

Development of international relationships with foreign universities and research institutes is one of HSE strategic goals. Faculty, research staff, students and post-graduate students annually travel to different parts of the world to reach various academic goals. The network of international university partners and exchange and dual-diploma programs has been growing.

International student mobility, their participation in short-term and long-term mobility programs, is the main topic of this issue. Annual monitoring makes it clear that our students have desire to take part in international mobility programs during their course of study at HSE, why education abroad attracts students, which countries students prefer, what concerns those who are not interested in academic mobility.

Students who participated in international conferences, summer schools, semester or year-long programs share their unique experience of studying abroad.

Infographics:

We know what you did last summer

Student interest in international mobility programs

Results of academic mobility: first hand feedback

We Know What You Did Last Summer ¹

Summer is the time to rest and go on vacations. However, as data below shows, HSE students don't use this time solely for recreational purposes. In 2012 for the first time we asked our students what they did in addition to vacations.*



Work outside HSE



Unpaid internship



Studies abroad (summer schools, seminars)



Studies in Russia (summer schools, seminars)



Work at HSE



Participation in research projects outside of HSE

	Work outside HSE	Unpaid internship	Studies abroad (summer schools, seminars)	Studies in Russia (summer schools, seminars)	Work at HSE	Participation in research projects outside of HSE
Sophomores	11%	6%	9%	4%	2%	1%
Juniors	23%	15%	12%	3%	4%	1%
Seniors	23%	22%	12%	7%	7%	1%
1st year graduate student	41%	4%	3%	8%	2%	3%
2nd year graduate student	65%	4%	4%	6%	8%	5%

1 – N of respondents (excluding freshmen) = 2191, Monitoring of student life, November 2012.

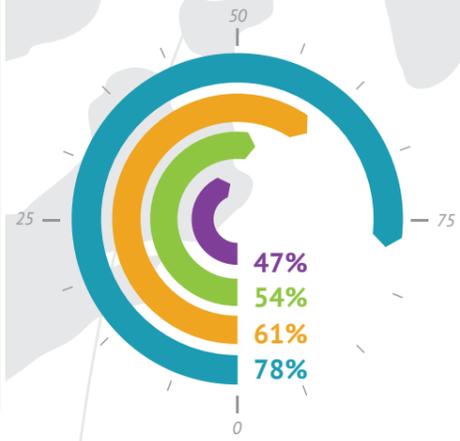
*The sum does not equal 100% because the table does not include all answer choices; in particular the percentage for the answer choice "vacation" is not included.

Each fall we ask students about participation in academic mobility programs during their course of study at HSE.

We ask questions about long-term (semester or year-long exchange, dual-diploma programs) and short term (seminars, summer schools) mobility programs. Clarifying questions such as what attracts students to studying abroad, what are students' preferred destinations, what prevents students from studying abroad fall under long-term mobility.

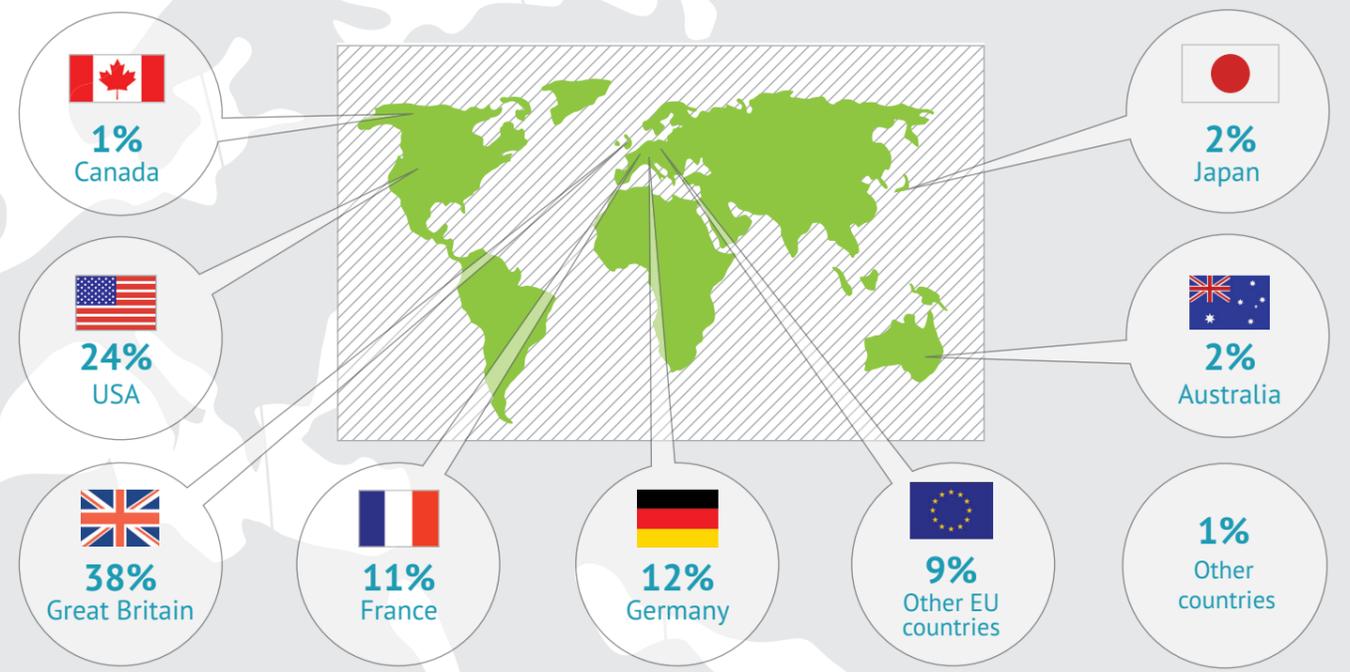
We summed up data from three surveys (2010 – 2012) on a double-page spread of this issue and visualized students' opinions about academic mobility.

International mobility attracts with its opportunity to¹

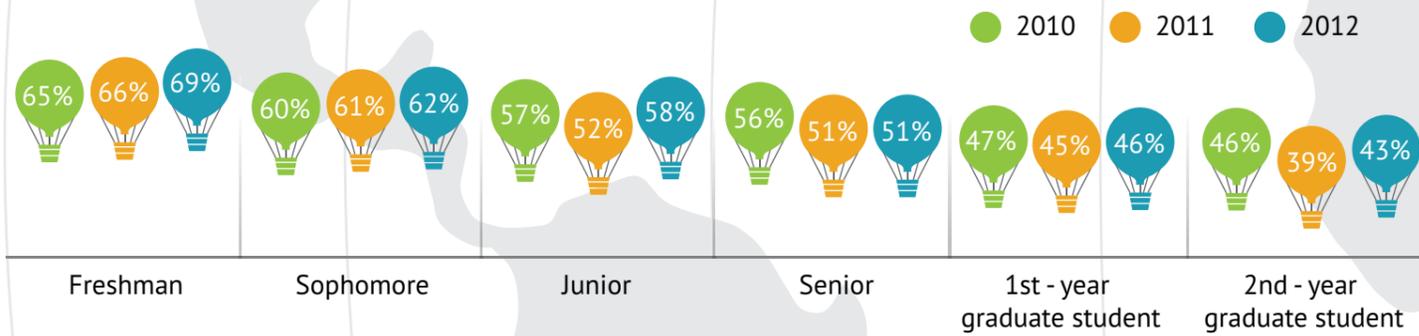


- 1 Significantly improve the knowledge of a foreign language
- 2 Become more competitive in the labor market
- 3 Gain international experience of living abroad
- 4 Gain skills that are not taught in Russian universities

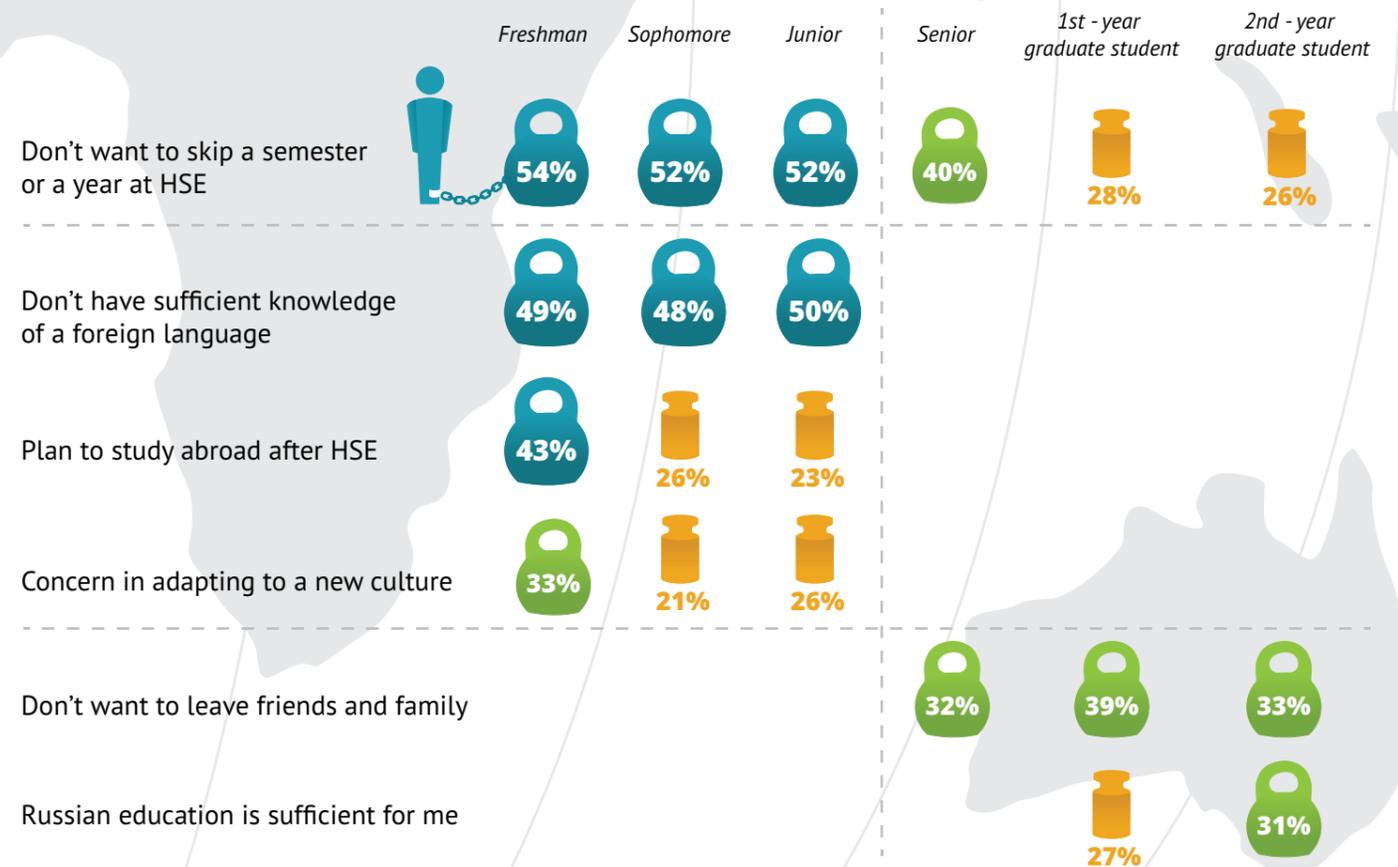
Preferred country of study⁴



Desire to participate in long-term academic mobility programs²



Reasons not to participate in long-term mobility programs⁵



Action steps toward mobility³

Course	Has not taken any steps so far	Gathering information and choosing a program	Chose a program and aware of sources of financial support	Applied
Freshman	52%	31%	15%	2%
Sophomore	37%	42%	18%	3%
Junior	31%	36%	27%	6%
Senior	29%	38%	24%	9%
1st-year graduate student	20%	48%	28%	4%
2nd-year graduate student	30%	36%	23%	11%

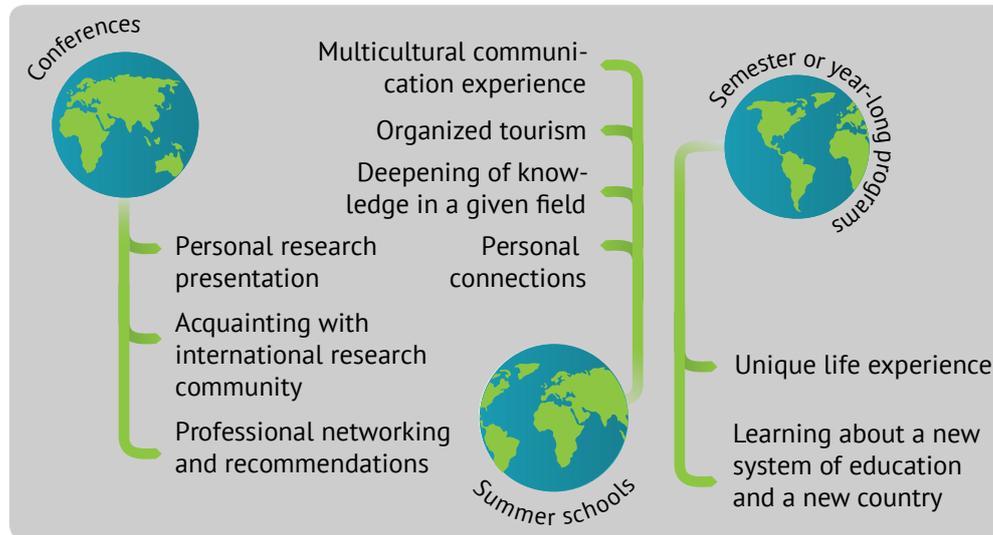
1 – N of students = 1850, Monitoring of student life, November 2010; 2 – Monitoring of student life 2012 (N=3171), 2011 (N=3086), 2010 (N=3259); 3 – N of students who are confident in their interest in mobility programs = 1778, Monitoring of student life, November 2012;

4 – N of students who are confident in their interest in mobility programs = 1850, Monitoring of student life, November 2010; 5 – N = 574, Monitoring of student life, November 2012; for each year of study only responses that were mentioned by 20% or more were included.

Results of academic mobility: first hand feedback ¹

How do students who took part in academic mobility evaluate their experience? To find first hand outcomes of studying abroad, we held a series of interviews with students in February of 2012. These students took part in various mobility programs: conferences abroad, summer schools and long-term programs (semester or year-long).

Based on interview results we made conclusions in the following areas: (1) the specifics of each mobility format in terms of gained experience, (2) what is useful about a mobility experience according to students. Research conclusions are supported by quotes from students.



“As far as summer schools go, it is a student group trip, people become closer, intensive communication happens within a group. As far as a long-term trip goes, it is a life experience: you arrive, need to settle, learn about everything and go everywhere. If we talk about a research conference, it is more for a professional interest: you present a paper, receive feedback and listen to what others have to say”



“You gain a sense of freedom, a feeling that the world is big. In terms of cultural connections and an outlook on life”

“In order to look at yourself from outside in and at everything that is around you. When you go somewhere for a long time, you have a lot of free time to look at what is happening to you, where you are going, what interests you have and what you can do in the future”

“Cultural exchange is needed, it is pleasant and it is useful. Studying in HSE is like being in a warm den. And you crawl out, one of a sudden, and open up to new information, new experiences, new everything. And here [in a university abroad] ideas are multiplied and they feed off of each other”

“I went with one goal in mind, but once I arrived and learned a lot of new things, I changed my outlook on my master’s thesis, and now I am studying and pursuing what I learned there”

Figure of the Month



15%

students older than freshmen attended summer schools abroad (subject and language based) during their course of study at HSE

Source: Monitoring of student life, November 2012

Meme of the Month



Source: community Vkontakte
http://vk.com/hse_mem

¹ – Research of international student mobility at HSE, February 2012, interview with 12 students who took part in various types of mobility. Interview participants represent 10 majors at HSE.

