

Why Require Student Reviews?

How student reviews can enhance study abroad

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10 Uses

- Student Research Tool
- Measuring the “fit”
- Assuring the Choice (Family, Friends)
- Setting Expectations
- Pre-Departure Orientation
- Feedback for Advisors
- Sets Metrics for Reporting
- Performance Measurements
- Guiding/Justifying Pre-Approved Program Lists
- Published Reviews are Good for the Student; their Showcase

Pressure to Publish

- Students don't respond well to paper based data search
- 24/7 access expected, paper archives are archaic
- Reviews are perfect content for social media, "viral marketing"
- Published reviews provide answers and insight for the off-campus parents
- Published reviews show university and international efforts are progressive
- With Increasing calls for transparency, reviews/evaluations are a reasonable response

Wellesley College

- ~ 40% of junior class studies abroad during academic year (~ 300-350 students)
- Students are **required** to complete reviews before Wellesley will transfer their credits from abroad
- Reviews available online from 2009-10 academic year to present

Why require student reviews?

- **Student Research Tool-** help prospective students search for the right program
- **Assuring the Choice-** reinforce a student's program choice
- **Pre-Departure Orientation-** add dimension & help students better prepare
- **Setting Expectations-** help students & families gain a more accurate picture of the program than brochures or websites can provide

Student Research Tool

- **Encourages students to research different aspects of programs:** academics, food, housing, program administration, health & safety, cost
- **Identify strengths & weaknesses of individual programs:** star ratings are quick and easy to understand
- **Identify common issues/ratings by destination & point them to alternative destinations that may be a better fit:**
ex. Housing is difficult to obtain at some Australian universities but not others
- **Identify overall personality of a program/destination by review tone:** issues like party scene, academic rigor, faculty engagement, interaction with local students, etc.

Student Research Tool: Example review questions

Review Your Program

* Overall educational experience

Academic rigor, intensity, resources, etc.

- **Type:** Rating

Individual Course Reviews

(Optional) Please evaluate any particular positive or negative courses here.

- **Type:** Select Multiple
- **Options:**

* Host Country Program Administration

On-site administration of your program

- **Type:** Rating

* Housing:

How satisfied were you with your living arrangements?

- **Type:** Rating

* Food:

- **Type:** Rating

* Social & Cultural Integration:

How integrated did you feel with the local culture?

- **Type:** Rating

* Health Care:

How well were health issues addressed during the program?

- **Type:** Rating

* Safety:

- **Type:** Rating

Assuring the Choice

- Filter reviews by students from the same or similar institutions
- Filter reviews by like-minded individuals
- Review questions help to identify the reviewer's personality, which helps prospective students visualize the program's personality & if it might be a good fit for them.
- Reviews can be extra important for faculty-led programs which are especially defined by personalities.

Assuring the Choice

Filter reviews by like minded individuals- does reviewer share my personality?

To help future students find programs attended by like-minded individuals, please choose the profile that most closely represents you.

- **Type:** Select One Radio

- **Options:**

- **The Academic or Linguist** You went abroad with specific academic goals in mind; the program credentials and rigor of your coursework abroad were very important to you. You had a great time abroad, but never lost sight of your studies and (if applicable) were diligent with your foreign language study. Good for you!

- **The Outright Urbanite** A social butterfly, you're happiest in bustling cities with hip people, and took advantage of all it had to offer. You enjoyed the nightlife, and had fun going out dancing, and socializing with friends. Fun-loving and dressed to the nines, you enjoyed discovering new restaurants, shops, cafes, and bars in your host country.

- **The Networker** An active student leader, it was important for you to network abroad as well. Once overseas, you sought out student clubs, volunteered with local organizations, or attended community events. You encouraged your friends join you, and often considered how you could reflect your international experiences in a resume.

- **The Nearly Native or Trail Blazer** Craving the most authentic experience possible, perhaps you lived with a host family or really got in good with the locals. You may have felt confined by your program requirements and group excursions. Instead, you'd have preferred to plan your own trips, even skipping class to conduct your own 'field work.'

- **The Avid Adventurer** The wardrobe you packed was better suited for a semester of camping than club hopping. Outdoorsy, you might forgo a crazy night out for an early all-day adventure. You'd rather take in the rich culture of an old town than the metropolis of a modern city, but for you getting off the grid is ideal.

Assuring the Choice

Filter reviews by like minded individuals- does reviewer share my study abroad goals?

Reasons For Studying Abroad

What were your reasons for studying abroad?

Select all that apply

- **Type:** Select Multiple
- **Options:**
 - Greater understanding of different cultures
 - Learn a foreign language
 - Enhance resume/increase job opportunities
 - Gain a different perspective on my home culture
 - Explore my family's heritage
 - Pressure by friends/classmates
 - Take classes in my major
 - Take classes not offered by my home institution
 - To experience something new
 - Travel and see new places

Pre-Departure Orientation

- Reviews add dimension to pre-departure orientation, help students better prepare.
- First-hand accounts provide examples for students to follow or not.
- Student voice may be easier to identify with than study abroad staff.
- Provide depth to common questions of what to pack, what to expect on arrival, how to make local friends..
- I wish I had known.....
- Especially useful for less popular programs when there are no students on campus who can orient then students can look at older reviews.

Pre-Departure

Finances

* **Money:** How easily were you able to live on a student's budget?

(1 = not very easy/\$200+ on food & personal expenses/week, 2.5 = \$100/week, 5 = very easily/minimal cost)

★☆☆☆☆

New Zealand is expensive! I was very frugal, but always managed to go over budget on food and utilities.

Not including program expenses, about how much money did you spend on food and other expenses each week?

Around 150-200+ per week during colder months.

Do you have any general money-saving tips for future study abroad participants?

The houses are not insulated, so heating bills during colder months can become very high. Take warm clothing and a hot water bottle for sleeping!!! When it comes to food, try not to eat out. Buy unprocessed food on sale and cook for yourself. Also, be sure to take the extra time to walk to Countdown (a grocery store). It's much cheaper to shop there than at the more expensive New World. Don't forget to grab a store savings card. Just go to the customer service desk and ask for a temporary card.

Student's insight on weather and how that might alter ones budget, plus a few tips on saving money.

Pre-Departure

Program Administration

Sage Direct Enrollment
advice, from a student going
without a provider

<p>* What did your program do to prepare you for your time abroad prior to departure?</p>	<p>The University of Otago sent emails with instructions on accessing my flat, course selection, ect.</p>
<p>How did you arrive at your program site? Who organizes travel? What advice can you offer future travelers?</p>	<p>I arrived by an airport shuttle that I organised myself. My advice to future otago internationals living in uni flats: Get to campus early!! I didn't find out until my travel and break plans had already been arranged, but you actually are able to move into your flat one month before classes start. You have to pay for that month anyway, so go early and give yourself some time to explore and adjust to your new environment before classes start!</p>
<p>If your program held an orientation, how helpful was it?</p>	<p>★ ★ ★ ★ ☆</p>

Middlebury College

- ~ 60% of junior class studies abroad (~ 350-400 students per year)
- Students are **required** to complete evaluations (reviews) in order to access their transcript and view their grades = nearly 100% return rate



More ways program evaluations can be used to serve the many stakeholders interested in education abroad...

- Feedback for advisors
- Assessing program “fit”
- Reporting



Feedback for Advisors

- **Quality assurance:** Feedback on programs, identify areas in need of improvement, monitoring potential areas of concern, evaluate advising and programming
- **Student expectations:** Look for signs of students who were not prepared; use this to adjust pre-departure orientation and advising
- **Comparison with others:** Compare home institution students' comments and feedback with those of students from other colleges and universities
- **Student learning:** Comments can give insight into learning and intercultural competence development
- **Student “satisfaction”:** How satisfied students are with experience overall and different aspects of programs

Feedback for Advisors: Examples of review questions

Quality assurance/Student expectations/Comparison with others/Student “satisfaction”

The screenshot displays the Abroad101 website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes the Abroad101 logo, '0 approved programs', '513 reviews (0 new)', '71 invites (in last 4 months)', a user profile for 'Abroad101', and a search bar. A left sidebar contains menu items: PROGRAM LISTINGS (View Preapproved Programs, Approve More Programs), UNIVERSITY (Edit Profile, Add Abroad101 Logo, Add Programs Widget), REPORTING (Stats Overview, Graphs, Export Reviews), and HELP (FAQ, Steps To Take, API Integration Details). The main content area is titled 'Academics' and contains several review questions:

- * Did your coursework abroad integrate effectively with your academic goals?**
 - Type: Select One
 - Options:
 - Yes
 - No
- * Did you study abroad to fulfill major and/or minor requirements?**
 - Type: Select One
 - Options:
 - Yes
 - No
- * Were you able to take classes to fulfill major and/or minor requirements?**
 - Type: Select One
 - Options:
 - Yes
 - No
- * Were you able to take classes in areas of other academic interest (unrelated to your major/minor)?**
 - Type: Select One
 - Options:
 - Yes
 - No
- If you participated in an internship, volunteer service project, or experiential field component, please explain:**
Please include the name of the internship or volunteer organization and comment on your responsibilities, method of grading, and any positive/negative attributes.
 - Type: Text Area
- * Please comment on how successful you were integrating into your host culture with regard to classes:**
 - Type: Text Area
- * Please reflect on your adjustment to your host country's educational environment. How did you benefit from this environment?**
 - Type: Text Area

The bottom section of the screenshot is titled 'Host Country Program Administration' and contains three review questions:

- * Once abroad, to what degree did your program staff provide an appropriate orientation?**
 - Type: Rating
- * To what degree did your host institution/program provider provide you with adequate information prior to departure?**
 - Type: Rating
- * Was your program accurately presented in its brochures and correspondence? Please comment:**
 - Type: Text Area

The bottom navigation bar is identical to the top one, but includes a 'middlebury' button on the right side.

Assessing Program “fit”:

Is the program a good match for a student’s needs, interests and goals?

- **Academics:** Students’ expectations of academic rigor, different academic systems, students’ level of preparedness
- **Cultural Immersion:** Advice about extra-curricular/outside the classroom, how to integrate into local culture
- **“What they don’t tell you”:** Insight into issues not addressed in program materials
- **Goals and Expectations:** Program structure, goals, and expectations
- **Advice to future students:** What students wish they knew before going abroad; students who utilized reviews in their own research prior to study abroad are more amenable to submitting a thorough review after their study abroad.

Assessing Program “fit”: Examples of review questions

Academics/Cultural Immersion/“What they don’t tell you”/Goals and Expectations/ Advice to future students

abroad101 STUDY ABROAD REVIEWS 0 approved programs 513 reviews (0 new) 71 invites (in last 4 months) Abroad101 Search middlebury

Cultural Integration

Please check any extracurricular activities in which you participated (check all that apply):

- **Type:** Select Multiple
- **Options:**
 - Internship
 - Sport (club, team, etc.)
 - Music
 - Conversation partner
 - Independent project
 - Housing
 - Extracurricular class (dance, cooking, etc.)
 - Volunteer work
 - None
 - Other

If other, please explain:

- **Type:** Text Field

*** What strategies were most valuable in helping you to integrate into your culture and why?**
Please also comment on anything you did that may have worked against your integration into your host culture.

- **Type:** Text Area

*** How much do you believe your understanding of your host country has improved?**

- **Type:** Rating

*** How has study abroad influenced your understanding of your host culture? How has it influenced your perceptions of America?**

- **Type:** Text Area

*** What were the personal qualities you found most useful during your time abroad?**

- **Type:** Text Area

If you experienced any racial, gender, or LGBT-related discrimination, please describe & make recommendations for future students:

- **Type:** Text Area

feedback & support

Reporting



- Reports can be created to include quantitative and qualitative data from reviews
- Track reviews over time, show trends of student ratings and feedback
- Assess feedback from certain program aspects (e.g., academics, housing, overall experience)
- Reports to administrators: overall assessments of education abroad

Reporting: Example

< Hide navbar

Your profile is 33% complete!

[Click here to learn more!](#)

STUDENT MANAGEMENT

Invite Tool New

+ View

Invited Students

Active Students

EVALUATIONS

Manage Reviews

Evaluation Questions

PROGRAM LISTINGS

View Preapproved Programs

Approve More Programs

UNIVERSITY

Edit Profile

Add Abroad101 Logo

Add Programs Widget

REPORTING

Stats Overview

Graphs

Export Reviews

HELP

FAQ

Steps To Take

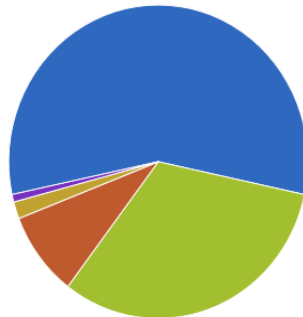
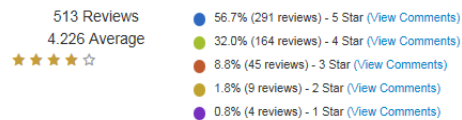
Administrative Details

Middlebury College Reports

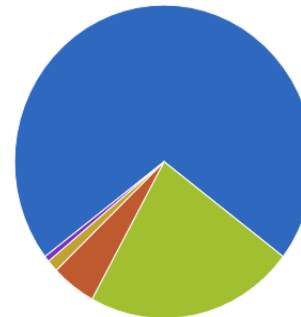
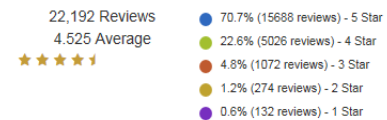
☆ Rating Stats ▾

Overall

Middlebury College



Abroad101 (Change Comparison)



As a school that requires reviews of all study abroad students, Middlebury students show a bit more balanced view of study abroad.

Reporting: Example

1	Major	Overall Rating	Overall educational experience	Host Country
16	N/A	5	3.0: Academically, the workload might not have been sincerely rigorous, but the true inl	4.0: All the on-site administration
17	Chemistry, Geology	5	3.0: Field camp during JTerm was immensely rigorous, the most difficult course I've ever taken, even harder than organ	4.0: Great fl
18	Undecided	5	3.0: I like my American education system better because I was able to get into more inl	3.0: (Program) is strongly encou
19	Neuroscience	5	3.0: I think it would have been nice to take less hours of courses, because then I would	4.0: The courses offered at the (5.0: I loved
20	English	5	3.0: I thought that the Australian educational system was incredibly different than the Ai	3.0: The (Program) study abroa
21	Psychology	5	3.0: I wasn't too thrilled with the actual courses at (Program) and felt that the profess	1.0: Disorganized, lost some of i
22	Psychology	5	3.0: Not as much school work time wise as Middlebury, not as hard in general. But 3 or	2.5: 3.0: nice, bi
23	American Studies	5	3.0: Not too much work, the teachers varied greatly. The workload was very heavy duri	5.0: Very helpful and provided lc
24	Psychology	5	3.0: Rigor and intensity was light, but exactly the right amount for being abroad. It allow	4.0: 3.5: 3.0: I slowly started to feel mor
25	N/A	5	3.0: The classes themselves were not that academically challenging, aside from the ISF	4.5: Although when I arrived I w
26	Political Science	5	3.0: The work load was lighter than in the United States	4.0: My expectations were met fi
27	Economics	5	3.0: The workload was definitely easier than Middlebury, which was a nice break. In thr	2.0: The administration was pret
28	Theatre	5	3.0: The workload was what you made of it. Participation in most of my classes wasn't	2.0: The study abroad administr
29	History	5	3.0: There was not a lot of work assigned throughout the semester. I had two (short) pa	1.0: Was basically on my own, e
30	Math	5	3.0: Workload at Middlebury was much heavier than at (Program). The grading system	5.0: Could not have been more t
31	Political Science	5	3.0: Workload was not heavy, grading system is very confusing and professors are not	5.0: (Program) was amazing at f
32	Economics	5	3.0: Workload was very light and the grading system was pretty easy. A lot of our grad	4.0: The schoolwork was easy a
36	Environmental Science And Po	5	3.5: Depended on what courses you took. Some were harder than others.	4.0: Very helpful 5.0: I loved
37	Philosophy	5	3.5: Not nearly as hard as Middlebury, but decent professors and facilities.	3.0: 3.5: Great k
38	Undeclared	5	3.5: (Program) was what you made it - you could choose whether or not you wanted to	3.5: Prior to arriving at (Program
39	Environmental Studies	5	3.5: The classes that I chose were interesting, but the educational experience was diffe	3.5: The program was helpful wit
40	N/A	5	3.5: The study tours were amazing! I loved how they incorporated study and travel into	4.0: 5.0: Choose
52	N/A	5	4.0: Academically rigorous is not a term I would use to describe the semester. However	3.0: The program director has b
53	Environmental Studies Conserv	5	4.0: Although it may not be considered academically as intense as a formal college set	4.0: The administration was fant
54	History Of Art And Architecture	5	4.0: Courses at (Program) are run very similarly to those at Middlebury. They are small	4.0: strengths: program facilitat
55	Geographv	5	4.0: I did not choose to go on an (Program) program for the academic rigor. If that was	5.0: The program did NOT funct

Export the stats into Excel each semester, run calculations on the ratings for trend analysis and executive level reporting.

Setting Expectations

- Reviews help parents and family feel comfortable in the student's choice.
- Reviews help students & their parents set expectations (safety, home institution & on-site advising/orientation/support).
- Reviews can help avoid rude awakenings (what is housing REALLY like, food..).
- Reviews can give parents a role in the process, create checklists on how to prepare.

Gathering Support

Review comments help set students set expectations; they also help families do the same. Can be useful in communicating safety tips, competence of administrators and confidence in program outcomes

This review came just as the State Department was issuing travel advisories for Israel

★★★★★ **INCREDIBLE!** July 16, 2014

By **Hillary S (The University of Texas at Austin)** - abroad from **01/13/2014** to **05/25/2014** with

Tel Aviv University: Undergraduate Semester in Israel

✔ Would return abroad with the same program

What did you gain/learn from your experience abroad? Was it worthwhile?

It was an incredible learning experience for me and my Jewish religion. I was able to experience Shabbat dinners and all Jewish culture that I had never witnessed before. I absolutely loved the Israeli people and was so welcomed into the community there.

Gathering Support

Review comments may help avoid rude awakenings, things not included in the brochures like shared bathrooms, lack of indoor climate control, access to food, role of house parents with homestays all may help US parents better understand and prepare.

* Food:



Students prepared every meal and were forced to try and clean the filthy boat. We did our best on the food preparation, so the food was usually ok. We didn't have anything to drink except for warm water the whole time because only the crew was allowed to use the refrigerator. Miserable experience.

Two different student reviews of the same program at the same time

What did you gain/learn from your experience abroad? Was it worthwhile?

It is definitely worthwhile. For me I gained part of me that I didn't know I had inside of me as well as leadership skills. You gain lifelong friends. I learned how to push myself to do things that I never thought were possible.

Gathering Support

- Reviews may help parents feel they have a role, scouring the reviews for anything that students missed, creating a reminder "check list"

* Safety:	★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ My apartment was broken into while my roommate was present. Nothing was stolen because she chased the intruders out of the building. Fairfield hired a security guard and changed all of the locks in the building to prevent another break in.
* Safety:	★ ★ ★ ★ ★ I always felt safe. I felt less safe this summer when living in New York City. Oftentimes in Puebla I'd take the bus or a cab at night alone, and was always fine. I did, however, always let someone know if I was alone in a cab, obviously. I never got sick off the food, even though I ate a ton of street food, and only got sick once from a friend who had a cold. I had a bad cold for about 2 weeks.

Two different student perspectives on safety – First shows provider responded quick and appropriately, second seems counter to common perception of Mexico

* What do you know now that you wish you knew before going on this program?

One student offers a wealth of peer-advising style commentary, suggesting behavior changes – a new “American in Paris” perspective.

• Yes, pick-pocketing is not only common in Paris, but among the most common crimes in Europe. Try to always keep a minimum of money and important documents on you at all times. • When traveling by train, hug or sit on your valuables so that in case you fall asleep, your things will not be at risk. • Stick to cities centers. Most European cities follow the same urban phenomenon as Paris – cities centers are historical and tourist centers, and tend to be safer than surrounding suburbs. • Do not speak English loudly in public. You can be a target of pick-pocketing and harassment. • Be VERY CAREFUL talking on cell phones in the street or in the metro. Do not use your phone or text from your phone in public! Thieves can snatch it and run away. • Walk with purpose and discretion. You should always have a map of the city you are in with you at all times. You may get yourself in trouble if you get lost. • Do not leave valuables in shared hostel rooms. Carry valuables with you at all times. • While Parisians live in a relatively calm and welcoming metropolis by day, the tone changes at nightfall. Areas which seem perfectly safe during the day can be havens for both petty and more serious crime in late hours. Between 11pm and 4am, Paris shows its worst colors, with the Champs Elysées ranking number 1 in number of crimes per day. • Your public language should be French. Learn to speak French as much as possible.

Reviews for Crowd Funding



Learn About GoEnnounce

Browse Fundraising Missions

Search Students & fundraising mission

Uhd Study Abroad to Ghana!

By: [Janee' Bailey](#) from University of Houston-Downtown

Fundraising Mission By:



Janee' Bailey
[View My Student Page](#)

\$870.00



Raised of \$2,000.00 goal

DONATE

Only 0 days left to help me reach my goal

Help me spread the word so I can achieve my goal!



<https://www.goennounce.com/mis/>

About Comments Updates

About This Mission

This trip is important to me because it will be my first time EVER going out of the country and I cannot wait to take this opportunity of a lifetime. On this trip we will tour places such as the Kwame Nkrumah Memorial park, Aburi Gardens and Cape Coast Castle!! The funds that I am raising will go towards the remainder of my trip and my plane ticket and I will be filled with joy if you all can help donate to the cause, for no donation is too small!!! Thank you in advance! :)

You can read more about the program I am attending here

<http://www.studyabroad101.com/programs/ghana-trip-of-a-lifetime>

Comment



Janitra Bailey Walker · Senior IT Analyst at Energy Transfer Partners

I will start you off Janee with \$50! This is a family and friend challenge!!!! Skip that Pappadeaux meal this week, skip buying those irresistible shoes and skip the nail shop this month!!!! Let's all help to support Janee! Janee is an amazing woman with an awesome future ahead of her! This is my "Get Janee to Ghana" campaign!

Reply · Like · 4 · June 2 at 9:26am



Debra Lilly · Fordham University School of Law

My pleasure. I am a huge proponent of student travel abroad. Be safe and share pics please.

Reply · Like · 3 · June 2 at 9:38am



Abroad101

Congratulations on being nominated as the Abroad101 Student of the Week. We hope your donation and endorsement will help you reach your mission. Please don't forget to post about your experience on Abroad101 when you return. Best wishes!

Reply · Like · June 18 at 7:02pm



Janeé Bailey · University of Houston-Downtown

Thank you guys both so much for your support! and yes i will be posting plenty of pics

Reply · Like · June 2 at 11:10am

Facebook social plugin

People Who Donated

- Brandi L.
 - Cynthia J.
 - Danielle M.
 - Debra L.
 - Devon S.
 - Dorina R.
 - Eula O.
 - Frederick B.
 - Janitra W.
 - Keeya S.
 - Perla M.
- Abroad101

Family, Friends and maybe new fans donating and providing motivating comments. Review link provided to demonstrate earlier student success on the desired program

Performance Measurements

- Financial realities of participating students have a big role in aspects like cost of living, food and social so comparing against the whole is interesting and may help you in generating resources from your university
- System reports provide a look at how home institution compares against the whole. Share with peers at comparable schools, best practice comes from benchmarking
- Be sure to compare apples to apples. Profile of where students go (destination, type of program) will skew results

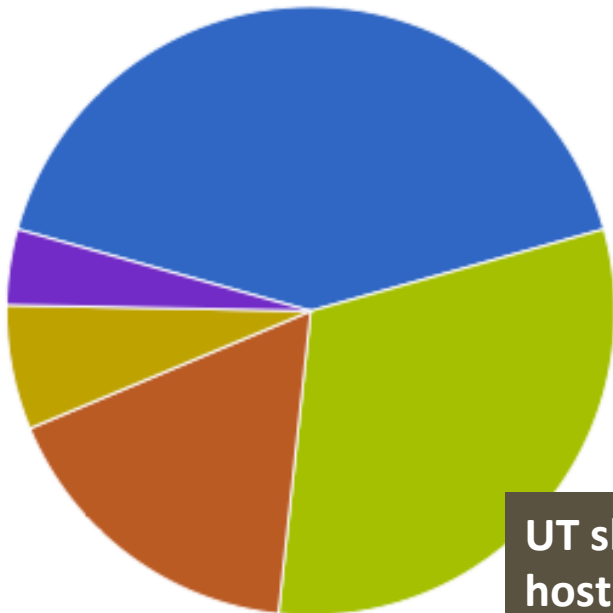
The University of Texas at Austin

1,273 Reviews

3.928 Average



- 41.2% (525 reviews) - 5 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 31.0% (394 reviews) - 4 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 17.0% (216 reviews) - 3 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 6.6% (84 reviews) - 2 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 4.0% (51 reviews) - 1 Star ([View Comments](#))



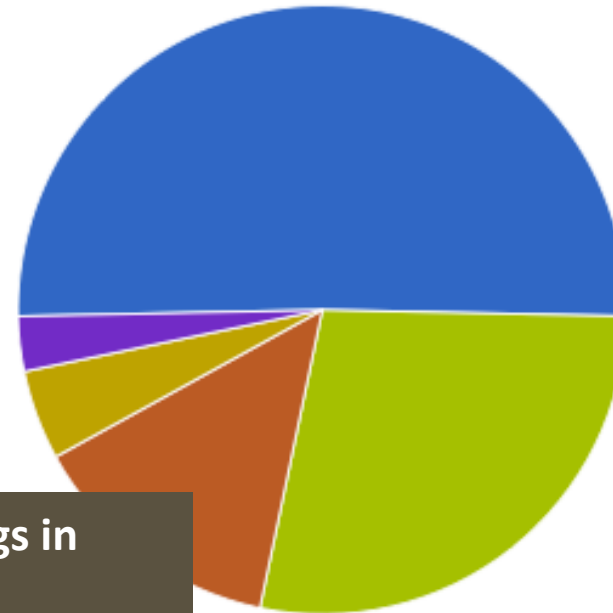
Abroad101 [\(Change Comparison\)](#)

21,978 Reviews

4.126 Average



- 50.7% (11135 reviews) - 5 Star
- 28.0% (6144 reviews) - 4 Star
- 13.7% (3011 reviews) - 3 Star
- 4.8% (1049 reviews) - 2 Star
- 2.9% (639 reviews) - 1 Star



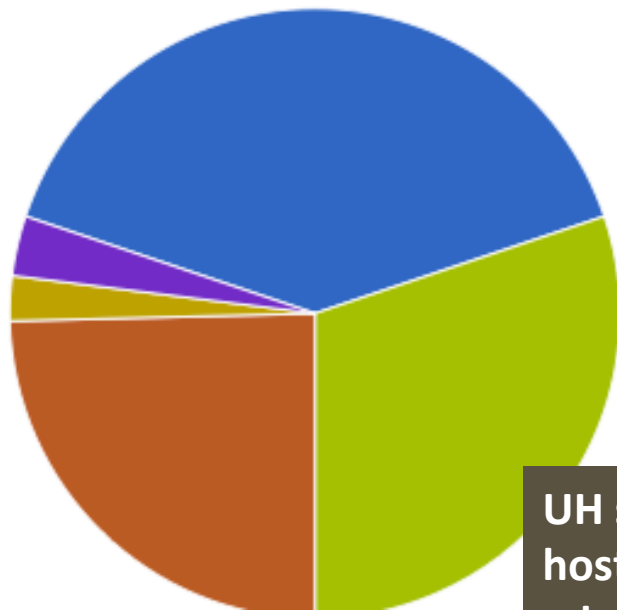
UT shows lower ratings in host country program administration than the group

Admin

University of Hawaii - Manoa

127 Reviews
3.988 Average
★★★★☆

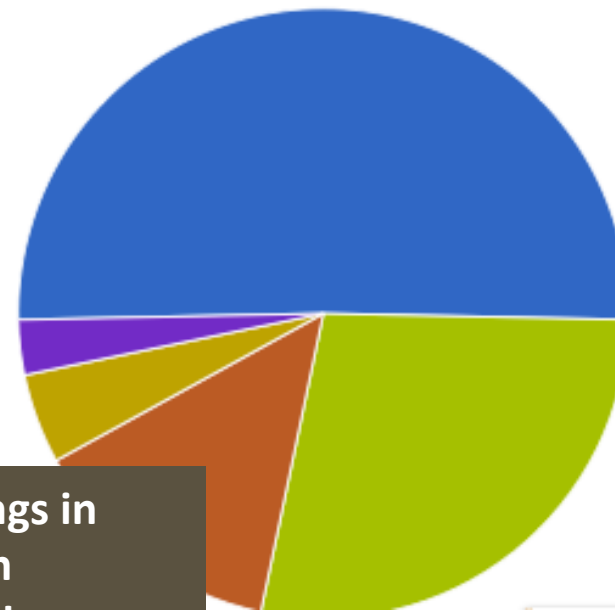
- 39.4% (50 reviews) - 5 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 29.9% (38 reviews) - 4 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 24.4% (31 reviews) - 3 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 2.4% (3 reviews) - 2 Star ([View Comments](#))
- 3.1% (4 reviews) - 1 Star ([View Comments](#))



Abroad101 [\(Change Comparison\)](#)

21,978 Reviews
4.126 Average
★★★★☆

- 50.7% (11135 reviews) - 5 Star
- 28.0% (6144 reviews) - 4 Star
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- 2.9% (639 reviews) - 1 Star



UH shows lower ratings in host country program administration than the group

07/16/2014

Expensive Yet Worth It

The University of New South Wales: Sydney - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★☆

"Australia was amazing and I had the best time! The program wasn't the best and the school academics were not what I expected, but I also didn't expect too much for being abroad. Australia was the best place and has so much to offer! I would suggest Sydney Uni if you want more challenging academics."

— madeline s - The University of Texas at Austin

[View Entire Review](#)

07/16/2014

Amman, Jordan

CIEE: Amman - Language and Culture

★★★★↓

"It was one of the best experiences of my life and would consider doing it again. Learning h society helped me learn a lot about myself."

— A student - The University of Texas at Austin

[View Entire Review](#)

07/16/2014

Incredible!

Tel Aviv University: Undergraduate Semester in Israel

★★★★★

"It was an incredible learning experience for me and my Jewish religion. I was able to experience Shabbat dinners and all Jewish culture that I had never witnessed before. I absolutely loved the Israeli people and was so welcomed into the community there. "

— Hillary S - The University of Texas at Austin

[View Entire Review](#)

07/16/2014

The Smartest Thing I Could Have Done, I Made So Many New Friends.

Victoria University of Wellington: Wellington - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★★

"I learned to meet a lot of new people and interact with different cultures. It was the most worthwhile thing I have done while in school."

— justin.rightmer - The University of Texas at Austin

[View Entire Review](#)

UT requires their students on Outbound Exchange Programs to review on Abroad101. These programs are often rated low on Administration

Sort by: [Date](#) | [Rating](#)

01/23/2014

Once Is Never Enough

Akita International University: Akita - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★☆

"So worth it! Learned so many things about not only Japanese culture, but about people in general. It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a unique experience. I was able to learn a lot about myself and the world around me. It was a great experience and I would recommend it to anyone who is looking for a unique experience. I was able to learn a lot about myself and the world around me." — A student - University of Hawaii - Manoa

10/10/2013

Worth The Experience

Kansai University: Suita - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★☆

"Learned and traveled to different parts of Japan, which made me learn different things that I could not have learned through a classroom. "

— Nancy S - University of Hawaii - Manoa

[View Entire Review](#)

09/05/2012

Korea At A Glance

Inha University: Incheon - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★★

"By doing this specific study abroad I gained a more global perspective because of all the international people I met in the program. I learned so much about Korea and its culture as well as its people. It was one of the best experiences of my life and I'm so glad I decided to do this program. "

— Jessica-Marie S - University of Hawaii - Manoa

[View Entire Review](#)

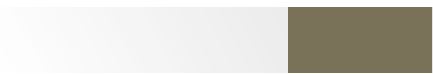
08/28/2012

Best Damn Experience Of My Life

Akita International University: Akita (Intensive Japanese Summer Program) - Direct Enrollment & Exchange

★★★★★

UH invites their students on Outbound Exchange Programs to review on Abroad101. These programs are often rated low on Administration



☆ Rating Stats ▾

Cost of Living

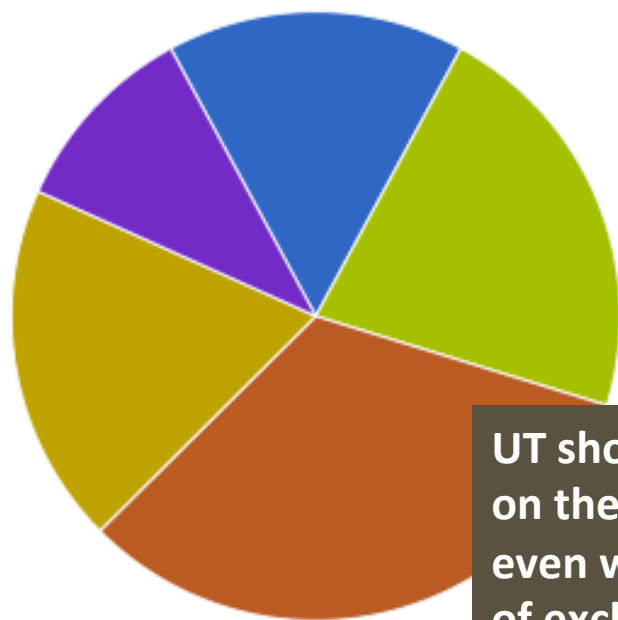
The University of Texas at Austin

1,283 Reviews

3.056 Average



- 15.8% (203 reviews) - 5 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 21.8% (280 reviews) - 4 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 32.8% (421 reviews) - 3 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 19.2% (246 reviews) - 2 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 10.4% (133 reviews) - 1 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)



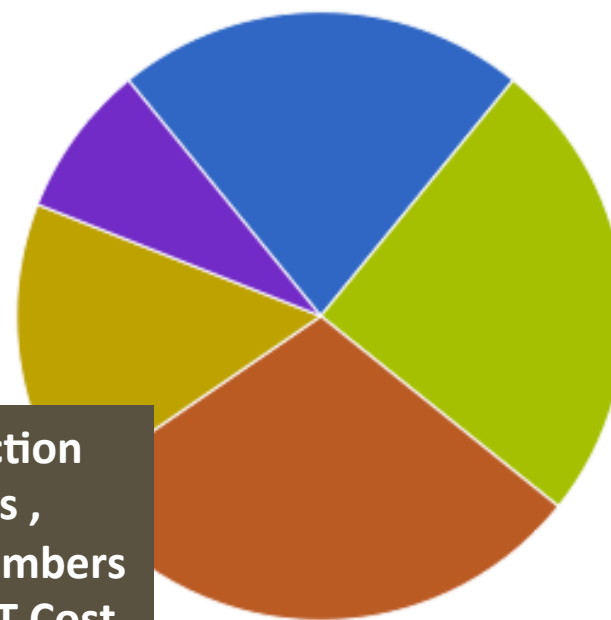
Abroad101 [\(Change Comparison\)](#)

22,103 Reviews

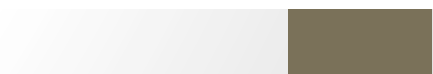
3.286 Average



- 21.8% (4816 reviews) - 5 Star
- 24.9% (5493 reviews) - 4 Star
- 29.7% (6569 reviews) - 3 Star
- 15.5% (3428 reviews) - 2 Star
- 8.1% (1797 reviews) - 1 Star



UT shows lower satisfaction on the price of programs , even with significant numbers of exchanges. STUDENT Cost of Living in Austin is a factor.

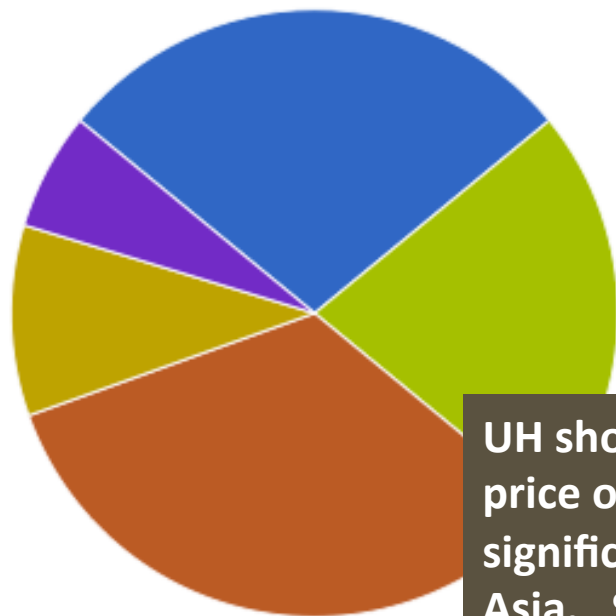


Cost of Living

University of Hawaii - Manoa

129 Reviews
3.527 Average
★★★★☆

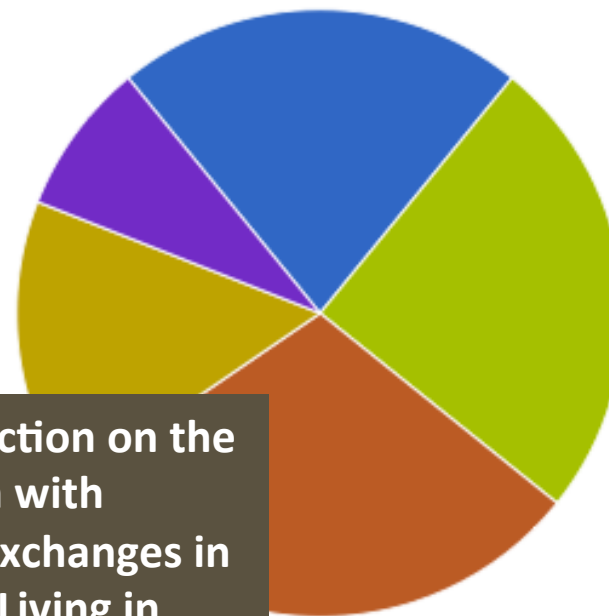
- 27.9% (36 reviews) - 5 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 21.7% (28 reviews) - 4 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 33.3% (43 reviews) - 3 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 10.1% (13 reviews) - 2 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)
- 6.2% (8 reviews) - 1 Star [\(View Comments\)](#)



Abroad101 [\(Change Comparison\)](#)

22,103 Reviews
3.286 Average
★★★★☆

- 21.8% (4816 reviews) - 5 Star
- 24.9% (5493 reviews) - 4 Star
- 29.7% (6569 reviews) - 3 Star
- 15.5% (3428 reviews) - 2 Star
- 8.1% (1797 reviews) - 1 Star



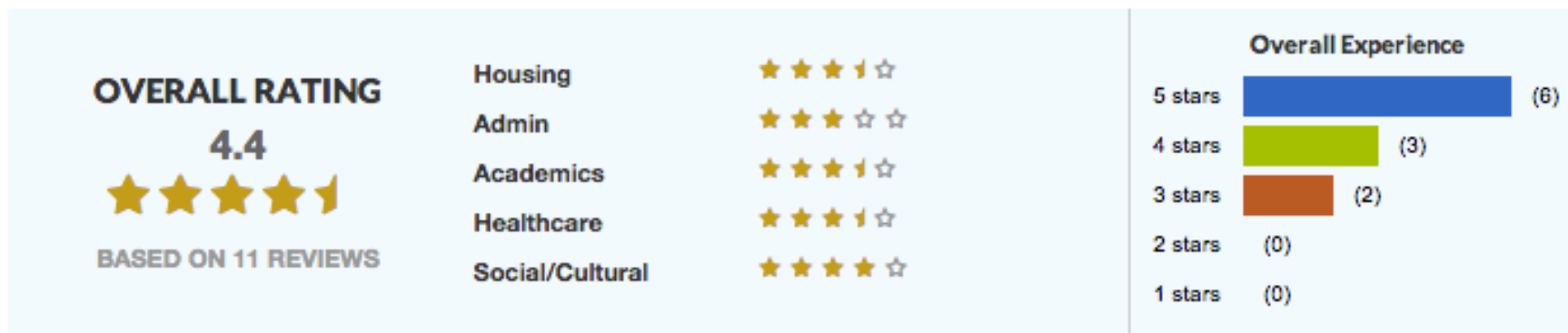
UH shows higher satisfaction on the price of programs , even with significant numbers of exchanges in Asia. STUDENT Cost of Living in Hawaii is a factor.

Guiding/Justifying Pre-Approved Program Lists

- Compiled review scores of service categories can help advisors and students understand the trade-offs of certain types of programs (exchange versus third party as an example)
 - One can "reverse engineer" review lists to see where universities are sending their students and give some insight into the mix of students on a certain program
 - Each foreign university has a Direct Enrollment and Exchange listing, see how that options compares versus providers at that university
 - Compare one provider against another by host institution, then add price for a better cost-benefit analysis

📖 University of Westminster is a **university** located in **London, The United Kingdom** offering **1 direct enrollment and exchange program** and **23 programs** managed by an outside provider. Programs offered include **Study Abroad, Internship, Traveling/Tours/Non-credit Excursions, and Graduate Program** abroad programs.

Study Abroad with University of Westminster



📷 **Direct Enrollment/Exchange Programs (1)**

+ **Programs Managed by Outside Providers (23)**



University of Westminster: London - Direct Enrollment & Exchange ⓘ

📍 University of Westminster in London, The United Kingdom

Programmes on offer – UG Study Abroad, PG Study Abroad, Summer School, English as a Foreign Language. Located in the heart

4.4



11 reviews

Directory of options by host university – Look at Direct Enrollment/Exchange versus the many providers offering courses at that university



API (Academic Programs International): London - University of Westminster ⓘ

📍 University of Westminster in London, The United Kingdom

The University of Westminster offers API students an ideal location for studying and absorbing all that London offers during the summer, semester or year. Course offerings...

4.9



11 reviews



Arcadia: London - University of Westminster ⓘ

📍 University of Westminster in London, The United Kingdom

Westminster's School of Communication and Creative Industries is considered one of the largest, best-equipped and most prestigious centers of learning in the United Kingdo...

4.6



17 reviews

Provider programs can be analyzed by ratings and student comments to help justify the cost difference compared to Exchange or Direct Enrollment

(ISA): London - Courses with Locals in

📍 London, The United Kingdom

OUGH ELAP During the ISA semester programs
st...*

4.9



8 reviews



EPA Internships in Europe: London - University of Westminster ⓘ

📍 University of Westminster in London, The United Kingdom

Work in an exciting and challenging internship in the field of your choice that helps you gain self confidence, new skills, valuable work experience and an outstanding res...

4.4



9 reviews



CISabroad (Center for International Studies): London - Semester at the University of Westminster ⓘ

📍 University of Westminster in London, The United Kingdom

On Semester at the University of Westminster, London, you can take classes for your major or as electives. In addition to taking classes, you can also intern at one of the...

4.6



5 reviews

Published Reviews are Good for the Student; their Showcase

- Student's shouldn't forget that reviews are published, each with a web page that can be easily found, and perhaps not be anonymous
- Employers, grad school admissions, post-graduate opportunities will want to see writing samples and insight on their candidates, better to be voluntary that accidentally discovered
- Reviews should be a showcase for maturity, professionalism and an ability to communicate – a writing sample showing ability to be critical, assume personal responsibility, be reflective and be forward thinking
- Reviews should be promoted on LinkedIn, Facebook and used to open doors to the next steps in a career



PREMIUM

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Recent



Professionals, join me! Share some tips to work in International Education!

Bradley M. Miner

Hello fellow study abroad enthusiasts!

Continuing off of Mark's post of "Work in International Education" I thought it would be neat to get some responses on these two questions below ...

Like • Comment • Follow • 3 days ago



Work in International Education

Mark Shay

Top Contributor

Study Abroad alumni make great advisors at colleges and recruiters for study abroad providers. The NAFSA job registry is a great place to look for opportunities.

Top Contributors in this Group



Mark Shay

Higher Education Entrepreneur, International Education Marketer

[See all members](#)

Your group contribution level

Congrats! Regularly add great discussions and comments to stay a Top Contributor.



Top Contributor

This cloud makes data make a difference.

Microsoft Cloud [See how](#)

Equal Time

- GoAbroad/RatemyStudyAbroad and Gooverseas also draw and publish student reviews. Their systems and process have their own strengths not highlighted in this session.
- FundMyTravel.com, and other sites help students crowd fund their studies. We encourage you to direct students to this option not only to raise money, but to raise awareness of their ambitions.

10 Uses

- Student Research Tool
- Measuring the “fit”
- Assuring the Choice (Family, Friends)
- Setting Expectations
- Pre-Departure Orientation
- Feedback for Advisors
- Sets Metrics for Reporting
- Performance Measurements
- Guiding/Justifying Pre-Approved Program Lists
- Published Reviews are Good for the Student; their Showcase

Why Require Student Reviews?

How student reviews can enhance study abroad

NAFSA Bi-Regional Conference
October 2014

Stacey Thebodo, Middlebury College
Mireille McLaughlin, Wellesley College
Mark Shay, Abroad101