



YOUTH FOR UNDERSTANDING  
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# YOUR CHILD FOR A YEAR ABROAD WITH YFU

## Information for parents

**Your child is interested in going abroad for a school year. In this situation, many parents are concerned. They worry about things like:**

- Will my child be able to do this without me?
- This is far too expensive!
- My child needs particularly good school grades to go abroad.

A quick note:

A year abroad is possible for all students! It does not matter which type of school they attend and they do not need to have particularly good grades.

A year abroad is expensive, but there are several ways to manage the financing. You do not have to cover the costs all by yourself.

On the following pages you will find a lot of information. If you have any questions, please get in touch via phone (040 227002-0) or email ([info@yfu.de](mailto:info@yfu.de)).





# WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT A YEAR ABROAD

## What exactly is a year abroad?

A year abroad means that your child lives in another country for a school year. There might also be an option to go abroad for half a school year. Of course, they won't be left alone: They will be living with a host family who takes care of them. In the host country (= the country your child wants to go to) they will attend school like they do in Germany. In the afternoon, when school is out, they will be able to meet new friends and enjoy (new) hobbies.

During the year abroad, your child will discover what it's like to live in another country. This is fascinating and fun at the same time. Your child will learn many new things about the world and about themselves. They can also improve their language skills or learn a completely new language, because a language other than German is spoken in the host country.

A year abroad can also be very helpful for finding a good job later on in life.

## Who can participate?

Your child can spend a year abroad with YFU if the following points apply:

- When going abroad, he or she will be between 15 and 18 years old (departure dates are always in summer).
- He or she wants to try something new and get to know another country.

## Good to know:

- It does not matter which type of school your child attends.
- Your child does not need particularly good grades. They just should not have any grade below a 4 in their grade reports.
- Your child can choose between a school year and half a school year abroad.
- When applying, it is usually not necessary for your child to be able to speak the language of the destination country. However, they should start learning that language before leaving Germany. In many host countries it is also possible to take a language course.

## Support for your child: YFU coaches

Since you must organize quite a few things before going abroad, YFU Germany provides a coach for your child who will help, if needed. The YFU coaches have spent a year abroad themselves and are able to support your child in everything that is needed until the departure (for example, filling out the application form or applying for the financial aid). If your child would like to have a YFU coach, they can register here: [www.yfu.de/coaching](http://www.yfu.de/coaching)  
This coaching support is free of charge and your child can stop anytime if their plans change.





## THIS IS HOW IT WORKS

### 1) Application

Your child applies online and tells us which country they want to go to (simply go to our website to do this: [www.yfu.de/bewerben](http://www.yfu.de/bewerben)). The application is free of charge and without obligation, so you are not committed to anything.

### 2) Get to know each other

The next step is a meeting between your child and us (= YFU), so we can get to know each other. This meeting takes place either online via video conference or in person at a public place close to your home.

Two to three weeks later, your child will receive a letter saying whether they can go abroad with YFU.

### 3) The host family

Since we want to find a host family that really matches your child, they will need to fill out some documents with information about themselves (for example about their hobbies, interests, etc.).

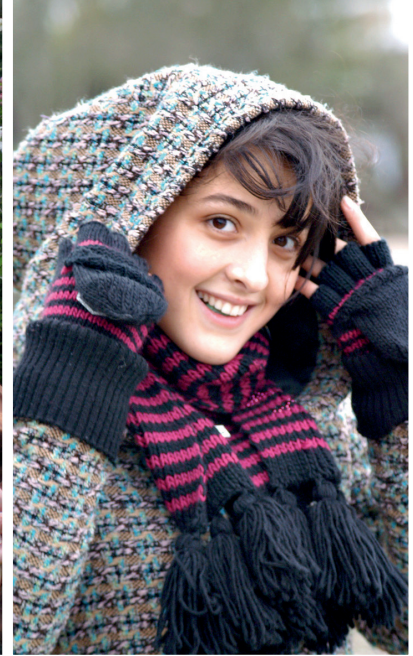
### 4) We take care of you

We support you throughout the process! You will receive all important information and many practical tips. Your child will be well-prepared for their year abroad.

### 5) During the year abroad

Your child will travel to the host country together with other exchange students. In the host country, there is a personal advisor available for your child, who will answer all questions and will help with any concerns whenever needed.





## THE HOST COUNTRY

### Countries

Your child can choose amongst these countries:

#### NORTH AMERICA

Canada, USA

#### LATIN AMERICA

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay

#### EUROPE

Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Spain, Turkey

#### ASIA

China, India, Japan, Thailand

#### AFRICA

South Africa

#### AUSTRALIA

Australia

### What is a typical host family like?

During the exchange year, your child will live with a host family. All host families are personally visited and checked by our partners from the respective hosting countries. These families can be very different: Some of them have several children, some do not. Some live in a larger city, others in a village or a small town. They all are kind and welcoming families, who want to show your child how they live.

### What happens if your child is faced with problems in the host country?

If there are any questions or problems, your child can contact their personal advisor. Also, our partner organization in the host country can always be reached. In case of an emergency, you can also reach us (= YFU Germany) via an emergency number 24/7.

### Is my child safe in the host country?

Yes, your child is safe during the year abroad! The host family looks after your child just as they look after their own children. Besides, our partner organizations in the host country know all the regions of the country and know where exchange students can have a good experience. So their safety is definitely taken care of.





## COSTS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Any student can go on a year abroad, even if their family does not have much money. A year abroad is expensive. But there are several ways to finance the project:

- YFU will cover part of the costs if your family can't pay for everything on its own (with a partial scholarship). The less money your family has, the more YFU pays.
- The state of Germany also contributes to the costs (this is called "Auslands-BAföG").
- The city of Hamburg also pays part of the costs.

If families have very little money available, YFU, the state of Germany and the city of Hamburg will even cover the entire costs of a year abroad.

## ABOUT YFU

YFU is one of the largest and oldest student exchange organizations in the world. Our organization exists since 1957. Almost 70.000 students have already spent a year abroad with YFU. Thus, we have a lot of experience. YFU is always there for you and your child. We will help with all questions and issues that might arise. Please feel free to contact us:

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