

CASA Cuba

10 Años de Cooperación Académica entre Cuba y Estados Unidos

XXIII Conversaciones Cuba en Política Exterior de EEUU
Diciembre 2024

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Overview

- CASA – what it is
- Study Abroad: why it matters / trends
- Studying in Cuba: its significance
- Main obstacles
- opportunities and innovations
- testimony





CASA Consortium for Advanced Studies Abroad

- Founded in 2014, led by Brown University
- Association of 16 international Universities
- Mission: foster study abroad, academic collaboration & exchange
- Only US higher ed Program with physical presence in Cuba
- Partners with Casa de las Americas and University of Havana
- Semester-long experience with Cuban faculty and at University of Havana
- Courses, Conferences, Public/hybrid events, research, visits & trips
- 350+ students since 2015, Dozens faculty & research visits & workshops

CASA Cuba -
what it is and
what we do



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CASA Consortium for
Advanced Studies Abroad

Study Abroad with CASA Cuba

Academic Overview

- Lunch Talks on contemporary Topics
- CASA-sponsored courses
- Academic Spanish Class
- University of Havana Classes
- Teaching English to Cubans
- Guided Research Experience
- Internship Opportunities at Cuban Institutions





Student Research & Teaching English ESL



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Study Abroad with CASA Cuba

Current CASA Cuba Courses

- US-Cuban Relations
- Cuban History
- The Image of Cuba / Cuban Cinema
- The Cuban Economy
- Public Health in Cuba
- Intersectionality: Race, Inequality and Gender





US-Cuba Policy Proposals



Visit to Center for Molecular Biology – Cuba's leading biotech sector
Meeting with Director and Researchers, Havana



Visit to Cuba's Sports University
80% of Cuba's Gold Medalists from here
Exchange with leadership & students



Hybrid international Event:

Cuba's Response to COVID
CASA-Cuba, December 2020

Book Talk:
**Ada Ferrer, Cuba. An
American history**

Pulitzer Prize
CASA, Havana, March
2023



The Significance of Academic Exchange

Reduces prejudice

Fosters inter-cultural understanding & abilities

on-the-ground long-term & transformative experience

Formation of citizens, academics and politicians: better informed & more tolerant and respectful

Shows that dialogue, cooperation, and mutual respect is possible

Advances knowledge on both sides

Find solutions to shared problems (migration, medical, environment, race, gender, inequalities)

Innovating Academia & Pedagogy, Sharing of best Practices



OPEN DOORS U.S. STUDY ABROAD DATA

U.S. STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD, 1989/90–2023/24



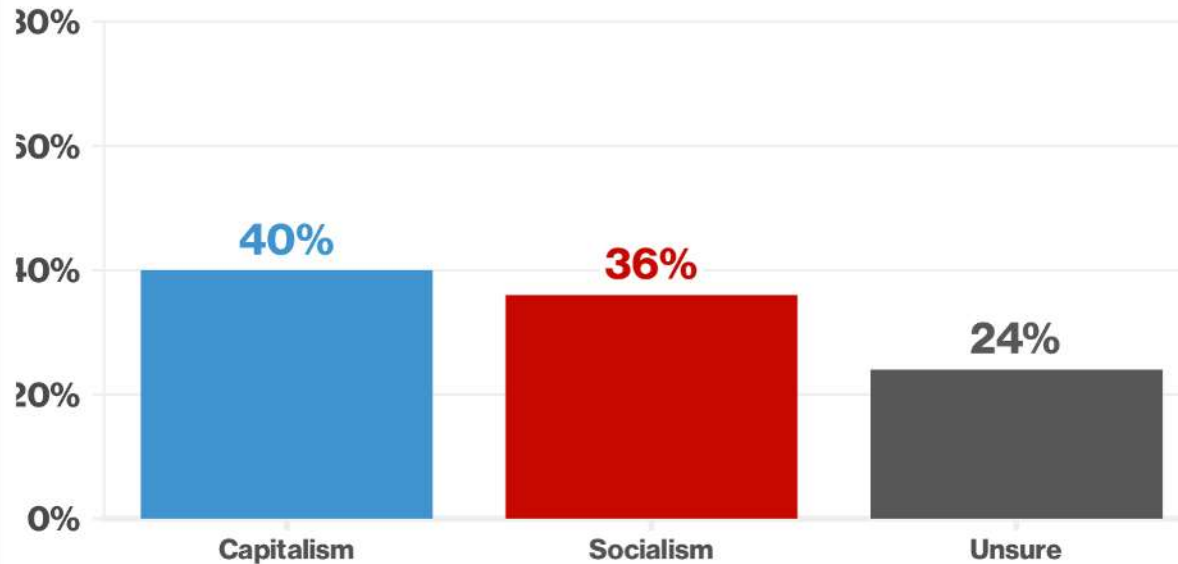
In 2023/24, the total number of U.S. students who studied abroad for academic credit **increased by 6% to 298,180 students.**

US Students Study Abroad

Socialism among US college students: poll

Interactive or visual content

If you had to choose, which economic system would you prefer to live under?



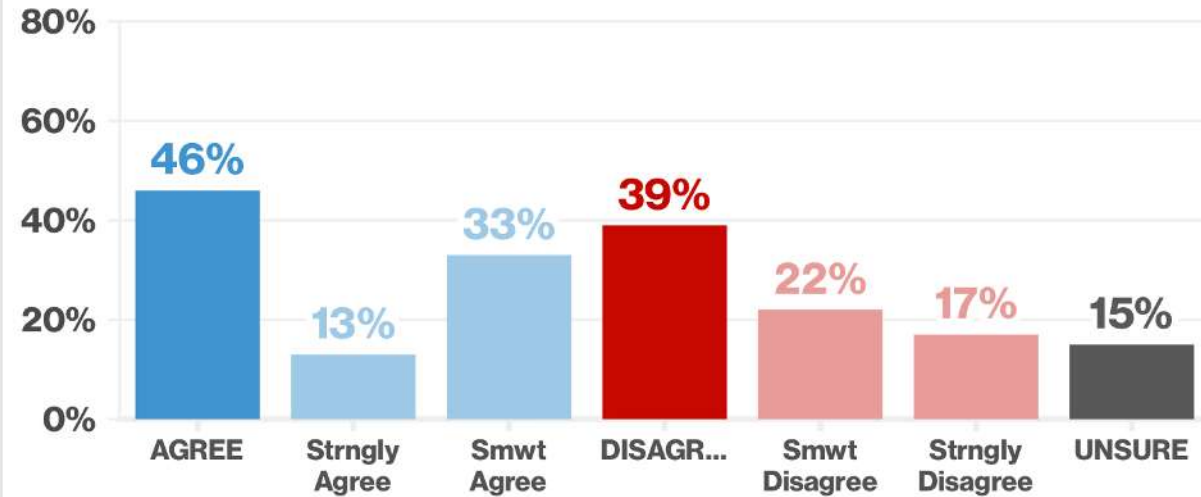
Source: Buckley Institute

NEW YORK POST

Interactive or visual content

Agree/Disagree:

“While socialist countries like Cuba and the Soviet Union have not been perfect, they offer a better economic model than capitalist countries like the United States.”



Source: Buckley Institute

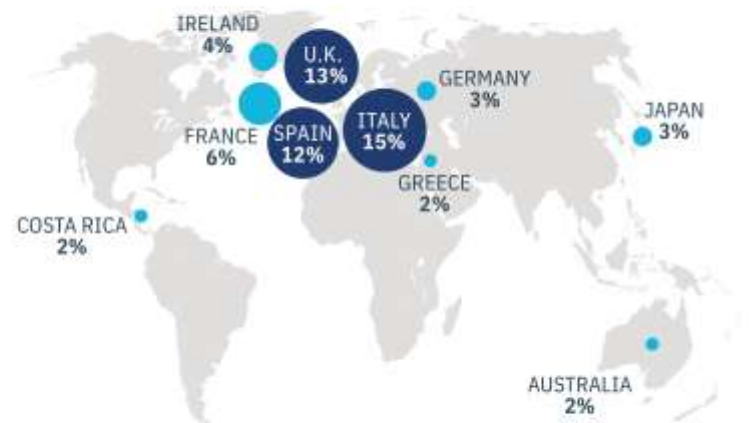
NEW YORK POST

US Students in Cuba:

UH only (25):	12
2023/24:	1,005 (+5%)
2022/23:	950
2016/17	4,607
2021/22	266
2008/09	251

OPEN DOORS U.S. STUDY ABROAD DATA

LEADING DESTINATIONS OF U.S. STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS, 2022/23



Europe hosted **64%** of all U.S. students who studied abroad.

Source: The *Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange* is a comprehensive information resource on international students and scholars at higher education institutions in the United States and U.S. students studying abroad. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and is published by IIE. For more information, visit www.opendoorsdata.org.

opendoors

Significance of studying in Cuba

Few destinations in global south

sovereign, independent nation (defiant of US hegemony)

Target of US economic war and sanctions for 60+ years

revolution with socialist projection

internationalism

shared & entangled history with US

shares many problems with US (environment, migration, legacy of slavery, epidemics, narcotics, etc.)

Main Obstacles today

- Hostile, politicized and polarized climate
- Very restrictive political regulations
- Terror-List, Travel Warnings, Restricted Entities
- Banking / payments
- Academic Visa / Travel impossibility for Cubans
- Internet Restrictions
- No more traditional funding
- In Cuba: Energy, Inflation/Exchange Rate, Transportation, Hygiene and Health, Emigration, Internet instability

Current & Future CASA Cuba Projects

- Book Presentations for Mutual Benefit – hybrid!
- Hybrid Dialogues UH/CASA
- Solidify & Diversify Institutional Partnerships in Cuba
- Expand Internship Opportunities
- Solar Energy for CASA Cuba Center in Havana
- Expand Alumni Network
- Visibility – Instagram, Videos, Website, Podcasts, etc.
- New funding opportunities: Cuban diaspora, new foundations, private donors
- Student and Professor Mobility: Visiting Faculty
- Innovate & Diversify Course Offers

Alumni Network & Social Media: 350+

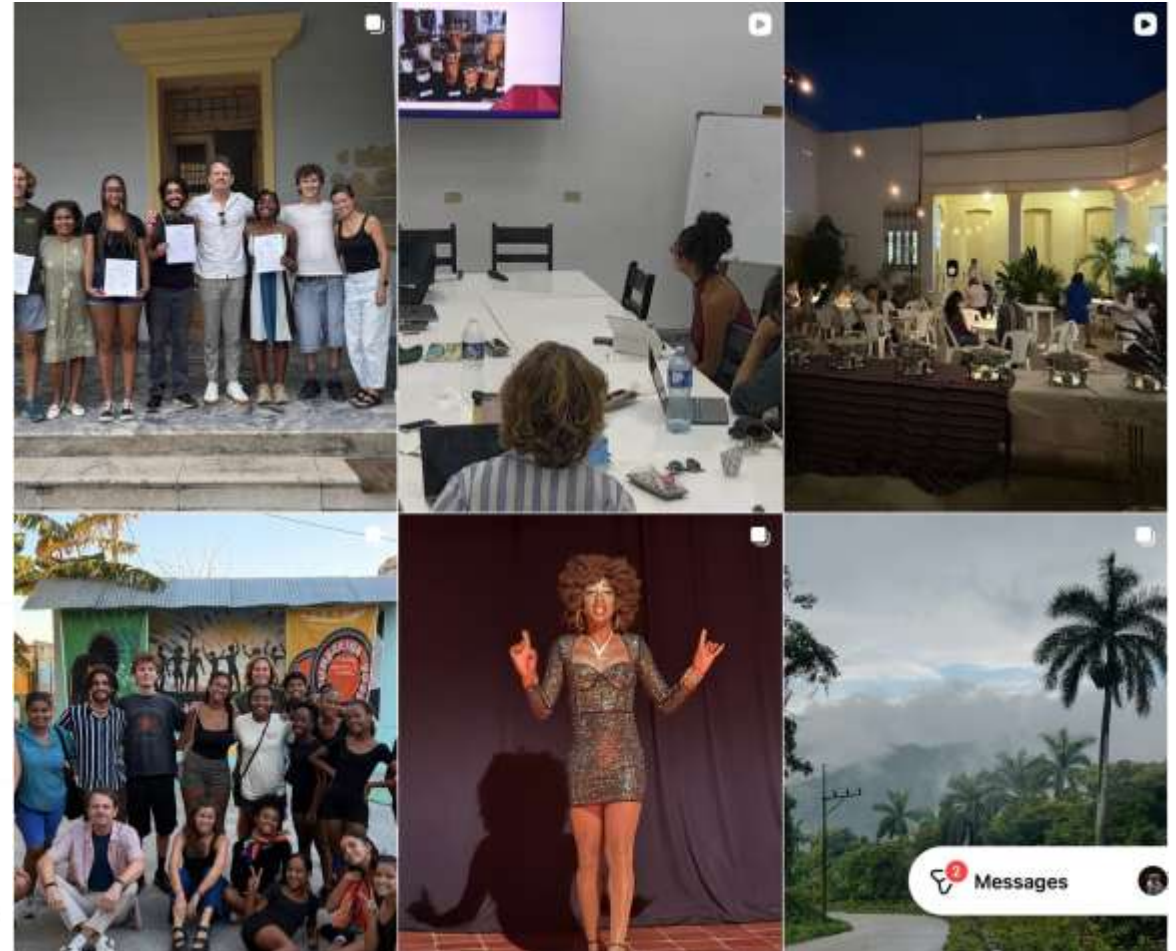


Matthew Brown

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Matthew Brown is a reporter covering threats to democratic institutions, voting rights, political polarization and civic engagement. He was previously a White House correspondent and national political reporter for USA Today.

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