Education Abroad and U.S. Foreign Policy Goals
ECA’s Mission Statement: To increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries by means of educational and cultural exchange that assist in the development of peaceful relations.

Strategic Goal 1: ECA advances U.S. foreign policy priorities through international educational and cultural programs that build mutual understanding.

Strategic Goal 2: International educational and cultural exchange in the U.S. and abroad includes robust participation of youth, women, minorities and underserved communities.

Strategic Goal 3: American global competitiveness and Americans’ understanding of the world are enhanced through international educational and cultural exchange.

Strategic Goal 4: ECA is the recognized US government leader in the effective management of international educational and cultural programs. To maintain our reputation, we commit to strive to ensure a positive cultural exchange experience for participants.
U.S. Foreign Policy Priorities

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Open Doors

**2013**

**A Quick Look at U.S. Students Studying Abroad**

In 2011/12

**283,332**

U.S. students studied abroad for academic credit

- 1989/90: 71k
- 1995/96: 89k
- 1999/00: 144k
- 2003/04: 191k
- 2007/08: 262k
- 2011/12: 283k

The number of the U.S. students studying abroad grew by 3% over the prior year and now is at record high.

**Undergraduate Study Abroad**

- 9% of U.S. undergraduates studied abroad before graduating.

**Academic Level**

- Undergraduate: 86%
- Graduate: 13%
- Doctorate: 1%

**Social Science is the most popular Field of Study among U.S. students abroad.**

- Leading Destinations of U.S. Study Abroad Students:
  - Italy: 11%
  - Germany: 3%
  - Ireland: 3%
  - United Kingdom: 12%
  - Spain: 9%
  - France: 6%
  - China: 5%
  - Japan: 2%
  - Other Destinations: 43%

**Duration of Study Abroad**

- 59%: Long-term (academic or calendar year)
- 38%: Mid-term (one or two quarters or one semester)
- 5%: Short-term (summer or eight weeks or less)

The Institute of International Education (IIE) has conducted an annual census of international students in the U.S. since its founding in 1919. Known as the Open Doors Report, since 1965, and supported by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State since 1977, the report provides detailed data on student flows into and out of the U.S.
Existing Exchange Programs

Why does the government care about international educational exchanges?

www.exchanges.state.gov
New Education Abroad division at the Department of State that will:

• Promote greater synergy by housing two current exchange programs: Gilman, CLS

• Encourage more U.S. students to go abroad by conducting outreach to the U.S. higher education community and advocating for education abroad
Education Abroad and U.S. Foreign Policy Goals

U.S. Higher Education Perspective

Brian Whalen
President and CEO
Forum on Education Abroad

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Guiding Questions

• What are the U.S. Government’s Goals for Education Abroad?
• What are University and Program Provider Goals for Education Abroad?
• Do Institutional Goals for Education Abroad align with the Goals of the U.S. Government?
  ➢ Should they align?
• What are the Opportunities and Challenges for both Institutions and the U.S. Government?
Case Study: Brazil

Rita Moriconi
Regional Educational Advising Coordinator (REAC), Southern Cone: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay

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AASCU – American Association of State Colleges and Universities

Forum on Education Abroad

NAFSA – Association of International Educators

AACRAO – American Assoc. of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
Promoting University Linkages - FAUBAI

Workshop: How to Partner with U.S. universities

Forum on Education Abroad – how to wear the study abroad and admissions hat
Cross-cultural Barriers for Partnerships

- Which comes first: establish rapport or fact finding?
- Connect the dots—how to wear the study abroad and admissions hat
- Foreign Government Scholarship Programs: Opportunity or Threat?
- Professional Development Capacity Building Workshops and funds available
Matchmaking Event - FAUBAI

- 24 U.S. Universities at tables with 120 Brazilian universities
- STEM Fair – Admissions and Study Abroad reps
- Public Diplomacy Role of U.S. universities abroad
- Long-term partnerships vs. the cash cow concept
Education Abroad and U.S. Foreign Policy Goals

Small Group Discussion

• Do Institutional Goals for Education Abroad align with the Goals of the U.S. Government?

• What are the Opportunities and Challenges for both Institutions and the U.S. Government?

• What are some ways in which your institution is or can broaden its mission?

• What are some ways in which the U.S. Government can support those efforts?
Education Abroad and U.S. Foreign Policy Goals

Questions?

Thank you!

Bahareh, Brian, & Rita

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