

East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
**Office of International Programs**

# Annual Report

June 2008-June 2009



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## The Office of International Programs

The mission of the Office of International Programs (OIP) consists of promoting a learning community with an international focus that will prepare students to lead and succeed in a global society. The OIP contributes to ESU's commitment to diversity by developing and promoting international exchanges and facilitating globally-focused opportunities for students, faculty and staff.

This mission is accomplished through several functions:

1. International Programs
2. National Student Exchange
3. Campus programming
4. Involvement in international education professional circles

### 1. International Programs

The OIP conducted the following activities to promote international programs during the 2008-2009 academic year:

#### **Advising**

- Worked with 177 students on advising issues about and applying for study abroad opportunities
- Promoted all international opportunities available to ESU students
- Provided oversight on students' application prior to engaging in international studies
- Conducted two (2) pre-departure orientation session for students involved international programs
- Worked with ESU faculty members involved in faculty-led study abroad programs
- Work with ESU faculty members in introducing risk and crisis management in all ESU programs

#### **Expansion of ESU international programs**

- Served as ESU liaison with foreign universities and other organizations associated with international education
- Negotiated five (5) affiliation agreements with foreign universities and one (1) study abroad provider
- Worked with ESU faculty members in promoting and recruiting students for ESU programs, including evaluating proposals for new programs
- Collaborated in the creation of three new international programs: 1) ESU Summer in Mexico, 2) ESU in Oxford, 3) Art and Creativity in China.

#### **Systems**

- In collaboration with Enrollment Services, the OIP contributed in creating a dummy code as a tool to secure students' financial aid, email service, appropriate billing, etc. while studying abroad.
- The OIP, in collaboration with PASSHE Legal Counsel and Enrollment Services, has refined its study abroad application packet and study abroad application process
- In collaboration with Summer Sessions, the OIP initiated a revision of the processes involved in faculty-led programs (e.g. budgeting, enrollment, program assessment, etc.)

## 2. National Student Exchange

- The OIP is involved in all aspects of NSE, including raising awareness on campus about this exchange opportunity for students, resident assistants, and honor students
- The OIP launched several promotional campaigns aimed to raise awareness about the opportunities available through NSE
- The OIP maintained regular communication with NSE central offices and kept ESU information up to date in the NSE website.
- The OIP actively participated in NSE annual conference and meetings

## 3. Campus Programming and Outreach

During the 2008-2009 year, the OIP conducted several programming and outreach activities to raise awareness about international education and international programs.

- The OIP organized the Fall Study Abroad Fair, which took place on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008. About 10 study abroad vendors attended the event together with the OIP. The event allowed to showcase all international opportunities available to ESU students
- The OIP held the International Education Week 2008 (IEW) celebrations in November. The week-long celebration had the theme of ***“Crafting a Future Together: You and I Dream of a World.”*** The celebrations consisted of:
  - A luncheon, in which author Kris Halloway talked about her book *Monique and the Mango Rains*. ESU Vice-Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Marilyn Wells, opened the ceremony
  - A photo/essay contest in which 15 students linked their international experiences with the theme of this year’s IEW celebration.
- The OIP organized the Spring Study Abroad Fair, an event that gathered on campus ESU affiliate study abroad providers
- The OIP launched the Buddy Program with the following goals:
  - To provide support for incoming international students that will join ESU during Autumn 2009.
  - To offer opportunities for domestic students to engage in cultural exchanges with students from other cultures.
- The OIP staff organized several events on campus. These are:
  - Six (6) visits of study abroad providers to campus,
  - A campus-wide informational session to launch ISEP,
  - Two informational sessions to recruit students for NSE exchange,
  - Four (4) informational sessions for specific summer international programs
- The OIP staff made four (4) presentations as part of outreach activities. These were in front of:
  - Graduate students
  - APSCUF
  - The College of Business and Management
  - Student Senate

#### 4. Involvement in international education circles

The International Study Program Manager participated in several conferences and workshops in representation of ESU during the academic year. Below is the list of events in which ESU was represented:

- PASSHE international program initiative (Harrisburg, PA). Gonzalo Bruce in collaboration with Pamela Frigot (Slippery Rock) and Angela Howard (West Chester University) made a presentation entitled “What PaSSHE international officers want you to know about short-term faculty-led programs.”
- PaCIE International Education Conference (State College, PA). Gonzalo Bruce in collaboration with Dr. Jeff Ruth (Department of Foreign Languages) made a presentation entitled “Blogging as a means to deepen cultural understanding and global competency.”
- CIEE Conference (Nashville, TN). Gonzalo Bruce made a presentation entitled “Internal examination: Institutional design and the growth of international programs.”
- Annual conference of Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA) (Atlanta, GA).
- National Student Exchange Annual Conference (Durham, NC)
- OSAC Workshop on Health and Safety for International Programs (Seattle, WA)
- NAFSA 2009 Annual Conference (Los Angeles, CA)

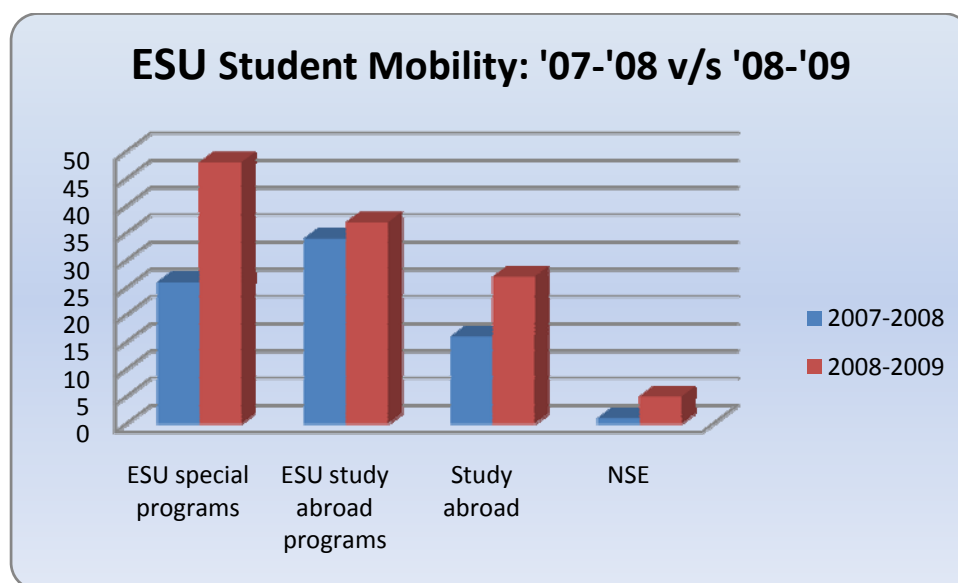
#### ESU Student Mobility 2008-2009

In the course of the past academic year, a total of 117 students chose to embark in some kind of international programs, a 53.9% growth compared to the previous academic year. The OIP classifieds international programs in four categories: 1) Special programs, 2) ESU international programs, 3) Study abroad, and 4) National Student Exchange.

- 1) *Special programs* consist of one-week long international initiatives under the supervision of one or more ESU-faculty members. These programs may or may not involve academic credits. Examples of these programs are:
  - Spring Break in Puerto Rico (Spring)
  - Public Health in the Dominican Republic (Summer)
  - Communication Field Studies (Canada)
  - Marine Science program (Honduras)
  - Costa Rica (Spring Break 2009)
- 2) *ESU international programs* consist of summer faculty-led study abroad programs. These programs typically take between two to four weeks and involve academic credits (between three to six credits).
  - ESU summer in China (Dr. Wenjie Yan)
  - ESU summer in Mexico (Dr. Robert McKenzie)
  - ESU in Oxford (Dr. Glenn Geiser Getz) – in collaboration with IUP
  - St. Croix PSY 306 (Dr. Rick Wesp)
  - Chinese Creativity in Art and Design (Miharu Lane and Darlene Farris-Labar)

- 3) *Non-ESU study-abroad programs* consist of semester or year-long programs in which students enroll at a host university on full-time basis. This category also involves summer programs in which students earn from six to more credits abroad. In both cases, students participate in these programs without the company of an ESU faculty member.
- 4) National Student Exchange consists of semester-long exchanges in domestic or Canadian universities through the ESU affiliation with National Student Exchange.

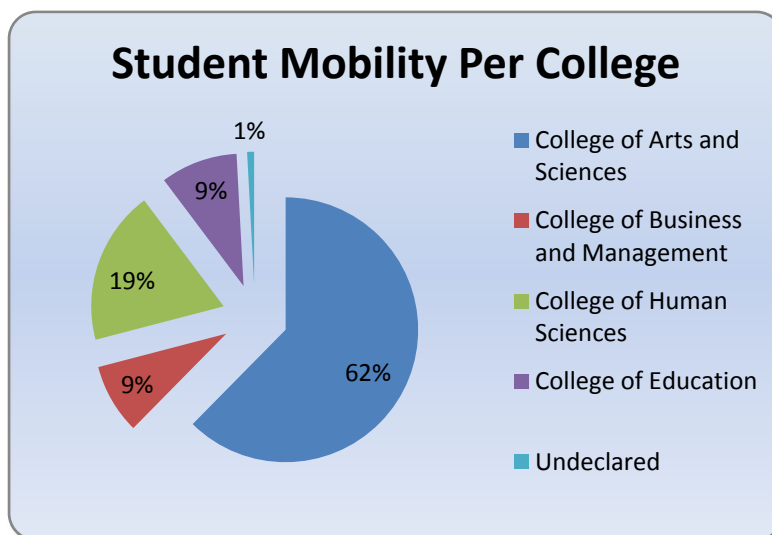
TYPE OF PROGRAM	PARTICIPANTS	% change from previous year
ESU special programs	48	↑84.6%
ESU international programs	37	↑8.8%
Non-ESU study abroad	27	↑68.7%
NSE	5	↑500%
<b>Total</b>	<b>117</b>	



ESU experienced growth in all types of programs. The most impressive growth was linked to NSE. This is explained by the fact that in the previous year almost no ESU student took advantage of this exchange opportunity. Another important growth is linked to ESU special programs. This growth is explained by two factors: 1) new programs were created during the past academic year, and 2) new collaborations were established between the OIP and the academic departments on previously existing programs. The most modest increase was linked with ESU international programs. This modest growth was explained by the cancellation of two summer programs due to the outbreak of the H1N1 flu. The most dramatic case was the cancellation of the ESU Summer in China program, which left 15 students without an international experience. In addition, the ESU Summer in Ghana program did not take place this year due to low enrollment. Finally, another impressive growth corresponded to the involvement of students in independent programs, mostly in semester-long experiences.

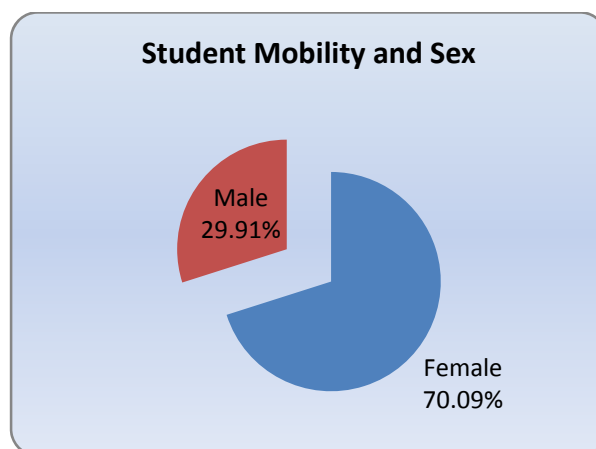
## 1. Student Mobility and ESU Colleges

Participation in international programs was marked by students' affiliation with the College of Arts and Sciences (62%). Students from the College of Business and Management and the College of Education had the lowest involvement in international programs.



## 2. Student Mobility and Gender

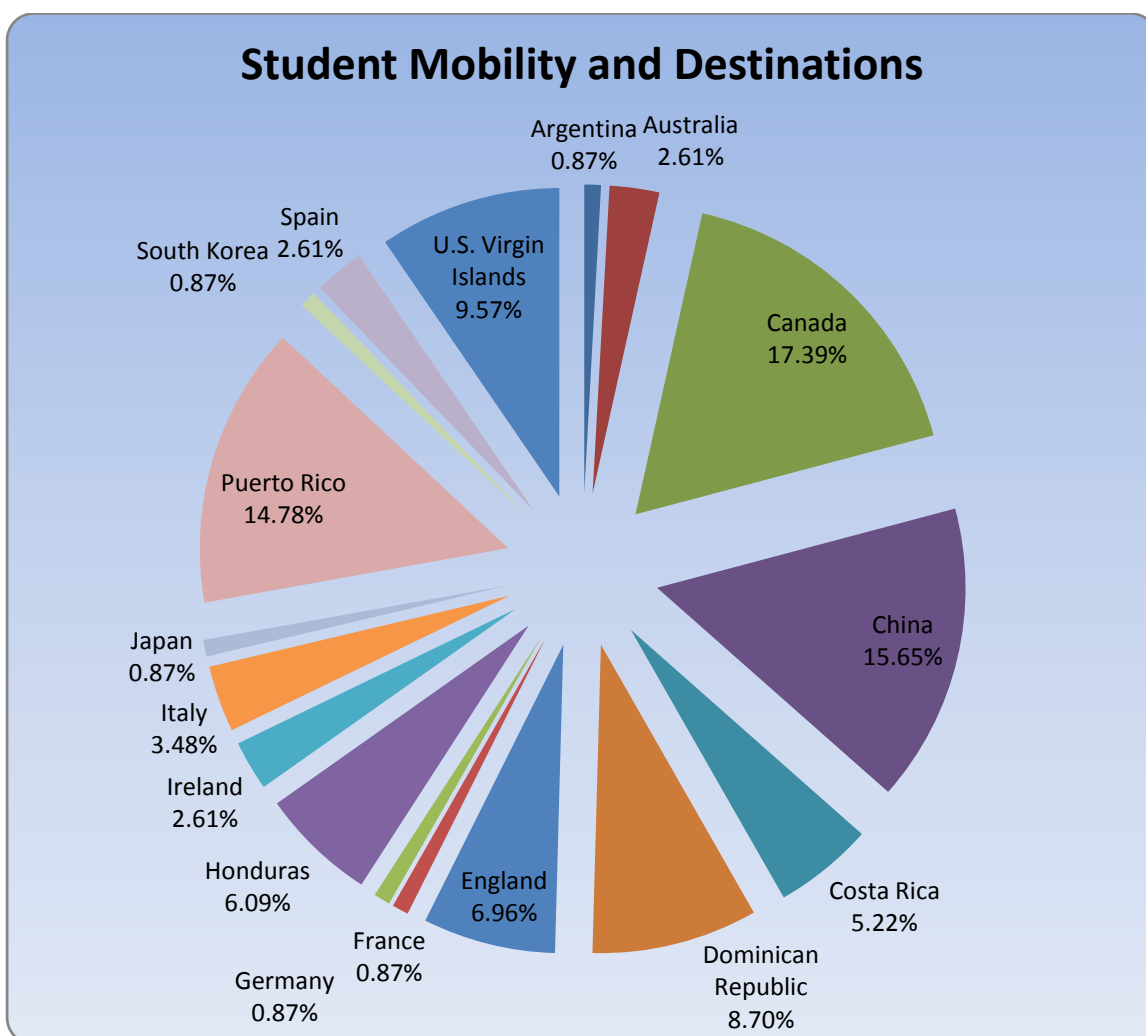
Consistent with the previous year, student mobility at ESU is marked by students' gender. About 70% of the students participating in international programs were female and about 30% were male.



## 3. Student Mobility and Destination

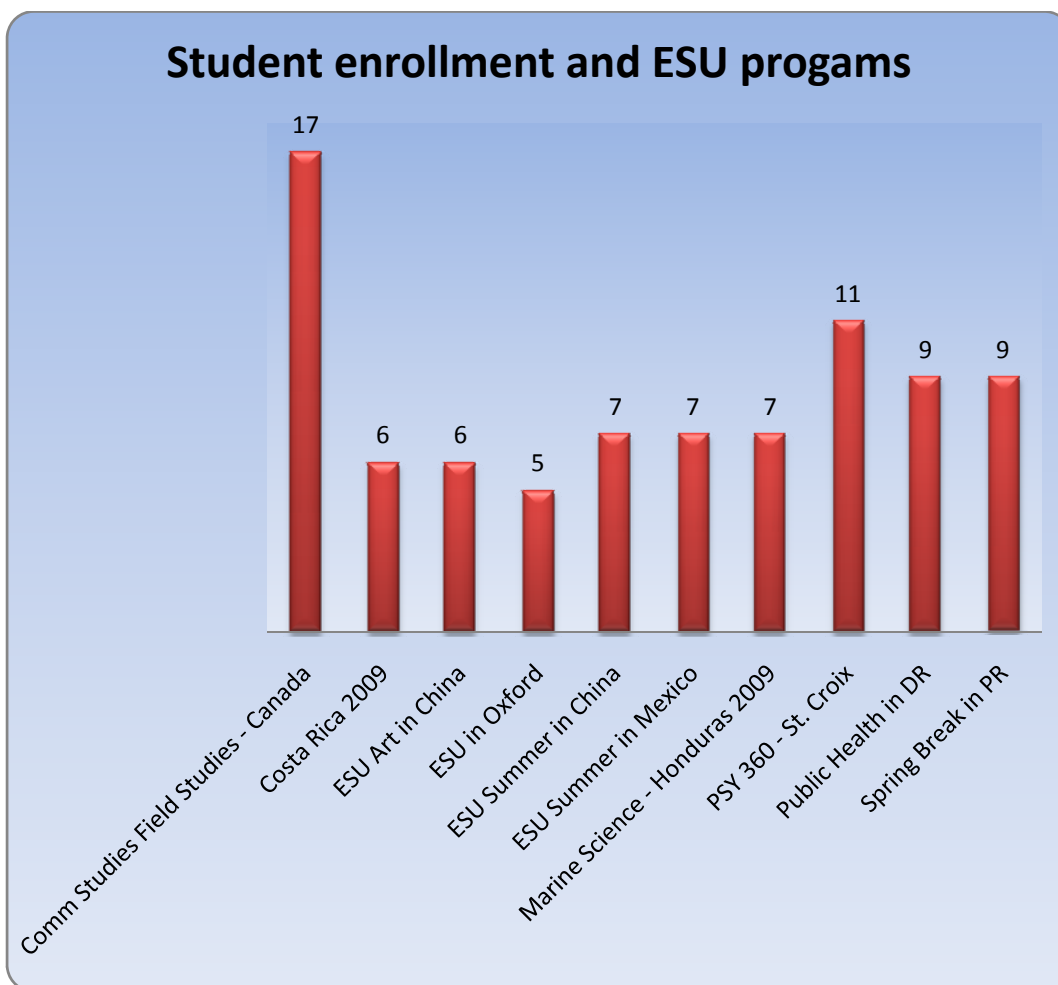
During the 2008-2009 year, ESU students visited 17 different countries/ territories, a growth of four new destinations compared to the previous academic year. The three dominant destinations during this academic year were Canada (17%), China (16%), and Puerto Rico (15%). The preference for these

destinations is explained by the fact that ESU sponsored two programs in each destination during the 2008-2009 academic year.



#### 4. Enrollment and ESU programs

During the 2008-2009 academic year, ESU sponsored 10 overseas program with an average enrollment of 8.4 students. Enrollment in ESU programs was negatively impacted in the summer due to the H1N1 flu outbreak. The ESU Summer in Mexico program had to be re-routed to Puerto Rico and consequently four students chose to withdraw from the program. The ESU Summer in China had to be re-routed to Shanghai and 15 students chose to withdraw from the program. Despite the requirement to have eight (8) students as minimum enrollment for all summer international programs, enrollment in some programs was low. Two of these programs were offered for the first time (ESU in Oxford and ESU Art in China).



## ESU International Affiliations

During 2008-2009, the OIP facilitated the formalization of the following affiliation agreements with the purpose to expand international initiatives. The following affiliation agreements were signed during the 2008-2009 academic year:

- Shanghai Normal University (China)
- Universidad Central del Este (Dominican Republic)
- Universidad Autonoma de Sinaloa (Mexico)
- Universidad de Puerto Rico (Puerto Rico)
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania (for the collaboration on the Oxford program)

In addition, ESU signed an affiliation with the following study abroad provider:

- Study Abroad Italy (SAI)

## OIP Staff and Staff Development

The OIP is comprised by one full-time staff member with the title of International Study Program Manager and one Graduate Assistant, appointed for 20 hours a week.

The International Study Program Manager, Gonzalo Bruce, participated in different international education conferences and workshops which contributed to maintaining the OIP up to the date with the best practices in the field. Similarly, Gonzalo Bruce made some presentations in regional and national conferences, which help to position ESU in international education circles.

Graduate Assistant, Heather Metz, completed her tenure as Graduate Assistant for the Office of International Programs. In her second year as GA, Heather gained critical competencies in the following areas:

- Consulting with students and managing application materials for study abroad
- Public relations with study abroad providers and external vendors
- Event planning through all the events sponsored by OIP in the course of the year
- Database management
- Advertising, publicity and marketing for specific international programs