



# YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Intercultural Exchange Programs

## PRESENTATION PACKET

### VOLUNTEERS & STAFF

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Field: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Field Director Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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## APPENDIX

National Scholarship Flyer
Summer Study Abroad Flyer
Arts & Music Programs Flyer
Sports & Outdoors Programs Flyer
Gap Programs Flyer
Volunteer Programs Flyer
Lead Slips
Student Sign Up Sheet

### Ideas on Where to Present

If possible, present in advance of a Virtual Information Night (an online informational session run by staff to share more about YFU and answer questions live.)

VIN Schedule: [yfuusa.org/vin](http://yfuusa.org/vin)

#### In the community:

- Scout Troops
- Youth Groups
- Boys and Girls Club
- International Festivals
- Service Clubs

#### In the classroom:

- Languages
- Social Studies
- History
- College Prep

#### At school:

- School Clubs
- Teacher Training Days
- Career Center
- PTA Meetings
- College Nights
- Parent Conferences

Dear Volunteers and Colleagues,

The enclosed study abroad Recruitment and Presentation packet contains a wealth of information. It is my sincere hope that you use this as a reference tool in helping YFU to promote study abroad programs in your local community and help to create and inspire students to become citizens of one world.

YFU offers an array of programs and with 250+ scholarships, administers more government and corporate scholarships than any other high school exchange program. Participating in a YFU program is, without a doubt, a tremendous investment in a student's future. Acquiring not only an international perspective, language skills and attributes which will give students an educational advantage, students also find that YFU's programs provide an opportunity for self-discovery.

Building a robust interest in YFU study abroad programs and scholarships also nurtures invaluable relationships with schools. Thank you for helping develop these connections as well as grow the study abroad program by encouraging American students to study abroad. You are making a genuine, positive difference in the lives of the students you inspire to participate in a YFU program!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Wiehr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Brian Wiehr

Senior Director of Study Abroad

# YFU PRESENTATION OUTLINE & IDEAS

## YOUR YFU STORY

Make it personal. Tell them about a very specific experience such as that time you got lost or used the wrong word. Talk about the first time you tried a traditional American meal with your Host Family or your first Halloween.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Since 1951, more than 260,000 students have exchanged globally through a YFU program.

*“What basics do I need to know when presenting?”*

## 1 Set Up for Public Speaking

- Pass out Information Slips (see Appendix) for those interested in learning more about hosting and study abroad.
- Write on the board:

### YFU USA

[yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org)

**P: 1.800.TEENAGE (1.800.833.6243)**

[admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org)

[facebook.com/YFU.USA.Fan](https://www.facebook.com/YFU.USA.Fan)

[youtube.com/yfuusa](https://www.youtube.com/yfuusa)

[@YFU\\_USA](https://www.instagram.com/YFU_USA)

[@yfuusa](https://www.tiktok.com/@yfuusa)

### Your Name and Phone Number

- Make the presentation as participatory as possible.
- Invite American alumni, international students or host siblings or parents to present with you.
- Publically post and pass out flyers (see Appendix). Pass out brochures or bookmarks (request a supply through your District Office - [1.866.493.8872](tel:18664938872).)

## 2 About YFU

*“What do my family and I need to know about the organization?”*

- YFU is a recognized pioneer and leader in student exchange.
- Don't worry- its natural to have tons of questions! YFU staff and volunteers will guide and support you throughout the entire exchange process – from the application process, to in-country support, to post program follow-up.
- 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.
- As a volunteer-based organization, host families are motivated to participate for all of the right reasons: genuine interest in different cultures, confidence in the many benefits of global exchange, and willingness to build international bonds of friendship.

# STUDY ABROAD AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

*“Does YFU have a program to fit my needs and interests?”*

## YFU PROGRAMS

- There are more than 100 outbound programs in 40+ countries on 5 continents.
- Programs include short-term two week summer, summer, semester, or academic year, gap year, volunteer and teach abroad.
- In many countries, students can choose a specialty program. For example, in Sweden students can study music and dance; in Lithuania, students can attend a basketball academy.
- Though some programs require prior language study, most do not have a language prerequisite.
- All programs and requirements are listed on YFU’s website [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org).

## DON’T BE AFRAID TO LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE!

Actors Bradley Cooper and Joseph Gordon-Levitt are both fluent in French. Soccer player David Beckham and actor Will Smith know Spanish while actress Natalie Portman and actor Edward Norton can both speak Japanese.

## GAP YEAR PROGRAMS

- Gap: a period of study abroad after graduation from high school. (Gap can also be time off during college. Some of our programs accommodate this, although most do not.)
- Students attend high school or college-level classes or can participate in volunteer projects.
- Top colleges and universities encourage gap Years.
- For students who are burned-out from a stressful Senior year; Freshman year of college begins with renewed vigor and focus.

***“Once I am accepted to college, will I be allowed to defer enrollment?”***

- Almost all colleges will approve a gap Year if students are participating in a structured educational gap Year program.

## ENCOURAGING GAP YEAR PROGRAMS

- The Dean of Admissions at Middlebury College observed that the average GPA for Middlebury students who had taken a gap year was consistently higher than those who had not.
- Harvard University’s acceptance letter actually encourages students to consider deferring admission to take a gap year. According to Harvard’s website, each year 50-70 students take advantage of this option.
- Princeton University has its Bridge Year Program.
- The University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill has a Global Gap Year Fellowship program.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### **“How easy is it to apply?”**

- Begin an online application at [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org).
- The application does not have to be completed all at once. Save your progress and submit when ready.
- Essay questions vary by program and scholarships.
- Admissions Counselors are available to walk you through the process should you have any questions.
- Most scholarship deadlines fall on December 1.
- Regular applications for summer departure are due March 15. Spring Semester and Winter Departure applications are due October 1.
- All applicants are interviewed by a member of the YFU community.
- Submitted scholarship applications are reviewed by a volunteer panel of evaluators.

## TUITION

### **“Where are the dollars going?”**

- Program costs are itemized by country and program. General program pricing and total cost is available at [yfuusa.org/studyabroad](http://yfuusa.org/studyabroad).
- Tuition costs vary from program to program and include:
  - airfare (domestic and international)
  - orientations
  - language training (some countries)
  - background screening of host families (standard YFU practice)
  - student insurance (some countries)
  - school enrollment (semester/year long programs)
  - group round-trip domestic orientation in early July (semester/year long programs)
  - special activities (trips or classes for some programs)
- YFU Admissions Counselors are available to speak with you about fundraising opportunities and any other questions you may have about covering tuition.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### **“Do I qualify for a YFU scholarship?”**

- YFU offers \$1.6 million scholarships to American students each year that are funded by corporations, governments, foundations, and individuals.
- Students are encouraged to apply for multiple scholarships; complete information is available on the website at [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org).
- There is no additional fee to apply for multiple scholarships.

“My year in Denmark was remarkable and completely changed my perception of the world, for which I’ll always be grateful. I learned as much there as I have in four years of college.”

- Megan, Year-long YFU exchange to Denmark

## FUNDRAISING

- Trying to figure out how to afford a study abroad program can seem daunting, but YFU has a number of resources dedicated to helping you learn how to afford your exchange. Visit [bit.ly/YFUFundraisingGuide](http://bit.ly/YFUFundraisingGuide) to get step-by-step tips and guidelines that will help you make your dreams of studying abroad a reality!
- YFU has been selected to administer more government and corporate scholarships than any other high school exchange program. With more than 250 full and partial scholarships awarded to help students' dreams of travel and learning become realities, there's bound to be one you're eligible for! Find them at [yfuusa.org/scholarships](http://yfuusa.org/scholarships).
- YFU Admissions Counselors are always available to discuss creative ways to fund your program abroad, contact them at [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or by calling 1.800.TEENAGE.

## SCHOOL CREDIT

- Speak with the school counselor about earning credit while abroad.
- While abroad, maintain contact with the school counselor – keep him/her posted on academic coursework.
- Keep all graded assignments and syllabi.
- US students should ask international teachers for recommendations.
- YFU has resources to help. Email your Admissions Counselor at [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org).

## EXPERIENCE A FOREIGN CLASSROOM!

Finnish students start going to school a year later than American kids, and they do less homework on average. Standardized tests are rare. And yet, in 2006, Finnish teenagers ranked first in math and science among 30 OECD countries.

*\*Brilliance in a Box: What do the best classrooms in the world look like? (slate.com)*

## UNIVERSITY ADVANTAGE

- YFU programs strengthen your college application. Ask any college admissions office!
- Studying abroad not only opens the world to students, it also enhances college applications and future job opportunities. In the college application process, your time abroad is best reflected through analysis and appreciation. Share how your YFU experience changed you for the better.
- Put your study abroad experience to practical use: seek out international internships based on your past YFU experience.

## BENEFITS OF EXCHANGE

### ***“What lessons will I take from this experience and how will it change my life?”***

YFU students gain intercultural understanding, learn mutual respect, and develop a sense of social responsibility

- Develop leadership competencies necessary to meet the challenges and benefit from the opportunities of a fast-changing global community.
- Students learn resilience and independence of thought; program participants are less likely to unquestioningly accept something that someone else tells them.
- A second language; There is no better way to learn a second language than total immersion into a culture – especially when living with a host family.
- Self-reliance, resourcefulness, and confidence; without parents, siblings, teachers, and coaches to fall back on, you have to rely more on yourself.
- It's a profound educational experience; beyond language skills, learn cultural intricacies, which can only be gained through experience – not simply taught in the classroom.

## CAREERS

At its core, YFU is a catalyst for positive global change and person to person diplomacy, making cultural exchanges increasingly valuable in our interconnected world. US President Barack Obama even agrees. In 2014, global conversations amongst world leaders have highlighted the need to focus on educational exchanges. Including a new program announced by President Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Abe, which aims to double the number of youth exchanges between Japan and the US by 2020; a speech from First Lady Michelle Obama to American and Chinese students on the importance of studying abroad; and during a bilateral meeting between President Obama and President Mujica of Uruguay, the leaders expressed aligned interests in further expanding student exchange opportunities.

Exchange allows participants to experience tremendous personal growth, and at the same time, the impressions made by the students themselves as well as the broadened perspectives of host families ripple through schools and across entire communities and this reenergized focus on intercultural education opportunities couldn't come at a better time. We know that personal opinions ultimately change public opinion; public opinion influences elected officials who draft public policy which informs international diplomacy. What starts with a single person, over time, influences nations. Through cultural exchange, YFU is able to act a catalyst for positive global change by helping to humanize diplomacy, taking it beyond the public face of protocol, policy, and politics, and allowing for powerful interpersonal experiences.

- A Presidential commission asserts US language deficiencies constitute a threat to national security and economic interests.
- The US is the only developed nation where one can graduate from college without studying a foreign language. Almost every other country in the world requires second language study.



# EDUCATORS

*“How can I help promote international exchange in my classroom?”*

**Teachers know the YFU experience is an education unto itself – helping students...**

- Develop effective learning habits
- Prepare for intensive studies in higher education
- Hone cross-cultural communication skills
- Better understand themselves and their world

**Educators and parents take comfort in YFU’s comprehensive support structure – SAFETY IS ALWAYS YFU’S TOP PRIORITY!**

Educators can nominate students to represent their school, community and country abroad. Nomination forms and additional information are available at: [yfuusa.org/resources](http://yfuusa.org/resources).

- YFU USA is the only U.S. exchange organization to receive Full Listing in all CSJET J-1 listing categories: Inbound Long-term, Outbound Long-term and Short-term Outbound programs. This singular achievement reflects YFU’s global commitment to quality, and consistent application of CSJET standards throughout the international YFU network.
- CSJET is a not-for-profit organization committed to quality international educational travel and exchange for youth at the high school level. ([csjet.org](http://csjet.org))



## RESOURCES

**On the web:** [yfuusa.org/resources](http://yfuusa.org/resources)

- Public Service Announcement Video
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Program and Country Flyers - Post the flyers on community boards in schools, coffee shops, at work, at grocery stores or anywhere that has a community board!
- Teacher Resources on Cross-Cultural Curriculum
- Information on Foreign Countries

## Educator Nominations

Ask teachers to nominate students: email educators this quick link to instantly nominate students online at [bit.ly/YFUNominateStudent](http://bit.ly/YFUNominateStudent)

## ADDITIONAL TOOLS & EXERCISES

### Brief Greetings Exercise

“Let’s try an exercise in adventure. Just imagine for a minute that you have decided to be an exchange student. You have been accepted by YFU, packed your bags and said goodbye to your family. Now you are on a plane to Japan to meet your host family. I need 4 volunteers to be the host family (mother, father, brother, sister) and 1 person to be the exchange student.”

Have students raise hands and come to the front of the room. Ask all students what their names are.

“OK, (name of student), you’re on the plane. You watch the movie, eat the complimentary snacks and the plane lands at the airport. You get off of the plane and step into a sea of host families. You know which one is yours because they are holding up a sign that reads your name. How do you say hello to them? Remember, you are in Japan.”

CORRECT ANSWER: Student should bow to show respect and say “Konnichiwa.”

### GREETINGS IN CULTURES

- In Japan, they bow their heads and say “Konnichiwa”.
- In France, they touch cheeks and kiss the air.
- In Belgium, they kiss cheeks, alternating three times; men also embrace.
- In Chile, they kiss on the right cheek.
- In the Netherlands, you shake hands with everyone, including small children.
- In Portugal, men greet each other with the abraço (embrace)- an enthusiastic hugging and mutual slapping on the backs. Women kiss on both cheeks if they are close friends.
- Germans and Poles rarely use first names in greetings and introductions. They are far more formal than Americans.

# HOSTING

## ***“How can my family here in the U.S. share in the unique, international experience?”***

Hosting a YFU student is a chance to share your story, your traditions, and your customs while learning about others. Your ordinary life is extraordinary to an exchange student.

- Hosting opportunities are long or short term. Serve as a welcome (6-12 weeks) or temporary family for students in-between permanent placements.
- International students come from one of over 60 countries and attend a local high school for an academic year or semester. International students bring their own spending money and insurance and live according to their host family rules.
- In the true spirit of exchange, U.S. families are encouraged to host while their American teen studies abroad.
- Host families are eligible to receive a \$1,000 scholarship towards Study Abroad tuition.
- If you are interested in having a host brother or sister – call YFU (1.800.TEENAGE) to start the conversation.

**TIP:** Leave time for questions. Ask **“Is there anything else you want to know/talk about?”**

## NEXT STEPS

- Invite the audience to fill out an Information Slip (appendix) for more information. Scan or return slips to the local Field Director (refer to cover page for sending information) and to Admissions at [Admissions@yfu.org](mailto:Admissions@yfu.org).
- Join a Virtual Information Night (VIN).
  - Once a month, YFU Volunteers and Staff host Virtual Information Nights.
  - This interactive webinar is a great opportunity to learn more about YFU programs and hosting.
  - Sign up for a VIN at [yfuusa.org/vin](http://yfuusa.org/vin) and join the conversation!
- Speak directly with an Admissions Counselor at 1.800.TEENAGE or email [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) with specific program questions.
- Questions about Hosting or Volunteering? Call your local Field Director at 800.872.0200.
- Learn more about program options, scholarships and requirements at [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org).

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## CAREERS

- Boost your career prospects for the 21st century with YFU and gain skills for a lifetime.
- Many careers in the 21st century depend on employees' international and intercultural competence.
- Foreign trade is key to economic growth, as apparent in the signing of the US Free Trade Agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.
- Only about one quarter of the Global Fortune 500 companies are US-based.

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## SUGGESTED EMAIL INTRO

*The following text can be modified and used to ask school administrators/teachers for the opportunity to present in a classroom:*

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

**YFU USA wants your students to be aware of the great opportunities to study abroad.** YFU offers more than 100 program choices to 40 countries and awards more than 250+ scholarships each year. We welcome students who are flexible, have a spirit of adventure, and will enjoy the challenge of adapting to new people in a new culture.

As a volunteer who feels strongly about the merits of global exchange, I am eager to give a presentation that encourages students to continue their education in foreign languages and to explore different cultures. Of course, I can also tailor presentations to fit curriculum needs if you like.

Our deadlines for many of our scholarships are in December so a presentation to the students in the fall or early winter would allow them the opportunity to apply for programs over next summer or fall.

Please give me a call at \_\_\_\_\_ or send me an email if your students might benefit from this transformative experience. I am available to speak to your classes, and I can take time to meet with interested students in the counseling office and discuss our programs as well.

Thank you for your support of global exchange in our community.

Best regards,

Name

Number

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

### **About YFU**

A non-profit international educational organization with partners in more than 60 different countries, YFU is one of the world's oldest, largest and most respected intercultural exchange programs. More than 260,000 students and their host families have benefited from the support and expertise of YFU. The YFU global network is united by the belief that full cultural immersion is the most effective means to gain the skills needed to thrive in an increasingly multicultural, interconnected and competitive global society.

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## GENERIC LISTSERV

Ask the PTA or other educational communities to include the following in their next email or newsletter.

### ***Become a Citizen of One World***

----- High School Students, YFU USA is currently offering opportunities to study abroad! YFU offers programs to more than 40 countries worldwide and provides 250+ scholarships annually to American teenagers wanting to see the world up close. Interested students may speak with an Admissions Counselor to learn more at 1.800.TEENAGE and [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org).

----- School District families; Your ordinary life is extraordinary to an exchange student! If your family is willing to share your story, your traditions, and your customs while learning about others, than hosting may be for you!. Contact a local YFU staff at 1.800.872.0200 or visit [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) to learn more.

Students and families around the world trust YFU because of its reputation for quality, high safety standards, and strong support network. As one of the world's oldest and largest exchange organizations, YFU has provided study abroad opportunities to more than 260,000 high school students for almost 65 years.

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## MARKETING RESOURCES

### ***Flyers***

- Teacher Resources: Educator Section on the YFU Website [bit.ly/YFUteacher](http://bit.ly/YFUteacher)
- Post the pull-tab flyer on community boards in schools, coffee shops, at work, at grocery stores or anywhere that has a community board! Ask teachers, hosts and International Students to help do this.

### ***Educator Nominations***

- Ask teachers to nominate their students who exemplify qualities of an ideal exchange student at [yfuusa.org/nominate](http://yfuusa.org/nominate).

### ***Study Abroad Program information***

- [yfuusa.org/studyabroad](http://yfuusa.org/studyabroad)

### ***Study Abroad Lounge***

- The My.YFU SA lounge is full of additional resources – web, print ads, PSAs, radio announcements, flyer templates, etc.
- Some resources are oldies, but goodies.

### ***Powerpoint***

- A Powerpoint template for projected presentations is available on the Lounge and on the public website under Teacher Resources

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**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING  
Intercultural Exchange Programs**

**FEATURED SCHOLARSHIPS**

**CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG  
YOUTH EXCHANGE**

**Amount:** Full  
**Program:** Germany Year  
**Eligibility:** IN, IL, MI, MN, WI, IA, MO, NE  
 Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, this year-long program is for motivated high school students to live with a host family while attending school in Germany.

**FINLAND-US SENATE YOUTH  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**Amount:** Partial  
**Program:** Finland Summer  
**Eligibility:** Nationwide  
 A unique summer program featuring a visits to the US and Finnish senates, the Finnish embassy and ambassador's residence, and a cultural tour of Helsinki.

**JAPAN-AMERICAN  
FRIENDSHIP SCHOLARS**

**Amount:** Partial  
**Program:** Japan Summer  
**Eligibility:** Nationwide  
 This scholarship is for students with Japanese language experience or who are motivated to learn Japanese, and includes a unique pre-departure orientation at the University of California at Berkeley.

**JAPAN-US SENATE  
YOUTH EXCHANGE**

**Amount:** Partial  
**Program:** Japan Summer  
**Eligibility:** Nationwide  
 This scholarship requires no previous language experience, and includes a unique pre-departure orientation at the University of California at Berkeley.

**OKINAWA PEACE SCHOLARSHIP**

**Amount:** Partial  
**Program:** Japan Summer  
**Eligibility:** Nationwide  
 This program places students with host families on the island of Okinawa, and includes a pre-departure orientation at the University of California at Berkeley and a post-arrival orientation in Tokyo.

**YFU COMMUNITY GRANT**

**Amount:** Partial  
**Program:** Any country, any length  
**Eligibility:** Nationwide  
 The YFU Community Grant is available to alumni, their children, and children of qualified host families and volunteers and can be applied to any youth YFU program.

**View the full list of available scholarships online at [yfuusa.org/scholarships](http://yfuusa.org/scholarships)!**

Applications for scholarships are due on **December 1, 2015** and are subject to change. Please check [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) for updates.

For details and requirements of these and many other scholarships, please visit us on the web, contact us at [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or call us at **1.800.TEENAGE**.

**ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:**

- Placement with a carefully selected host family
- Enrollment in high school (year and semester programs)
- Preparatory materials
- 24-hour student support
- Regional orientation for participants

Youth For Understanding USA, consistent with its commitment to international understanding, does not discriminate in making its admissions and placement decisions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply, and will be accommodated to the best of our ability. YFU USA is an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Only U.S. Citizens and permanent residents may apply. Year/Summer program applicants will be notified of their status by mail by May. Winter program applicants will be notified in November. All programs, scholarships and prices are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. © 2015, Youth For Understanding USA. All rights reserved.



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## YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Intercultural Exchange Programs

# 2016 SUMMER STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

YFU summer programs offer you the opportunity to experience culture like no tourist could. Most YFU summer programs are traditional homestay programs, where you'll live with a host family and participate in family activities throughout the summer. Imagine spending the summer exploring the wonders of China with a local family, shopping for food in a marketplace in Greece, or finding your way to the beach in a sunny Spanish town. You'll learn how another culture lives, works and learns from the inside. Summer programs range from three to eight weeks; most leave in mid-June.

### SPEND YOUR SUMMER IN:

ARGENTINA | BRAZIL | CHINA | ECUADOR  
FINLAND | FRANCE | GERMANY | GHANA | GREECE  
HUNGARY | JAPAN | KAZAKHSTAN | KOREA  
SOUTH AFRICA | SPAIN | SWEDEN | THAILAND |  
TURKEY | URUGUAY | VENEZUELA

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2016\***

\*Deadlines are subject to change. Programs may fill up before deadline. Apply early!

Please check [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) for updates.  
For scholarship details and requirements, please visit us on the web, contact us at [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or call us at 1.800. TEENAGE.

Youth For Understanding USA, consistent with its commitment to international understanding, does not discriminate in making its admissions and placement decisions on the basis of race, color, national origin, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Students with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply, and will be accommodated to the best of our ability. YFU USA is an IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Only U.S. Citizens and permanent residents may apply. Year/Summer program applicants will be notified of their status by May. Winter program applicants will be notified in November. All programs, scholarships and prices are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. © 2015, Youth For Understanding USA. All rights reserved.



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## YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Intercultural Exchange Programs

# GAP YEAR PROGRAMS

A gap year is known as “time off” between stages of life to study abroad, travel or volunteer. You can use your gap year with YFU to gain a greater understanding of another culture. It is the perfect adventure for a young adult ready to make a difference in today’s world.

“ I went on exchange between High School and University. An in between year, to discover sides of yourself that you’ve been ignoring and to learn to accept a new culture and respect it’s ‘other’ ways of doing things, provides an excellent foundation for further exploration within the academic framework. And there’s no better way to get to know another culture than living with a host family. ” – *Flannery, YFU Gap Year Student to Germany*

### SPEND YOUR GAP YEAR IN:

ARGENTINA | AUSTRIA | BELGIUM | BRAZIL | CHILE | CHINA | CZECH REPUBLIC  
ECUADOR | ESTONIA | FINLAND | GERMANY | GHANA | GREECE | HUNGARY  
INDIA | ITALY | KAZAKHSTAN | LATVIA | LITHUANIA | MEXICO | NETHERLANDS  
NEW ZEALAND | PARAGUAY | ROMANIA | SERBIA | SLOVAKIA | SOUTH AFRICA  
SPAIN | SWEDEN | THAILAND | URUGUAY | VENEZUELA

### ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Placement with a carefully selected host family
- Preparatory materials
- 24-hour student support
- Regional orientation for participants

### APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Scholarships: **December 1, 2015**  
Year, Fall Semester, Summer: **March 15, 2016**  
*\*Subject to change. Please check [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) for updates.*

For additional details and requirements or information on other YFU programs, please visit us on the web at [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org), email [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or call **1.800.TEENAGE**.

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# SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

YFU's programs offer you the opportunity to experience a culture like no tourist ever could. Most YFU programs are traditional homestay programs, where you'll live with a host family and participate in local activities. For those looking for an opportunity to explore a new culture while making a difference, YFU has the perfect adventure for you.

## THAILAND

As a volunteer in Thailand, you will live with a local host family for part of your exchange and then stay in lodging arranged by your volunteer site. This program includes a 30-hour language course, an optional cultural expedition, and several different volunteer opportunities.

## PARAGUAY

The Community Service Program in Paraguay includes a two-week intensive language course before your volunteer work begins. Students have the opportunity to live with a host family while also partnering with a local non-profit to assist in community service efforts.

## INDIA

Add an extra month onto your exchange year in India and spend it volunteering! You will continue to live with your host family, but instead of attending school, you'll volunteer for several hours each day. This is a great opportunity for students to make a difference in their Indian communities and immerse themselves even deeper in their host culture.

### APPLICATION DEADLINE

Spring Semester: **October 1, 2015**

Scholarships: **December 1, 2015**

Year, Fall Semester, Summer: **March 15, 2016**

*\*Subject to change. Please check [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) for updates.*

### ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Placement with a carefully selected host family
- Enrollment in high school (year and semester programs)
- Preparatory materials
- 24-hour student support
- Regional orientation for participants

For program details and requirements, please visit us on the web, contact us at [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or call us at **1.800.TEENAGE**.

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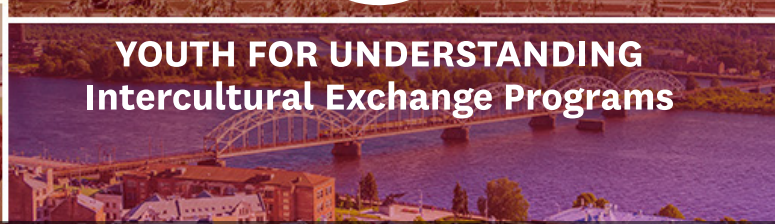


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# STUDY ARTS AND MUSIC ABROAD

Explore your creativity as you discover another language and culture! YFU USA offers high school students and recent graduates the opportunity to combine a traditional homestay exchange experience with an Arts, Music, Dance, Film or Theater program for the most exciting year of your life. Apply early - programs fill up fast!

## ART

Focus on pencil drawing and watercolors or try your hand at pottery, metalwork, or artistic woodcarving. Study architectural art or fashion design. Brush up on your art history in the homelands of the masters. Even perfect a specialty like textiles or leatherwork.

## DANCE

Receive dance training and study jazz technique. Learn choreography and performance skills.






## MUSIC

Train among the finest in schools that offer lessons in piano, organ, voice and a variety of instruments. Join the school choir or orchestra while learning music theory, solfeggio, or conducting.

## FILM & THEATER

Participate in coursework and activities that will stretch your creativity and increase your language skills. Study theater analysis and history along with music, dance, acting, voice and diction.

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COUNTRY	FINE ARTS	MUSIC	DANCE	FILM & THEATER
 Belgium	✓	✓	✓	✓
 Estonia	✓	✓		✓
 Hungary		✓		
 Latvia	✓	✓		
 Sweden	✓	✓		

All of the programs are available as year or gap year exchanges. Sweden also offers semester exchanges.

## APPLICATION DEADLINES:

Spring Semester: **October 1, 2015**

Scholarships: **December 1, 2015**

Year, Fall Semester, Summer: **March 15, 2016**

*\*Subject to change. Please check yfuusa.org for updates.*

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## YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING Intercultural Exchange Programs

# SPORTS & OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

YFU USA offers high school students the opportunity to combine a traditional academic exchange experience with a sports or nature program to these three exciting countries. Sharpen your skills and explore interests while immersing yourself in another country's culture, language, family and school life. Apply early. Programs fill up fast!

### SERBIA: TENNIS

Serbia has a record of excellent tennis players, and American students wishing to continue their tennis at a high level are encouraged to apply for the tennis program! Students on the tennis program will attend a local Serbian high school and also take classes at Crvena Zvezda, one of the two best tennis clubs in Belgrade.

### LITHUANIA: BASKETBALL

The most popular sport in the country, basketball, has put Lithuania on the map. With this unique YFU program, you will be enrolled in a specialized basketball high school and will train and play competitive team b-ball three to five times a week.

### ESTONIA: NATURE

Learn about the environment in this beautiful Baltic country. Along with traditional academics, you will take numerous trips throughout the region to explore and learn about the environmental issues it face. This program is perfect for adventurous nature lovers and may include trips to national parks, camping, skiing, ice-fishing, canoeing, and bird watching.

#### ALL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

- Round-trip domestic and international travel
- Placement with a carefully selected host family
- Enrollment in high school
- Preparatory materials
- 24-hour student support
- Regional orientation for participants and parents

#### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

**March 15, 2016**

For additional details and requirements or information on other YFU programs, please visit us on the web at [www.yfu.usa.org](http://www.yfu.usa.org), email [admissions@yfu.org](mailto:admissions@yfu.org) or call **1.800.TEENAGE**.

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## PLEASE SEND ME INFO ABOUT:

\_\_\_\_\_ Becoming a YFU exchange student \_\_\_\_\_ A school presentation  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hosting a YFU exchange student

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ High School: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Countries of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Please hand in at the end of the presentation. Check out YFU's website at [yfuusa.org](http://yfuusa.org) or call **1.800.TEENAGE**.



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INTERESTED IN YFU? Fill this out to receive more information about YFU USA programs and scholarships.

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