Program Selection

IMPORTANT! **This application is intended for U.S. citizens.**

If you are NOT a citizen of the United States of America, **this is not the correct application.** Please visit https://exchanges.state.gov/ for more information on how to apply for programs to the United States.

Eligibility Test

1)
Are you a U.S. citizen?

◉ Yes

○ No

2)
Date of Birth
Use the calendar, or enter in the format Mmm dd, yyyy (e.g., Sep 01, 2004)
Note: Eligible students must have birthdates within the ranges listed below:

- **NSLI-Y (Summer)**: *July 10, 2003 - June 10, 2007*
- **NSLI-Y (Academic Year)**: *August 30, 2003 - June 30, 2007*
- **FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad**: *December 30, 2003 - June 30, 2007*

[   ] Open Calendar

3)
Are you currently enrolled in grades 9-12 (high school or home school equivalent)?

◉ Yes

○ No

3a)
Your Current Grade

◉ 9th
○ 10th
○ 11th

○ 12th

[Save Changes]

About the Application - Table of Contents

Sections of the Application

G. Language Experience
   1. Knowledge of Languages
H. Placement Information
   1. Program or Country Preferences
I. NSLI-Y Language Experience
   1. Self-Assessment of NSLI-Y Language Preferences
J. NSLI-Y Previous Experience
   1. International and Cultural Exchange Experience
K. Statistical Information
   1. Statistical Information (optional and not considered in the selection process)
L. Submit Your Application
   1. Review and Submit

About the Application - Program Introduction and Deadlines

Application Deadline
NSLI-Y: **Thursday 04 Nov 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time
FLEX/YES Abroad: **Wednesday 08 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

Program Introduction

NSLI-Y, FLEX Abroad, and YES Abroad are U.S. Department of State programs for American youth, administered by American Councils for International Education. The programs offer opportunities for U.S. high school students to travel abroad, learn another language, engage with other cultures, and participate in citizen diplomacy.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors programs for youth, serving nearly 1,000 American students annually. The exchanges promote mutual understanding, youth leadership, global education, and international dialogue. Students are immersed in the cultural life of the host community through host family stays, peer to peer interactions, cultural activities and excursions, and engagement with local schools or other organizations. By exchanging language, culture and values, students further the building of trust and long-lasting relationships between the United States and communities abroad. Previous language study is not required to participate.

National Security Language Initiative for Youth

The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students and recent high school graduates to learn less commonly taught languages through intensive summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. NSLI-Y prepares young Americans to succeed in the 21st century's global economy - by developing their foreign language skills, increasing their cross-cultural understanding, strengthening their leadership capacity, and fostering new academic insights and ambitions. Many alumni go on to pursue education and careers vital to U.S. national security.

Future Leaders Exchange Abroad (FLEX Abroad)

The Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Abroad program is the reciprocal extension of the FLEX program, an international exchange program for students from more than 20 countries in Europe and Eurasia. The program, with more than 30,000 alumni, began in 1993 based on the belief of former Senator Bill Bradley that the best way to ensure long-lasting peace and mutual understanding between the United States and the countries of the former Soviet Union was to enable young people to learn about the United States and Americans firsthand, and to teach Americans about their countries. The program has subsequently expanded to over a dozen other countries in Europe and Asia. The 2022-23 school year will be the FLEX Abroad program's inaugural year, sending American students abroad to three FLEX countries: Kazakhstan, Poland, and Ukraine.

Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad (YES Abroad)

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Abroad program is an extension of the YES program for international students. YES began in 2002 in a bi-partisan act of Congress as a response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. International participants from approximately 40 countries with significant Muslim populations in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia spend their 10-month exchange experience living with a host family, attending a local high school, acquiring leadership skills, and engaging in activities to learn about U.S. society and values. Americans have traveled to select YES countries on YES Abroad since 2009, educating others about American society and values and promoting mutual understanding between the United States and their host countries by forming lasting relationships within the local community. With more than 13,000 YES and YES Abroad alumni, the program helps students develop the skills to become leaders in the global community.

Learn more at: https://exchanges.state.gov

Want to bring the world to you? Host a foreign exchange student in your home. Learn how at: https://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/host-high-school-student

Application Deadline and Required Documents

Deadline	Tasks due
Due Online **NSLI-Y: Thursday, November 04, 2021** **FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad: Wednesday, December 08, 2021**	o **Online Application Form** completed by the applicant. o **Terms and Conditions** signed by applicant and parents/legal guardians.
NSLI-Y: Submitted No Later than Wednesday, November 10, 2021 **FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad: Submitted No Later than Tuesday, December 14, 2021**	o **Official Grade Transcripts**: sent by School Official or Home School Supervisor. o **Parent/legal guardian statement** o **Recommendation**

Questions?

Contact program staff during business hours, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday, at:

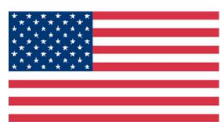*Email:* highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org
Telephone: 800–380–6552 (toll free, USA only)

About the Application - How to Apply

Application Deadline
NSLI-Y: **Thursday 04 Nov 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time
FLEX/YES Abroad: **Wednesday 08 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

IMPORTANT! Do not use your web browser's back button to move between pages within this online form. This might erase information from your form that cannot be recovered.
Use **only** the "Sections" menu on the left, including the → (next) and ← (previous) arrows to switch to the next and previous sections of the form.

How to Apply

- **Online Application Form:** Complete and submit the application form online. All applications, recommendations, transcripts, and parent/legal guardian statements must be submitted online, unless this requirement presents a significant impediment to

applying for a scholarship. Applicants who need assistance may contact American Councils at 800–380–6552, or highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org.

- **Terms and Conditions: Carefully read the Terms and Conditions.** This form must be signed by the applicant and all parents or legal guardians. Upload the completed signature page of the Terms and Conditions Form to the application.
- **Official Grade Transcripts:** Request your school upload an official copy of your grade transcript to the transcript upload form. Please ask the high school to remove or cover sensitive personal identifying information, including social security numbers, immunization history, and race/ethnicity, etc. before submitting the transcript. Transcripts must include all completed courses and a cumulative GPA.
  - o **9th grade applicants:** Provide full grade reports for grades 6–8. You as the applicant should upload your 9th grade course schedule in section 12 of the application.
  - o **Homeschooled applicants:** Your homeschool supervisor must complete the homeschool transcript form provided in section 12 of the application.
- Transcripts must be received by:
  - o **November 10, 2021** if you are applying for NSLI-Y
  - o **December 14, 2021** if you are only applying for FLEX and/or YES Abroad
- **Recommendation:** Have **one (1)** adult submit a recommendation using the online form. The recommendation must be submitted by 4:00 PM Eastern Time on:
  - o **November 10, 2021** if you are applying for NSLI-Y
  - o **December 14, 2021** if you are **only** applying for FLEX and/or YES Abroad
- **Parent/Guardian Statement:** Have **one (1)** parent/legal guardian submit a statement online supporting the application. The statement must be submitted by 4:00 PM Eastern Time on:
  - o **November 10, 2021** if you are applying for NSLI-Y
  - o **December 14, 2021** if you are **only** applying for FLEX and/or YES Abroad

Note: Any technical problems with the application form should be reported by email to highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org using the following subject line convention:

Relevant Program Name (NSLI-Y/FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad), Last Name, First Name, Reference Code: Email Subject

Ex: NSLI-Y, Doe, Jane, ABCE1234: Question about application

Note: Your reference code is the eight-digit, randomly assigned code at the top of this page with four letters and four numbers that identifies your unique application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to **ask any questions and submit their applications well in advance of the application deadline.** American Councils for International Education bear no responsibility for data transmission problems in submitting the application.

How to Use this Online Form

Moving from Section to Section

This form includes more than one section (pages). They are listed in the "Sections" menu that can be found in the navigation menu at the left side of each page. Select any section from the menu to jump to that section. Press the → (next) and ← (previous) arrows to switch to the next and previous sections of the form.

Saving Your Work

Save your work regularly by pressing the "Save Changes" button found at the bottom of any page.

Completing Your Form in Multiple Sessions

It is not necessary to complete your online form in one sitting. To continue later, press the "Save Changes" button found at the bottom of each page. You may log in to your application any time thereafter until the deadline to complete your application.

Required Fields

A * next to a question indicates a required field. You must provide this information in order to submit your form.

Word and Character Counts Used in this Online Form

Use the counter tool in this form to track the word character limits specified for some questions. Please note that this count may not be the same as counts indicated by Microsoft® Word, or other word-processing tools.

Submitting Your Form

To submit your form, **you must press the "Submit" button** on the last page. If you do not press the Submit button, your form will not be considered for selection. You will not be allowed to make any changes after you submit it. After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email. If you did not receive a confirmation email, your application was not successfully submitted. Be sure to confirm that your application was submitted; there may be incomplete items that need to be addressed before your application can be successfully submitted.

Downloading Documents from this Website

The free <u>Adobe Reader</u> is required to open and view most documents on this website.

Uploading Documents to Your Form

You might be asked to upload a document. In most cases, you may upload only files of the following types: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, GIF, or TIF/TIFF. You may also be asked not to upload files with a size greater than 5 MB. Encrypted or password-protected files will not be accepted unless "Read Only" capability is enabled. A number of free online tools are readily available to convert or resize your files.

Personal Information - About You

About You

1)
Legal Name:
As indicated on your birth certificate, passport, or other government-issued ID

- *Use **English** characters only.*
- ***Do not use** accent or diacritical marks.*
- *Use proper capitalization. **Do not use** all UPPERCASE or all lowercase letters.*
- *If you do not have a "Middle Name," leave that box blank.*

Legal First Name

Legal Middle Name

Legal Last Name

2)
Your Preferred Nickname

3)
Gender

School Information

4)

Are you home-schooled?

○ Yes

○ No

5)

ⓘ**If you are home-schooled**, for the "School Name" field, enter "Home School".

School Name and Address

FIRST, choose country BEFORE state/province/region

School Name	
Country	⊡
City	
State/Province/Region	⊡

6)

Your Anticipated Graduation Date

Enter in format "Mmm yyyy". Example: "Jun 2021".

Place of Birth

7)

Place of Birth

FIRST, choose birth country BEFORE birth state/province/region

Birth Country	⊡
Birth City	
Birth State/Province/Region	⊡

Passport and Citizenship

8)

Do you have a valid U.S. passport?

Note: It is not required to have a passport at the time of application .

○ Yes

○ No

*Passport processing time may be lengthy. **Currently, passport processing may take up to 18 weeks. Applicants are strongly encouraged to apply for a passport as soon as possible if they***

do not have one that meets validity requirements. Applicants should be prepared to provide their valid passport information, upon request, by late-February 2022. If selected, be aware that passports may need to be physically available for 3 months prior to the program start for visa processing.

Program finalists must have a United States passport that is valid for **at least six months** *after their anticipated program end date. For NSLI-Y summer finalists, passports should be valid until March 2023; Academic year finalists should have passports that are valid until mid-January 2024.*

If selected to study in **Russia**, *your passport must be valid for 18 months after the anticipated return to the U.S., and if selected to study in* **India, China or Russia**, *parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may also be required to have a valid passport(s) or provide residency documentation to obtain a visa.*

9)
Can you be considered a citizen of any country other than the United States?

○ Yes

○ No

Your Contact Information

Mailing Address:

10)
Mailing Address
FIRST, choose country BEFORE state/province/region

Country	▼
Street Address	
City	
State/Province/Region	▼
ZIP/Postal Code	

11)
Is the physical address of your home the same as your mailing address?

○ Yes

○ No

Telephone Numbers:

- *Include area code, or country and city/mobile codes (outside North America)*
- *Include spaces, hyphens [-], and parentheses [()]*

12)
Primary Telephone

Type

○ Home ○ Mobile

13)

Alternate Telephone

Type

○ Home ○ Mobile

14)

Primary Email Address

This will be program administration's primary method of communicating with you and should be an email address that is and will be checked often.

15)

Alternate Email Address

Some email messages from program administration will be sent to both the primary and alternate email addresses.

The alternate email address can be a personal, family, or parent/guardian's email address.

[Save Changes]

Personal Information - Certify Your Eligibility

Certification of Eligibility

Answering "False" to any of the following questions indicates that you are not eligible for the 2022-23 program. Please contact highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org if you have any questions about the eligibility requirements.

Please review the 2022-23 Eligibility Policy for Outbound Youth Programs. A detailed description of all the eligibility requirements can be found online at:

- NSLI-Y: https://www.nsliforyouth.org/how-to-apply/eligibility/
- FLEX Abroad: https://www.discoverflex.org/flex-abroad
- YES Abroad: https://www.yes-abroad.org/how-to-apply

Short-term ECA programs	Long-term ECA programs
○ American Youth Leadership Program (AYLP)	○ Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX)

o Youth Leadership Program (participants who travelled overseas only) o Youth Ambassadors Program o National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) summer program	o Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad (YES Abroad) o National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Academic Year program o Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Abroad

1)

I am a U.S. citizen.

○ True

○ False

2)

I am currently enrolled in grades 9-12 (high school or home-school equivalent) at the time I submit this application.

○ True

○ False

3)

I have not participated in a long-term in-person U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) youth exchange program.

○ True

○ False

4)

I understand that alumni of a short-term in-person (not virtual) ECA youth exchange programs may only apply for academic year programs that take place in a different calendar year. Alumni of virtual programs may apply for summer or academic year programs. I confirm that my application conforms to this.

○ True

○ False

5)

I do not have any immediate family members who work at the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Agency for International Development, or public or private organizations that are under contract or grant agreement with the U.S. Department of State on U.S. Department of State exchange programs.

○ True

○ False

6)

I have a grade point average (GPA) or equivalent of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

○ True

○ False

Save Changes

Personal Information - Family Information

For placement and administrative purposes, please list the members of your family below. This information is required for legal guardians. For anyone else living in the home, this information is optional, but will be helpful when matching you with a host family and supporting you during your program year.

About Your Parents / Legal Guardians

1)

ⓘ **Push "Add 1 More" button** at the bottom of the page, to add information about your second parent.

Please list each and every one of your parents, step-parents, legal guardians, or any other adult responsible for you as applicable:

*Anyone listed as a parent or legal guardian in your application must be identified by the **same name** in other forms that require the signature of parents/legal guardians.*

1a)

Title

[▼]

1b)

Parents/Legal Guardians

Legal First Name [   ]

Legal Last Name [   ]

Gender [▼]

Relationship [▼]

Does this person have legal custody of you? [- Choose -   ▼]

Telephone Number [   ]

Type (Home/Mobile/Work) [   ]

Email Address (Personal/Work/Family)

Do you ever live with this parent/legal guardian at the physical address you input in the Section 5 (About You)? [- Choose -   ▼]

1c)

Does this person have a current and valid passport from any country?

Providing information on parent passport status and country of birth is optional.
We provide a space to collect this information as it may impact the visa application for certain host countries.
The information would not be considered when evaluating and selecting participants, but it could be useful for program staff during the early stages of the visa application process.

○ Yes

○ No

1d)
Country of Birth

[▼]

Alternate Emergency Contact

In the event your parents or legal guardians cannot be contacted, please provide at least **one (1) adult who does not live with you** as your alternate emergency contact person. To ensure that program staff can contact this individual promptly in case of an emergency, a phone number and email address **must** be provided for this individual. List only an individual for whom this information can be provided:

2)
Emergency Contact

First Name [   ]

Last Name [   ]

Gender [▼]

Relationship With Applicant [▼]

Phone Number [   ]

Phone Type (Home/Mobile/Work) [   ]
Email Address (Personal/Work/Family)

[Save Changes]

Personal Information - International Experience

1)
Have you previously participated in any other international exchange program(s)?

○ Yes

○ No

2)
If selected for NSLI-Y or FLEX/YES Abroad, would this be your first time traveling outside of the United States?

○ Yes

○ No

3)
Do you plan to travel abroad after submitting this application?

○ Yes
○ No

4)

Do you have any relatives or close friends that live in NSLI-Y or FLEX/YES Abroad host locations?
NSLI-Y and FLEX/YES Abroad host countries may include Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Egypt, Estonia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Moldova, Malaysia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Senegal, South Korea, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkey, and Ukraine.

○ Yes
○ No

Save Changes

Personal Information - Activities and Hobbies

You may enter up to 7 rows for each question below. List activities/hobbies in chronological order (starting with most recent) and prioritize the activities/hobbies that are most important to you, and/or most relevant to the program.

If you receive an error, please verify that you are using the correct date format. An example of a correct date format is 08/2021.

Use your best estimate for hours per month. If you are including a seasonal activity, list the average hours per the months that you engage in the activity.

Activities, Athletics, and Organizations

1)

List only those activities and organizations in which you have been a frequent participant within the past three years. Include activities such as Scouts, volunteer work, religious youth groups, peer tutoring, sports teams, etc. Be sure to briefly specify any leadership roles you held with those groups, such as club president, team captain, or other position:

#	Activity or Organization	Description	Hours per Month	Start Date (mm/yyyy)	Still Participating?	If no, End Date (mm/yyyy)
1					○ Yes ○ No	
		0 words counted. Maximum of 40 words allowed.				

Creative Work, Hobbies, and Special Training

2)

Include activities such as music, dance, drama, performing arts, and foreign languages that you have pursued to the point of some mastery:

#	Name	Description	Hours per Month	Start Date (mm/yyyy)	Still Participating?	If no, End Date (mm/yyyy)
1		*0 words counted. Maximum of 25 words allowed.*			○ Yes ○ No	

Save Changes

Personal Information - Internships, Paid Work and Jobs

You may enter up to 7 rows for the question below. List internships/paid work/jobs in chronological order (starting with most recent) and prioritize those that are most important to you and/or most relevant to the program.

If you receive an error, please verify that you are using the correct date format. An example of a correct date format is 08/2020.

Use your best estimate for hours per month.

1)

Specify the type of work and describe your responsibilities:

#	Employment Title/Position	Description	Hours per Month	Start Date (mm/yyyy)	Still Employed?	If no, End Date (mm/yyyy)
1		*0 words counted. Maximum of 25 words allowed.*				

Save Changes

Personal Information - Awards, Honors, and Special Recognition

You may enter up to 7 rows for the question below. List awards/honors/special recognition in chronological order (starting with most recent) and prioritize those that are most important to you and/or most relevant to the program.

If you receive an error, verify that you are using the correct date format. An example of a correct date format is 08/2020.

1)
Briefly describe the award:

#	Description	Award Date (mm/yyyy)
1		

Save Changes

Documents - Transcripts

Deadline for Transcripts
NSLI-Y: **Wednesday 10 Nov 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time
FLEX/YES Abroad: **Tuesday 14 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

IMPORTANT! Please answer Question 3a ("Your Current Grade") in Section 1 (Program Selection) **and** Question 4 ("Are you home-schooled?") in Section 5 (About You) before proceeding to Transcripts.

Official transcript documentation should be uploaded by your school administration. Share the transcript request instructions with your school registrar or counselor. Applicants CANNOT upload official transcripts; only official transcripts from a school official will be accepted.

*If your school is having difficulty submitting your official school transcript, you may reach out to highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org to discuss options.

You may track the status of your transcript upload by returning to this page. The status history box will display "submitted" once it has been received. Applicants will be contacted if materials are missing after the application deadline and will be given an opportunity to re-submit the transcripts.

Document	Instructions
[Grade Transcript Request](#)	Submit this form to your school to request that your official transcripts be sent to American Councils. NOTE: 9th grade applicants must submit this request to their middle or Jr. high school. Be mindful that transcript processing time may be lengthy. Transcripts must be uploaded no later than **November 10, 2021** if your application includes NSLI-Y. If applying for FLEX/YES Abroad **only**, the transcript is due **December 14, 2021**.
[Home School Transcript Form](#)	## For home-schooled applicants, ONLY Home-schooled applicants must submit the Home School Transcript form by the appropriate date as indicated above.
For 9th Graders, ONLY UPLOADED BY APPLICANT	## For 9th Graders, ONLY Applicants who are currently enrolled in 9th grade must provide the following additional item: o UPLOADED BY APPLICANT: List of current classes in which you are enrolled

To assist with transcript processing, please ask that your school's registrar only send one transcript unless another copy is requested by American Councils.

Questions?

Contact program staff during business hours, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday, at:

Email: *highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org.*
Telephone: *800–380–6552 (toll free, USA only)*

Save Changes

Document - Terms and Conditions

Instructions

Each applicant must submit a signed copy of the Terms and Conditions signature page. The applicant and all parents/legal guardians must carefully read the document and sign the form; e-signatures will not be accepted. **Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions could result in the following: probation, cancellation of application, termination of scholarship, or dismissal from the program. Applicants and their parents/legal guardians should save a copy of the Terms and Conditions for future reference.**

Applicants should upload the scanned copy of the fully signed final page of the form before submitting the application.

Step One

1)
Download a copy of the **Terms and Conditions** document using the link below.

2)
Read and sign agreement where indicated on the last page. **The applicant and all parents/legal guardians** MUST sign this agreement.

Document	Instructions
Terms and Conditions	This agreement must be signed by the applicant and all parents/legal guardians.

Upload Terms and Conditions Form

3)
Scan the signature page of the Terms and Conditions document and upload it below. Remember, the form must be signed by the applicant and all parents/legal guardians.
You will be taken briefly to another screen while your file is validated by this system.

File types allowed: PDF, JPG/JPEG, PNG, GIF, TIF/TIFF

IMPORTANT! If your uploaded Terms and Conditions document file does not immediately appear above, please allow a few minutes for this system to finish processing your file. You might need to logout of the application and log back in for the document to appear.

The applicant and all legal guardians must sign the Terms and Conditions form. Use legal names (not nicknames) when signing the form. If there is a missing signature on the form or if a name does not match the name listed on the application, we will ask that you complete and submit a new form.

Save Changes

Recommendation Request - Recommendation

Deadline to Submit Recommendation
NSLI-Y: **Wednesday 10 Nov 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time
FLEX/YES Abroad: **Tuesday 14 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

A recommendation is a critical element of program evaluation and must be submitted online through the AIS Forms site. You may provide only one recommendation. When deciding whom to ask to write the recommendation, we suggest you consider the following:

- The recommendation should be completed by an adult not related to you and with whom you have engaged in the past 2 years and who knows you well. The individual can be a teacher, school counselor, school administrator, coach, youth organization leader or coordinator, employer, etc. For NSLI-Y, it is not required nor is it necessarily beneficial to ask a language teacher to complete the recommendation.
- Ask an adult who can best address your personal attributes, maturity, communication abilities, relationships with peers and teachers/supervisors/organizational leaders, and skills.
- Unless you are currently in the 9th grade, we strongly suggest that you avoid asking middle school teachers to complete this recommendation form.
- The letter of recommendation must be in English.
- It is not appropriate for a local or federal elected official to complete the recommendation unless this individual served as an employer or knows you in a personal capacity.
- The position or status of the recommender is not considered.
- If you or your recommender have trouble with the online recommendation, please contact highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org.

It is your responsibility as an applicant to ensure that the recommendation is submitted.

Before You Request a Recommendation

- **Talk with your recommender** to determine if they are willing and able to provide this recommendation for you.

Document	Instructions
Instructions for Your Recommender	Download this instructions document and give it to your recommender. It explains how to submit the recommendation online.

- **Tell your recommender to expect an email** from **highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org**. Suggest that your teacher add this address to their "safe" or "contacts" list so that the message does not go into a spam or junk mail box. If they do not receive this email message, suggest that they check the spam or junk mail box before contacting the program.
- If your recommender gives you a "K12" address, you may want to ask them to provide an alternative email address to receive the recommendation request. "K12" addresses often block email messages from unknown sources, such as this application system.

When You Are Ready to Request a Recommendation

- **Provide the contact information** for your recommender below. **YOU MUST USE ENGLISH CHARACTERS OR YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REQUEST A RECOMMENDATION.** The program will use that information to send your recommender an email message that contains a link to a secure, online recommendation form.
- Once you have entered complete and correct contact information for your recommender, a new button titled "**Request Recommendation**" will appear below your recommender's contact information.
- **Press the "Request Recommendation" button** to send the email notification to your recommender. A record of the dates you sent these messages will then appear below the contact information.

Warning! If you **change** your recommender's email address **after** sending her or his notification message, it will **cancel** your previous request and **disable** the secure link to your recommender's online form. It will also **erase** any online recommendation form that was already in progress **or** had already been submitted. So, be sure to consider this before changing the recommender's contact information. **An erased recommendation cannot be retrieved**.

Provide Your Recommender's Contact Information

Provide all the information requested below:

First Name

Last Name

Recommender Email Address

Recommender Telephone

Press the "Save Changes" button at the bottom of the page, and then press the "Request Recommendation" button that appears to send an email request to your recommender.
The box below will display the current status of the recommendation. You can monitor this status history box even after submitting your application. The stages are: Notification, Opened, Saved, Submitted.

Confidential Recommendation
Status History

Date	Activity Type	Recipient Email
No status found.		

After You Request a Recommendation

- **Confirm with your recommender** that they received the email message and can access the form.
- **If your recommender does not receive the email message**, first suggest they check the spam or junk mail box. If they still cannot find it, only then come back to this page and press the "Request Recommendation" button again, to send another message.

Questions?

Contact program staff during business hours, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday, at:

Email: *highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org*
Telephone: *800–380–6552 (toll free, USA only)*

Save Changes

Statement Request - Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

Deadline to Submit Statement
NSLI-Y: **Wednesday 10 Nov 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time
FLEX/YES Abroad: **Tuesday 14 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

If you or your parent has trouble with the online parent statement, please contact highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org

The Parent/Legal Guardian statement will be reviewed at the semi-finalist evaluation stage for the placement process. Submit this using the AIS Forms website. If a parent/legal guardian is unable to complete the statement, please contact highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the parent/legal guardian statement is received by the program.

Before You Request a Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

- **Talk with your parent/legal guardian** to determine whether they are willing and able to provide this statement for you. If your parent/legal guardian is not able to complete the statement in English, they can work with a family member or close family friend to translate the statement. Individuals who have help completing this statement should indicate who helped them in the written portion of the form. Applicants should not provide a translation for your parent/legal guardian. A Spanish translation may be available for parents who are not able to prepare the statement in English. Please contact highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org for more information.

Document	Instructions
Instructions for Your Parent/Legal Guardian	Download and provide this instruction explaining to your parent/legal guardian how to submit the statement online.

- **Tell your parent/legal guardian to expect an email** from **highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org**. Ask your parent/legal guardian to add this address to their "safe" or "contacts" list so that the message does not go into a spam or junk mailbox. If they do not receive this email message, suggest that they check the spam or junk mailbox before contacting the program.

When You Are Ready to Request a Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

- **Provide the contact information** for your parent/legal guardian below. **YOU MUST USE ENGLISH CHARACTERS OR YOU WILL BE UNABLE TO REQUEST A STATEMENT** The program will use that information to send your parent/legal guardian an email message that contains a link to a secure, online statement form.
- Once you have entered complete and correct contact information for your parent/legal guardian, a new button titled "**Request Statement**" will appear below your parent's/legal guardian's contact information.
- **Press the "Request Statement" button** to send the email notification to your parent/legal guardian. A record of the dates you sent these messages will then appear below the contact information.

Warning! If you **change** your parent's/legal guardian's email address **after** sending their notification message, it will **cancel** your previous request and **disable** the secure link to your parent's/legal guardian's online form. It will also **erase** any online statement form that was

Provide Parent's/Legal Guardian's Contact Information

First Name

Last Name

Relationship to You

- ○ Parent
- ○ Stepparent
- ○ Legal Guardian
- ○ Other

Parent/Legal Guardian Email Address

Parent/Legal Guardian Telephone

Press the "Save Changes" button at the bottom of the page, and then press the "Request Statement" button that appears to send an email request to your parent/legal guardian.
The box below will display the current status of the parent statement. You can monitor this status history box even after submitting your application. The stages are: Notification, Opened, Saved, Submitted.

Parent/Legal Guardian Statement
Status History

Date	Activity Type	Recipient Email
No status found.		

After You Request a Parent/Legal Guardian Statement

- **Confirm with your parent/legal guardian** that they received the email message and can access the form.
- **If your parent/legal guardian does not receive the email message**, first suggest they check the spam or junk mail box. If they still cannot find it, only then come back to this page and press the "Request Statement" button again, to send another message.
- **Be careful! If you change your parent's/legal guardian's email address** after sending the notification message, it will cancel your previous request and disable their link to the

online form. It will also erase any online form that was already in progress or had already been submitted. An erased statement form cannot be retrieved.

- To see if your parent/guardian has started or submitted their statement form, periodically return to this page and check the "Status History" table above.

Questions?

Contact program staff during business hours, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday, at:

Email: highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org
Telephone: 800–380–6552 (toll free, USA only)

Save Changes

Self-Introduction to Host Family and Instructors

You may be hosted by a family, and just as you are curious about your host family, school and instructors, they will be curious about you. Here is a chance to tell them about yourself in a letter. Below are questions you should address in your letter to communicate who you are and your motivation for applying to the program. Your letter must not exceed 500 words and must be written in English.

TIPS:

- *Prepare and save the host family letter and short essays in a word processing program, such as Microsoft® Word. You may copy and paste your essays into the spaces below.*
- *If you choose to type your essay directly into the form below, be sure to press the "Save Changes" button at the bottom of this page often to ensure that your work is not lost if you encounter a technical problem.*
- *Use the counter tool in this form to track the word character limits specified for some questions. Please note that this count may not be the same as counts indicated by Microsoft® Word or other word-processing tools.*

Questions that You Should Answer in Your Letter:

- **How would your family and friends describe your personality?**
- **How would you describe your relationship with your family and friends?** For example, what is your role in the family? In what types of situations do you seek advice from your family and friends?
- **What are your different roles in your community?** For example, what are your roles in school, sports, community activities, etc.? What activities or causes are important to you and why?

- If selected for the program you will be part of a community and family, not a guest. Explain how you would adapt and **what would make you a unique addition to a family and community that will likely be different from your own?**
- **In what ways have you prepared for the challenges of the program experience?**
- **What are your education and career goals?**

Your letter will be part of your application and may be shared with your host family or instructors if you are selected. Consider formatting your response like an actual letter with a salutation and closing.

Your Letter:

0 words counted. Maximum of 500 words allowed.

Save Changes

Essays

IMPORTANT! Please answer Question 4 ("Choose the Program(s)") in Section 1 (Program Selection) before proceeding to Essays.

Note the following:

- You **must** choose and answer a question for both essay 1 and essay 2.
- Essays must be written in English.

TIPS:

- *Stay within the maximum word count under each text box.*
- ***Prepare and save** the host family letter and short essays in a **word processing program, such as Microsoft® Word**. You may copy and paste your essays into the spaces below once you have completed them in a word processing program.*
- *If you choose to type your essay directly into the form below, **be sure to press the "Save Changes" button at the bottom of this page often** to ensure that your work is not lost if you encounter a technical problem.*
- *Use the counter tool in this form to track the word character limits specified for some questions. Please note that this count may not be the same as counts indicated by Microsoft® Word or other word-processing tools.*

Essay 1

1)
Choose one of these two topics for your first essay:

- ○ (A) Describe a non-academic challenge that you have overcome in the past 2-3 years. What did you do? What did you learn?
- ○ (B) Describe a time in the past few years when you changed your mind about something important to you. Why did you change your mind? Was it the right decision?

Essay 2

This essay is only required for **academic year applicants**.

If you are applying **only for a NSLI-Y summer program**, please choose option C ("I am only applying for the NSLI-Y summer program.")

If you are applying for NSLI-Y academic year, FLEX Abroad or YES Abroad this essay is required.

2)
Choose one of these two topics for your second essay:

- ○ (A) Describe a recent time when someone you respect disagreed with you. How did you react? What did you do?
- ○ (B) Describe a recent time you resolved a disagreement with your parents, authority figures, or friends. What did you do? What did you learn?
- ○ (C) I am only applying for the NSLI-Y summer program
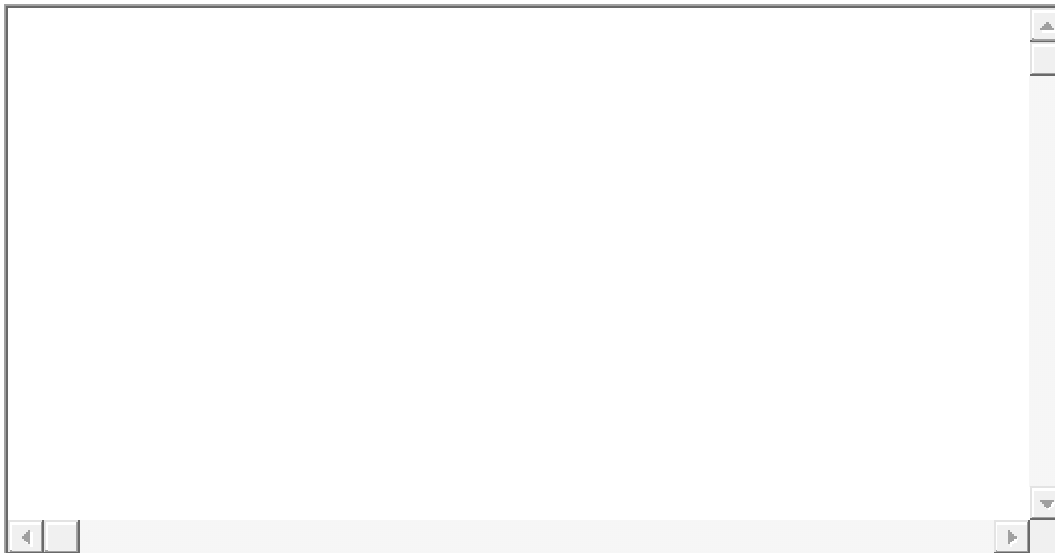
Essay 3 (FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad)

3)

Choose one of these two topics for your third essay:

○ (A) List and explain three (3) reasons why you want to participate in FLEX/YES Abroad.

○ (B) Why is living in a FLEX/YES Abroad country important to you? What do you hope to learn from this experience? How will you share your experience and support the goals of the scholarship both at home and abroad? Be specific and give examples.

Essay (NSLI-Y)

3)

Explain your choice of language(s). List and explain three (3) reasons why you want to participate in NSLI-Y.

0 words counted. Maximum of 300 words allowed.

[Save Changes]

Language Experience - Knowledge of Languages

1)

What is your native or first language?

○ English

○ Other

2)

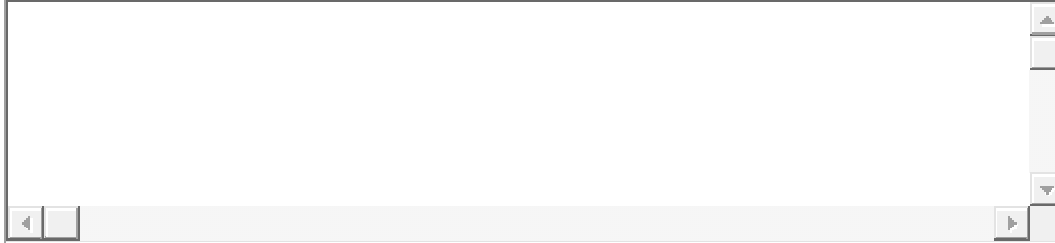What language(s) are spoken between you and your family at home?

3)

Have you studied or do you know any languages, other than English?

○ Yes

○ No

4)

Describe other language experience you have that is not covered above.

0 words counted. Maximum of 100 words allowed.

5)

Have you participated in a [STARTALK](#) language program?

○ Yes

○ No

Save Changes

Placement Information - Program or Country Preferences

Placement Information - Program or Country Preferences

You are applying for **FLEX Abroad/YES Abroad**
If you would like to apply for other program(s), go to Section 1, Question 4 (Choose the Program(s)).

FLEX and YES Abroad Placement Information - Countries

Your application to FLEX/YES Abroad is to the program in general, and not to a specific host country. Applicants should be open to placement in any host country. Below we invite you to rank the available countries according to your level of interest. This is not a factor in the selection process, but it will be one of the factors considered when assigning finalists to a host country. Finalists will receive their country assignments when they are notified of acceptance to the program.

Host countries have varying country-specific program eligibility criteria. Finalists are placed in a host country for which they are eligible based on the information you provide in this application, including but not limited to age and grade level. High school graduates and those applicants who will be over 18 at the start of the program are advised that FLEX and YES Abroad participants in these demographics will generally be placed in classrooms with students one to two years younger.

Please note that while placements in Morocco and Senegal require French language skills, no language experience is required to be eligible for the FLEX/YES Abroad scholarship.

To learn more about FLEX/YES Abroad in each host country, please visit:

- FLEX: https://www.discoverflex.org/flex-abroad
- YES: www.yes-abroad.org/countries

Please note that the FLEX/YES Abroad 2022-23 programs will commence between late June and mid-September, 2022.

YES Abroad

1)

Country Preference

Choose one

○   I have no country preference and am open to placement in any country

○   I do have a preference of countries and would like to rank them

1a)

Country Preference Ranking

ⓘYour selected preferences will appear in a chart below. You can change the ranking of your preferences by using the "up" or "down" buttons.
The number of ranking will appear in the first column with "1" indicating your first preference.
You can remove a preference by clicking the "delete" button.

- *You **must** rank at least 3 countries by selecting a country in the "Rank Your Preference" drop-down menu. After a country is selected, click the "Add" button to add the next country preference. Repeat the action until you rank 3 countries.*
- *Ranking of the rest of the countries is optional.*

Indicate Your Country Preference: [▾]

Rank Your Preference	Country	Actions

YES Abroad host locations for 2022-23 are listed below, if conditions allow and at the program's discretion. All program locations are subject to change. Note: The experience of every exchange student is different. The following is general information about typical in-country language exposure, and an indication of prior language experience requirements for placement (if any). Participants may experience significant exposure to languages not listed, based on their host family, host community, and host school. Language acquisition is not a primary focus of this program.

Country	Typical Language of Instruction	Typical Host Family Languages	Language Requirement
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian (BCS) and/or English	Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian (BCS) and English	None
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	Bulgarian and English	None
Egypt	Arabic and English	Arabic and English	None
Ghana	English	Twi, Fante, Ga, Ewe, Hausa, and English	None
India	English and regional languages	English and regional languages	None
Indonesia	Bahasa Indonesia	Bahasa Indonesia and regional languages	None
Jordan	English	Arabic	None
Malaysia	English and Malay	Malay, Chinese (generally Mandarin), various languages of India, and English	None
Morocco	French and Darija (Moroccan Arabic)	French and Darija (Moroccan Arabic)	Knowledge of French required
North Macedonia	Macedonian or English	Macedonian, Albanian, and English	None
Philippines	English and/or local languages	English, Filipino, and local dialects	None

Senegal	French or English	French, Wolof, Pular, or English	Knowledge of French required
Thailand	Thai	Thai	None
Turkey	Turkish	Turkish	None

FLEX Abroad

1)

Country Preference Ranking

ⓘYour selected preferences will appear in a chart below. You can change the ranking of your preferences by using the "up" or "down" buttons.
The number of ranking will appear in the first column with "1" indicating your first preference.
You can remove a preference by clicking the "delete" button.

- *Rank your country preferences 1-3 by selecting each country in the "Rank Your Preference" drop-down menu.*
  After a country is selected, click the "Add" button to add the next country preference.
  Repeat the action until you rank all three countries.
- *You are **required** to rank all three countries.*

Indicate Your Country Preference: [▼]

Rank Your Preference	Country	Actions

Country	Typical Language of Instruction	Typical Host Family Languages	Language Requirement
Kazakhstan	Kazakh, English, and/or Russian	Kazakh, Russian	None
Poland	Polish and/or English	Polish	None
Ukraine	Ukrainian and/or English	Ukrainian, Russian	None

2)
Explain your choice of country/countries.

NSLI-Y Placement Information - Program Preferences

Indicate your preferences for a NSLI-Y program language and duration. Language offerings are subject to change in consultation with the U.S. Department of State. Applicants may apply for up to two languages or program durations. Applicants may select the language(s) but may not indicate a host country preference.

Available Programs

Summer 2022	Academic Year 2022-23
To apply for one of these programs, your date of birth must be between **July 10, 2003, and June 10, 2007** o Arabic - Summer o Chinese (Mandarin) - Summer o Hindi - Summer o Indonesian - Summer o Korean - Summer o Persian (Tajiki) - Summer o Russian - Summer o Turkish - Summer	To apply for one of these programs, your date of birth must be between **August 30, 2003, and June 30, 2007** o Arabic - Academic Year o Chinese (Mandarin) - Academic Year o Hindi - Academic Year o Korean - Academic Year o Russian - Academic Year o Turkish - Academic Year

1)
Program Preferences

ⓘYour selected preferences will appear in a chart below. You can change the ranking of your preferences by using the "up" or "down" buttons.
Your ranking number will appear in the first column with "1" indicating your first preference. You can remove a preference by clicking the "delete" button.

- *Select your language and duration preference in the "Rank Your Preference" drop-down menu. Then, click the "Add" button.*
  Repeat the action if you have a second preference.
- *You **must** choose at least one preference. The second preference is optional.*
- *You **cannot** choose "Any Language - Academic Year" or "Any Language - Summer" as your first preference. **These options can be a second preference only.***

Indicate Your Preference: [▼]

Rank Your Preference	Language and Duration Preference	Actions

Save Changes

NSLI-Y Language Experience - Self-Assessment of Language Preferences

NOTE: this section is only for NSLI-Y applicants. If you are only applying for FLEX/YES Abroad, go to Section 22 (Statistical Information).

You have indicated the following NSLI-Y language preferences:[†]

1st Language Preference and Duration: -

2nd Language Preference and Duration: -

[†] *See Section 19: Placement Information - Program or Country Preferences*

Prior language study is not required for application to the NSLI-Y program. NSLI-Y provides beginning, intermediate, and advanced language instruction. This information will assist us with assigning you to an appropriate level of language class in your NSLI-Y program.

Experience with 1st Language Choice:

Finalists who answered yes to 1a), 1b), 1c) and/or 1d) will be asked to complete a pre-program Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) approximately one month before the start of the program.

1)
What is your experience with your 1st language choice?

1a)
Have you studied language in a formal classroom setting?

○ Yes

○ No

1b)
Have you studied independently?

○ Yes

○ No

1c)
Is spoken in your home?

○ Yes

○ No

1d)
Do you anticipate that you will participate in formal or significant self-study of between now and the anticipated program start?

○ Yes

○ No

Experience with 2nd Language Choice:

2)

What is your experience with your 2nd language choice?

2a)

Have you studied language in a formal classroom setting?

○ Yes

○ No

2b)

Have you studied independently?

○ Yes

○ No

2c)

Is spoken in your home?

○ Yes

○ No

2d)

Do you anticipate that you will participate in formal or significant self-study of between now and the anticipated program start?

○ Yes

○ No

[Save Changes]

NSLI-Y Previous Experience - International and Cultural Exchange Experience

NOTE: this section is only for NSLI-Y applicants. If you are only applying for FLEX/YES Abroad, go to Section 22 (Statistical Information).

1)

Have you previously participated in an overseas NSLI-Y Program?

○ Yes

○ No

2)

Have you participated in Virtual NSLI-Y, the Virtual Summer Intensive (VSI), or a Virtual Academic Year program?

○ Yes

○ No

Save Changes

Statistical Information

The responses in this section are optional and not considered in the selection process. This information is helpful for us to know we reach diverse applicants and will not impact the evaluation of your application.

1)
How would you describe yourself?

Check all that apply

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Hispanic or Latino

☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

☐ White

☐ Other

☐ I decline to state

2)
Do you have a disability?

○ Yes

○ No

○ I decline to state

3)
What is your household's annual income?

[▼]

4)
Do you qualify for the National School Lunch Program?

○ Yes

○ No

5)
What type of school do you attend?

[▼]

6)
How would you classify the area where you live?

[▼]

7)

How did you learn about the NSLI-Y, or FLEX/YES Abroad program?
(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Brochure
- ☐ Club/Youth Organization (4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, Church Groups, Scouts, etc.)
- ☐ Counselor (at school or elsewhere)
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Exchange Organizations
- ☐ Alum of a U.S. Department of State exchange program (e.g. CBYX, FLEX, NSLI-Y, YES)
- ☐ Family Member
- ☐ Festival
- ☐ Honors Society
- ☐ Host Family
- ☐ Internet Search or Advertisement
- ☐ Media: Magazine, Newspaper, Radio, TV
- ☐ Poster
- ☐ Social Media Advertisement or post; Post from a friend
- ☐ State Department Presentation
- ☐ STARTALK
- ☐ Teacher
- ☐ Other

8)
Make intercultural learning a family experience by hosting a U.S. Department of State-sponsored international exchange student. Would your family like to receive information about this unique opportunity?

- ○ Yes
- ○ No

[Save Changes]

Review and Submit

Application Deadline: **Wednesday 08 Dec 2021 4:00 PM** U.S. Eastern Time

Certification

1)
I certify that:

- I completed this application and the written portions are my own work;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge;
- I understand that acceptance to the NSLI-Y or FLEX/YES Abroad program is not a guarantee that personal, religious, or health placement requests included in my application or parent/legal guardian statement can or will be honored;
- I understand that I must comply with the program Terms and Conditions
- I understand that by submitting my application, I am agreeing to apply for a competitive scholarship;
- I understand that American Councils and the U.S. Department of State will not discuss individual determinations about the application review; and
- I understand that my application does not guarantee the offer of a scholarship:

Select one:

○ Yes

○ No

2)
Certified and Agreed by:
Type your name

Final Review of Application

Before you submit your application, please be sure to review all sections. Make sure you have answered all the questions and required fields, and that you are satisfied with your responses.

Once you submit your application, you will no longer be able to make changes to any section of the application. You will be able, however, to continue to view your application online via this system with your existing login.

If you are not ready to submit your application, press any "Save Changes" button in the application forms and log out of the system. You will be able to log in at any time thereafter, until the application deadline, and continue to complete or edit your application.

Submit Your Application

If you are ready to submit your application, press the "Submit" button below. If you do not click the "Submit" button, your application materials will not be reviewed by the selection committee. If your submission is successful, you will receive a confirmation email.

If you have left any required questions unanswered, you will receive an error message at the top of this page after you press the "Submit Your Application" button and your application will not be accepted. You may then return to your application and enter any missing information, and then attempt to re-submit your application.

Questions?

Contact program staff during business hours, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time, Monday–Friday, at:

Email: *highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org*
Telephone: *800–380–6552 (toll free, USA only)*