



The Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program

The Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange is a special work/study program for recently-graduated U.S. high school students to spend a gap year in Germany. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is jointly funded by the U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag. This full scholarship offers 18-19 year olds the opportunity to learn the German language and culture, live with a host family, make life-long friends, and undertake internships in their fields of interest.

As a U.S. Department of State scholarship program facilitated by Nacel Open Door, we seek students who will successfully represent the United States as young ambassadors, as well as represent the great diversity of the United States. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds, including all races, religions, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, gender identities, socioeconomic groups, and geographical locales. Featured below are some of our participants who have come from a variety of backgrounds. Their full stories and our scholarship application materials can be found on our website, www.nacelopendoor.org.



ANDRÉ BECKETT
CBYX 1997-98

Hometown: Philadelphia, PA
Field of Interest: Film/Television

"From my experience working in Germany, I was able to secure jobs working in the same industry in the U.S. ... I credit my success to my experience in the CBYX program. I've made a commitment to serve my community and to champion the ideals of cross cultural exchange programs."

CBYX

André worked for a recording studio in Berlin, where he forged relationships with film and television professionals.

NOW

André is currently teaching at a high school for the creative and performing arts. He's been awarded the National Liberty Museum's Teacher as Hero Award. He's also worked on *The Last Airbender* and *Captain America: Civil War*!



HECTOR FLORES
CBYX 2009-10

Hometown: El Paso, TX
Field of Interest: Journalism

"Congress Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange shaped me into who I am today. ... There's no doubt that CBYX has played a fundamental role in my career and personal growth."

CBYX

Hector went to Germany with an interest in Dentistry, but after interning in a dentist office, decided it wasn't his passion. With a keen interest in soccer, he studied Journalism and Sports Communication upon his return to the U.S.

NOW

Hector is currently working in multimedia journalism for Deutsche Welle (Germany's international broadcaster) as a reporter in the sports department, and travels all over Germany (and worldwide) for his job.



JOYCE DO
CBYX 2017-18

Hometown: Alameda, CA
Fields of Interest: Psychology, Education

"Participating in the CBYX program was the best decision I made. It prepared me for college and all in all made me a more open person. It was a great self discovery year. Now looking back on my gap year, it feels as if it was a dream. As cheesy as it sounds, the people I've met and friendships I've created will last a lifetime."

CBYX

Joyce interned at a Kindergarten, which she found fun and engaging, and led to her minoring in Education.

NOW

Joyce is currently attending university in California, with a major in Psychology and a minor in Education.



MEGHAN WOLFGRAM

CBYX 2008-09 • Hometown: Palm Bay, FL • Fields of Interest: Animals, Business

"It gave me an incredible chance to explore unique vocational opportunities, a new culture and language, and to bring my enthusiasm, and my own culture to the family I lived with, community I lived in, and the people that I worked with. I'm unaware of too many other scholarship opportunities available like that for young, curious, ambitious 18-year-olds!"

CBYX

Meghan worked on a prestigious horse farm in Germany. Her experience on the program prepared her for the purchase of her own small horse farm.

NOW

Meghan is currently the founder and co-owner of SwiftPaws, an exercise program for dogs, where she shares her passion for giving animals the best life they can have.



OPHELIA ANWAH

CBYX 2015-16 • Hometown: Gainesville, VA • Fields of Interest: Medicine, Sociology

"Being able to experience a field I thought I might have an interest in, before making a big commitment, was worthwhile. ... (CBYX) taught me that no matter where you go in the world, we're not all that different."

CBYX

Ophelia worked in medical internships while in Germany. She started without any knowledge of German and now can comfortably hold a conversation in the language. She also met amazing friends, and gained a sense of self and independence.

NOW

Ophelia is currently studying Sociology on a Pre-Med track, with a possible minor in German. She credits her CBYX experience for leading to many other opportunities and setting her apart from competition.



JUAN CARLOS MIRANDA

CBYX 2017-18 • Hometown: Miami, FL • Fields of Interest: Medicine, IT

"[It] is an opportunity to build a new chapter in one's life where new destinations, cultures, experiences and friends await you. For me the Program opened my eyes to a world quite different than ours. It also doesn't matter if you're of German heritage or not. As a Cuban American from Miami I grew up in a different culture with a lot of diversity and different peoples of different heritage. We are more like the Spaniards, but little did I know I would find a lot in common with Germans and learned that they are a wonderful people and a lot warmer than most think."

CBYX

Juan assisted in the Orthopedic station of a hospital and learned German to the point of fluency.

NOW

Juan is currently an IT Specialist. He is attending university, pursuing a major in History with a Pre-Medical route and minor in German.



ANDY WANG

CBYX 2018-19 • Hometown: Naperville, IL • Field of Interest: Web Design/Digital Media

"Whether it's having Spaghettieis with my host family at the Eis-Labor across the street or grabbing Currywurst und Pommes during our lunch break, I feel immersed in the culture and the people. I've learned so much about myself in ways that I think no other program would allow me to, and the connections and experiences that I've been fortunate enough to receive will stay with me for a lifetime."

CBYX

Andy is a recent participant who loved his exposure to the German school system and his internship experience with the Bundestag! He had an enriching and rewarding year abroad to add to his resume and college career.

