



DMU Global

Annual Report 2022-23



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FOREWORD

The past academic year has been a hugely rewarding and challenging year for the Global Mobility Office, and our work in delivering the DMU Global programme. Rebuilding relationships with students and staff, improving engagement and making the case to everyone about the importance of internationalisation have been key features of this year.

Delivering our full portfolio of international opportunities this year has allowed us to give DMU students the best choice to internationalise their studies. Having a diverse mix of short-term mobility opportunities, student exchange, on-campus experiences and virtual exchanges for approximately 2,000 students demonstrates the programme is back to its best!

Our small, but settled team of six staff over the year has also been agile to change and introduced a number of innovations this year which don't necessarily come across in the statistics in the report, but deserve to be celebrated nonetheless. Ranging from our continued work in promoting virtual opportunities, fighting to save foreign language learning at DMU, and responding to the climate crisis by introducing a raft of new initiatives with a sustainability focus, the creativity and resilience of our team is noteworthy.

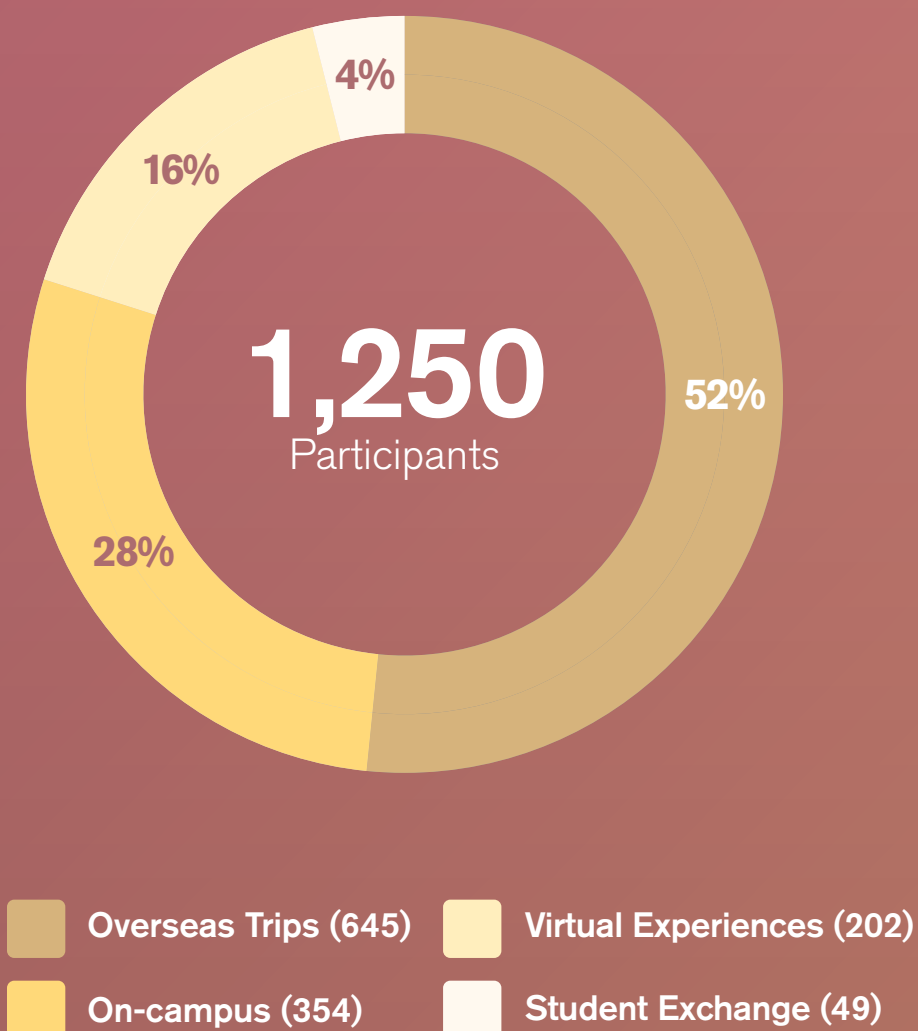
I would also like to thank all the colleagues at DMU across the Faculties and Directorates that we work with. DMU Global wouldn't be possible without your support, ideas and hard work! I hope that this annual report tells a compelling story of the 2022-23 academic year, showcasing the benefits and impact of international experiences on our students.

Leo Smith
Head of Global Mobility

SUMMARY

DMU Global successfully delivered a whole year of international experiences for DMU students. **An overwhelming 96% of participants would recommend our opportunities to their fellow students.**

Thanks to enhanced support for students and staff, coupled with various innovations and a commitment to providing accessible experiences for all, we saw an impressive **1,250 students take part in our opportunities during 2022-23.**



Student Feedback

A significant 91% of participants believe that international experiences are a crucial aspect of their time at DMU. These students are keen on exploring new overseas opportunities, developing their intercultural skills, and building networks. Here are some of the main takeaways from their feedback:



As a result of participating, students not only **met new people**, but also felt a **stronger connection to the university**. They **developed transferable skills**, such as adaptability, understanding of different cultures, and managing new or unfamiliar situations. Furthermore, **88% are now more interested in future international experiences at DMU.**

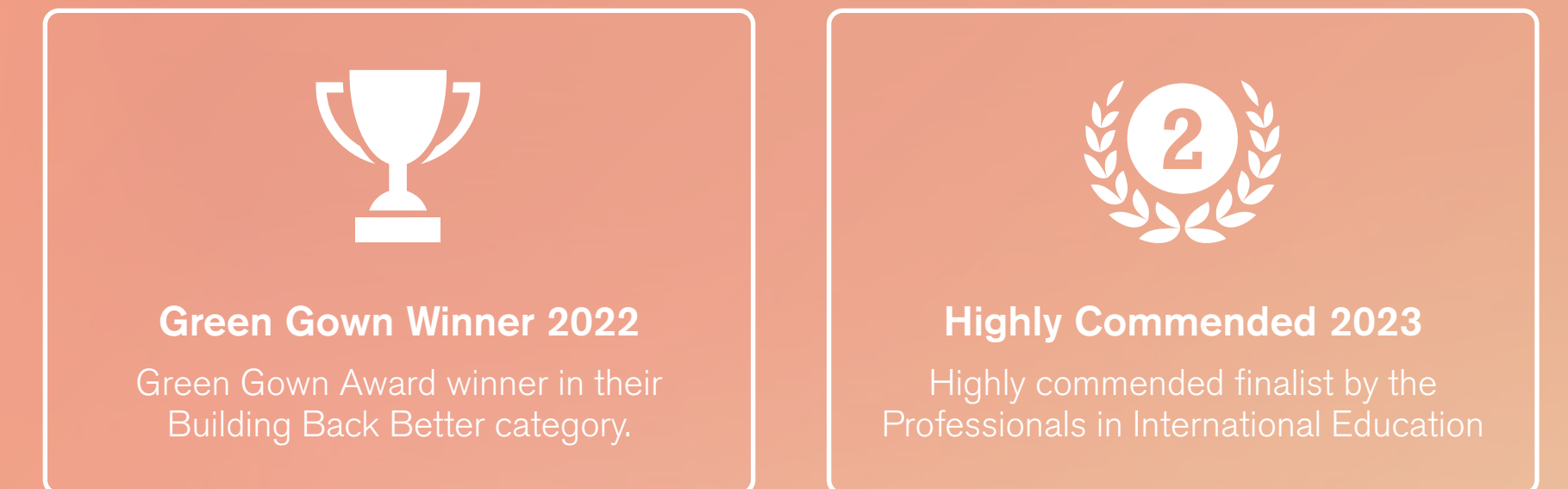
Student Exchange

DMU students worked or studied abroad in 12 different countries, with **USA, Spain** and **Germany** the most popular destinations. After studying or working abroad for a year:



Successes

In addition to providing outstanding international experiences for DMU students, we earned national recognition for our dedication to fostering a sustainable student mobility programme and enhancing student employability.



OVERSEAS TRIPS

For the first time since the 2018-19 academic year, DMU Global offered a range of uninterrupted opportunities throughout the 2022-23 academic year, with a remarkable **260% increase in participation.**

Key highlights

645

Participants from the **912** places offered

58

Overseas opportunities

37

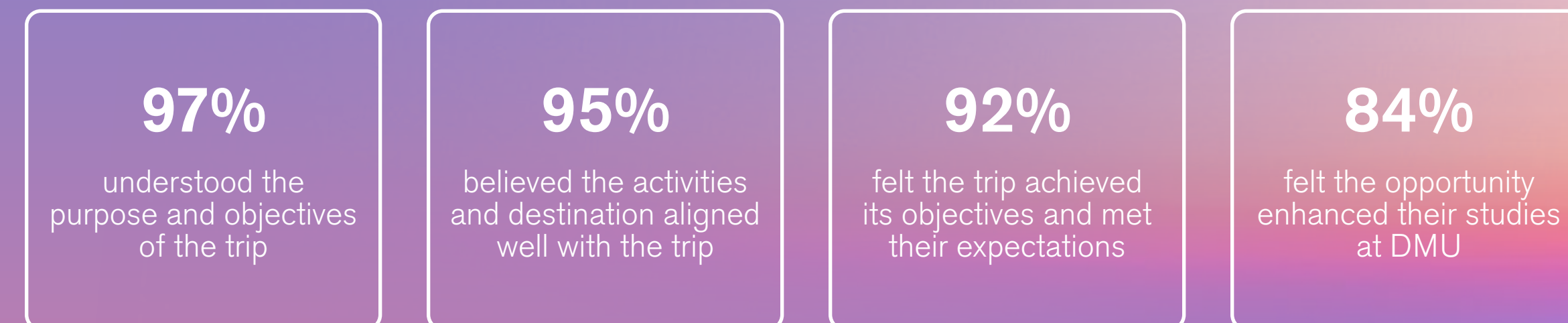
Destinations visited

What types of overseas opportunities did students participate in?

Below is a breakdown of participants by type of opportunity. Academic trips comprised the majority, thus a further subdivision of participants from Academic-led trips by faculty is also provided.

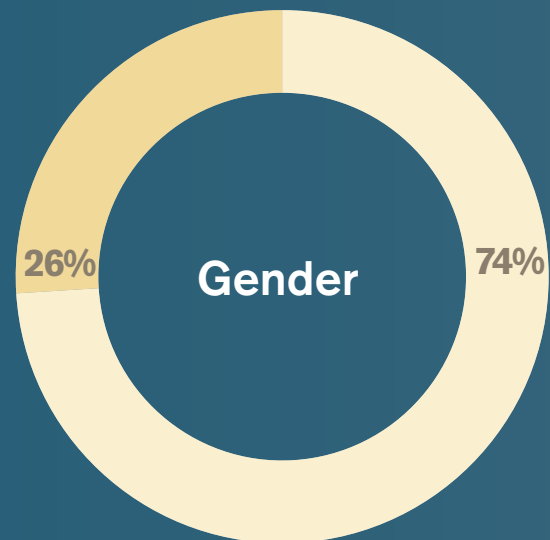


How did students feel about their trip?

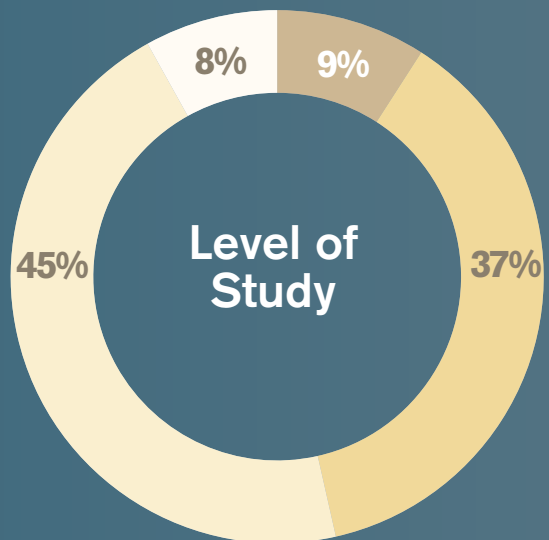


PARTICIPANT PROFILE

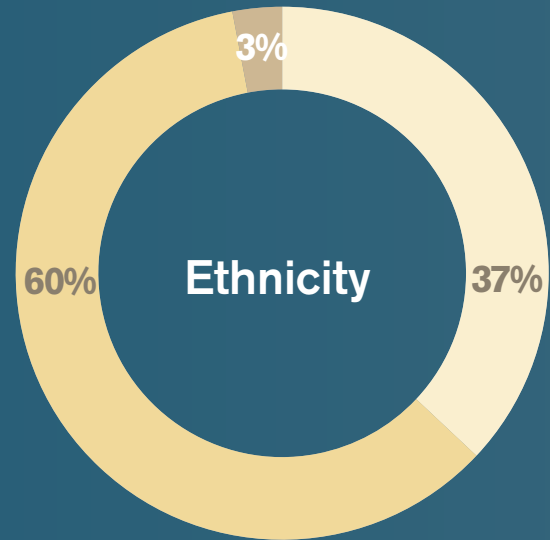
Below are the demographics of DMU Global participants, showing that a diverse group of DMU students participated in our opportunities.



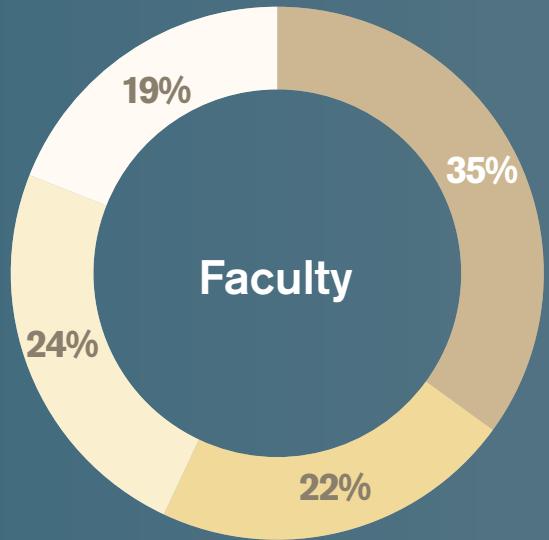
- Female
- Male



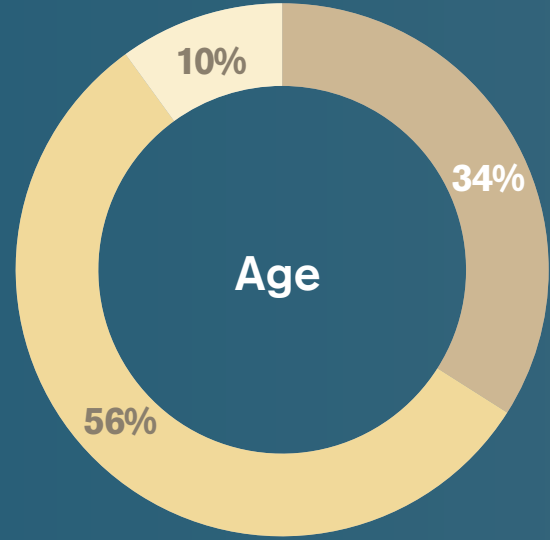
- Level 4
- Level 5
- Level 6
- Level 7



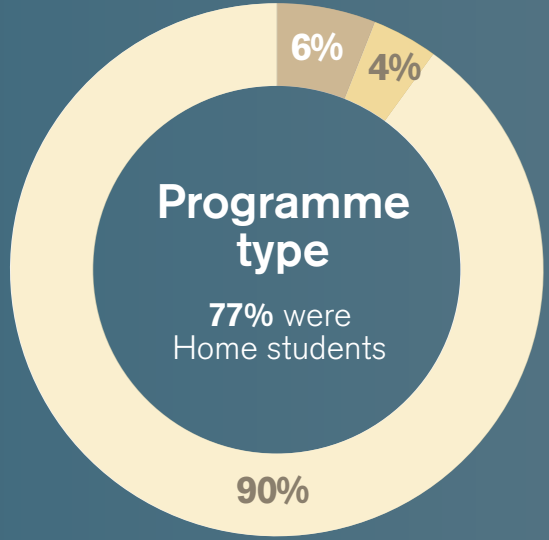
- BAME
- White
- Not Known



- ADH
- BAL
- CEM
- HLS



- 19-21 Years
- 22-25 Years
- 26 Years and over



- Integrated Masters
- Postgraduate Taught
- Undergraduate



STUDENT FEEDBACK

We invited 626 participants from our overseas trips to share feedback about their experiences. Of those, 336 responded, yielding a 54% response rate. Here's what they had to say...

96%

would recommend DMU Global opportunities to other students

95%

of participants were satisfied with their experience

95%

of participants felt the opportunity improved their overall experience at DMU

85%

felt the experience was good value for money

Why did students take part?

A significant **91%** thought that international experiences were an important part of their time at DMU. Some of the main reasons these chose to participate in overseas trips included:



To experience something new overseas



To improve their intercultural awareness



To enrich their studies

How did they benefit from the opportunity?

90% said the funding from DMU Global helped them to take part in their experience. As a result of taking part, students reported a number of benefits including:

84%

said they met new people and built networks

82%

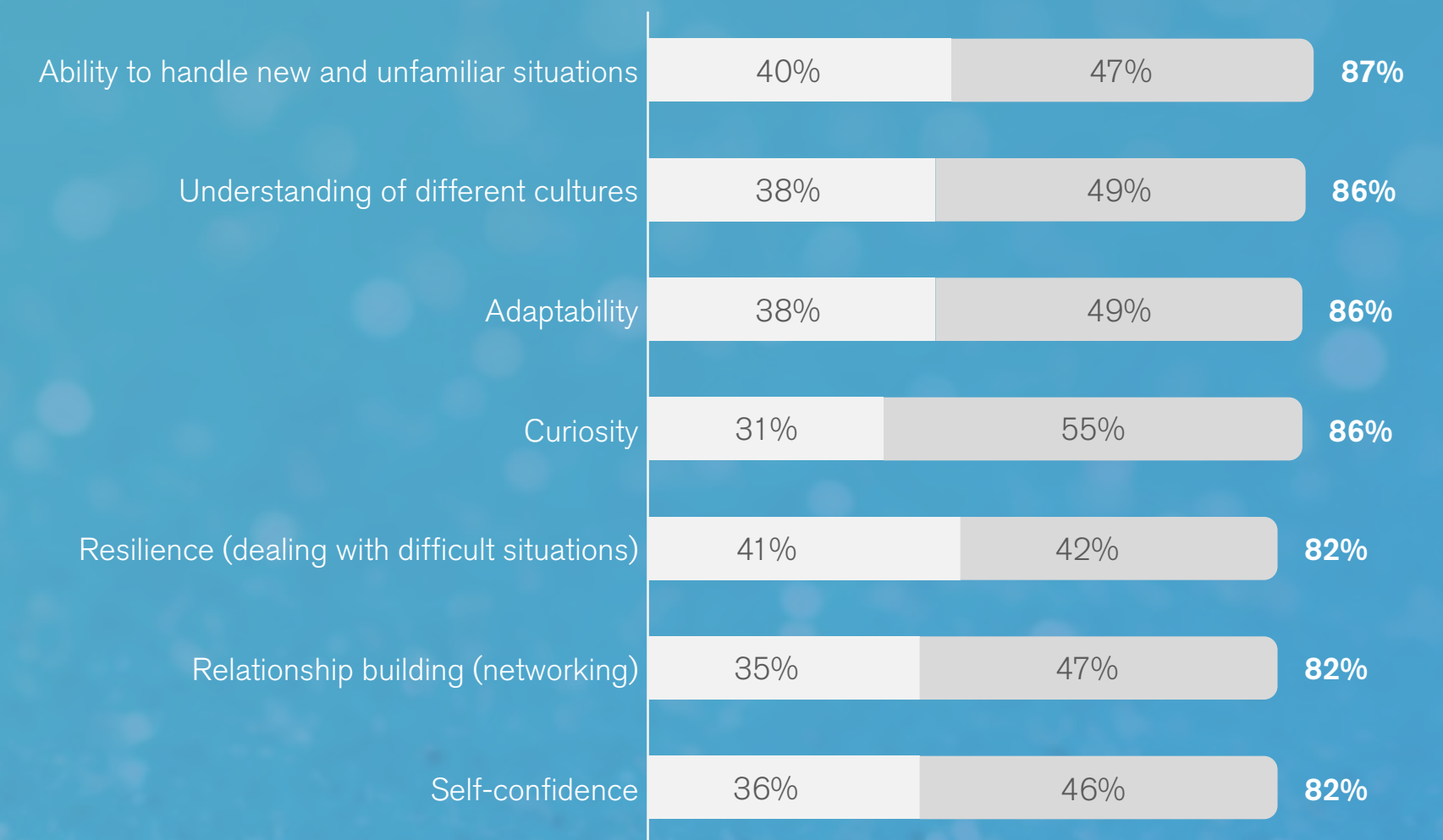
felt more connected and part of the University community

81%

felt it helped them develop skills for future employment

What kind of skills did they develop?

Reflecting on their development, students felt the most improvement in the following skills as a result of taking part in their trip:



Moderate improvement
 Significant improvement

STUDENT FEEDBACK

After taking part in their DMU Global experience...

88%

are now more interested in future international experiences at DMU

87%

now feel more confident to travel overseas independently

86%

are now more interested in learning about different cultures



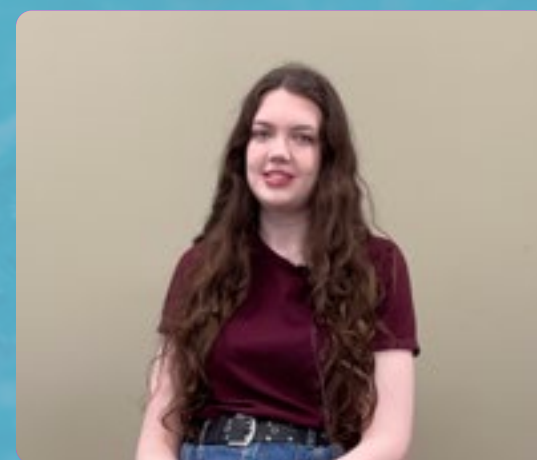
"I really wanted to come out of my comfort zone and travel independently in an unfamiliar country with people who I did not know well, with the intention of improving my communication skills to increase my confidence. Paris is known as a city which specialises in fashion, and I was keen to get ideas and inspiration from unique styles, cultures, and ways of living. The Premiere vision exhibition was something I was really looking forward to, and I wanted look at fashion textiles in a new light."

Sharelle, final year Fashion Textile Design student



"One of the major highlights of my experience was the opportunity to visit prominent tech companies in Toronto alongside my peers. We had the privilege of visiting LinkedIn for a brilliant session led by Alix Altow, which shed light on the importance of networks and contacts. It was an eye-opening experience that emphasized the significance of building professional relationships in the tech industry."

Stefan, second year Software Engineering student



"This was an amazing opportunity to put into practice what I had learned at university. All the laboratory techniques I have learnt, I got to see being done in a hospital environment. I got to learn about the really big differences in the healthcare systems between Dubai compared to the UK and how that influenced the prevalence of diabetes in the country."

Charley, second year Medical Science student



"Overall, the entire trip has been so incredibly memorable for me. I cannot put into words how special the week has been and how much it has contributed to me as a person and also to my life in general. I've made loads of new friends, tried loads of different foods and experienced so many things. A 5-star, life changing experience that I would recommend to any DMU student!"

Exploring Employability and South East Asian Culture, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



"The most memorable moment was exploring the Van Loon exhibition, I found the layout of the home to be extremely captivating, effectively presenting black history and the reality of colonisation and its presence in Europe. It was my first time [in a foreign county] without the company of my friends or family, however the leaders of the trip were extremely welcoming and friendly, making my whole experience ten times better."

Black History & Colonialism in Amsterdam, Netherlands



"Teaching [English in Thailand] has actually been very rewarding for me and I would love to do that again! I'll never forget the faces of the little kids when they understood something, when they spoke a whole English sentence (compared to what they are known to usually say). They were proud of themselves!"

Teaching English in Hua Hin, Thailand



"My highlight was meeting the staff and KGU students and forming a bond with them, I hope this is the beginning of new friendships and networking opportunities for the future. The cultural experience and field trip were also immersive and eye opening."

Kwansei Gakuin University Japanese Summer programme in Nishinomiya, Japan

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Every year DMU Global offers students the chance to spend a year studying or working abroad as part of their degree, with the experience part-funded by the Erasmus+ programme and Turing Scheme.

In 2022-23, 49 DMU students spent the year studying (41) or working (8) overseas.

Key highlights

94%

feel more employable as a result of spending a year abroad.

85%

would now like to work in an international environment

85%

felt the experience enhanced their studies

12

destinations studied in, with the most popular countries being: USA, Spain and Germany

Student feedback demonstrates that studying or working abroad helps develop skills, knowledge and values.

- 95% developed a better understanding of different cultures
- 93% felt more resilient as a result of completing a year abroad

Here are a few quotes from our exchange students:

“I met the most amazing friends during my study abroad year! I thoroughly enjoyed the academic system and was interested in all the seminars, finding them incredibly insightful. Traveling to other European countries was not only more affordable but also quicker than if I had travelled from the UK. These city breaks with my new friends were unforgettable. Truly, this year stands out as one of the most invaluable periods of my life.”

Megan Wakeman, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Düsseldorf- Germany

“Choosing to study abroad was the best decision I've ever made! The interactive, project-based teaching enriched my teamwork and project management skills, boosting my classroom confidence. Meeting people from diverse backgrounds provided lifelong connections and invaluable stories. Living alone in a new country, handling daily tasks, and facing challenges head-on made me more independent, confident, and resilient.”

Divya Kirit, HAN University of Applied Sciences, Arnhem - Netherlands

“My year in Madrid was transformative! Beyond immersing in a new culture, I cherished traveling and gaining new perspectives. Meeting individuals from diverse backgrounds inspired me, leading to lifelong friendships. While I could highlight a single moment, it wouldn't capture the profound impact the exchange program had on me. It was truly special!”

Luke Vincent, Varley, CEU San Pablo University, Madrid -Spain

Looking ahead to the upcoming academic year, **DMU secured £321,600 of Turing Scheme funding** to support student, work and volunteering experiences with a particular focus on removing barriers for students from widening participation backgrounds.



ON-CAMPUS & VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

Complementing our overseas activity, DMU Global continued to offer a combination of virtual and on-campus international activities to students throughout the 2022-23 academic year.

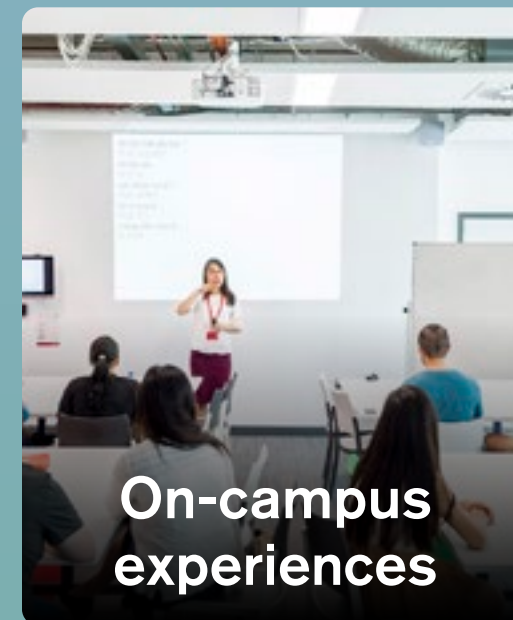
Key highlights

354

participated in on-campus experiences

202

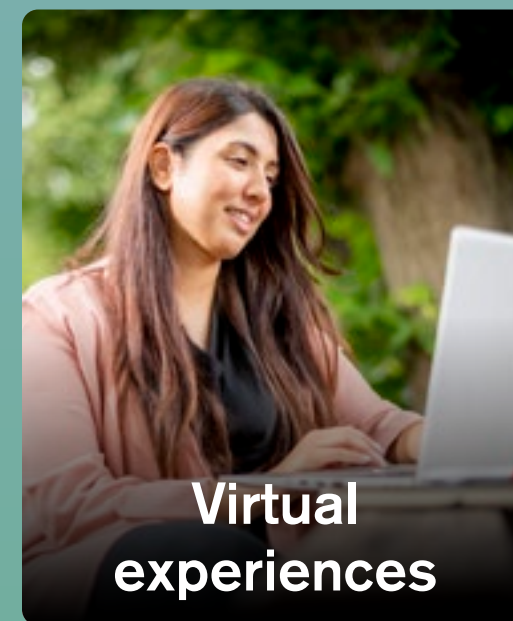
participated in virtual opportunities



➤ **Languages:** 169 students studied languages including: Arabic (13), French (37), German (27), Japanese (47), and Spanish (45).

➤ **Mandarin:** 169 students studied with the Confucius Institute.

➤ **Intercultural Awareness Course:** 16 students participated in the DMU Global Intercultural Awareness Certificate.



➤ **Virtual exchanges:** 74 students engaged in various programmes and activities in cooperation with university partners globally.

➤ **Global Citizenship Programme:** 32 students participated in a programme exploring global citizenship and UN SDGs.

➤ **Teach English as a Foreign Language (TEFL):** 96 students participated in a TEFL online course to help them learn how to teach English to non-native speakers.

SECTOR ENGAGEMENT AND SUCCESSES

We have always seen DMU Global as a sector lead in the field of internationalisation, and over the past year we have continued to share our expertise with colleagues globally, whilst actively participating in networks, evidenced by the following...

- ▶ Presenting a session to the international mobility community at the British Universities Transnational Exchange annual conference in Birmingham in summer 2023, with a focus on utilising Turing funding to support short-term mobility opportunities for students.
- ▶ Active participation in the International Network of Universities of which DMU is a member alongside 12 universities globally. We were represented at Council meetings in Stellenbosch and Hiroshima with our students travelling to Japan alongside staff to participate in the Global Peace Seminar in August 2023.
- ▶ Representation at global conferences including NAFSA 2023 in Washington D.C, and EAIE 2023 in Rotterdam, whereby our team were able to meet with our network of global partners and create new links, opening up future opportunities for our students.
- ▶ Beginning the process of become an active signatory to the Climate Action Network for International Educators (CANIE) Accord. CANIE is a grassroots initiative formed by international education practitioners from around the world who see the need for our sector to step up and act on climate, focussing on the importance of virtual and on-campus internationalisation as an alternative way of achieving intercultural learning.

National recognition

DMU Global was also recognised nationally for our work related to improving student employability and responding to the climate crisis.



Winner: Building Back Better

In November 2022, DMU Global won a Green Gown Award in the Building Back Better category. DMU Global was recognised for its innovative response to the COVID-19 pandemic and climate crisis, which includes attempts to reduce our carbon footprint, educate students and staff about sustainability, and the introduction of 'greener' virtual international experiences that encourage meaningful online collaboration with partners and students globally.



Highly Commended Finalist

In September 2023, DMU Global and the DMU Careers Team were recognised as a Highly Commended finalist by the Professionals in International Education (PIE) for their Employability International Impact award as part of The PIEoneer Awards 2023. The PIE recognised the collaboration for its meaningful short-term overseas experiences that are focused on fostering entrepreneurial spirit and making students more employable.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our planning cycles within DMU Global always mean that by the time this annual report is published, work is already well and truly underway to deliver the 2023-24 programme of activity. Our overarching aims for the year are to increase student participation in overseas opportunities, broaden the scope and scale of our Turing Scheme funded activities and to improve our reporting of the impact of international experiences on our students.

It is also worth noting that 2023-24 will be the **10-year anniversary of DMU Global**, and over the year we will look to showcase the journey we have been on, whilst sharing student and staff stories about their experience of the programme through the years.

Some of our key strategic objectives for the upcoming year are to:

- Deliver an increased number and range of academic and extra-curricular overseas experiences for DMU students that enhance studies, and support the development of a range of key skills valued by employers.
- Grow and diversify the range and scope of opportunities for students to study or work abroad as part of the Turing Scheme, and build meaningful relationships with strategic global partner universities to deliver these experiences.
- Develop the cultural awareness and language skills of DMU students to support them in succeeding in global environments, through the delivery of a range of inclusive and low-cost campus-based and online international experiences.
- Establish DMU Global as a leader in response to the climate crisis in international education, launching a range of new initiatives and projects to improve the sustainability of the programme.



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