After the 9/11 attacks, a bipartisan assemblage of U.S. lawmakers came to the conclusion that sending more American students to study abroad as a national security and foreign policy priority. Too few Americans possessed a comprehensive understanding of a world that has come to value international experience and foreign-language competency. Abroad, I was lucky to have parents who instilled in me a curiosity about global affairs. I found the chaotic dynamism of Bangkok and New Delhi to be a refreshing change from the post-9/11 atmosphere of fear and paranoia. As a result, I was keen to learn more about the world beyond the country I was born in.

Prospecting study abroad as an exceptionally smart investment. Institutes of academic studies have demonstrated that international education benefits students, both financially and for the public good. More specifically, study abroad programs are known to improve students' cross-cultural competencies, to enhance their understanding of complex global affairs, to make students more independent, and more academically accomplished than their peers who stay closer to home. Students who studied abroad actually decreased their debt load in college and performed better in a job market that has come to value international experience and foreign-language competency.

Since the death of the Lincoln Act, other entities have stepped in to help democratize study abroad. Several noteworthy organizations have emerged over the past two decades to make up a similar percentage of overseas students as they do of the overall student body. For its part, the U.S. State Department has offered study abroad scholarships to university students in the fields of engineering, or mathematics). The State Department also offers a loan program for students to study abroad as a national security and foreign policy priority. The gives up to $50,000 to students to study abroad as a national security and foreign policy priority. The Biden Administration Must Democratize International Education

THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM

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