



CBYX/PPP



# CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

## 2026-27 VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

#### CBYX Vocational Scholarship Program Application Requirements:

*Nacel Open Door requires that all application materials for the 2026-2027 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Vocational Scholarship be submitted electronically using the online forms and email submissions outlined below, by December 1, 2025.*

**Please Note:** All required fields of the **online forms must be complete in order to submit; you will NOT be able to save and return.** We suggest using a separate, savable document to compile and compose the information and answers required to complete each online form. To guide you in preparing your application content, you may refer to the non-fillable PDF version of each form.

#### A COMPLETE APPLICATION INCLUDES:

- **Form 1: [Student Application Online Form](#)**  
[Non-Fillable PDF Reference – Student App](#)  
*Online Student Application Form includes host family letter and family reflection essay. Eligibility guidelines are included on pages 2-3 of this document.*
- **Email Transcript and Photo to [CBYX26-27@nacelopendoor.org](mailto:CBYX26-27@nacelopendoor.org)** as file attachments, per the instructions below.
  - a) *A copy of your current, official high school **transcript** [PDF]; include your name in the PDF file name.*
  - b) *A current, high-resolution 2" x 2" color **photo** of yourself [JPG]; include your name in the JPG file name.*
- **Form 2: [Nominator Recommendation Online Form](#)**  
[Non-Fillable PDF Reference – Nominator Rec](#)  
*Ask your School Nominator (principal, teacher, guidance counselor) to complete the Online Nominator Recommendation Form. Recommender may NOT be a relative. Follow up with your nominator to confirm the form was submitted.*
- **Form 3: [Activity Supervisor Recommendation Online Form](#)**  
[Non-Fillable PDF Reference – Activity Supervisor Rec](#)  
*Ask your Activity Supervisor (coach, advisor, employer, etc.; NOT your Nominator, and NOT a relative) to complete the Online Activity Supervisor Recommendation Form. Follow up with your activity supervisor to confirm the form was submitted.*

**All portions of your application must be received in order for your application to be complete by December 1, 2025.**  
If we have any questions, **we will contact you via the email address listed in your Online Student Application.**

#### QUESTIONS

Please contact the Nacel Open Door National Office with any questions regarding your application.

Program Director, Carrie Hess: 1-800-622-3553, ext 613 or [chess@nacelopendoor.org](mailto:chess@nacelopendoor.org).

For general information about the CBYX Vocational Scholarship, please see the [CBYX Vocational Overview](#).

## 2026-2027 CBYX Vocational Scholarship Program Eligibility Requirements:

1. Be a U.S. Citizen;
2. Be a current high school senior (12th grade) at time of application;
3. Be aged 18 or 19 by August 1, 2026 (some flexibility allowed);
4. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale;
5. Have an interest in learning the German language (no German language study/knowledge required to apply);
6. Comply with U.S. Department of State's eligibility policy for American Outbound Youth Programs (available at <https://usagermanyscholarship.org/how-to-apply/>);
7. Be willing to abide by [CBYX Vocational 26-27 Terms & Conditions](#) if selected as a finalist, including vaccination requirements;
8. A limit of three students may be nominated per school.

Please note that, should you be selected as a finalist, confirmation of the scholarship is contingent upon fulfillment of the medical, placement, academic, and other requirements of Nacel Open Door, including agreement to abide by the CBYX Terms & Conditions. The Congress-Bundestag scholarship includes international airfare and a modest monthly stipend, but does not include domestic airfare, passport fees, additional spending money, or other expenses related to an exchange year abroad. For individuals who demonstrate financial need, additional financial support may be available for these expenses and can be applied for after an individual is informed of their selection for the program.

Providing false information or using Artificial Intelligence (ChatGPT, OpenAI, etc.) will lead to disqualification or expulsion from the program.

## 2026-2027 Eligibility Policy for U.S. Youth Programs Applicants

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) offers international exchange opportunities open to all American youth. ECA is committed to ensuring a merit-based, fair, and transparent selection process. Opportunities include the following:

- Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Outbound
- Future Leaders Exchange Abroad Program (FLEX Abroad)
- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad (YES Abroad)
- National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)
- Youth Ambassadors and Youth Leadership Programs

Students who have not previously participated in an in-person exchange program are encouraged to apply. Programs are predominantly designed for students who have not lived abroad for six months or longer during the last five years.

To be eligible, an individual must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be enrolled in grades 9-12 (high school, including home school) at the time of application
- Meet age, GPA, and other requirements specific to the program
- Not be subject to the employment-related ineligibility categories described below currently or for a period of one year following the termination of such employment, association, or service:
  - **Employees of the U.S. Department of State.** This provision includes all employees, paid or unpaid (including part-time or temporary employees, consultants, externs, interns, fellows and personal services contractors).
  - **Immediate family members (e.g. dependent children) of employees of the U.S. Department of State.** This provision includes all employees, paid or unpaid (including part-time or temporary employees, consultants, externs, interns, fellows and personal services contractors). Self-supporting children who live apart from their parents are qualified to participate.

## 2026-2027 Eligibility Policy for U.S. Youth Programs Applicants (cont.)

- **Employees (and their immediate family members) of private and public organizations under contract or cooperative agreement/grant with the U.S. Department of State who perform services on behalf of ECA Youth exchange programs.** This provision includes all employees, paid or unpaid (including part-time or temporary employees, local coordinators, consultants, externs, interns, fellows and personal services contractors).

### Eligibility for More than One Program:

- Individuals may not participate in two of the above-listed youth programs in the same calendar year.
- Individuals may not participate in more than two of the above-listed programs, unless one of the programs was virtual.
- Current or past participants of a short-duration in-person program of up to 8 weeks are not eligible for another short-duration program but are eligible for an academic year program.
- Current or past participants of an academic year program are not eligible for another program, listed above.
- Current or past participants in a virtual program are eligible to participate in a short duration or academic year program.



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Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

