



# CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE (CBYX)

## STUDENT ACADEMIC FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

### If I am a senior in high school, can I still apply for the CBYX program?

Yes. All current high school students between the ages of 15 and 18.5 years old by August 1, 2024 are eligible to apply for CBYX. Seniors meeting this requirement may participate in CBYX during a gap year between high school and college. Students will still attend high school courses and are expected to participate fully in school and host family life.

### What kinds of classes will I take in Germany?

A typical German class schedule will include German language, English language, another foreign language (French, Spanish, Latin, and/or Russian), history, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and geography. Students may also take a combination of art, music, gym, religion, ethics, or political science. Please note: German schools do not offer as many electives as U.S. high schools; all students at each grade level generally follow a similar schedule.

### At what grade level will I be placed in in Germany?

Grade placement will depend on a student's German language proficiency, as well as the space available in a given grade at the German placement school.

Many students with a lower language ability will start in the 10th grade, which is the last year before German students begin focusing heavily on their preparation for the Abitur, or final comprehensive exams required for graduation!

### Can I transfer credits from my German school to my American high school?

Most students receive some credit for their work in Germany. However, students are responsible for arranging the transfer of school credits/classes between their host school in Germany and their high school in the U.S. We encourage students to settle this with guidance counselors before departing for Germany. Use the following guide to get started:

1. **Speak to your school counselor as soon as possible at your American high school.** Ensure that he or she will remain your counselor while you are abroad and upon your return to the U.S.
2. **Find out what your school's policies are regarding transfer of credits, graduation requirements, and proof of study abroad.** Keep in mind that your grades in Germany may not directly translate into grades used by schools in the U.S. Many students are able to freeze their GPAs while abroad. Classes in Germany often translate as electives or pass/fail courses that count toward graduation, meaning you would

only need to complete your core requirements upon your return. Most schools will also grant credit for English and foreign language classes taken while abroad.

- 3. Ask your American high school to put the arrangements you have agreed upon in writing.** In the event that your counselor is no longer at the school when you return from Germany, you will have documentation to present to your high school.
- 4. Establish contact with your German school director after you arrive in Germany.** German high schools typically do not have a school counselor like American schools. Your German school administration will often appoint a member of the school faculty or staff to you to ensure that you are receiving the support you need at school.
- 5. Remember to speak to your German school contact about any documentation you'll need at the end of the year.** Come to an agreement on how you will be evaluated. Will you take the same tests and be graded just like your German peers, or will teachers evaluate you on your effort and class participation alone? German schools can often issue a written evaluation of the work you do and can provide a description of the courses you take and the amount of hours you spend in those classes. Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to obtain this documentation prior to your return to the U.S., and that CIEE cannot guarantee the issuance of an official transcript.
- 6. Maintain contact with your school counselor in the U.S. throughout your CBYX year.** The more familiar they are with your time abroad, the easier it will be to transition back to your American high school upon your return.

## Can I take online classes to fulfill graduation requirements while on the CBYX program?

It is possible to take one online class while participating in the CBYX program. However, we strongly urge students to complete all necessary online classes prior to or after the program. If students must take online classes while in Germany, students must limit themselves to one online class per semester so as to not interfere with German language immersion, German school coursework and spending time with host families.

## Can I take the SATs or AP exams while in Germany?

Yes. However, we advise students to complete all testing before or after their CBYX year so as not to distract from their language and cultural immersion experience. If you must take a standardized test while in Germany, we advise you to wait until you have settled into your host community before researching how and where to take the test. International schools and U.S. military bases may offer testing dates throughout the year, but be aware that you may have to travel a long distance to reach an exam. Students wishing to take an exam while in Germany should consult the College Board website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

Please remember that, while CIEE and our German partners can work with you to process travel requests to and from test sites, neither organization accepts responsibility for facilitating test registration. Students are not permitted to miss school to take exams. Any cost incurred to take a standardized test will be your responsibility.



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