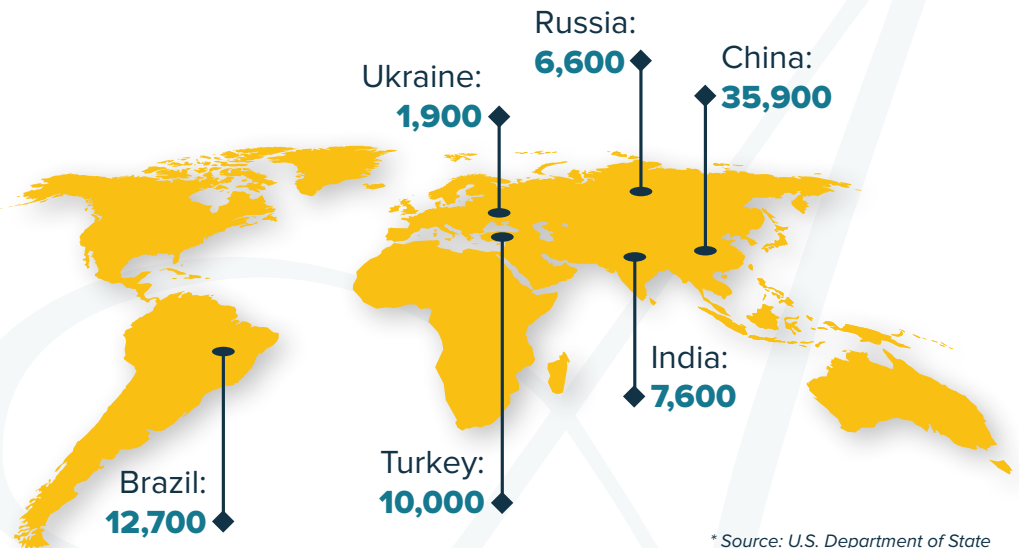


THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

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

948,519 international students studied at U.S. universities and colleges in 2021-2022. 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. **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

- ▶ 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: **660+** current or former heads of foreign governments, **87** Nobel Prize winners, **26** representatives to the United Nations, and **31** heads of international organizations.



STRENGTHEN THE U.S. ECONOMY

- ▶ International students contributed **\$33.8** billion to the U.S. economy and supported over **335,000** jobs during the 2021-2022 academic year.²
- ▶ **90%** of ECA's appropriation is spent in the United States or invested directly in American citizens or American organizations.³
- ▶ A series of BridgeUSA program reports found that participants from Au Pair, Camp Counselor, Intern/Trainee and Summer Work Travel programs contribute approximately **\$1.5** billion annually to the U.S. economy.⁴
- ▶ All **50** states host international exchange visitors, who support the local economy during their stay.⁵



INCREASE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

- ▶ **94%** of exchange students from Muslim-majority countries reported having a deeper, more favorable view of American culture after their year in the U.S.⁶
- ▶ **79%** of Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) fellows agreed that the Fellowship had helped build lasting and productive relationships, both personal and institutional, between the United States and other African countries.⁷
- ▶ **66%** of Gilman Scholar survey respondents found opportunities to serve as a bridge between Americans and people from different countries and cultures when they returned to the United States.⁸

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

2 NAFSA Economic Analysis 2021-2022 Academic Year

3 U.S. Department of State, "ECA Domestic Impact Fact Sheet," 2021.

4 Eureka Facts Review Reports: "Au Pair"; "Camp Counselor"; "Intern and Trainee"; "Summer Work Travel," 2016-2020.

5 U.S. Department of State, "ECA Domestic Impact Fact Sheet," 2021.

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

7 U.S. Department of State Exchange Evaluations

8 U.S. Department of State Exchange Evaluations

#EXCHANGESIMPACT



“Simply put, international education is a crucial part of our diplomacy and our national security.”

– Secretary of State Antony Blinken
Remarks for International Education Week
November 1, 2022

“...our alliances and partnerships around the world are our most important strategic asset and an indispensable element contributing to international peace and stability.”

– The Biden-Harris Administration
National Security Strategy, October 2022



“International exchanges are a big part of developing global and cultural competencies for U.S. students who study abroad and for communities here in the U.S. who welcome international students to their schools and to their homes.”

– Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona
International Education Week Message, November 14, 2022

“[Educational and cultural exchange programs] generate significant economic and social benefits for U.S. communities and foster relationships between the people of the United States and foreign visitors.”

– The United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy (ACPD)
Exploring U.S. Public Diplomacy’s Domestic Dimensions: Purviews, Publics, and Policies, April 2022

