

# CASSIE

The Consortium for Analysis of Student  
Success through International Education



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# What is CASSIE?

National collaborative led by the University System of Georgia to:

- Conduct rigorous research assessing the contribution of international education to college completion
  - Education abroad, advanced foreign language study, Title VI programs
- Provide participating campuses info about how outcomes for students in international education compare to similar institutions
- Build capacity among participating campuses for collaboration between IR and International Education offices to promote better assessment
- Create a sustainable consortium to expand scope after grant completed



# CASSIE Overview

- Funded by 3-year Title VI grant from US DOE, Office of International and Foreign Language Education
- Led by University System of Georgia in partnership with Institute of International Education (Open Doors folks)
- Evaluate the relationship between students' participation in international education and their academic outcomes
  - Likelihood of graduating in 4 or 6 years
  - Time to degree
  - Achievement as reflected in GPA



# Why Participate?

1. Be part of a national research partnership that is likely to exert major impact on international education for years to come.
2. Forge intentional linkage between offices of international education and IR on your campus to enhance evidence-based practices.
3. Receive confidential reports that visualize the value international education adds to your institution relative to a large sample of other schools.
4. Participate in a co-laboratory that demonstrates to accreditors and stakeholders rigorous use of student outcome data for quality improvement.



# Significance of International Education in Higher Education

## Education Abroad

- 325,339 U.S. students studied abroad in 2015-16
  - 19% increase from 2010
- 10% of all U.S. undergraduate students study abroad
  - 15.5% of Bachelor's degree seekers studied abroad before graduating

## Foreign Language & Title VI Programs

- 1,417,921 course enrollments in languages other than English in Fall 2016
  - 7.5 course enrollments per 100 students
- Title VI + Language Flagship
  - Foreign Language and Area Studies, International Research and Studies, Language Institutes



# Assessment Efforts in International Education

- Historically research on education abroad pertains to demographic, academic, and program design factors relating to participation rates
- More research has examined outcomes:
  - Intercultural sensitivity and personal growth
  - Knowledge and skills acquired abroad
  - Impacts on personal traits such as self-efficacy
  - Proficiency in world languages
  - Post-graduation international careers
  - Timely graduation
    - Supposition has been that education abroad has negative impact on semesters to graduation, especially for students at risk and students enrolled in “lock-step” STEM and pre-professional degree programs



# Assessment Efforts in International Education

- Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative (GLOSSARI)
  - U.S. DOE International Research & Studies Program Grant 2006-10
  - Students from Georgia public institutions
  - Identify characteristics that predict study abroad participation
  - Identify cognitive learning outcomes and academic impact of study abroad
  - Found that education abroad increases probability of timely graduation, especially for African American students
- CASSIE builds on GLOSSARI by:
  - Broadening scope to include language study and Title VI participation
  - Including institutions beyond USG
  - Using refined econometric and statistical techniques



# CASSIE Research Questions

- How do international education experiences impact:
  - Probability of graduating in 4/6 years
  - Time and credit hours to degree completion
  - GPA
- Is there a differential impact for:
  - STEM students
  - Minority students
  - Students with financial need
  - Program features (duration of education abroad, language of instruction, etc.)



# CASSIE-Sampling Strategy

- Participating institutions asked to provide term-by-term data on:
  - Prior academic achievement-SAT, high school GPA
  - Demographic characteristics-Sex, Race/Ethnicity, Pell receipt
  - Int'l Ed Experiences-Education abroad, foreign language study, Title VI
  - Academic progress-Hours earned, degrees awarded, college GPA
- Population
  - All IPEDS First Time Freshman in Fall 2010 and Fall 2011 who sought an Associate's, Bachelor's, or Bachelor's with combined Master's
  - All students, not just those with international ed. experience, to create treated and control groups



# CASSIE Methodology

- Participation in international education experiences is self-selected
  - Impact on student outcomes may not be due to the international education experience itself, but other unobserved factors the student possesses
  - Simple comparison of treated and control can result in biased estimates
- Exact and Propensity Score Matching
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Step: Predict probability (aka PS) of participating using demographic and prior academic characteristics
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Step: Match students who attend the same school that have similar PS, but differ in their international education experiences
  - Key Assumption: Conditional on PS, treatment is “randomly” assigned.



# CASSIE Data Security

- Only de-identified data collected
- Database housed in USG data warehouse, which currently stores USG student-level data for 26 institutions
- Stored in an Oracle 12.1.02 database managed and monitored with Oracle Enterprise Manager 13C
- Oracle Transparent Database Encryption (TDE) is used to encrypt all sensitive data at the database table level
- Transmission of datasets from participating institutions via the USG's secure file transfer utility system, MoveIT
- Statistical analyses in STATA and SPSS software



# How To Participate in CASSIE

- Visit CASSIE website: <https://www.usg.edu/cassie/>
  - Rationale, research questions
  - Sampling strategy, data definitions
  - Data submission will likely require work between your school's International Education Office and Institutional Research office
  - Building consortium that provides reciprocal value to partner institutions (e.g., benchmarking reports, tailored studies)
- Email Institute of International Education [iieresearch@iie.org](mailto:iieresearch@iie.org) to arrange informational meeting.



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# Contact

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