



CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE (CBYX)

PARENT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

What is the CBYX program?

Established in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Program is a fully funded, U.S. Department of State sponsored student exchange program between Germany and the United States. The U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag (Parliament) sponsor the scholarship, which has supported the exchange of more than 29,000 German and American high school students and young professionals over the past 41 years.

Each year, the program sends 210 American high school students to live and study in Germany for one year. At the same time, 235 German students come to the United States.

CIEE selects 105 of the 210 total American high school students from 23 states, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Washington D.C. to participate each year. Our partner organizations, Experiment e.V., GIVE e.V, and Partnership International e.V. then support and place students in German host families and schools.

The program aims to foster cultural understanding and diplomacy, while also promoting German and English languages. As a CBYX scholarship recipient, your son or daughter will be regarded as a youth ambassador of the United States.

What is included in the CBYX scholarship?

The CBYX scholarship includes:

- International airfare to and from Germany
- A pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C.
- A four-week language and cultural immersion camp
- Two 5-day CBYX-focused seminars in Germany
- A host family stay
- Enrollment at a German high school
- \$150 monthly stipend
- Regional supervision
- 24-hour emergency assistance
- Private health and accident insurance

Is financial assistance available?

Most costs are covered by the scholarship. Students are responsible for their transportation to and from Washington, D.C. at the beginning and end of the program. This is in addition to passport and visa fees, as well as a monthly spending allowance to cover personal costs. All students receive a \$150 per month stipend toward personal costs. For individuals who demonstrate financial need, additional financial support is available for travel and passports and can be applied for after an individual is informed of their selection for the program.

What are the benefits of participating in the CBYX program?

CBYX, a year-long cultural and language immersion program, fosters deep intercultural understanding and helps participants build strong international relationships that often last a lifetime. Participants also have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a new language and culture, all the while developing their personal character and academic and professional interests. Why is this so important? Because demonstrating global experience and knowing a second language are invaluable in today's job market. After the program ends, participants can also utilize an extensive online network of U.S. Department of State and CBYX alumni!

What steps are in place to ensure my student's safety?

Student safety and wellbeing are our top priorities in administering the CBYX program. The scholarship includes extensive private health and travel insurance that covers your son or daughter for the duration of the program year. Should any urgent issues arise, you and your student will have access to an emergency phone number in both Germany and the U.S. 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. These phones are staffed by trained CIEE and Experiment e.V. or Partnership International e.V. employees. Students are also registered with the U.S. Embassy and their placements in host families and schools are monitored by the U.S. Department of State.

CIEE and our German partners have created a close-knit support network that operates on a local basis. Every student is assigned to a Local Coordinator – a professional and highly trained German volunteer that lives in the same region as your student's host family.

Local Coordinators are trained to support students throughout their experience. Local Coordinators also

serve as an additional resource for students as they settle into their communities, and act as a liaison between students, host families, and overseas staff to address and resolve any issues that may arise during the program year. Local Coordinators and CIEE staff conduct periodic interviews and surveys with students to provide another outlet through which to share their experience. At any point in the program year, students are welcome to directly contact the German partner office staff members who specialize in student safety and support.

Finally, CIEE and our partner staff are in close contact each day to monitor students' wellbeing on the program. CIEE staff immediately contacts students' parents with any concerns regarding a student's health or wellbeing. Of course, students' parents are welcome to contact CIEE staff with questions or concerns at any time.

Can I visit my student during the program?

Yes. However, student travel and visits by family members from the U.S. are only approved on a case-by-case basis and only during the second half of the program year. This makes it easier for students to integrate more quickly and fully into their host communities.



CBYX is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by CIEE for Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.

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