

THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

ENGAGING FUTURE LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD AND ADVANCING KEY U.S. FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES

Over **1 million** international students studied at U.S. universities and colleges in 2018-2019. More than **300,000** exchange visitors come to the United States on privately funded programs each year to experience American culture and society. Programs funded by the U.S. Department of State provide over **55,000** participants the opportunity for an exchange each year. Over **341,751** Americans studied abroad for academic credit in 2017-2018, and **15,000+** travel abroad every year as exchange participants.



SUPPORT U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY STRENGTHEN THE U.S. ECONOMY INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

- ▶ Participants from more than **200** countries and territories visit the United States each year, many from countries critical to U.S. foreign policy, such as: Brazil, China, India, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.¹ (See map above for 2019 numbers)
- ▶ Notable exchange alumni include: **583** current or former heads of foreign governments, **84** Nobel Prize winners, **64** representatives to the United Nations, **31** heads of international organizations, **97** current or former members of the U.S. Congress.

- ▶ International students contributed **\$41** billion to the U.S. economy and supported over **458,290** jobs during the 2018-2019 academic year.²
- ▶ **90%** of ECA's appropriation is spent in the United States or invested directly in American citizens or American organizations.³
- ▶ **70%** of host organizations participate to bring a unique cultural dimension to the work place.⁴
- ▶ Over **1.6 million** hours of community service were completed by exchange participants and U.S. hosts.⁵

- ▶ **94%** of exchange students from Muslim-majority countries reported having a deeper, favorable view of American culture after their year in the U.S.⁶
- ▶ **90%** of voters in a 2016 poll agreed that our nation needs an education system that produces educators, business leaders, and diplomats who understand other cultures and languages.⁷
- ▶ A review of **29** reports on public diplomacy revealed that the most common recommendation was to increase funding for, and opportunities to engage in, exchange programs.⁸

1 U.S. Department of State, eca.state.gov/impact

2 NAFSA Economic Analysis 2018-2019 Academic Year

3 Royce, Marie. "Exchange Programs are a two-way street when it comes to commerce and industry." American Foreign Service Association website, January 2019.

4 Eureka Facts Review Report "Intern and Trainee Program," 2018

5 U.S. Department of State Exchange Evaluations

6 U.S. Department of State: evaluation of the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program

7 Public Opinion Poll Commissioned by NAFSA: <https://tinyurl.com/zbwprv7>

8 Congressional Research Service (CRS) review

#EXCHANGESIMPACT

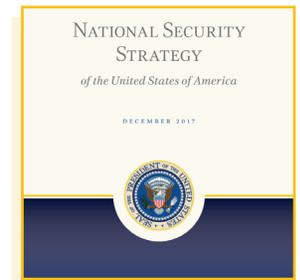


“Each year 40,000 State Department-sponsored participants and more than 300,000 private sector sponsored participants, who are overseen by the State Department on programs like Camp Counselor and Summer Work Travel, bring direct economic benefits to the American people, while contributing to our nation’s security. Well over 90 percent of ECA’s appropriation is spent in the United States or invested directly in American citizens or American organizations.”

– Assistant Secretary of State Marie Royce
The Foreign Service Journal, January/February 2019

“Diplomats must identify opportunities for commerce and cooperation, and facilitate the cultural, educational, and people-to-people exchanges that create the networks of current and future political, civil society, and educational leaders who will extend a free and prosperous world....”

– U.S. National Security Strategy, December 2017



“Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Senate— (1) recognizes that international education and exchange programs— (A) enhance national security; (B) further United States foreign policy goals and economic competitiveness; and (C) promote mutual understanding and cooperation among nations;...”

– Senate Resolution 357
Agreed to by U.S. Senate, December 12, 2017

“Whereas international students consistently have a positive impact on the economy and job creation in every State and congressional district, according to economic analysis by NAFSA: Association of International Educators using international student enrollment data by the Institute of International Education in partnership with the Department of State and tuition data from the Department of Education; Whereas this analysis shows that international students studying at United States colleges and universities contributed nearly \$41 billion to the economy and supported 458,290 jobs during the 2018–2019 academic year;...”

– House Resolution 845

Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, February 11, 2020