The range of international learning activities at Michigan State University makes more than 2,478 students participating in study abroad programs, and 7,500 international students participating in non-credit activities abroad, 150 international students are not reported in the figures.

As this new metric in international education gains momentum, future reporting is expected to include these activities. Currently, MSU has approximately 800 students participating in non-credit activities abroad, 150 international students participating in study abroad programs, and 2,478 international students studying here at MSU—combined with the U.S. students studying abroad this makes more than 10,000 students engaged in international learning activities at Michigan State University.

The goals include the following:

1. Support the national goal to double overall study abroad enrollment by 2020 through a five-year initiative called Generation Study Abroad. In response to this initiative, and to align with university strategies that focus on student success, MSU has set specific targets to expand participation and double endowments for study abroad scholarships. Meeting these goals will result in a more diverse student body going abroad and a greater variety of experiences in which they participate.

2. Increase outreach to first-generation, high-need and under-represented minorities as part of its university-wide early student success focus on high-impact learning strategies.

3. Double enrollment by 2020 for internship, volunteer, work abroad, including directed travel, as long as the study abroad, examples include such international experiences as work, volunteering, non-credit internships, and directed travel, as long as the programs are driven to a significant degree by learning goals.

4. Double enrollment by 2020 for undergraduate research abroad.

5. Double enrollment by 2020 for graduate education abroad.

6. Double enrollment by 2020 for semester programs abroad.

7. Double enrollment by 2020 for graduate education abroad.

8. Double the reporting of non-credit learning abroad experiences by 2020.


The number of U.S. citizens/permanent residents who receive academic credit from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education. These calculations are based on the annual report, Open Doors, produced by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

Figures and percentages are based on the number of MSU students who are U.S. citizens/permanent residents who receive academic credit from an accredited U.S. institution of higher education. These calculations are based on the annual report, Open Doors, produced by the Institute of International Education (IIE). Students who travel and take courses abroad without receiving academic credit are not reported in the figures.

The Forum on Education Abroad, the only standard-setting body in the field of international education, provides the following definition of “study abroad” which IIE has recently adopted:

"Education that occurs outside the participant’s home country. Besides study abroad, examples include such international experiences as work, volunteering, non-credit internships, and directed travel, as long as the programs are driven to a significant degree by learning goals.

In 2014, Michigan State University committed to a national effort to increase study abroad participation by 2020 through a five-year initiative called Generation Study Abroad. In response to this initiative, and to align with university strategies that focus on student success, MSU has set specific targets to expand participation and double endowments for study abroad scholarships. Meeting these goals will result in a more diverse student body going abroad and a greater variety of experiences in which they participate. These goals include the following:

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