THE FORUM ON EDUCATION ABROAD

2020 State of the Field Survey

Welcome to the eighth State of the Field Survey conducted by The Forum on Education Abroad.

The 2020 version of the survey has been adjusted in light of recent world events in order to serve two purposes:

1) To ask the questions we've been asking for years so that we can compare the current state of the field with what was observed in previously instantiations of this survey.

2) To take a reading on some of the specific impacts of COVID-19 on on the field over the past several months.

We estimate that the survey should take about 30 minutes to complete. If you cannot complete the survey in a single session, you can leave the page and come back to it at a later time. The survey will save the information up through the *last completed page*.

Please remember to use the "PREV" and "NEXT" buttons--not your browser's "back" button--to navigate through the survey.

Note: The questions in this survey refer to activities and policies of the institution or organization you represent; where 'you' or 'your' is used, those terms do not refer personally to the individual completing this survey.

CONFIDENTIALITY: The answers provided in this survey are confidential. Only Forum staff will have access to the individual survey response data. Any publications or presentations prepared by The Forum will include only information about group data or fully anonymized individual comments in such a way that responses will not be identifiable to any individual institution or organization. For more information about The Forum's Privacy Policy [click here](#).

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I give my consent for The Forum on Education Abroad to collect and use the information provided in this survey as outlined in their [Privacy Policy](#).

○ Yes

○ No

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Basics

These first few questions tell us some basic information about the Forum member organization that you are representing as you complete this survey.

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Basics

Is [international education](#) included in the mission statement of your institution/organization?

◯ Yes

◯ No

◯ N/A

PRIOR TO MARCH 1, 2020:

Please indicate how many paid **U.S.-based** staff in your institution or organization were dedicated primarily to U.S. students studying abroad.

Full Time	
Part Time (15-30 hours/week)	
Student Workers (up to 15 hours/week)	
Unpaid staff (e.g., peer advisors, volunteers)	

PRIOR TO MARCH 1:

Please indicate how many paid **non-U.S.-based** staff in your institution or organization were dedicated primarily to U.S. students studying abroad.

Full Time

Part Time (15-30 hours/week)

Student Workers (up to 15 hours/week)

Unpaid staff (e.g., peer advisors, volunteers)

What was the number (or FTE-equivalent) of education abroad staff dedicated to health & safety PRIOR TO MARCH 1?

PRIOR TO MARCH 1:

Had rising costs and/or declining resources led your institution/organization to change its education abroad programming for the coming academic year?

○ Yes, significantly

○ Yes, slightly

○ No

○ N/A

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Before COVID-19 Global Pandemic

Answer the questions in the following sections based on your organization's policies, practices, realities before the COVID-19 Global Pandemic began impacting our field worldwide (beginning approximately March 1, 2020).

We know this may be challenging with all that has happened since then, but we feel it is essential to capture a snapshot of what the field looked like just before COVID-19 so that we can better track the impact of this event in the future.

At the end of this survey, there will be a section devoted specifically to COVID-19 related impacts and changes. *Please complete the entire survey so that your responses can be included in our final analyses.*

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Learning outcomes and assessment

To what extent has your institution/organization identified learning outcomes for education abroad programs beyond discipline-specific knowledge? (e.g., language acquisition, cross-cultural competence)

- ◯ Not at all
- ◯ Not yet but in progress
- ◯ Overall but not for specific programs
- ◯ For some programs but not all
- ◯ Yes, completed
- ◯ N/A

If your institution/organization has articulated learning outcomes for education abroad, does it have an assessment plan to measure achievement of the learning outcomes?

- ◯ No
- ◯ Not yet but in progress
- ◯ Overall but not for specific programs
- ◯ For some programs but not all
- ◯ Yes, completed
- ◯ N/A

In what ways do you use the assessment information and data collected? (Check all that apply.)

- [ ] For marketing purposes
- [ ] For reporting to university administration
- [ ] To advocate for education abroad
- [ ] To determine program renewal
- [ ] To improve or refine program content/design
- [ ] To assess employee performance
- [ ] N/A
- [ ] Other (please specify):

What assessment instruments are your institution/organization using to measure student learning outcomes of education abroad programs? (Check all that apply.)

- [ ] Beliefs, Events, Values Inventory (BEVI)
- [ ] Global Perspectives Inventory (GPI)
- [ ] Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)
- [ ] Pre/post language testing (e.g., SOPI)
- [ ] N/A
- [ ] Other (please specify/describe):

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Standards of Good Practice and Code of Ethics

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement:

The Forum's *Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad* are being used to shape our institutional/organizational policies on education abroad.

○ Strongly agree

○ Agree

○ Neutral

○ Disagree

○ Strongly disagree

If your institution/organization has applied The Forum's *Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad* in its work, in what ways has it done this? (Check all that apply)

☐ In the development of new programs

☐ To advocate for education abroad

☐ To assess other programs for approval for our students' participation

☐ To evaluate education abroad programs

☐ To set standards for the approval and adoption of new education abroad programs

☐ To train home institution/organization faculty

☐ To train home institution/organization staff

☐ To train on-site faculty

☐ To train on-site staff

☐ Other (please describe):

The Forum released the 6th Edition of the Standards of Good Practice for Education Abroad in April 2020.

Are you familiar with the new edition of the *Standards*?

○ Yes

○ No

If so, please describe what, if any, changes the new edition of the *Standards* has motivated you to implement in your work.

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

The Forum's *Code of Ethics for Education Abroad* is being used to inform decisions regarding institutional/organizational policy on education abroad.

○ Strongly agree

○ Agree

○ Neutral

○ Disagree

○ Strongly disagree

What impact has The Forum's *Code of Ethics for Education Abroad* had on your institution/organization? (Check all that apply)

☐ Our institution/organization has adopted the Code as our governing code for education abroad.

☐ Our institution/organization refers to and substantially follows the guidelines of the Code for education abroad.

☐ Our institution/organization has its own ethical guidelines.

☐ Our institution/organizations used the Code to develop our own code of ethics.

☐ Our institution has not found the Code to be of help.

☐ Other (please specify):

If your institution/organization follows a different code of ethics, please identify or describe it:

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Consequences of education abroad

Reminder: *Answer this question based on your organization's practices before March 1, 2020.*

In what ways does your institution/organization actively consider or prepare for the *environmental* consequences of programs? (Check all that apply)

☐ Accounting for carbon/environmental footprint

☐ Educating students and staff about sustainability

☐ Monitoring environmental impact of programs

☐ N/A - We do not actively address environmental consequences.

☐ Other (please describe):

In what ways does your institution/organization actively consider or prepare for the **social** impact of programs on host communities? (Check all that apply)

☐ Accounting for location, transportation, duration, and safety components' impact on the local community

☐ Creating host partnerships that are ethical, collaborative, and sustainable

☐ Establishing community service and/or service learning projects

☐ N/A - We do not actively address social impacts.

☐ Other (please describe)

In what ways does your institution/organization actively consider or prepare for the **economic** consequences of programs on host communities? (Check all that apply)

☐ Investing in local entities and understanding the consequences of payments made to those entities

☐ Observing local legal and financial standards to align with local practices

☐ Teaching students about their economic impact on the local community

☐ N/A - We do not actively address economic consequences.

☐ Other (please describe):

Does your institution or organization have a whistleblower policy or another type of confidential and anonymous ethics and business practices reporting policy?

○ Yes

○ No

○ I'm not sure

Please provide additional comments:

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Organizational demographics

Please choose the category below that best characterizes your institution/organization based on the majority of education abroad work in which it is engaged.

Is your institution or organization primarily:

○ A U.S. institution that sends its own students abroad?

○ A U.S.-based entity that provides education abroad programs for students not earning a degree through your organization (For example: program provider consortium, independent program provider, institutional system office, degree-granting U.S. institution whose abroad programs mostly draw students from other institutions)?

○ A host institution, international university, organization, or independent program based outside of the U.S.?

○ An organization that provides services for education abroad?

○ An organization that does not fit any of the descriptions above? Please describe:

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COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The following section includes new questions added to the State of the Field survey this year in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please answer all questions to the best of your ability to ensure that your responses are counted in our final reports.

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COVID-19 Questions

Were your programs, students, or services you provide to programs or students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic?

○ Yes

○ No

○ N/A

As of September 1, 2020, what, if any, actions has your organization taken in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic?

- [ ] Most or all staff transitioned to work from home
- [ ] Reductions in staff
- [ ] Students were made to return home early from North American Spring 2020 programming
- [ ] Spring 2020 programming was cancelled
- [ ] Spring 2020 programming was completed online
- [ ] Summer 2020 programming was cancelled
- [ ] Fall 2020 programming was cancelled
- [ ] Spring 2021 programming was cancelled
- [ ] We had to draw on financial reserves in our office or at our organization to cover additional expenses related to COVID-19 response
- [ ] We have launched or approved new virtual or hybrid programs
- [ ] We have shortened the length of our programs
- [ ] We have updated policies or procedures in our office
- [ ] Partnerships have ended
- [ ] New partnerships have been formed
- [ ] We accommodated displaced students at overseas centers or partner sites
- [ ] We have paused study abroad advising
- [ ] We have transitioned to online advising
- [ ] Other (please specify)

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Has your organization's budget been cut as a result of COVID-19?

- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No

If so, please indicate where cuts or reductions have occurred:

- [ ] Operating Budget
- [ ] Staff Travel
- [ ] Staff
- [ ] Conference Attendance/Professional Development
- [ ] Student Scholarships
- [ ] Other (please specify)

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COVID-19 Questions continued

We're interested in knowing about your organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please rate how strongly you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
We had sufficient emergency evacuation insurance coverage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We had sufficient business interruption insurance coverage.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We had sufficient emergency assistance coverage through a service provider.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We had sufficient staff time to adequately respond.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We had a well-functioning crisis response team at our institution/organization.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We had enough emergency or reserve funds to cover any expenses incurred.	○	○	○	○	○	○

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	N/A
We had a sufficient emergency communication structure for response.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We were able to communicate and collaborate effectively with our partners at other organizations throughout the crisis.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We were able to communicate and collaborate effectively with program participants and their families throughout the crisis.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We were able to communicate and collaborate effectively with senior leadership throughout the crisis.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We have learned where we have room for improvement in our policies and procedures.	○	○	○	○	○	○
We are making changes to our policies and procedures based on our experience in responding to COVID-19.	○	○	○	○	○	○

COVID-19 Questions continued

When is your organization planning for a "return to normal" operations?

○ On or around September 2020 (Fall 2020 programming)

○ On or around January 2021 (Spring 2021 prorgamming)

○ On or around May 2021 (Summer 2021 programming)

○ On or around September 2021 (Academic Year 2021/22 programming)

○ Not sure

○ We don't anticipate a return to normal for our organization

Would you be willing to participate in this survey again in 2021 in order to better capture the impact that COVID-19 is having on our field over time?

○ Yes

○ No

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All participants - Top concerns in the field

The following is a list of items that were identified as the top overall concerns in education abroad by respondents to previous State of the Field Surveys.

Please indicate how concerned you are about each item in terms of its bearing on the education abroad field today.

	Very unconcerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Neutral	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
Academic quality	○	○	○	○	○
Adequate preparation of students	○	○	○	○	○
Career integration	○	○	○	○	○
Commodification of education abroad	○	○	○	○	○
Compliance with U.S. federal mandates (Title IX, Clery, etc.)	○	○	○	○	○
Crisis and risk management	○	○	○	○	○
Current political climate	○	○	○	○	○
Curriculum integration	○	○	○	○	○

	Very unconcerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Neutral	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned
Disparity between student expectations and the reality of the experience	○	○	○	○	○
Fears of terrorist attacks abroad	○	○	○	○	○
General health and safety	○	○	○	○	○
Helping students maximize their experience	○	○	○	○	○
Increasing participation on short-term programs	○	○	○	○	○
Need for better funding for students	○	○	○	○	○
Parent involvement	○	○	○	○	○
Program costs and rising costs	○	○	○	○	○
Student support services related to disability, wellness, or mental health	○	○	○	○	○
Supporting underrepresented students	○	○	○	○	○

What other issues and topics should be included in the next State of the Field survey?