**Facts on U.S. Department of State-Sponsored Academic Year High School Exchange Programs**

The U.S. Department of State youth exchange programs empower the next generation of leaders and establish long-lasting ties between the United States and other countries. Exchange programs connect high school students with communities, preparing the students to collaborate on today’s global challenges such as human rights, community development, workforce development, climate change, and global health. More than 57,000 international high school students have participated in Department of State sponsored exchange programs over the past 35 years, and many have gone on to become outstanding leaders in their home countries.

The **Congress-Bundestag Exchange (CBYX)** program was inaugurated in 1983 through a bilateral agreement between the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag.  The program celebrates German-American friendship and fosters mutual understanding between the people of the United States and Germany through an academic year school and homestay experience.  Since the first exchange in 1984, more than 26,000 young people have participated in the program. One component of the CBYX program involves secondary school students aged 15-18 who live with host families, attend school, and participate in community life.  Two other components of the program are designed for young professionals aged 18-24 and vocational school graduates aged 18-19 who study and receive practical training.  Each year, 350 U.S and 360 German students participate in the program. The U.S. and German governments fund the program jointly. Find out more about the program [here](https://exchanges.state.gov/us/program/congress-bundestag-youth-exchange). Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @CBYXPPP.

The **Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX)** program was established in 1992 from former Senator Bill Bradley’s conviction that the best way to ensure long lasting peace and understanding between the United States and countries of Europe and Eurasia was to enable young people from these countries to learn first-hand about the United States and Americans. The State Department funds the program as a means to foster relationships between the people of the United States and the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Ukraine. FLEX students live with American host families and attend U.S. high schools for an academic year, during which they engage in activities to learn about American society and values, acquire leadership skills, and educate Americans about their countries and cultures. For academic year 2018-19, 922 FLEX students were selected to participate in the program. Over 28,000 participants have been awarded scholarships since the program’s inception.  FLEX students have performed more than one million hours of community service over the past 25 years in the United States alone. FLEX has a [program](http://discoverflex.org/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/FLEXProgram?fref=ts), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/FLEXProgram), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/FLEXProgram/) pages.

The **Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)** program was established in October 2002 in response to the events of September 11, 2001. The program provides scholarships for approximately 885 high school students annually from countries with significant Muslim populations. Currently, students come from Albania, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Israel (Arab Communities), Jordan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Macedonia, Malaysia, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories (Gaza and West Bank), Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, and Turkey.  The YES Abroad program supports 65 American high school participants annually from across the United States to study for an academic year in countries that currently include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Macedonia, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Senegal, and Thailand.  While in their host countries, students live with host families, attend local high schools, engage in activities to learn about the host society and values, acquire leadership skills, and help educate their hosts about their countries and cultures.

For 2018-19, the YES program for international students had a 3% acceptance rate. The program currently has over 11,000 alumni around the world. Visit the YES [program page](http://yesprograms.org/), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/YouthExchangeAndStudy?fref=ts) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/yesprogramnews) pages.