
Latitudes: Taking stock of new education-abroad data

1 message

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Latitudes



By Karin Fischer

In this week's Latitudes: An appeals court rules against an in-state tuition law. Emergency funding for Venezuelan students. Readers weigh in on fall international-enrollment trends. But first ...

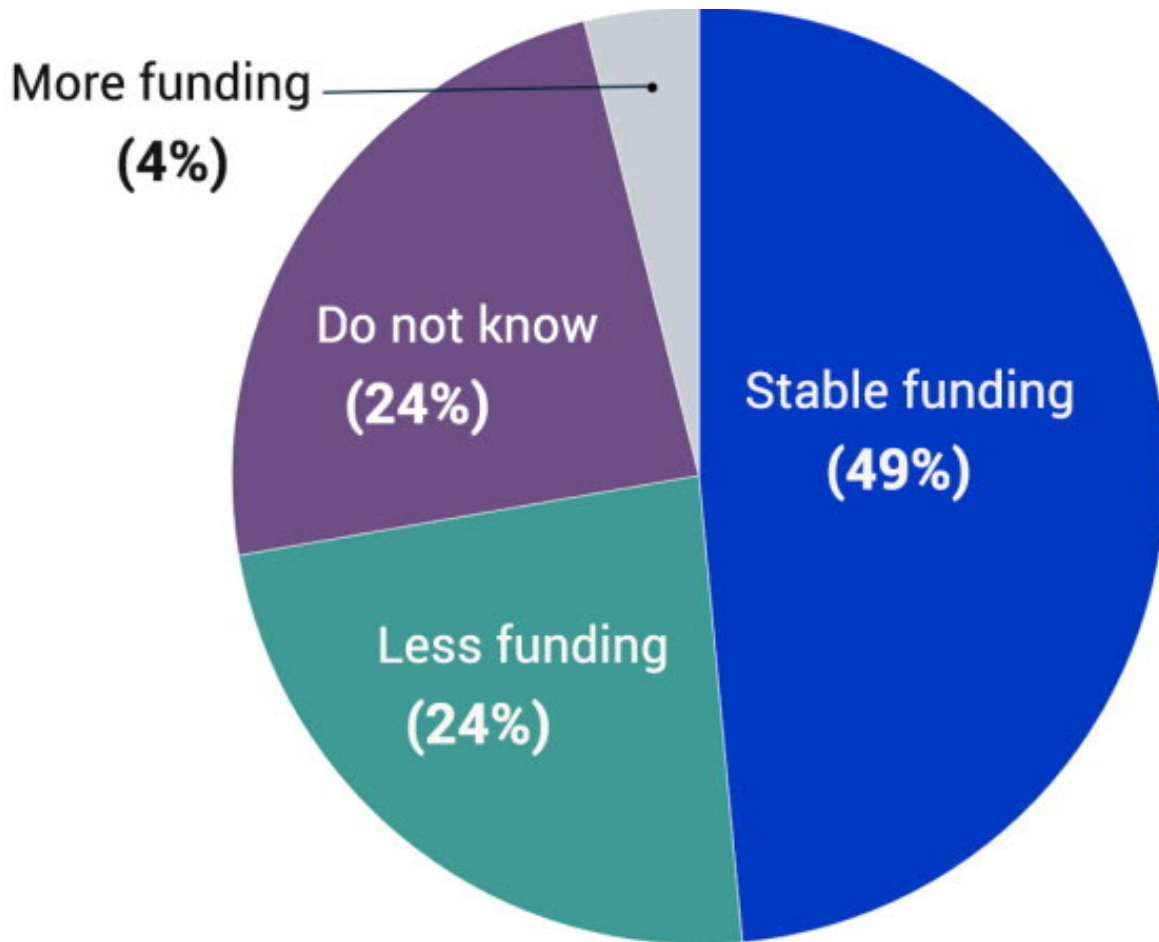
A SNAPSHOT OF STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad is continuing its gradual recovery from the pandemic, with 87 percent of colleges in a recent survey saying they anticipate participation will increase or hold steady in the next academic year.

Responses were evenly split between growth and stability, according to a [snapshot survey](#) of 585 colleges by the Institute of International Education. Colleges taking part in the IIE survey account for about 50 percent of all American students who study abroad.

Almost half of the institutions predict funding for study abroad will remain at current levels, while a quarter expect less funding. Another 25 percent said they did not

know what their funding levels would be in the next year. Only 4 percent are banking on budgetary increases.



Less funding could result in fewer students going abroad, reduced scholarships, or staffing cuts, respondents told the IIE.

Faculty-led programs, which are typically short in duration, continue to attract the majority of students.

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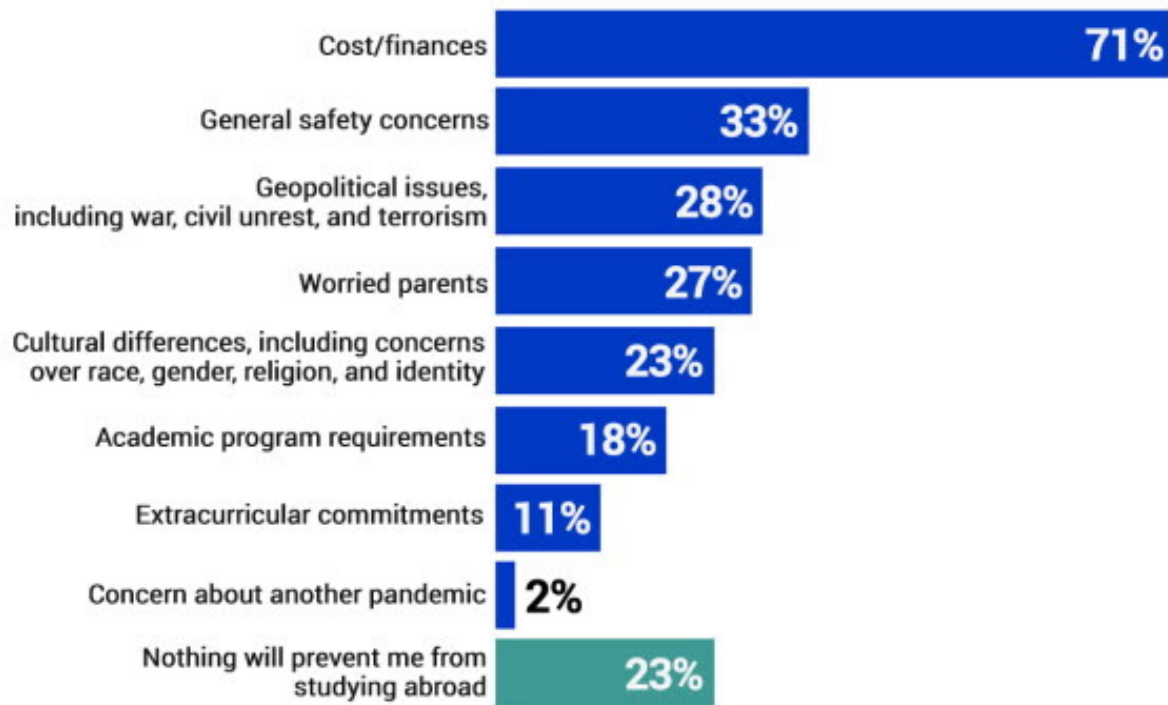


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OBSTACLES AND INSPIRATION

Why don't students study abroad? Terra Dotta, a company that makes online platforms for international-education data collection, surveyed another group of students about barriers to going overseas.

The biggest hurdles for students are monetary: program costs and personal finances.



Other common deterrents include general safety concerns, worried parents, and geopolitical issues like terrorism and civil unrest.

Six years after Covid [grounded](#) virtually all education-abroad programs, just 2 percent of respondents said they were worried about another pandemic. And nothing will stop 23 percent of respondents from going overseas.

Terra Dotta also asked students who do go abroad about how they make their decisions. College advisers and fellow students had the greatest influence, but when it came down to making their final plans, location and cost were the ultimate factors.

Readers, think back to when you were teens and 20-somethings (for some of us, waaay back): **How did you pick your study-abroad program?**

- Location
- Cost
- Academic fit
- College recommendation (such as partner institutions or preferred providers)
- Advice from previous participants
- Friends' influence
- Parents' influence

Take our [flash survey](#) and share your thoughts.

READERS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT FALL ENROLLMENTS

In last week's [newsletter](#), I highlighted findings from the IIE showing a slump in applications from overseas. Perhaps unsurprisingly, readers overwhelmingly said they expected fewer new foreign students this fall.

Some of you took time to share more about the dynamics on your own campus:

- “We have experienced a significant decrease in undergraduate international applications. We are currently expecting our second-smallest incoming fall class in the last 15 years, behind only fall 2020 (during Covid).”
- “Our application volume was within 30 applications of the previous year, which we attribute to the introduction of visa bans that occurred before our application deadline. So, we feel that flat is a positive position to be.”
- “While we see fewer apps, our anticipated enrollment/yield will be down slightly overall — perhaps up slightly for undergraduate and down markedly for graduate. It's a mixed bag!”
- “I don't think some universities (OK, my university) still want international students. They're afraid (read, cowardly), inward-looking (read, xenophobic), or frustrated with 'melt' (yeah, get over it).”

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JUDGES RULE AGAINST IN-STATE TUITION LAW

A federal appeals court upheld the repeal of a longstanding Texas law that provided [in-state tuition benefits](#) to some undocumented students.

In a split decision, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said federal law bars the state from giving Texas high-school graduates without legal immigration status a

benefit unless it offers the same benefit to all American citizens, no matter where they live.

Texas was the first state to pass a law making undocumented students eligible for lower resident tuition rates. The state's attorney general, Ken Paxton, had asked a judge to strike down the law after the U.S. Department of Justice sued to block it.

The Texas ruling will be watched in other states where the Trump administration has challenged similar laws or policies.

FROM THE CHRONICLE STORE



The High-Stakes Hunt for Research Funds

The second Trump administration's slashing of support for academic research has left universities in disarray. [Order this report](#) to explore how institutions are recalibrating their research agendas in an uncertain funding climate.

AROUND THE GLOBE

The National Science Foundation plans to [prohibit](#) the use of taxpayer funds for research in collaboration with foreign entities identified as national-security risks by government agencies.

The Institute of International Education will offer [emergency grants](#) to help Venezuelan students studying in the United States who are financially affected by the earthquakes in their home country.

Omar Yaghi, a Nobel Prize winner, will leave the University of California at Berkeley to develop a new institute on artificial intelligence at Tsinghua University, in [China](#).

The Indian government is offering substantial research funding, fellowships, and institutional support to entice scientists who went abroad to [return](#).

Hungary is reforming its higher-education and research systems in hopes of regaining access to [European Union funding](#).

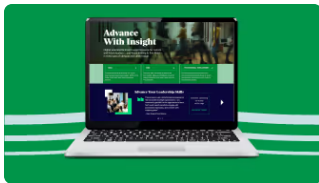
Students from Burkina-Faso will have to get [permission](#) from the military-controlled government to study overseas, even if their studies are paid with personal or private funds.

Thanks for reading. I always welcome your feedback and ideas for future reporting, so drop me a line at karin.fischer@chronicle.com or message me confidentially at [Signal](#). You can also connect with me on [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Bluesky](#). If you like this newsletter, please share it with colleagues and friends. They can [sign up here](#).

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