



Helpful Information for Hosting Pakistani Exchange Students



Content

-Pakistan Fact Sheet

-Cultural Adjustments

-Students and Host Family Questionnaire

-Why Host a Pakistani Student

-Education System in Pakistan

-Schools YES students recruited from

-KL-YES Recruitment and Selection in Pakistan

-KL-YES Pakistan Data

Pakistan Fact Sheet

Official Name: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Capital: Islamabad

Total Area: 803,940 km²

Population: 149,030,000 (Over 50% of the total population is less than 20 years old, while 52% are males and 48% are females)

National Day: Independence Day-14th August
Republic Day, 23 March

Language(s): Urdu & English (official),
Regional: Punjabi and variants, Sindhi, Pashtu, Balochi

Ethnic Group(s): Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun (Pathan), Baloch, Muhajir (Immigrants from India at the time of partition and their descendants)



Politics:

Type of Government: Federal Republic

Main Political Parties: Muttahida Qaumi Movement, Altaf [MQM/A]; Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan [MMA]; Pakistan Muslim League, Nawaz Sharif [PML/N]; Pakistan Muslim League, (Unified) [PML]; Pakistan People's Party Parliamentarians [PPPP]

Head of State: President Asif Ali Zardari

Head of Government/Prime Minister: Yusuf Raza Gillani

Geography:

Pakistan has an area encompassing 796,096 square kilometers and is bordered by India on the east, China on the northeast, Afghanistan on the northwest while Iran shares its boarder in the southwest with the Arabian Sea bordering south.

Demographics

Pakistan is a multi-cultural society where many ethnic groups are represented and speak a variety of languages. Urdu is the national language of Pakistan, however, both Urdu and English are used in official matters and business transactions. Various dialects are spoken throughout the country while educational classes are usually tri-lingual with the regional language,

Urdu and English. The vast majority of the population lives in rural communities and villages, which comprise over 67% of the total population.

Islam is the national religion, however, there are other minority religions such as Christianity and Hinduism.

Literacy Rates

According to the Population Census Organization, the 1998 Census indicated a literacy rate for the total population of 43.9% with females having a significantly lower rate of 32%. Rural literacy was also recorded as much less than the national average at 33.6% with females only achieving a 20.1% literacy rate.

Education System:

There are four distinct tiers within the education system in Pakistan. The four levels of education are: primary (grades 1-5); secondary (grades 6-10); higher secondary or intermediate (grades 11-12); and graduate & post-graduate or higher (grades 13-16).

People, Society and Culture:

Pakistan; a country with rich history and colorful culture, is spread along either side of the River Indus, making its way from the mountain valleys of the Himalayas and moving down to the Arabian Sea. It is known for its stunning landscapes, customs and traditions. Geographically, the f Pakistan can be divided into four regions. On the north are the mountains, which include the second-highest mountain in the world known as K2. In the east are fertile lands along the Rivers, barren deserts in the southwest with stony plateaus in the west and then finally there is Arabian Sea in the south.

Pakistan has an extensive historical and cultural background, being a part of India before separation; it has acquired elements from the Hindu and Buddhist culture. It was once a home of the Indus Valley civilization, in 3,000 BC, and the Aryans, in 1,700 BC. after which came the Mogul dynasty and later the British rule. Due to this, ancient Hindu temples, Buddhist monuments, archeological sites, Mogul palaces, Mogul gardens, Islamic art, Islamic architecture and Anglo-Mogul mansions are some prominent features in Pakistan.

The climate of Pakistan varies due to its regions. When it's pleasant in the northern areas; temperature in the southern areas is extremely hot. Similarly, from December through February, known as the coolest months, temperature in the northern areas falls below freezing point whereas in the south it remains 10-25 degrees C. Monsoon arrives during summer, which relieves people from the summer's heat.

Pakistan comprises of four provinces namely: Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan and N.W.F.P. (North West Frontier Province). Each province has its own unique way of life. Urdu is the National language, but Punjabi, Baluchi, Sindhi and Pashtu are the regional dialects.

The people of Pakistan are known for their hospitable nature. Life in the cities is fast and advanced as compared to the life in a town or a village. Islamabad is the capital, whereas Karachi is the cosmopolitan city in Pakistan and Lahore a museum of an enriching culture and lifestyle.

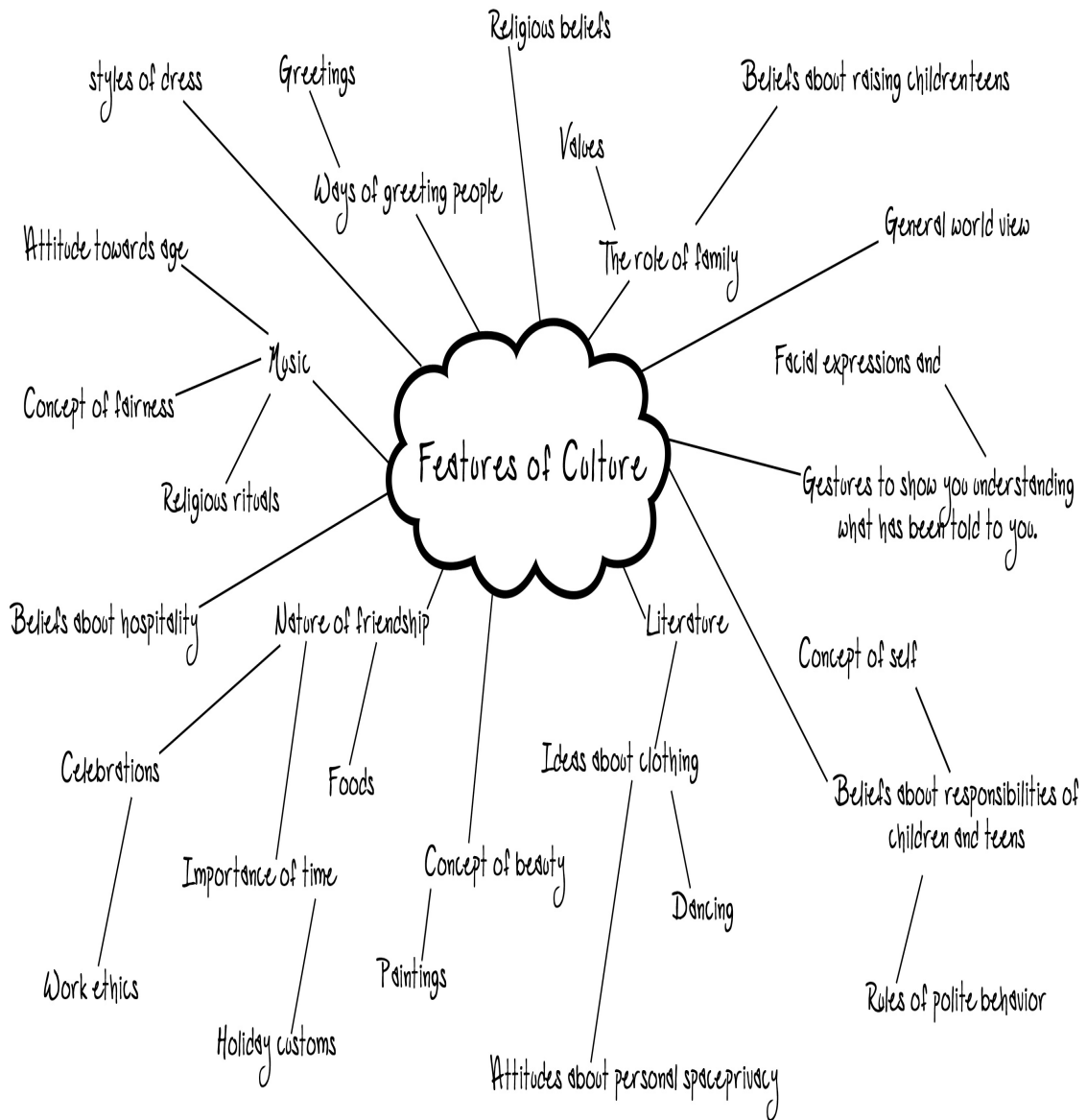
Pakistanis love food, especially spicy food, therefore restaurants and cafes are found in abundance. No ceremony or gathering is complete without a heavy meal and desserts in the end.

Like the culture a Pakistani wedding is also full of color and pleasure. It is a display of beautiful clothes, expensive embroidery, heavy jewellery, songs, dance, and not to forget the henna filled hands of the girls and bride. Weddings are the most popular and important occasions for socializing in almost all sub cultures of Pakistani society.

Besides the Islamic art and architecture, one of the most prominent and unique features of art is found on roads in Pakistan. The vibrant and colorful busses and trucks, loaded with artistic drawings and poetry, are a pleasure to see on the way.

Folk music of Pakistan is very famous, besides that people like listening to ghazals, qawalli (devotional) and classical. However, the younger generation has its pop and rock flavors to choose from.





Cultural Adjustments

We are extremely thankful to all the families in USA hosting Pakistani considering teenagers as a part of the YES exchange program. We appreciate the efforts and support of placement organization teams for placing and supporting them.

Here are some simple and general observations and guidelines that would come handy to develop an understanding and dealing better with the Pakistani students. Most of the points that I have made below are simple but at times go unnoticed, however makes a world of difference to the child who is trying to become a part of a new household and doing his/her best to please everyone. These would be equally helpful to the host families who are kind enough to be willing to host a young person from a different culture.

Hope you all will have a great time hosting our students.

Food and Eating Habits:

- None of the children would eat pork or anything that has pork or products made of pork that includes, lard and gelatin. They would prefer halal meat, halal meat is meat from an animal which is killed in a different way as suggested in Islamic religion that include slaughtering the animals neck reciting verses from the holy book and letting all the blood drain out of the animals body before cutting it for meat. But providing halal meat is not a compulsion for host parents, if halal meat is not readily available or is unaffordable, YES Pakistani students would very happily live on vegetables and all other foods. Host parents need to tell this to YES students very clearly. Omelets or hash browns with pita bread can be great lifesavers. Bakery products bread, bagels and croissants are good too. Most of these students have learned cooking, so they will be prepared to cook additional meals themselves if required.
- For most kids ice creams, soft drinks, crisps, chocolates and such snacks would be a real treat. However at time our kids want to live on them, which need to be taken care of.
- Pakistani meals are 75% staple (rice or flat bread) along with some curry or lentil soup etc. This meal is quiet filling, sometimes the kids on exchange may not feel filled and satisfied with the meals served to them, and they go hungry and not tell anyone. It may take sometime

for the young people in their new American homes to get adjusted to eat different meals. Our advice is to keep some bread and butter and fruits handy and let them know that they can help themselves if they feel hungry.

- It is considered impolite for guests or visitors in Pakistani culture to open the kitchen and fridge to help themselves to food. Hosts need to verbally and clearly tell the kids two things, a) they are not guests; b) they can help themselves with kitchen cabinets or refrigerator to make a sandwich for themselves or put together their school lunch or breakfast. Without your encouragement and permission they would be reluctant to do so.
- The idea of supper would be new to them; in average Pakistani household dinnertime is 9:00 pm. So the exchange kids in an American household may get hungry again in few hours after the supper.
- Children are not used to eating huge quantity of green salads, rather eating raw vegetable is not popular. They will slowly learn to like it and enjoy their salads. But fruits are favorite of all children.
- Pakistani food are spicy and aromatic, so the kids may find the American food though healthy and good for their growth, a little bland, so my advice is to keep plenty of salt and pepper on the dining table.

Eating habits and preferences are easy to adapt or change for 15/16 years old, so it is expected that in first few weeks time the students would adjust to American meals and begin to enjoy them.

Table Manners:

- Do not be upset if kids cannot use fork and knife in the beginning, they are not used to it. Most of the Pakistani people eat with their hands. We have taught them eating with spoons, fork and using napkins, however it will need some practice for them to learn to do so perfectly.
- The kids are used to eating at least one meal together with the whole family like most American family.
- It will be a good idea if you tell the kids the approximate time to be at the table for the breakfast or other family meals and also to make it clear in the beginning that they are expected to lend a hand at the household chores and cooking.

Clothing:

Boys:

- Boys mostly follow the same dress codes as any other American teenager.
- Sometimes for school presentations or other cultural activities, they might wear the traditional clothes; every one will have at least 1-2 pairs with them.

Girls:

Pakistani female are unique in their dress code, they wear our traditional clothes right from at homes to all professional fields. Just the texture and design changes as per occasion. The dress comprises of a set of loose pants, long tunic and 2.5 yards of scarf hanging loose draped around the shoulders and chest click at <http://www.786shop.com/apparel.asp> for a look at Pakistani dresses. Sometimes girls and women choose to wear a headscarf as well. They should be allowed to keep wearing their headscarves.

- Most of the YES girls will be wearing their traditional dresses but some may also choose to wear denims and shirts etc. Choosing the right wardrobe for YES exchange seems a great topic in most of YES orientation sessions that we conduct. And listening to the girls it seem they will choose to wear both Americans and Pakistani attire.
- Girls are used to wearing delicate slippers and sandals and they need to be advised to avoid them, as the American lifestyle mostly calls for walking shoes. So do not be shocked if you see her wearing the most dainty sandals for a walk, just explain them like you would to your own children. Everyone will be bringing walking shoes and trainers with them.
- Girls may avoid swimming and gym activities just because they have to wear swim or gym suits that expose a substantial amount of body. So, my suggestion is to let them choose what they wish to wear for gym and not to force them to swim. All the natural parents have asked me not to get the girls into activities that requires any type of dressing that shows off body parts. The girls students on exchange may not be allowed to wear swimsuits, shorts and sleeveless or spaghetti strap blouses.

- Many a times the girls clothing are made of sheer chiffon, silks or georgettes, which are dry clean only. The girls might not wash them every time they wear them resulting in an unpleasant odor. They need to be encouraged to wear cotton and denims and laundry their cloths after a days wear.
- Most middle and low middle class families does not encourage their children to change into a night suits every night. You may find them habitually going to sleep in the same cloths they have been wearing or getting up and walking around in the same cloths. We do prepare them and train them on hygiene and dressing style but some may take longer to change old habits.

Social Relationship:

Pakistani teenagers are in general very obedient, extremely well mannered and easy to handle. However knowing some of the following points will make it easy to understand them during the first few weeks:

- The children up to the age of 18/19 are very protected, in case of girls till they get married. You may not find Girls Street smart, however after the first few weeks in US, they would learn to be on their own pretty fast.
- Girls are very pampered and often cry easily but with love and politeness you can get them listen to you. Boys are the most easy to handle and live with; they would be extremely caring to mothers and other female family members and very respectful. However, seeing un-inhibited male and female interactions might be shocking for them in the beginning.
- Pakistani kids are raised to respect parents and adult family members, some of the signs of respect may make the Pakistani kids appear as dumb or silly to any American family, but it is just due to difference in cultural norms. Like being quiet and not to interrupt when adults are talking, keeping the eyes lowered when talking to an adult including teachers, say yes to anything the parents suggest, not responding negatively and ignoring to anything rude or harsh by any female, just out of the respect of women. They may keep themselves in their rooms out of politeness to not to interrupt the family, so hosts need to tell them to be out of their rooms and mix with family members.

A little word of encouragement will go a long way.

- Girls are not used to hugs, handshake or pat by any male other than their own natural fathers. I suggest to avoid these by the host father, brothers and other male relatives. With women such social interactions are acceptable.
- Pakistani kids will just not mind rather enjoy large households and many family members.
 Include them in grocery shopping or other shopping tours; the kids will really enjoy the malls. They would like visiting to neighborhood families and relatives of host family and making friends and playing with their children.
- At times in Pakistani schools and families; instructions, guidelines and rules are set and conveyed to children in a very serious up front note, sternly and straightforward. If something is told to them in a very casual, very American way, e.g. 'Fatima, don't you think you have engaged the computer for too long', you may get a response 'no, not at all I am still busy'. In the beginning probably they need to be told in a matter of fact manner, if there is something serious. However again this may vary, some kids, like all kids around the world need to be told more firmly than others.
- Most girls students may not be used to sleeping alone in a bedroom, so in the first few weeks if they get to see strange voices and images, it is OK, just a little pampering will settle all.
- Keeping boys and girls very busy in the first few months is the best thing to do to help them get out of homesicknesses.

Conversation and Interactions:

- You will find most kids confident and well articulate in their thoughts and ideas. Boys may take just a little longer to open up and freely interact with families as compared to girls who will mix up pretty fast and will be talkative.
- All YES students have great scores in SLEP Test; they can all converse fairly well in English. Their writing is strong, but is prepared to accommodate with their accent, which is non-native. Remember they are after all ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Sometimes the kids may tend to use very complicated vocabulary, which may be bookish and might convey wrong meanings and messages, which of course they do not mean. But this will be only the problem for 5-6 weeks and they will pick up native accent and expressions fast.
- Discussion on topics like sex, child birth, contraception etc. are still a taboo in Pakistani society and despite all its effectiveness and importance for creating awareness, Pakistani natural parents would not want the children to be part of such conversations.

Dating and Friendship:

- Girls would generally try to hang around girls only, this does not mean they are queer or something wrong with them, they are coming from a segregated society, and their natural parents may not want to compromise on this. And this also does not mean they will be hiding from boys or not talking to them at all, just they would be a little reserved with boys and watch out what the topic of discussion or what they talk about in the presence of boys.
- Dating should not be allowed at any cost for boys or girls equally. However, the kids can participate in social events in groups. I suggest, even if any of the Pakistani boys or girls wants to date, the host parents are requested to help the kids avoid it. The kids are also told about this clearly in their pre departure orientations.
- Having said all this some natural parents of boys may allow dating but everyone needs to keep in mind that these boys are not raised in a society where dating is accepted and they do not have any sex education, so host parents need to explain to any boys with girl friends to take care of limits.

Household Chores:

- All Pakistani kids are used to help around parents at home in kitchen and taking care of their own work despite that at any average household there are at least 1-2 domestic helpers.
- Boys are often a little clumsy in handling kitchen work but they are good at other work including the outdoors. We have advised all kids to make their own bedrooms and wash their own clothes and washrooms. Boys are specially trained and instructed not to expect to be waited upon and provide a hand at all household errands, including kitchen and dishwashing.
- The hosts need to guide the kids through the operations of machines and household gadgets; like washing machines, microwave or dishwashers etc, many of the kids might be using some of the machines or models for the first time in USA.

Hygiene:

In Pakistani culture like all Muslim culture ‘Cleanliness is next to holiness’, so generally our kids would be neat and tidy and will take good care of their bodies.

- All kids would want to wash themselves with water after they use the toilets each time. Students are advised to carry a small bottle with them to school or public toilets to take water in the toilets to wash themselves. However at homes my suggestion is to provide them a plastic mug or tumbler next to the toilet so they can wash themselves after each use.
- We would not want your bathrooms to flood the first night our students arrive. One extremely important thing maybe to explain the use of different hot and cold taps in the bath and to run the bath tub, some kids may not be used to bathing in tubs, and you would not want them to burn themselves. This will be only an issue for the first few days and with only some of the students.

Pets:

Pakistani kids love pets, however, dogs are not familiar household pets because their saliva and is considered unclean for performing prayers. The other reason is that kids see mostly the street dogs, which carry disease and are scared of them. We have explained our kids that dogs and cats are a common members of any American household and that the dogs are safe.

- Do not be shocked if the kids say in the beginning that they do not like dogs, they are just afraid, they do not mean to offend your well-loved pet.
- It is normal for our kids to involuntary run with a horrified look on their faces if your dog approach them to welcome and get a little snuggle and pat from them. The running would excite the dog and a chase may begin ending in misunderstanding. So, we request to deal this with an understanding. Some of our kids currently on exchange in USA who were not willing to live in a household with dogs now have their own dogs as pets.
- It would be good for host parents to suggest to those students who perform prayers regularly to change into a clean set of clothes before prayers and to keep the dogs out of their rooms. This can help solve all issues.
- A little caution to dogs to be not in physical terms (grin) with that Pakistani visitor would be helpful as well.

Hope this document helps you all develop an understanding and build friendly relationships with Pakistani and American youth. Wishing you a great time with our Pakistani students.

As part of the YES Pre Departure Orientations, we discuss the following set of questions with students and encourage them to take this document to their hosts and find out the answer within the first 2-3 days of their arrival.

YES Student and Family Questionnaire

When you arrive at your family's home, you will have many things to talk about and many questions to ask each other. The following are some questions, which may help you, ease into your new family's life for the one-year home stay — you may want to add additional questions. You might have a different point of view on several issues.

Take this opportunity to discover cultural differences and learn about one another.

After discussing these differences, try to agree on a workable solution.

1. What should I call you: by your first names?
2. What am I expected to do daily? For example, make my bed, keep the room picked up, and leave the bathroom clean?
3. Are there any chores you expect me to do or share with my siblings? (I.e., take out the garbage, yard work, clear the table, do dishes, etc.)
4. Where should I keep my dirty clothes until washday? When are clothes washed? Should I wash and put away my own laundry?
5. Where should I leave my bathroom toiletries? Will I share shampoo, soap, toothpaste, etc. or should I buy my own? Are some items considered personal property like hairbrushes, etc.?
6. How am I supposed to leave the bathroom after I am finished? Should I leave the bathroom door open or closed? Is there a separate rack for my towel?
7. When may I take a shower or bathe? May I shower more than once a day?
8. Is there a scheduled time in the morning when I may use the bathroom?
9. Do you eat certain meals together? What times do meals begin?
10. May I help myself to food in the refrigerator during the day or evening? Is there anything I'm not allowed to eat? May I take food outside the kitchen? If so, to which rooms?
11. What things may I use around the house? (i.e., microwave, sewing machine, typewriter, computer, piano, etc.)
12. Can I use the computer for internet/email use? If so, what rules about computer usage should I be aware of?
13. What times may I watch TV? May I play the stereo?

14. Are there any areas of the home in which I'm not allowed?
16. What time does the family get up? What time will I need to wake up on school days? On weekends? Will you wake me up or is there an alarm clock?
17. What time do you expect me to go to bed on school days? Weekends?
18. May I go out with friends at night during the week or on weekends? What time would you like me to return home?
19. May I invite friends over? If so, at what times during the day?
21. What are the rules for making long-distance telephone calls? Should I ask first? Am I expected to pay?
22. What types of articles and activities will I be expected to pay for and which will you buy: personal items (e.g., deodorant, hair care, nail polish, etc.)
24. How will I get to school in the morning? Home in the afternoons?
26. Does your family share certain activities in which I would also be expected to participate? (i.e., attend ball games, ski, go to community activities, etc.)
27. Do you attend religious services? If so, would you like me to attend? If so, how often? Could I attend religious services of my faith?
28. Are there any house rules on chewing gum, playing loud music, punctuality, tidiness? smoking, etc.?
29. Ask your host family if there are any other questions they would like to ask you. You may have other questions to ask them also, for example: what to wear around the house, etc.
30. Thank them their hospitality.

Hosting Pakistani students can be the most exciting and unique experience!!!!

Because-----

1. **They are truly curious and enthusiastic about exploring American culture, lifestyle and are looking forward to the most exciting year of their life as majority of the students cannot even think of or afford travelling.**
2. **Pakistani kids have never been exposed to or have any addiction to use of controlled substances including alcohol, drugs and smoking, you will not have to deal with any such issues.**
3. **Pakistan teenagers live quiet protected lives, they are used to obeying their elders and parents and get along extremely well with extended families and elderly people. They do not confront or argue, generally extremely friendly , helps around the house and ever ready to make new friend.**
4. **Over the years Pakistani exchange students have a record of great academic performance in School, they get on honor roll, receive gold medals, awards and always outstanding in sports and other school activities, anyone can be proud to be their family for a year.**
5. **Pakistani students are from a country rich in colorful cultural heritage, great culinary arts, lovely handicrafts and beautiful outfit. Your Pakistani exchange student will be great people to present something unique to your family at all important occasion.**
6. **Pakistani teenagers will not get into any personal relationship like boyfriends, girlfriends and sexual relationships due to cultural and religious restrictions, you will have less issues to handle having them in the family and community.**
7. **English is the second official language of Pakistan, all Pakistani students speak and communicate in English very fluently. You will not have any challenge in smooth communication.**
8. **All Pakistani students upon their return to Pakistan work on projects for community improvement projects making a difference to millions of lives. They are only able to do so using the skills and knowledge they acquire on exchange.**

Education System in Pakistan

There are four distinct tiers within the education system in Pakistan. The four levels of education are: primary (grades 1-5); secondary (grades 6-10); higher secondary or intermediate (grades 11-12); and graduate & post-graduate or higher (grades 13-16).

Primary Education

Primary education in Pakistan ranges from grades 1 - 5. Under the current education policy 1998-2010, there is a big effort to universalize education at this level. It is envisioned that all children throughout the country aged 5-10 will receive at least a basic primary education. One effort in achieving this goal is through enforcing co-education, thereby alleviating some of the strain on the system. This is the only stage of education that males and females are educated together until university.

The language of instruction is Urdu or the regional language of the area. There are some "English" schools but these are mostly in the private sector. The primary level curriculum is primarily uniform throughout the country. Promotion from one grade to the other depends on in-house annual examinations.

Secondary Education

Secondary schooling consists of two well-defined stages: middle school (grades 6-8) and high school (grades 9-10). The age group covered by this stage is 11-18 year olds. There is a matriculation or secondary school certificate (S.S.C.) exam at the end of the 10th grade. The medium of instruction is Urdu except in "English" schools. The curriculum at this stage begins to be specialized.

Four compulsory subjects are taught at this level: Urdu, English, Pakistan Studies and Islamic Studies with an additional four subjects as chosen by the student. Two distinguishing features of the secondary school curriculum are: 1) there is a strong re-orientation towards the sciences; 2) there is a diversification of the program so as to offer a large number of technical & vocational subjects.

Higher Secondary

Higher Secondary education comprises grades 11-12 and is also known as intermediate college level. This level leads to the intermediate exam or higher secondary certificate (H.S.C. formerly FA/FSC), which is the pre-requisite for entrance to university or an institution of higher education. English is the medium of instruction at this level, which has been

problematic since most education to this point has either been conducted in Urdu or a regional language. This causes a great disparity between students coming from private English high schools and those coming from government schools. This disparity has solicited a change in most intermediate colleges, which now have switched to Urdu as the medium of instruction.

Public exams for the secondary school and higher secondary school certificates are conducted by the Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education at the end of grades 10 and 12 respectively.

University Education

Universities in Pakistan offer higher-level degrees in general and professional education. Undergraduate studies for Bachelors degrees in arts & sciences require two years of study for completion. An honors bachelor degree takes three years. This distinction makes the difference in the length of time it takes to complete a Masters program.

Schools System in Pakistan

In Pakistan the K-12 school systems can very easily fall into three categories, the Private Elite schools, the Community Based/Trust schools and the Public/Government Schools.

2-The community or trust schools are schools that are managed and run by groups of NGOs, Foundations, trusts, social welfare organizations, all such schools are registered by government and follow rules and regulations set by Ministry of Educ they only generate more funds by local donors to keep quality and provide free or low cost education to poor and low income students. Most of these schools are located in middle and low income to slum areas of the cities and serve masses that otherwise cannot afford good education. Often times more than 50-60% of the students are on scholarships or some kind for financial support. The schools charge fee which can be anywhere from \$5-\$15/= a month which is extremely subsidized. For example Fauji Foundation Schools from where many of our students comes, is a school run by a Foundation they have schools located in far flung remote areas and communities villages and such. Their fee is minimum 3\$ and maximum 15\$ depending on where the school is located, now here the poorest can send their kids.

1-Private Elite or Private Limited schools are on the contrary run by either individuals or by groups and Board of Directors and respond to the educational needs of elites and more financially sound they charge heavy fee maximum \$100/= (we do not go near anyone who charges more than this, they do not even care about our programs). However, the private schools vary from one neighborhood to another, some located in comparatively poor areas charge very low fee depending on the community the schools are located in. Private schools can be registered by government but they are not entitled to abide by all Ministry rules.

3- Government and Public Schools, are the one simply run by Government, are currently in very bad shape and almost collapsing. However depending on the city or District there are some good ones. These does not cost fee just a one time registration fee however, the school offer nothing, students bringing everything and often times contribute to school supplies.

Most of our iEARN project schools are Public, or Community/ trust schools, very few are the Private but located in smaller underrepresented areas . The YES recruitment in Pakistan targets the community and locality (geographic and ethnic diversity) and not the schools so much, often times Pakistani parents might cut down on all luxury or little happiness money can buy to send that one son to a very good private school or they find a donor who is willing to sponsor their son/daughter to study in a good school. So, a through search on the socio economic background is carried out to establish the eligibility of the student. The yes group from Pakistan is a fair mix of all sorts of communities from Pakistan, which includes a:

- 65-75% low socio economic background kids, who will otherwise never even imagine of travelling anywhere in the world, probably not the next town even.

The category 1 and 2 from the above .

-The 25-27% of the students comes from not rich but reasonably well off families which means their dads have sound jobs, maybe mom works as well, have own houses and can afford second hand cars (they are not rich by any means), and probably they might in future afford to sponsor a son to study abroad spending all their savings but never a daughter. Girls from this group are mostly selected as otherwise they may never experience anything like this, and girls from this group are the ones who take up jobs and career.

- Now the rest comprised of two kinds of kids maybe one from an elite school (but not very rich) often times these make big government officials and policy makers and we need American allies here too. Some from these schools on our programs are often time the kids who are on scholarship and picked from other community/public schools so they get a good education.

The YES group mostly comes from the salaried middle class masses of Pakistani families and communities which values education and spends a substantial amount of their earnings on educating kids, most of these kids after High School work or give private tuitions to support their college education.

Please read Lin Carter's travelogue to Pakistan for more insights.

“On the Colorado, I do not know who are the Pakistani kids there, but well I know Junaid, his dad drives the school van (the poorest job anyone can do) his mom runs the school tuck shop (again in Pakistan those are the lowest class) and the school owner is kind enough to give admission to Junaid since he is so smart and academically

sound. His school is private but non elite school and charges 25\$ fee but Junaid does not pay this.”

In Country Recruitment Process (Pakistan Model):

The iEARN-PK YES office aims to achieve the following as YES recruiters:

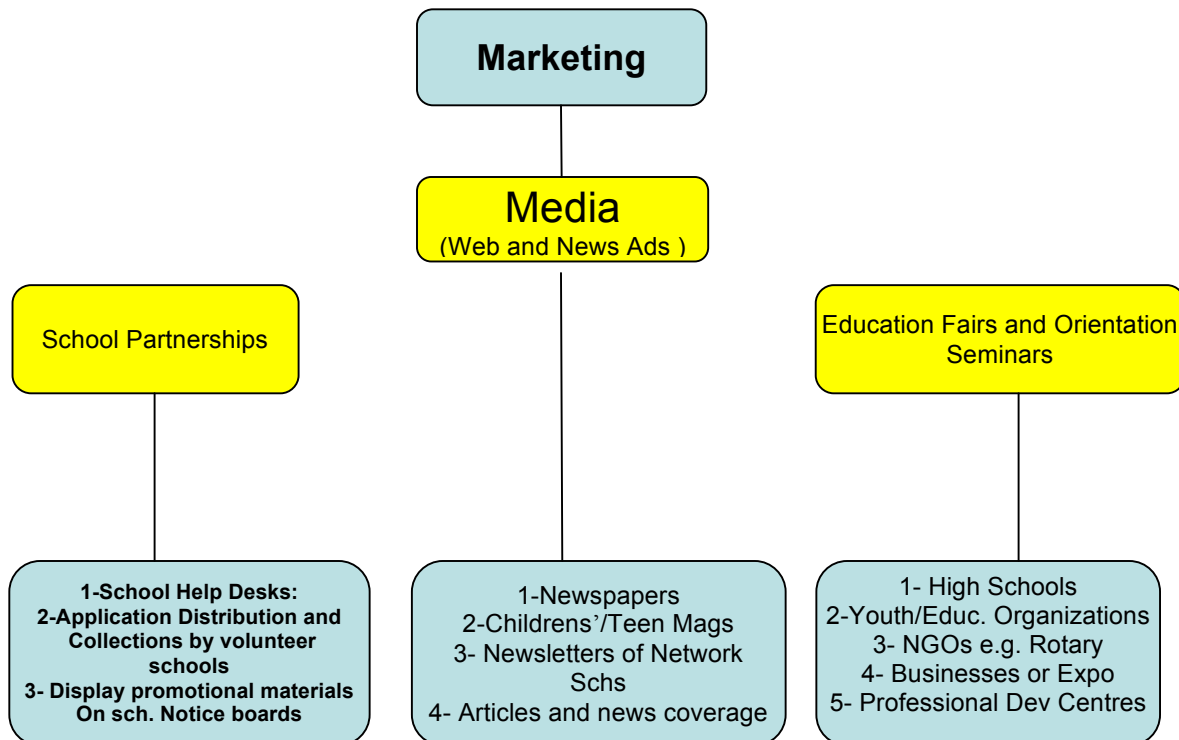
- No seats stay vacant
- No drop outs
- No to select students or students from families which have any negative intentions for entering USA that includes, any religious or political agendas, plans to stay back or run away, or are potentially very difficult to handle by the Placement Organisations or Hosts.
- More female participants
- More participants from underprivileged communities
- Minimum or no repatriation from US failing adjustments or any other failure.
- Placement organizations have minimum possible problems with the exchange students.
- The students and their natural families feel successful and fulfilled at the end of the exchange year.
- The placement organizations show confidence over Pakistani participants and are happy to place them.

The entire process of the YES in country (recruiting country) component of the program is three layered:

- Marketing and Promotion
- Selection
- Preparation

1- First Layer: *Marketing and Promotion*---Outreach and Networking****

A program well promoted and marketed is already half successful. People tend to respond and implement new programs seriously looking at how well the ideas are presented to them and also existing examples and outcomes. To encourage families to allow their 1-16 years old girls and boys is a serious business and the program is required to be presented to them very carefully so as to earn the trust and confidence of the schools, families and organizations. *In Pakistan* we use the following model to reach people and communities.



YES Information Packet/Booklet: It is important to put together a packet right at the onset of the program, this packet can contain all the relevant information, handouts brochure etc. handy to be given to anyone interested as well as for mass mailing to organizations, High schools, NGOs, Ministries etc. A good idea can be to have a database of school contacts and addresses and mail them these packets and then follow up on phones.

Orientation Seminars:

These are face to face orientations where the YES staff present the program and respond to questions and queries, having a YES alumni talk at such occasions can double the effect. The information packets are also distributed at these occasions.

Some of the ways iEARN-PK achieve this is to:

- have the iEARN partner school co host a YES orientation event in their school auditoriums or premises.
- Present YES program in Ministries, educational seminars and fairs.
- Host independently an orientation in a local Hotel and invite people/organizations, however this is the most expensive method and need to be kept at minimum.

Please see a sample session outline for the orientation session in the relevant section of this folder.

2- Second Layer: The Selection Process:

Preliminary Applications:

All applicants which fulfill the selection criteria are suppose to fill in and send a very simple two page preliminary application.

iEARN-PK accepts Preliminary applications in two ways:

- 1- Applications processed by partner High Schools
- 2- Independent applicants whose schools are not iEARN partners/members.

The selection process starts when the schools send the completed and stamped YES Interest Form, this form holds the school responsible to release confidential information about the student and support the selection process.

Once the iEARN office receives the interest form it sends stacks of preliminary applications to schools/organizations/Ministry of Education etc. or give to all students that requests for it independently, a copy is also available online for free download.

SLEP Tests:

As and when the preliminary applications are received the data of all potential applicants are compiled in an XCEL sheet. iEARN-PK invites all students which full fills the application criteria to take up the SLEP test (Secondary Language English Proficiency test) , please see the Eligibility Criteria and the Application Process documents. However, in different countries and iEARN centres, this can be decided looking at the test administering abilities and the available funds.

Interviews:

- The top scorers of the slep tests are all schedule for interviews, the number invited for interviews depends on the scores and merit every year and also the diversity.
- An interview panel comprising on 3-5 members is to be formulated.Please read the guidelines for the interviews.
- Students that qualify the interviews are given the full 24 page applications.

Final Selections:

- A final application evaluation goes around by a the YES Director and one more person.
- This is also the time when the background and family checks of the students are carried out.
- On more last time the parents and the students are called again to evaluate the applicants their intentions, support .

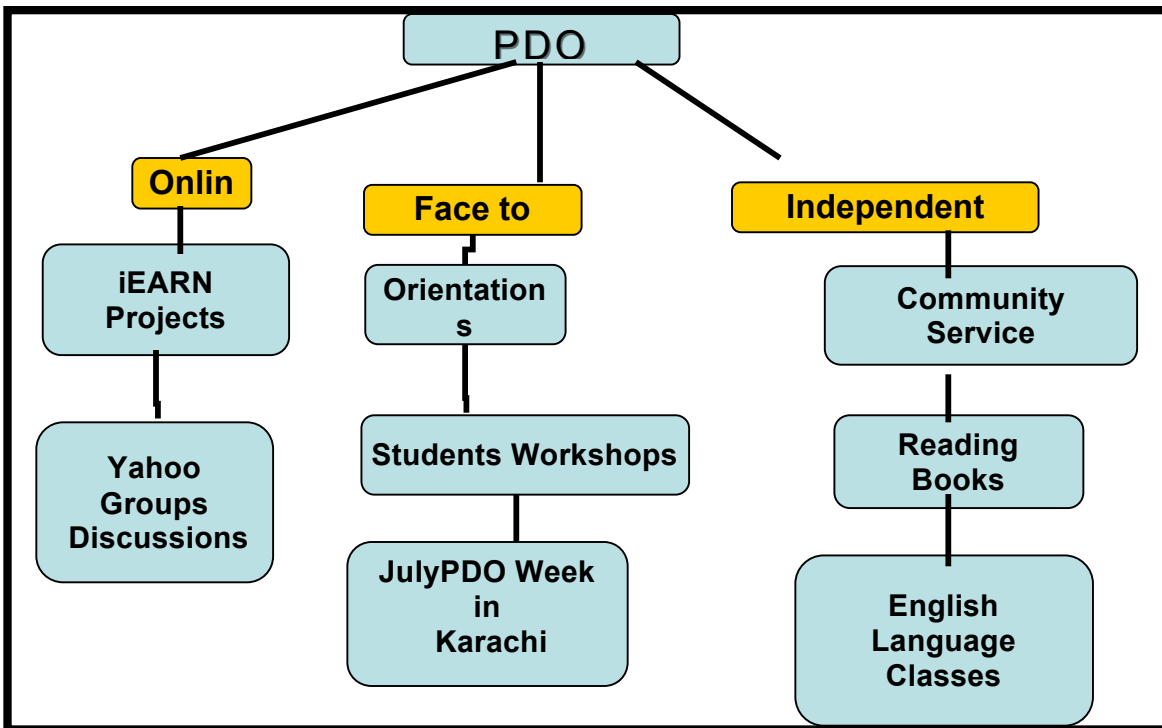
- The provisionally selected students (exact numbers assigned to your country) and also at least 5-8 back up applicants are notified by a letter and given a Scholarship Acceptance form to fill in and sign.
- If some donot accept the scholarship , you can fill the seat by the ones in the back up list.

The section process is complete now and is the time to fill in the Visa applications and Pre Departure Orientations Module.

3- Third Layer: Pre Departure Orientations Module

A successful exchange year greatly depends on how well the students are prepared at their home country for this one year. The planning for a great selection process depends on how much the selection team in country is willing to put their feet in the placement organization officials’ shoes. iEARN-PK goes an extra mile in preparing the students but this extra work is worth it, if any program manager wants a year with minimum or no issues coming in their mail boxes from the hosts or the placement organizations, a well planned and string PDO is a key to it.

Here is a graphic representation of the YES PDO offered to Pakistani finalists every year.





Kennedy- Lugar Youth Exchange and Studies Program-Pakistan

Participation Data from Pakistan 2003 – 2011

Year	Total	Boys	Girls
2012 – 2013	108		
2011 – 2012	108	53	55
2010 – 2011	71	34	37
2009 – 2010	53	25	29
2008 – 2009	61	21	40
2007 – 2008	57	28	29
2006 – 2007	44	19	25
2005 – 2006	45	17	28
2004 – 2005	40	15	25
2003 - 2004	29	21	08

YES Contacts in Pakistan

Please feel to email the following officials for
All questions and concerns related to hosting Pakistani students

1-Farah S. Kamal-
Director KL-YES Program and Executive Director,
iEARN Pakistan
farah@iearnpk.org

2-Shaikh Irfan Waleed-
Manager Programs-iEARN Pakistan
irfan@iearnpk.org