



NEWS

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COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

*The* UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA.

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### **OU Ranks 23rd in the Nation for 2020-2021 Study Abroad**

**NORMAN, OKLA.** – The University of Oklahoma was ranked 23rd in the nation for the overall number of students studying abroad in 2020-2021 by the [IIE Open Doors Report](#), published in November. OU also [ranked 10th in the nation](#) for the number of students studying abroad in short-term programs. The annual IIE Open Doors report is the only long-standing, comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars in the United States and American students studying abroad for academic credit. Open Doors is produced by IIE, a global nonprofit established in 1919 that designs and implements international education strategies and program services.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, the ability to travel was significantly reduced due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, but the [Office of Education Abroad](#), housed in OU's [David L. Boren College of International Studies](#), was still able to send 152 students on safe and impactful study abroad experiences. The majority of these students participated in short-term, faculty-led programs or studied at the University of Oklahoma's international study centers, [OU in Arezzo](#), Italy and [OU in Puebla](#), Mexico. Other students chose exchange, affiliate, direct enroll or internship programs. Nearly all of OU's 152 participants for the year studied abroad in the summer of 2021, after Education Abroad started mandating vaccination for study abroad participants in consultation with the OU Health Sciences Center.

“It is an honor to be recognized among the top institutions sending students abroad on life-changing international experiences,” said Director of Education Abroad Shanna Vincent. “This recognition is a great example of OU excellence – in our students continuing to pursue global fluency, in our faculty and staff responding to ever-changing global conditions to best support students and families, and in our network of global partnerships who prepared to receive our students and care for them through a challenging season.”

College of International Studies Dean Scott Fritzen echoed Vincent's sentiments. “Study abroad is a high-impact, often even transformational, learning experience for many students, and for many students, the summer of 2021 was literally their last chance to participate in study abroad

before graduating,” he said. “We are grateful for the partnerships that made it possible – with our study centers, who put into place countless safety precautions; and with the OU Health Sciences Center and the COVID-19 management committee, which required COVID-19 vaccinations early on for study abroad students and helped manage risks effectively.”

With pandemic restrictions being lifted throughout the world, the 2021-2022 academic year saw a significant rise in study abroad participants from 152 to 1,077. OU Education Abroad hopes to see these numbers climb again in 2022-2023, and the team is working hard to expand opportunities and make study abroad accessible to all University of Oklahoma students. For more information on Education Abroad at the University of Oklahoma, visit [studyabroad.ou.edu](http://studyabroad.ou.edu).

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### **About the University of Oklahoma**

Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. OU serves the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. For more information visit [www.ou.edu](http://www.ou.edu).