

# Men and Study Abroad

## The Research

“If I was to say what is the major emotion of American masculinity, it is anxiety. Why? Because you have to prove your masculinity all the time.”

--Michael Kimmel

### Select Research Findings from the Field

- Men are less likely to be engaged in college—across the board. They are also less likely to show an interest in cultural learning and education abroad.
- Men tend to stop-out of the application process or apply later than women—possibly missing deadlines or being put on wait lists.
- Men receive less active support from their families and male peers when compared to women.
- Men tend to find average study abroad messaging to be poor—compared to a used-car salesperson. They want more messaging from male peers, male leaders (i.e., faculty and coaches), and recent alumni/employers.
- Men have limited understandings of what education abroad programs are available; they think of it as only taking classes overseas.
- Men seek messages about the value of study abroad to their career. They want to know that it is worth the time away and financial cost when compared to other opportunities.

**Data suggests that traditional gender role norms are a negative influence on male’s decision to participate.**

**E.g., Be successful = Get a job and make money**

### Influencing Participation

- **Reputation** – How is education abroad viewed at your school?
- **Information** - How do you communicate about study abroad?
- **Programmatic** – What types of programs do you offer?
- **Dispositional** – What do your students think about education abroad?
- **Situational** – What are the structural barriers to participation?

