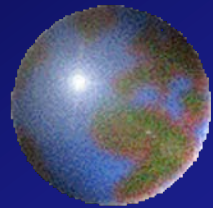


# Study Abroad in the University System of Georgia

Sue Watson

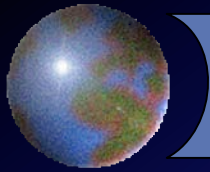
University System of Georgia Board  
of Regents  
Office of International Education

[www.usg.edu/oie](http://www.usg.edu/oie)



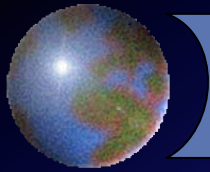
## *Why Study Abroad?*

- to enhance academic program of study
- to learn things first-hand
- to improve foreign language skills
- to test limits
- to gain a competitive advantage in the job market
- to stay in school and graduate



# *Why Don't More Students Study Abroad?*

- ❖ Study abroad experiences are seen as “extra”
- ❖ Not an integral part of degree program coursework
- ❖ Lack of awareness
- ❖ Discouraged by some faculty
- ❖ Persistent misperceptions



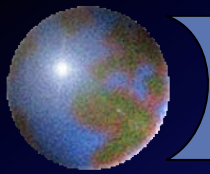
# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #1

“I can’t speak a foreign language so I would be lost in another country.”

## Reality

-Most University System of Georgia study abroad participants study abroad in English, regardless of the language of the host country.



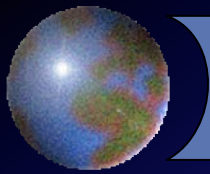
# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #2

“My institution doesn’t offer any study abroad programs that fit within my major.”

## Reality

- The University System of Georgia offers more than 300 study abroad programs in virtually every academic field and more than 50 countries.
- Students can go abroad with ISEP, which affords access to nearly 100 study sites in even more destinations.



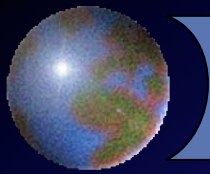
# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #3

“I’d be behind because I wouldn’t get credit for my study abroad program courses and wouldn’t be able to graduate on time.”

## Reality

- All approved USG study abroad programs offer credit which transfers back to the home campus.
- In some cases, students can earn enough credit while abroad to actually get ahead in credits toward their degree.



# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

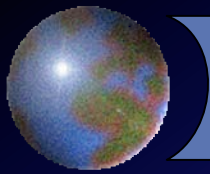
## Myth #4

“You have to excellent grades in order to be eligible.”

## Reality

-Requirements for study abroad programs vary; some programs simply require that the participants be in good academic standing with their college or university, while other require a 2.5 GPA or higher.





# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

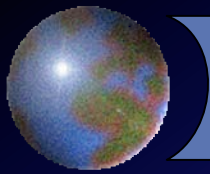
## Myth #5

“You’re supposed to go  
abroad your junior  
year.”

## Reality

-Several study abroad  
programs in the USG  
are designed for  
freshmen and  
sophomores and  
primarily offer courses  
in the core.





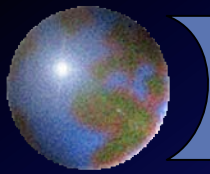
# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #6

“Studying abroad is  
not safe.”

## Reality

-No USG study abroad  
program will take place  
in a country or region  
that carries a  
Department of State  
travel warning.



# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #7

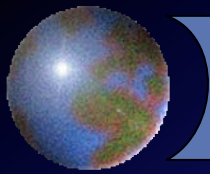
“It’s too expensive.”

“There is no real money out there to help me study abroad- no one ever really gets a scholarship.”

## Reality

-Study abroad for a semester may actually be *cheaper* than a semester spent on campus.

-In FY 2004 alone, the BOR of the USG provided **\$123,000** in direct aid to students and will provide **\$148,000** in FY05.



# *Myths and Facts about Study Abroad*

## Myth #8

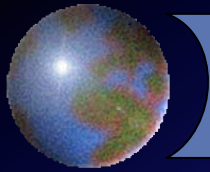
“The HOPE scholarship won’t cover my tuition/fees if I study abroad.”

“Financial aid won’t apply to the cost of my program.”

## Reality

-HOPE will cover tuition and fees if programs are credit-bearing and are approved by the home institution.

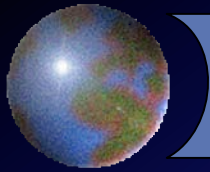
-Pell grants and other federal financial aid will cover tuition costs for overseas programs.



# *HOPE Scholarship Regulations*

“A student enrolled in a matriculating status at a HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia may qualify for HOPE payment while participating in a Study Abroad program. Study Abroad programs or International-Intercultural Studies program are college credit-earning programs of study that include travel outside the United States. The student’s HOPE-eligible home institution must approve the Study Abroad program for credit toward the student’s degree program prior to the student’s departure.”

*-Source: <http://www.gsfc.org>*



# *Federal Student Aid Regulations*

“A student in a study-abroad program is eligible for aid if the program is approved for academic credit for the student’s degree by the eligible home school at which the student is enrolled as a regular student. The home school must have a contractual agreement with the foreign school or a single written arrangement with a study-abroad organization to represent an agreement between the home school and one or more foreign schools.” *HEA Sec. 484(o), 34 CFR 668.39.*

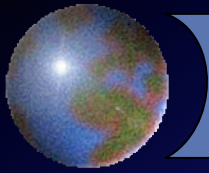
*-Source: <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/>*



# *Show Me the Money*



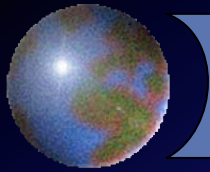
There is money  
available-  
students just  
need to know  
where to look  
and how to  
get it.



## *3 Main Types of Funding*

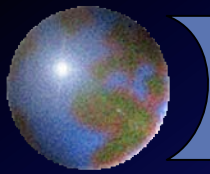
- 1) Grants
- 2) Scholarships
- 3) Loans





# *Sources of Financial Assistance*

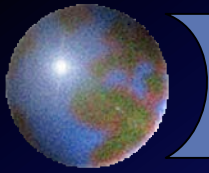
- ❖ University or college
- ❖ Societies/organizations related to academic field of study
- ❖ Host-country organizations, institutes, businesses
- ❖ Host-country embassy
- ❖ Private scholarships or grants



# *Loans for Study Abroad*

- ❖ In addition to student loans available through a bank or financial institution, there are loans available specifically for study abroad.

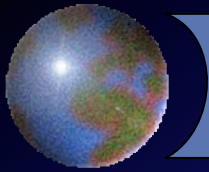




# *Finding the Money -Step 1*

## Investigate local options

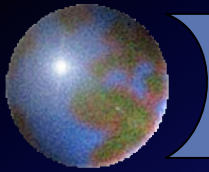
- campus study abroad office
- college/department of academic major
- employer
- societies/organizations
- governmental agencies



## *Step 2*

### Broaden the search

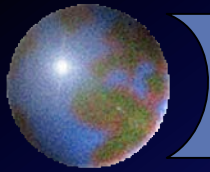
- national organizations, associations
- Internet research: study abroad  
scholarship Web sites, databases
- resources in print



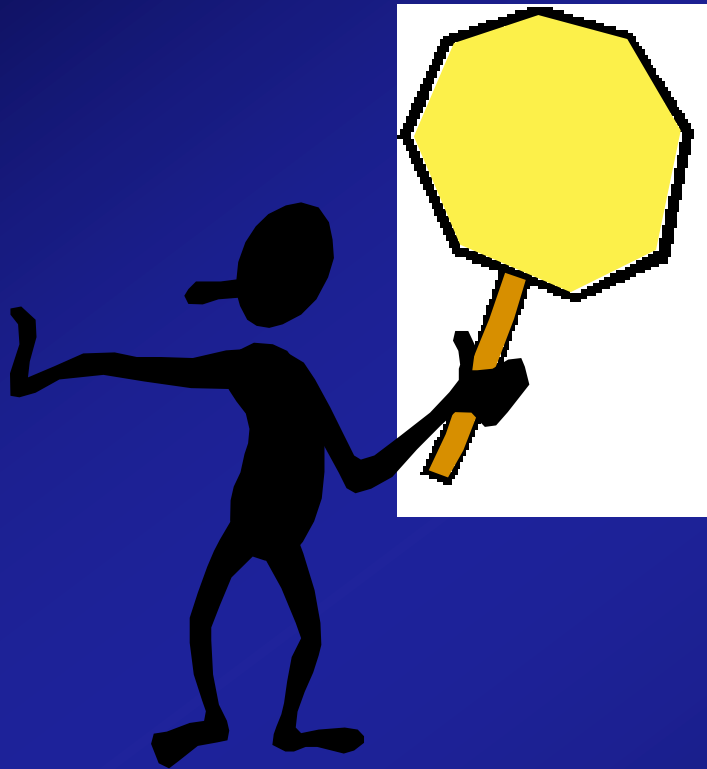
## *Step 3*

### Investigate overseas options

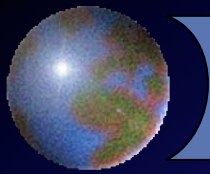
- embassies/consulates
- international societies/organizations
- scholarships offered by particular countries/regions
- scholarships offered by host institution
- program-specific scholarships



# *Things to Be Aware of*



- Some “scholarships” are not scholarships at all.
- Students should not have to “register” using a credit card to search a database of scholarships.



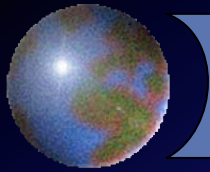
# *Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia Funding Program*

STARS (Students Abroad with Regents'  
Support)

3 funding programs:

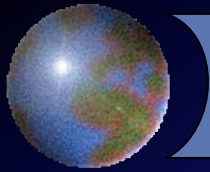
- 1) Work and study stipend
- 2) Program assistantship
- 3) Global ambassador travel grant





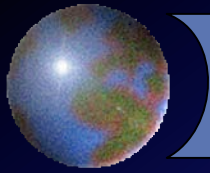
## *STARS Work and Study Stipends*

- can earn up to \$500 per semester to apply to the cost of their study abroad program
- perform on-campus tasks prior to going abroad
- may work for more than one semester



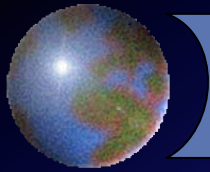
## *STARS Program Assistantships*

- can earn up to \$1000 by working as study abroad program assistants
- work overseas and assist study abroad program directors with program administration and related duties



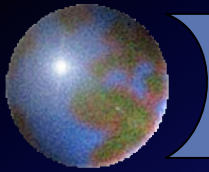
# *STARS Global Ambassador Travel Grants*

- can earn up to \$1000 in reimbursement costs for their study abroad program
- perform a volunteer service-related activity while overseas
- can propose their own activity



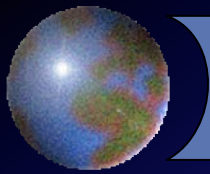
## *Board of Regents ISEP Grant*

- ✓ The Board of Regents will award students a \$500 grant if they participate on an ISEP exchange program.
- ✓ Students will receive this grant automatically and ***don't even need to apply for the grant.***
- ✓ Other scholarships or grants can be used in addition to the ISEP grant.



# *ISEP*

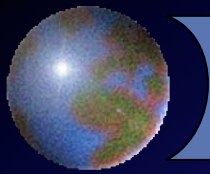
- ❖ ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) is the world's largest and most extensive study abroad exchange program.
- Students pay the cost of their home campus tuition, fees, housing and meals and go abroad for a semester- or year-long program.



- Since students pay home-campus costs and not the cost of their overseas university, they are paying the equivalent of what they pay for a semester on campus.
- The only additional costs of an ISEP program are expenses related to airfare, visa/passport, and spending money.
- Students can apply their financial aid or HOPE scholarship to the cost of their program.

[www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org)



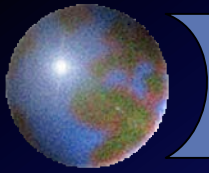


## *Sample ISEP Costs*

\$5400 in-state tuition, fees,  
campus room and  
board (USG semester  
average)

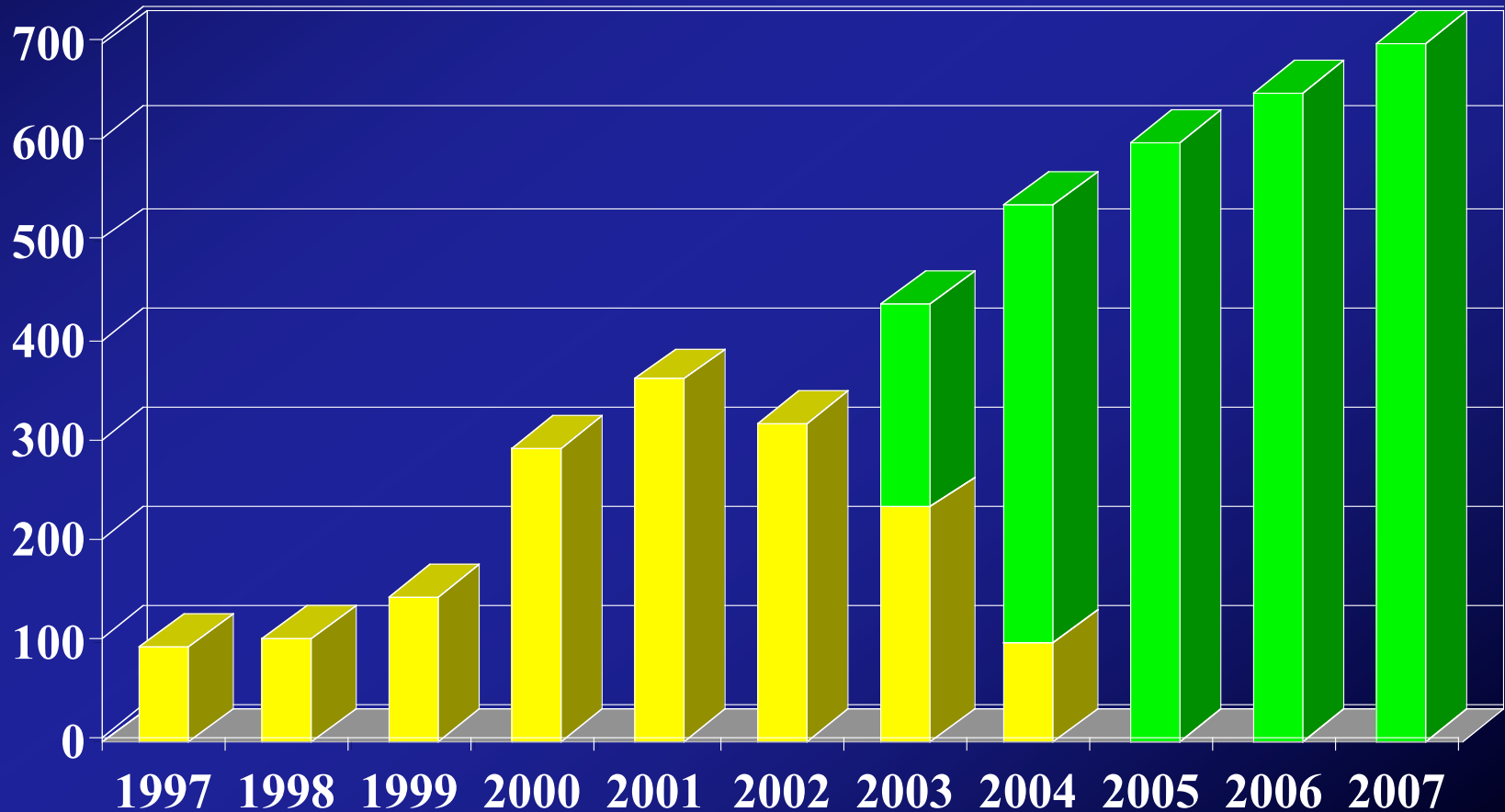
- \$500 BOR ISEP grant
- \$1000 BOR work/study stipend
- \$5000 Freeman-Asia Award
- + **\$1100**

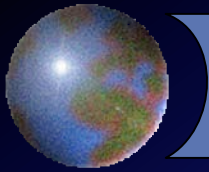




# *# of Regents' Awards for Study Abroad*

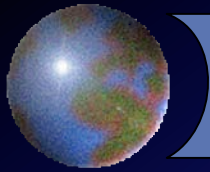
## *1997--2007*





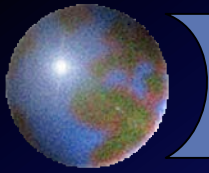
# *The Advantages of STARS*

- ❖ Regents have sponsorship
- ❖ Institutions have ownership
- ❖ Institutions have flexibility and discretion about how funds are used

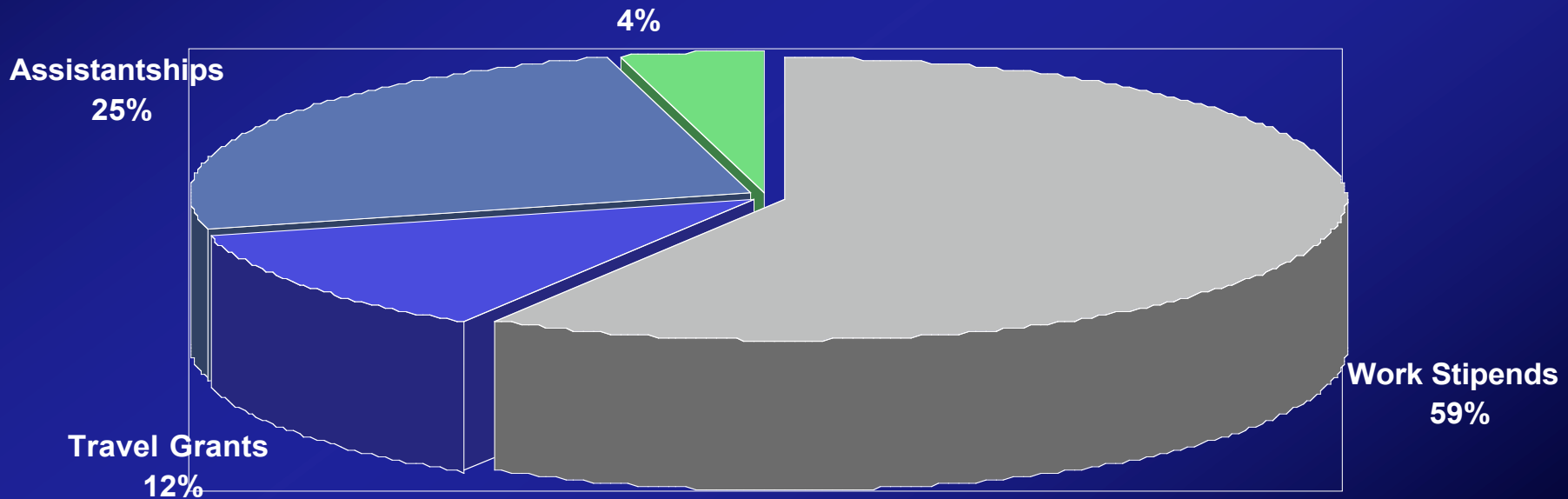


# *The Impact of STARS: Participating Institutions*

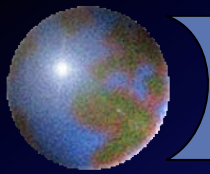
- ❖ 3 of 4 research universities
  - ❖ 9 of 13 regional & state universities
  - ❖ 0 of 2 state colleges
  - ❖ 8 of 15 two-year colleges
- 20 of 34 institutions are using STARS  
funding to support students going abroad



# *Percentage of STARS Awards by Category (FY03 & FY04)*



■ Work Stipends   ■ Travel Grants   ■ Assistantships   ■ ISEP Grants



# *What is the Board of Regents doing to promote study abroad?*

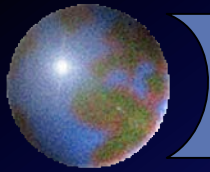
- University System of Georgia Study Abroad Catalog

[www.usg.edu/oie/catalog](http://www.usg.edu/oie/catalog)

- Direct funding to campuses for new study abroad program development

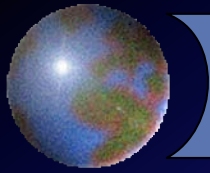
- USG Study Abroad Committee and listserv

[www.usg.edu/oie/committees/sa](http://www.usg.edu/oie/committees/sa)



# *What is the Board of Regents doing to promote study abroad (cont.)?*

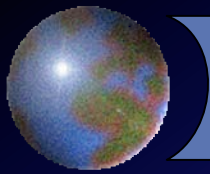
- ❖ Study abroad fairs
- ❖ Study abroad program director workshops for developing/administering study abroad programs
- ❖ Faculty Development Seminars
- ❖ World Regional Councils (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East Consortium)
- ❖ Global Partnership Awards (1998-2004)
- ❖ Best Practices Awards- Degree Program with an Integrated Study Abroad Component (2003, 2004)



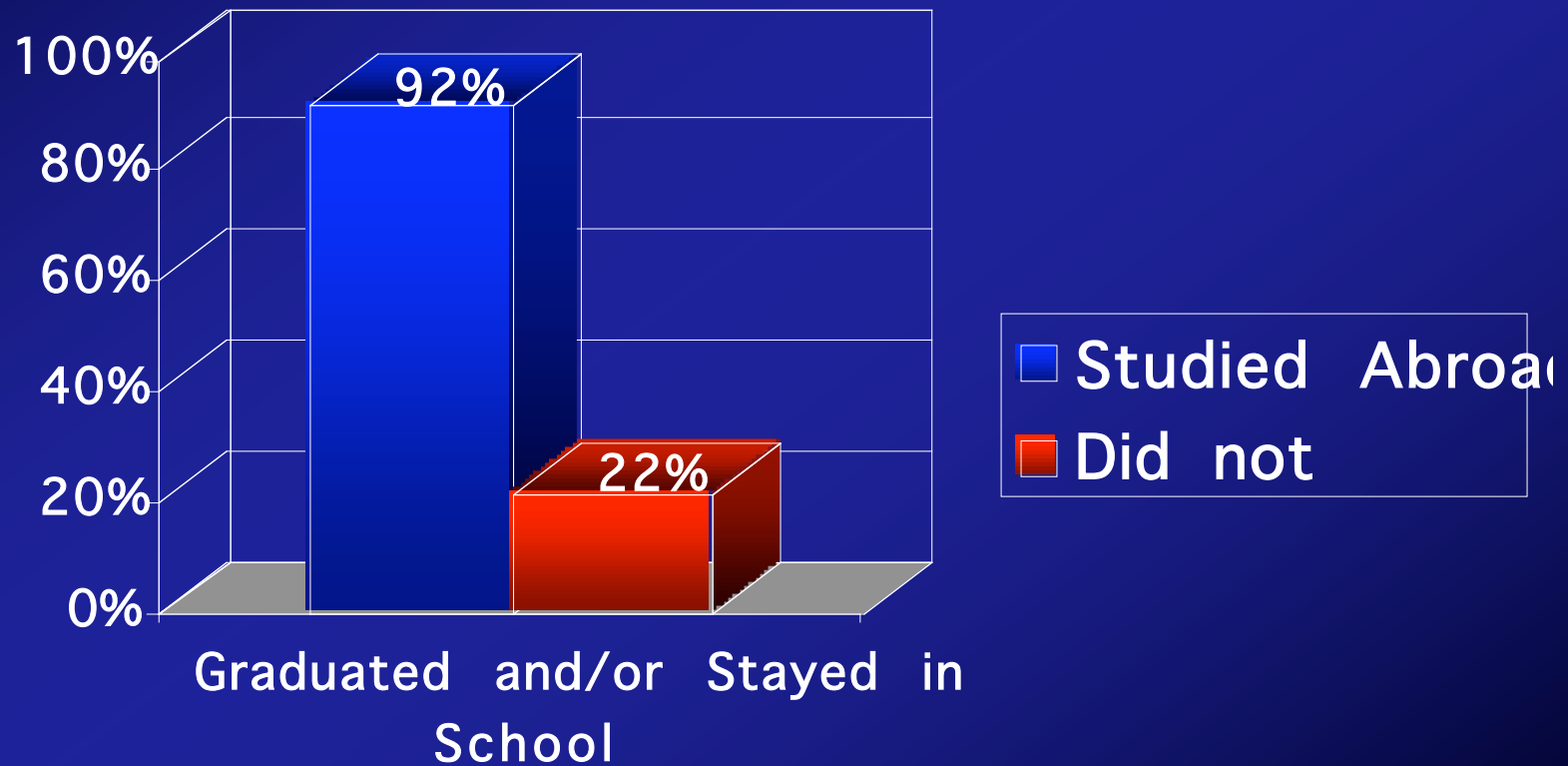
# *Why study abroad - the statistics*

- ❖ Georgia's annual exports of goods valued at \$19.6 billion
- ❖ Those exports are responsible for an estimated 300,000 jobs
- ❖ 1,936 foreign-owned facilities in Georgia provide 114,684 jobs
- ❖ \$25 billion direct foreign investment in Georgia



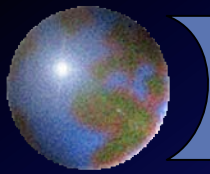


# *Persistence Toward Graduation - Test Sample of Three State Universities*



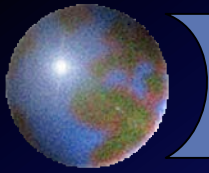
Blue column includes 2000-2001 study abroad students from three universities who had graduated or were still enrolled in Spring 2003.

Red column represents average graduation rate at the three institutions.



## *Board of Regents' Goals for International Education*

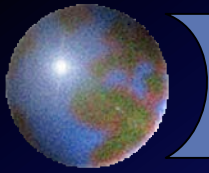
- ❖ 1995 Strategic Plan: double the number of Georgia students abroad (from 1600 to 3200) by 2002
- ❖ 2002 Strategic Plan: double the number of Georgia students abroad (from 3200 to 6400) by 2007



*By 2007, if the USG meets the goal, the number of students\* who study abroad will equal:*

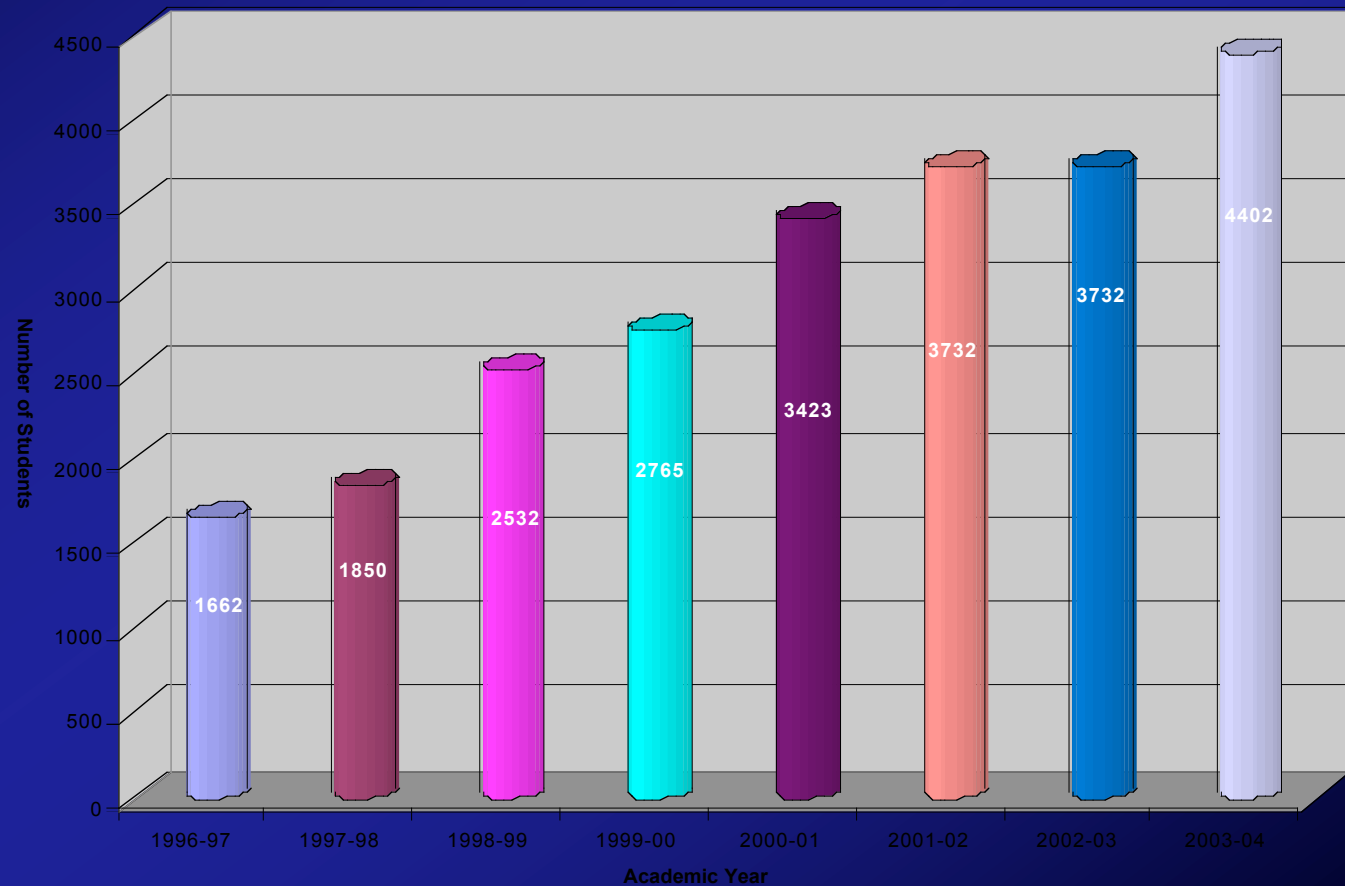
- ❖ 4% of total undergraduate headcount
- ❖ 5% of full-time undergraduate headcount
- ❖ 25% of undergraduate degrees awarded

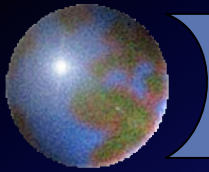
(\*based on FY02 enrollments)



# *USG Study Abroad Participation*

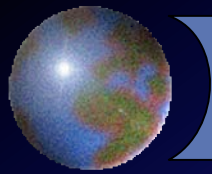
## *1997-2004*





# *Ways to study abroad:*

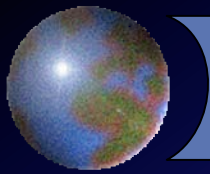
Exchange programs	Overseas internships	Collaborative study centers
Faculty-led programs	Research programs abroad	Short-term study tours
Residential centers	Direct enrollment at foreign schools	Immersion language programs



# *Countries with USG Study Abroad Programs*







# *National Statistics on Study Abroad Participation*

❖ In 2002-2003, 174,629 U.S. students studied abroad. (USG: 3732 students or 2.1%)

❖ Top 10 destinations:

United Kingdom

Mexico

Spain

Germany

Italy

Ireland

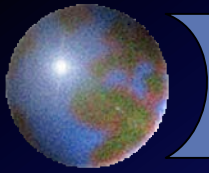
France

China

Australia

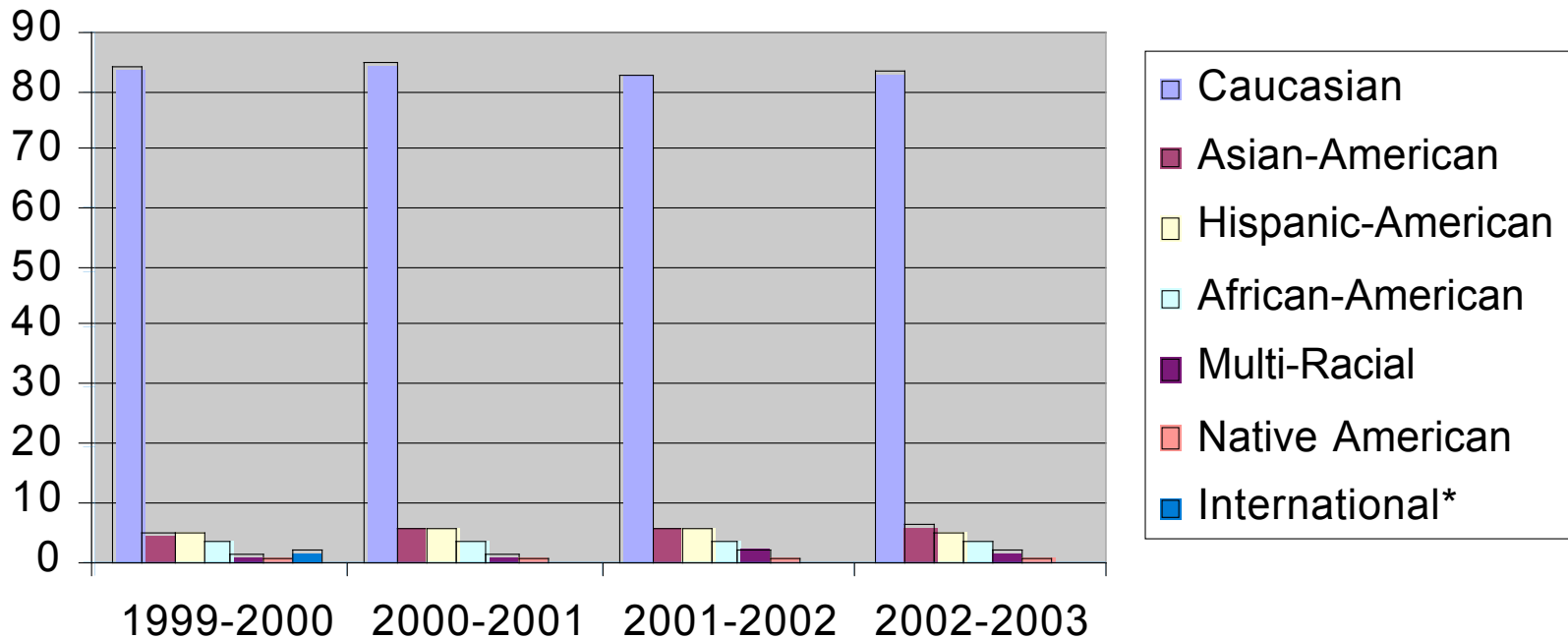
Costa Rica

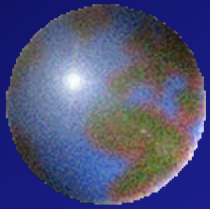
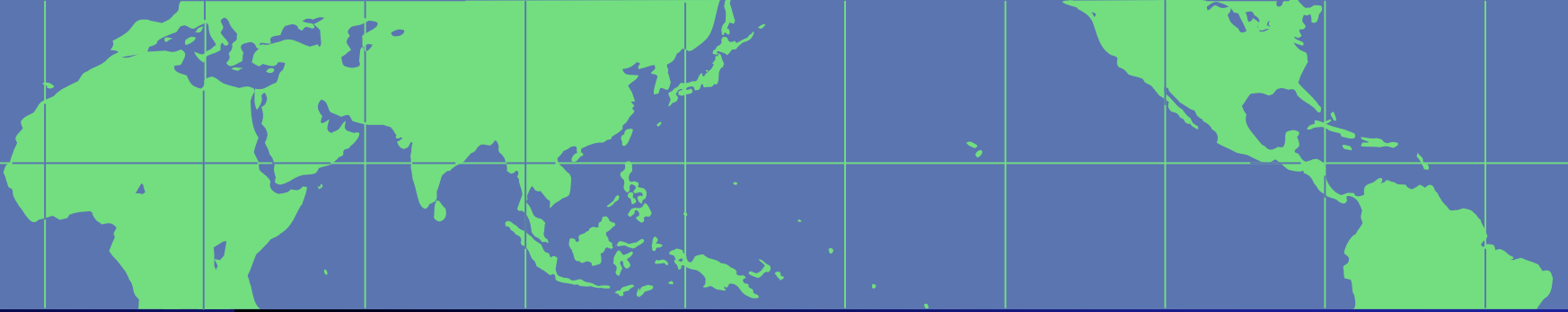




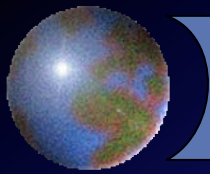
# *National Statistics on Participation by Race*

## Percentage of Study Abroad Participants by Year





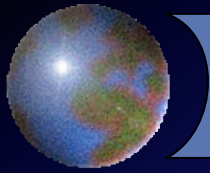
# Funding for International Students to Study Abroad



# *Loan Eligibility for International Students*

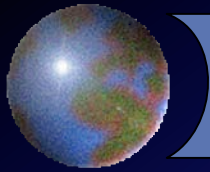
Federal loans, and therefore state loans or scholarships, are generally not available to non-U.S. citizens.





# *Federal Financial Aid Requirements for International Students*

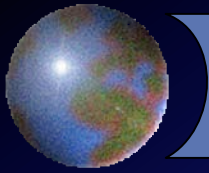
- ❖ Students must be U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens to receive aid from federal student aid programs.
- ❖ “U.S. citizens” include citizens of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands. U.S. nationals include natives of American Samoa and Swain’s Island - these individuals may also receive federal funds.
- ❖ “Eligible non-citizens” include Citizens of the Freely Associated States: the Federated States of Micronesia and the republics of Palau and the Marshall Islands.



# *Federal Aid Eligibility (cont.)*

- ❖ **Lawful Permanent Residents** -non-citizens who are legally permitted to live and work in the United States permanently
- ❖ **Refugees**
- ❖ **Persons granted asylum**
- ❖ **Conditional entrants**
- ❖ **Persons paroled into the U.S. for at least one year** (must provide proof from the DHS that they are in the U.S. for reasons other than a temporary purpose and intend to become a citizen or permanent resident)
- ❖ **Cuban-Haitian entrants**

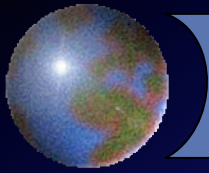
-Source <http://www.ifap.ed.gov/sfahandbooks/0405FSAHBVOL1StuElig.html>



# *Loan Eligibility for International Students*

- ❖ STARS money is available to international students who study abroad
- ❖ Private loans are available for all international students regardless of citizenship





# *Questions*

