

ABOUT YFU

LEARNING THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

For learners of all ages who want a life-changing cultural exchange experience, Youth For Understanding (YFU) offers a wide range of opportunities to see the world up close.

The global YFU network, consisting of partners in more than 70 different countries, is united by the belief that curiosity about the world expands cultural awareness and acceptance of other ways to live, which leads to broader perspective and greater understanding. Our cultural exchange programs provide the ultimate reality check to a worldview based on stereotypes.

Selected to administer more government and corporate scholarships than any other high school exchange program, YFU has remained a trusted leader of intercultural exchange programs since 1951 because of its commitment to safety, reputation for quality, and exceptional support services.

YFU's unique intercultural exchanges open minds and hearts, enable learning that transforms lives, and change the way you see the world. Join YFU and take a positive first step in a lifelong journey of international connection.



Ready for the adventure of a lifetime? With YFU, you'll discover a global community that believes in international understanding, mutual respect and social responsibility. YFU's distinctive brand of intercultural exchange opens minds and hearts, enables learning that transforms lives and ultimately helps make us citizens of one world.

Contact us today to learn how you can join YFU as a student, host family or volunteer and take the first step in a lifelong journey of international connection.

YFUUSA.org

800.TEENAGE (800.833.6243)



Youth For Understanding USA

641 S Street NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001

1.800.TEENAGE (800.833.6243)

admissions@yfu.org

YFUUSA.ORG

Find YFU on    

YFU USA is a designated J-1 visa sponsor by the Office of Exchange Coordination and Designation, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Exchanges (JVisas@State.gov)

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YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Intercultural Exchange Programs



STUDY ABROAD

SEE THE WORLD UP CLOSE

The YFU core experience teaches young adults about the world. Young people may seek out cultural exchange for adventure and to escape the confines of the known, but they end up getting something else entirely out of the experience. They emerge as young adults, more independent and mature, seeing with fresh eyes. And as much as they learn about new cultures, these students learn more about themselves.

YFU Students:

- Develop proficiency in a new language
- Qualify for preferred college admissions
- Gain self-reliance, resourcefulness, and confidence
- Build lifelong relationships
- Develop tolerance of risk and adaptability in dealing with the unexpected

Experienced Admissions Counselors help you select the program that is right for you and answer your pre-departure questions. YFU provides the support, logistics and tools for a safe environment in which to explore and gain a greater understanding of a different culture.



HOST A STUDENT

MAKE THE WORLD YOUR HOME

If your family is open to new and enriching experiences and is willing to provide guidance, love and support to a young person embarking on a journey of self-discovery – then hosting a YFU student is for you! When you host, you share your traditions, holidays and customs, offering each student a unique, personal version of your local community and an understanding of our diversity. Students share in day-to-day activities, and when seen through their fresh eyes, the ordinary can become extraordinary.

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Hosting is the best thing we do as a family, and we have changed many lives, including our own.”

All YFU exchange students speak English and are carefully selected as ambassadors from one of 70+ countries. YFU students have medical insurance and their own spending money. They are excited to go to school, meet new friends and become a member of your family. All kinds of families make wonderful YFU hosts – and yours will, too!

Great reasons to host a student:

- Experience a new and exciting family dynamic
- Give your family a new perspective on your community
- Connect your family to the world

VOLUNTEER

OPEN MINDS AND HEARTS

As a YFU volunteer, you can change the course of an individual's life. Our volunteers are the vital link between students and families and the YFU network worldwide – providing a safety net of support.

We welcome people of all backgrounds to work with us, and the hours and locations are flexible. We even have opportunities to volunteer without ever leaving your home. YFU provides tools and training; you provide time, commitment and compassion.

YFU Volunteers:

- Directly impact the lives of teenagers from the US and around the globe
- Promote and partake in increased intercultural understanding and global citizenry
- Engage local communities and build life-long friendships with fellow YFU volunteers, families and students

