

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange

VOCATIONAL PROGRAM



CBYX/PPP

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange
Parlamentarisches Patenschafts-Programm



Conceived by members of the United States Congress and the German Bundestag in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange is a **fully-funded exchange program** designed to strengthen ties between the successor generations of each country. The CBYX program is designed to strengthen ties between the youth of Germany and the United States, improve their career skills through formal study and work experience, and expand their perspectives and awareness of each other's culture, society, history, and politics. Volunteer host families, schools, and communities across the United States and Germany all play a key role in achieving the program success.

The **Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)** is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It is jointly funded by the U.S. Department of State and the German Bundestag. Three distinct CBYX programs provide unique intercultural exchange opportunities for American and German youth, ages 15-24:

- CBYX High School (ages 15-18.5)
- CBYX Vocational (high school grads, ages 18-19)
- CBYX Young Professionals (ages 18.5-24)

More information about the CBYX programs can be found online at exchanges.state.gov/CBYX.

THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE VOCATIONAL PROGRAM

For the upcoming school year, the Congress-Bundestag Vocational exchange opportunity is being offered to 25 graduating U.S. high school seniors with a vocational background or interest. This **gap-year program**, which takes place in Germany, is implemented by Nacel Open Door.



CBYX VOCATIONAL PROGRAM SUMMARY

13th Year Abroad for U.S. High School Graduates with a Vocational Background or Interest

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Vocational Program offers graduating high school seniors with vocational interests the opportunity to spend their 13th year abroad, learning German, attending a high school or training school program, and gaining work experience through internships with German companies, all while living with a German host family.

It is important to emphasize at the outset that this is a program for young adults, who have demonstrated maturity and responsibility, and who can be entrusted to fulfill their roles as exchange students without day-to-day supervision.

- All students will receive two months of intensive language preparation following their arrival in Germany before being assigned to their permanent host family and school. The family and school experience is meant to ensure their integration into German society, more fully prepare them to communicate in German, offer them opportunities to meet other young people their age, and prepare them for internships, wherever possible.
- Together with the assistance of Nacel Open Door's partner in Germany, students play a large role in finding internships within their field(s) of interest. While work experience within their preferred career field is ideal, it is not always possible, and students should be open to a variety of internship opportunities. Students should understand that their exchange experience is an equally valuable element in the program, in addition to any specific training they may gain in their given fields of interest.
- A modest stipend will be provided to help offset students' personal expenses, but students are required to bring sufficient spending money. Students should notify Nacel Open Door if financial assistance is needed.
- Students will provide their own domestic round trip transportation from their home to Washington D.C.



CBYX/PPP



PROGRAM OUTLINE

This program runs from August through June and includes:

- Pre-Departure Orientation and a Re-Entry/ Homecoming Workshop in Washington, D.C.
- Two months of intensive German language training
- Training/School attendance and internships while living with a German host family
- A Mid-Term Seminar in Weimar and Final Seminar in Berlin
- Room and board for the duration of the program
- Health, liability, and accident insurance
- International travel to and from Germany

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

High school students must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible to apply for this program:

- Age: At least 18 and no more than 19 years of age by August 1 of the departure year
- Grade level: Graduating seniors who will complete U.S. school studies in January or June prior to departure
- Academic achievements: Minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- U.S. citizenship
- Ability to serve as a citizen ambassador of your country: the United States of America
- Previous study of German is not required, but helpful.

CBYX is a merit-based exchange opportunity for motivated individuals who want to experience German culture, share American culture, and learn a language through a full immersion experience.

HOW TO APPLY

FULL APPLICATION PACKET CAN BE FOUND ON THE NACEL OPEN DOOR WEBSITE.

Interested students must be nominated by their high schools to apply for this program.

Schools may nominate up to three students, who each then complete their own individual application materials. Students should consult their principal, guidance counselor, teacher, vocational education administrator, or call Nacel Open Door at 800-622-3553 for assistance.

Students/schools should submit completed application materials electronically, by the **December due date**, as directed in the instructions found on the Nacel Open Door website.

SELECTION PROCESS

1. Application materials are evaluated in January and February by Nacel Open Door in cooperation with selected educators and program alumni.
2. Selection interviews are held in February and March. Semi-Finalists are selected and submit additional application materials. Finalists are notified of the selection committee's decision by mid-April.
3. Final decisions on program acceptance will be determined by Nacel Open Door after additional medical, placement, academic, and any other requested materials have been submitted.

THE EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS

The vocational component of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange program is implemented by Nacel Open Door in cooperation with Open Door International e.V. in Germany.

For more information about this program, contact us at:

NACEL OPEN DOOR

2277 Hwy 36 W, Suite 355, St. Paul, MN 55113

800-622-3553 or www.nacelopendoor.org/cbyx