



**YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING
Intercultural Exchange Programs**

HOW YOUR STUDENTS WILL BENEFIT FROM A YFU EXCHANGE PROGRAM

YFU advances intercultural understanding, mutual respect and social responsibility through educational exchanges for youth, families and communities. Educators, employers, parents and alumni all agree that the benefits of international exchange reach far beyond the year, semester or summer that a student spends abroad. YFU students return as young adults who are more independent, competent, confident, and possess a deeper understanding of their own family and country. They also discover that the YFU experience opens doors for many years to come, greatly enhancing educational and professional opportunities.

At its core, YFU is a catalyst for positive global change. Students of all ages 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. What starts with a single person, over time, influences nations.

IT'S AN EDUCATION

With college application rates at an all time high, it is becoming increasingly difficult for even the best students to stand out when applying to schools. The YFU exchange experience offers college applicants a clear advantage. YFU students gain a global perspective that makes them ideal candidates in an ever growing, challenging and diverse academic community. YFU alumni are preferred in admissions at more than 150 colleges and universities throughout the United States.

The most effective way to achieve fluency in another language is through total immersion. Students who study abroad vastly improve their language competencies and many earn advanced language placement in college. YFU year and semester students have the added benefit of attending secondary school in their host country. Students find that their overseas courses help them develop effective learning habits, and prepare them for more intensive future college studies.

IT'S A FUTURE

It is a fact that in today's competitive job market fluency in another language coupled with the ability to comprehend another culture gives the YFU exchange student a tremendous advantage when choosing a career. Business and industry demand workers with international knowledge and skills, who speak languages and understand the cultures of the countries with which they do business. When employers select a YFU alumnus, they know they are making a solid investment in a person who is flexible and shows an elevated level of maturity, superior problem solving skills, and an intuitive understanding of another country and its people. YFU students pursue careers in international trade, law, business, academia, and many other disciplines.

Scholarships are available for qualified students! For more information, or to inquire about having a YFU presentation at your school, please visit us at yfuusa.org, email info@yfu.org or call us at **1.800.TEENAGE.**



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IT'S A SENSE OF DIRECTION

Although a YFU learning adventure might only last a summer, a semester or a full school year, each YFU student's life is changed forever. Parents of YFU students say their teenager has returned from the exchange experience with greater confidence and maturity. YFU students develop an increased ability to assess unfamiliar situations and respond appropriately. Parents speak of the personal growth and development they have observed in their son or daughter following study abroad, and they find great satisfaction in the positive impact the YFU experience has had on their child's life. YFU exchange students become more adaptable and learn to create relationships and emotional bonds with people from another culture, resulting in an extended family. The study abroad experience facilitates the building of character by creating opportunities to withstand uncertainty and build resilience. YFU students repeatedly state that the exchange experience provided them with a stronger sense of direction and self.



“As a parent it was such a great feeling to not have a glitch on any part of the journey or the stay. The family selected who so graciously volunteered their home was wonderful. I never had to worry about her safety or her well-being.”

– Catherine, SA Parent

IT'S PEACE OF MIND

YFU is an international educational nonprofit and is one of the world's oldest, largest and most respected student exchange organizations. Established in 1951, YFU has successfully exchanged more than 260,000 students worldwide.

Each year, more than 4,000 parents trust YFU to introduce their child to the world. With YFU, every student is placed with a carefully selected host family, who welcomes the student into their home as a member of the family, providing room, board, and plenty of support. YFU also has a wide network of professional staff and several thousand well-trained volunteers throughout the world who are there to help each YFU student every step of the way.

“The experience was 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 Summer Program



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