

# 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 over 80% of college freshmen want to study abroad, yet only 10% of students study abroad before they graduate, and minority students are greatly underrepresented within those numbers. 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!

**HIGHER GPA**

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

**MORE EMPLOYABLE**

**75%** of companies said a **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE** was important for their staff<sup>3</sup>

U.S. STUDY ABROAD CONTRIBUTES TO...

## The Nation

**AMERICAN WORKERS**

**23 MILLION JOBS** in the United States are tied to international trade<sup>4</sup>

**86% BELIEVE BUSINESS WOULD INCREASE** if more staff had international experience<sup>3</sup>

**GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT**

Students who study abroad show **GREATER IMPROVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE SKILLS**<sup>5,6</sup>

**ENLIGHTENED CITIZENSHIP**

Studying abroad develops a greater **APPRECIATION OF U.S. CULTURE** and less fear of others<sup>7</sup>

## What Americans Believe ...

**90** % OF VOTERS AGREE that our nation needs an education system that produces **globally competent graduates who understand other cultures and languages.**<sup>8</sup>

**83** % OF VOTERS AGREE that our nation is **better off when more of our students are internationally educated** and understand other cultures and languages.<sup>8</sup>

**75** % OF VOTERS AGREE that **studying abroad, learning foreign languages, and learning about other cultures are essential** to the American educational experience.<sup>8</sup>

## Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act

**NAFSA** has long advocated for a new 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, introduced in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), would create such a program with 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.

