

“Our daughter became more accepting of other people’s ways. This unique experience provided challenges and joys. It made her a stronger, more patient and reliable person.”

—Donna M., Natural Mom



YFU offers year, semester and summer programs in more than 40 countries. No matter which country you select, your experience will be what you make it. It will be unique to you and your host family. With so many possibilities, we are confident that you will find a program that is right for you.

Year or Semester

YFU academic year and semester programs are the best way to absorb a new culture and learn a language through complete immersion. You will understand the country and its people in a way that only someone who has lived there can!

Gap Year Abroad

Bridge the gap to your future, discover the real you, and experience the world with YFU's programs for recent high school graduates. Whether you've just graduated, deferred college admissions, or are deciding what's next in life, we have a program for you. You can choose between traditional high school programs and programs geared specifically toward students wanting a volunteer or university experience abroad.

Summer

YFU summer programs offer you the opportunity to learn a culture in a way no tourist ever could. You will stay with a caring host family and participate in family activities throughout the summer.

Special Options

Do you have an interest in sports, music, art or nature? YFU has programs as diverse as your interests, so take the opportunity to spend your exchange year focusing on what you love to do most. Select a program that will enable you to incorporate your passion into your classes and activities while abroad.

Use our Country Selector on the website to help you find the right program and country for you. There you will find detailed information about all of our program choices and country options.

You Could Win a Scholarship

Through the generosity of numerous corporations, governments, foundations, and individuals, you have the chance to win a full or partial scholarship to study abroad as a YFU student. YFU awards more than 300 scholarships annually. For a complete listing of our scholarships and specific application requirements, check out the scholarship pages on our website. Students are encouraged to apply for all the scholarships for which they are eligible.

All requirements are listed for each scholarship program and should be closely reviewed on-line.



Share Your Home, Change the World. Host a YFU Exchange Student.

Welcome a YFU exchange student into your home and provide an experience that will broaden and enrich your entire family. By opening your heart and sharing your home for a school year, you'll provide the experience of a lifetime for an enthusiastic, inquisitive teen from Brazil, Japan, Germany or from any one of more than 60 countries.

Hosting is a way of sharing your family's version of the American lifestyle with a new son or daughter. It brings you into contact with people from another culture and language without leaving home. Hosting a YFU exchange student broadens your family's view of the world, helping everyone understand the similarities and differences between cultures, and may lead to lifelong relationships.

Change your Life, Change the World.

The Learning Adventure of a Lifetime.



“We really enjoyed our year with our student. This is something we think all American families should experience to help us become a well-rounded society.”

—O'Brien Host Family

“Mazda has a long-standing commitment to international youth exchange and appreciates its partnership with YFU USA as administrators of its Japanese cross-cultural program for the past 26 years.”

—Jay Amestoy, President, Mazda Foundation (USA)



Youth For Understanding USA

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Follow YFU USA on the web:



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. All programs, scholarships and prices are subject to change or cancellation without prior notice. © 2009, Youth For Understanding USA. All rights reserved.



High School Study Abroad

“The experience was a once in a lifetime. The memories will last forever, and so many different opportunities will come out of this. My journey has only just begun!”

—Chris, Finland Alumnus

Youth For Understanding (YFU) prepares young people for their responsibilities and opportunities in a changing, interdependent world.

YFU programs make a lasting, life-changing impact on young people. Students return as young adults—more independent, competent and confident—with a deeper understanding of their family and country. They also discover that the YFU experience opens doors for many years to come, enhancing educational and professional opportunities.

Embark on a Journey of Discovery

For nearly 60 years, YFU has provided students with an experience that has immersed them in the life, culture, and community of a family in one of more than 40 countries around the globe. Whether you choose a year, semester or summer, it's an adventure where you'll learn what life is like for teens in another part of the world. This experience will change you and your view of our planet forever.

YFU is a homestay experience where you live with a carefully selected host family who has agreed to open their home and their hearts to you—providing room, board and a caring home. You'll gain a global family, make new friends and even attend a new school on academic programs. It is the learning adventure of a lifetime.

We know you and your parents may want to speak to someone to find out more about YFU and how we can make your dream of studying abroad a reality. To discuss your interests and select the best program for you, please call 1.800.TEENAGE to speak with an Admissions Counselor who will answer any questions you might have. For detailed information on all YFU programs please visit the YFU website.



YFU Delivers a Great Learning Adventure

With almost 60 years of experience, YFU programs prepare and support you and your family every step of the way.

“Being immersed in a different culture and developing familiarity with a new language helped me gain a new perspective on the world. Because of my exchange experience, I have become a world traveler and look forward to each new day as an adventure.”

—Emily, Spain Alumna



An Experience that Lasts a Lifetime

Although your YFU learning adventure will only last a summer, a semester or a school year, your life will change forever. The YFU experience has a powerful, life-changing impact on every student who undertakes it.

YFU programs help you:

- Gain proficiency in a new language
- Enjoy preferred college admissions to participating universities across the United States
- Evolve into a more independent, competent and confident young adult.
- Enhance your educational and global career opportunities in lasting ways
- Become more adaptable and flexible
- Discover more about yourself and your culture than you ever imagined
- Develop a global perspective and be ready to meet the challenges of the future, as a young person and as a leader
- Learn how to interact with people from different backgrounds and cultures by sharing their lives while forming lifelong friendships.

YFU programs include:

- Experienced Admissions Counselors to help you select the program that is right for you and answer all your questions before your adventure begins.
- Professional orientation programs and materials to prepare you for your journey and guide you throughout your exchange experience.
- Round-trip domestic and international travel as well as transportation to your host family from YFU designated airports.

- Airport assistance staff at international gateways aid students if needed.
- Placement with a carefully screened host family.
- Enrollment in school for year or semester programs.
- Support for students and families through counseling, tutoring, and other means.
- 24-hour worldwide emergency assistance.

“Our daughter had a wonderful host family extending much love, friendship and cultural exchange. During her stay she was encouraged academically as well as culturally. Her command of the language is outstanding.”

—Donna K., Natural Mom

