



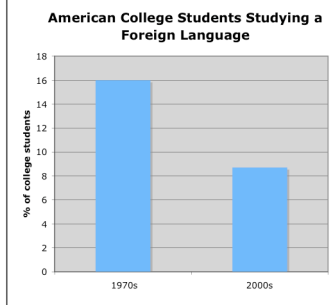
Preparing for Global Leadership: International Education and the U.S. Public Service Academy

The U.S. Public Service Academy will offer students an academically rigorous curriculum that incorporates extensive requirements for international education, including mandatory study abroad and foreign language fluency for all students. The Academy will make international education a priority because no matter where our future public leaders work, they will need the academic background and foreign experience necessary to work effectively and make sound decisions in an increasingly interconnected world.

The Academy's international focus will help address the woeful lack of global education among American college students:

- Americans often graduate from college without knowing a foreign language or having any experience abroad — a mere 1% of U.S. undergraduates participate in a study abroad program.
- American young adults came in next to last in a recent National Geographic/Roper survey of geographic knowledge.
- More than 500,000 foreign students attend college in the U.S. annually, but only about 170,000 American students study abroad each year.
- In the past three decades, the percentage of U.S. college students studying a foreign language has dropped from 16% to 8.7%.

(Source: Bipartisan Commission on the Abraham Lincoln Study Abroad Fellowship Program)



"International exchanges are not a great tide to sweep away all differences, but they will slowly wear away at the obstacles to peace as surely as water wears away a hard stone."

George H.W. Bush

As a national institution, the Academy can tailor its international education program to meet changing national needs. Nearly half of all American students who study abroad go to four Western European nations: England, France, Spain, and Italy. By contrast, the Academy's international education program will focus on other areas that are of particular importance to our nation, particularly the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America. Academy

The Academy's focus on international education will bolster national security. According to the U.S. Department of State, fewer than 2% of American students study any of the languages deemed "critical" to national security, including Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Hindi and Farsi. The Partnership for Public Service notes that more than 60% of the State Department's "critical language speakers" will become eligible to retire within five years. The Academy can help supply a steady stream of young leaders with the foreign experience and language skills necessary to serve effectively.

"Inexplicably, many Americans justify our monolingualism with the fact that the rest of the world is learning English. But it is to our disadvantage that we are able to conduct foreign relations and international commerce in only one tongue, while the rest of the international community continually builds upon its proficiency in multiple languages."

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

U.S. Public Service Academy

1225 I Street NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-712-9121 • www.uspublicserviceacademy