



## YES Abroad and NSLI for Youth: Side-by-Side Comparison

Note: Students may apply to both programs but many only participate in one.  
Find complete eligibility requirements on the program websites listed in the chart below.



Program	Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES Abroad)	National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)
<b>Origin</b>	YES Abroad was initiated in 2008 to complement the inbound YES program, established in October 2002 by the U.S. Congress in response to the events of September 11, 2001.	NSLI-Y is part of the U.S. government National Security Language Initiative started in 2006 to prepare American citizens to better engage with the world through critical languages.
<b>Sponsor</b>	U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)	U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
<b>Brief program description</b>	YES Abroad provides merit-based scholarships for American high school students (ages 15-18.5) to study abroad in select countries for an academic year. <b>YES Abroad is a cultural exchange program</b> focused on enhancing Americans' understanding of other countries and cultures through fostering lasting personal ties and engaging youth in activities that advance mutual understanding. YES Abroad participants live with a host family and enroll in a local high school abroad.	NSLI-Y provides merit-based scholarships to American high school students (ages 15-18) for overseas study of seven critical foreign languages during a summer or academic year. These languages are not commonly taught in U.S. high schools, but are critical to America's engagement with the world. <b>NSLI-Y is a language-focused program</b> aimed at developing a cadre of young Americans who will use their language skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global economy, and promote mutual understanding.
<b>Goals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop leadership skills and tools for community involvement</li> <li>Introduce American high school students to foreign cultures</li> <li>Broaden the understanding of Americans and our value for people from the host countries</li> <li>Encourage a lifetime of learning and future engagement in global issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote <b>learning of critical languages</b> among American youth</li> <li>Develop a better understanding of other cultures and peoples.</li> <li>Spark a lifetime of interest in foreign languages and cultures</li> <li>Prepare young Americans with language and cultural skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global economy, and promote mutual understanding.</li> </ul>
<b>Countries (Subject to change)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>Ghana</li> <li>India</li> <li>Indonesia</li> <li>Macedonia</li> <li>Malaysia</li> <li>Morocco</li> <li>Philippines</li> <li>Senegal</li> <li>Thailand</li> <li>Turkey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Arabic:</b> Jordan, Morocco</li> <li><b>Chinese (Mandarin):</b> China, Taiwan</li> <li><b>Hindi:</b> India</li> <li><b>Korean:</b> South Korea</li> <li><b>Persian (Tajiki):</b> Tajikistan</li> <li><b>Russian:</b> Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Russia</li> <li><b>Turkish:</b> Turkey</li> </ul>
<b>Applicant preference</b>	Applicants apply to the program, ranking country preferences.	Applicants indicate language(s) not country(ies) of interest.
<b>What kind of student should apply?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committed to cultural immersion and living with a host family</li> <li>Eager to learn about foreign cultures</li> <li>Mature, independent, open-minded and flexible</li> <li>Prepared for the challenges of an overseas immersion experience</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motivated to seriously study the program <b>language</b></li> <li>Eager to learn about foreign cultures</li> <li>Mature, independent, open-minded and flexible</li> <li>Prepared for the challenges of an overseas immersion experience</li> </ul>
<b>Accommodations</b>	Participants live with host families for the duration of the program. Some programs include a period of time in a school dormitory.	Accommodations vary by program site. Students will reside either in a host family or combination of supervised dormitories and host family stays.
<b>Placement</b>	Participants may be placed individually or in small groups at each site. Participants enroll in local high schools.	Participants are placed in groups of approximately 5 to 30 students per site. Groups tend to be larger for summer programs. Participants enroll in local high schools and/or language institutes.
<b>Duration</b>	Academic year (8-10 months)	Summer (6 weeks) or academic year (8-10 months)
<b>Participant eligibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. citizen</li> <li>Enrolled in high school at time of application</li> <li>Birthdates between March 2, 1998 and September 9, 2001</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>U.S. citizen</li> <li>Enrolled in high school at time of application</li> <li>Summer: birthdates between July 10, 1997 and June 10, 2001</li> <li>Academic year: birthdates between September 30, 1997 and June 30, 2001</li> <li>2.5 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent)</li> </ul>
<b>Program website</b>	<a href="http://www.yes-abroad.org">www.yes-abroad.org</a>	<a href="http://www.nsliforyouth.org">www.nsliforyouth.org</a>