

Yale College Summer Activities: A Four Year Report
Summer 2013 – Summer 2016

In the summer of 2013, the Office of Career Strategy (OCS) assumed management of the Summer Activities Survey, and since then has produced an annual report presenting the range of summer activities pursued by Yale College students. Each individual summer report is available on the OCS website. This report brings together the summer activities data collected in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 and discusses notable trends during this time span.

It is important to note that a significant number of Yale College students report more than one activity during the summer; therefore, an individual respondent may be counted twice in some of the analysis. For example, a student that split his or her summer between a paid internship and laboratory research would be counted in each of those categories. In total, 13,154 summer activities were reported during the 2013-2016 timespan. For the purposes of this report, students are referred to by the class year in which they returned after the summer experience. Finally, it is important to note that not every respondent answered every question.

Summer Activities

When looking at choices of Yale College students over these four years, a steady increase in paid internships and a similar decline in unpaid internships is evident. One important factor is that during this time the United States economy was continuing to recover from a recession, which may account for the increase in paid positions. Also during this four-year span, there were slight decreases in students pursuing laboratory research and language study.

Type of Activity	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Internship, paid	24.9%	27.4%	28.8%	28.9%
Internship, unpaid	17.1%	15.0%	14.1%	14.9%
Paid job (e.g. camp counselor)	11.6%	12.4%	11.7%	13.5%
Academic Study other than language	10.9%	10.7%	10.4%	11.5%
Research in a laboratory	11.3%	11.0%	10.8%	9.5%
Language Study	10.4%	10.2%	11.1%	8.9%
Other (e.g. military training, athletic training, time off)	4.2%	5.5%	5.0%	4.1%
Field research	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%	2.8%
Volunteer work	3.9%	2.9%	3.0%	2.8%
Research in a library	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.6%
Performance (e.g. theater, music, dance)	2.2%	1.3%	1.4%	1.5%

Summer Locations

Over this four-year period, there was an increase in the number of students choosing opportunities in the United States, climbing from 63.7% in summer 2013 to 69.1% in summer 2016. Across all four years, the most popular destinations in the U.S. were the same five states: Connecticut, New York, California, Washington, D.C., and Massachusetts.

Of the activities reported abroad during this time, the top countries of choice consistently included China, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Spain. It is notable that Brazil was one of the top 5 countries in the summer of 2014, during which time the country hosted the FIFA World Cup Tournament.

Location	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Entirely in the U.S. (and territories)	63.7%	65.7%	67.4%	69.1%
Entirely abroad	31.4%	29.8%	28.4%	27.8%
Both in the U.S. and abroad	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	3.1%

Length of Activity

Throughout the summers of 2013-2016, respondents consistently reported approximately two-thirds of the activities to be eight weeks or longer in duration. Among the activities reported as less than two weeks included job shadowing and performances.

Number of Weeks	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Less than two weeks	2.5%	1.7%	1.7%	2.1%
2 Weeks	2.8%	2.4%	1.9%	2.4%
3 Weeks	2.8%	2.7%	1.8%	3.6%
4 Weeks	4.8%	6.1%	5.8%	6.0%
5 Weeks	8.5%	8.1%	7.9%	8.2%
6 Weeks	8.1%	9.2%	8.3%	9.6%
7 Weeks	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%
8 Weeks	20.8%	19.9%	21.7%	19.2%
9 Weeks or longer	45.8%	46.3%	47.3%	45.5%

Funding

Similar to the increasing trend of students choosing paid internships, during these four years an increasing number of respondents reported funding their experience through a paid job or internship.

How was this experience funded?	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Paid job or internship	31.9%	33.8	36.7%	39.9%
Self-funded	28.0%	27.4%	29.7%	27.5%
Funded by Yale (e.g. fellowship or grant)	24.6%	21.9%	19.9%	20.5%
Funded by Yale - International Summer Award (ISA)	10.4%	11.8%	8.1%	7.3%
Funded by an organization other than Yale	5.1%	5.1%	5.7%	4.8%

Summer Employment: Function (Role), Industry and Sector

Focusing more specifically on summer employment, OCS educates students about the difference between career function and industry, and how to think about their career options in these terms. In particular, 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).

Employment Choices by Function (Role)

Comparing the four summers, it is notable that no single function attracts Yale students as a critical mass, which is consistent with a liberal arts education through which students gain valuable transferable skills attractive to every role. Over this four-year period, students pursuing roles in finance and teaching increased, while roles in marketing and project management stayed relatively the same. The below chart represents the top ten functional areas over these four summers. Please view the individual summer reports on the OCS website to see a full list of functional areas pursued by Yale College students.

Function	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Finance	7.5%	7.3%	11.2%	12.5%
Administrative / Support Services	8.6%	9.6%	6.6%	10.5%
Teaching/Curriculum Development	6.5%	7.2%	9.5%	9.9%
Writing / Editing	8.1%	9.1%	4.5%	7.6%
Consulting	4.4%	5.0%	4.7%	6.8%
Project Management	5.7%	5.5%	5.2%	5.1%
Health Services / Healthcare	2.2%	2.3%	2.6%	4.6%
Law	3.0%	2.2%	4.1%	4.3%
Marketing / Product Management	4.3%	4.5%	3.9%	4.2%

Function	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Engineering	2.3%	2.2%	3.9%	3.9%
Programming / Software Development	3.4%	3.1%	4.4%	3.8%

Employment Choices by Industry

Looking at choices by industry, it is again evident that there is no one industry that attracts Yale students as a critical mass. During this four-year span, gradually more students chose positions in education, financial services, healthcare and technology; while slightly fewer students chose positions in consulting. The boost in students pursuing positions with government entities in summer 2016 is notable and likely due to the 2016 elections. The below chart represents the top ten industries over these four summers. Please view the individual summer reports on the OCS website to see a full list of industries pursued by Yale College students.

Employment by Industry	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Education (including University research positions)	9.0%	8.8%	13.8%	15.1%
Financial Services	9.5%	8.2%	15.3%	13.5%
Healthcare/Medical/Pharmaceutical	7.2%	8.4%	8.5%	8.7%
Technology	4.7%	6.9%	7.4%	7.7%
Government (including local, state federal and military)	7.2%	5.0%	5.4%	7.8%
Community/Social Services	7.0%	5.8%	7.4%	5.9%
Consulting	5.6%	5.4%	5.2%	4.7%
Law/Legal Services	5.0%	3.0%	4.5%	4.6%
Consumer Products/Retail	1.5%	0.9%	3.2%	4.2%
Fine or Performing Arts	2.7%	2.1%	3.4%	4.1%

Employment Choices by Sector (Summer 2016 Only)

In the summer of 2016, OCS added a question for respondents to identify the Sector in which they worked, which will provide interesting comparison data for the future. Slightly more than half (50.4%) of respondents worked at a for-profit company, while almost half (49.6%) worked with a non-profit organization, NGO, government or other public agency.

Employment by Sector	Summer 2016
For-profit corporation/company	50.4%
Non-profit organization, institution or NGO (e.g., arts, human services, private universities and campaigns)	36.1%

Employment by Sector	Summer 2016
Government or other public institution (including public schools and public universities)	13.5%

Time of Year Secured Employment

OCS strives to educate students about the different hiring timelines of various industries, which results in students securing positions at different times of the year. Throughout the 2013-2016 summers, this was evident as the vast majority of students secured their summer positions during the spring semester.

Month Secured	Summer 2013	Summer 2014	Summer 2015	Summer 2016
Held Position Previously	6.8%	5.3%	4.5%	11.3%
Sept/Oct	0.8%	1.4%	1.1%	2.2%
Nov/Dec	2.5%	3.8%	5.2%	6.3%
Jan/Feb	16.2%	20.4%	19.0%	15.1%
March/April	52.3%	48.5%	47.6%	44.1%
May/June	20.1%	18.8%	20.9%	18.5%
July or later	1.3%	1.7%	1.7%	2.6%