Academic Year & Semester Options

Nacel Open Door and its partners offer American students the opportunity to study abroad for an academic year or semester. American high school students (ages 14-18 depending on country) will live with a host family while abroad. They must have two or more years of language study with good grades and cannot graduate from an overseas high school while on program.

Options in France

There are four different options for students interested in studying in France for an academic year or semester:

- Public or Private Schools (Homestay) - Greater Paris
- Public or Private Schools (Homestay) - Regional choices
- Private School (Boarding) - Paris and southern France
- Notre Dame International High School (Boarding) – Greater Paris

For the Public and Private School options, students are placed in an area of their choice (from three regions). They attend school with French students, and are offered additional language courses before and during the academic year. A minimum of two years of French study (or A2 level) and good academic results are required. A local coordinator provides students with any needed support.

Notre Dame International High School, part of the Nacel International School System (NISS), is a private American high school receiving students in grades 9 to 12. The academic classes are based on American curriculum, and an extensive French language and culture program is also offered. The school is located near Paris, where students have the opportunity to sightsee.

Options in Spain

In Spain, students have the opportunity to attend a local public or private school and live with a host family. They will be placed anywhere throughout the country. Spanish host families are generally warm, open and outgoing, and will introduce the student to local customs.

Students must have a minimum of two years of Spanish study and good academic results are required.

While on program, students will have 24/7 support from a local coordinator.

For questions about program options or more information, contact Program Director Sue Franck at sfranck@nacelopendoor.org or visit nacelopendoor.org.
Options in Germany

There are three different options for students interested in studying in Germany longer than two months:

- Academic Year Program (10 months)
- Academic Semester Program (five months)
- Academic Term Program (three months)

Students live with a host family and may be placed anywhere in Germany; regional choice is not possible. It’s also required that students have a minimum of two years of German lessons. Students may have to attend an additional language course if deemed necessary.

Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange (CBYX)

CBYX is a unique scholarship program jointly funded and administered by the governments of the United States and Germany. The Department of State partners with NOD to facilitate the Vocational Studies component. The program is for recent high school graduates (18-19 years of age) looking to immerse themselves in German culture by living with a host family, participating in a school or training program, and getting hands-on work experience through internships with German companies. Interested students must be U.S. citizens nominated by their high school and have a minimum of a “B” average (3.0 GPA) to apply for this scholarship. No previous language experience is required.

Options in China

Nacel Open Door offers American high school students the opportunity to study in China through the Nacel International School System (NISS). A worldwide network of private high schools, NISS allows students to study abroad in an American curriculum which includes:

- Student-centered instruction with experienced teaching staff
- American curriculum leading to a U.S. high school diploma
- College classes and Advanced Placement (AP) courses to earn college credits
- Dual diploma (like our Chinese-American diploma)
- Innovative study programs such as our STEM program

We have two NISS schools in China open to American students:

- St. Paul American School-Beijing
  - features strong STEM subjects, music, and performing arts
- St. Paul American School-Gezhi, Shanghai
  - focuses on STEM, but also has a full course of study

Students live in dorms while attending an NISS school in China. Both schools offer students a solid academic curriculum while providing a culturally-enriching experience. Please see our website for more information on the schools in China.

For questions about program options or more information, contact Program Director Sue Franck at sfranck@nacelopendoor.org or visit nacelopendoor.org.