

Summer 2020 Activities Report October 2020

The data from this report was compiled from the 2020 Summer Activities Survey, which was administered by the Office of Career Strategy (OCS) in early fall 2020. The survey was sent to 4536 students and was completed by 3639 students resulting in an 80.2% response rate. The results include enrolled students and the students on leave of absence during fall 2020 because of COVID-19.

It is important to note that a significant number of respondents reported more than one activity during the summer; therefore, an individual respondent may be counted twice in some of the analysis. For example, a student who split the summer between a paid internship and laboratory research would be counted in each of those categories. In total, 4657 summer activities were reported. For the purposes of this report, students are referred to by the class year in which they are returning after the summer experience. For example, a returning senior is a student in the Class of 2021 who completed a summer experience after junior year. Finally, it is important to note that not every respondent answered every question.

Summer Activities

When respondents were asked about their summer 2020 activities 53.6% of the activities reported were internships or paid jobs, while 22.1% were academic or language studies. Slightly more than eight percent of the activities reported were laboratory research. It is notable that most of these experiences were conducted remotely due to COVID-19.

Activity	Respondents
Internship, paid	25.0%
Internship, unpaid	17.6%
Paid job (e.g. camp counselor)	11.0%
Academic study other than language	17.6%
Research in a laboratory	8.2%
Language study	4.5%
Other (includes military training, athletic training, and traveling)	8.4%
Volunteer work	3.9%
Field research	1.1%
Research in a library	1.8%
Performance (theater, music, dance)	0.9%

Activities by Class Year

Students returning as juniors reported the largest number of activities. Almost 20% of returning juniors and approximately 20% of returning sophomores completed academic study, other than language in summer 2020.

Activity	Returning Seniors	Returning Juniors	Returning Sophomores
Total Activities	1208	1652	1548
Internship, paid	36.5%	26.4%	15.9%

Activity	Returning Seniors	Returning Juniors	Returning Sophomores
Internship, unpaid	15.9%	18.5%	17.8%
Paid job	8.1%	9.6%	14.2%
Language Study	1.3%	3.2%	7.8%
Research in a laboratory	10.5%	7.6%	7.4%
Academic Study other than language	11.3%	19.6%	19.8%
Other	8.1%	7.6%	9.4%
Volunteer work	3.7%	3.4%	4.5%
Field research	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%
Performance	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%
Research in a library	2.6%	1.9%	1.4%

Length of Activity

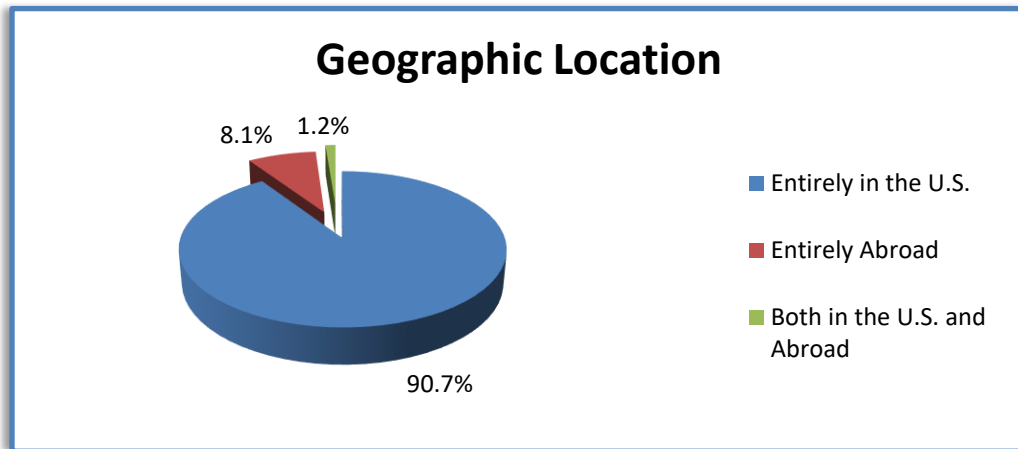
More than two-thirds of the activities reported (70.8%) were eight weeks or longer in duration. Among the activities reported as less than two weeks included job shadowing and performances.

Number of Weeks	Respondents
Less than two weeks	1.4%
2 Weeks	1.1%
3 Weeks	1.4%
4 Weeks	5.1%
5 Weeks	10.0%
6 Weeks	7.1%
7 Weeks	3.1%
8 Weeks	20.4%
9 Weeks or longer	50.4%

Summer Locations

Approximately ten percent (9.3%) of the activities reported were completely or partially outside the U.S. This was a significant decline compared to past years, due to COVID-19, and the students abroad were primarily students residing in their home countries. The top countries of choice for the summer were United Kingdom, Canada, China, Singapore, and India. Overall, students spent the summer in 63 countries outside the United States.

Summer 2020 was also unique among the activities reported in the United States as most students conducted remote activities from their home state. In total, students spent the summer in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and several U.S. territories.



Activities Abroad

When looking more closely at the activities outside the U.S., more than half (55.0%) were work-related, while 24.4% were study-related, and 6.8% were research activities.

Activity	Respondents
Internship, paid	25.9%
Internship, unpaid	23.4%
Academic Study other than language	15.6%
Language Study	8.8%
Other	7.8%
Paid job	5.8%
Volunteer work	5.0%
Research in a laboratory	4.0%
Research in a library	1.5%
Field research	1.3%
Performance	1.0%

Relationship to Academic Field of Study

When asked about the relationship of their summer activity to their academic field of study, 82.5% of respondents stated that their activity was related to their undergraduate field of study.

Was this summer activity related to your undergraduate field(s) of study?	Respondents
Highly related to field(s) of study	37.8%
Related to field(s) of study	26.9%
Slightly related to field(s) of study	17.8%
Not related to field(s) of study	17.5%

Funding

When students were asked how they funded their summer activities, more than thirty percent (31.9%) reported receiving funding through Yale in the form of a fellowship, grant, or the Domestic Summer Award (DSA). The DSA was expanded in 2020 to cover Yale Summer Session courses, and in total almost 20% of all activities were funded by the DSA. It is important to note that the International Summer Award (ISA) was not available during summer 2020 due to COVID-19.

How was this experience funded?	Respondents
Paid job or internship	34.7%
Self-funded	30.2%
Funded by Yale - Domestic Summer Award	17.4%
Funded by Yale - other fellowship, grant, etc.	14.5%
Funded by an organization other than Yale	3.2%

Summer Employment: Function (Role), Industry and Sector

Focusing more specifically on summer employment, OCS educates students about the difference between career function, industry and sector, and how to think about their career options in these terms. OCS encourages students to think about the functional area first, which is the actual job of interest, and next consider the industry in which they pursue that job (a micro to macro level approach). The following analysis looks at the summer 2020 employment choices in each of these ways.

Employment Choices by Function (Role)

It is notable that there is no single function that attracts Yale students as a critical mass. This is consistent with the liberal arts education provided at Yale College through which students gain valuable transferable skills attractive to every role. The below chart represents the 31 functional areas with 10 or more respondents.

Employment by Function (Role)	Respondents
Research (Policy, Academic, Literary)	12.3%
Finance	11.1%
Teaching/Curriculum Development	7.8%
Writing/Editing	5.4%
Programming/Software Development	5.1%
Data Science/Data Analytics	5.0%
Operations	4.9%
Engineering	4.8%
Consulting	4.5%
Advocacy/Campaigning/Lobbying	4.0%
Marketing/Product Management	3.3%
Research: Laboratory	3.1%
Project Management	3.0%
Health Services/Healthcare	2.9%
Sales	2.7%
Business Development	2.3%

Employment by Function (Role)	Respondents
Office Administrative/Support Services	2.3%
Advertising/Public Relations	2.2%
Law	2.1%
Visual Arts (Graphic Design, Painting, Photography, Sculpture)	1.4%
Entertainment (Film/TV, Theatre, Music)	1.3%
Outdoor Education	1.3%
Fundraising/Development	1.2%
Sustainability/Social Responsibility	1.1%
Arts Administration (Museums, Galleries)	0.8%
Broadcasting/Journalism	0.7%
Human Resources	0.7%
IT Technical Support	0.7%
Entrepreneur	0.5%
Architecture/Urban Planning	0.4%
Sports Management	0.4%

Employment Choices by Industry

Looking at choices by industry, it is again evident that students pursue many areas and there is no one industry that attracts Yale students as a critical mass.

Employment by Industry	Respondents
Academia/Education (including University research positions)	17.7%
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	13.4%
Technology	8.0%
Healthcare/Pharmaceutical/Biotech/Global Health	7.8%
Community Organizations Advocacy/Social Services	7.2%
Consulting	4.0%
Government (including local, state, federal and military service)	4.0%
Law/Legal Services	3.7%
Engineering	3.1%
Food Systems	3.1%
Publishing/Media/Journalism	3.1%
Political Campaigns	2.9%
Environment	2.7%
Consumer Products/Retail	2.5%
Communications/Marketing/Advertising/PR	2.3%
Entertainment/Film/Television	2.1%
Social Enterprise/Economic Development	1.8%

Employment by Industry	Respondents
Think Tank	1.6%
Hospitality	1.5%
Arts Administration	1.1%
Theatre/Music/Performing Arts	1.0%
Foundation/Association	0.9%
Professional Sports	0.8%
Architecture/Design/Urban Planning	0.8%
Fine & Visual Arts	0.8%
International Development	0.8%
Religious Institution	0.8%
Energy/Oil and Gas/Power	0.5%
Industrial/Manufacturing	0.4%

Employment Choices by Sector

Slightly less than half (46.3%) of the employment activities were with a for-profit company, while more than half (53.7%) were with a non-profit organization, NGO, government or other public agency.

Employment by Sector	Respondents
For-profit corporation/company	46.3%
Non-profit organization, institution or NGO (e.g., arts, human services, private universities and campaigns)	44.0%
Government or other public institution (including public schools and public universities)	9.7%

Time of Year Secured Employment

More than two-thirds (68.6%) of respondents secured their summer employment during the spring semester or later, and more than half secured their position in March or later.

