



STUDENT STUDY ABROAD SURVEY **by International Research Group (IRG)**

September, 2013

Compiled by Dr Arlene Kent-Wilkinson

International Research Group (IRG)

Membership

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- Ebin Arries, RN, B.Cur, M.Cur, M.Phil (Ethics), PhD (Prince Albert)
- Janet Luimes, RN(NP), MScN (Saskatoon)
- Gingi Sheppard, (ISSAC) (Saskatoon)
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- Lynn Jansen, BSN, MN, PhD (Regina)
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- Pammla Petrucka, RN, BScN, MN, PhD (Regina)
- Robin Thurmeier, (Research Facilitator) (Regina)
- Trudy Unger, BA, CACE (Saskatoon) (Saskatoon)
- Additional new members in 2014



University of Saskatchewan (since 1907)



University of Saskatchewan Peter McKinnon (College) Building



University of Saskatchewan Memorial Gates



University of Saskatchewan

Academic Health Science Building E-Wing 2013 (College of Nursing)



College of Nursing (since 1938)

College of Nursing



**Saskatchewan
1,057,884**

**University of
Saskatchewan
25 thousand
students**

**College of Nursing
1058 Nursing
students at 6 sites**

Student Study Abroad Survey (Sept 2013)

Overview

- History of Study Abroad at the College of Nursing, U of S
- Benefits of Study Abroad for Nursing Students (Literature)

Student Study Abroad Survey

- Need for the Study
- Purpose of the Study
 - Why some students apply to study abroad while others do not?
- Approach/Methodology (Online survey – Campus Lab)
- Participants (Student sample) & Response rate
- Findings: Interest in Study Abroad - Barriers to Applying
- Limitations
- Conclusion



Current International Placements 2003-2013



Australia



Philippines



Finland



Tanzania

Current Study Abroad Placements 2003-2013



Philippines*

Quezon City, Philippines

2009-Current



Australia **

Adelaide, Australia

2008-Current



Finland **

Helsinki, Finland

2003- Current







Tanzania*

Arusha, Tanzania

2012-Current

Current International Placements 2002-2013

	Australia 		Finland 		Philippines 		Tanzania 	
	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing	Incoming	Outgoing	incoming	Outgoing
2002-2003			1	3				
2003-2004			1	5				
2004-2005			3	4				
2005-2006			3	2				
2006-2007			3	2				
2007-2008	1	4	1	4				
2008-2009	2	8	2	5		5		
2009-2010	1	5	3	7		7		
2010-2011	1	9	1	6		12		
2011-2012	0	6	1	5		11		4
2012-2013	1	5	1	3		4		6
2013-2014	6	6	6	1		6		18
2014-2015								
Total	12	43	26	47		45		28

Findings of Collected Study Abroad Statistics

- 15 years of Collected Statistics of numbers of students incoming and outgoing from the different countries
- 1998-2014

Outgoing # of Nursing Students =276

Incoming # of Nursing Students = 38

- Reasons why not all partnership are reciprocal?

Approximately 10% of students who could apply - apply to go abroad each year

- applications in 3rd or 2nd year
- approx. 300 students have the opportunity to apply



Benefits of Study Abroad

Benefits to Nursing Students

(Purported by the student journals and in the literature)

- Personal growth and development
- Professional growth in critical thinking and leadership
- Opportunity for growth in cultural competence/safety
- Cultural differences/similarities in health delivery and nursing practices
- Experience first hand Issues of health and social inequities
- Broader understanding of social determinants of health

(CNA, 2009, 2010; Kelleher, 2013; Kent-Wilkinson et al., 2010; Kulbok, Mitchell, Glick, & Greiner, 2012).

- Broader understanding of WHO Millennial Development Goals in both local and global contexts (WHO, 2000), all factors that also impact on Canadian populations



International Study Abroad Background

History of Study Abroad History at the College of Nursing.

- For over fifteen years, study abroad clinical placements have been available in a variety of developed and emerging countries for undergraduate students at the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan.
- Evident that there was a wealth of research waiting to be tapped, as evidenced through the rich data of the student journals and communication with the host countries.

Statistics on Incoming and Outgoing Research

- Collection of the statistics each year of the numbers of students, inbound and outbound to the different countries, and the odd individual article published.



Reasons for forming as a Research Group?

Background

- Questions existed about...
 - a) Characteristics of those students who choose to participate in international clinical placements (and those who do not!).
 - b) The outcomes for those students who do participate in international experiences.
 - c) Barriers for those who do not participate.
 - d) Impact on future nursing practice.
- Collectively, a group of faculty and staff from the College of Nursing with an interest in International research may be able to be successful in not only conducting some research, but also in publishing more papers on this topic.
- Lack of funding necessitates working together
- **Formation of International Research Group January, 2013**



First Project – Student Study Abroad Survey

Methods/Methodology:

Title

Explore students' perspectives related to international learning experiences to determine factors influencing their decisions to participate.

Approach

- Online survey tool
- Longitudinal Study



Study Abroad Student Survey

Project Timeline

DATE:	TIMELINE OF SURVEY
April , 2013	Development of Question for Online Survey tool
May , 2013	REB applications
June 10, 2013.	Online editing of REB applications
June 11, 2013.	Application sent to C of N Research Office
July 4, 2013	BEH#13-225 Study Abroad Student Survey (Program Eval – exempt)
Aug. 14, 2013	BEH#13-235 Certificate of approval (expiry on Aug 14, 2014)
Sept.3, 2013	Letter of approval from the College of Nursing Research Committee
Sept. 10, 2013	Online survey sent out to 1058 students
Sept. 24, 2013	Online survey reminders sent to students
Oct. 2013	Draw for incentive winners
Jan. 2014	Study Abroad Assessment Technical Report for the College of Nursing, Winter, 2014)
Sept. 2015	Repeat survey to students in 1 st year of all programs

Study Abroad Student Survey

The objectives of our Study Abroad Survey were to:

- 1) Explore from the student perspective the learning needs of students with regard to study abroad placements?
- 2) Determine why some students decide to apply for a study abroad experience and others do not?
- 3) Ascertain if our current study abroad nursing program is a fit with the College of Nursing IP3.



Study Abroad Student Survey

The research questions of our Study Abroad Survey were:

- 1) Is our study abroad nursing program meeting the needs of our Students?
- 2) Why some students decide to apply for a study abroad experience and others do not?
- 3) Is our current study abroad program a fit with the College of Nursing IP3?



3rd Integrated Plan - College of Nursing

IP3 College of Nursing:

Evaluative research of our study abroad program will help to determine if our program is a fit with the focus of IP3:

- (1) Experiential learning (For nursing it is a Clinical placement study abroad opportunities;
- (2) Aboriginal engagements (Do we offer Aboriginal/Indigenous engagements abroad?);
- (3) Local Global is a College of Nursing focus; and
- (4) Student Funding



Study Abroad Student Survey

Research Target Groups & Sample Size:

All College of Nursing students: **1058** students

- All sites, all programs, in all years

Initial Survey in 2013:

- BSN 2nd, 3rd 4th years
- PBSN 1st, 2nd years
- NEPS 4th year
- Graduate Students (Master and PhD) (Approx. 87 students)

Subsequent Annual Surveys

- First year only of each program



Study Abroad Student Survey

Ethical Considerations:

- 1) University of Saskatchewan Research Ethics Board
 - **Certificate of Approval**
- 2) College of Nursing Research Committee
 - Operational ethical approval

Discussion whether the study should be classified a program evaluation and be exempt as per Article 2.5 of the Tri Council Policy statement (2010) which states "Quality assurance and quality improvement studies, program evaluation activities, and performance reviews. or testing within normal educational requirements when used exclusively for assessment, management or improvement purposes, do not constitute research for the purposes of this Policy, and do not fall within the scope of REB review."



Study Abroad Student Survey

Consent

- Consent was inferred by the submission of a completed survey.
- Information on students' rights to participate was provided on the invitation letter sent to the student's email addresses.

Methods/Procedures

- Data collection will occur via an online survey.
- The survey will be open for approximately 3 weeks.
- In addition to the initial email, students will be sent 2 reminders via email.
- A reminder email was sent only to the non-respondents.
- Survey completion is estimated at no more than 15 minutes.
- Researchers will have access to the survey data in real-time.
- Data collected through a secure, password-protected reporting site.
- Data encryption and other measures will ensure the security of the data.
- All data will be compiled in aggregate and no individual respondents will be identified.
- Data will be available through the online reporting site for an indefinite amount of time.
- Data will be analyzed using quantitative methodologies.

Storage of Data

- All Profile data will be stored on the Campus Labs reporting site.
- Data is only accessible through a unique username and password.
- Various security measures at the application, network, and physical level.



Study Abroad Student Survey

Dissemination of Results

- Results of this study will be used in aggregate form.
- The data will be used to inform the College of Nursing about students' perceptions of the Study Abroad Program.
- The findings of the Survey will help to determine how to further develop the Study Abroad program.
- Additionally, the aggregate data may be used in presentations internally , as well as in presentations externally in conferences, or in articles for related journals.

Risk, Benefits, and Deception

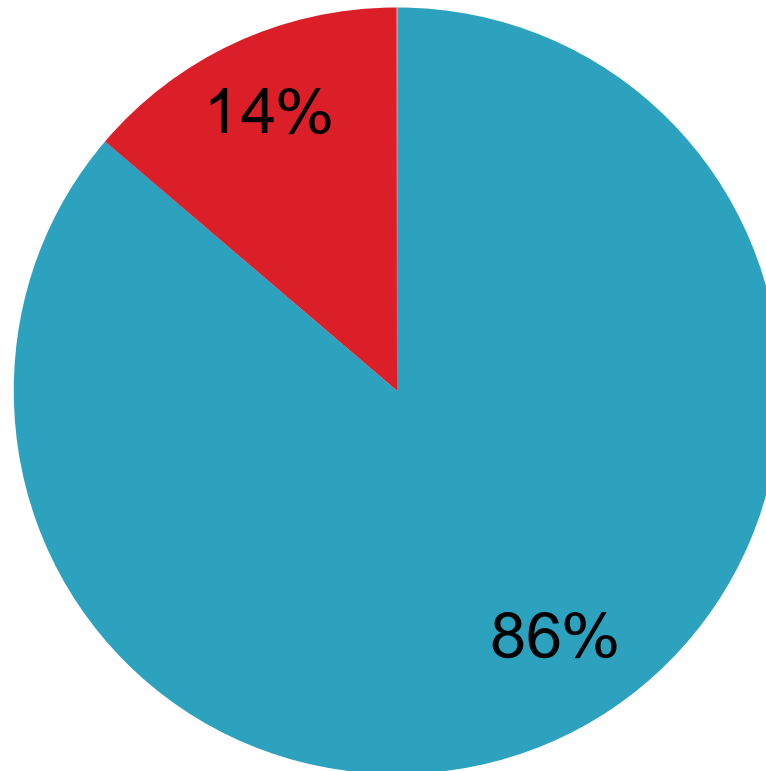
- Participants will not be exposed to harm, discomforts, or perceived harm.
- While survey research presents minimal risks, students may be uncomfortable answering some of the questions.
- Participation is voluntary.
- Students may opt to quit the survey at any point.
- No deception is involved in this study.

Confidentiality

- No individual response to the survey will ever be identified in any report.
- Rather, all resulting data will be reported in the aggregate.

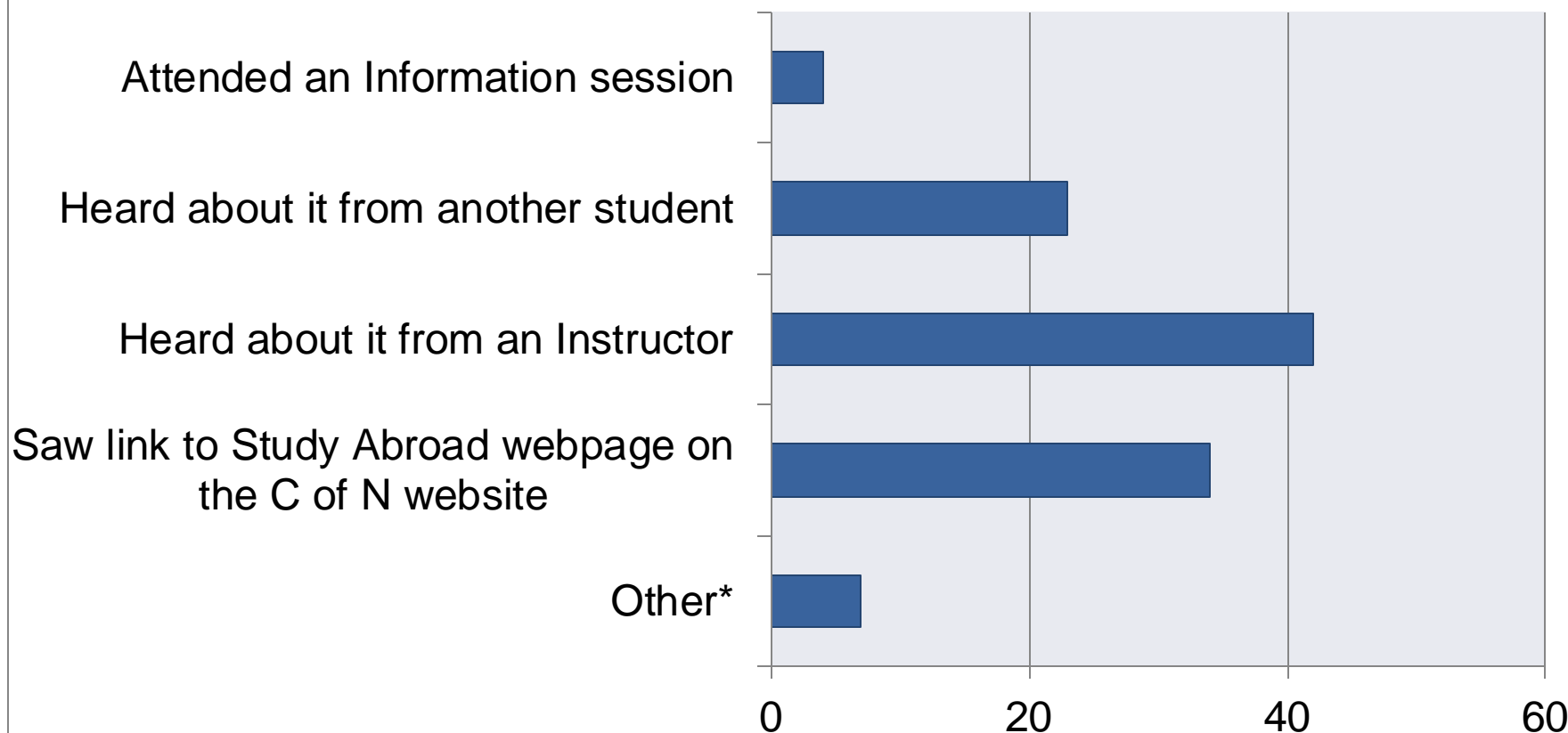


**Q1a: Are you aware there are undergraduate opportunities to
Study Abroad at the U of S College of Nursing?**

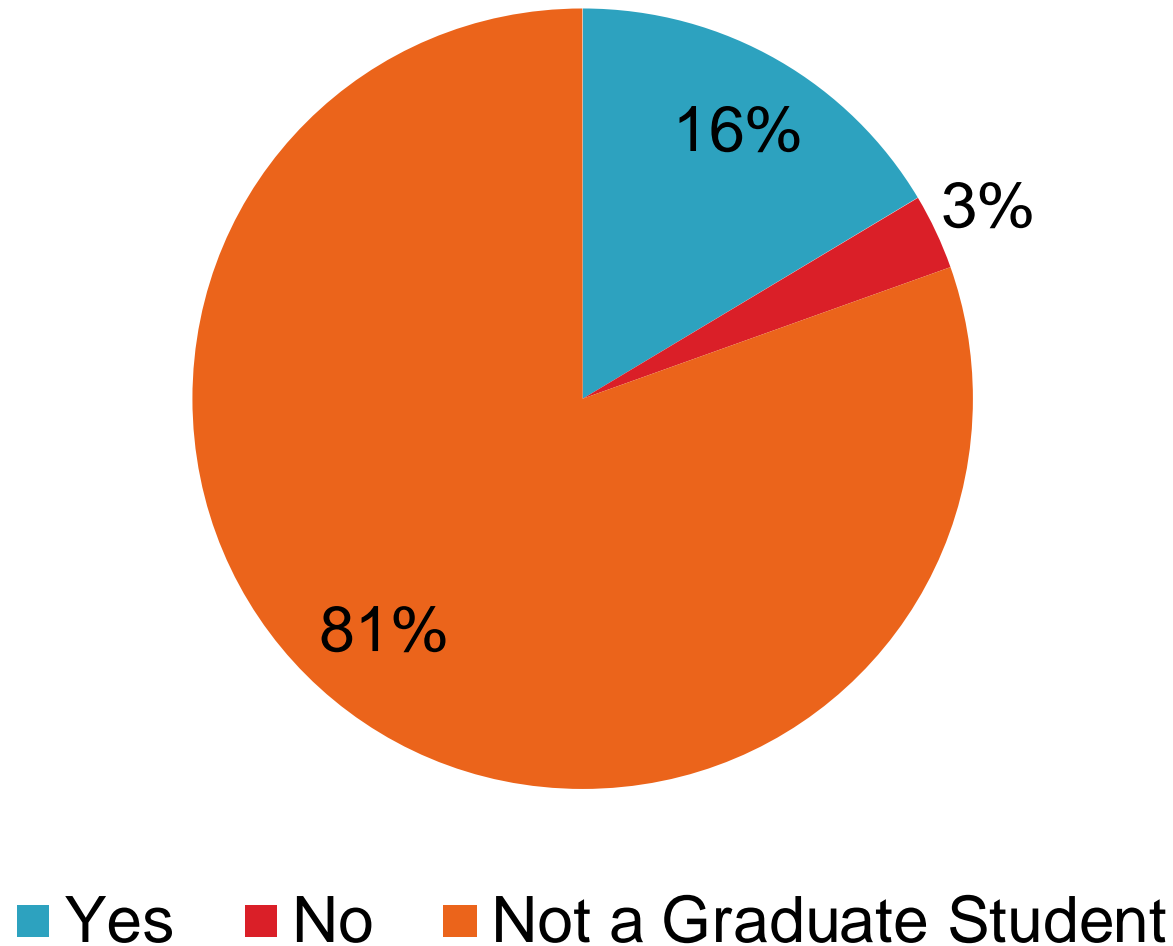


■ Yes ■ No

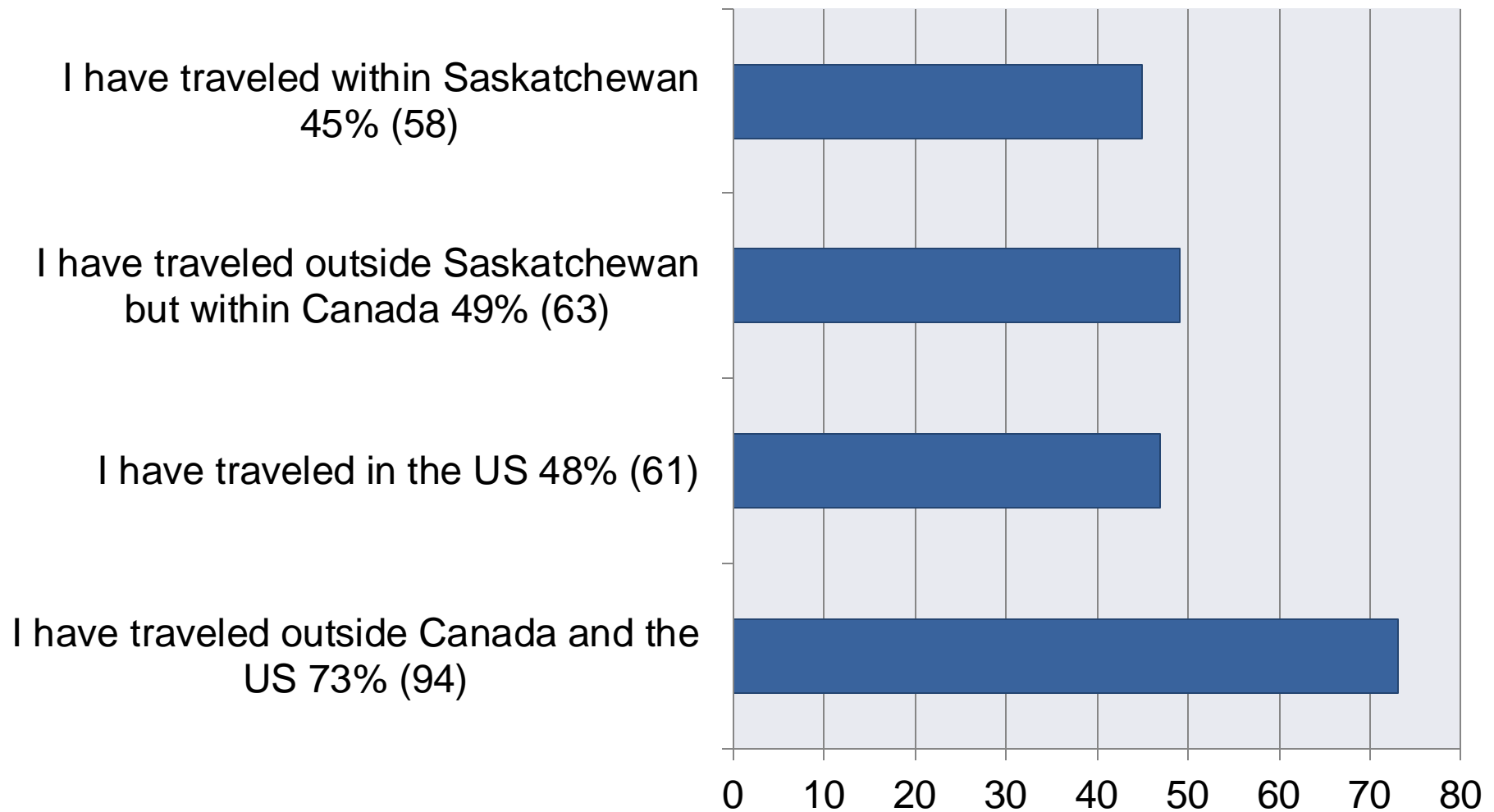
**Q1b. If yes, how did you become aware of the College of
Nursing Study Abroad Student Placements?**



Q1c. If you are a graduate student, does international research/clinical practice experience interest you?

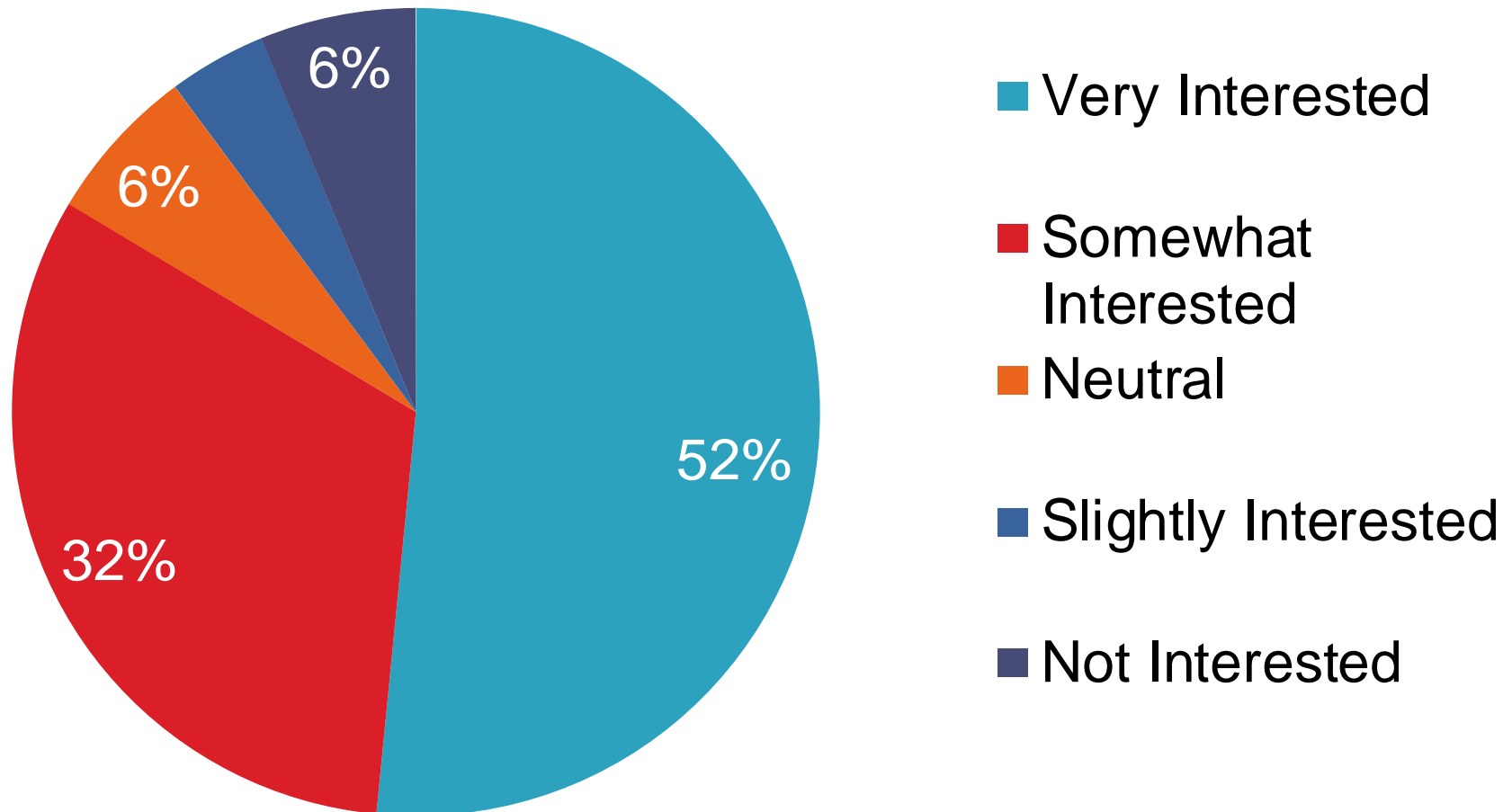


Q2. What is your travel experience (Check all that apply)



- 24% had not traveled outside the US & Canada-
- 4% had not traveled outside of the province

Q3. What statement best expresses your current interest in having an academic experience abroad?



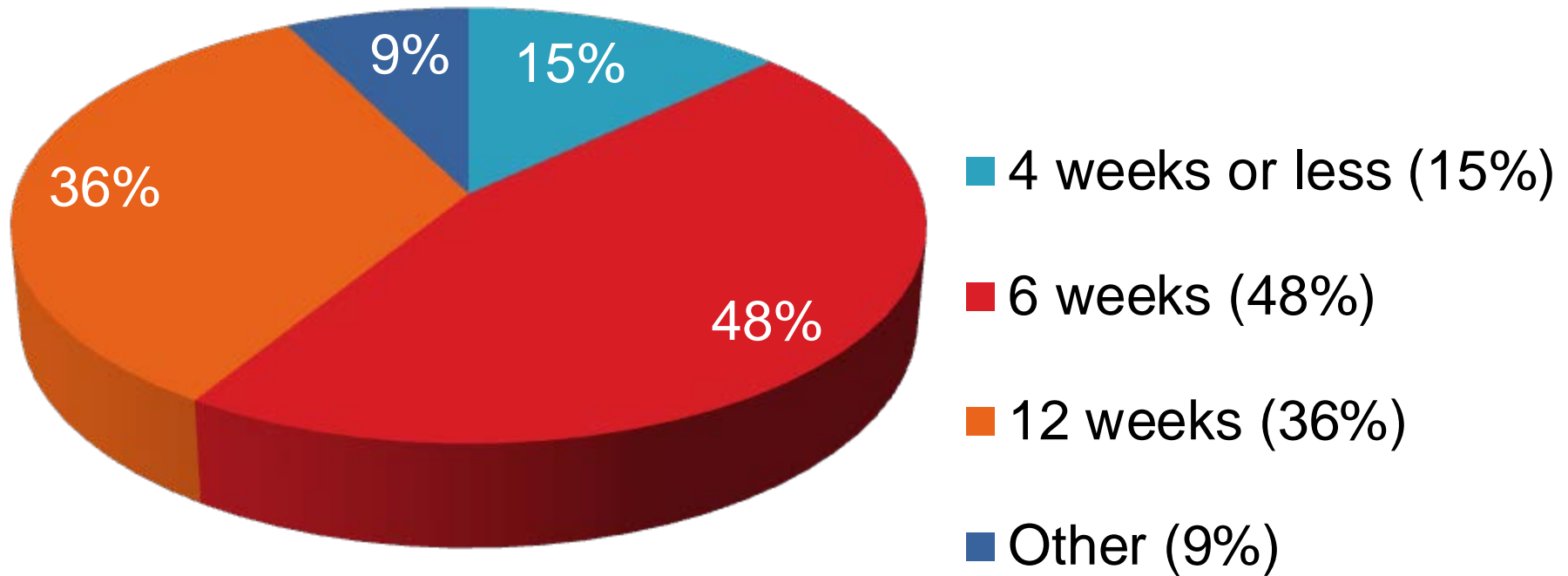
**Q4. What do you feel would prevent you from studying abroad?
(select your top 3)**

Lack of funds	71% (91)
Family Responsibilities	30% (38)
Job Obligations	23% (29)
Not Fluent in the Language	20% (26)
Relationship Obligations	19% (24)
Application Process too difficult	16% (21)
Safety Concerns	12% (15)
Political Instability in Desired Country	11% (14)
Other *	6% (8)
No Parental Support	5% (6)
Friends would not Accompany	4% (5)
Not Interested	3% (4)

Q5. If you had the opportunity to study abroad, what best describes your views

	Very Beneficial	Beneficial	Neutral	Somewhat Beneficial	Not Beneficial
Gain international nursing experience	77.17%	18.90%	2.36%	.79%	.79%
Learn about a different culture	70.87%	25.98%	1.57%	1.57%	0.00%
Gain self-awareness and independence	62.99%	29.92%	3.94%	3.94%	1.57%
Increase competency in nursing skills	59.84%	31.50%	5.51%	2.36%	0.79%
International research opportunities and/or clinical experience	54.33%	29.92%	12.60%	1.57%	1.57%
Demonstrate social responsibility	45.67%	41.73%	9.45%	1.57%	1.57%
Future employment opportunities	43.31%	34.65%	13.39%	4.72%	3.94%
Fulfill academic requirements	39.37%	45.67%	11.81%	1.57%	1.57%
Learn a new language	26.77%	40.16%	18.90%	11.02%	3.15%

Q6. If you were to study abroad, what would be the preferred length of time?



Q7. If you have already studied abroad or went abroad during any year of your nursing program as a volunteer (i.e., humanitarian/church project) please indicate the following:

When (Date):

- 2005-2013

Where (Country):

- Australia (2008, 2011); Mozambique (2011, 2012); Dominican Republic (2012);
- Rwanda (2013); Uganda (2005)

What (Project):

- Light the Night Campaign; Church Project, Mission Work, Volunteer

Why (Reason/Benefit):

- Community Health Final practicum

Who (Organization):

- Youth With A Mission, Church Groups, C of N, U of S

Participation in an international conference:

- None

Q8. If you were to study abroad (or study abroad again), in what area are you most interested in studying? (Check all that apply)

Australia/New Zealand	87 (69%)
Western Europe	82 (65%)
Africa	76 (60%)
South America	73 (57%)
Eastern Europe	68 (54%)
Caribbean	66 (52%)
Central America	50 (39%)
Asia	46 (36%)
North America	36 (28%)
Other (India, Fiji, Afghanistan)	3 (2%)

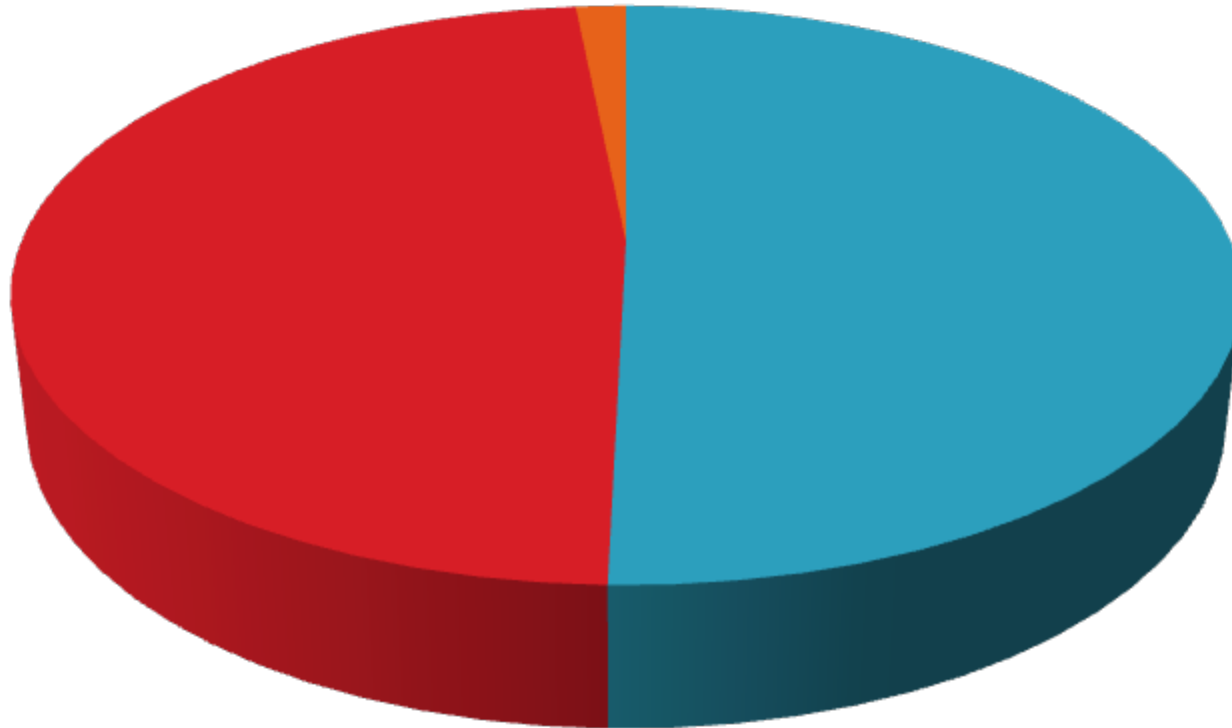


Q8. Where in Asia? (cont.)

- 5 (10.87%) India
- 4 (8.70%) Middle East
- 8 (17.39%) East Asia(China, Japan, Korea)
- 23 (50.00%) South East Asia (Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia)
- 2 (4.35%) Russia
- 4 (8.70%) Other

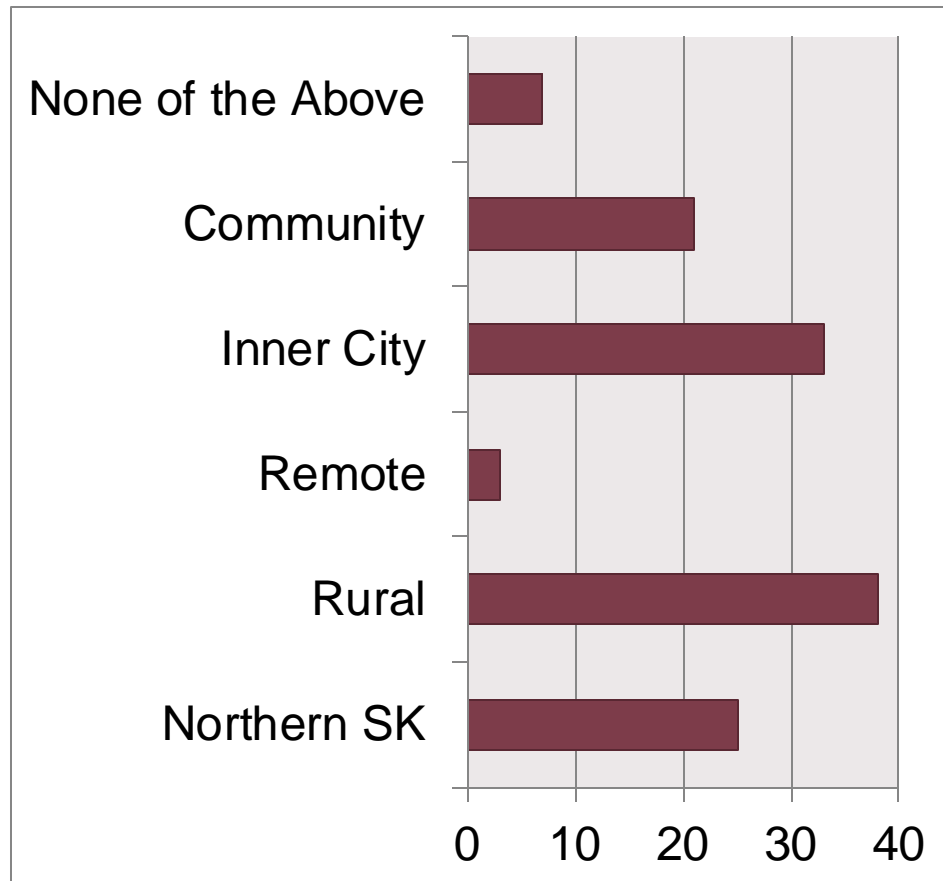


Q9. Currently, the College of Nursing offers the following (international) study abroad opportunities. In which of these are you most interested?



- Developed Countries
- Underdeveloped Countries
- None of the Above

Q10. Which of the following would interest you as a (local) provincial clinical experience?



(7) 5.51% - None of the above

(21) 16.54% - Community

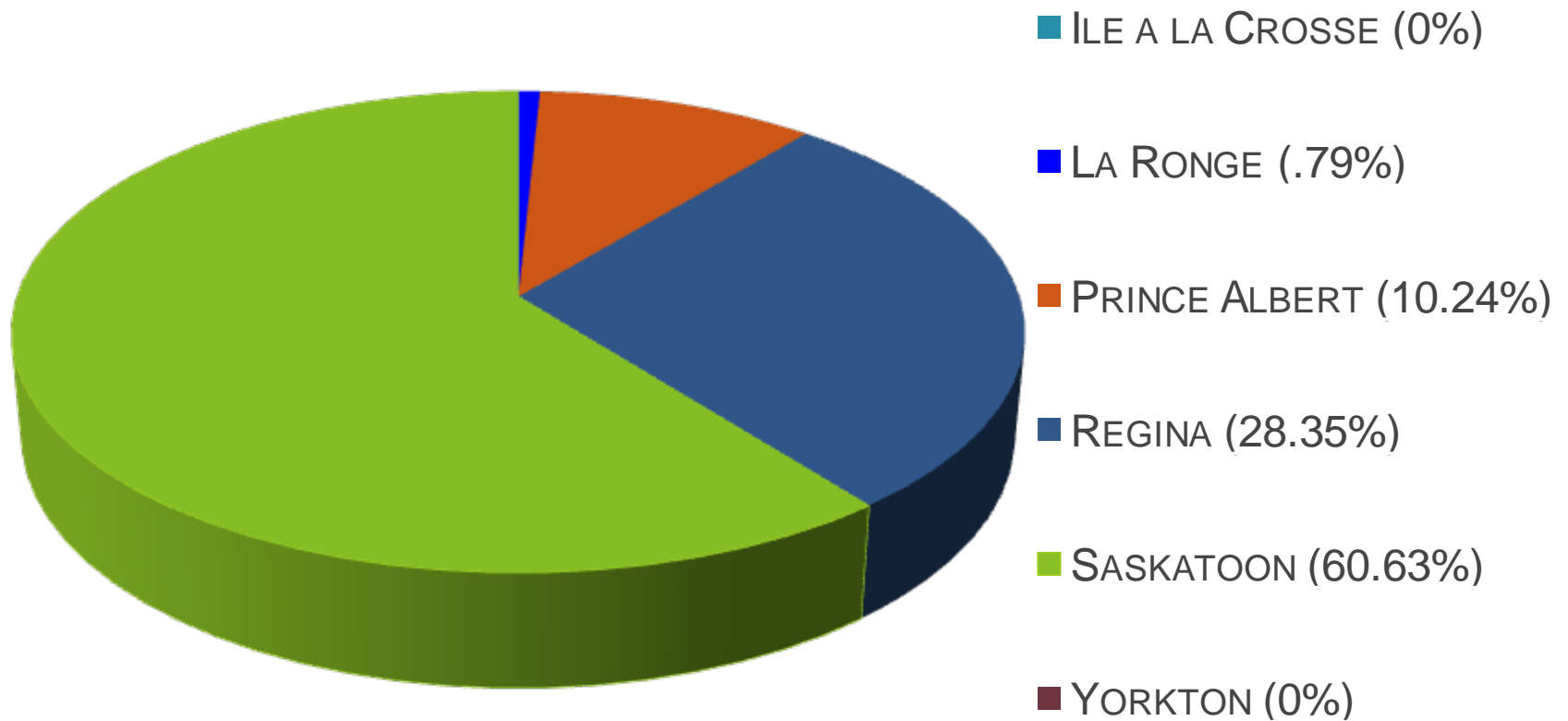
(33) 25.98% - Inner city

(3) 2.36% - Remote

(38) 29.92% - Rural

(25) 19.69% - Northern SK

Q11. I am a nursing student registered at the following site



Q12. What is your current program and year?

NEPS

- 4th year (15.75%)

BSN

- 2nd year (1st year in Nursing) (42.52%)
- 3rd year (2nd year in Nursing) (26.77%)
- 4th year (3rd year in Nursing) (0.79%)

Post Degree BSN

- 1st year (4.72%)
- 2nd year (0.79%)

Graduate Program

- 1st year (1.57%)
- 2nd year (0%)

Stream

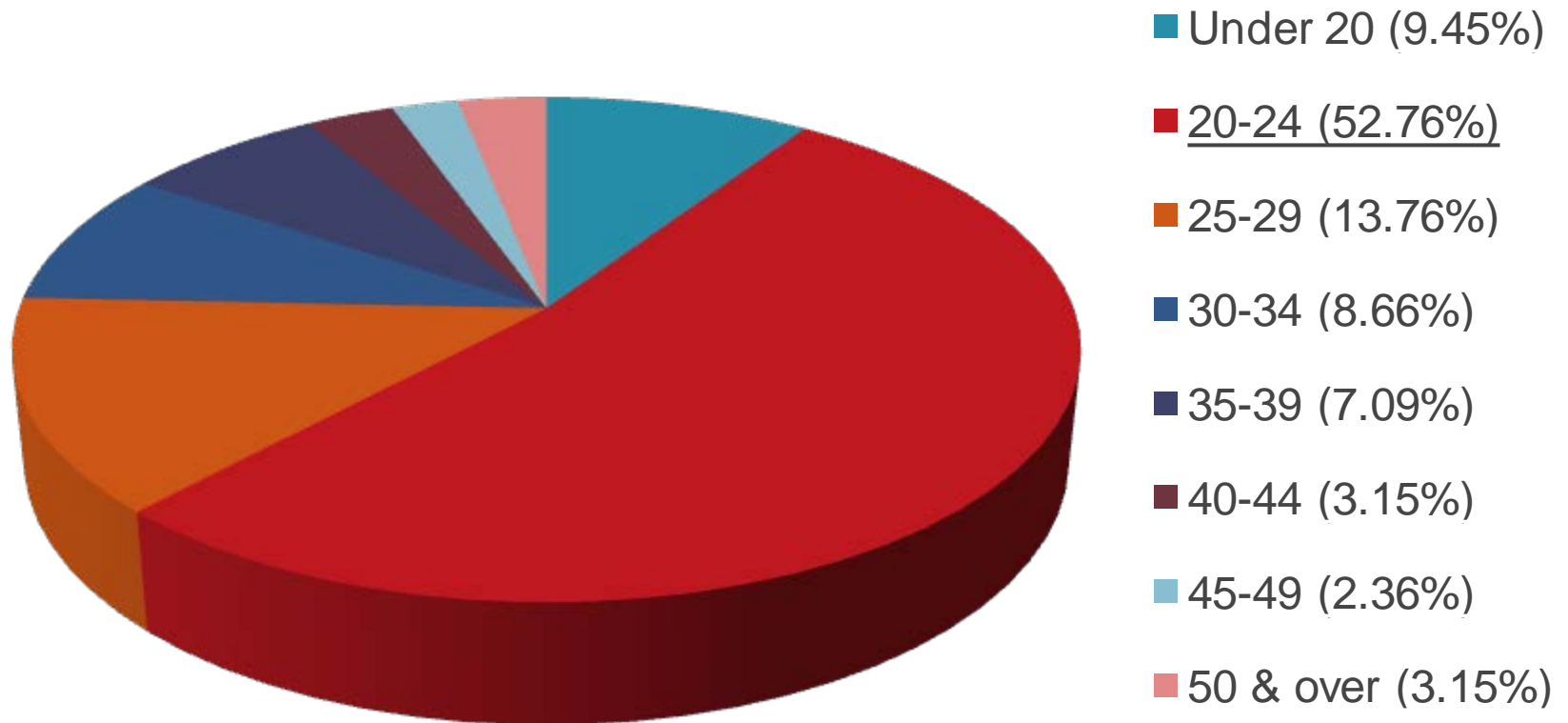
- Thesis (1.57%)
- NP (3.15%)
- Course base (0.79%)

PhD Program

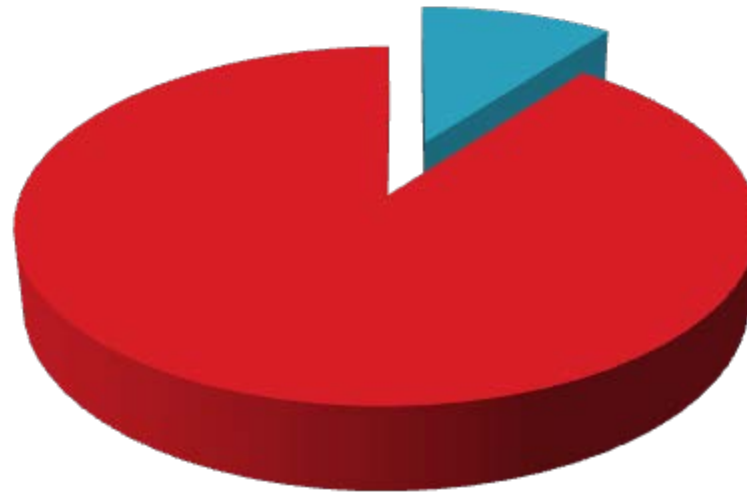
- 1st year (0.79%)
- Subsequent year (0.79%)



Q13. What is your age?



Q14. What is your gender?



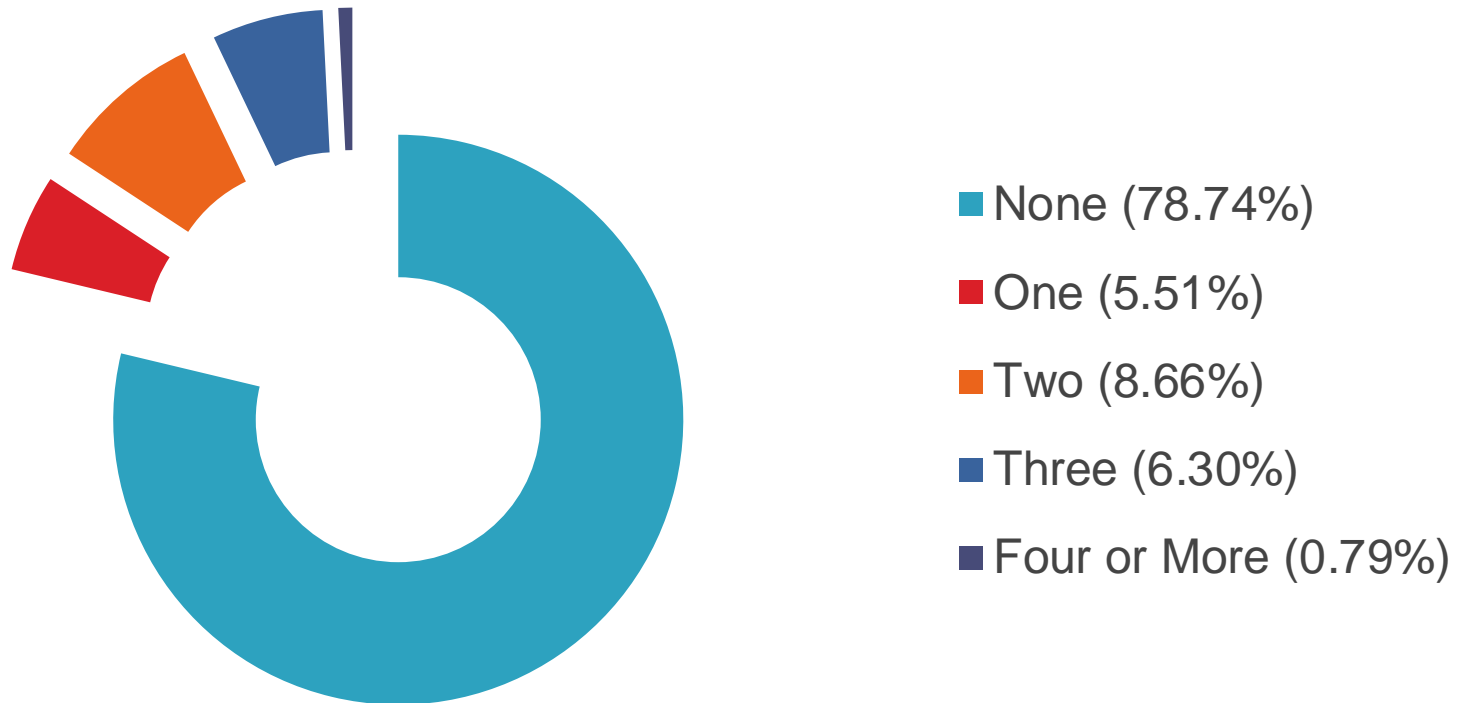
■ Male (10.24%)

■ Female (89.76%)

■ Transgender (0%)

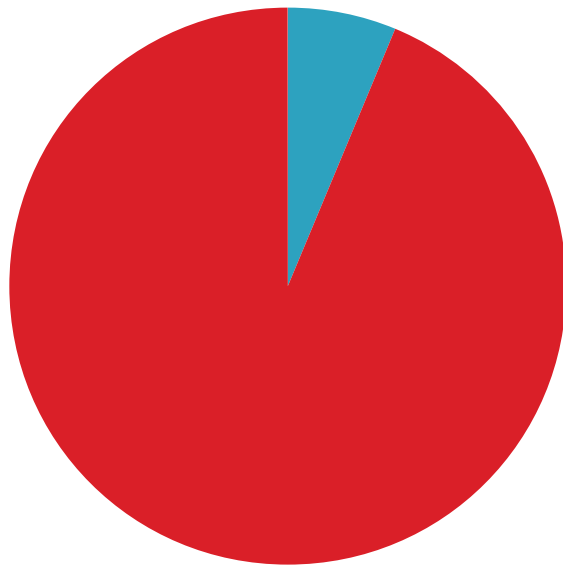
■ Prefer not to say (0%)

Q 15. How many dependents do you have?

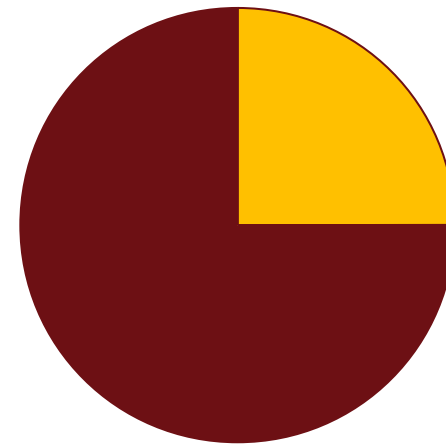


Q16. Do you self-identify as a person of Aboriginal ancestry?

If yes, with which of the following groups do you identify?



■ Yes (6.3%) ■ No (93.7%)



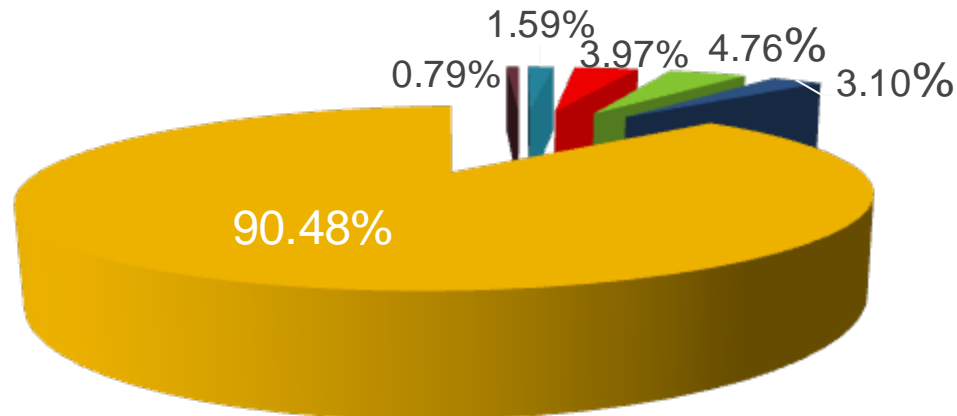
■ First Nations (25%)

■ Metis (75%)

■ Inuit (0%)

**Q17. Would you identify yourself as belonging to any of these groups
(check all that apply):**

- International Student (1.59%)
- Landed Immigrant Status (3.97%)
- Student from a Visible Minority (4.76%)
- Student with a Disability (3.10%)
- Canadian Student (90.48%)
- Other (.79%) (Northern)



Q18. Do you have any other comments about studying abroad that you would like to share?

34.13% = Yes

65.87% = No

Comments

- Would love to but it is too expensive x7
- Easier for young, single students, family commitments is my problem now
- I would like options for family accommodations
- This program is a great asset to the College of Nursing X2 in my opinion
- Needs to be more funding available x2
- I would like to do a rural experience in SE Saskatchewan
- I would like more information x4
- If the Ukraine is available in future I would be interested
- Concern of infectious diseases in underdeveloped countries
- I have already been accepted for next year X3, saving to pay for it is a problem

Study Abroad Student Survey

Limitations of the Study

- Response rate of 131 (12.4%)
- 10% is expected for online survey
- Timing of the Survey (when sent out)
- Incentives to participate
- Typically the students interested tend to participate



Study Abroad Student Survey

Findings

Results

- The Study Abroad online Survey was distributed to all College of Nursing students (all programs and sites) totaling 1058 students including both undergraduate and graduate students.

Response Rate

- 12.4% response rate (n=131)

Interest in Study Abroad

- High Interest in international experiences (83.6%), but barriers also high

Barriers to Study Abroad

- 71% indicating lack of funding as a key issue
- 30% Family responsibilities

High financial cost of participation (approx)

- Australia [\$7000]; Finland [\$10-12,000]; Tanzania [\$6000], Philippines [\$6000]



Study Abroad Student Survey Findings

Awareness

- 89% of the students were aware of the undergraduate opportunities to Study Abroad at the U of S College of Nursing

Travel Experience

- 24% had not traveled outside North America
- 4% had not traveled outside of the province

Benefits

- Gain international nursing experience (77.17%); Learn about a different culture (70.87%); Gain self-awareness and independence (62.99%); Increase competency in nursing skills (59.84%); International research opportunities and/or clinical experience (54.33%); Demonstrate social responsibility (45.67%); Future employment opportunities (43.31%); Fulfill academic requirements (39.37%); and Learn a new language (26.77%).



Study Abroad Student Survey

Conclusions:

- International clinical experiences have benefits for nursing students, including personal and professional growth, and a broader understanding of cultural differences in health practices, health and social inequities, the social determinants of health and the WHO Millennial Development Goals in both local and global contexts, all factors affecting Canadian populations.
- With an increasing focus on local-global connections and health issues for populations internationally, we as educators wanted to explore students' rationale for their choices, as a means of overcoming barriers to participation.
- With a commitment to increasing students' international learning experiences, we report barriers and facilitators to study abroad clinical experiences and explore means of overcoming them.



Thank you

Any Questions?

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