Travel Survey
Spring 2006
Highlights

Background
The purpose of this study was to benchmark Texas A&M students’ experience with travel.

472 out of 741 participants completed the web-based survey for a response rate of 64%.

Results
Since starting high school, have you traveled to other U.S. states besides Texas?
• 97% said they had traveled to other states

Since starting high school, have you traveled outside of the United States?
• 73% said they had traveled outside the U.S.

Have you studied abroad while a student at Texas A&M?
• 6% had studied abroad

If you have traveled, how has your travel impacted your academic performance?
• 54% said their travel had no impact on their academic performance
• 44% said their travel had a positive impact on their academic performance
• 2% said their travel had a negative impact on their academic performance

Please explain your response.
Themes emerging from the participants’ comments:

Travel has No Impact on Academic Success (158 comments)
• Most of the comments (n=92) indicated that participants traveled more recreationally than academically.
• “I do not believe that vacations directly impact my academic performance. Time off may help, but whether I stay at home or go skiing instead doesn’t influence my schooling” (Female, junior, Business major)

Openness to Other Perspectives (64 comments)
• “When you travel you get to see new things, or the same things from a different perspective. It broadens horizons and opens your mind” (Female, freshmen, Business major)
• “I have even had a professor who told me I seem to have a broader perspective than most students and suggested that could be because I traveled and been in lots of different environments and learned to acclimate, understand, and interact” (Female, sophomore, Agriculture major)

Integrating Classroom Knowledge (32 comments)
• “I took an art history class after going to Italy and the knowledge I received from seeing some of that art and architecture first hand helped me remember information and enjoy the class more” (Female, senior, Engineering major)
• “I was privileged enough to spend spring break in London as part of a Liberal Arts honors course. That week will forever be one of the best of my life—it was my first time abroad so it will always be special for this reason, but, being there brought everything I had ever read or studies in my English courses to life, and in a way that I could have never imagined. I can (sic) back a changed person and for this I am grateful” (Female, senior, Veterinary Medicine major)

Personal Growth (11 comments)
• “I had the best experience of my life studying abroad in Newcastle, Australia. I would not change it for the world, and think I grew not only intellectually, but mentally, socially, and emotionally. It affected all areas of my life” (Female, sophomore, Science major)

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For a complete report, please visit the Student Life Studies web page