



# Title: Increasing Study Abroad Participation Among Students Attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

Author: Ms. D’Kota Hinton-Louis, Social Work Major, Elizabeth City State University

Advisor: Andre P. Stevenson, PhD, MPH, MSW, Professor of Social Work, Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences



## Abstract

Study abroad is an academic experience which offers students opportunities to develop international competencies and intercultural skills. However, barriers exist for many undergraduate students at HBCUs. Common barriers preventing students from studying abroad include financial concerns, limited support (family and institutional), and lack of knowledge about available resources. A systematic review of literature regarding barriers was conducted. Discussion of findings and recommendations are provided.

## Introduction and Background

Over the past decade, there has been an increase in research regarding the importance of study abroad experiences for undergraduate students (American Council on Education, 2015). Likewise, more colleges and universities have adopted mission statements that link their degrees to successful training for a multifaceted, international, and interrelated world (Hovland, 2014). A growing amount of literature reveals there is a smaller percentage of students attending HBCUs who study abroad as compared to other undergraduate students. (Gasman, 2014).



## Research Question

What are common barriers that prevent undergraduates who attend HBCUs from studying abroad?

Independent variable (common barriers)

=x

Dependent variable (prevent studying abroad)

=y



## Materials and Methods

A systematic literature review was used to collect data for this study. Published articles and dissertations were found using journal databases and subject specific professional websites.

- Quantitative and qualitative studies were reviewed.
- All studies were peer reviewed and less than five years old.
- Key phrases used to locate empirical studies included “study abroad barriers”, “barriers for HBCU students studying abroad”, and “study abroad barriers for Black students”.



## Results and Discussion

### Barrier 1 - Financial concerns

- Lack of financial means (Lee, 2016)
  - Additional student loans (Covington, 2017)
- Recommendations for overcoming barriers*
- Apply for scholarships (Gilman, CIEE, CIS, etc.)
  - Apply to low cost study abroad programs

### Barrier 2 – Limited support (family and institutional)

- Family’s fear of the “unknown” (Gasman, 2014)
  - Limited study abroad experiences among faculty (Luo, 2015)
- Recommendations for overcoming barriers*
- Invite parents to participate in information sessions (online and in-person)
  - Seek faculty who have international travel experience

### Barrier 3 – Lack of knowledge of resources

- Campus may not have Study Abroad Office (Key, 2018)
  - Students may not know anyone who studied abroad (Sweeney, 2018)
- Recommendations for overcoming barriers*
- Partner with programs at other institutions
  - Research and join list-servs and follow blogs



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