The Catholic University of America
Students Abroad 2009-2010

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This report contains information on students enrolled for a degree at the Catholic University of America who earned academic credit toward their degrees through study abroad during the 2009-2010 academic year regardless of who issued the initial credit, whether CUA or another institution in the US or abroad. This report excludes non-degree student participants and students from other institutions of higher education who participated in CUA programs abroad. The period reported includes the Fall 2009, Spring 2010 and Summer 2010 terms. The data was submitted for the U.S. Study Abroad Survey for the annual the Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange to the Institute of International Education (IIE) in April, 2011. Open Doors 2011 will be published in November, 2011, by IIE. The data interpreted here includes two international students who were excluded from the Open Doors Report.

Total Number of CUA Students Studying Abroad

- During the 2009-2010 academic year, 293 CUA students studied, completed internships or service learning abroad, 85 more than the year before (208) which is a 40.86% increase from the previous year.
- The number of CUA undergraduate students abroad increased by 44.2% (67) students (44.2%) to 225 from 158 the year before. The number of graduate and professional students abroad increased by 33% (17) to 68 from the year before (51).
- 10 students participated in 2 or more programs for a total of 304 individual study abroad experiences. These unique student participants are included in the report by program destination and duration of study below.

Participation by Academic Level

- Of the 293 individual CUA students abroad during 2009-10, 76.79% (225) were undergraduates and 23.2% (68) were graduate and professional students, about the same percentage as last year.
- Among the CUA undergraduate students abroad, 3.6% (8) were first-year students, 9.3% (21) sophomores, 58.2% (131) juniors and 28.9% (65) were seniors.
- Total CUA enrollment during that period was 7,288 students; 3,621 (49.7%) of those students were undergraduates, and 3,667 (50.3%) were graduate and professional students. CUA awarded a total number of 1,664 degrees that year. Of those, 749 were bachelor’s degrees and 908 were graduate degrees (513 master’s degrees, 81 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees and 314 other doctoral degrees).

University-Wide Participation

- We calculated participation rates by comparing the number of participants in education abroad programs to the number of students enrolled at CUA. The 225 undergraduate
students who studied abroad represent 6.21% of the total undergraduate enrollment (3,621), while the 68 graduate students abroad represent 1.85% of the total graduate enrollment (3,667). In 2008-2009 both the undergraduate student participation rate (4.4%) and the graduate student participation rate (1.4%) in education abroad was lower.

• Participation rates were also calculated by comparing the number of participants in study abroad to degree completions in 2009-2010. CUA awarded 749 undergraduate and 908 graduate degrees in 2009-2010. According to this calculation, 30% (225) of the current graduating class studied abroad, up from 21.91% the year before. In addition, 7.49% (68) of all graduate and professional degree candidates studied abroad, up from 5.92%.

Participation by CUA School

• The School of Arts & Sciences, the largest CUA School, also had the largest number of undergraduate students abroad (148 of the 2,138 enrolled). Participation rate is 6.9% for Arts & Sciences undergraduates. Only one graduate student (0.2% of 599 enrolled) enrolled in Arts & Sciences studied abroad. Both the number and percentage of undergraduates abroad enrolled in Arts & Sciences increased from 2008-2009 (86 students and 6%, respectively).

• By far the largest percentage of both undergraduate and graduate students who studied abroad was enrolled in the School of Architecture and Planning. CUArch had 95 students abroad, of whom 52 were undergraduates (14% of 372 enrolled), and 43 were graduate students (24.3% of 177 enrolled).

• The School of Philosophy had 9.4% (5) of its enrolled students abroad, the School of Music had 5.0% (8), the School of Engineering had 3% (9), Law had 2.2% (20), and the School of Nursing had 1.1% (3) of its enrolled students abroad. The following CUA Schools had no undergraduate or graduate students abroad in 2009-2010: Library & Information Science, Metropolitan College, Social Service, Early Christian Studies, Medieval and Byzantine Studies.

• Of all the 225 undergraduate participants, 65.8% were pursuing majors in Arts & Sciences (up from 54.43%), followed by 23.1% in Architecture and Planning (down from 31.64%), 3.6% in Music (down from 6.33%), 1.3% in Nursing (down from 3.16%), 1.9% in Engineering (up from 1.27%).

• Of the 68 graduate student participants, 63.23% (up from 42%) were enrolled in the School of Architecture & Planning, 29.4% (down from 48%) were enrolled in the Law School, 4.4% from Theology and Religious Studies, <1% (down from 6%) in the School of Arts & Sciences, and <1% in the School of Music while no student participated from other Schools.

Participation by Duration of Study

(304 unique – 231 undergraduate and 73 graduate student – experiences)

• The majority 69.3% (160) of CUA all 231 undergraduate student experiences were for a semester (up from 65.2%), 19% (44) took place during the summer (down from 32.9%), and an additional 11.7% (27) studied abroad during the spring break. No CUA student studied abroad in 2009-2010 for an entire academic year. Of the 160 students who spent a
semester abroad, over five times (84.37%) as many students (135) spent the spring semester abroad than the fall (15.6%, 25 students).

- Of all the 73 total graduate and professional student experiences abroad, 78.1% (57) took place during the summer (up from 76.4%) and 22% (16) took place during a semester (down from 23.5%).

**Participation by Destination**

(304 unique – 231 undergraduate and 73 graduate student – experiences)

- The 231 CUA undergraduate program participants studied in 21 different countries (up from 17). One student studied in multiple locations located in Europe.
- The highest concentration (80.5%) of undergraduates abroad (186) studied in Europe (up from 77%), all in Western Europe. Of all undergraduates abroad, 19.5% (45) of all students studied in non-traditional destinations. More specifically, 11.7% (27) studied in Central America (down from 14.3%), 3.9% (9) in Asia (up from 1.2%), 1.73% (4) in South America (up 100%); 1.3% (3) in Oceania (Australia & New Zealand), down from 3.1%, <1% (2) in the Middle East (up 100%) and none in Africa (down from 1.9%).
- The six most popular undergraduate destinations were Italy (56), Spain (39), the United Kingdom (36), France (20), Costa Rica (15) and Belize (12). Costa Rica and Belize were 2-week summer service learning programs abroad.
- The 73 graduate & professional experiences abroad took place in 7 different countries (up from 5). Of all graduate students, 82.2% (60) studied in Western Europe (up from 74.5%), including 9 students at multi-country destinations in Europe.

**Participation by Fields of Study**

- The undergraduates who studied abroad pursued 25 different majors (up from 23). The undergraduate participation rate – calculated by comparing the number of education abroad participants to the students enrolled for a degree – at the institutional level was 6.2% (up from 4.4%) and it varied widely among majors.
- The participation rate for the five most popular undergraduate majors was as follows: Architecture - (14%), (52/372), Politics - 9.1% (34/372), Business and Economics - 5.9% (21/355), Psychology - 8.7% (18/206), Media Studies – 6.7% (11/165), and History – 12.4% (17/137).
- The highest level of participation rates among Arts & Sciences majors was Modern Languages (37%), followed by Greek and Latin (27.3%), Religion (27%), Art (20%), History (12.4%), Philosophy (9.4%), Politics (9.1%), and Psychology (8.7%). The following undergraduate majors had no participants in education abroad programs: Chemistry, Medieval and Byzantine Studies, Sociology.
Participation by Gender

- 57.8% of CUA undergraduates who studied abroad (130) were female compared to 53.8% of all undergraduates enrolled; and 42.2% (95) were male, compared to the 46.2% of all undergraduates enrolled.
- 51.5% (35) of CUA graduate students who studied abroad were female compared to 53.1% of all graduates enrolled, and 48.5% (33) were male, compared to 46.9% of all graduates enrolled.

Participation by Ethnicity and Religious Preference

- Information on ethnicity was reported by 87.1% of the undergraduate study abroad participants. The majority (78.7%) of undergraduate education abroad participants were White/Caucasian, compared to 62.3% of all undergraduates enrolled.
- Minority participation rate among all undergraduate participants was 7.6% (17) - down from 8.3% - compared to the minority undergraduate enrollment of 16.2% at CUA. Of the 225 undergraduate study abroad participants, 5.8% (13) were Hispanic, 1.3% (3) Asian American and 0.4% (1) African American. Among undergraduates enrolled at CUA 7.2% were Hispanic, 5.5% African American, and 3.2% are Asian.
- Among the graduate student participants, 77.9% reported ethnicity. Of all the 68 graduate student participants 57% (39) were White/Caucasian, compared to 49.5% of all graduates enrolled at CUA. Of these participants 10.3% (7) were Hispanic, 5.9% (4) were Asian American and 4.4% (3) were African American. Among all CUA graduate students enrolled 7.3% were African American, 5.7% were Asian American, and 4.3% Hispanic.
- By religious preference, 67.1% of all undergraduate participants in education abroad were Roman Catholic, compared to 54% of all undergraduates enrolled at CUA. Among graduate student participants 35.3% were Roman Catholic, compared to 34% of all graduates enrolled at CUA.

Participation by Sponsorship

- 97% (224) of the undergraduate student program participants studied abroad on CUA or CUA co-sponsored programs, up from 79.5% reported in 2008-2009 and 7 (3%) participated in programs offered by other U.S. or foreign institutions or organizations.
- All of the 73 graduate and professional student program participants studied abroad on CUA programs.

Participants from Other US Institutions

- In addition to the 293 CUA degree-seeking students, CUAbroad enrolled 53 students from other US universities and colleges, while the Law School enrolled 4 students from other institutions. The cumulative total number of participants on CUA education abroad programs was 349. These non-CUA participants are reported by their own institutions that enroll them for a degree, and are not included in this report.