

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9145

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of State.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. POCAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To ensure that significantly more students graduate college with the international knowledge and experience essential for success in today's global economy through the establishment of the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program in the Department of State.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Senator Paul Simon
5 Study Abroad Program Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) To prepare students for success in the mod-
4 ern global economy, opportunities for study abroad
5 should be included as part of a well-rounded edu-
6 cation.

7 (2) Study abroad programs provide students
8 with unparalleled access to international knowledge,
9 an unmatched opportunity to learn foreign lan-
10 guages, and a unique environment for developing
11 cultural understanding, all of which are knowledge
12 and skills needed in today's global economy.

13 (3) Because only 10 percent of United States
14 college students study abroad before they graduate,
15 meaning that 90 percent of graduates are entering
16 the workforce without the global skills, knowledge,
17 and experiences afforded by study abroad programs
18 that will position them for success in the global
19 economy. Minority students, first generation college
20 students, community college students, and students
21 with disabilities are also significantly underrep-
22 resented in study abroad participation.

23 (4) Congress authorized the establishment of
24 the Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study
25 Abroad Fellowship Program pursuant to section 104
26 of the Miscellaneous Appropriations and Offsets Act,

1 2004 (division H of Public Law 108–199). Pursuant
2 to its mandate, the Lincoln Commission submitted
3 to Congress and the President a report of its rec-
4 ommendations for greatly expanding the opportunity
5 for students at institutions of higher education in
6 the United States to study abroad, with special em-
7 phasis on studying in developing nations.

8 (5) According to the Lincoln Commission,
9 “[e]xperience shows that leadership from adminis-
10 trators and faculty will drive the number of study
11 abroad participants higher and improve the quality
12 of programs. Such leadership is the only way that
13 study abroad will become an integral part of the un-
14 dergraduate experience.”. A competitive grant pro-
15 gram is necessary to encourage and support such
16 leadership.

17 (6) Student health, safety, and security while
18 studying abroad is and must continue to be a pri-
19 ority for institutions of higher education and study
20 abroad programs.

21 (7) The COVID–19 pandemic has limited or
22 prevented students from participating in study
23 abroad due to travel restrictions and reduced budg-
24 ets. In a post-pandemic world, increasing access to
25 study abroad for students at institutions of higher

1 education across the United States will be critical to
2 ensuring that those students gain the skills, knowl-
3 edge, and experiences necessary to maintain the
4 leadership of the United States in tackling global
5 challenges, like pandemics, and succeeding in a glob-
6 al economy.

7 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

8 The purposes of this Act are—

9 (1) to ensure that significantly more students
10 have access to quality study abroad opportunities;

11 (2) to ensure that the diversity of students
12 studying abroad reflects the diversity of students
13 and institutions of higher education in the United
14 States;

15 (3) to encourage greater diversity in study
16 abroad destinations by increasing the portion of
17 study abroad that takes place in nontraditional
18 study abroad destinations, especially in developing
19 countries; and

20 (4) to encourage a greater commitment by in-
21 stitutions of higher education to expand study
22 abroad opportunities.

23 **SEC. 4. SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM.**

24 (a) SENATOR PAUL SIMON STUDY ABROAD PRO-
25 GRAM.—

1 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to the avail-
2 ability of appropriations and under the authorities of
3 the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act
4 of 1961, as amended (Public Law 87–256; 22
5 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.), the Secretary of State shall re-
6 name the Increase and Diversify Education Abroad
7 for U.S. Student Program (commonly known as
8 “IDEAS”) as the “Senator Paul Simon Study
9 Abroad Program” (in this section referred to as the
10 “Program”) and enhance the Program as detailed
11 below.

12 (2) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Pro-
13 gram established under paragraph (1) are, that not
14 later than 10 years after the date of enactment of
15 the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Program Act
16 of 2022—

17 (A) not less than 1,000,000 undergraduate
18 students from the United States will study
19 abroad annually;

20 (B) the demographics of study abroad par-
21 ticipation will reflect the demographics of the
22 United States undergraduate population by in-
23 creasing the participation of underrepresented
24 groups; and

1 (C) an increasing portion of study abroad
2 will take place in nontraditional study abroad
3 destinations, with a substantial portion of such
4 increases in developing countries.

5 (3) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO INSTITUTIONS OF
6 HIGHER EDUCATION.—In order to accomplish the
7 objectives set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary
8 of State shall award grants on a competitive basis
9 to institutions of higher education, individually or in
10 as part of a consortium, based on applications by
11 the institutions that—

12 (A) set forth detailed plans for using grant
13 funds to further such objectives;

14 (B) include an institutional commitment to
15 expanding access to study abroad;

16 (C) include plans for evaluating progress
17 made in increasing access to study abroad;

18 (D) describe how increases in study abroad
19 participation achieved through the grant will be
20 sustained in subsequent years; and

21 (E) demonstrate that the programs have
22 established health, safety, and security guide-
23 lines and procedures, informed by Department
24 of State travel advisories and other appropriate
25 Federal agencies and resources, including the

1 Overseas Security Advisory Council and the
2 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

3 (4) IMPLEMENTATION OF LINCOLN COMMISSION
4 RECOMMENDATIONS.—In administering the Pro-
5 gram, the Secretary of State shall take fully into ac-
6 count the recommendations of the Lincoln Commis-
7 sion including—

8 (A) institutions of higher education apply-
9 ing for grants described in paragraph (3) may
10 use Program funds to support direct student
11 costs;

12 (B) diversity shall be a defining char-
13 acteristic of the Program; and

14 (C) quality control shall be a defining
15 characteristic of the Program.

16 (5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this para-
17 graph, the Secretary of State shall consult with rep-
18 resentatives of diverse institutions of higher edu-
19 cation, educational policy organizations, and others
20 with appropriate expertise.

21 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than December 31
22 of each year, the Secretary of State shall submit a report
23 to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and
24 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-

1 representatives that describes the implementation of the Pro-
2 gram during the most recently concluded fiscal year.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Pro-
5 gram such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023
6 and each subsequent fiscal year.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
9 term “institution of higher education” has the
10 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
11 Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (20
12 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

13 (2) CONSORTIA.—The term “consortia” means
14 a group that shall include at least one institution of
15 higher education and may include nongovernmental
16 organizations that provide and promote study
17 abroad opportunities for students.

18 (3) NONTRADITIONAL STUDY ABROAD DESTINA-
19 TION.—The term “nontraditional study abroad des-
20 tination” means a location that is determined by the
21 Secretary of State to be a less common destination
22 for students who study abroad.

23 (4) STUDENT.—The term “student” means a
24 national of the United States or an alien lawfully ad-
25 mitted for permanent residence in the United States,

1 as such persons are described in section 101 of the
2 Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 (8 U.S.C.
3 1101), who is enrolled at an institution of higher
4 education located within the United States; or “eligi-
5 ble noncitizens” for Federal Student Aid as defined
6 by the Department of Education.

7 (5) STUDY ABROAD.—The term “study abroad”
8 means an educational program of study, work, serv-
9 ice learning, research, internship, or combination
10 thereof that is conducted outside the United States
11 and that carries academic credit.

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