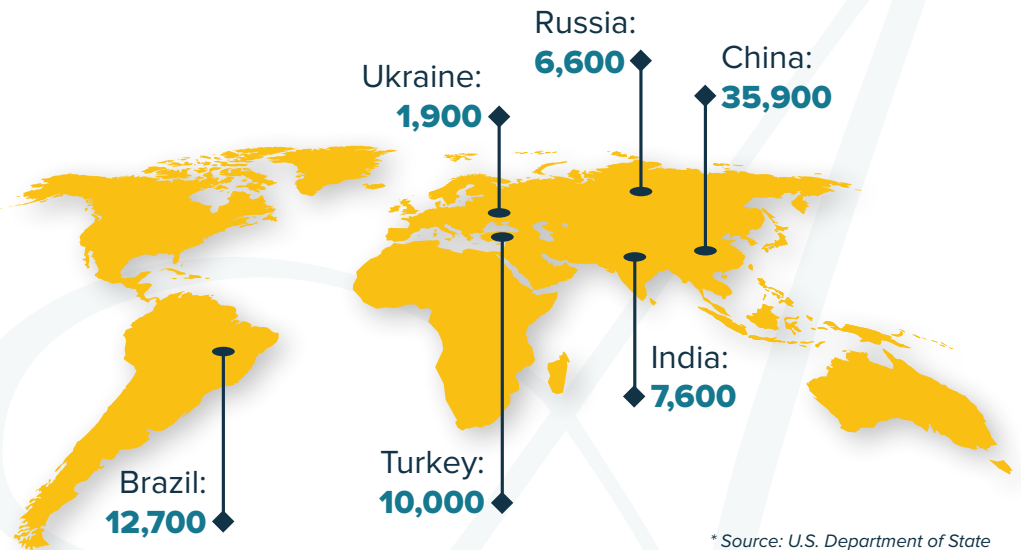


THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

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 **347,099** Americans studied abroad for academic credit in 2018-2019, 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



“Two decades later . . . I gained an even deeper appreciation for how people-to-people exchanges bring our world closer together and convey the best of America to the world, especially to its young people.”

– Secretary of State Antony Blinken

Remarks to U.S. State Department Employees, January 27, 2021

“The robust exchange of students, researchers, scholars, and educators, along with broader international education efforts between the United States and other countries, strengthens relationships between current and future leaders. These relationships are necessary to address shared challenges, enhance American prosperity, and contribute to global peace and security.”

– Joint Statement of Principles in Support of International Education, July 2021



“...our history is filled with examples of how America’s ability to attract global talent has spurred path-breaking innovation. This innovation has led to the creation of new jobs, new industries, and new opportunities for Americans across the United States. Our commitment as a nation to welcoming new talent has long provided America with a global competitive advantage, and we must continue to lead in this effort.”

– FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris

Administration Actions to Attract STEM Talent and Strengthen our Economy and Competitiveness, January 2022

“Whereas 91 percent of Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program participants report cultural exchange as their top reason for participating in the Program; Whereas 84 percent of Camp Counselors report having a more positive view of America after working at a camp; Whereas 76 percent of SWT Program participants reported a positive change in views regarding the United States; Whereas 50 percent of employers stated that the absence of the SWT Program participants would have a negative impact on revenues;...”

– House Resolution 901

Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, February 2, 2022

