

BEYOND EXCHANGE

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS &
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR YFU ALUMNI



Youth For Understanding USA
www.yfu-usa.org



Youth For Understanding USA

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Bethesda, MD 20817
1.800.TEENAGE
admissions@yfu.org
www.yfu-usa.org

Dear YFU Alumni:

Welcome to Beyond Exchange! As an alumni of a YFU exchange, you are part of an elite group of young adults with the courage and vision to live and study abroad. When you prepared for your exchange, you may not have realized the many changes your decision would set in motion. Even now, as a recent returnee, you are probably just beginning to appreciate the impact of your YFU experience on your understanding of yourself and the world and on your educational and professional goals.

Your choice of a college or university is another life decision that will have a profound and lasting impact. The priorities you now bring to this choice may be very different than they were before you went overseas. Opportunities to continue foreign language study, college-level exchange offerings, and strong, internationally focused fields of study are just a few of the features that may now top your list of criteria as you evaluate various college programs. Paying for ever-escalating college tuition, whether through financial aid or scholarships, is surely a concern. Beyond Exchange was created to assist you and your parents in selecting the college or university that will be right for you.

Included in Beyond Exchange are more than 100 colleges and universities that offer preference in admission, financial assistance, or both to YFU alumni. The list includes colleges in nearly every state and many of our nation's most prestigious institutions. Why do college presidents and deans of admissions offer this opportunity to YFU alumni? Because YFU students have demonstrated that they are the kind of young people that enhance their college communities—students with curious and open minds, students eager to take personal, emotional, and intellectual risks to learn and grow.

I hope you will find the information in Beyond Exchange helpful. As a YFU alumni you are now a permanent member of the YFU family and, like any family, we take great pride in your success. We encourage you to stay in touch and to let us know where your studies take you in the months and years ahead.

Warmly,

David Barber
Director, Admissions & Registration

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Recognizing the importance of an international educational exchange, 18 out of the top 25 universities in the country encourage applications from YFU alumni. (This ranking was obtained from the U.S. News and World Report listing of 2011 America's Best Colleges.) While these universities base all financial assistance only on students' demonstrated financial need, they encourage applications from YFU alumni and rate the YFU exchange as an advantage when the student can articulate the value of this experience in his or her application.

Brown University
James Miller
Admission Director
45 Prospect Street
Box 1876
Providence, RI 02912
(401) 863-2378
www.brown.edu

Duke University
Dean of Admissions
Christoph Guttentag
2138 Campus Drive
Box 90586
Durham, NC 27708
(919) 684-3214
www.duke.edu

Johns Hopkins University
John Latting
Dean of Admissions
Mason Hall
3400 N. Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218
(410) 516-8171
www.jhu.edu

Rice University
Melissa Blakeslee
Executive Director of Admissions
Admission Office-MS 17
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251
(713) 348-7423
www.rice.edu

Washington University in St. Louis
Julie Shimabukuro
Director of Admissions
Campus Box 1089
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63130
(800) 638-0700
www.wustl.edu

Carnegie Mellon University
Michael Steidel
Director of Admission
Warner Hall
5000 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 268-2082
www.cmu.edu

Emory University
Jean Jordan
Dean of Admission
1390 Oxford Road NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
(404) 727-6036
www.emory.edu

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Stuart Schmill
Director of Admissions
77 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 253-1000
www.mit.edu

Stanford University
Shawn L. Abbott
Director of Admission
Montag Hall
355 Galvez Street
Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 723-2091
www.stanford.edu

Yale University
Margit Dahl
Admission Director
38 Hillhouse Avenue
New Haven, CT 06511
(203) 432-9300
www.yale.edu

Columbia University
Robert Furno
Assistant Dean of Admissions
212 Hamilton Hall
Mail Code 2807
1130 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10027
(212) 854-3393
www.columbia.edu

Georgetown University
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(202) 687-3600
www.georgetown.edu

Northwestern University
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Evanston, IL 60208
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www.northwestern.edu

University of Notre Dame
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Dartmouth College
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www.dartmouth.edu

Harvard University
Marlyn E. McGrath
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Harvard College
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Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-1551
www.harvard.edu

Princeton University
Janet Lavin Rapelye
Director of Admissions
110 West College
P.O. Box 430
Princeton, NJ 08542
(609) 258-3060
www.princeton.edu

University of Pennsylvania
Eric Furda
Admissions Director
3451 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 898-5000
www.upenn.edu

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The following colleges and universities (listed in alphabetical order by state) offer scholarship support, preference in admission, or both to YFU alumni. Please refer to the key below for information about each university.

Alaska

Alaska Pacific University
Jennifer Jensen
Director of Admissions
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(800) 252-7528
www.alaskapacific.edu

Arizona

University of Arizona ★✓
John Namez
Associate Director of Admissions
PO Box 210073
Tucson, Arizona 85721
(602) 827-2277
www.arizona.edu

California

California State University
Brandy McLelland
Director of Admissions
1000 East Victoria St.
Carson, CA 90747
(310) 243-3645
www.csudh.edu

Claremont McKenna College ✓◆
Kevin Arnold
Admissions Director
890 Columbia Avenue
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-8088
www.cmc.edu

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✓ Special consideration is given to the exchange experience of qualified YFU alumni for merit scholarships.
◆ Top Liberal Arts Colleges (as rated by U.S. News and World Report 2011)

Please note: YFU USA is not responsible for the scholarship or financial aid selection process of these universities. For additional information, contact the college or university directly.

Monterey Institute of International Studies

Jill Stoffers
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460 Pierce Street
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4123
www.miiis.edu

**University of Denver**

Thomas Willoughby
Chancellor of Enrollment
2197 South University
Boulevard
Denver, CO 80208
(303) 871-2036
www.du.edu

**Catholic University**

Christine Mica
Dean of Admissions
102 McMahon Hall
620 Michigan Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20064
(202) 319-5305
www.cua.edu

**Georgia****Agnes Scott College**

Alexa Gaeta
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141 East College Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030-3797
(404) 471-6285
www.agnesscott.edu

**Occidental College**

Sally Richmond
Director of Admissions
1600 Campus Road
Los Angeles, CA 90041
(323) 259-2700
www.oxy.edu

**Connecticut****Connecticut College**

Deb Wright
Director of Admissions
270 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT, 06320
(860) 439-2200
www.conncoll.edu

**George Washington University**

Kathryn Napper
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2121 I Street NW,
Ste 201
Washington, DC 20052
(202) 994-6040
www.gwu.edu

**Hawaii****Hawaii Pacific University**

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www.hpu.edu

**Pitzer College**

Angel B. Pérez
Interim Vice President of
Admission and Financial
Aid
1050 N Mills Ave
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-812
www.pitzer.edu

**Post University**

Jay E. Murray
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Waterbury, CT 06723
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www.post.edu

**Howard University**

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Washington, DC 20059
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www.howard.edu

**Illinois****North Park University**

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Chicago IL 60625
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www.northpark.edu

**Pomona College**

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333 North College Way
Claremont, CA 91711
(909) 621-8134
www.pomona.edu

**Trinity College**

Larry Dow
Dean of Admissions and
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300 Summit Street
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**Florida****Florida International University**

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Miami, FL 33199
(305) 348-2363
www.fiu.edu

**Northeastern Illinois University**

Janice Haring-Hendon
Director of Admissions
5500 North St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625
(773) 442-4000
www.neui.edu

**Santa Clara University**

Sandra Hayes
Dean of Admissions
500 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95053
(408) 554-4700
www.scu.edu

**Wesleyan University**

Nancy Meislahn
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Wesleyan Station
Middletown, CT 06459
(860) 685-2000
www.wesleyan.edu

**Honors College at Florida Atlantic**

Jeffrey Buller
Dean
5353 Parkside Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458
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www.fau.edu

**Roosevelt University**

Michael Dessimoz
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430 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 341-3500
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**Colorado****Colorado College**

Roberto Garcia
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Poudre
Colorado Springs, CO
80903
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coloradocollege.edu

**Delaware****University of Delaware**

Louis Hirsh
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210 South College Ave.
Newark, DE 19716
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**Rollins College**

Holly Pohlrig
Director of Admission
1000 Holt Avenue,
Campus Box 2720
Winter Park, FL 32789
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Indiana**DePauw University**

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Greencastle, IN 46135
(765) 658-4006
www.depauw.edu

**University of Colorado at Boulder**

Kevin MacLennan
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Regent Administrative
Center 125, 552 UCB
Boulder, CO 80309
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**District of Columbia****American University**

Kristen Schlicker
Associate Director of
Admissions
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Washington, DC 20016
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www.american.edu

**University of Miami**

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(305) 284-4323
www.miami.edu

**Earlham College**

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Director of Admissions
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www.earlham.edu



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Iowa

Central College

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University of Maine

Sharon Oliver
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Orono, ME 04469
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Simmons College

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College of Saint Benedict

Karen M Backes
Dean of Admission
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(320) 363-2011
www.csbsju.edu



Grinnell College

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Grinnell, IA 50112
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www.grinnell.edu



Maryland

St. John's College

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www.stjohnscollege.edu



Wellesley College

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www.wellesley.edu



Gustavus Adolphus College

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Saint Peter, MN 56082
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www.gustavus.edu



Luther College

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Director of Admissions
700 College Drive
Decorah, Iowa 52101
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www.luther.edu



St. Mary's College

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Williams College

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www.williams.edu



Macalester College

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Saint Paul, MN 55105
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Simpson College

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Indianola, IA 50125
(515) 961-1624
www.simpson.edu



Washington College

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Chestertown, MD 21620
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www.washcoll.edu



Michigan

Alma College

Karen Jezewski
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Alma, MI 48801
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www.alma.edu



College of St. Catherine

Marlene Mohs
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(651) 690-6000
www.stkate.edu



Kentucky

Centre College

Bob Nesmith
Director of Admission
600 West Walnut Street
Danville, KY 40422
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www.centre.edu



Massachusetts

Assumption College

Mario Silva-Rosa
Director of Admissions
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Worcester, MA 01609
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new.assumption.edu



Kalamazoo College

Eric Staab
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Kalamazoo, MI 49006
(269) 337-7166
www.kzoo.edu



University of Missouri-Kansas City

W.C. Vance
Director of Admissions
120 Administrative Center
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Maine

Bates College

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Hampshire College

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Minnesota

Augsburg College

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www.augsburg.edu



New York

Colgate University

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www.colgate.edu



Colby College

Parker J. Beverage
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4000 Mayflower Hill
Waterville, ME 04901
(207) 859-4000
www.colby.edu



Mt. Holyoke College

Diane Anci
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50 College Street
South Hadley, MA 01075
(413) 538-2023
www.mtholyoke.edu



Carleton College

Paul J. Thiboutot
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(507) 222-4190
www.carleton.edu



Fordham University

Peter Farrell
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www.fordham.edu



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◆ Top Liberal Arts Colleges (as rated by U.S. News and World Report 2011)

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Global College

9 Hanover Place, 4th Floor
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www.liu.edu

**Oberlin College**

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101 North Professor St.
Oberlin, OH 44074
(440) 775-8411
www.new.oberlin.edu

**University of Pittsburgh**

Betsy Porter
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**Virginia Tech**

Mildred Johnson
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**New York University**

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**Lewis and Clark College**

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**South Carolina****College of Charleston**

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www.cofc.edu

**College of William & Mary**

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**SUNY—Birminghamton**

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**Presbyterian College**

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**Washington and Lee University**

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**University of Rochester**

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**Pennsylvania****Albright College**

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**Tennessee****Sewanee-University of the South**

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**Washington****Whitman College**

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345 Boyer Avenue
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www.whitman.edu

**Wells College**

Susan Sloan
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Aurora, NY 13026
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**Bryn Mawr College**

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**Vermont****St. Michael's College**

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**Wisconsin****Beloit College**

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**North Carolina****East Carolina University**

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Lafayette College

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Easton, PA 18042
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**Virginia****James Madison University**

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**Lawrence University**

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www.lawrence.edu

Ohio**BGSU Firelands**

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**Lehigh University**

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**University of Virginia**

Gregory Roberts
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University of Virginia
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www.virginia.edu

**Denison University**

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Granville, OH 43023
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www.denison.edu

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Applying for College?

YFU Asks the Experts How to Position Your Exchange for Maximum Impact

Your exchange experience, whether you went abroad or brought the world to you by hosting, changed your life. If you are like most YFU participants, you grew as a person, gained a better understanding of yourself, learned a new language, and discovered a new culture. Colleges, universities, and graduate programs are eager to attract exchange alumni. To help YFU alumni get the most mileage from their exchange experience, YFU asked the advice of Kristen Schliker, Associate Director of Admissions at American University in Washington, DC, and Jill Stoffers, Director of Admissions at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), a graduate school in California.

What is the value of a YFU exchange for a college applicant?

Jill Stoffers: As a graduate school that prepares bilingual professionals for international careers, The Monterey Institute of International Studies have alumni who work as international practitioners who can trace the origin of their career interests to their YFU experiences. YFU literally becomes a defining moment in their lives. When we see a student has studied abroad with YFU, they are given special consideration when we award merit scholarships.

Kristen Schliker: Any academic experience abroad is seen as an experience that strengthens the student's academic abilities. American University looks for the ways in which a student was able to expand their academic experience while abroad, whether that is by taking a different level of classes, different programs, or classes in another language. In addition, experiences that take students out of their comfort zone, allow them to gain leadership experience, and open their mind to other parts of the world and cultures are valuable, both to the students and to the college they ultimately attend.

How can applicants best position their exchange experience in their application?

Jill Stoffers: Place the YFU experience within an overall narrative about yourself. If YFU was the starting point for an interest in international affairs – articulate that in your application essay. Then, explain how that experience is likely to define what you study in college and how it may help you achieve your longer-term career goals.

Katherine Schliker: Applicants should be sure to highlight their abroad experience in at least one part of their application. A lot of students choose to highlight it in their essay, and that can be effective if it is done well. However, students should also be sure to list their experiences abroad in their resume/activity sheet. A letter from a school counselor can also be helpful to the colleges because it can reinforce the value of the experience abroad from a more official standpoint.

Are there any negatives to the exchange experience? What if a student scored lower on the SAT or couldn't take a required course while overseas?

Kristen Schliker: If students are concerned about any negative effects on their academic record, they should be sure to include an explanation in their application clearly articulating why they were not able to take any required courses, or why their grades were impacted in any way. This is not to say that students with abroad experience are not expected to have competitive academic records, but explanations can be helpful as admission officers look at the application as a whole. In short, admissions officers look at everything, and abroad experience is certainly valued, but they have high expectations for all applicants.

What advice can you offer on writing that all-important essay?

Jill Stoffers: It is important to place all of your international experiences – YFU, your undergraduate study, your foreign language development, internships, etc – into a cohesive narrative that explains your future 1, 3 and 5 year career plans. YFU might be one line in a narrative that describes many more international-focused experiences. There is a past, present and future component to the application essay and we should be able to clearly acquire a sense for your future aspirations from it.

Kristen Schliker: As the number of students with high school abroad experience grows, so too does the number of essays highlighting abroad experience. Some of these essays can start to sound similar so be sure that your essay is very personal to you and your experience, it shouldn't be something that any other student could write. If it is a well-written account of a personal experience that shaped you in some way, it will most likely place both you and your experience in a positive light.

Top Tips for the College-Bound

Focus on the Essay: Grades and test scores only get you in the door of the admissions office. It is your essay that distinguishes you. Don't short-change yourself!

Reveal Thyself: Admissions counselors are not telepathic—what they know about you is limited to what you tell them. Help them discover you by sharing your story, your ideas and your feelings as openly and directly as you can.

Avoid the Cliché: The exchange experience is a deep one—don't discount it by falling back on a quick and easy cliché to describe its impact. Avoid this pitfall by thinking long and hard about what your exchange really meant to you. Then dig into specific anecdotes and experiences to illustrate what you learned and discovered.

Bypass the Tourist Trap: Anyone with a passport and a credit card can tour the world's famous sights. It's a great experience, but what you have done goes way beyond the tourist experience. Turn your focus to the people, the culture, the daily experiences that only someone who has lived in another country can describe.

Look Homeward: Sometimes you have to go away to see your home clearly. It may be that the most profound discoveries from your exchange were about your own family, your community, your country. Feel free to share what you have learned and how you have changed.