



# COVID-19 SURVEY RESULTS: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDY ABROAD



# THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON LEARNING

At educations.com, we believe there is an immeasurable value of studying abroad. But, we also recognize that the recent outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) will impact many students during the awareness phase of international higher education opportunities.

So far, we have collected 2,500 responses from prospective and current students to help them, and help you, understand how opinions, attitudes, and new realities are shaping study abroad. We will keep our survey open and continue to report on trends as the crisis unfolds.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Our survey is still open and we plan to track trends and changes in our prospective international students' perspectives throughout. The results enclosed below are for all 2,500 survey responses between Monday March 16th, 2020, and Friday March 20th, 2020.



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# HEADLINE STATISTICS: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON STUDYING ABROAD

- ❏ The dream of studying abroad is still alive and well. Only **4.7%** of prospective students intend to cancel their study abroad plans in light of COVID-19
- ❏ Our database of students that are primarily interested in in-person study opportunities is now entertaining the idea of studying an international degree digitally. In light of COVID-19, **44%** of prospective students would now be interested in studying their program virtually as an alternative.
- ❏ Prospective international students are watching how institutions are handling the crisis with **66%** of them saying that they would like to see a move towards online classes and lectures for current students during the crisis.



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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



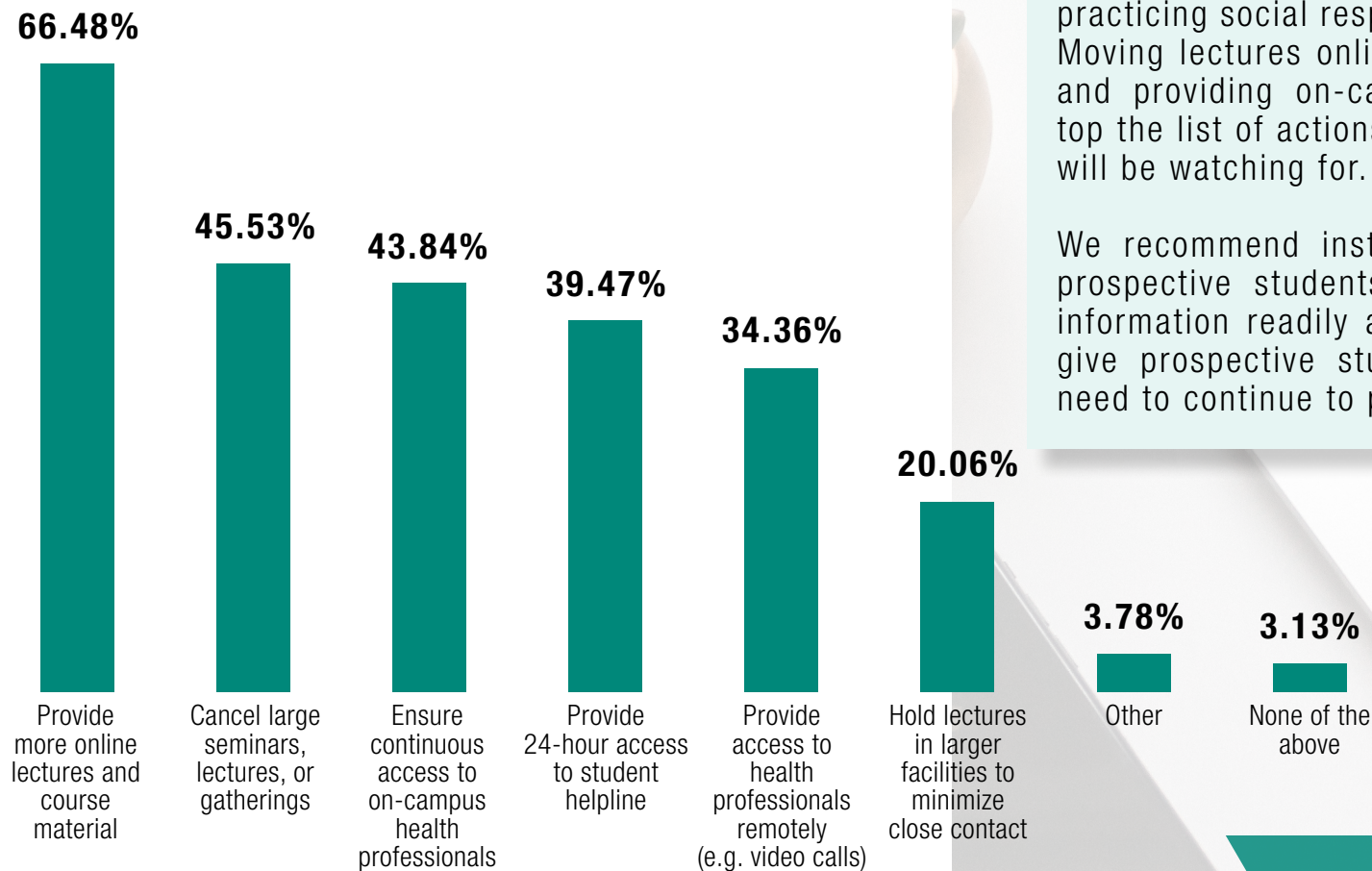
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



Q: What should universities do to limit the spread of the coronavirus?



Prospective students have opinions about how institutions should be protecting students and practicing social responsibility during the crisis. Moving lectures online, canceling large events, and providing on-campus healthcare services top the list of actions your prospective students will be watching for.

We recommend institutions don't forget their prospective students in this crisis and make information readily available online in order to give prospective students the faith that they need to continue to plan for the future.

\* for this answer, respondents could select more than one option



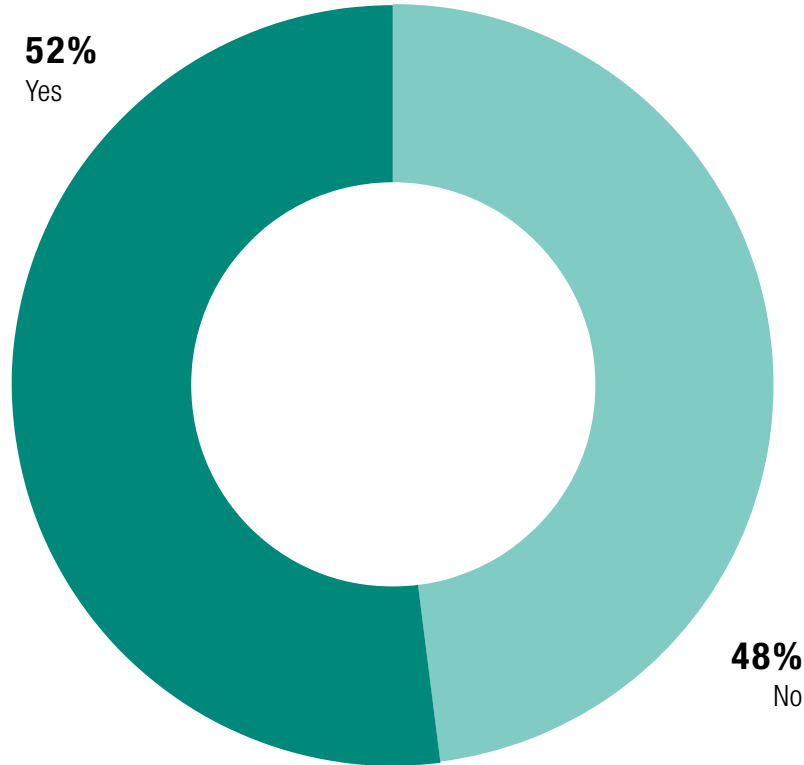
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



Q: Has COVID-19 affected your study abroad plans?



**52%** of prospective students surveyed feel that COVID-19 has had some kind of impact on their future study abroad plans. However, just under 50% of respondents said that COVID-19 has had no impact on their intent to study abroad. The relatively even split indicates that students are unsure of what the future holds for them, and how long the restrictions caused by the pandemic will continue.

It's important to note that the students who responded "no" may have plans for studying abroad further in the future, after they think the COVID-19 crisis may be over. Current uncertainty about studying abroad may be fueled by the rapidly developing temporary travel restrictions implemented by national governments. So far, the responses indicate that students, like many of us, are waiting to see how events unfold.



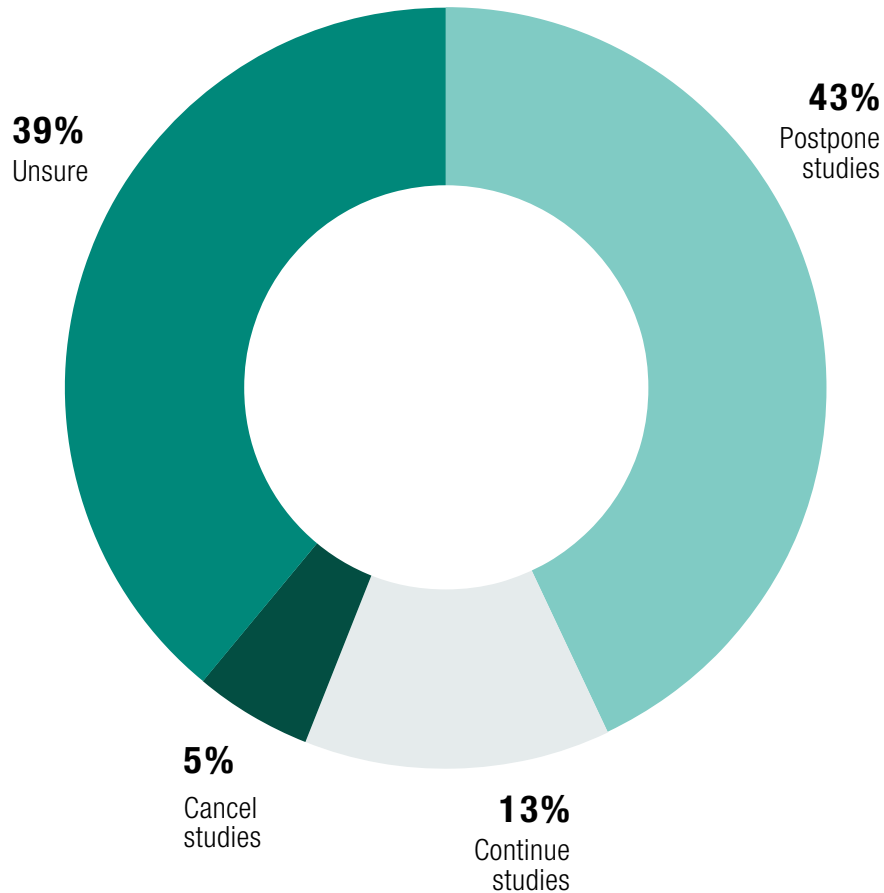
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



Q: What are your study abroad plans now in light of COVID-19?



Only **5%** of prospective students planned to cancel their future study plans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This demonstrates that while students are feeling a lot of uncertainty, they are not jumping to cancel their plans.

Students dedicate time and resources to their study abroad plans, and aren't looking to throw it all out the window.

Just over **43%** of students intend to postpone their study abroad plans with the goal of resuming studies at a later date.

For some students, COVID-19 has not impacted their study abroad plans at all. According to our results, **13%** of prospective students plan to continue their studies as normal.



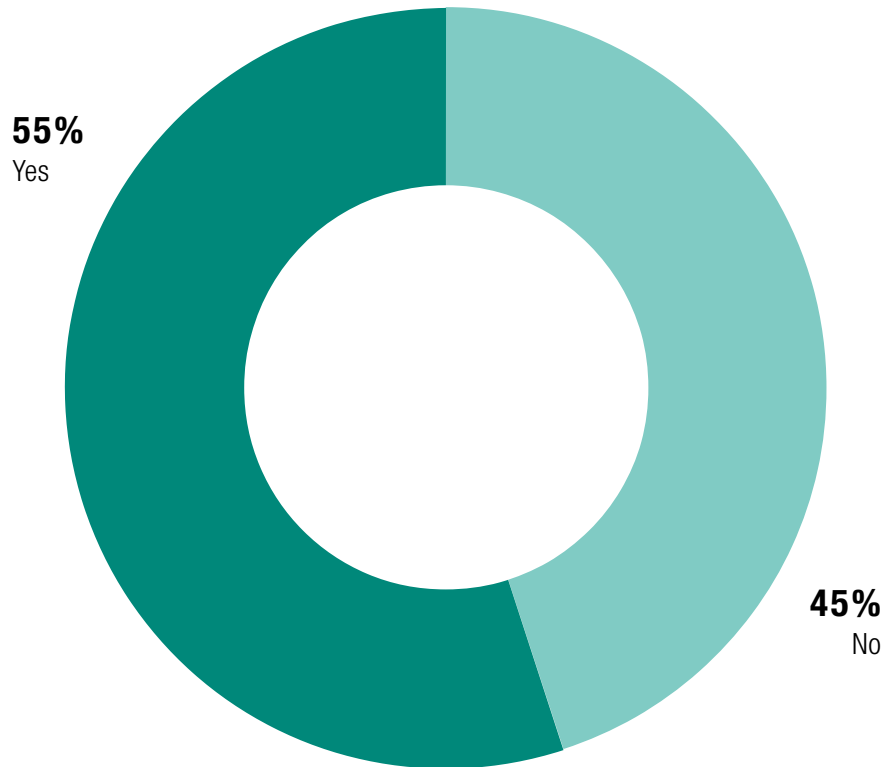
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON PROSPECTIVE STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS



Q: Would you be interested in studying if your program was offered online?



Only **45%** of students would be interested in an international education online. Given that a vast majority of our student database tend to inquire about study abroad opportunities where they physically go abroad, these responses show a remarkable interest shift in studying abroad virtually. The significant interest from potential students in studying abroad online speaks to the significance of universities' existing distance learning options. Furthermore, it may illustrate a potential uptick in distance learning applications in the future.

In contrast, **55%** of students planning to study abroad would not be interested in an international education offered online. Those students may be more interested in the experiential aspects of studying abroad – experiencing a new culture, language, learning style, and country. COVID-19 hasn't dampened these students' desire to broaden their horizons by studying abroad, but they may be waiting to visit new destinations in person.





# COVID-19: IMPACT ON STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD



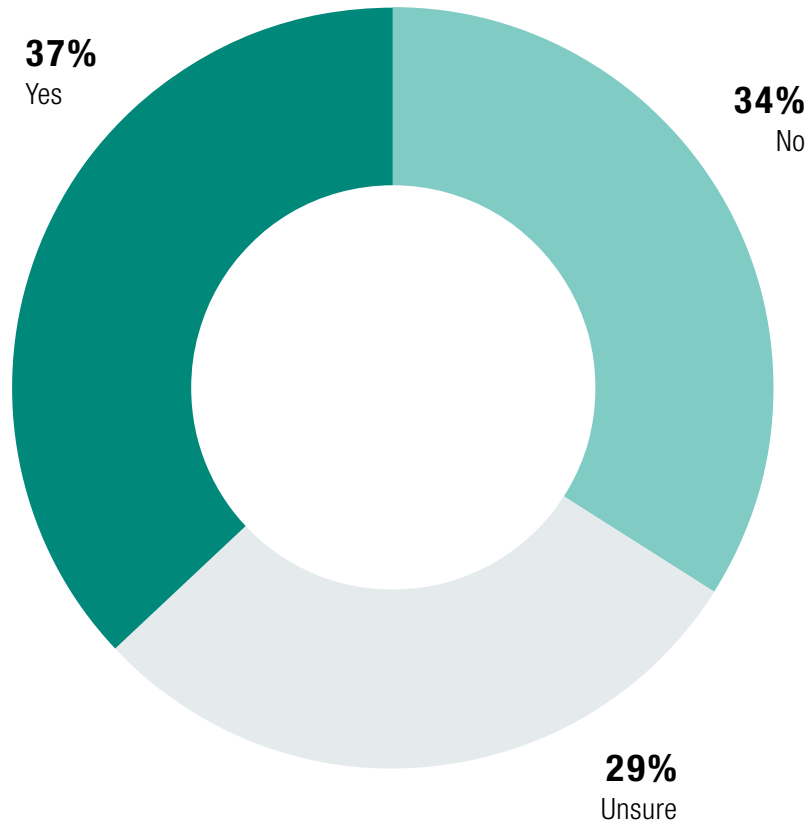
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD



Q: Do you plan to return from studying abroad earlier because of COVID-19?



Based on the responses we've received so far, there is no one agreed upon plan of action for students currently studying abroad in light of COVID-19. The three-way split is likely due to the diversity of circumstances students currently studying abroad find themselves in depending on the spread of the virus in their country of study, and their institution's response.

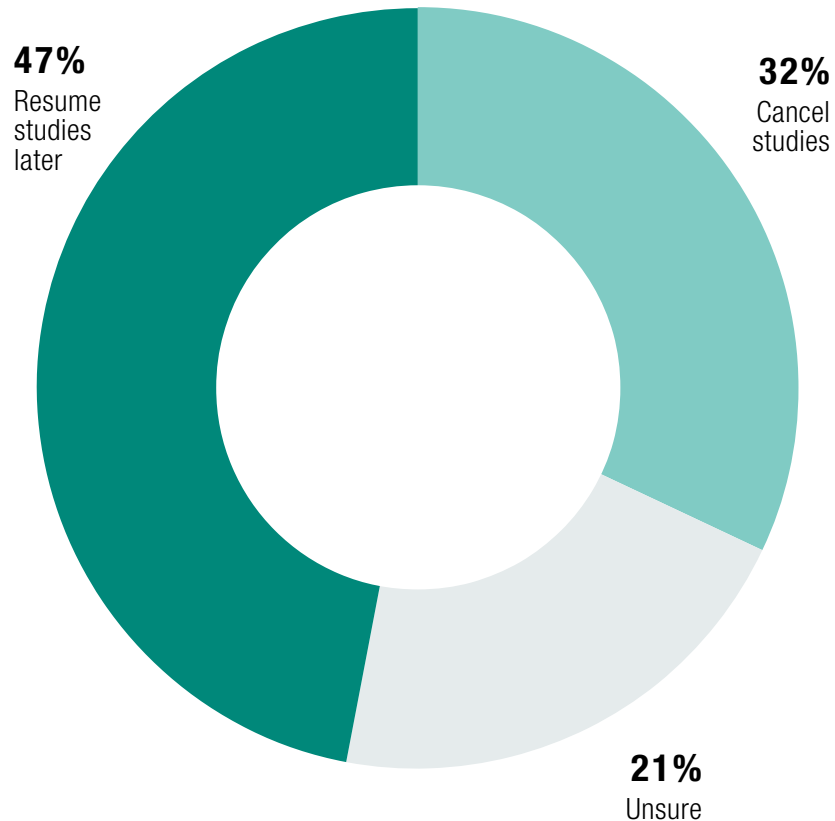
Combined, more than **60%** of students are not rushing to pack their bags. The development of COVID-19 is ongoing, and many students are either waiting to see how the virus will impact the country they're studying in, or they have decided to stay-put in their study abroad destination. Students currently studying abroad are no strangers to complicated circumstances, the COVID-19 crisis presents a new set of circumstances for them to navigate.



# COVID-19: IMPACT ON STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD



Q: If you're planning to return home earlier, what are your future study plans post-COVID-19?



Combined, **68%** of students who are currently studying abroad are avoiding writing off their study abroad experiences.

Students who are currently studying abroad may have gained a first-hand understanding of the value of an international education, and would like to return to their study abroad destinations once the COVID-19 pandemic has subsided. Any number of factors can contribute to students' uncertainty or outright cancellation of their study abroad experience.

It's clear, however, that a majority of students are not looking to just end their study abroad experiences outright.



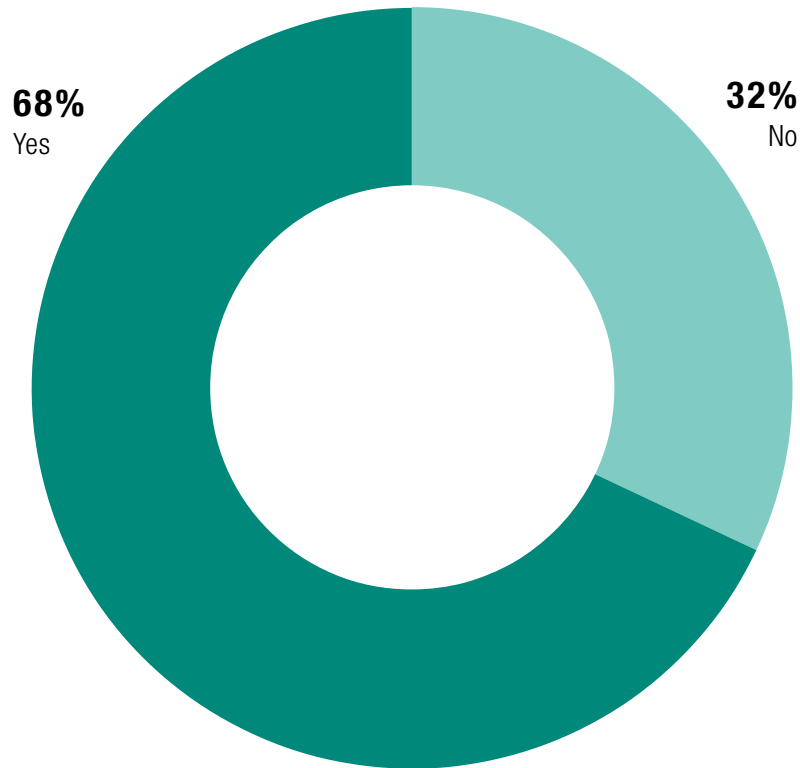
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# COVID-19: IMPACT ON STUDENTS CURRENTLY STUDYING ABROAD



Q: Would you be interested in continuing studies if your program was offered online?



Students currently abroad continue to prioritize their learning, with a whopping **68%** of them wishing to continue their education either online or with virtual classrooms.

Universities that have the capabilities to offer online learning should consider how much value international students place on their study abroad experiences – no matter where they're located.



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# FINAL THOUGHTS

- ❏ COVID-19 has caused both students and universities to quickly adapt to changing circumstances. The uncertainty being felt by the world in the face of COVID-19 is, unsurprisingly, being mirrored by students.
- ❏ It's inevitable that students' study abroad plans and experiences are being disrupted by the outbreak of COVID-19. However, viable study abroad opportunities such as online learning and postponing study abroad plans (rather than cancelling them outright!) speak to international students' perseverance in pursuing their study abroad dreams.
- ❏ Studying abroad remains at the top of many students' bucket lists, COVID-19 has complicated the question of when and how they'll make it happen.





# GET IN TOUCH

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR  
IF WE CAN HELP, PLEASE CONTACT US**

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