BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD

Study abroad opportunities provide unrivaled access for students to gain a global perspective, deepen cultural understanding, and learn other languages. When immersed in another culture, students develop the critical skills they need to succeed in the global environment into which they will graduate.

THERE IS BOTH AN INTEREST AND A NEED FOR STUDY ABROAD

Students want to go.

Future employers want them to go.

Study abroad has also been linked to...

- Higher grade point averages (GPAs) ¹ ²
- Higher college completion rates ³ ⁴
- Improved personal skills: higher levels of openness and emotional stability ⁵
- Improved professional skills: Intercultural competencies help students get their first job after graduation and adapt to diverse workplaces ⁶

Students’ interest in study abroad is high.¹ They’re especially interested in internships, cultural immersion, and fluency.

81% of students want to go, but only 1% of students actually study abroad each year.

The Center for International Business Education and Research surveyed over 800 executives of US companies. They found:¹

- 85% of the companies indicated that global perspective was important for staff at both the management and entry level
- 80% of the companies believe their overall business would increase if more of their staff had more international expertise

HOW DO WE EXPAND STUDY ABROAD?

Model Legislation: Congress has the ability to pass legislation that would exponentially increase study abroad. The goal is to increase the number of students going abroad, diversify locations of study abroad; and encourage a greater commitment by higher education institutions to expand study abroad opportunities. Find out more at nafsa.org/simon.

100,000 Strong in the Americas Innovation Fund: NAFSA has partnered with the U.S. State Department and Partners of the Americas to create a public-private partnership to provide grants to colleges and universities that have shown a commitment to expanding academic mobility within the Western hemisphere. Find out more at nafsa.org/100kAmericas.

¹ Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative (GLOSSARI), 2010
² California Community College Student Outcomes Abroad Research Project (2013)
³ Georgia Learning Outcomes of Students Studying Abroad Research Initiative (GLOSSARI), 2010
⁴ California Community College Student Outcomes Abroad Research Project (2013)
⁶ American Institute for Foreign Study: Study Abroad Outcomes (2013)
Representative Clawson earned an MBA in Monterrey, Mexico on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship and can speak Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize winner and author of The Color Purple

“...it’s impossible to list all the influences of one’s work...there’s travel - which really made me love the world, it’s vastness and variety. How moved I was to know that there is no center of the universe. Entebbe, Uganda, or Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, exist no matter what we are doing here.”

The best education I have ever received was through travel. You’ll become more conversant, poised and smarter. You will be more appealing in the workforce because you will experience spending time outside of your comfort zone.”

“The best education I have ever received was through travel. You’ll become more conversant, poised and smarter. You will be more appealing in the workforce because you will experience spending time outside of your comfort zone.”

Vera Wang, Fashion Designer

According to a biography by Katherine Krohn, “the architecture, fashion, and design of Paris inspired her, and reawakened [Vera’s] lifelong love of art.” (Studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, France)

“...it’s impossible to list all the influences of one’s work...there’s travel - which really made me love the world, it’s vastness and variety. How moved I was to know that there is no center of the universe. Entebbe, Uganda, or Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, exist no matter what we are doing here.”

“It was an extremely satisfying experience... Once you’ve hitchhiked across Africa with ten bucks in your pocket, starting a business doesn't seem too intimidating.”

Strode Talbott, President of the Brookings Institute

“A phrase briefly fashionable in the mid-20th century -- 'citizen of the world' -- will have assumed real meaning by the end of the 21st.” (Rhodes Scholar - Oxford, England)

“...it’s impossible to list all the influences of one’s work...there’s travel - which really made me love the world, it’s vastness and variety. How moved I was to know that there is no center of the universe. Entebbe, Uganda, or Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, exist no matter what we are doing here.”

“Studying in the UK gave me a more global orientation, which is critical to technology businesses like ours that operate on a worldwide scale.” (Earned a Master’s degree from Oxford)

“I never even got onstage. You’re not allowed to until you’ve studied for years,” she said of her time studying yoga and a rigorous form of traditional theater in India after graduating college.

Our relationship with China is extraordinarily complicated, and when you do understand the culture better, having that appreciation means you can hopefully find compromises.” (Studied in Beijing and Taiwan while attending Dartmouth College)

“It was an extremely satisfying experience... Once you’ve hitchhiked across Africa with ten bucks in your pocket, starting a business doesn't seem too intimidating.”