2014 Leavetaking Survey

“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving” – Terry Pratchett, A Hat Full of Sky

Approximately 200 students each year take a leave of absence

Motivations for taking leave include

Medical 19%
Itching for Adventure 23%
Exhaustion with College Hill 16%
Exhaustion with Academics 19%
Job Opportunities 12%
Financial Considerations 8%
Following a Loved One Into the Light 2%

Regions of the world visited on leave

USA 52%
Europe 9%
Asia 12%
Providence, RI 5%
South America 11%
Central America 6%
Middle East 2%
Africa 3%
Australia/NZ 2%

Nature of Leave?

Paid 27%
Volunteer 30%
Internship 21%
Research 13%
Bum 21%
Was your academic life benefited by taking leave?
76% say yes

Was your social life benefited by taking leave?
74% say yes

Are you more enlightened now than when you left Brown?
86% say yes

My time away from Brown let me contemplate what my time AT Brown really means to me.

I finally remembered what it was like to not be stressed.

It was nothing I expected and everything I could have hoped for.

My time away actually played a significant role in deciding what I want to do as a career. It gave me experience into a field that isn't offered at all at Brown or anywhere nearby Brown.

Having to leave Brown was very much a blessing in disguise. I had a lot going on personally and academically before I left, and was feeling really lost and extremely disengaged. Time away from Brown put my educational experience there in perspective and renewed my love for Brown. I would HIGHLY suggest that anyone who is feeling disengaged take a semester or two of leave. I feel that it is so important, given all of the money and time we put into our Brown education, that while there you are 100% in it and taking advantage of it. I wish that I had taken a semester of leave earlier!!

Being at Brown is an amazing experience, but it might take a little bit of distance and contemplation to realize how truly fortunate you are.

I was able to find myself and learned how to live my life better, just doing me, not what I thought other people wanted me to do.