

#EXCHANGESIMPACT

“In 2022, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that U.S. exports of education-related travel totaled **\$37.68 billion**, a **17% increase** from the previous year. Education exports also return cross-cutting economic benefits to the nation through workforce development, R&D, and foreign direct investment, which underpin prosperity, economic development, and competitiveness across sectors.”

– U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration
2023 National Export Strategy



“American high school exchanges are a fundamental part of U.S. public diplomacy efforts and some of the U.S. government’s earliest grassroots exchanges...”

Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona
Joint Letter to School Superintendents, March 13, 2023

“Study abroad programs are an enriching component of a well-rounded academic and cultural education. Providing our students with the opportunity to visit, study in, and be our ambassadors to nations around the world is essential for American leadership in the 21st century.”

– U.S. Representative Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)
Statement on the Reintroduction of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Act, July 12, 2023



SUPPORT U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

- ▶ Participants from more than **110** 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
- ▶ Notable exchange alumni include: **721** current and former heads of foreign governments, **87** Nobel Prize winners, **75** representatives to the United Nations, and **39** current and former heads of international organizations.

STRENGTHEN THE U.S. ECONOMY

- ▶ International students contributed **\$40.1 billion** to the U.S. economy and supported over **368,000** jobs during the 2022-2023 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 the 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

- ▶ **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.⁶
- ▶ **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.⁷
- ▶ **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.⁸

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

2 NAFSA Economic Analysis 2022-2023 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 Exchange Evaluations

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

8 U.S. Department of State Exchange Evaluations