

CONAHEC PRESENTATION



IMPACT OF STUDY ABROAD

BCCIE 2001 OUTCOMES SURVEY



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INTRODUCTION



BC Asia Pacific Awards and International Grants Program – 1990 – 1992

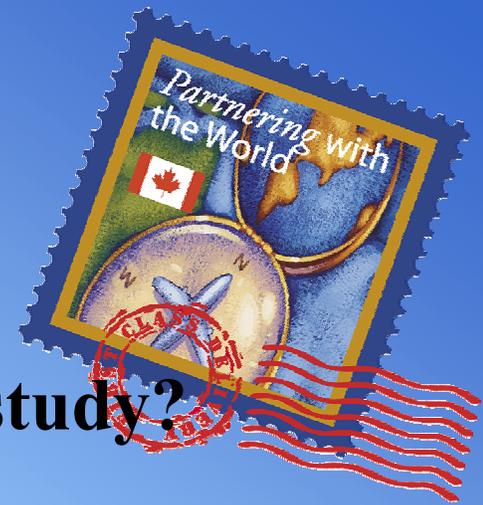
- Provided financial assistance to students at BC public post-secondary institutions
- Purpose was to provide opportunities for students to develop international knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes
- Program was funded by the provincial government - \$2.5 million was awarded to students from across the system



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OBJECTIVES



- **Who are the individuals that go abroad to study?**
- **Why did they go abroad?**
- **Were recipients well prepared for their studies abroad?**
- **What impact did the studies abroad have on the individual?**
- **Was the international program a positive experience for recipients?**



METHODOLOGY



- Research instrument was a detailed questionnaire
- BCCIE's international learning outcomes were the foundation
 - Adapting business English and business etiquette
 - Acquiring basic skills in an additional language
 - Developing Canadian and global perspectives
 - Developing intercultural competence
 - Demonstrating coping and resiliency skills
- 227 were sent surveys – response rate was 43%



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KEY FINDINGS



Who are the individuals that go abroad?

- **Academic focus – foreign languages, Humanities, Business, Social Sciences, and Education**
- **58% were female**
- **43% were between 25 and 29 years of age**
- **Most were born in Canada**
- **Majority were of Western European descent**



KEY FINDINGS



Why and where did respondents go overseas?

- Top three destination countries were Japan, China and Thailand
- Reasons for choosing host country: culture, language, travel opportunities, academic fit, and career opportunities
- Over half, from a range of disciplines, focused on foreign language studies

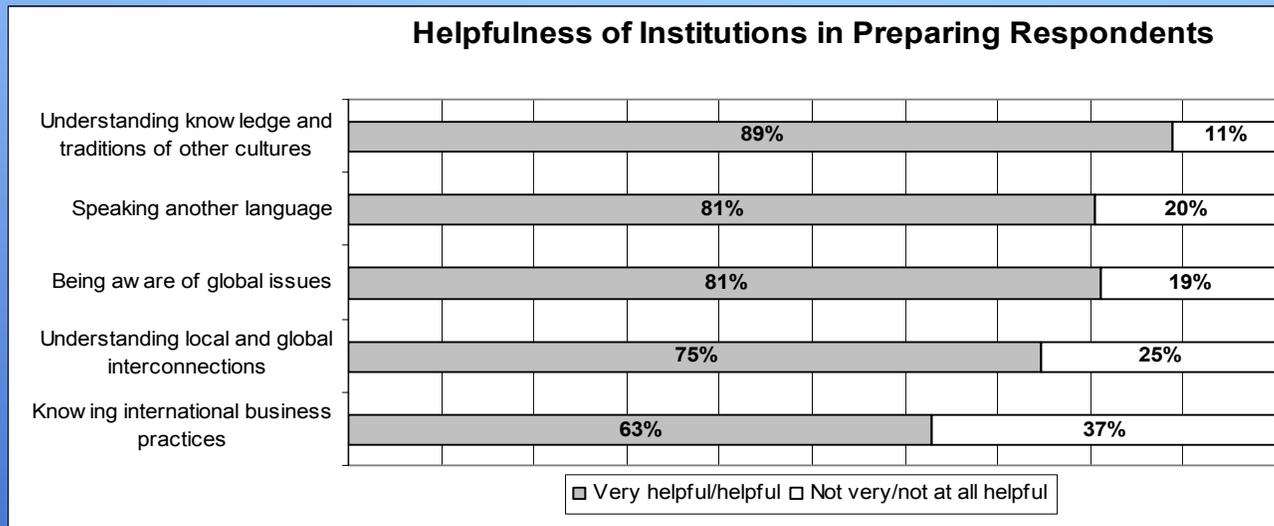


KEY FINDINGS



Were recipients well prepared for their studies abroad?

- Finances were a major impediment to going abroad
- Majority participated in a pre-departure orientation program



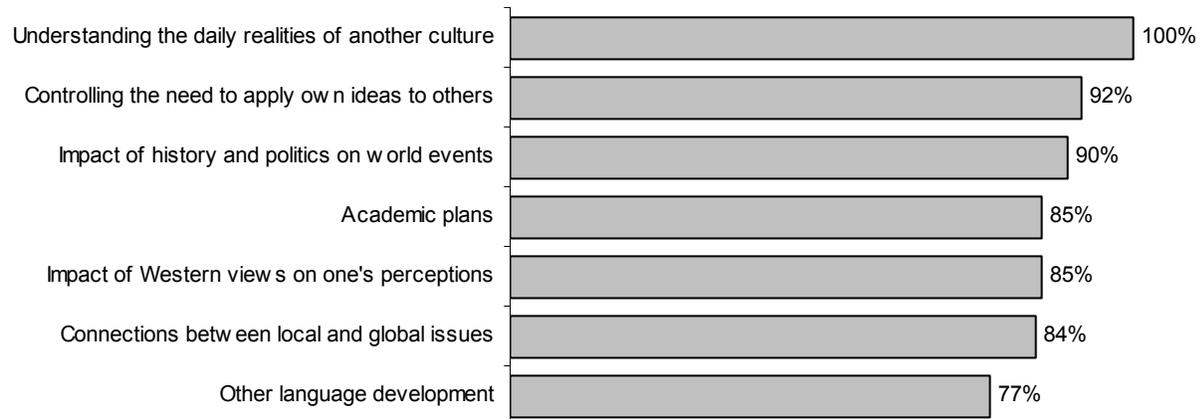
KEY FINDINGS



What impact did studies abroad have?

- Experience had a positive influence on career choice
- Skills and knowledge acquired were important for employment

Positive Impact of International Studies on Intellectual Life



KEY FINDINGS



Was the international program a positive experience?

- **96% of respondents reported international program was a positive experience**
- **Provided important opportunities to develop second language skills, broaden perspectives, develop friendships and enhance employment skills**
- **98% of respondents felt it was important for students to study abroad and that there be an international focus to teaching and learning process**



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QUOTES



- *“I owe many of my wonderful experiences to my host family who brought me into their home and showed me yet another side of the culture. It was around the dinner table where I learned about true Japanese culture and thought, and where I made huge improvements in my conversational Japanese”.*
- *“The experience of living abroad in a different language has made me much more employable. The adaptability, language and determination skills I now have are attractive to potential employers”.*
- *The most useful aspect of the program was the total immersion in another culture. The immersion experience completely surpasses a traditional classroom experience”.*

