

The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act

A quality education is a global education. Unfortunately, too many students are graduating college without the global skills needed to thrive in the global economy. We know that over 80% of college freshmen want to study abroad, yet only 10% of students study abroad before they graduate, and minority students are greatly underrepresented within those numbers. The Simon Program provides a path to correct this imbalance.

U.S. STUDY ABROAD CONTRIBUTES TO...

Student Success

HIGHER GRADUATION RATES

Four-year graduation rates are **18% HIGHER** for students who study abroad!

HIGHER GPA

Studying abroad has been shown to **INCREASE** a student's GPA?

MORE EMPLOYABLE

75% of companies said a **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE** was important for their staff³

U.S. STUDY ABROAD CONTRIBUTES TO...

The Nation

AMERICAN WORKERS

36 MILLION JOBS in the United States are tied to international trade⁴

86% BELIEVE BUSINESS WOULD INCREASE if more staff had international experience³

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Students who study abroad show **GREATER IMPROVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE SKILLS**^{5,6}

ENLIGHTENED CITIZENSHIP

Studying abroad develops a greater **APPRECIATION OF U.S. CULTURE** and less fear of others⁷

What Americans Believe ...

90 % OF VOTERS AGREE that our nation needs an education system that produces **globally competent graduates who understand other cultures and languages.**⁸

83 % OF VOTERS AGREE that our nation is **better off when more of our students are internationally educated** and understand other cultures and languages.⁸

75 % OF VOTERS AGREE that **studying abroad, learning foreign languages, and learning about other cultures are essential** to the American educational experience.⁸

Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act

NAFSA has long advocated for a new federal study abroad grant program to incentivize colleges and universities to remove the barriers that keep students from studying abroad. The Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act, introduced in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), would create such a program with four key objectives:

ENSURE

at least **1,000,000 students** study abroad every year.

INCREASE

the **diversity of students** studying abroad to reflect the undergraduate population.

ENCOURAGE

a greater portion of study abroad to occur in **nontraditional study abroad locations.**

STRENGTHEN

the **commitment of colleges and universities** to expand study abroad opportunities.

We urge Congress to **pass the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act** and make **meaningful study abroad opportunities a reality** for all college students.

