

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 college students want to study abroad,¹ yet only 10% of students study abroad before they graduate. Even further, minority students are greatly underrepresented within those numbers.² 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.³

HIGHER GPA

Studying abroad has been shown to **INCREASE** a student's GPA.⁴

MORE EMPLOYABLE

MORE THAN 31 MILLION job openings require skills that come from studying abroad.⁵

U.S. STUDY ABROAD CONTRIBUTES TO...

The Nation

AMERICAN WORKERS

39 MILLION JOBS in the United States are tied to international trade.⁶

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

Students who study abroad show **GREATER IMPROVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE SKILLS.**⁷

ENLIGHTENED CITIZENSHIP

Studying abroad develops a greater **APPRECIATION OF U.S. CULTURE** and less fear of others.⁸

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NAFSA has long advocated for a 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 would pursue 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.