



FPPEdUMedia

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The impact of COVID-19: A student's perspective

Findings from :  Africa  India  Latin America





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Introduction

The COVID-19 outbreak has undoubtedly had a huge impact on the world of international education, and both students and educators alike have had to find new ways to navigate through the uncertain and ever changing environment.

To better understand how COVID-19 has affected students' plans to study abroad, FPP has surveyed [over 24,000](#) students throughout Africa, India and Latin America to provide insights into how different regions have been affected and are responding to the situation

Key findings:

43%

43% of students say that COVID-19 has had little impact and they are **still keeping their original plans**

83%

83% of students say that they still plan to study abroad, **even if they have to postpone** their start date

17%

Just 17% would consider a fully **online program as an alternative**

69%

69% of students say that they might now need to **look at cheaper alternatives**

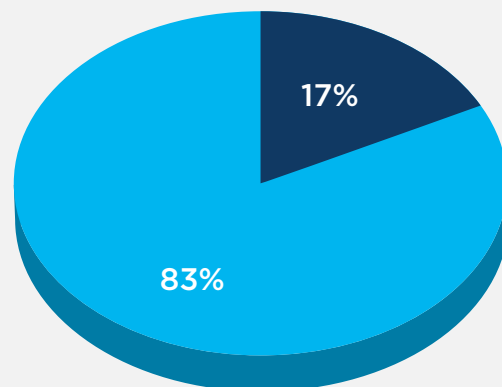
2%

Just 2% of students are thinking about **changing the country they will study in**

86%

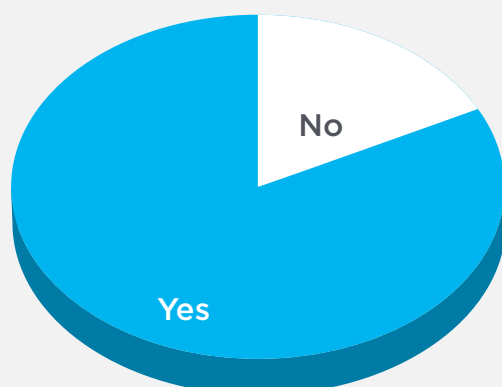
86% of students **would attend a virtual event**, if they have the opportunity to speak with representatives from international institutions

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?

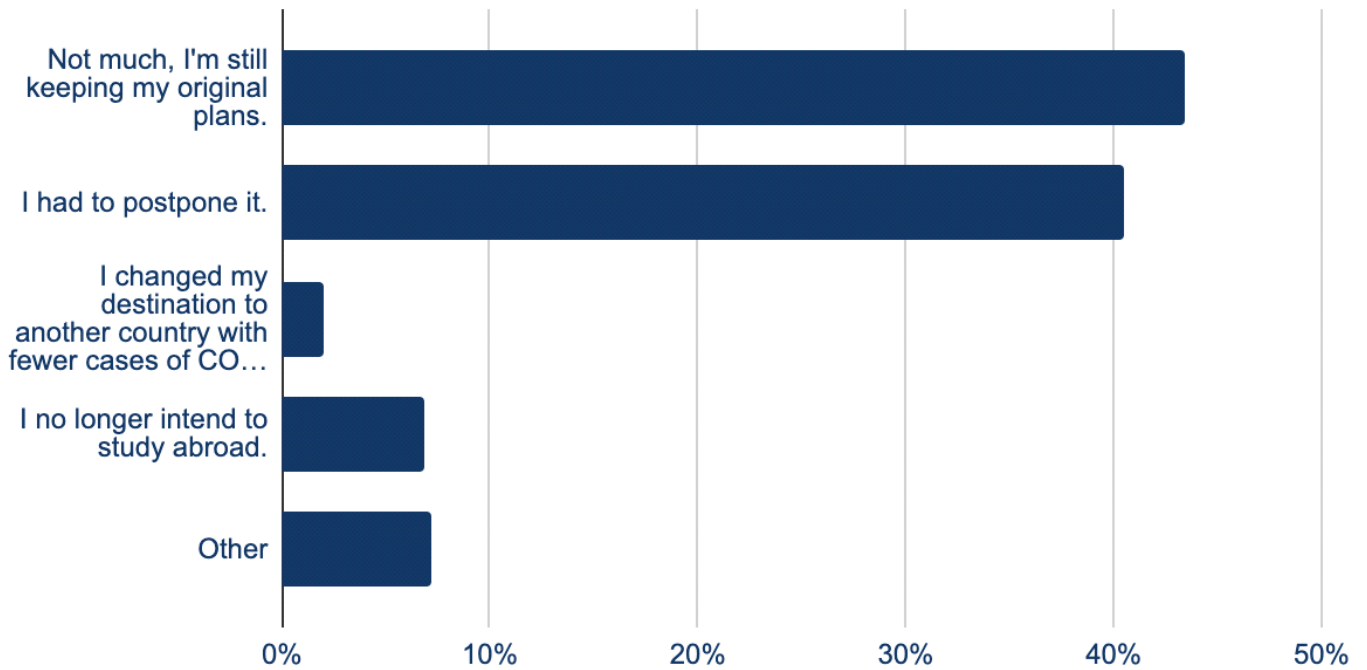


- I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad
- I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.

Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?



How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?



Of all students that took part in the survey there was a mixture of intended start date. Those that answered “I don’t know yet” may have been more impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak than others, but they are still aiming to study abroad.

By the regions

Africa

Students from Algeria, Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Senegal and Tunisia took part in the survey, providing perspectives from both North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Overview and key findings

As a whole, there is very little difference between North and Sub-Saharan Africa in terms of students' future plans - but students in [Senegal](#) and [Cote D'Ivoire](#) seem to be least impacted, whereas students in [Kenya](#) are most affected.

[Kenya](#) is also the country that shows the most interest in studying their degree online.

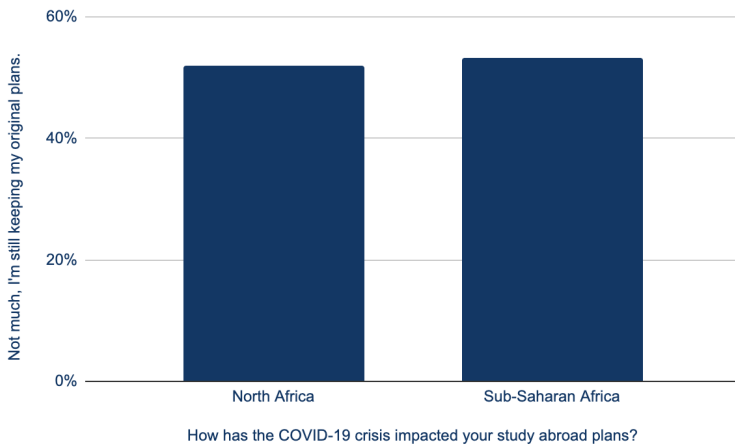
[35%](#) of students in North Africa say that their budget has not been impacted, in comparison with just [22%](#) in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the lowest being [Ghana at 16%](#).

Over [90%](#) of students in Cameroon, Côte D'Ivoire and Senegal would attend a [Virtual Fair](#) to meet international universities.

Where did students come from?

• Algeria	433	• Ghana	347
• Morocco	617	• Kenya	402
• Tunisia	273	• Nigeria	1.528
• Cameroon	656	• Senegal	1.157
• Côte D'Ivoire	746		

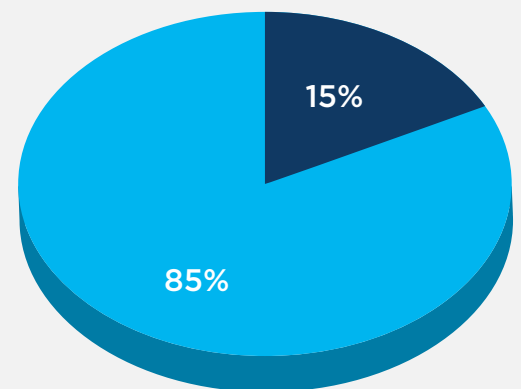
Africa region comparison



Students throughout both North and Sub-Saharan Africa had, on average, very similar responses to the question of whether their plans had been affected. However, throughout the Sub-Saharan African countries the answers did vary quite drastically. This data is highlighted following the region comparison

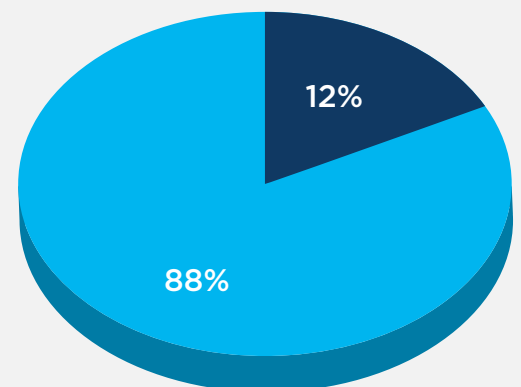
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?

North Africa



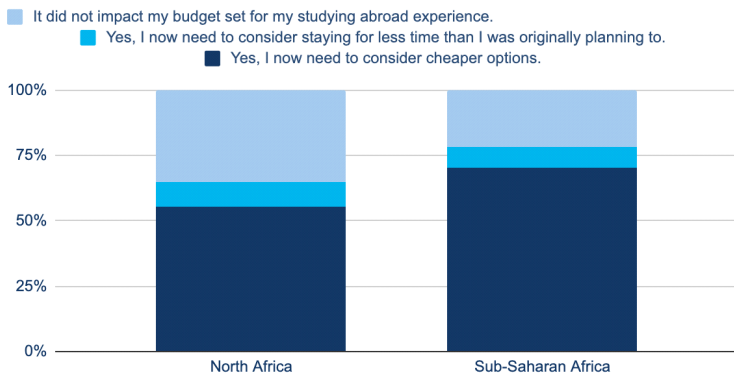
● Yes ● No

Sub-Saharan Africa



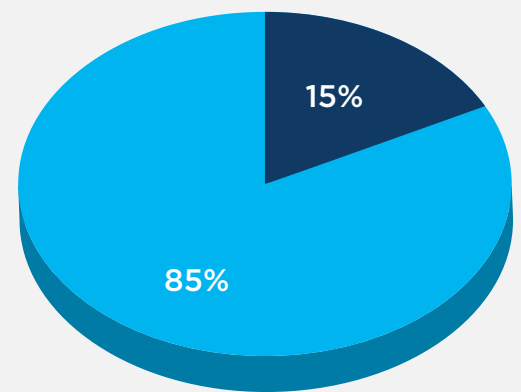
● Yes ● No

Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?



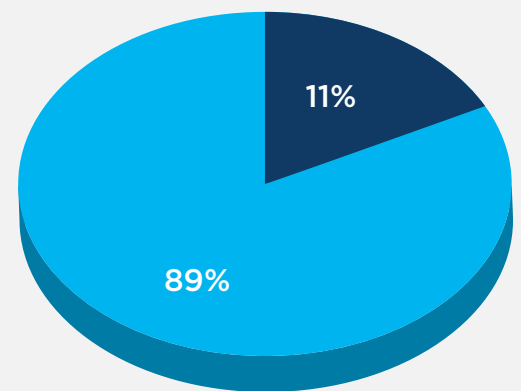
Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?

North Africa



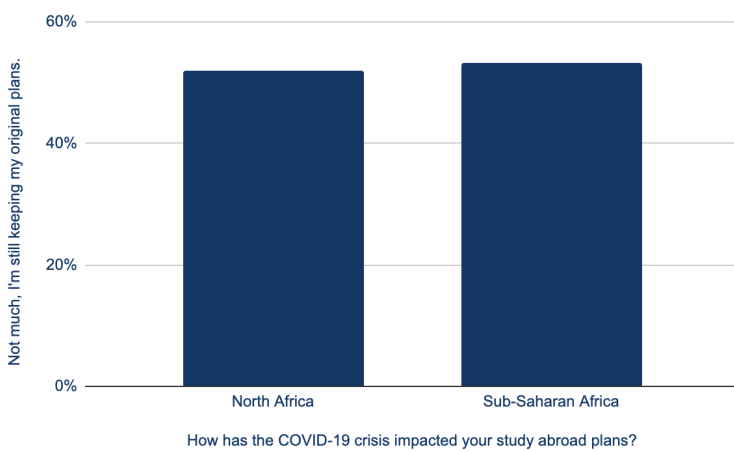
● Yes ● No

Sub-Saharan Africa



● Yes ● No

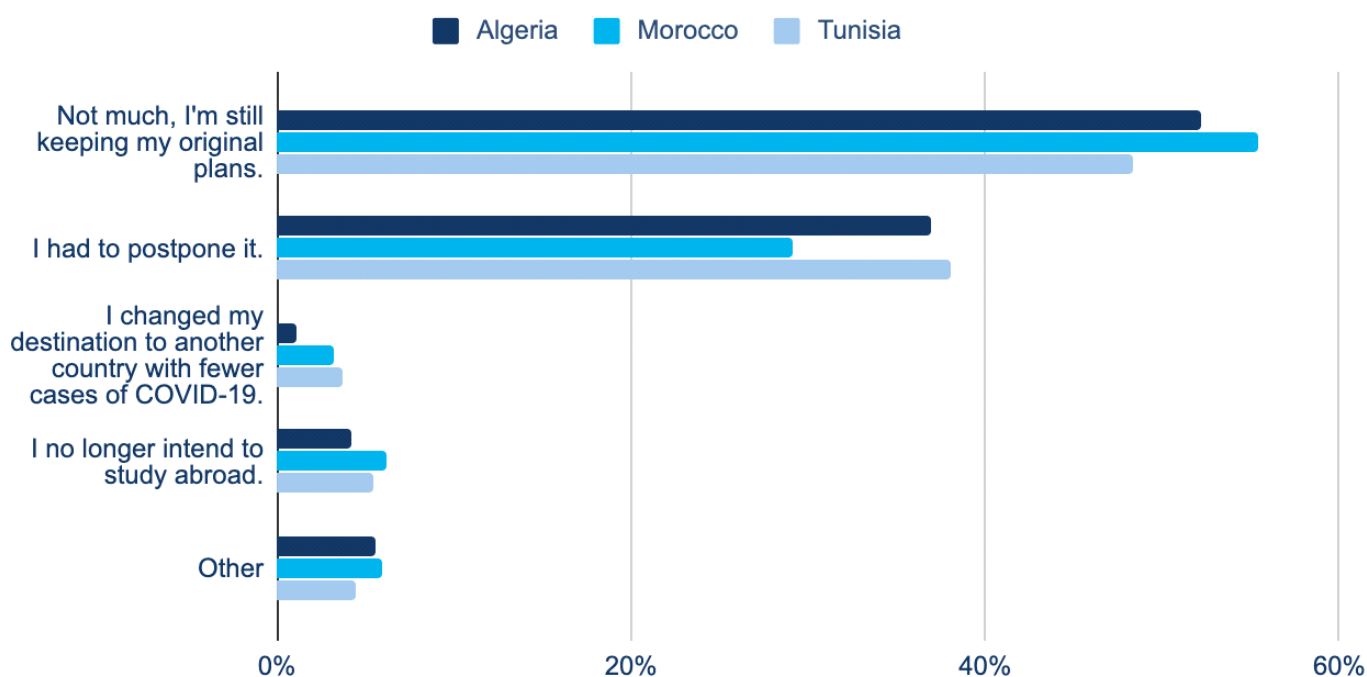
Over 70% of students in Sub-Saharan Africa are now having to consider cheaper options to study abroad, compared with just 55% in North Africa.



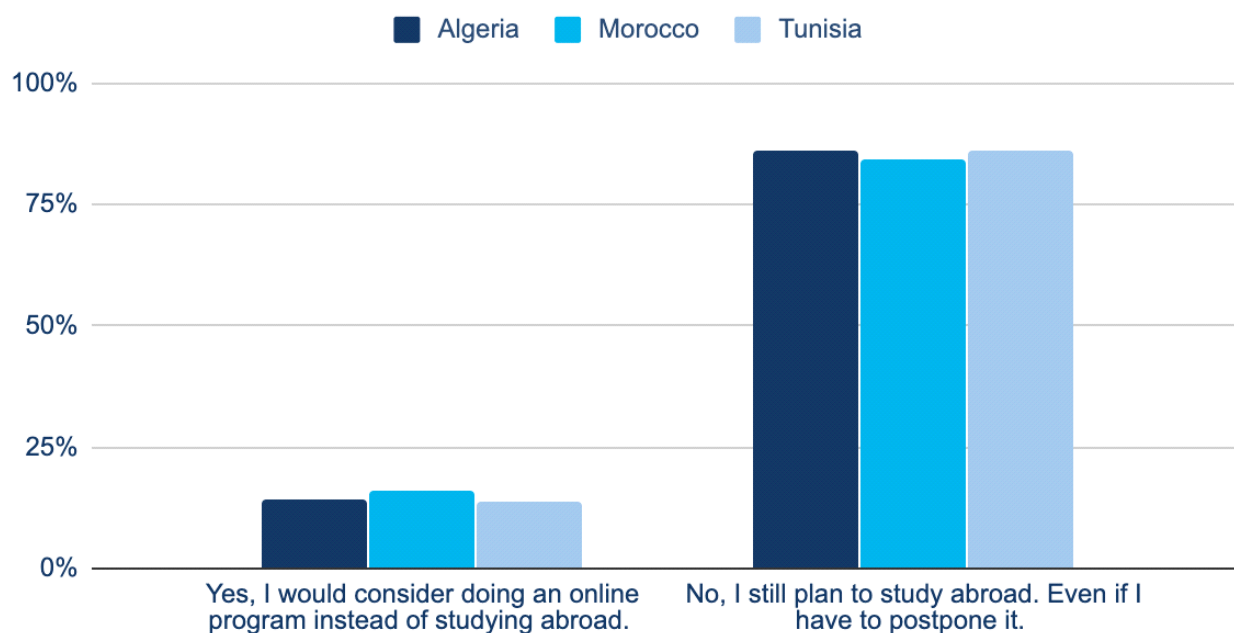
Over half of the students surveyed intend to keep their original plans to study abroad.

Country comparison: North Africa

How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?

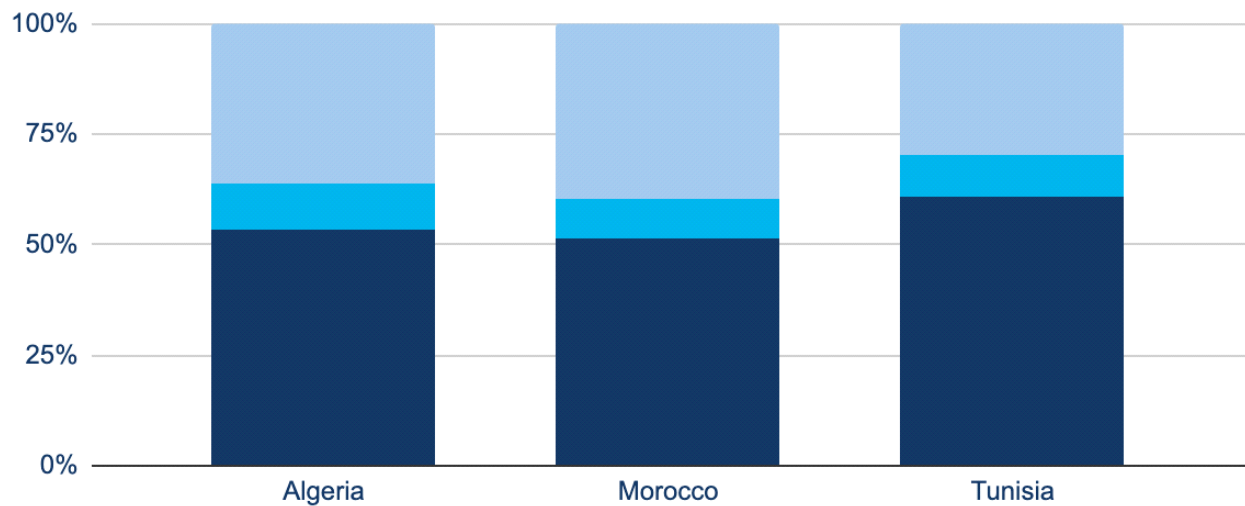


Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?



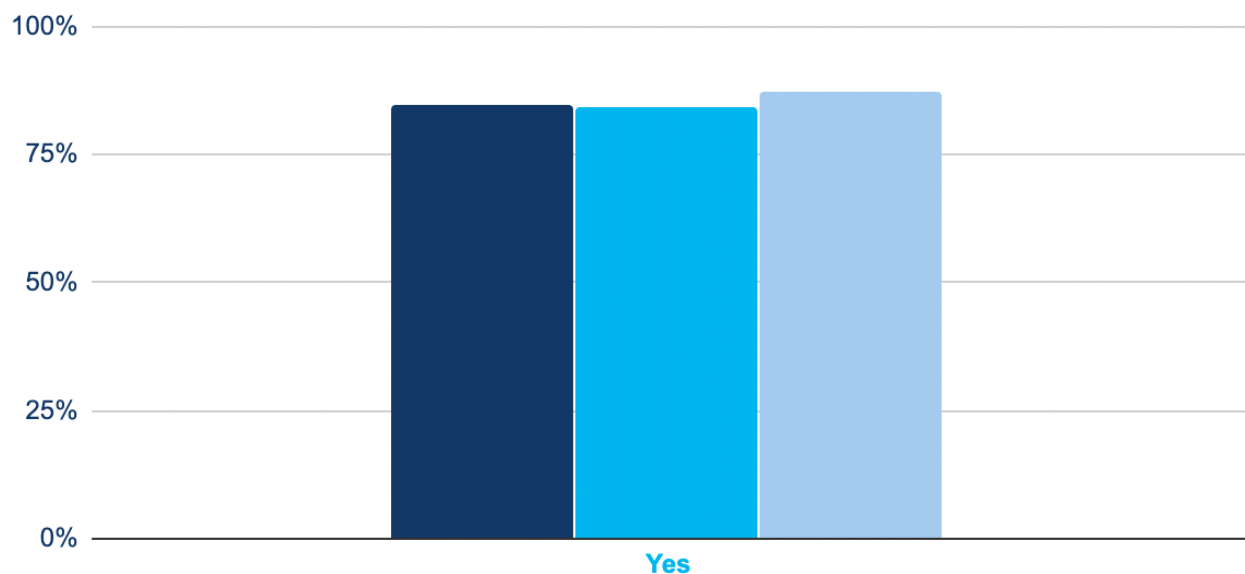
Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?

- It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.
- Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.
- Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.



Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?

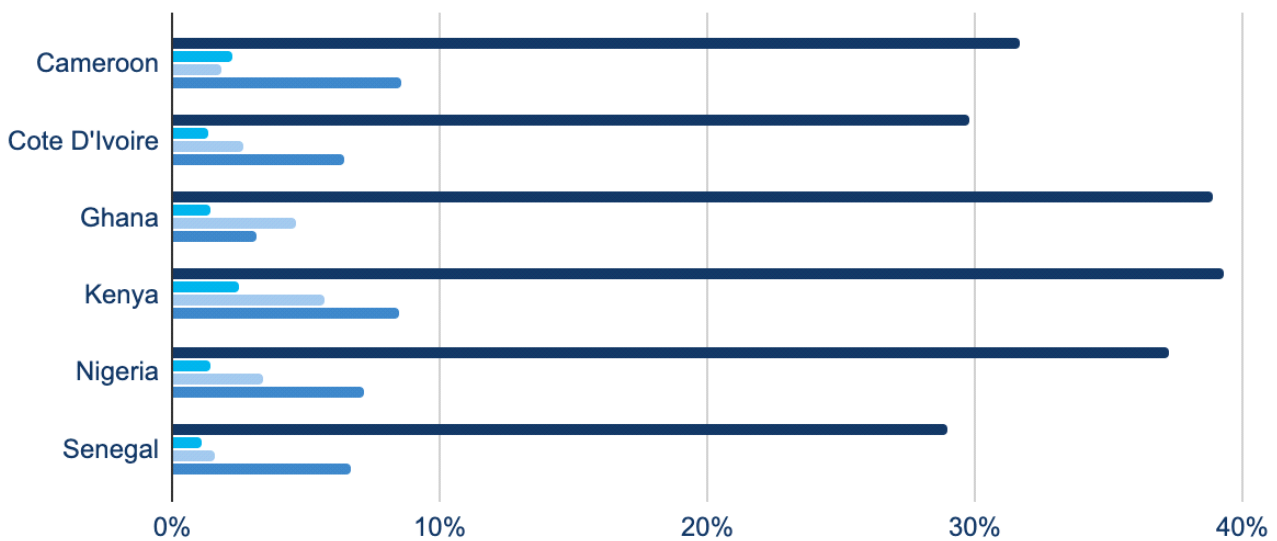
- Algeria
- Morocco
- Tunisia



Country comparison: Sub-Saharan Africa

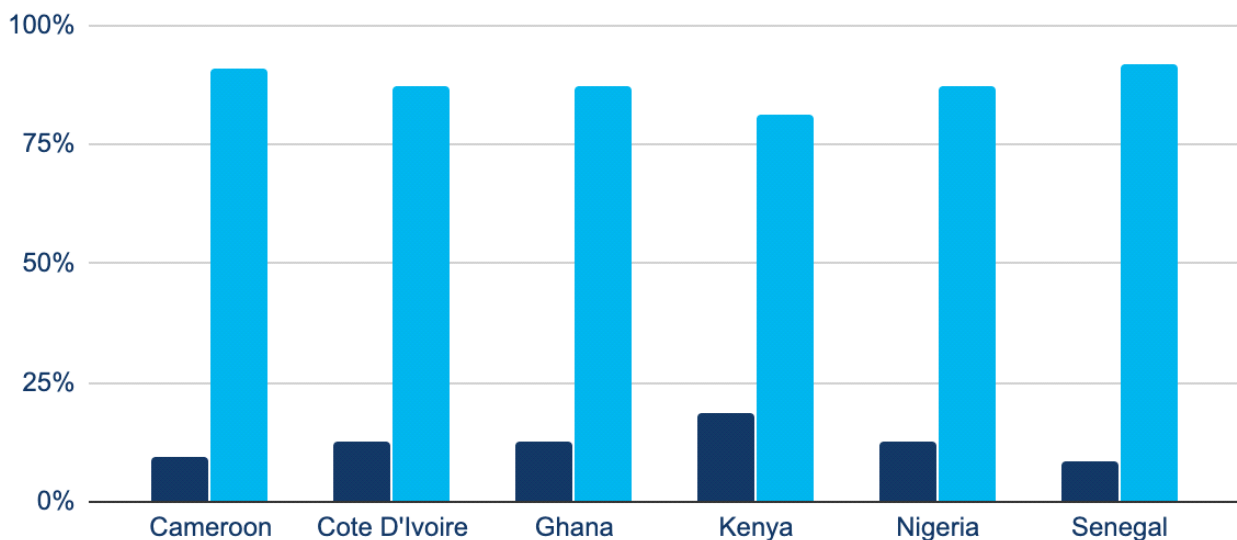
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?

- I had to postpone it.
- I changed my destination to another country with fewer cases of COVID-19.
- I no longer intend to study abroad.
- Other



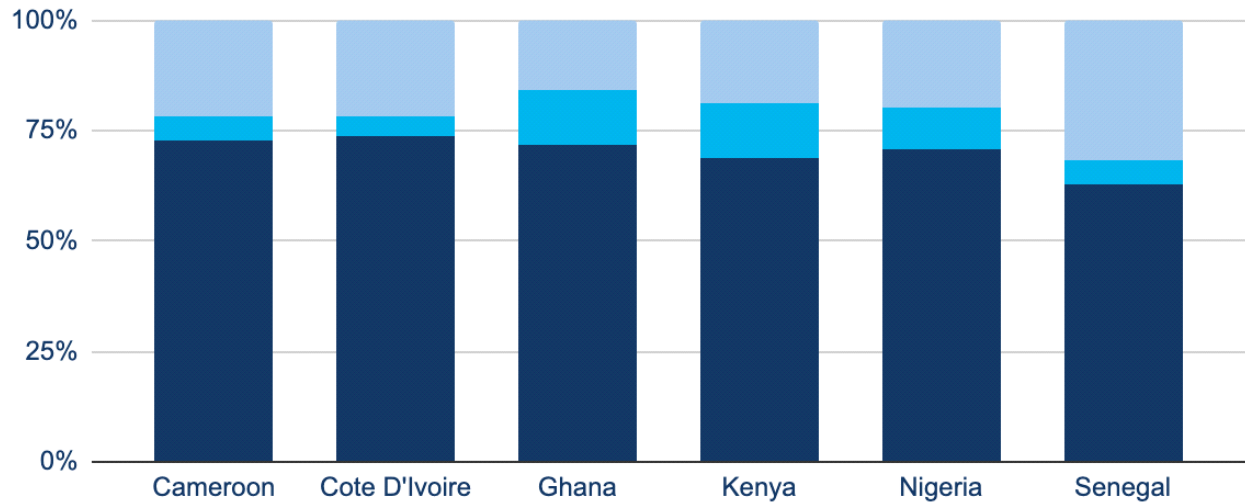
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?

- Yes, I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad.
- No, I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.



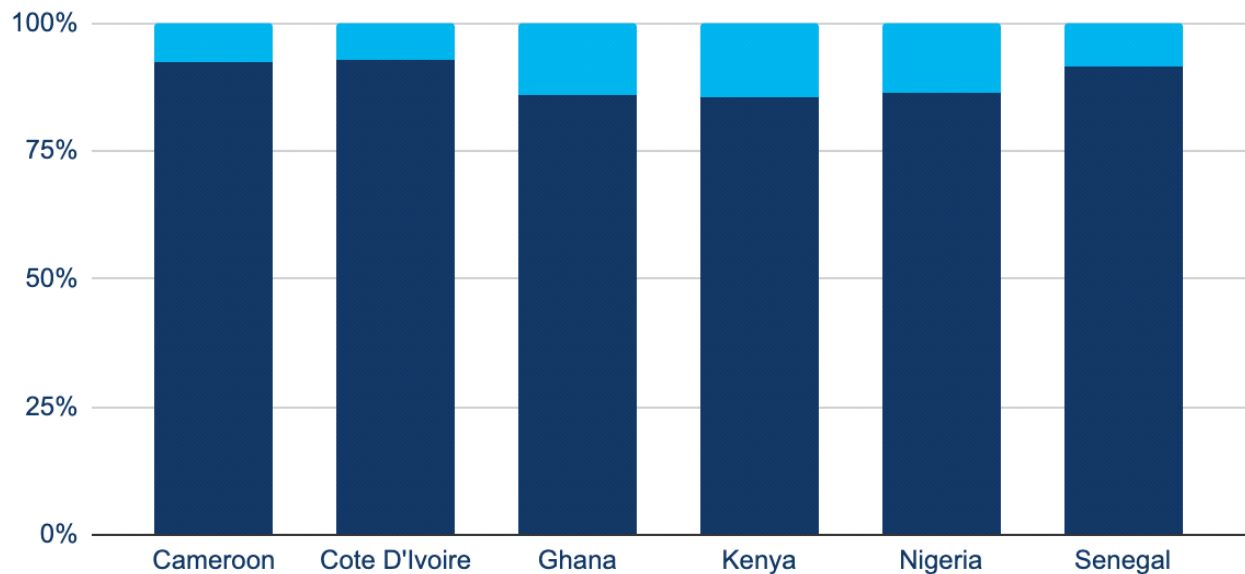
Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?

- It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.
- Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.
- Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.



Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?

- No
- Yes



Latin America

This paper will break Latin America into 3 regions: Brazil, Mexico, and “Latin America”. The Latin America region will include Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.

Overview and key findings

Students in [Brazil](#) have been most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, with just [24%](#) saying their plans have not been affected.

Throughout the region there is little interest in taking an online program - [Brazil](#) shows the lowest interest with just [17%](#) of students considering this option (although just [16%](#) of [Chilean](#) students are considering this, the region as a whole has a higher interest). [32%](#) of students in [Ecuador](#) would now consider an online program.

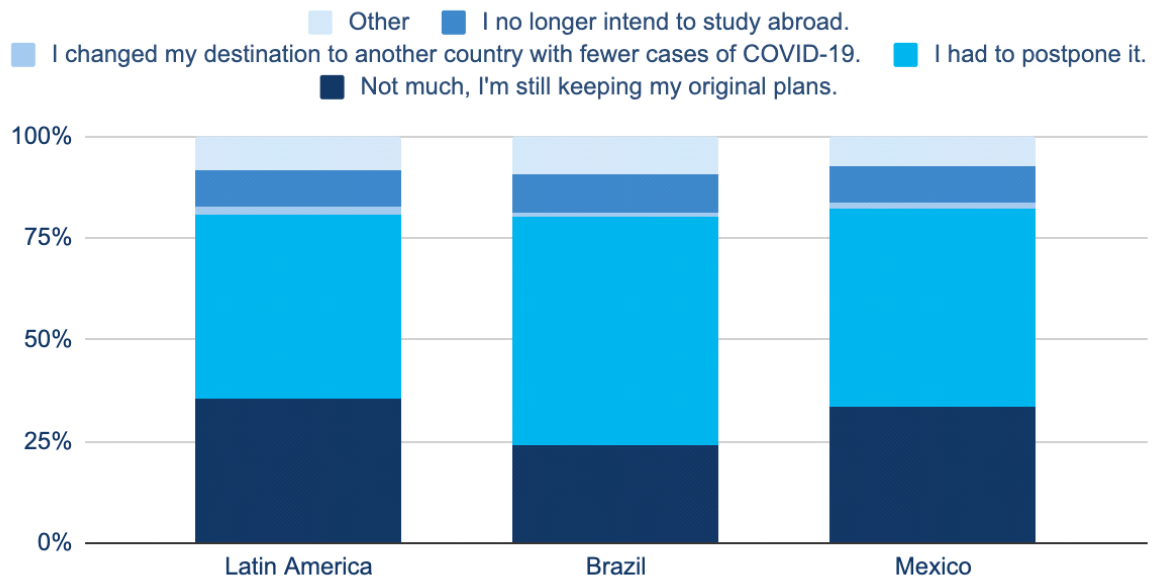
Students in [Brazil](#) also have seen the least impact on their budgets, though those that have been impacted here would prefer to study for a shorter period, rather than find a cheaper program.

Students throughout the region responded positively to the concept of a virtual event, with [74%](#) of [Brazilians](#), [86%](#) of [Mexicans](#) and an average of [87%](#) throughout the remaining [Latin American](#) countries saying they would take part in a virtual fair.

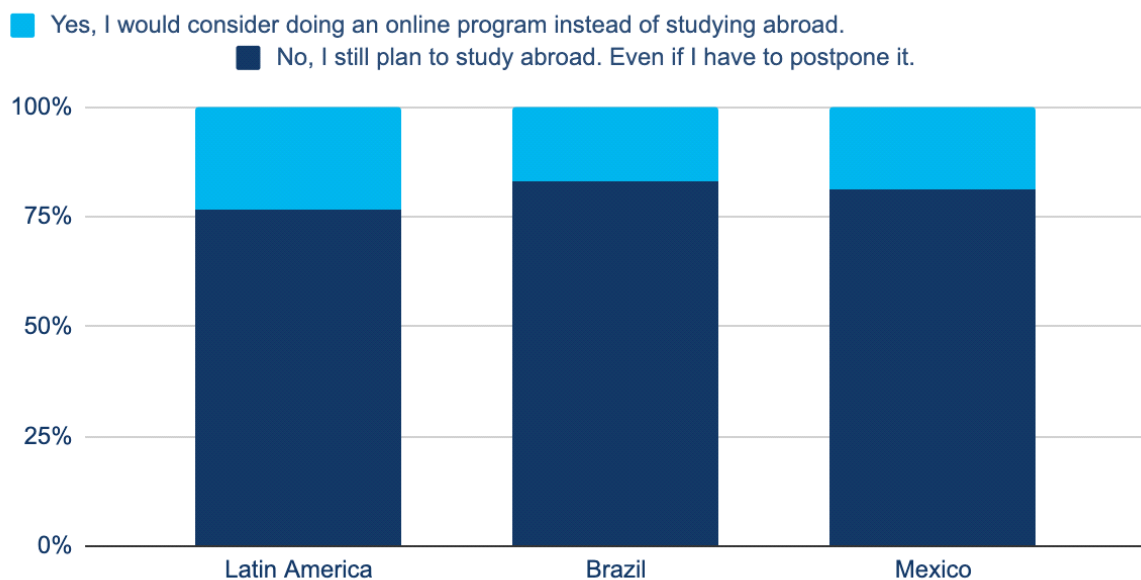
Where did students come from?

• Argentina	648	• Panama	551
• Chile	1,148	• Peru	1,957
• Colombia	3,309	• Brazil	4,592
• Ecuador	1,363	• Mexico	4,042

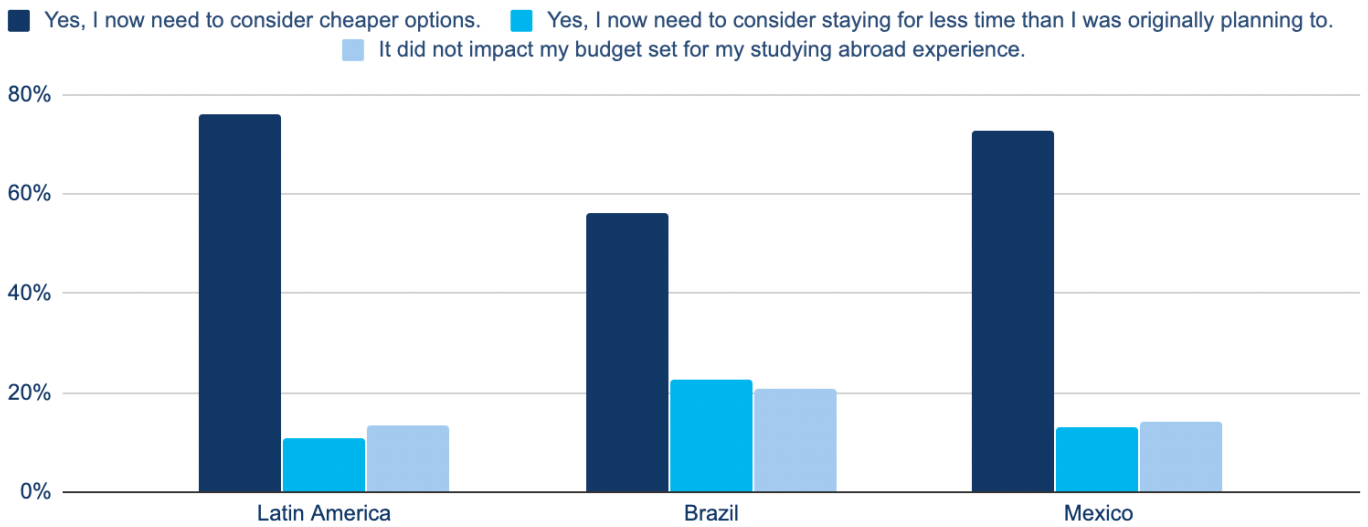
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?



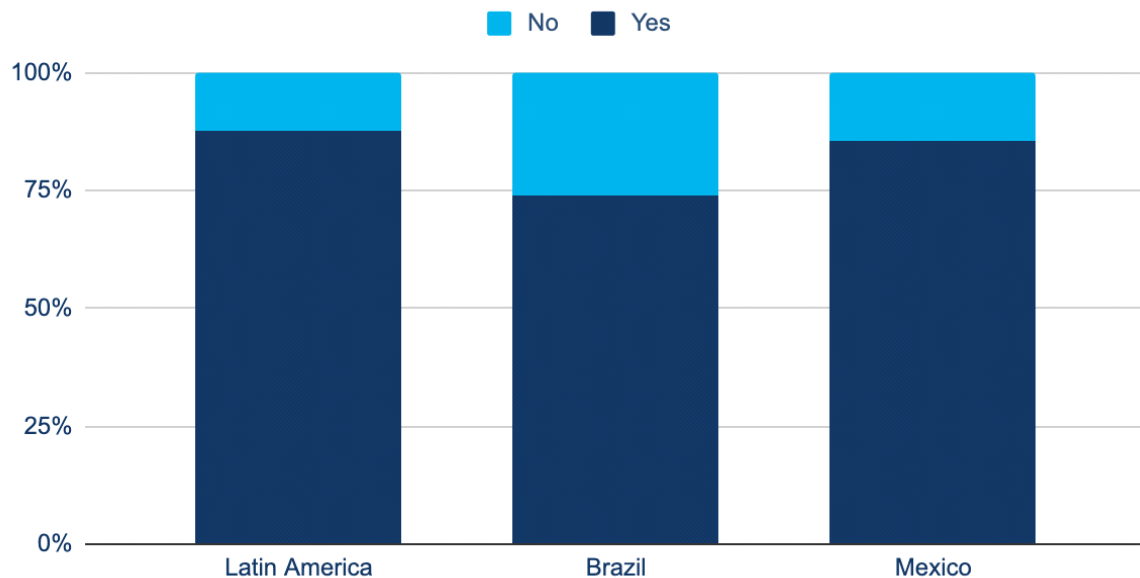
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?



Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?



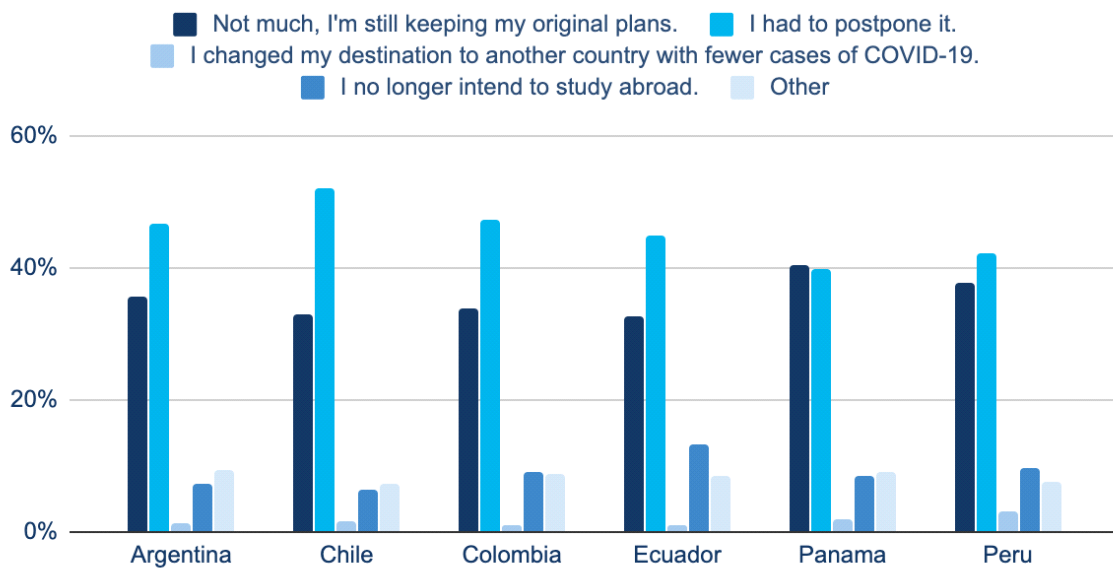
Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?



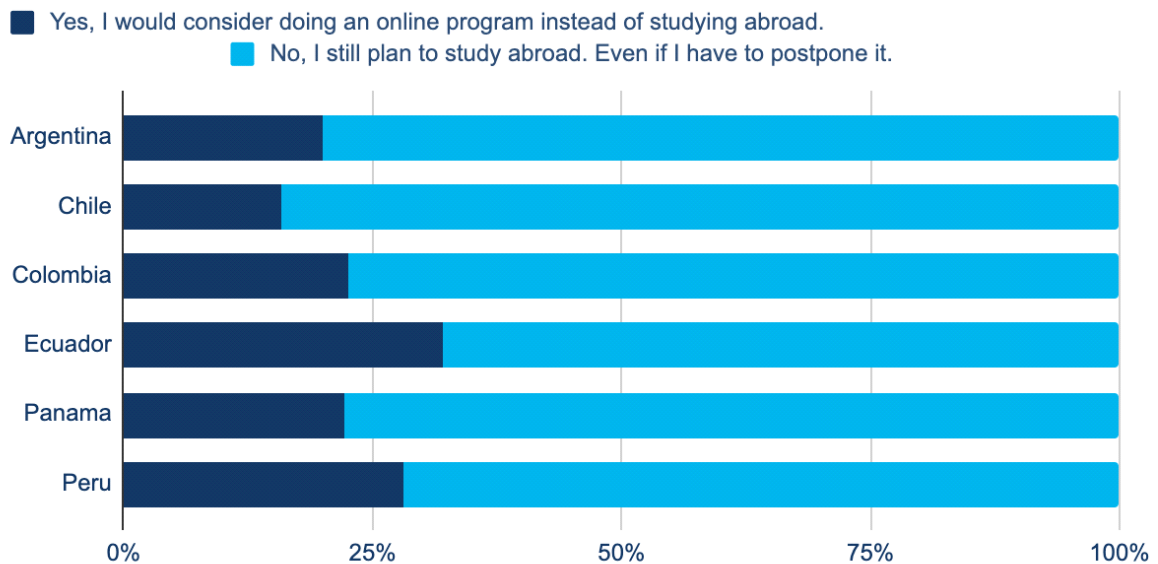
Country comparison: Latin America

A closer look at Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, and Peru.

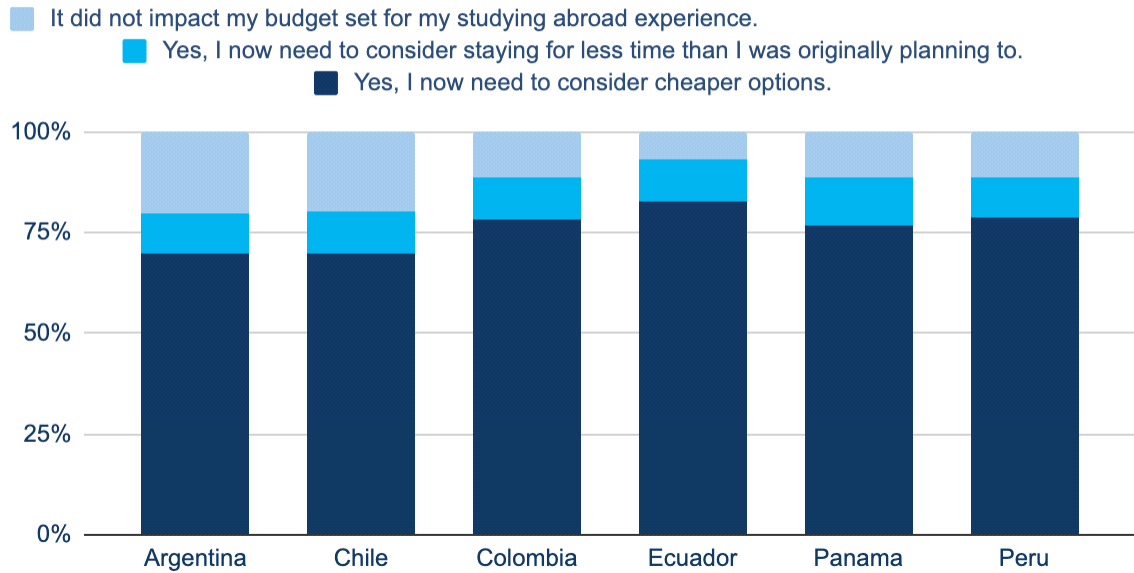
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?



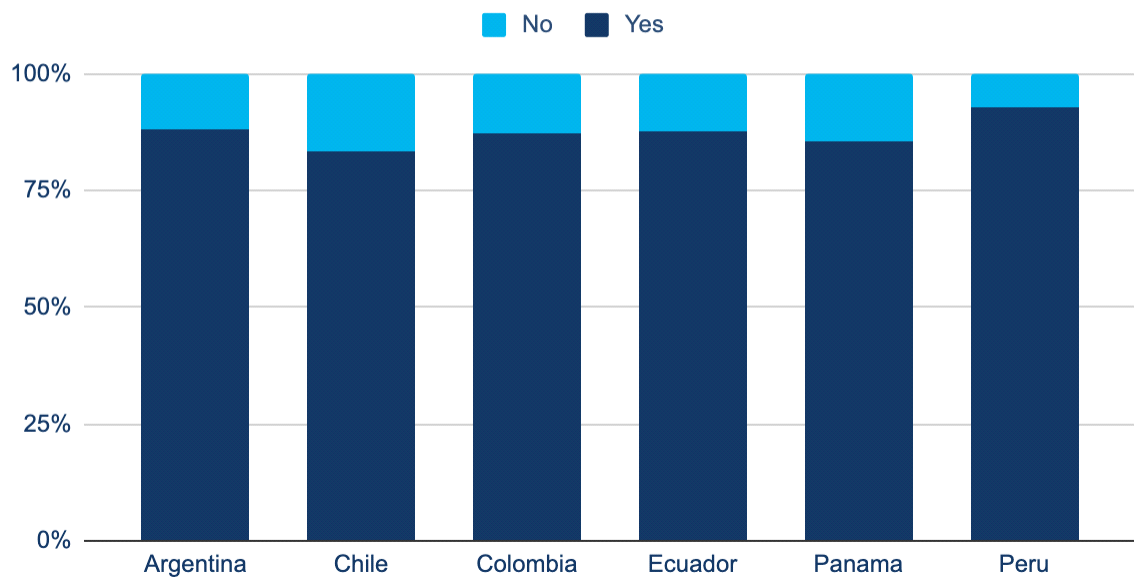
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?



Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?



Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?



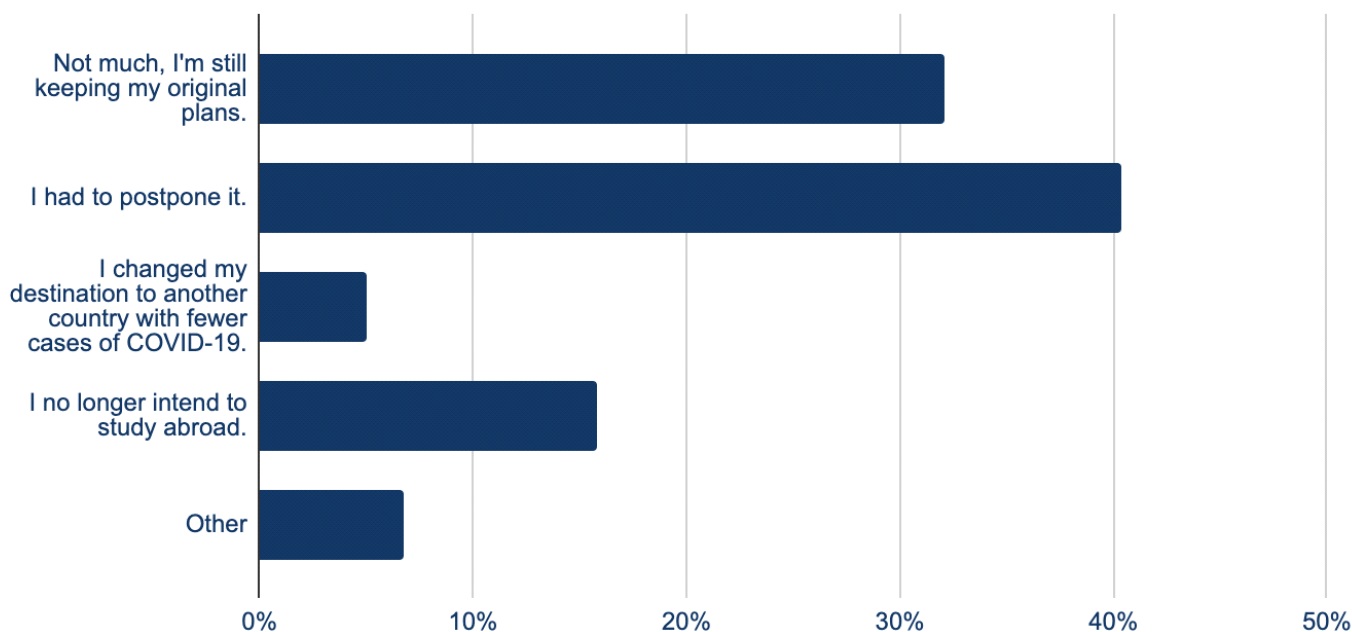
India

Overview and key findings

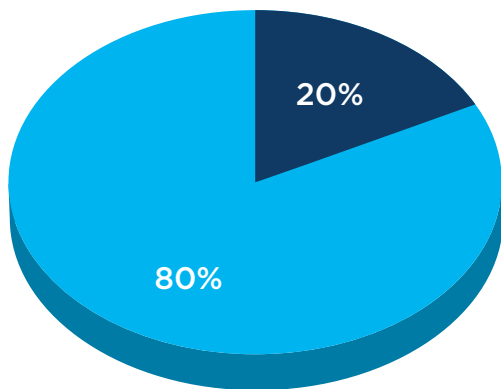
Students in [India](#) seem to be most put off the idea of studying abroad as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, with [16%](#) of survey respondents saying that they now no-longer intend to study abroad.

Only [73%](#) of Indian students say they would attend a Virtual Fair to meet international universities, the lowest response of any nation surveyed.

How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?

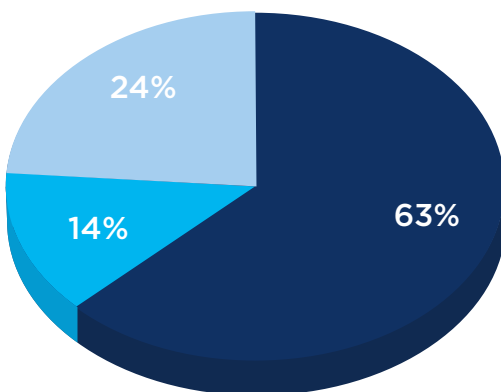


Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?



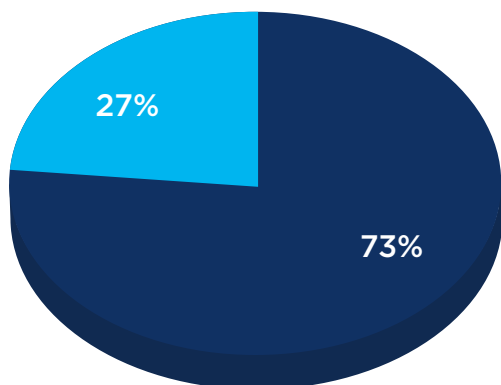
- Yes, I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad.
- No, I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.

Has the COVID-19 crisis, impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?



- Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.
- Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.
- It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.

Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE their representatives?



- Yes
- No

Africa

Country	Senegal	Tunisia	Algeria	Cameroon	Cote D'Ivoire	Ghana	Kenya	Morocco	Nigeria
Total number of reponses	1,157	273	433	656	746	347	402	617	1,528
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?									
Not much, I'm still keeping my original plans.	62%	48%	52%	56%	60%	52%	44%	55%	51%
I had to postpone it.	29%	38%	37%	32%	30%	39%	39%	29%	37%
I changed my destination to another country with fewer cases of COVID-19.	1%	4%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%
I no longer intend to study abroad.	2%	5%	4%	2%	3%	5%	6%	6%	3%
Other	7%	4%	6%	9%	6%	3%	8%	6%	7%
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?									
Yes, I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad.	8%	14%	14%	9%	13%	13%	19%	16%	13%
No, I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.	92%	86%	86%	91%	87%	87%	81%	84%	87%
When are you planning to start your course?									
The second semester of 2020.	18%	23%	20%	17%	26%	24%	21%	24%	27%
The first semester of 2021.	34%	28%	31%	38%	31%	35%	31%	30%	32%
The second semester of 2021.	7%	8%	9%	7%	8%	9%	11%	7%	10%
I don't know yet.	41%	42%	40%	39%	36%	32%	37%	40%	31%
Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?									
Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.	63%	61%	54%	73%	74%	72%	69%	51%	71%
Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.	5%	10%	10%	5%	4%	12%	12%	9%	9%
It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.	32%	30%	36%	22%	22%	16%	19%	40%	20%
Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?									
Yes	92%	87%	85%	92%	93%	86%	86%	84%	86%
No	8%	13%	15%	8%	7%	14%	14%	16%	14%

Latin America

Country	Argentina	Brazil	Colombia	Chile	Ecuador	Mexico	Panama	Peru
Total number of reponses	648	4,592	3,309	1,148	1,363	4,042	551	1,957
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?								
Not much, I'm still keeping my original plans.	36%	24%	34%	33%	33%	33%	40%	38%
I had to postpone it.	47%	57%	47%	52%	45%	49%	40%	42%
I changed my destination to another country with fewer cases of COVID-19.	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%
I no longer intend to study abroad.	7%	9%	9%	6%	13%	9%	9%	10%
Other	9%	9%	9%	7%	8%	7%	9%	8%
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?								
Yes, I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad.	20%	17%	23%	16%	32%	19%	22%	28%
No, I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.	80%	83%	77%	84%	68%	81%	78%	72%
When are you planning to start your course?								
The second semester of 2020.	9%	14%	14%	12%	20%	16%	12%	12%
The first semester of 2021.	21%	18%	25%	21%	24%	22%	22%	25%
The second semester of 2021.	20%	23%	22%	25%	22%	26%	21%	27%
I don't know yet.	50%	45%	38%	43%	35%	36%	45%	37%
Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?								
Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.	70%	56%	78%	70%	83%	73%	77%	79%
Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.	10%	23%	11%	11%	10%	13%	12%	10%
It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.	20%	21%	11%	20%	7%	14%	11%	11%
Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?								
Yes	88%	74%	87%	83%	88%	86%	85%	93%
No	12%	26%	13%	17%	12%	14%	15%	7%

India

Country	India
Total number of reponses	399
How has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your study abroad plans?	
Not much, I'm still keeping my original plans.	32%
I had to postpone it.	40%
I changed my destination to another country with fewer cases of COVID-19.	5%
I no longer intend to study abroad.	16%
Other	7%
Due to the COVID-19 crisis, would you consider replacing your study abroad program for an online program instead?	
Yes, I would consider doing an online program instead of studying abroad.	20%
No, I still plan to study abroad. Even if I have to postpone it.	80%
When are you planning to start your course?	
The second semester of 2020.	25%
The first semester of 2021.	18%
The second semester of 2021.	14%
I don't know yet.	43%
Has the COVID-19 crisis impacted your financial situation forcing you to adapt your study abroad plans?	
Yes, I now need to consider cheaper options.	63%
Yes, I now need to consider staying for less time than I was originally planning to.	14%
It did not impact my budget set for my studying abroad experience.	24%
Would you join an online event with international universities in order to chat LIVE with their representatives?	
Yes	73%
No	27%