

In spite of its financial turmoil, the European Union recently expanded its Erasmus Program, which helps students study abroad. That's because the people of the EU understand that globalization is like the weather: Regardless of what you think about it, you have to live with it. And when it comes to stoking trade, building international partnerships and simply co-existing peacefully, Europe understands that study abroad is a smart investment.

Americans who want our next generation to be hands-on with the world — grappling constructively with international partners against daunting challenges that ignore political borders, working competitively in a globalized economy, and having enthusiasm rather than anxiety about other cultures and approaches to persistent problems — can get on board with the movement to help our students get a globalized education.

Encourage the young people in your lives to get a passport and see the world as a classroom. It's good for America. And it's fun.

Rick Steves is a travel writer, host and producer of Rick Steves' Europe on public TV and Travel with Rick Steves on public radio.

Bibliography

Steves, Rick. "Study Abroad Is Necessity, Not Luxury." *USATODAY.COM*. N.p., 18 Jan. 2012. Web. 26 May 2014.