

Congress - Bundestag
Youth Exchange



2021-2022 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR HANDBOOK



Programs of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

Thank You!

Thank you for supporting public diplomacy and international education by welcoming the U.S. Department of State's Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), and/or Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) exchange students into your school.

The CBYX, FLEX, and YES programs are funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. They provide competitively selected secondary school students from more than 60 countries with scholarships to spend an academic year in the United States living with a host family and attending high school. Over 65,000 applicants compete annually for over 2,000 scholarships to the United States. That's more competitive than admission to top U.S. universities.

This handbook provides information about the CBYX, FLEX, and YES programs to help you and your staff understand what makes these scholarship students stand out and how they, as student ambassadors from their countries, can be unique assets to, and contributing members of, your school. Please share this handbook with all staff members designated to work with or teach exchange students. We are confident that your experience with these students will be both rewarding and educational, and will be another critical building block in the over 30 years of person-to-person diplomacy brought to life by these programs.

By enrolling a CBYX, FLEX, and/or YES student, the State Department recognizes your school as a Medallion school. And in the true spirit of exchange, we also provide at the end of this handbook **information on study abroad scholarships for American high school students**. We hope that by welcoming international students to your school, your students will be motivated to learn more about our world and becoming an exchange student.



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United States Department of State

The U.S. Department of State is the federal foreign affairs agency charged by Congress to administer international educational and cultural exchange programs. The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) provides federal funding through an openly competed grants process to U.S. nonprofit youth exchange organizations to implement the programs. Their role includes student placement, monitoring, and support in U.S. host communities. These partners are referred to as 'placement organizations.' U.S. high schools are essential to advancing U.S. foreign policy and diplomatic efforts to achieve mutual understanding around the world.

Program Goals

ECA has specific goals for all U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange students. Students who are awarded a scholarship are held to high standards, and are expected to be student ambassadors and actively contributing members of their host family, school, and community.

CBYX, FLEX, and YES students will:

- Gain an understanding of American society, people, values, culture, diversity, and respect for others with differing views.
- Interact with Americans and generate enduring ties.
- Teach Americans about their home countries and cultures.
- Explore and acquire an understanding of the key elements of U.S. civil society.
- Share and apply experiences and knowledge in their home countries as alumni.



U.S. Department of State Scholarship Programs to the United States



Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)

exchanges.state.gov/cbyx

Initiated in 1983, CBYX was created to strengthen ties between Germany and the United States through citizen diplomacy. CBYX is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag (German parliament). Each year CBYX grants scholarships to 250 American high school students, 25 high school graduates interested in vocational training, and 75 young professionals to Germany for an academic year program. In turn, 285 German high school students and 75 German young professionals are hosted in American communities each year. Over the last 37 years, over 27,000 Americans and Germans have participated in CBYX.



Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX)

<http://discoverflex.org>

exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/future-leaders-exchange

FLEX was created in 1992 from the belief of former Senator Bill Bradley that young people are the key to establishing democracy in the former Soviet Union (referred to as Europe and Eurasia in this text). Each year over 35,000 students from Europe and Eurasia apply for this very popular program, which now includes 22 countries. Approximately 975 students are selected to participate annually, and today there are over 29,000 FLEX alumni.



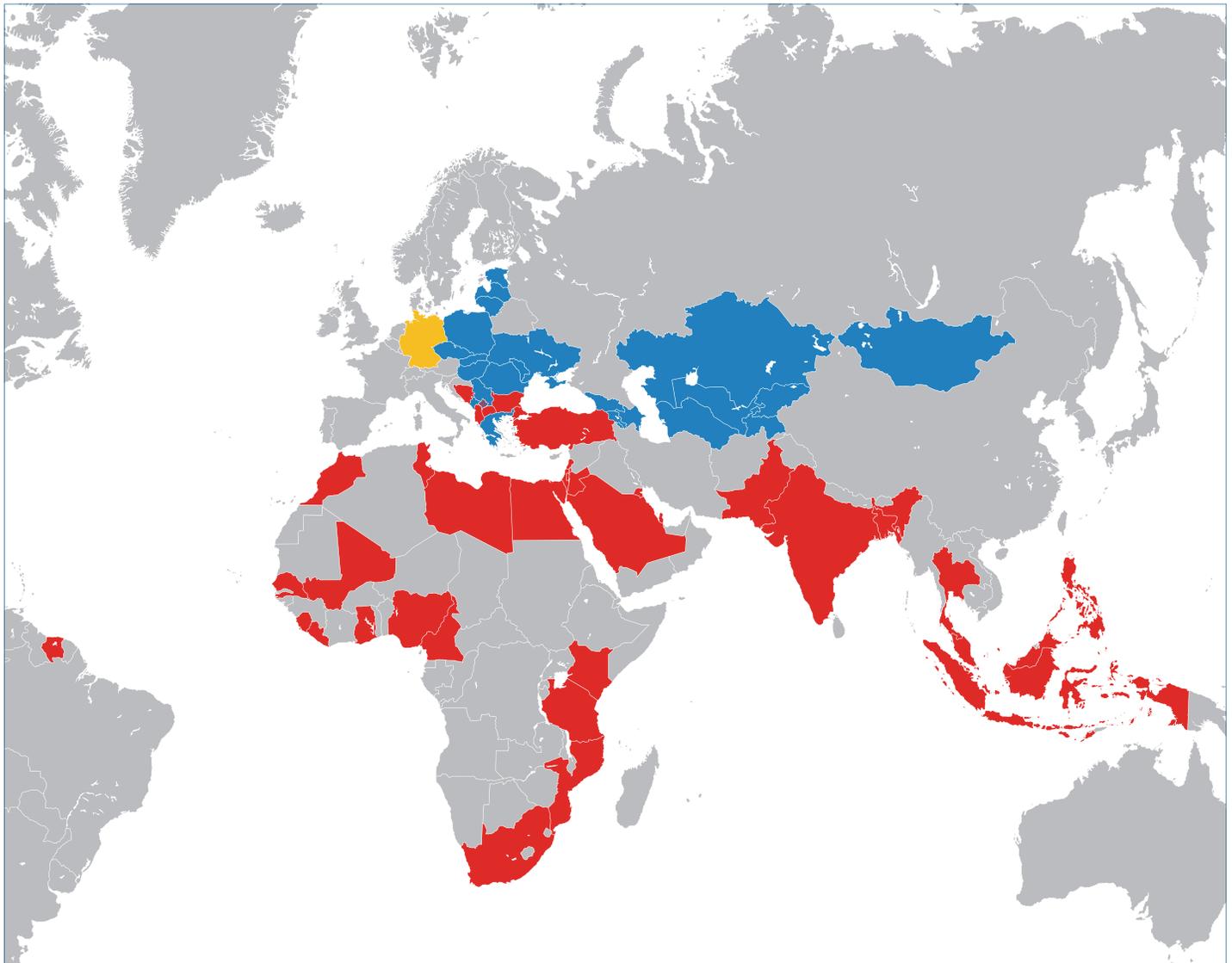
Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

www.yesprograms.org

exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/kennedy-lugar-youth-exchange-study-yes

The YES program was enacted by the U.S. Congress under the sponsorship of Senators Edward Kennedy and Richard Lugar in the aftermath of September 11, 2001 to provide an exchange opportunity to students from countries with significant Muslim populations. Approximately 900 students from almost 40 countries come on program each year, and there are over 13,000 YES alumni today.

CBYX, FLEX and YES Around the World



CBYX	Germany
FLEX	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
YES	Albania, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Egypt, Gaza, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel (Arab Communities), Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, West Bank

Recruitment and Selection

Tens of thousands of students compete for these very selective programs. Eligible candidates are selected through a comprehensive, merit-based, open competition. Students face tough competition and must demonstrate perseverance and commitment throughout the months-long recruitment and screening processes. A tremendous effort is made to recruit students from diverse geographical areas, backgrounds, and ethnic groups to ensure a diverse candidate pool. Students with disabilities are also actively recruited. ECA and placement organizations provide support for students with disabilities through a partnership with Mobility International USA (MIUSA, www.miusa.org).

Students must first meet basic eligibility requirements such as age, grade level, and citizenship. FLEX and YES applicants are given a comprehensive secondary level English exam and write a series of proctored essays in English. Finalists must demonstrate adequate English proficiency to study in a U.S. high school. Before final selection, candidates complete an extensive application, are interviewed individually by trained staff, and take part in a group activity so that staff can assess their interpersonal skills. Selection of finalists is based on academic achievement, personal traits, social skills, and potential for success as an exchange student. German CBYX students undergo a similarly competitive selection process, including an interview with their elected representative in the German Bundestag (parliament).



Monitoring and Support

Placement organizations place students in schools and host families. Most are registered with the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). Each student is supported throughout the year by a local coordinator. The coordinator works with the student, host family and host school throughout the exchange. All placement organizations must comply with J-1 visa regulations concerning the placement and support of these students. Additionally, the U.S. Department of State employs a Participant Monitoring Unit, comprised of staff with the primary responsibility of ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all program participants. Students are monitored through regular check-ins, surveys, and in some cases, in-person site visits.

What Sets CBYX, FLEX, and YES Students Apart From Other Exchange Students?

The CBYX, FLEX, and YES students go through a rigorous selection and preparation process. The students receive special program orientations before, during, and after the exchange, and multiple layers of support from their placement organization. In addition to pursuing a full course of study at their host high school and participating in cultural and extracurricular activities, these students are required to act as citizen diplomats. As citizen diplomats they perform community service, give presentations about their home countries, and share their culture with Americans. The U.S. Department of State holds its scholarship students to the highest standards through a signed program code of conduct and expects them to favorably represent their home countries as youth ambassadors.

"A few exchange students impacted a large number of students at school because our students witnessed how motivated these students were, how knowledgeable they were of worldly affairs, their willingness to take risks, e.g. joining the drama club, joining J.R.O.T.C."

—J.B. Castle High School
(Kaneohe, HI)

While learning about the richness of American life, students are also expected to represent and teach Americans about their home countries and cultures. While interacting with Americans in their host communities, the students have the opportunity to correct misconceptions of life in their country and about their culture. Likewise, students begin to break down misconceptions they may have about Americans and their values. You, your staff, and your student body can contribute to U.S. public diplomacy by helping exchange students who attend your school develop a better practical understanding of the United States. When they return home, they, in turn, will teach their fellow citizens about life in the United States and the American people. Many alumni have written articles for local newspapers, been interviewed on TV and radio, and made presentations



about American life in their schools and universities. In this way, participants carry the responsibility of being both a student and a teacher.

All students are required to do community service not only as a way of contributing to the host communities that have taken them in for the year, but also to help them understand how they can make a difference in the world. The concept of volunteerism, an integral part of American culture, does not exist in many of these students' home countries. In mid-April each year, students and alumni of these programs take part with great enthusiasm in Global Youth Service Day (GYSD), an annual event that encourages youth worldwide to organize and implement activities that assist their local communities. Many students take home with them a newfound and deeply rooted enthusiasm for volunteering and lead their peers and even adults in life-altering community service projects.

Community Service Hours, 2019-20:



8,800
285 students



46,400
975 students



44,300
900 students

U.S. Department of State Scholarship Exchange Students: Assets to Your School

CBYX, FLEX, and YES students are required and prepared to make presentations about their home countries and cultures to schools, houses of worship, and other community groups. Please welcome and facilitate your U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange students' requests to make presentations for their classes as well as for your school's international clubs. Schools have also seen how exchange students foster an interest in the world among their student body in creative ways such as: exchange participants providing a "word of the week" in their native language, featured information about their home countries in the school news, and selecting a song from the student's homeland for a school concert.

International Education Week

All U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange students are required to make school presentations during International Education Week (IEW), a joint project of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education observed in November (the last full week before Thanksgiving). Students' presentations can be a springboard for a school-wide IEW celebration. IEW is also a great time for American students to share their exchange experiences, for promotion of U.S. Department of State-sponsored programs for American high school students, and for everyone to expand their awareness and understanding of other countries. Exchange students often make presentations at middle and elementary schools in addition to their high schools.



United States Department of State
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
Washington, DC 20522

February 1, 2021

Dear Secondary School Student:

Congratulations on your participation in the Exchange Visitor Program! On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, I want you to know that your decision to come to the United States is important to us. We want your stay to be a positive and memorable experience for you.

As a secondary school student, you are part of a U.S. Department of State cultural exchange program in which you, like thousands of other students from around the world, will have the opportunity to share your language, culture and customs with your American host family, your American school and also the broader local community. Your participation in this program fosters a greater understanding between our countries.

You are a valued guest in the United States, and we want you to succeed in this program. Your goal should be to learn as much as you can about American customs, values and culture and to build strong relationships with your host family, new classmates, and new friends. You will be living with a host family and attending a new school, both of which may have different rules and ways of life from what you are used to, so keeping an open mind will be very important to your success.

You and your host family have agreed to follow the program rules that govern the secondary school student exchange program. We hope you have taken the time to review the program rules carefully and that you understand your rights and responsibilities. If you have any questions and/or do not understand your rights and responsibilities, please contact your U.S. sponsor.

Your U.S. sponsor is your first point of contact throughout your stay in the United States. Your sponsor is identified on your Form DS-2019, Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor Program (J-1) Status. If you have any questions about your exchange program, if you need assistance of any kind while you are here, or if something just does not feel right to you, immediately contact your U.S. sponsor. It is your sponsor's responsibility to help you with any problems, needs, or concerns you may have. Your U.S. sponsor should have given you an emergency telephone contact number in your program orientation materials. This telephone number should be available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you have concerns and/or issues that your U.S. sponsor has not resolved, or you find you cannot reach your sponsor, please contact the Department of State through our J-1 Visa Emergency Helpline (1-866-283-9090), which is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, or by e-mail at JVisas@state.gov.

We are pleased that you made the decision to participate in the Exchange Visitor Program and I hope you enjoy your stay in the United States.

Sincerely,

G.K. Saba
Director, Policy & Program Support
for Private Sector Exchange

Students with Disabilities

Every year approximately 30 students with disabilities participate in these programs. Given the more restrictive and exclusionary environments faced by students with disabilities in many countries, earning a scholarship is all the more valuable for them, often in ways students cannot imagine when they first come on program. With the support of Mobility International USA (MIUSA), the programs help these students navigate what it means to have a disability in the United States, from increased independence to reasonable accommodations that make daily life more efficient. Funds are specifically set aside for this purpose and administered in consultation with all associated parties, which includes the host school, the host family, the placement organization, MIUSA, and American Councils for International Education.

Students with disabilities may be hearing impaired or deaf, visually impaired or blind, or have motor conditions such as cerebral palsy. Some students will have attended specialized schools at home, and others will have been mainstreamed. The programs consider what is best for each student in the United States on an individual basis. Many students have been welcomed into mainstream U.S. schools where their eyes are opened for the first time to their own potential.



Special Workshops for CBYX, FLEX, and YES Students

The U.S. Department of State provides special, fully-funded, program-related opportunities for approximately 400 selected FLEX and YES participants and all 285 CBYX participants during the exchange year, for which students may request an excused absence. These workshops include:



Civic Education Workshop: This week-long workshop is held in Washington, DC in winter or early spring. Participants attend seminars and lectures, meet with their host community's Congressional representatives on Capitol Hill, and participate in activities designed to expose them to the federal system of government and elements of U.S. civil society.

Workshop for Youth Leaders in Teaching of English (for FLEX and YES only): This intensive, week-long training program in Washington, DC is held in the spring for 30-35 competitively selected FLEX and YES students. The workshop cultivates skills specific to teaching English.



Participants develop and practice important teaching and leadership skills including public speaking, team-building, and goal-setting, and are expected to organize English teaching opportunities upon return to their home communities.

Diplomas

Prior to coming to the United States, students and their parents are informed that they should not expect to receive a U.S. high school diploma, and that this is at the discretion of each host school. Students are also told that they are to accept the school's position on providing a diploma. This message is reinforced in pre-program orientations and throughout the year. The U.S. Department of State does not expect school administrators to make exceptions for its scholarship exchange students. Many of the students come from countries with nationalized systems of education, and may not initially understand the local governance of the U.S. educational system.



Travel Home

All U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange students are expected to return to their home countries at the end of the program, as their J-1 (exchange visitor) visa status will end. Before students are accepted into the scholarship programs, they and their parents sign a statement agreeing that students will depart the United States on the date and flight assigned by the placement organization. A student may inquire about staying in the United States to continue high school or pursue university studies, however, they will need to depart and apply for a subsequent student visa at a U.S. embassy abroad in order to return to the United States.

It is a goal of the program that students will return to their home countries after their program to share what they have learned. All U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange students are subject to a cumulative two-year home residency requirement as a condition of their J-1 visa, before applying for a U.S. immigrant or work visa. This requirement does not prohibit individuals from returning to the United States for tourism, study, or other purposes involving a temporary stay, nor does it restrict the students from exploring university opportunities, taking college admission tests, or seeking scholarships while in the United States.

Most students are assigned a departure date in June. Approximately one-quarter of FLEX students and YES students will depart in May to take mandatory school exams in their home countries. We ask for your understanding. The U.S. Department of State will not change an assigned date of travel to accommodate graduation, prom, or other special events.



Alumni Share U.S. Experience and Become Changemakers

ECA scholarship programs are all “forward-focused”; everything the students learn and experience during their exchange year is something they can take back to their home countries. They are smart, talented, and motivated young people empowered with new knowledge, skills, and tools to use to benefit their home communities and countries. Returning students join the official U.S. program alumni network in their country, continuing their student ambassadorship earned from their experience with your schools and community.

Alumni also remain active in organizing community service activities such as volunteering in local orphanages; conducting fundraisers and drives for worthy causes such as children’s hospitals and disadvantaged populations; cleaning up parks, beaches and forests; visiting the elderly; and teaching English or basic computer skills to others in their community. Many alumni build on the empowering experience of their exchange year and go on to pursue university degrees and careers and service focused on improving their communities and indeed the world.

Alumni Accomplishments

CBYX 1993 alumnus Alexander Bonde and CBYX 1998 alumna Anna Luehrmann from Germany served on the Bundestag (German Parliament). Anna was the youngest member ever elected.

CBYX 2006 Alumna Giulia Enders wrote a bestselling book “Darm mit Charme” which has been translated into several languages, in English the book is called “Gut: The Inside Story of Our Body’s Most Underrated Organ.”

FLEX 2013 alumna Esma Gumberidze from Tbilisi, Georgia

is an advocate for disability rights. She hosts an online radio show Beyond the Horizon, is a member of the Advisory Council on the monitoring of the rights of persons with disabilities for the Public Defender of Georgia, a Young European Ambassador in the European Union Neighbors East project, and most recently became the Youth Representative to the United Nations for the Republic of Georgia.



Esma Gumberidze

FLEX 2019 alumnus Bayarjavkhlán Bayanmunkh from Baruun Urt, Mongolia received the “Young Person of the Year” award from Mongolian Prime Minister in 2019 for his immense contribution to his community, including teaching English to participants of the “Be Positive” youth development projects aimed at teaching teamwork and leadership skills, and leading the “Hey College!” project to help youth consider education opportunities. These projects directly impacted over 500 young people in his community.



Bayarjavkhlán Bayanmunkh



YES 2011 alumna Tamara Kotevska from Skopje, North Macedonia co-directed the film *Honeyland*. The documentary is the first film ever to be nominated for both Best International Feature Film and Best Documentary Feature at the Academy Awards. It was also the most awarded film at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. Tamara credits her cultural exchange experience on the YES program for her interest in filmmaking and becoming a documentarian.



YES 2014 alumnus Tamba Abdulai from Koidu City, Sierra Leone is the president and founder of the Tamba Abdulai Foundation, a nonprofit he established almost immediately after returning home from YES. The foundation promotes quality education for girls by providing tuition, supplies, and uniforms. Since its inception, the foundation has supported 135 girls in 15 communities who might not have had the opportunity to go to school otherwise. Under the banner of

his foundation, he was awarded a YES alumni grant to implement a mentoring program for 85 students, including awareness sessions for parents and community members on the advantages of girls’ education and the disadvantages of early marriage.

Thank You

Thank you again for being a partner for global diplomacy. We hope you find hosting a U.S. Department of State scholarship exchange student in your school a worthwhile experience. We are certain it will be a valuable experience for these students. Thank you for opening the doors of your school to these special students and for helping them to develop the qualities needed to be future leaders. Together you are making history!



THE MEDALLION PROGRAM



PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP & DIPLOMACY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE-SPONSORED EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Each year, more than 2,000 extraordinary young people from around the world receive a highly competitive, merit-based scholarship to study at a U.S. high school and live with volunteer host families. These future leaders are participants in the Department's Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX), Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX), and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) programs. Host schools help build diplomatic bridges with other nations by leaving positive, lasting impressions of the United States on their exchange students.

BECOME A MEDALLION MEMBER SCHOOL

By enrolling a U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange student, high schools become Medallion Member Schools. These schools set themselves apart by demonstrating a commitment to academic and cultural enrichment for their students through international exchange. Medallion Member Schools may pair the official medallion with their school name and advertise on banners, newsletters, websites, signage, clothing designs, and more.

CREATE GLOBAL CITIZENS

The world is increasingly interconnected. By participating in the Medallion Program, you can prepare your students to become global citizens. Exchange students introduce your students to another culture and increase their international awareness without requiring them to travel. CBYX, FLEX and YES students also positively impact your school through sharing their countries and cultures, engaging in extracurricular activities, and volunteering in their communities.

LEARN MORE AT [HOSTING.STATE.GOV#MEDALLION](https://hosting.state.gov/#medallion)



Appendix II: Secondary School Systems Overseas

High School in Other Countries

Although each country has its own educational standards, there are some generalizations that can be made concerning the educational system in the home countries of these exchange students.

Most ECA exchange students come from countries with a standardized, nation-wide school system and curriculum. The students may be confused initially by the variation among U.S. schools stemming from local school district autonomy.

In many countries, students do not change classes as frequently as American students and it may take scholarship students a while to get used to having individual schedules and switching classes each period. Many students are surprised that American schools have so many rules and regulations, such as hall passes and tardy slips. They find it paradoxical that our system allows them to choose their own classes, a liberty their schools do not offer, yet will not allow students to walk in the hallways without permission. The opportunity to select their own classes is something they greatly enjoy and appreciate while in the United States.

The methods of teaching (and learning) in most countries differ from the American model. Whereas in American schools, students are encouraged to form their own thoughts and theories individually and to defend them, in many overseas schools students often work in groups and are expected to memorize and recite information. Alumni often speak of having been impressed with what they describe as the “democratic atmosphere” of American schools. Exams in many overseas schools are usually oral and students do not take multiple choice or standardized tests. Tests are often given in front of the class and teachers will criticize or praise students in front of their peers. Grades are not always considered private, and the teacher may give a student his/her grade in the presence of the entire class.

Special Considerations for High Schools

Many students come from countries where cultures, values and beliefs are guided by Islamic faith and traditions and may need accommodations for their own religious or cultural practices like their daily prayers or dress-codes. Some small considerations can go a long way to making the student at your school feel welcomed and at home.

During the month of Ramadan, which falls over the course of our summer for the next several years, students who practice Islam can often be fatigued and distracted as they fast during the day. If there are tryouts for sports teams during the month of Ramadan, coaches or other adults should be aware that fasting students will be refraining from drinking during daylight hours and should watch for signs of dehydration during vigorous or outdoor activities.



Some students, especially females, wear clothing that covers their arms and legs, and for some women, their heads as well. If there is a school uniform for sports, PE classes or otherwise, a student may need special clothing accommodations in order to maintain her standards of modesty.

Some students may wish to have a space to conduct one or more of their five daily prayers. For some, this is a daily practice and others may be most observant during Muslim holidays. These prayers are short in length and require only a small, quiet space.

Grade Equivalencies

For information on grade equivalencies, please see the following NAFSA: Association of International Educators resource:

www.nafsa.org/professional-resources/publications/nafsa-guide-educational-systems-around-world

Appendix III: Resources

ECA Programs for Americans to Study Abroad:	exchanges.state.gov/us
ECA Programs for Foreign Exchange Students:	exchanges.state.gov/non-us
Opportunities to Host Foreign Exchange Students:	hosting.state.gov
U.S. Department of State Alumni Website:	alumni.state.gov
CBYX program Website:	exchanges.state.gov/cbyx
FLEX Program Website:	discoverflex.org
FLEX Alumni Community:	bradleyherald.org
FLEX and YES Country Profiles:	frank@americancouncils.org
YES Program and Alumni Community:	yesprograms.org

Appendix IV: Placement Organizations

American Cultural Exchange Service (ACES)

One Lake Bellevue Drive
Suite 200
Bellevue, WA 98005
800.661.2237
www.explorettheworld.org

AFS-USA, Inc. (AFS)

120 Wall Street
4th Floor
New York, NY 10005
800.237.4636
www.afsusa.org

American Councils for International Education

1828 L Street, NW
Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036
800.621.9559
inbound.americancouncils.org

Aspect Foundation

1201 Howard Street, Suite E
San Francisco, CA 94103
800.879.6884
www.aspectfoundation.org

ASSE and World Heritage

228 N. Coast Highway
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
800.333.3802
www.asse.com

Ayusa

600 California Street
10th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94108
888.552.9872
www.ayusa.org

Academic Year in America (AYA/AIFS)

1 High Ridge Park
Stamford, CT 06905
800.322.4678
www.academyyear.org

Borderless Friends Forever

201 West Chatham Street
Suite 110-B
Cary, NC 27511
919.285.2693
www.borderlessfriends.org

Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE)

300 Fore Street
Portland, ME 04101
800.448.9944
www.ciee.org

Greenheart Exchange

746 N LaSalle Dr
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60654
866.224.0061
www.greenheartexchange.org

HSUSA/Global Cultural Exchanges

2451 Atrium Way
Nashville, TN 37214
615.391.2924
www.highschoolintheusa.com

IRIS

2521 University Blvd.
Ste. 123
Ames, IA 50010
866.333.6944
www.iris-center.org

Pan Atlantic Foundation

1 Union Street
Suite 202
Portland, ME 04101
207.871.8622
www.panatlanticfoundation.org

Program of Academic Exchange (PAX)

14 Willett Avenue
Port Chester, NY 10573
800.555.6211
www.pax.org

STS Foundation

205 Keller Street
Suite 204
Petaluma, CA 94952
800.522.4678
www.stsfoundation.org

World Link, Inc.

905 M Avenue
Kalona, IA 52247-9303
877.656.4590
www.worldlinkinc.org

Youth For Understanding

3995 Fashion Square Blvd
Suite 2
Saginaw, MI 48603
www.yfuusa.org

Appendix V: U.S. Department of State Study Abroad Scholarships for American High School Students

exchanges.state.gov/highschool



Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)

exchanges.state.gov/cbyx

CBYX offers scholarships to selected high school students who want to fully immerse themselves in German culture by living with a host family and attending a high school for an academic year. No previous language experience is required and a month-long language training is provided at the beginning of the program. During their exchange year, students participate in leadership activities and also meet with members of the U.S. Congress and German Bundestag (parliament).

Host Country: Germany



National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

www.NSLIforYouth.org

The NSLI-Y program offers merit-based scholarships for eligible American high school students to study less commonly taught languages (Arabic, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Korean, Persian, Russian, and Turkish) in summer and academic year overseas immersion programs. The languages offered can change from year to year, based on international conditions.

Host Countries: China, Estonia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Morocco, Russia, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and other locations around the world



Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

yes-abroad.org

exchanges.state.gov/us/program/kennedy-lugar-youth-exchange-study-yes-abroad

YES Abroad offers 65 full scholarships to American high school students to spend up to one academic year in select countries with significant Muslim populations.

Host Countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey



Youth Ambassadors Program

worldlearning.org/program-pages/youth-ambassadors-program/u-s-citizens/

exchanges.state.gov/us/program/youth-ambassadors

The Youth Ambassadors program provides full scholarships for 120 U.S. high school students and adult mentors to take part in one of six exchange programs to countries in the Caribbean and South America. Participants focus on civic education, community service, and development of leadership skills during three-week summer exchanges.

Host Countries: Argentina and Chile, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Uruguay



We encourage you to promote and support study abroad opportunities to your American students.

The experience not only enriches their lives, but also adds to the educational resources for teachers and students at your school. Students participating in U.S. Department of State’s exchange opportunities abroad use blogs, messaging apps, and social media to share their experience live and streaming with their friends and communities back home, creating a rich multiplier effect and encouraging their peers to consider taking part in this life-changing experience. This resource has boundless potential for generating friendship, goodwill, and understanding in the classroom, the community, and the world. Learn more about additional U.S. Department of State exchange programs for teachers and others at exchanges.state.gov/highschool.



These programs are sponsored by:

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

exchanges.state.gov

In partnership with:



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Intercultural Exchange Programs

