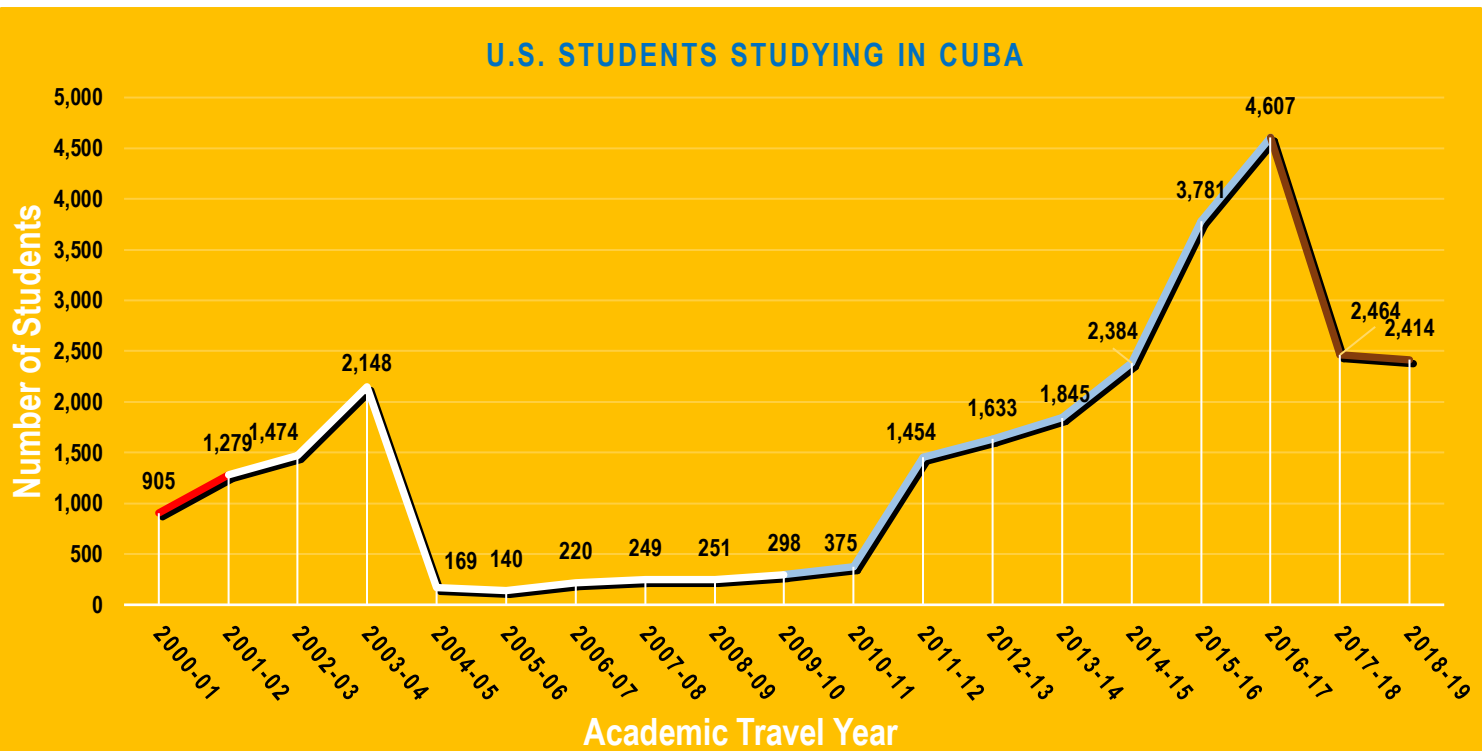


U.S. STUDENTS STUDYING IN CUBA: A NAFSA ANALYSIS



Data Source: *Open Doors*, published by Institute of International Education and sponsored by the U.S. Department of State

Legend

Clinton Administration 1993-2001 Bush Administration 2001-2009 Obama Administration 2009-2017 Trump Administration 2017-Present

ANALYSIS

In **June 2004**, at the recommendation of President Bush, the U.S. Treasury Department instituted restrictions on academic travel to Cuba. These restrictions established additional travel regulations, limited specific licenses for educational activities, and eliminated educational exchanges sponsored by secondary schools. These constraints forced many academic institutions to end their Cuba study abroad programs, resulting in a 92% decrease in the number of U.S. students studying in Cuba.

In **January 2011**, in a major advocacy victory, President Obama announced new regulations to lift restrictions on academic travel to Cuba. The changes allowed for eased engagement in academic and other types of people-to-people travel. These welcomed changes resulted in a 300% increase in the number of students studying in Cuba.

In **December 2014**, the Obama Administration announced a series of historic economic and diplomatic policy changes to begin to normalize relations with Cuba. These sweeping changes broadened the categories of acceptable travel to Cuba licensed by the U.S. Treasury Department and led to further increases in academic study abroad.

In **June 2017**, the Trump Administration reversed the previous administration's policies of engagement with Cuba and began to tighten travel restrictions by eliminating the individual people-to-people travel authorization. Academic travel to Cuba fell by almost 50% the following academic year.

In **June 2019**, the Trump Administration further restricted travel by eliminating group people-to-people travel.

NAFSA urges Congress to normalize relations with Cuba by ending the travel ban and lifting the trade embargo so that Americans can engage freely and constructively with Cuba and its people.

Travel is inherently educational and is a human right. It is time to end the U.S. embargo on Cuba.



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