



DMU Global

Annual Report 2023-24



Contents

Foreword	1
Summary	2
Overseas trips	3
Participant profile	4
Student feedback	5-6
Student exchange	7
On-campus & virtual experiences	8



Foreword

The 2023-24 academic year was a hugely successful one for DMU Global with over 1,200 students benefiting from an international experience. The growth in the number and scope of short-term mobilities, coupled with significant improvements in our Turing Scheme activity demonstrate the importance of international experiences to students at DMU.

The successes and achievements outlined in this report would not be possible however, without the support, hard work and innovation of tens if not hundreds of colleagues at the institution. The beauty of the programme is that there is equal opportunity for academic and professional services staff to engage and contribute to the success of DMU Global.

Thank you to everyone who works with us, we hope to cooperate for many years to come!

Leo Smith
Head of Global Mobility

Summary

DMU Global successfully provided a full year of international experiences for DMU students, with an impressive **93% of participants signalling that they'd recommend our opportunities** to fellow students.

Through enhanced support for both students and staff, along with numerous innovations and a commitment to making experiences accessible to all, we proudly enabled **1,260 students** to participate in our opportunities during 2023-24.



Student Feedback

A significant 81% of participants believe that international experiences are an important part 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:

- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Adaptability
- ✓ Understanding of different cultures
- ✓ Managing unfamiliar situations.

Encouragingly, **87% are now more interested in future international experiences at DMU.**

Student Exchange

DMU students worked or studied abroad in 13 different countries, and following their year abroad:



Overseas Trips

Throughout the academic year, DMU Global offered a comprehensive range of overseas opportunities and experienced a steady **15% increase** in student participation. Encouragingly, **83% felt the opportunity enhanced their studies at DMU.**

Key highlights

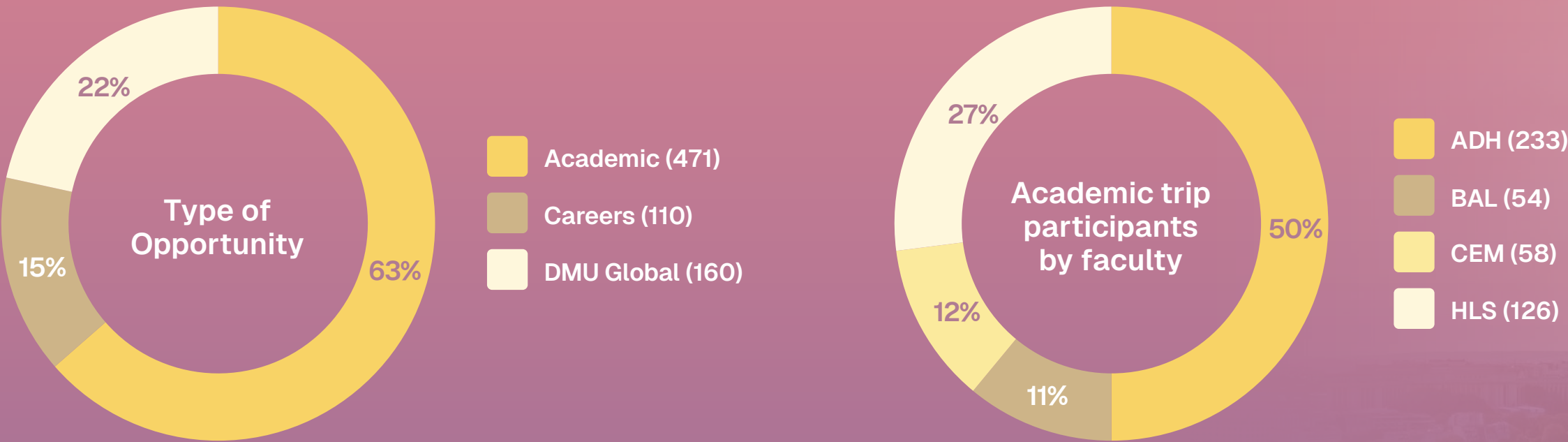
741
Participants from the **986** places offered

54
Overseas opportunities

35
Destinations visited

What types of overseas opportunities did students participate in?

Below is a breakdown of participants by type of opportunity. Academic trips made up the largest share, therefore we've also included a breakdown of participants from academic-led trips by faculty.

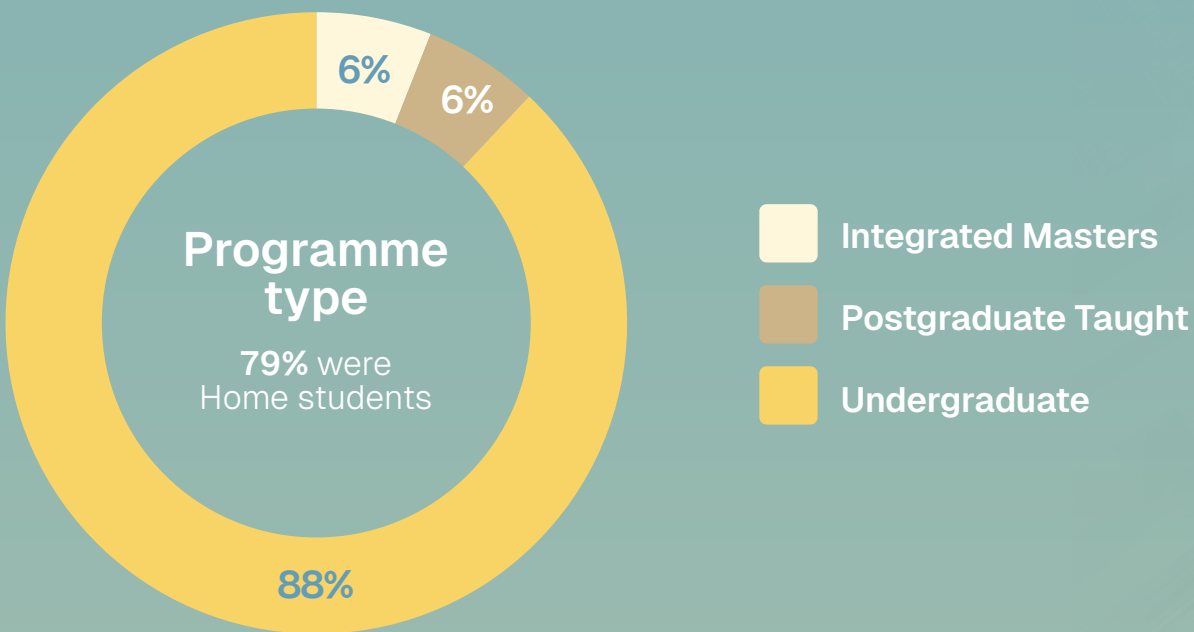
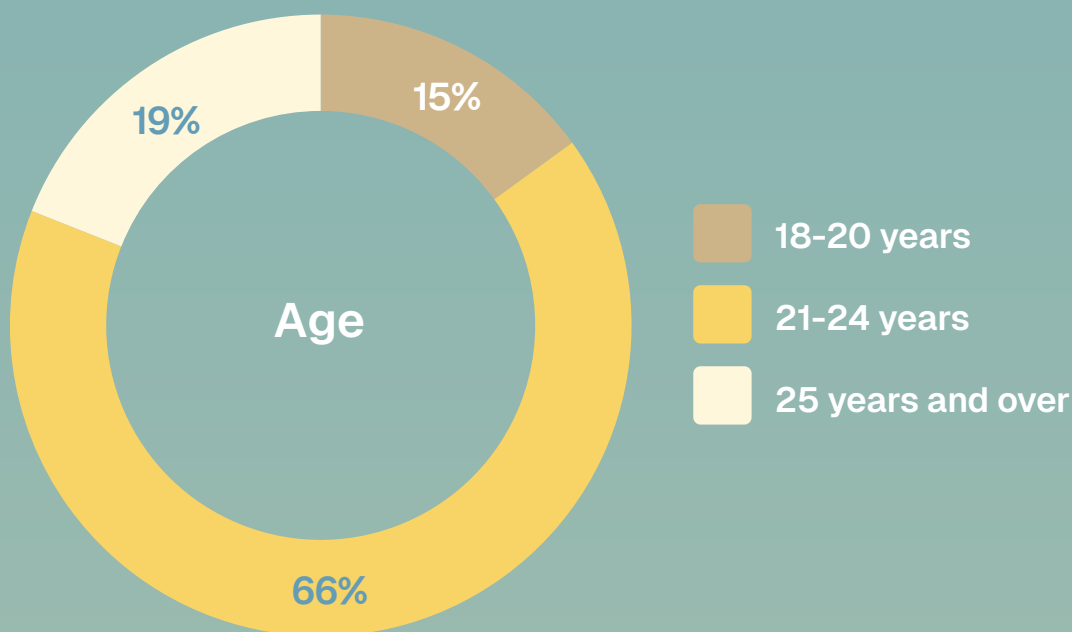
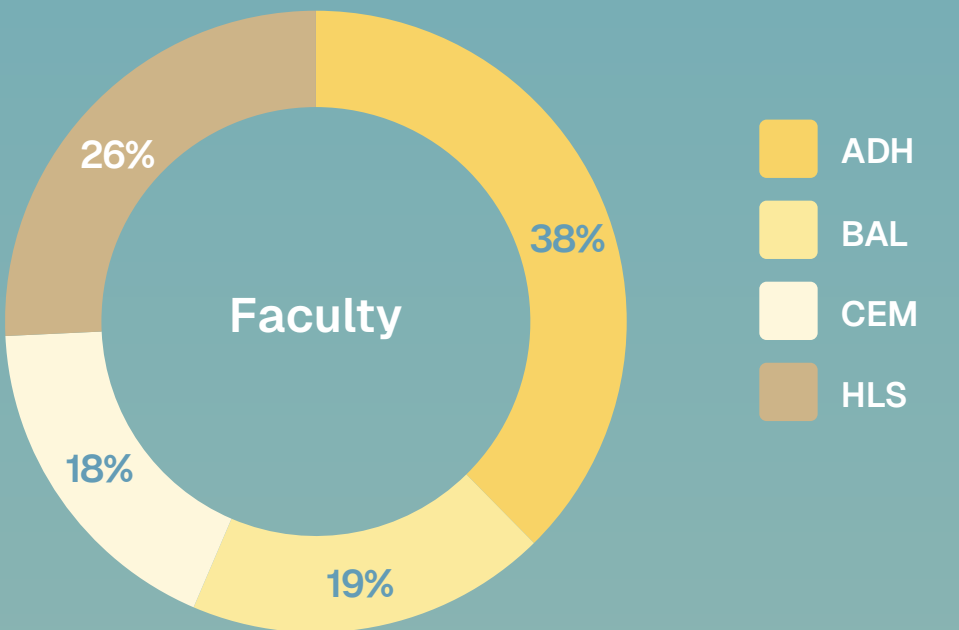
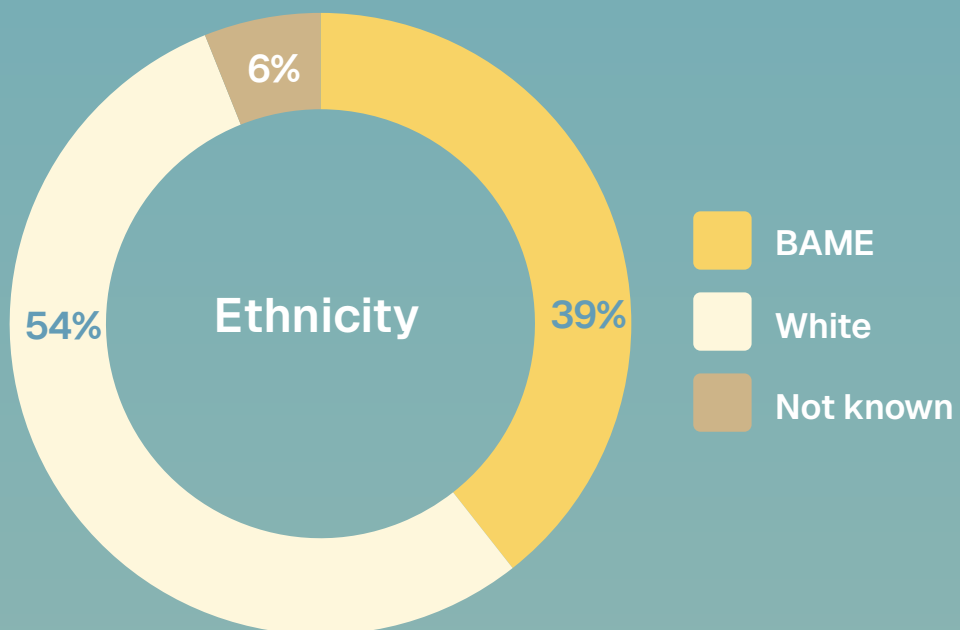
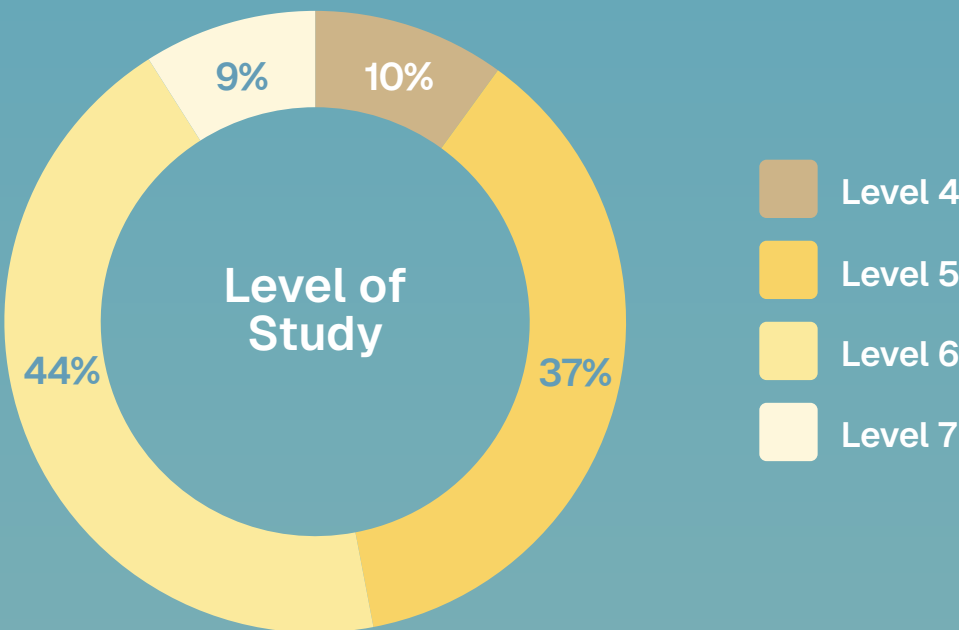
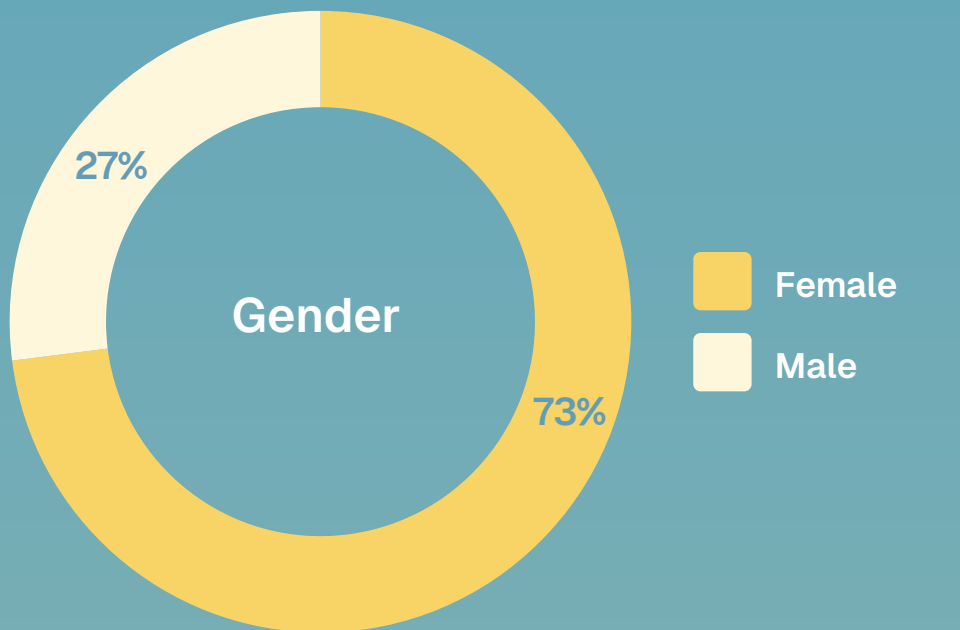


How did students feel about their trip?



Participant profile

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



Student feedback

We invited 702 participants from our overseas trips to share feedback about their experiences. Of those, 389 responded, resulting in a **55% response rate**. Here’s what they had to say...

96%

of participants were satisfied with their experience

93%

would recommend DMU Global opportunities to other students

92%

felt the opportunity improved their overall experience at DMU

87%

felt the experience was good value for money

Why did students take part?

A considerable **81%** thought that international experiences were an important part of their time at DMU. Some of the main reasons students 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?

85% said the funding from DMU Global helped them to take part in their experience, and as a result of taking part, reported a number of benefits including:

84%

said they met new people and built networks

83%

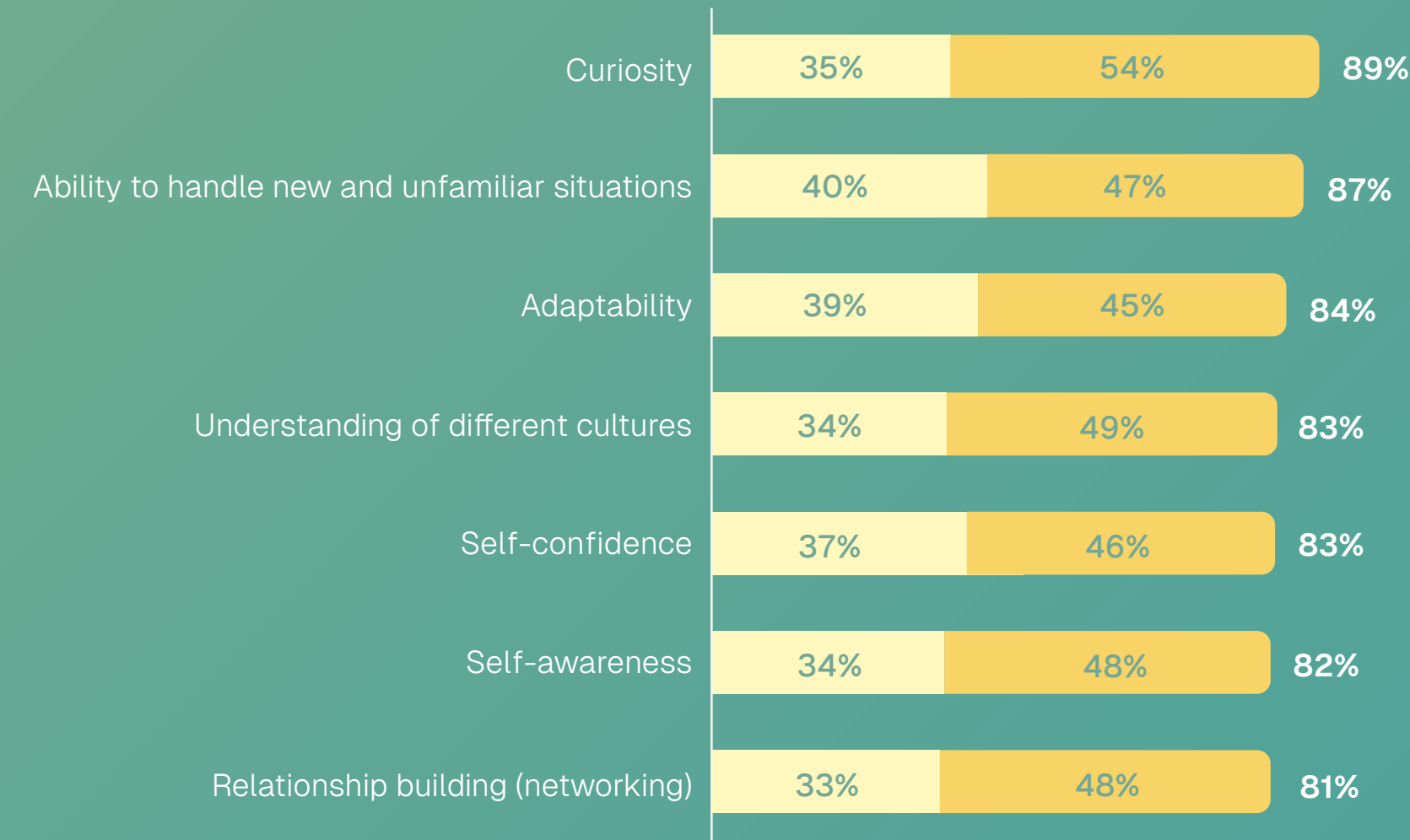
felt more connected and part of the University community

80%

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 learning about different cultures

87%

are now more interested in future international experiences at DMU

87%

now feel more confident to travel overseas independently



This trip provided me with first-hand exposure to the workings of an international tribunal and deepened my desire to work within the criminal law sector and potentially venture out into the international criminal law as my career builds. After engaging with legal professionals, I developed my critical analysis skills and legal reasons as I learnt that it's not always black and white. On a personal level, the trip broadened my perspective on crime on an international scale.

Law in the Hague



The trip to Helsinki allowed me to develop my skills in different areas of Forensic Science and helped me gain new insight. I would definitely recommend taking part in DMU Global opportunities. They are a great way to learn about different cultures, how your course works in different countries. It is also an opportunity to travel to a different country with part of the cost being covered, especially for those who may not be able to afford to travel to these countries themselves.

Exploring Forensics in Helsinki



For me this trip was an incredible insight into the world of pharmacy, specifically the way in which pharmacy practice varies in the Middle East. I have had the opportunity to network with a range of people from various backgrounds and life experiences and this particularly has been the most rewarding aspect of this trip for me.

All together better health and pharmacy in Qatar



A highlight of our Amsterdam Colonialism trip was De Win Manuhutu's lecture on Dutch colonialism at Vrije University. His insights into this complex history offered a profound understanding of its impact on today's society. Engaging first-hand with such critical discourse was both educational and deeply thought-provoking.

Colonialism in Amsterdam, Netherlands



Visiting the Great Wall of China, I felt a profound connection to history and human achievement. The Wall's magnitude left me in awe, a reminder of humanity's incredible feats. This experience reinforced the importance of perseverance, resilience, and global education, showing how stepping outside one's comfort zone can enrich one's perspective.

USTB Chinese Language and Culture Summer School in Beijing, China



The highlight of my trip was meeting nurses and professionals in the healthcare setting. It was inspiring to see their teamwork and use of advanced technology to deliver top care. Every aspect of this trip was memorable, and I gained invaluable insights and life skills.

Kidney Disease in the UAE: Research and Practice in Nursing, Dubai



The most memorable part of my experience was joining women's outreach programmes. Each week, we'd buy food in bulk at local markets, then visit women's homes to donate it. This allowed us to witness their lives up close and hear their stories, giving a raw, authentic view of Arusha.

Women's Education in Arusha, Tanzania

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 funded by the Turing Scheme. **In 2023-24, 42 DMU students spent the year studying (28) or working (14) overseas.**

Key highlights

93%

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

93%

felt the experience enhanced their studies

86%

would now like to work in an international environment

13

destinations studied in

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

- **96%** felt more confident after completing a year abroad
- **96%** 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:

One of the greatest challenges I encountered was the idea of living abroad by myself, without any family or friends nearby, and not knowing what to expect. I overcame this by building a strong support network of new friends and mentors, immersing myself in the local culture, and staying connected with my loved ones back home through regular communication. This experience not only made me more independent and resilient but also enriched my life in ways I could never have imagined.

Kia Bondo, University of Winnipeg, Canada

For me, the friendships I've established for the rest of my life are the highlight and most unforgettable aspect of the experience. Making friends and travelling with people from so many diverse cultural backgrounds is incredible. Making long-lasting connections and networking during my studies was the most beneficial thing I was able to do, especially because I want to work abroad.

Stephanie Muthambulwa, Sookmyung Women's University Seoul, South Korea

I gained a number of new friends and I feel like my communication and social skills improved significantly. I even decided to try and pursue a career as a teacher as one of my options in the future. That is something I never would have thought I would be able to do. Gaining those new skills and confidence impacted my mental health in a good way as well.

Julia Szkuta, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

Looking ahead to the upcoming academic year, **DMU secured £525,00 of Turing Scheme funding (an increase of £200,000)** to support study, 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 robust combination of low cost and accessible virtual and on-campus international activities to students.

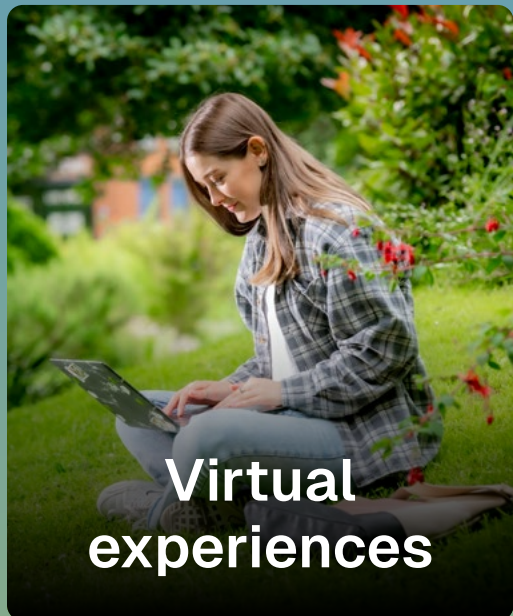
Key highlights

477

participated in on-campus and virtual experiences



On-campus
experiences



Virtual
experiences

- > **Languages:** 170 students studied languages including: Arabic (13), French (37), German (27), Japanese (47) and Spanish (45).
- > **Mandarin:** 155 students studied with the Confucius Institute.
- > **Intercultural Awareness Course:** 17 students participated in DMU Global's bespoke Intercultural skills course.
- > **Global Citizenship Programme:** 10 students participated in a programme exploring global citizenship and UN SDGs.
- > **Teach English as a Foreign Language (TEFL):** 76 students participated in a TEFL online course to help them learn how to teach English to non-native speakers.



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