



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

# AFS-USA Fact Sheet



### Mission

AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

### History

AFS Intercultural Programs/USA has been a leader in international high school student exchange for more than 65 years and is part of a worldwide AFS network. Formerly the American Field Service, AFS Intercultural Programs was founded during World Wars I and II by young Americans who volunteered as ambulance drivers. The founding belief was that building a more just and peaceful world begins when people from different countries and cultures meet, learn together, and better understand one another. In 1947, AFS exchanged 52 young people from 11 countries formerly at war, establishing a movement to promote understanding and peace through international student exchange.

### The AFS Network

AFS is a worldwide, nonprofit organization that has been a leader in international high school student exchange for nearly seven decades, and:

- exchanges almost 13,000 individuals each year
- has more than 50 partner organizations including AFS-USA
- maintains an alumni network of more than 424,000 individuals around the world
- is supported by nearly 44,000 AFS Volunteers worldwide

### AFS-USA TODAY



**1,100:** number of US high school students we send abroad



**2,300:** number of international high school students we welcome into the US



**5,000:** number of volunteers in the US whose support makes the work of AFS possible



**2,100:** number of US schools partnering with AFS-USA through hosting and sending

Contact us:

**1-800-AFS-INFO**  
**www.afsusa.org**



## Hosting an Exchange Student

AFS-USA welcomes 2,300 international high school exchange students from 90 countries to the US to study in high schools and live with host families.

AFS-USA staff and volunteers work with 1,500 US schools to support these outstanding young people who contribute greatly to academic and community life, many of whom arrive on US State Department sponsored programs. Volunteers provide local support and work with students, families, schools, and community organizations to illustrate the benefits of an intercultural educational opportunity.

### US State Department Programs

#### Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)

Strengthens ties between the youth of Germany and the US by facilitating international dialogue and cooperation.

#### Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)

Builds bridges of international understanding, especially between Americans and people in countries with significant Muslim populations.

#### Future Leader's Exchange (FLEX)

Builds future US relations with the countries of the former Soviet Union based upon bridges of personal friendship and mutual understanding.

## Studying Abroad

AFSers are high school students and immediate graduates interested in studying abroad and gaining global competency through cultural immersion programs for college and career readiness. AFS offers programs in over 40 countries. Our newest programs are in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovakia and Latvia. Participants can choose to study abroad for an academic year or semester, summer or Gap Year.

### The 3 Durations of AFS Programs

depicted below by percentage of participants in 2012

Summer	46%
Year	42%
Semester	12%

## Scholarship Opportunities

### US STATE DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad (YES Abroad)

Full merit-based scholarships for semester and year programs to countries with significant Muslim populations.

#### National Security Languages Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

Full merit-based scholarships for summer and year programs with a focus on critical language acquisition.

#### Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)

Full merit-based scholarships awarded to outstanding students for a year of study in Germany.

### COMMUNITY-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

#### Faces of America (FoA)

AFS-USA's signature diversity program makes it possible for high achieving high school students from underserved communities to receive scholarship awards to study abroad for a summer, semester or year in 17 unique destinations.

### COUNTRY, REGION AND STATE-SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIPS ALSO AVAILABLE

For a comprehensive list of all scholarships please go to [www.afsusa.org/scholarships](http://www.afsusa.org/scholarships)