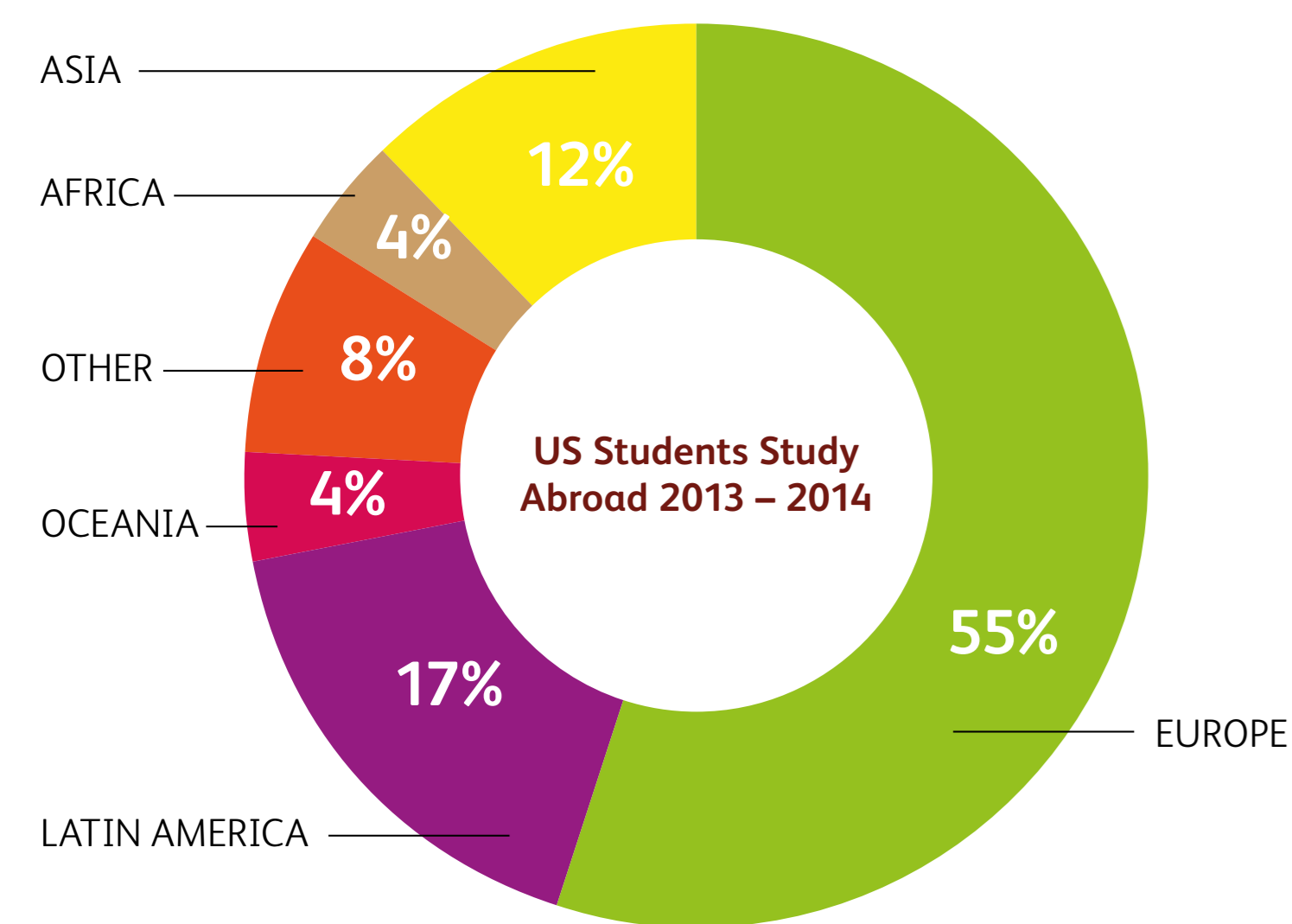


INTERNSHIPS IN NON-TRADITIONAL DESTINATIONS: What are the Opportunities Outside the Mainstream?

More than half of US students studying abroad travel to Europe (this includes for-credit internships.)



Tracking internship destinations statistics is more difficult due to reporting of credit versus non-credit placements. Internships offer the opportunity to consider more diverse locations. Given that around 3/4 of the world's populations live in Asia, Africa and Latin America it would seem logical to offer more opportunities in these locations.

Source: http://www.nafsa.org/Explore_International_Education/Advocacy_Area_Public_Policy/Study_Abroad/Trends_in_US_Study_Abroad/

Challenges & Considerations:

- **Managing onsite support and risk management standards** – ensuring you have a trusted on-site coordinator
- **Health and safety concerns that arise in rural /less developed locations** – working with established incidents and emergency procedures
- **Challenges arising from communication between cultures or language barriers** – having cultural orientations in place and coordinators experienced in dealing with Western students
- **Managing the expectations of host communities and organizations** – Having a coordinator who recognizes the potential for local over-expectation of the student's skills and abilities
- **Faculty/International office inexperience with advising on unknown destinations** - Request the information you need and ask partners to assist in advising, even at the enquiry stage
- **Greater potential for student to experience culture-shock, feelings of isolation, cultural misunderstandings or being an 'outsider'** – experienced coordinators should have an awareness of this and provide support
- **Questions surrounding the stability of political climates or ongoing turmoil with neighboring countries** – maintain an oversight on Department of State warnings. Many destinations are either stable or have only very localized problems
- **Finding established and trusted placements/providers to ensure ethical program delivery** – Challenge providers/partners on specific experience in each location and their ethical stance. Good providers have staff who can all answer these questions automatically.
- **Generating demand and interest for non-traditional locations in competition to large, European cities** – communicating the benefits

Non-Traditional Placement Opportunities:



Medical Internship in Belize

Working with local staff in hospitals and clinics in areas such as nursing, specific hospital departments and health education, learning about local practices, structures and approaches.



Pre-Vet Internship in South Africa

Working with local veterinarians involved with game movement, wildlife reserve management and domestic animal care, comparing approaches and attending to diverse species.



NGO Development Internship in Thailand

Write reports, run English training sessions, review website content, develop grant proposals and outreach to communities within the structure of an operating NGO.



Fair Trade Internship in the Ecuadorian Amazon

Community development through workshops, eco tourism projects, social media, forest conservation, support social entrepreneurship initiatives.



Sports Development Internship in Swaziland

Develop sports curriculum's for children, work with online marketing content, coach sports, community events and research impact of sports on children.



Rainforest Habitat and Wildlife Conservation in Costa Rica

Working with environmental scientists on sea turtle monitoring, species studies and tracking, and biological assessments surveys.

Benefits of Internships in Non-Traditional Locations:

How do these locations benefit the student, your institution and the society we live within?



FOR STUDENTS

PERSONALLY

- Provides an understanding of different global work contexts and issues influencing operations in these areas of the world which are increasingly important in today's growing global economies
- Offers great personal growth through the challenge associated with adapting to less familiar, non-westernized cultures
- Opportunity for greater responsibility, involvement and achievement exists in resource-poor organizations, because the need for an intern is greater in comparison.
- Greater immersion can be gained through encountering fewer people that share language or nationality
- Improved language and communication skills are developed working in environments less reliant on technology

FINANCIALLY

- Scholarships are available for non-traditional locations and there is often a higher chance of getting them because there are less students applying
- Cost of living is often much cheaper in alternative locations which can increase the opportunities for students worried about financial burden of going abroad

FOR FUTURE CAREERS

- Sets intern apart as a risk taker who is adaptable and willing to address challenges head on.
- Shows flexibility and important cross cultural communication skills
- Demonstrates that the student is interested in different ways of learning and new perspectives
- Marks a candidate as a good prospect for roles requiring global travel
- Provides an interesting context for discussion that can make a candidate more appealing to interviewers



FOR YOUR INSTITUTION

- Expands offerings and locations
- Offers opportunities in niche academic areas and markets
- Potential to offer more low-cost program options
- Through all these factors, provide an opportunity to increase number of students going abroad by offering options to previously underrepresented sectors in study-abroad
- Increases institutional competitiveness



SOCIALLY

- Improves international and intercultural understanding
- Offers unique, first-hand experience with global issues and problems
- Develops global citizens who are more culturally aware and competent