69%
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota	2015	95	0	0.00%
Total		69733	230	0.33%

Study Abroad During COVID-19

In 2020, many institutions scrambled to return students home after COVID-19 became a world pandemic. Many institutions paused study abroad programs during the pandemic. As institutions recover from the pandemic, some programs are reopened for students. Here we show the number of participants and COVID-19 cases that occurred in each country visited by students.

Country

All

Country	Participants Total	COVID Total
Multiple Countries (Europe)	945	11
Guatemala	585	7
United Kingdom (England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland)	7816	6
Ecuador	1313	5
Mexico	977	1
Spain	4803	1
Thailand	1078	1
Afghanistan	5	0
Albania	20	0
Algeria	6	0
Andorra	0	0
Angola	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	2	0
Argentina	1343	0
Armenia	14	0
Aruba (Formerly Netherlands Antilles)	26	0
Australia	2349	0
Austria	1179	0
Azerbaijan	2	0
Bahamas, The	406	0
Bahrain	0	0
Bangladesh	43	0
Barbados	31	0
Belarus	21	0
Belgium	203	0
Belize	828	0
Benin	0	0
Bhutan	11	0
Bolivia	86	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	37	0
Botswana	62	0
Brazil	461	0
British West Indies	24	0
Total	69733	32

- + 89%

About this Report

The OHE Study Abroad Health and Safety Report dashboard is a legislatively mandated report under Minnesota Statutes § 5.41 Study Abroad Programs.

This dashboard summarizes the reported deaths and hospitalizations that occurred during, and as a result of, study abroad participation and whether the program complied with health and safety standards set by the nationally recognized Forum on Education Abroad or similar standards. The dashboard disaggregates by country, primary program host, and program type of each incident to provide the public with a more accurate understanding of the risks of studying abroad.

2021 Minnesota Statutes § 5.41 subd. 2 STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS REPORTING.

(a) A postsecondary institution must file by November 1 of each year a report on its programs with the secretary of state. The report must contain the following information from the previous academic year, including summer terms:

- (1) deaths of program participants that occurred during program participation as a result of program participation;*
- (2) accidents and illnesses that occurred during program participation as a result of program participation and that required hospitalization; and*
- (3) country, primary program host, and program type for all incidents reported in clauses (1) and (2).*

(b) For purposes of paragraph (a), "primary program host" is the institution or organization responsible for or in control of the majority of decisions being made on the program including, but not limited to, student housing, local transportation, and emergency response and support.

(c) Information reported under paragraph (a), clause (1), may be supplemented by a brief explanatory statement.

(d) A postsecondary institution must request, but not mandate, hospitalization and incident disclosure from students upon completion of the program.

(e) A postsecondary institution must report to the secretary of state annually by November 1 whether its program complies with health and safety standards set by the Forum on Education Abroad or a similar study abroad program standard setting agency.

Inclusions and Exclusions

Please note that this report only includes reported deaths and hospitalizations occurring during participation in a study abroad program. Institutions are required to report incidents resulting from program location, facilities, and/or activities. This dashboard excludes incidents occurring outside the study abroad program's start-to-end dates and/or that occur during unrelated, independent travel. Data for this report only includes students enrolled at Minnesota institutions participating in state financial aid as required under Minnesota Statutes section 136A.121 subd. 18.

Other information

This is a legislatively mandated dashboard. Study Abroad Health and Safety data is classified as private under Minnesota Statute § 13.32, and personally identifiable information will be protected. The data in this dashboard is aggregated and suppressed as necessary to protect student privacy. As requested by Minnesota Statutes, section 3.197, this dashboard costs approximately \$ to prepare, including staff time.

Contact Us

Christine Kim Park
Research Analyst
Minnesota Office of Higher Education
Christine.KimPark@state.mn.us

Study Abroad Reports

- [2022 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2021 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2020 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2019 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2018 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2017 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2016 Study Abroad Report](#)
- [2015 Study Abroad Report](#)

About Study Abroad Data

According to ***Minn. Statutes § 5.41***, postsecondary institutions offering credit for study abroad must:

- report deaths and hospitalizations that occurred during, and as a result of, program participation
- report country, primary program host, and program type of each incident
- request, but not mandate, incident disclosure from students upon completion of their program
- report whether the institution is committed to complying with the health and safety standards set by the **Forum on Education Abroad**

Forum on Education Abroad Standards

The new Forum on Education Abroad Standards which went into effect July 1, 2020 are included in annual survey of Minnesota study abroad participants conducted by OHE. Most institutions reported meeting all the standards. Additional information about the standards can be found **on the Forum's Standards of Good Practice webpage**.

Data Privacy

OHE adheres to current federal and state data privacy laws and best practices to protect the privacy of individual students. Reports and data required by ***Minn. Stat. § 135A.15, Subd. 6*** are prepared and published as summary data, as defined in ***Minn. Stat. § 13.02, Subd. 19***, and are consistent with federal and state laws governing access to educational data and student privacy.

OHE's policy for complying with federal and state laws governing access to student records is to suppress student data in the cells containing fewer than ten students. This year's report introduces changes in the student data suppression. Beginning with the 2021 report, suppression of the participant counts no longer occurs if fewer than ten students appear in a table or chart as the report contains no student demographics or other potentially identifying information. However, the suppression of incidents counts still occurs if participant counts are fewer than ten.

Other Study Abroad Health and Safety Data

Minnesota law also requires the **Minnesota Secretary of State** to publish links to the **United States Department of State's Consular Information Program** informing the public of conditions abroad that may affect their safety and security. Also other links to publicly available reports on sexual assaults and other criminal acts affecting study abroad program participants during program participation are available. That information and other study abroad resources are available at **Study Abroad Health and Safety Resources for Students and Parents**.