

# Measuring Impact: What Can We Learn from Program Evaluations to Assess Study Abroad Outcomes

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# Overview

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- A brief introduction to the Institute of International Education (IIE)
- Application and use of evaluations and assessments for study abroad experiences
- *RISE* evaluation as a case study

## About the Institute

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- Administers the Fulbright Fellowship Program on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, in cooperation with Embassies and Fulbright Commissions
- Manages over 200 programs
- Serves 20,000+ students, teachers, scholars, and professionals in 175 countries annually
- Runs the IIE Network: a global resource for 4,500 professionals at 1,000 member institutions
- Collects and disseminates data on international student mobility via *Open Doors* and *Atlas*, and provides resources and information on study abroad

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# Application and use of evaluations and assessments for study abroad experiences

# Why bother with evaluations?

## *The application of evaluations and outcomes assessments*

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- The need to measure impact and outcomes at the individual, institutional and “knowledge environment level”

Source: Tsapogas, J. (2008). “Developing Evaluation Approaches to International Collaborative Science and Engineering Activities.” Research Triangle Park, NC: Sigma XI, available at [www.sigmaxi.org/programs/global](http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/global).

- The need to ensure program efficiency, effectiveness and improvement based on measured variables
- Accountability is vital for all sectors and targets!

## How does one do it?

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- Some quantitative and qualitative methods of program evaluations may include:
  - Surveys and longitudinal data
  - Comparative case studies
  - Interviews and focus groups
  - Observations and judgments

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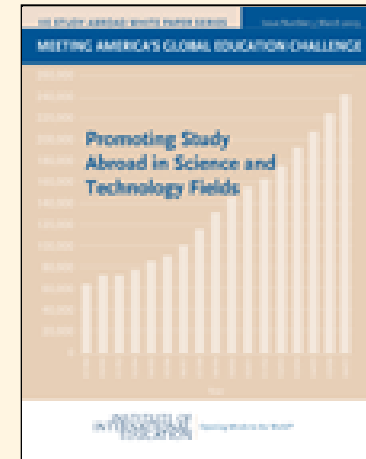
*RISE* evaluation as a case study

# IIE White Paper, No. 5: *Promoting Study Abroad in Science and Technology Fields*

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## **Key Stats from 2007/08**

- A record high 623,000 international students were studying in the U.S., and 39% in the STEM fields.
- Among international scholars in the U.S., 70% were specialists in the STEM fields.
- U.S. students in the STEM fields study abroad but at lower rates than the UG higher ed. population (16% vs. 26%)



Available as a free download at:  
[www.iie.org/StudyAbroadCapacity](http://www.iie.org/StudyAbroadCapacity)



# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

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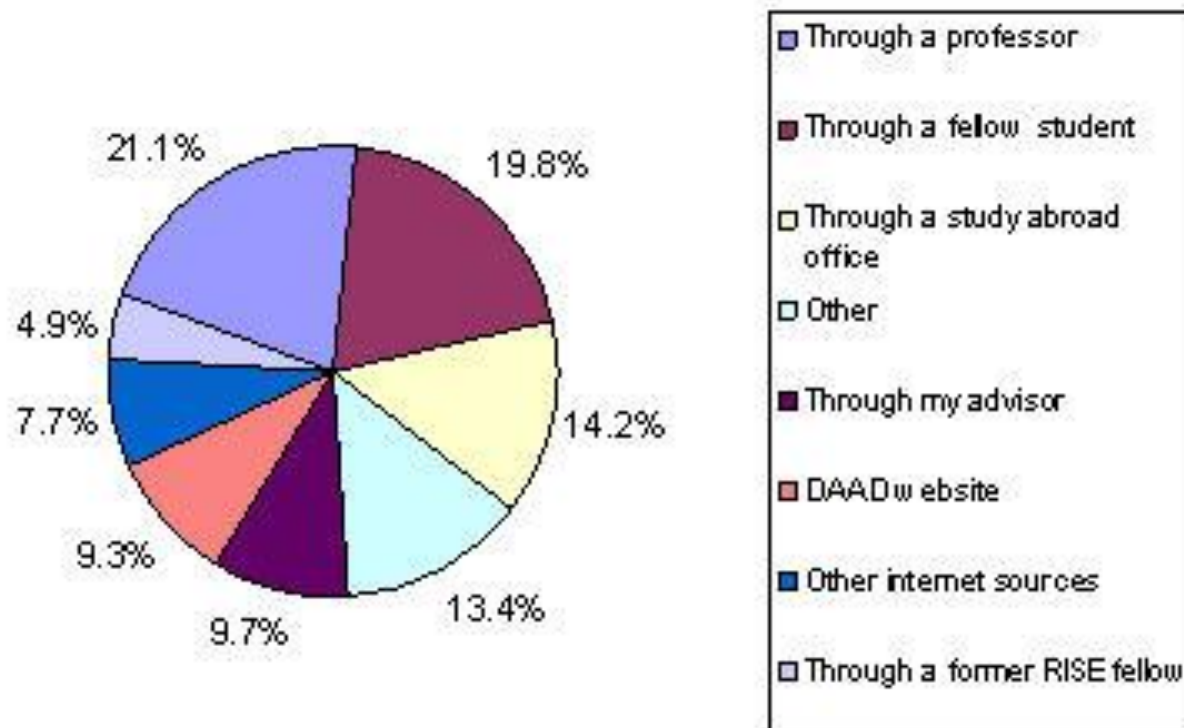
IIE was commissioned by the DAAD to conduct a long-term evaluation of its Research Internships in Science and Engineering (RISE) Program.

The DAAD was interested in assessing:

- motivations for intern and mentor participation;
- personal and professional impacts of the program;
- impact on academic and career path in the science and engineering fields;
- impact on intercultural and international research skill sets; and
- effectiveness of program administration and placement.

# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

**How Did You First Find Out About RISE?**  
percent responding



# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

## Level of Satisfaction with Internship Components 2008 Cohort, percent responding

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable
I was satisfied with the amount of practical, hands-on work I took part in.	1.9% (4)	4.7% (10)	6.1% (13)	31.8% (68)	55.1% (118)	0.5% (1)
I was satisfied with the scope of my responsibilities during the internship.	2.3% (5)	6.1% (13)	10.7% (23)	40.7% (87)	39.7% (85)	0.5% (1)
I was satisfied with the level of rigor of the research I took part in.	1.9% (4)	10.3% (22)	13.1% (28)	40.7% (87)	33.2% (71)	0.9% (2)
I was satisfied with my work relationship with my mentor/supervisor.	3.3% (7)	4.7% (10)	6.5% (14)	20.1% (43)	63.6% (136)	1.9% (4)
The research project I selected matched the original description and focus.	1.9% (4)	5.6% (12)	10.3% (22)	44.4% (95)	37.4% (80)	0.5% (1)
My overall expectations of the internship were fully met.	1.9% (4)	6.1% (13)	14.5% (31)	35.0% (75)	41.6% (89)	0.9% (2)

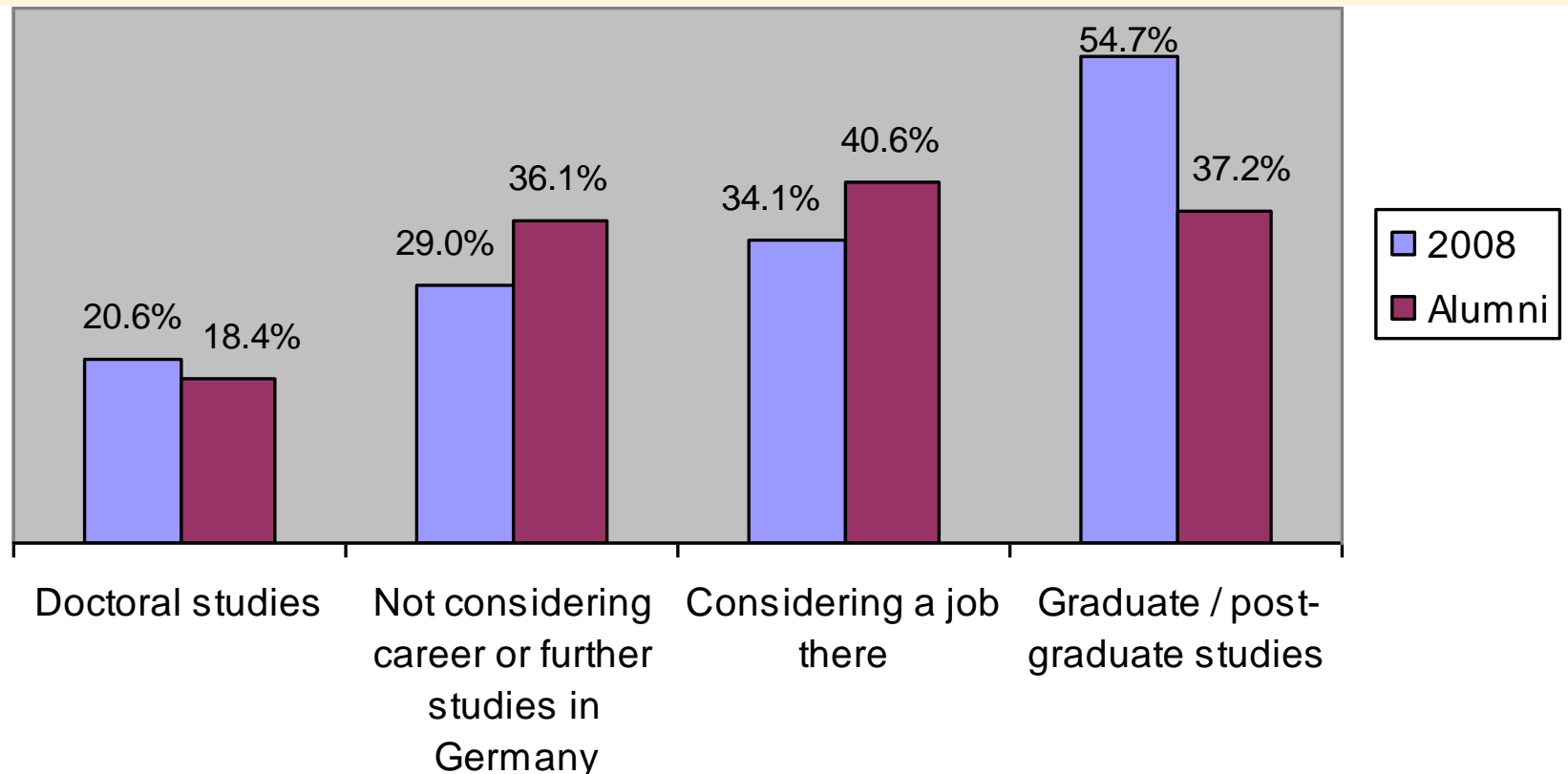
← **87% agreed**

← **84% agreed**

← **77% agreed**

# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

## Interns' Perspectives on Returning to Germany 2004-2008 Cohorts, percent responding



# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

## Motivating Factors for Mentors' Participation percent responding

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Not applicable	
Gaining an additional intern with strong qualifications	2.0% (5)	7.3% (18)	21.6% (53)	40.4% (99)	28.2% (69)	0.4% (1)	← <b>69% agreed</b>
Wanting to secure a competent research assistant	2.5% (6)	13.1% (32)	29.1% (71)	35.2% (86)	16.8% (41)	3.3% (8)	
Having the opportunity to build ties with intern's U.S. or Canadian home institution/company	4.5% (11)	15.9% (39)	29.4% (72)	32.2% (79)	17.1% (42)	0.8% (2)	
I/we wanted to acquire improved English skills through conversation with intern.	6.1% (15)	8.6% (21)	15.2% (37)	33.2% (81)	35.2% (86)	1.6% (4)	← <b>67% agreed</b>
There would be no significant financial costs to our company/institution.	4.5% (11)	13.6% (33)	28.4% (69)	33.3% (81)	16.5% (40)	3.7% (9)	
The fact that the program took place during the summer months was important.	23.3% (57)	33.5% (82)	26.5% (65)	7.8% (19)	7.3% (18)	1.6% (4)	
The fact that arrangements for the program were handled by DAAD was important.	2.4% (6)	9.0% (22)	21.2% (52)	33.5% (82)	33.5% (82)	0.4% (1)	← <b>67% agreed</b>
Wanting to add an international component to my resume	6.5% (16)	14.3% (35)	33.1% (81)	30.6% (75)	11.8% (29)	3.7% (9)	
Wanting to increase my supervisory experience	2.0% (5)	4.1% (10)	9.4% (23)	38.4% (94)	44.9% (110)	1.2% (3)	← <b>98% agreed</b>

# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

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## Selected Student Intern Comments on Impact of the RISE Program on Personal Competencies

- “It forced me to take more initiative in my work and it gave me more responsibilities. It proved to me that I can handle a position in a lab and hold my own.”
- “It improved my self-confidence and ability to work in different environments and on different projects.”
- “I learned to work with a different lab environment where people are straightforward and don't give as much positive feedback as they do constructive criticism.”
- “My German improved greatly and my self-reliance has also improved dramatically.”
- “The program really helped me see research as a more global effort as opposed to one individualized to a particular country or a particular area of research. I really enjoyed the research seminars where professors shared results of their ongoing research with other scientists that worked in different areas of research.”
- “It was humbling as it was a lot of hard work, with a nation who spoke my language, even though I could not speak theirs. I have a huge amount of respect for the German people. This was a scientific exchange, but I think that the most valuable lesson I have learned is the importance of communication, specifically languages. Sadly, North America is a little behind Europe on that one.”

# The RISE Evaluation as a case study

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## RISE 2008 Mentors' Comments on Program Administration

- “I could find help and quick answers when I had questions regarding the financial support of my intern. Very strong administrative support.”
- “The administration process was fairly uncomplicated. This is a clear advantage and certainly helped in the acceptance of the program inside our organization.”
- “Papers that are needed to apply for a visa should be sent to the students earlier if possible.”
- “The scholarship should have been paid earlier. I had to pay the first rent for my student in advance.”
- “The placement process and the support from the DAAD was very good. But the gap between the end of the placement process and start of the program was a bit too short. We had difficulties getting an accommodation for our intern, and preparing an adequate working program for him.”

## The RISE Evaluation as a case study

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Program recommendations were made based on participant feedback and qualitative/quantitative data in areas related to:

- Pre-departure information and the application process
- Communication prior to and during the internship program
- Enrichment activities
- Local arrangements
- Funding and financial issues
- Other recommendations for program sustainability and strategic growth



## Evaluation and Other Resources

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- Deardorff, D. (2006) Identification and Assessment of Intercultural Competence as a Student Outcome of Internationalization. *Journal of Studies in International Education*, Vol. 10, No. 3, pp. 241-266. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- The Forum on Education Abroad. Quality Improvement Program (QUIP) for Education Abroad. <http://www.forumea.org/standards-quip.cfm>
- McKeown, J. S. (2009). *The First Time Effect: The Impact of Study Abroad on College Student Intellectual Development*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
- Tsapogas, J. (2008). "Developing Evaluation Approaches to International Collaborative Science and Engineering Activities." Research Triangle Park, NC: Sigma XI, available at [www.sigmaxi.org/programs/global](http://www.sigmaxi.org/programs/global).
- Vande Berg, M., Connor-Linton, J., Paige, R.M. (2009). "The Georgetown Consortium Project: Interventions for Student Learning Abroad." *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*. Volume XVIII (Fall 2009). Carlisle, PA: Frontiers Journal, Inc.

# IIE Study Abroad Information Resources

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- [www.iie.org](http://www.iie.org) IIE Online
- [www.iienetwork.org](http://www.iienetwork.org) Resources for International Educators
- [www.iie.org/ResearchEvaluation](http://www.iie.org/ResearchEvaluation) IIE Research and Evaluation
- [www.opendoors.iienetwork.org](http://www.opendoors.iienetwork.org) *Open Doors* Online
- [www.atlas.iienetwork.org](http://www.atlas.iienetwork.org) Atlas of Student Mobility
- [www.iiebooks.org](http://www.iiebooks.org) IIE's Online Bookstore
- [www.iiepassport.org](http://www.iiepassport.org) Directory of Study Abroad Programs
- [www.StudyAbroadFunding.org](http://www.StudyAbroadFunding.org) Funding for U.S. Study Abroad
- [www.iie.org/StudyAbroadCapacity](http://www.iie.org/StudyAbroadCapacity) Meeting America's Global Education Challenge Series

# Four Ways to Connect with IIE

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Resources for international education professionals

**Thank you.**

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[www.iie.org/ResearchEvaluation](http://www.iie.org/ResearchEvaluation)**