
Gotta Have Faith?

The Impact of Religion on Study Abroad

DIVERSITY ABROAD CONFERENCE

MARCH 24, 2015

NEW ORLEANS, LA



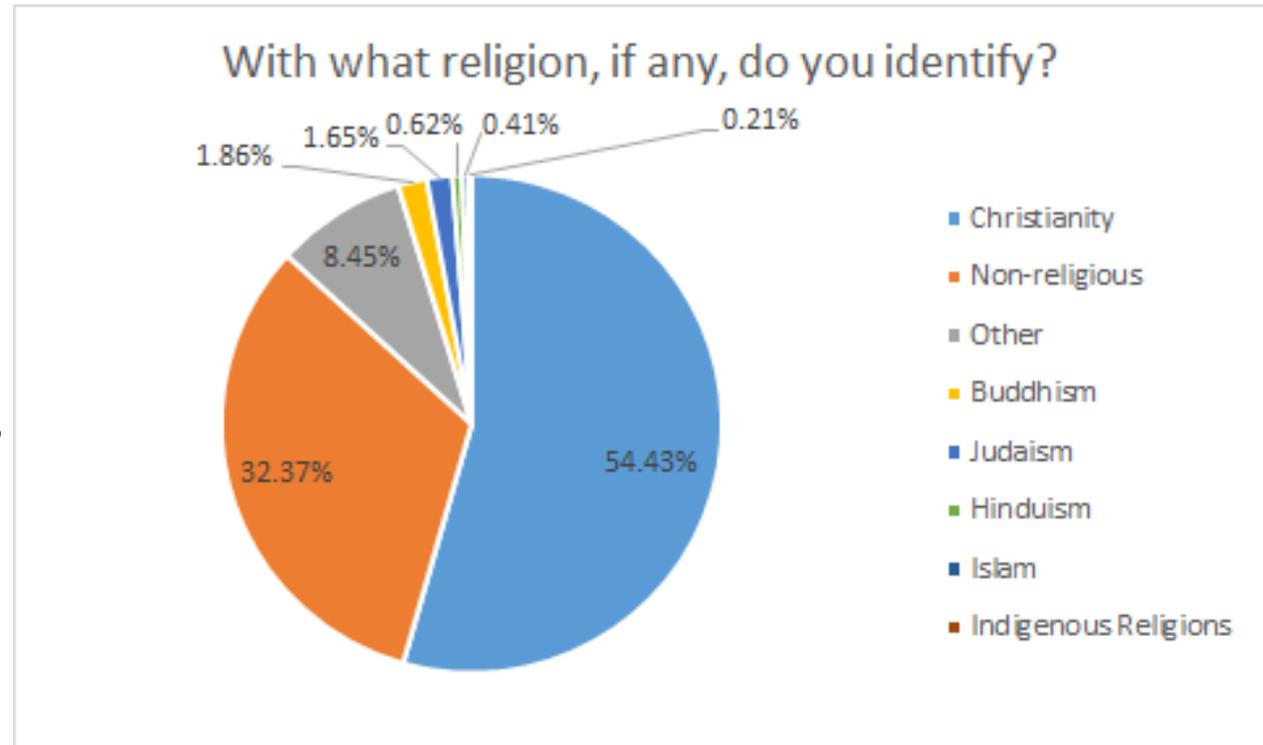
Religious Identity Task Force

- Diversity Abroad Network group of professionals
- Provide critical guidance and support to Diversity Network initiatives and contribute to the development of new and valuable resources for Network members
- 3 members of Task Force on Religious Identity
- Survey



Survey

- IRB approval process
- 500+ responses from study abroad returnee students
- Seven participating institutions

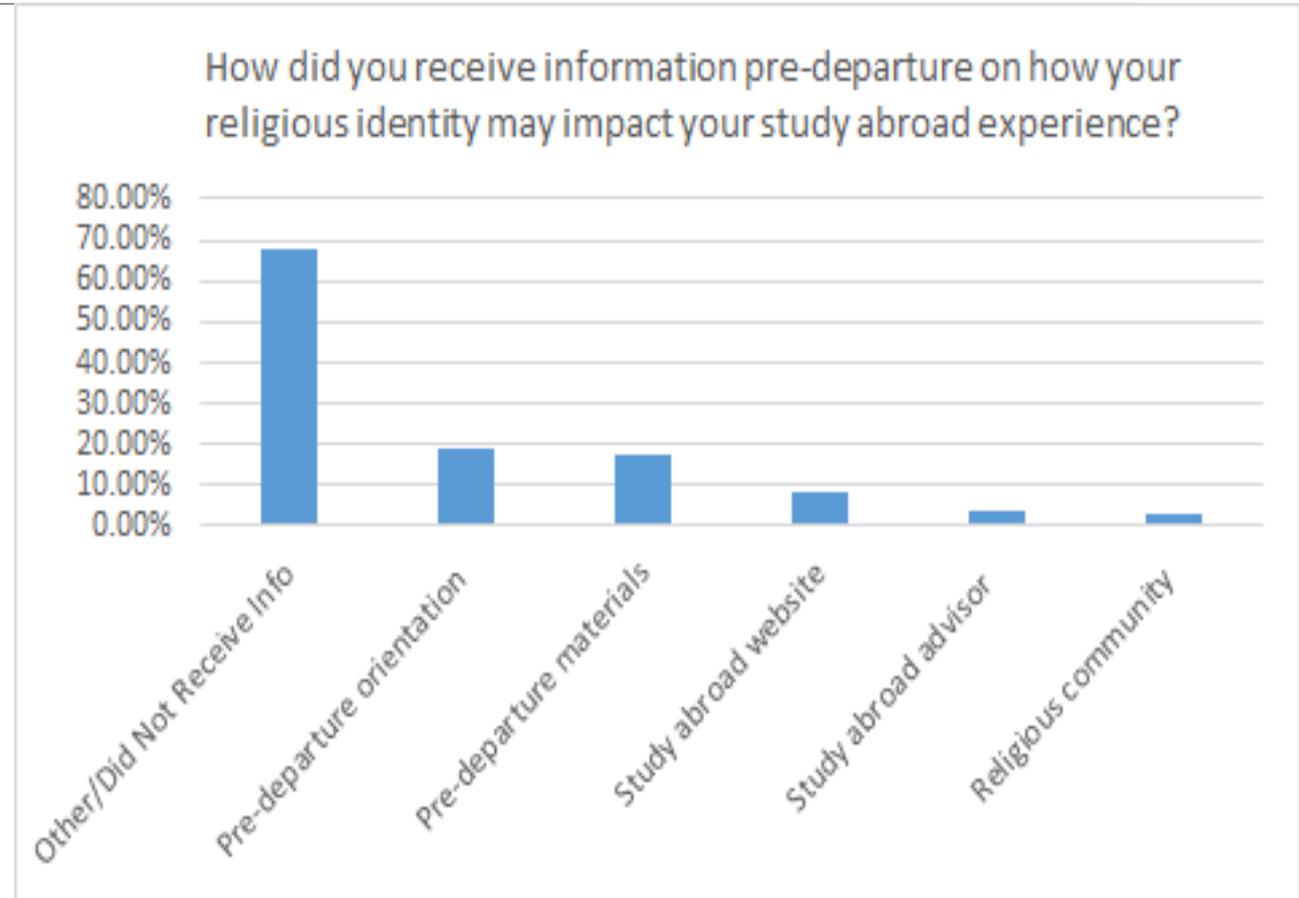


Survey Results

- Concerns based on religious identity pre-departure (11.75%)
 - Religious students
 - Attending religious services
 - Having community and accountability, Losing faith
 - Accommodations (not drinking alcohol, dietary restrictions)
 - Discrimination
 - Non-Religious students
 - Inability to relate, fit in
 - Acceptance in religious countries
- General concern about studying in predominantly non-Christian countries

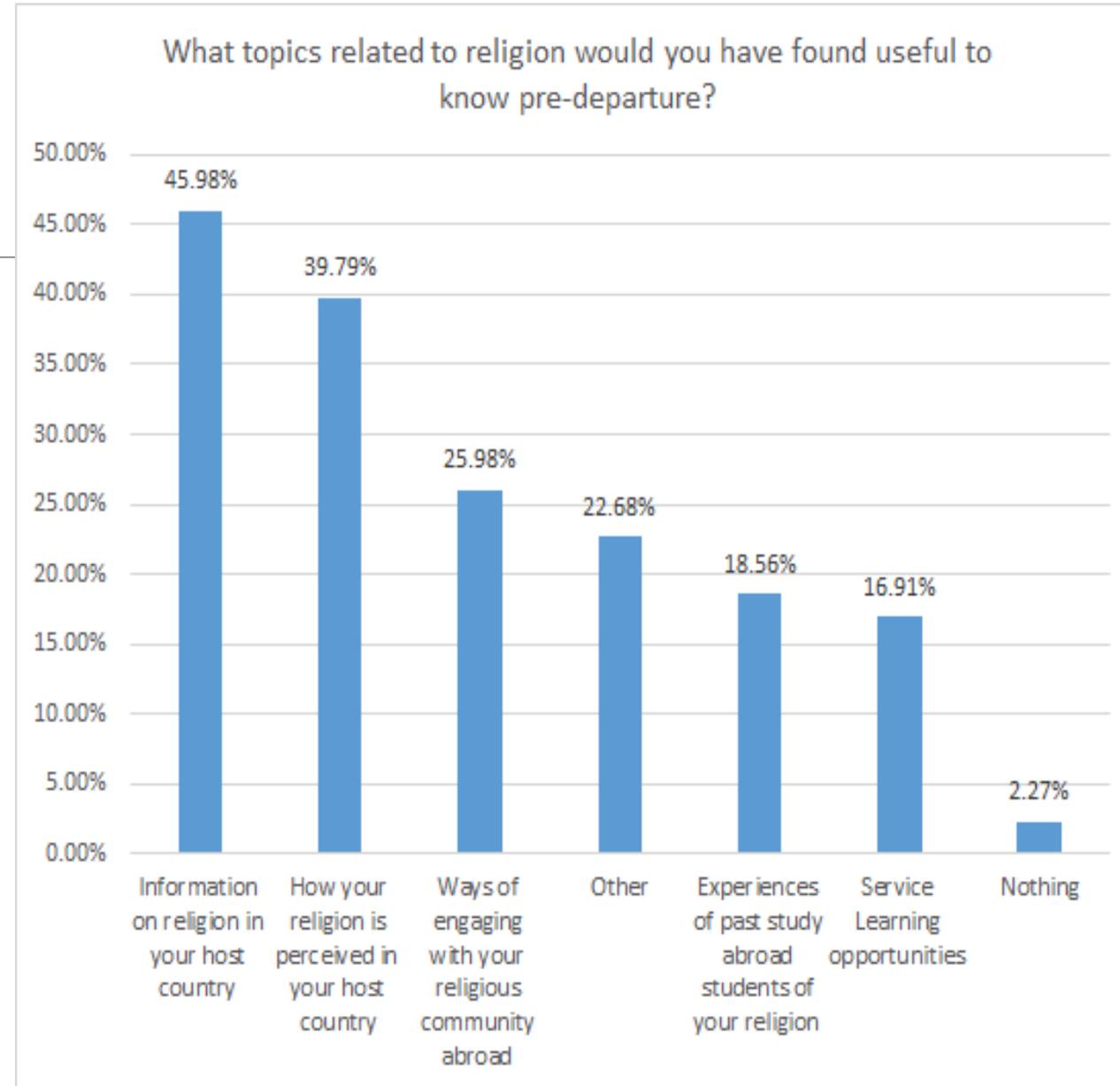
Survey Results

- Low percentage of students discussed topic with study abroad advisor (6%) or reported having received information on religion beforehand (25%)
- Higher percentage of students said their religious beliefs impacted their experience (36%) and who engaged with religious organizations abroad (41%)



Considerations

- Religion Matters
- Students in non-Christian countries
- Students in traditional locations
- Diversity among US students
- Expectations of partners and providers
- Ask the students



Comments and Feedback:

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