



Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

Dear School Leader,

The U.S. Department of State is excited to welcome our international exchange students to the United States this fall for the 2022-2023 academic year. We hope that you will consider enrolling a U.S. Department of State-sponsored exchange student at your school through one of our programs:

- [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange \(CBYX\)](#) for students from Germany
- [Future Leaders Exchange \(FLEX\)](#) for students from Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia
- [Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study \(YES\)](#) for students predominantly from the Middle East, South or Southeast Asia, Africa, and Southeast Europe

Each year, more than 2,000 students from 60 countries around the globe come to American high schools through U.S. Department of State-sponsored programs. Hosting one or more of these students is a great way for you to bring international perspectives into your classrooms and prepare your students to be successful in an increasingly globalized world.

Our CBYX, FLEX, and YES participants are selected through a highly competitive, merit-based process: finalists must rise above thousands of other applicants, and those selected as finalists are carefully screened and vetted. Due to this comprehensive selection process, our participants generally have high scholastic achievements, possess moderate to advanced English skills, and demonstrate leadership potential. All students participate in orientations before and during the exchange to ensure their success on program. As with all exchange visitors, the students' visa applications go through the U.S. embassies' rigorous consular review process.

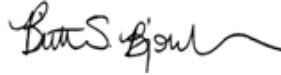
Students live with an American host family, which helps them integrate into a new community. Local representatives support the students throughout the exchange, serve as points of contact for school administrators and teachers, and help students find community service opportunities.

Recognizing the challenges of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Department of State and our program partners are committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of our participants prior to and while they are in the United States. We are taking precautions to ensure that students are safe and healthy, including pre-departure testing, ongoing monitoring, and 24/7 participant support. In addition, our partners will facilitate access to vaccines for all students who have been unable to receive vaccines in their home countries.

As you consider accepting an exchange participant into your student body, we hope you will also share information about U.S. Department of State's study abroad programs with your American students. Learn more at <http://exchanges.state.gov/youth>.

Now more than ever, we are grateful to the schools that play such an important role in public diplomacy by hosting our students. You, your faculty, and your students have an unparalleled opportunity to engage in people-to-people exchanges that benefit your community and contribute to mutual understanding. If you have any questions, please contact our placement partner who provided you with this letter. You can also reach out to us directly at YouthPrograms@state.gov. Thank you again for considering this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Britta Bjornlund", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Britta Bjornlund
Youth Programs Division Chief

Implementing Partners: American Cultural Exchange Service, AFS USA, AIFS/AYA, American Councils, Aspect Foundation, ASSE International, Ayusa, Borderless Friends Forever, Council on International Educational Exchange, Greenheart Exchange, High School in the USA (Global Cultural Exchanges), Iowa Resource for International Service, Pan Atlantic Foundation, Program of Academic Exchange, STS Foundation, World Link, and Youth for Understanding USA