

Studying Abroad in High School

There are several companies that coordinate high school study abroad programs around the world. Eldorado does not endorse any specific program. It is up to the student & family to research these programs thoroughly and decide if studying abroad is a viable option for them. Students are responsible for making an appointment with their counselor and Curriculum Assistant Principal, Ms. Rachel Weihe, to ensure they have a plan for earning all required high school credits before, during, and after their time abroad.

Some long-established programs include:

CIEE: The Council on International Educational Exchange is a non-profit organization founded in 1947. CIEE offers programs around the world for summer, 1 semester, a full year, or a gap year between high school & college. Find detailed information on their website at: <https://www.ciee.org/>

ASSE International: Established as a non-profit in 1976, ASSE offers exchange programs around the world. See website: https://asse.com/become_an_asse_exchange_student/student_exchange_program/

AFS: The non-profit American Field Service has been around for 70 years, and offers study abroad programs as well as internships, foreign teaching opportunities, and gap year options. Their website is: <https://www.afsusa.org/study-abroad/>

Congress Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) through ASSE International: This is a FREE program (students pay for air fare and expenses) that is a joint project between U.S. Congress and Germany's Bundestag. The program has been in existence for over 30 years, and is *funded by the U.S. Department of State*. The CBYX program provides a unique opportunity for 250 young Americans to spend a year in Germany, while at the same time, giving 300 young Germans the change to live a year in the U.S. All students live as members of caring host families and enjoy a variety of program activities, learn German (you don't have to know German before you go), and learn about life in a new country. Students have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with US Congressional Representatives and German Bundestag Members during their year abroad to discuss issues related to their exchange year. Because the CBYX program awards full scholarships to each qualifying student, the application and selection process is competitive, but well worth the extra effort. Information on the website: https://asse.com/scholarship_programs/the_congress_bundestag_youth_exchange_program/

NOTE: Thinking of studying abroad in **college**? Almost every college & university has a Study Abroad office and offers regularly-scheduled informational sessions for interested students. Options include brief summer programs, 1-semester programs and full-year programs. Some require previous language skills and some don't. Planning to study abroad in college requires thoughtful planning to ensure you earn all necessary credits and meet requirements for graduation and your chosen major.