



YES Abroad Alum Outreach Toolkit

Thank you for sharing your YES Abroad experience with others. As an alum of the program, sharing your positive study abroad experience can speak volumes about YES Abroad, contribute to the program's success in future years, and help you share about the culture of your former host country. The following YES Abroad outreach resources can be found within this toolkit:

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Use these resources to get started with YES Abroad outreach in your community!

These documents are designed for use through 2020. If you are using this document after that point, please email yesabroad@afsusa.org for an updated toolkit.

Questions? Email yesabroad@afsusa.org or call 646-751-2151.



Presentation Planning Guide

2+ weeks in advance:

- Establish contact with a principal, counselor, teacher, or administrator at your local high school or with a staff person or volunteer at a community organization (such as Girl Scouts, Rotary International, Boy Scouts, AFS-USA, etc.). Ask friends and family about possible contacts at other schools or organizations.
- Briefly explain the YES Abroad scholarship to your contact. Inquire if the school would be interested and willing to accommodate a YES Abroad presentation for students.
- Determine a date, time, and format for the presentation (ex. during class, after school, at a club meeting).
- Review this document in its entirety, along with the YES Abroad Alum Outreach PowerPoint presentation and program website (www.yes-abroad.org).

1-2 weeks in advance:

- Confirm the date, time, location, technology needs, and any special instructions with your contact.
- Confirm that students will be notified of the presentation in advance.
- Read the presentation tips. Think about your presentation and what you want to say/convey.
- Review the YES Abroad Alum Outreach PowerPoint presentation and personalize the presentation with your own on-program experiences. Instructions for using the PowerPoint template can be found on page 3.
- Make note cards if you would like.
- Rehearse your presentation. Ask a friend or family member for feedback on your clarity, volume, and rate of speech. If no one is available, practice in front of a mirror.
- Consider if you want to bring any cultural artifacts or wear cultural dress.

On the day of:

- Dress professionally or in cultural dress.
- Make sure you have all your materials (PowerPoint, posters, brochures, sign-in sheet [template on page 8], and any cultural artifacts).
- Arrive at the venue 15-30 minutes before your scheduled presentation.
- Set up any audio-visual equipment and test your PowerPoint.
- Arrange the sign-in sheet and any brochures for easy access.

Within one week after:

- Complete the YES Abroad Alum Outreach Reporting Form at the following link:
www.surveymonkey.com/s/YESAbroadAlumniOutreachForm
- Share the names and email addresses of any attendee(s) who requested additional information. These can be typed into the Reporting Form's designated field or you can scan and email the sign-in sheet to yesabroad@afsusa.org.
- If you would like to share your presentation or photos from your presentation with YES Abroad (which we really recommend you do!), please email the files to yesabroad@afsusa.org.
- Send a thank you note to your contact person.



Instructions for using the YES Abroad Alum Outreach PowerPoint Presentation Template:

Please utilize the YES Abroad Alum Outreach PowerPoint as a tool for your presentation. While we strongly encourage you to customize your presentation in the appropriate sections of the template based on your YES Abroad experience, please note that the following items should not be changed or removed:

- The YES Abroad scholarship details included in black text throughout the template and any accompanying images should not be changed or removed.
- The placement of the YES Abroad and Department of State logos and photo borders on the side or top of the slides should not be changed or removed.

Personalize your PowerPoint!

- Throughout the PowerPoint template, you will find text in blue and orange with details about what belongs in that section of the slide. Be sure to replace this blue and orange text with your own information. Remember to delete sample photos and reminders after replacing them with your own.
- If you are facing presentation time constraints or do not want to present on all topics outlined in the template, feel free to remove the respective customizable slide(s).
- On the slides that are reserved for you, feel free to add photos of your experiences on-program. Great photos include those with your host family, with friends at school or in your host community, or participating in cultural activities or excursions.

Remember to have fun and be creative while representing your experience with YES Abroad! Students will pick up on your energy and enthusiasm for the scholarship 😊



Presentation Tips

As a YES Abroad alum, you are a representative of the YES Abroad scholarship and should speak positively and truthfully about the program. Below are a few tips to help you create and deliver a successful presentation.

- Utilize YES Abroad promotional materials! Included in the Toolkit is a PowerPoint to guide your presentation — we encourage you to customize with PowerPoint with photos and details from your program. You can make copies or order hard-copy brochures and posters to distribute to potential applicants and interested educators. Reachout to yesabroad@afusa.org for information on ordering hard-copy brochures and posters.
- Maintain a broad view of the YES Abroad scholarship. Familiarize yourself with information about the scholarship by referring to the materials in this toolkit and on the YES Abroad website (www.yes-abroad.org). You will likely be asked about elements of the program in general, so you should be able to talk about the program as a whole (and not only your experience in your host country).
- Remember that specifics vary at each YES Abroad site and that program locations and specifics may change from year to year. Excursions, cultural activities, stipend values, travel dates, housing arrangements, and more may also differ by location and year. As such, while sharing your experiences, please make it clear that your stories and situation represents your individual time abroad and that experiences vary by participant, country, and scholarship year.
- It is better to admit that you do not know the answer than to give faulty information. If you do not know the answer to a question, offer to find out and get back to the person or make note of their email address on the YES Abroad Alum Outreach Reporting Form (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YESAbroadAlumniOutreachForm>).
- Talk about your personal experience during your exchange. In the PowerPoint template, there is room for you to include information about your host family and community, what your typical day was like, your host country's culture, your school, and program highlights and impact. Prospective students enjoy hearing specific stories and anecdotes, and it may be easier to share your enthusiasm for the scholarship when you talk about your personal experiences.
- Always focus on the positive! You can discuss the challenges and difficulties you faced in general terms, but also describe how you addressed the challenges and how they helped you improve your communication skills, gain a more global view, and grow as a person.

Logistics:

- We recommend saving your customized PowerPoint presentation to a flash drive in both PowerPoint and PDF format. This way, if the computer you present on does not have PowerPoint, you can use the PDF slides.
- Do you need speakers? A projector? A microphone? Will you be provided a computer, or should you use your own? Remember to think through the logistical needs of your presentation and discuss what will be available with your contact person.
- If you will not have a projector or classroom display for a presentation, consider printing photos from your exchange to pass around during your presentation, and be sure to have enough marketing materials (brochure or posters) for everyone.
- Be sure to bring any adapters your computer might need to connect to the projector or monitor via VGA, which is the most common classroom adapter format.
- If you have not tried giving a presentation from your computer before, be sure you know how to connect everything and what software setting to use to show the presentation on the projector or classroom display.



During your presentation:

- As people join, be friendly and welcome attendees. Encourage them to sign in.
- Engage your audience. For example, depending on the size of the group, ask attendees to state their name, their grade, and why they came or are interested in YES Abroad. Ask your audience if anyone has traveled to a different country before – what did they like? What was new? Ask your audience what they know about your former host country.
- Engage a respected adult. If there is a teacher or adult facilitator who seems supportive of YES Abroad, ask the adult to comment about their experiences abroad and why they would recommend it to the students.
- Remind attendees to record their email address on the sign-in sheet if they are interested in more information about YES Abroad.
- If possible, limit your presentation to approximately 30 minutes and allow an additional 15-30 minutes for questions. This timing is just a suggestion and can be altered as necessary. It can be hard to keep track of time, so keep a watch or clock handy and keep an eye on it. When practicing your presentation, keep notes about what slide you should be on after how many minutes, so you know if you are ahead or behind.
- Direct any questions that you cannot answer to yesabroad@afsusa.org or 646-751-2151.

Creative ideas from former presenters:

- Get the group to join in an activity such as a children’s game or song in your host country’s language.
- Perform a traditional dance and teach it to others who want to join.
- Introduce yourself in your host country’s language – audiences really respond well to that!
- Collaborate with the YES students hosted in your area or with other YES Abroad alumni, so that the audience will be able to see the diversity of participants and programs. If you need help finding alumni or hosted students in your area, contact yesabroad@afsusa.org for more information.



2021-22 YES Abroad Program Overview

As a YES Abroad alum, you are an expert regarding your experience abroad, and that is what we hope you will highlight during your presentation! Below is some sample language which matches how scholarship staff speak about YES Abroad when applicants call us or join our webinars. Becoming familiar with the below language will help you communicate consistently about the program when speaking with potential applicants.

U.S. high school students who want to experience another culture can apply for full scholarships to study abroad next school year through the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad program. As YES Abroad scholars, American high school students promote mutual understanding between the U.S. and the host country by forming lasting relationships with the local community.

The application for the 2021-22 program is open. The application deadline is December 8, 2020. The basic program eligibility info is published on the website. Applicants must be US Citizens, enrolled in highschool at the time of application, and be born between December 26, 2002, and June 26, 2006.

The YES Abroad program was initiated as a reciprocal extension of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study program for international students in countries of strategic importance. The first group of Americans participated in YES Abroad in the 2009-2010 academic year, living and studying in ten select YES countries. The program now offers 65 full scholarships to American students nationwide.

Full scholarships are available through YES Abroad to live with host families and attend a local high school for one academic year in countries that may include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Senegal, Thailand, and Turkey. The merit-based scholarship covers the following program costs for participants: round-trip airfare and room and board for the Pre-Departure Orientation; round-trip airfare between the participant's home region and community abroad; in-country support; cultural activities; school tuition (where applicable); room and board with a host family; secondary medical benefits; visa fees; and a modest stipend.

The YES Abroad is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is administered by a consortium of organizations led by American Councils for International Education in partnership with AFS-USA, Inc., the American-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. (AMIDEAST), and the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN).

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

U.S. citizens ages 15 to 18½ years at the start of the program are eligible to apply.

The YES Abroad program seeks applicants of all racial, ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds; sexual orientations; and welcomes applicants with disabilities.

Applicants of all grade-point averages and academic performance are encouraged to apply.

For additional eligibility requirements outlined by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please visit the "How to Apply" tab on the YES Abroad website (<http://www.yes-abroad.org/how-to-apply>).



Overview of Covered Costs:

The YES Abroad scholarship program provides the following for participants:

- Domestic round-trip airfare as well as room and board for the National Pre-Departure Orientation
- Round-trip airfare between the participant's domestic home region and host community abroad
- In-country support, cultural activities, and school tuition (where applicable)
- Room and board with a host family
- Emergency accident and sickness coverage in the host country
- Host country visa fees
- Re-entry orientation at the scheduled conclusion of the program, as well as membership in "International Exchange Alumni," the Department of State's exchange alumni network, which includes access to relevant resources and professional contacts are also provided
- A modest monthly stipend, reflective of typical costs that would be seen in the host country is also provided. This stipend covers costs associated with the student's basic needs while in their host country
- Cell phone while on program

Frequently Asked Questions:

Answers to frequently asked questions can be found on the "FAQ" tab of the YES Abroad website:

yes-abroad.org/faq

Questions? Email yesabroad@afsusa.org or call 646-751-2151.



Presenter Name:

YES Abroad Country & Program Year:

Date of Presentation:

Location of Presentation (City and State):

Name of School/Organization:

YES Abroad Informational Session Sign-In

Please provide your email address if you wish to receive more information about YES Abroad.

First and Last Name	Preferred Email Address	Are you an educator, parent, or student?

YES Abroad Alum Outreach Toolkit: 2020-21 YES Abroad Brochure



- Instructions on ordering hard-copy brochures can be found on page 2.

Expand your world.
Increase your global understanding.

Study abroad in high school on a **full scholarship** in ...

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	MALAYSIA
BULGARIA	MOROCCO
EGYPT	NORTH MACEDONIA
GHANA	PHILIPPINES
INDIA	SENEGAL
INDONESIA	THAILAND
JORDAN	TURKEY

APPLY ONLINE AT
www.yes-abroad.org

The U.S. Department of State reserves the right to amend the YES Abroad country list at any time.

A FULL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Study abroad in high school?
Say "YES!" to YES Abroad.

Visit www.yesprograms.org/host to learn about hosting an international YES student in your home or school.

APPLY ONLINE AT
www.yes-abroad.org
or call
800-237-4636 x2151
for more information

Logos: U.S. flag, U.S. Department of State, Kennedy-Lugar YES logo, social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Build a global community.

By participating in YES Abroad, you will develop leadership skills, international competence and an understanding of global interests and values that are shared across cultures.

Your experience will promote the development of respectful and enduring relationships between Americans and citizens of other countries, while giving you new insights into your own culture and the world.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:
U.S. citizens ages 15 to 18½ years at the start of the program are eligible to apply. Complete details are explained on the program website and application.

We welcome applicants that represent the diversity of the United States, including students with disabilities.

Make the world your classroom.

Study abroad with the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad program, providing **full scholarships** to live with a host family and study in a local high school for an academic year. YES Abroad is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Launched in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, the YES program was designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and people of countries with significant Muslim populations through high school student exchanges. The YES Abroad program began sending Americans overseas in 2009. Today, the YES and YES Abroad programs annually provide nearly 1,000 academic year exchange scholarships that continue to connect Americans and people from nearly 40 countries of strategic importance to the United States.

APPLY ONLINE AT
www.yes-abroad.org
or call
800-237-4636 x2151
for more information

Logos: Kennedy-Lugar YES logo, U.S. flag, U.S. Department of State seal.

YES Abroad Alum Outreach Toolkit: 2020-21 YES Abroad Poster

- Instructions on ordering hard-copy posters can be found on page 2.



Make the World YOUR CLASSROOM

IMAGINE
studying abroad in
high school on a
full scholarship in:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Bulgaria
- Egypt
- Ghana
- India
- Indonesia
- Jordan
- Malaysia
- Morocco
- North Macedonia
- Philippines
- Senegal
- Thailand
- Turkey

The U.S. Department of State reserves the right to amend this list at any time.



Study abroad on a full scholarship with the **Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad program**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. High school students and recent graduates explore a new country by living with a host family, studying in a local school, and participating in community activities.

YES Abroad is an exciting academic year international exchange program that promotes respectful and enduring relationships between American teens and people around the world. Young Americans who are currently enrolled in high school with a desire to immerse themselves in another culture are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. YES Abroad welcomes applicants that represent the diversity of the United States, including students with disabilities.

Step outside
your comfort
zone

Immerse
yourself in a
unique culture

Experience daily
life by integrating
into a host family

Foster
international
friendships

Build 21st-century
skills and global
competencies

 yes-abroad.org

Applications are available in the fall.
Application deadline:

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of
Educational and Cultural Affairs.
Administered by American Councils for International Education
in cooperation with AFS-USA, AMIDEAST and IEARN-USA.
exchanges.state.gov



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Twitter to learn more!



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