

high school abroad

australia / brazil / chile / china / costa rica / france
germany / ireland / italy / japan / spain

2011



language / culture / challenge

cīee

high school students

Studying abroad for high school students provides a powerful path to personal and intellectual growth, and for many students, it will prove to be a life-transforming experience. Not only do students gain language fluency through immersion in a foreign culture, they increase their self confidence and ensure that their application will stand out in the college application process!

High School Abroad brings students, families, schools, and communities together in an interactive, cross-cultural learning experience. On a CIEE program, you'll live with a host family as their own son or daughter, attend high school, participate in community activities, and experience life in a totally new and different environment. Programs are available for a semester or for the full academic year.

CIEE offers High School Abroad semester and year-long programs in:

australia / brazil / chile / china / costa rica / france / germany / ireland / italy / japan / spain

summer abroad

If you don't have the flexibility to study abroad during the semester or academic year, make the most of your summer and study abroad on our summer programs in China or Japan.

the unique CIEE approach

- Applicants choose the country and program that suits their interests
- Experienced counseling throughout the selection process
- Unparalleled orientation and preparation prior to start of program (in the U.S. and abroad)
- Total immersion in the local culture
- Supportive local staff on site

eligibility


- Enrolled in an American high school
- Age, language proficiency, and GPA requirements vary by program
- Students must demonstrate maturity, flexibility, and the willingness to adapt to and learn from the challenges of living in a different country

program features

- Enroll in a local (public or private, as available) high school
- Live with a host family
- Attend a pre-departure orientation and on-site orientation upon arrival
- International medical insurance and 24 hour worldwide assistance provided through the CIEE iNext travel card
- Supervision and support throughout your stay; 24-hour in-country emergency support
- Group international travel from a gateway departure city to your orientation location

apply now!

Download the application form from our website at www.ciee.org/hsabroad/apply, or call us at 1.800.40.STUDY for more information.

A young boy on the left is smiling and peeking from behind a tree trunk. He is wearing a light-colored t-shirt with 'PARIS' visible. On the right, a young man is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is wearing a light blue jacket and a grey fur-lined hat. The background consists of a stone wall and trees.

“My son’s school in France was very supportive and helped him when he needed help. He became fluent in French. Besides being able to speak the language fluently, he is now confident in his learning capabilities, an independent thinker, and responsible for his learning and future.”

—Jessica,
mother of high school abroad alum

high school abroad

Academically, the goal of High School Abroad programs is to provide you with an appreciation of your host country through cultural and language immersion for a semester, year, or summer. Attend a class with local students, go on family outings with your host family, make friends for a lifetime by participating in sports or clubs, hear your language improve each day, and explore all that your new culture has to offer!

where you'll go >>



asia / asia pacific



australia semester or academic year

Get to know the land down under beyond kangaroos and koalas. Experience Australian-style hospitality with your host family. Explore Australia's lush rainforests, Aboriginal history, cosmopolitan cities, or the vast sand beaches of the country's sprawling coastline. All the while, enjoy the experience of summer in January and winter in June! Enroll directly in an Australian high school and participate fully in an academic program conducted in English.



china

summer, semester, or academic year

Beijing, the educational and political center of China, will become your home for a semester or a year. You'll be placed in a public middle school (equivalent to a U.S. high school) in an accredited International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program, taking most subjects in English as well as a Mandarin language class. Practice your new language skills and immerse yourself further by living with a Chinese host family.



japan

summer, semester, or academic year

Contemporary Japan is a land of intrigue, and a country that marries the ancient with the modern to create one of the most fascinating cultures in the world. Share in a traditional tea ceremony, explore the popular world of anime, and discover why Japan has the indelible reputation for producing the world's most advanced technology. Your multi-day orientation includes sightseeing in Tokyo and cultural activities. Enroll directly in a Japanese Kotogakko (high school) and participate fully in an academic program conducted in Japanese. Students must demonstrate basic written and oral communication skills in Japanese to participate in the semester and/or academic year program.



europa



france

semester or academic year

"Vive la France!" will become your favorite phrase in this fascinating country. Sidewalk cafés and joie de vivre characterize the towns and cities of France. You'll enroll directly in a French public or private high school and participate fully in an academic program conducted in French. A minimum of two years of French language study is recommended. Don't know French? Enroll in a two-week intensive French immersion course to get you started.

I've matured so much in the past year. I can't wait to see things in a whole new light when I get home.



germany

semester or academic year

Take yourself to the forefront of design innovation and immerse yourself in this progressive nation. Germany offers vibrant cities with interesting architecture, as well as enchanting medieval villages, castles, and abbeys. Enroll directly in a German Gymnasium (Academic High School) and participate fully in academic classes conducted in German. No previous knowledge of German is required. Upon arrival in Germany, students will have the option to attend an intensive language course for two weeks prior to the start of the semester. An optional multi-day trip to France with your CIEE friends is available at an additional cost.



ireland

semester or academic year

Ireland will fascinate, inspire, and take your breath away with its majestic and serene countryside, energetic city life, and historic cultural traditions still alive and well today. Spending a semester or a year in Ireland will simply not be enough; you will be like many others always wanting to go back! Live with an Irish host family and enroll directly in an Irish public or private school located in or around the city of Cork. Spend a semester or academic year studying, making Irish friends, participating in community life, and immersed in the rich Celtic tradition and culture.



italy

semester or academic year

If you wish to live in a completely modern country where the core of daily life hasn't changed for centuries, Italy awaits you! Return with recipes for your favorite pasta dishes, a passion for soccer (the national pastime), and a developed interest in Renaissance art or modern fashion and design. You'll enroll directly in an Italian State High School and participate fully in an academic program conducted in Italian. Two years of Italian study or its equivalent is required.

spain

semester or academic year

Live amongst the green misty mountains and craggy coasts of the north or the sun-drenched beaches of the colorful south and discover the welcoming and lively spirit of the Spanish people. Come to Spain to study and experience its stunning landscapes, inviting natural environment, and the rich cultural heritage of its cities and towns. You'll enroll directly in classes in a local high school or *instituto* where you'll participate fully in an academic program conducted in Castilian Spanish. Two years of Spanish language study are required to participate in this program. Optional group travel to Madrid and Morocco is available at an additional cost.



latin america



brazil

semester or academic year

While studying in Brazil, you'll learn just how enthusiastic soccer fans can be, fall in love with Brazil's unique cuisine, learn to dance the samba, and discover firsthand the diversity of the world's fifth largest country. Enroll directly in a Brazilian public or private high school and participate fully in an academic program conducted in Portuguese. Don't know Portuguese? Don't worry—you'll take a two-week intensive language course in Brazil to get you started on your study experience. Optional trips to the Amazon and Lencois Maranhenses are available at an additional cost.

chile

semester or academic year

Explore the thin razor strip of a country that is Chile and experience all that the language and culture have to offer! Kick off the semester with two weeks of in-country Spanish class to fine-tune your language ability before classes begin at your Chilean high school where you will learn in Spanish. Live like a local with a Chilean family and immerse yourself in a way no traveler ever can!

Now that I am back in the States, I am taking two AP classes and my senior year grade point average has soared. All this because I stepped out of my comfort zone to go abroad.



costa rica

semester or academic year

Costa Rica's unique location and tropical setting make it nature's live theater, and its wild array of exotic flora and fauna make it one the most bio-diverse places on earth. It has a reputation as one of the most stable and prosperous Latin American countries with one of the highest literacy rates. You'll attend a pre-university International Baccalaureate (I.B.) program taught in English at the Lincoln School outside San José or an environmental education program taught in English and Spanish at the Cloud Forest School. No prior foreign language study is required for enrollment at Lincoln School; however, two years of high school Spanish and an interest in environmental studies are required for the Cloud Forest School.

summer high school abroad

Get more than a suntan this summer! Build your language skills through cultural immersion. Explore the world. Challenge yourself abroad.

CIEE Summer High School Abroad programs take you to new heights! Whether you are familiar with a foreign language, or just beginning your explorations in language learning, the opportunity to immerse yourself directly in another culture through an interactive classroom experience will allow you to accelerate your language learning while having the experience of a lifetime!

program features

- International roundtrip airfare to host country from U.S. gateway city
- Three to four weeks in a foreign culture accelerating your language skills through intensive and interactive language courses and course materials
- Accommodation and most meals
- An on-site orientation and airport transfers upon arrival
- International medical insurance and 24-hour worldwide assistance provided through the CIEE iNext travel card
- Supervision and support throughout your stay, including 24-hour in-country emergency support





china

summer

Only want to go for the summer? This program is the perfect opportunity for those students who do not have time to spend a full semester or academic year abroad but who have the interest in learning or improving their Mandarin Chinese language skills and exploring Chinese culture first-hand. You'll live with a host family and enroll in classes that will be held for two hours a day, five days a week at a local school. You will experience China beyond the classroom with two scheduled excursions including a full-day visit to the Great Wall of China and an overnight trip to Xi'an, home of the Terracotta Warriors and Wild Goose Pagoda.

japan

summer

Whether you're familiar with Japanese language and culture or just beginning your exploration of Japan, Tokyo's impact will leave you in a state of awe. The program is held at the National Youth Center, a hostel and education center that hosts youth groups from around the world. You'll see the influences behind many worldwide pop culture trends all around you! With intensive language study and the city as your language lab, you'll have lots of opportunities to learn more about Japanese arts both old and new—think matsuri and anime! An overnight excursion by shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto will provide a firsthand experience with the iconic images of Japanese culture.



Glimpse inside a...

high school abroad blog

real stories of
CIEE participants

Confidence Lacking

The title might be foretelling, however brace yourself because it is never what it may seem to be...well maybe sometimes.

I am not lacking confidence in any way, not even close. Yet I am not over confident, at the moment, I have the perfect balance of confidence. It is the people around me, who don't at times have confidence in me, in regards to my Spanish to be exact. Granted my speaking is not yet amazing, but I am able to get my point across, and for me that is all that counts.

I wish that I could just wake up and my Spanish be rearing and ready to go, but unfortunately like everything else in the world, it takes patience and practice. At times I thoroughly doubt that I will ever be able to speak without thinking, but time is all it takes, and from where I'm standing it seems as though I have a lot of it. But, with each passing day the time seems to gain speed as though on the decline of a roller-coaster. Let's just hope I make it through the bends, curves, and twists. Each day throws me something new, and I am still waiting for the day when something is thrown at me that I am unable to catch.

—Heather, High School Abroad, Spain
To read more, visit Heather's blog
at www.ciee.org/hsabroad!



gap year abroad blog

real stories of
cité participants



glimpse inside a...

First Week

I met my host family late on Thursday night—Isa, Ian, and Alicia—all waiting for me in the living room of her cozy apartment in the X^{ème} arrondissement. My host mother, embraced me and greeted me with two cheek kisses—*faisant la bise*—and she explained, “This is what we do in France,” with a very warm smile lighting up her face.

I met Lucie, the CIEE coordinator here in Paris, when Ian took me to the program center in the *lilème* after a good post-flight sleep-in on Friday morning. Like my initial conversations with my host family, I felt that all my French lessons from high school had evaporated; I resorted to a lot of nodding and smiling to make up for my linguistic freeze with Lucie and Délia, my French language teacher, when responding to their questions and comments. Understanding them is easy enough, but responding at times can seem like I’m engaging tongue gymnastics, especially when he subjunctif comes into play.

I met the other students in the CIEE Gap Year Abroad program—Jess, Stassja, Jamie, Nick, Stephanie, Jenna, Vesta, and Annelise—on Friday as well. We have been placed in host families all around the city. We went on a group excursion by train on Saturday to the city of Provins, on the border of Ile-de-France and Champagne, to see the medieval Tour César and underground tunnels. Provins is one of those less-known cities in France that has a provincial sparkle to it; in the restaurant near the preserved walled fortifications where we had lunch, the waitresses were all in medieval costumes. It seems to me that every nook and cranny of France is a stache of hidden culture and untold stories accumulated over hundreds of years. As if to reinforce that notion, when I returned from Provins in the evening, my host dad took me on a tour of our neighborhood, called *Quartier Menilmontant*, and pointed out a local church by calling it “recent enough.” When I asked him how old it was, he said, “give or take a hundred years.”

—Michael, Gap Year Abroad, France
To read more, visit Michael’s blog at www.ciee.org/gap/

Now that you are back—how is your Chinese?

Con conversationally fluent. I can't understand the news report yet or read newspaper articles completely without using a dictionary, but I'm getting there. The point is, I can get by on my own, and can talk to anyone about practically any topic.

What is your coolest memory of your time there?

There are so, so many. My best memory would probably come from the Sichuan/Yunnan trip when we were looking out over Tiger Leaping Gorge. The dark red sun was setting over the jagged cliffs, and we could see the violent river crashing below us, and I just remember sitting down with my friends and taking it all in. I remember thinking, "Wow, I can't believe I'm here, in such an awesome place, with these amazing people, at this moment."

What was one thing you didn't expect about living in China?

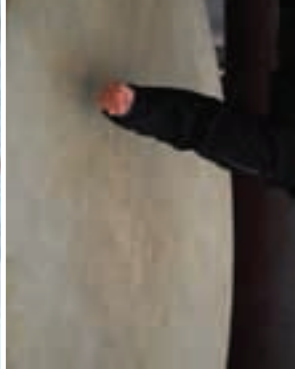
How excited most Chinese get to practice their English. Everyone at ECNU seemed to be looking for a language partner or tutor. Just knowing English and looking different is a great way to meet people.

What are you up to now that you are back in America?

Right now I'm studying at Wesleyan University, and I'm hoping to get back to China next summer on a U.S. government program. China has definitely shaped my life path since I've returned home. Not only am I taking Chinese in college and applying to go back this summer, but I've met many Chinese students on campus. All of my classes have at least one Chinese foreign student, so it's a really great way to keep up my language skills. Although graduation is a long way off, I am definitely open to the possibility of working in China for a few years after college.

Any advice for future gappers?

Open yourself to people and new experiences. It sounds cliché, but what you'll gain personally from it is incredible. Approach strangers, design a trip by yourself, and go on it, spend as much time with your host family as possible, order something from the menu that you can't even read. Being outgoing and throwing yourself into the new culture is the way you will gain the most from your experience. This is the single most important thing you can do.



Interview with Ben Jacobs

CIEE Gap Year Abroad Alum 2009/10

To read more, visit Ben's stories and blog at www.ciee.org/gap!

My story?

I grew up in Northbrook, IL, a suburb of Chicago. Growing up, I played and followed soccer, which is probably what roused my interest in the rest of the world early on. I studied abroad in Shanghai for nine months in 2009/10 on a CIEE Gap Year Abroad, and am now a student at Wesleyan University.

What was your reason for taking a Gap Year Abroad?

There are multiple reasons why I chose this unusual path to take before attending college, but the primary one was the fact that it was so different. Most people go directly from high school to college, but I decided that I wanted to go somewhere else for a year that was culturally, linguistically, even geographically distant from America as possible. So, I chose China, a country of characters, rich history, and fascinating people.

What were the top three most valuable things you learned while in China?

1. Before going to China, I didn't take enough time to explore, to set out and do things I'd never done before. I had so many adventures last year. Some ended badly, but more often than not I had incredible experiences that made me new friends, and made me see the world differently. 2. Far more often than not, people have good intentions. If you can take a step forward and trust strangers, they will usually reciprocate. This is how I made really good friends while traveling. 3. Everyone has a story and opinions, and most are willing to share them with you. This is especially true in China. There are so many fascinating exchanges I had with people on topics ranging from high-speed rail to Route 66, hamburgers to Beijing duck, Obama to the Dalai Lama.

There is so much to be learned just by talking with each other, and I think that's often overlooked by study abroad students who are just looking to improve language skills.

What are your favorite things about Chinese culture?

1. The food. There are so many different types, and it's always delicious.

2. The people. China has seen so much change, and the Chinese people, especially the older generation, have witnessed it all. This shapes the personalities of different generations. For instance, younger people aren't afraid to express their views on the Chinese government, while some older people remain tight lipped, but internally clearly have reservations. I know I've used this word too many times already, but it's fascinating.



dominican republic: santiago

semester or academic year

Learn about Dominican culture and society while living in colorful Santiago! The second largest city in the Dominican Republic, Santiago is a haven for lovers of outdoor activities, such as hiking in the nearby Cordillera Central Mountains, river rafting, and horseback riding. Its colorful parades and extravagant fiestas make the festival of Carnaval famous throughout the country. Language and history classes held at a local international study center, coupled with urban and rural community-based service, make this program ideal for students who wish to experience living in a developing Caribbean country while improving their Spanish.

- No prior language requirement
- Language and history classes and workshops for beginner to advanced Spanish speakers
- Weekend trips and excursions to places such as the waterfalls in Jarabacoa and the beach of the humpback whales at Samana
- Community service with an urban service organization; week-long rural community service project at the end of the program

dominican republic + spain duo

academic year

Two countries. One year.

Learn the language in Santiago, Dominican Republic... kick off the CIEE Gap Year Abroad Duo program in the Dominican Republic, the first permanent European settlement in the Americas and the centerpiece of the Hispanic Caribbean. Live, study, and volunteer in Santiago, the second largest city in the country. It's in the island's heartland, the fertile Cibao, where you will learn about the Dominican culture and traditions.

And the flamenco in Seville, Spain... After spending the first semester in the Dominican Republic, you will hop across the pond to Seville, Spain for four months of Spanish language immersion and meaningful volunteer opportunities! Meet the roots of Spanish culture living with a host family, continue your studies in the Spanish language, and work as a volunteer.

- No prior language requirement
- Intensive language classes in both locations for beginner to advanced Spanish speakers
- Weekend trips and excursions in and around the host city, including a trip to Morocco while in Spain

chile + spain duo

academic year

Two countries. One year.

Wake up in Valparaiso, Chile....where you'll kick off your CIEE Gap Year Abroad Duo program. Spend your first semester living like a Chilean. Improve your language skills and work as a volunteer in a primary school in Valparaiso, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with its charming *ascensores* and colorful hillside houses. You'll live with a family in Viña del Mar, Chile's most famous resort area.

And take a siesta in Seville, Spain....From Chile you'll head home for the holidays and then jump across the pond to Seville for an additional three months of Spanish language immersion and an introduction to an entirely different culture! Learn the roots of Spanish culture by living with a host family, continue your studies in the Spanish language, and serve as a community volunteer in one of Spain's most endearing cities.

- Intensive language classes in both locations for beginner to advanced Spanish speakers
- Weekend trips and excursions in and around the host city, including a trip to Morocco while in Spain



- Language classes for beginner to advanced Spanish speakers
- Cultural excursions and activities with CLEE in and outside of Valparaiso
- Volunteer opportunities that allow you to immerse yourself in the local community

There is a Chilean saying, "*Chile, la alegría ya viene,*" which loosely translates to "In Chile, joy comes to you." In the port city of Valparaiso, rainbow-colored houses by the sea mingle with winding stairways and cobblestone streets to create a mosaic of colors and shapes that invite exploration of the city's urban charm. You'll take language classes at a local international study center four days a week, while immersing yourself in the local community—volunteering to help teach English in public schools, assisting in public health organizations, or working in local youth shelters.

chile: valparaiso

semester

latin america



spain: seville

semester or academic year

Seville was one of the last strongholds of the Moorish empire that ruled the Iberian Peninsula. It is home to the ingenious barber of Seville and the tempestuous Carmen. You will find a mild climate, a city of 800,000, and amazing cultural activities such as festivals and flamenco. Take language classes at a local international study center, and volunteer with organizations such as Amnesty International; the Red Cross; and immigrant, women's, and children's groups. Cross the Strait of Gibraltar for a multi-day service-learning trip to Morocco, included in the program fee.

- No prior language requirement
- Language classes for beginner to advanced Spanish speakers
- Cultural excursions and activities arranged by your host family and the CIEE Study Center in and outside of Seville
- Volunteer opportunities depending on your language proficiency and interests

Duo!

Want to experience two Spanish-speaking countries in one year? Try a duo program in Chile or the Dominican Republic! See our duo listings under Latin America.

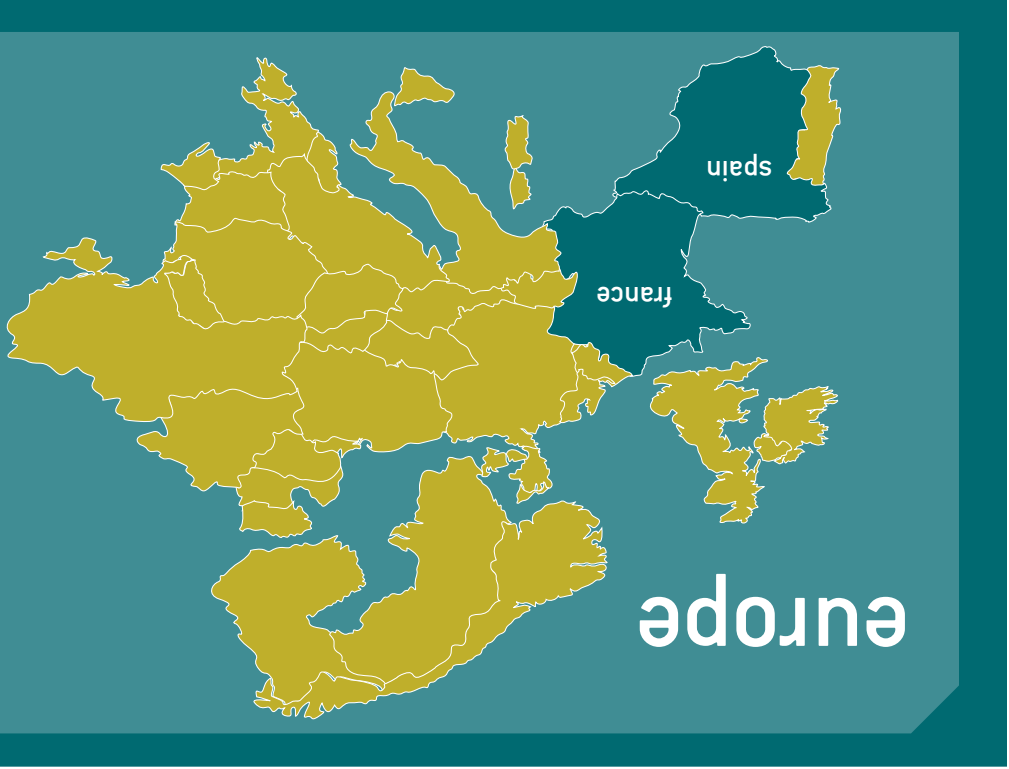


- Minimum of two years of French language study, age 18 or older
- Language classes for intermediate to advanced level students
- Cultural excursions and activities in and outside of Paris
- Volunteer and internship opportunities

Paris, the capital and cultural hub of France, is known as the "City of Light" and remains one of the most popular destinations in the world. Spend your free time exploring the gothic Notre Dame cathedral and historic Arc de Triomphe. Climb to the top of the iconic Eiffel Tower and take in the city that will be your home. Students will take French language classes at the CIEE Study Center in Paris, known as the Paris Center for Critical Studies, in the lively, central Saint-Germain neighborhood. Live with a French host family and participate in an English teaching internship with French students—allowing you to accelerate your French speaking ability while acting as an ambassador of the American culture.

semester or academic year

france: paris





Experience the flurry and enchantment of daily life in Tokyo, the economic and political heart of Japan. In this energetic city of contrasts, consumer culture collides with older traditions. You may see a woman in a traditional kimono talking on her cell phone or a man selling yams from a homemade cart in a crowded business district. Take language classes at a local international study center and deepen your understanding through guided excursions.

- No prior language requirement
- Language classes for beginner to advanced Japanese speakers
- Cultural excursions and activities in and outside of Tokyo, such as an overnight trip to a hot springs resort, cooking parties, and other events allowing you to meet Japanese students and learn about contemporary Japan

three, six, or nine months

Japan: Tokyo



china: shanghai

semester or academic year

"If China is a dragon, Shanghai is its head," said a former Chinese leader. Whatever happens in China happens first in Shanghai, its largest city. New skyscrapers, bridges, tunnels, and trains are constantly appearing in this economically vibrant and cosmopolitan city, but Shanghai's magnificent past and long history of foreign influence are also abundantly evident, blending new and old in a majestic setting. You'll take language classes at a local international study center and have community service opportunities such as being a teacher's assistant helping students with their English and organizing games and activities.

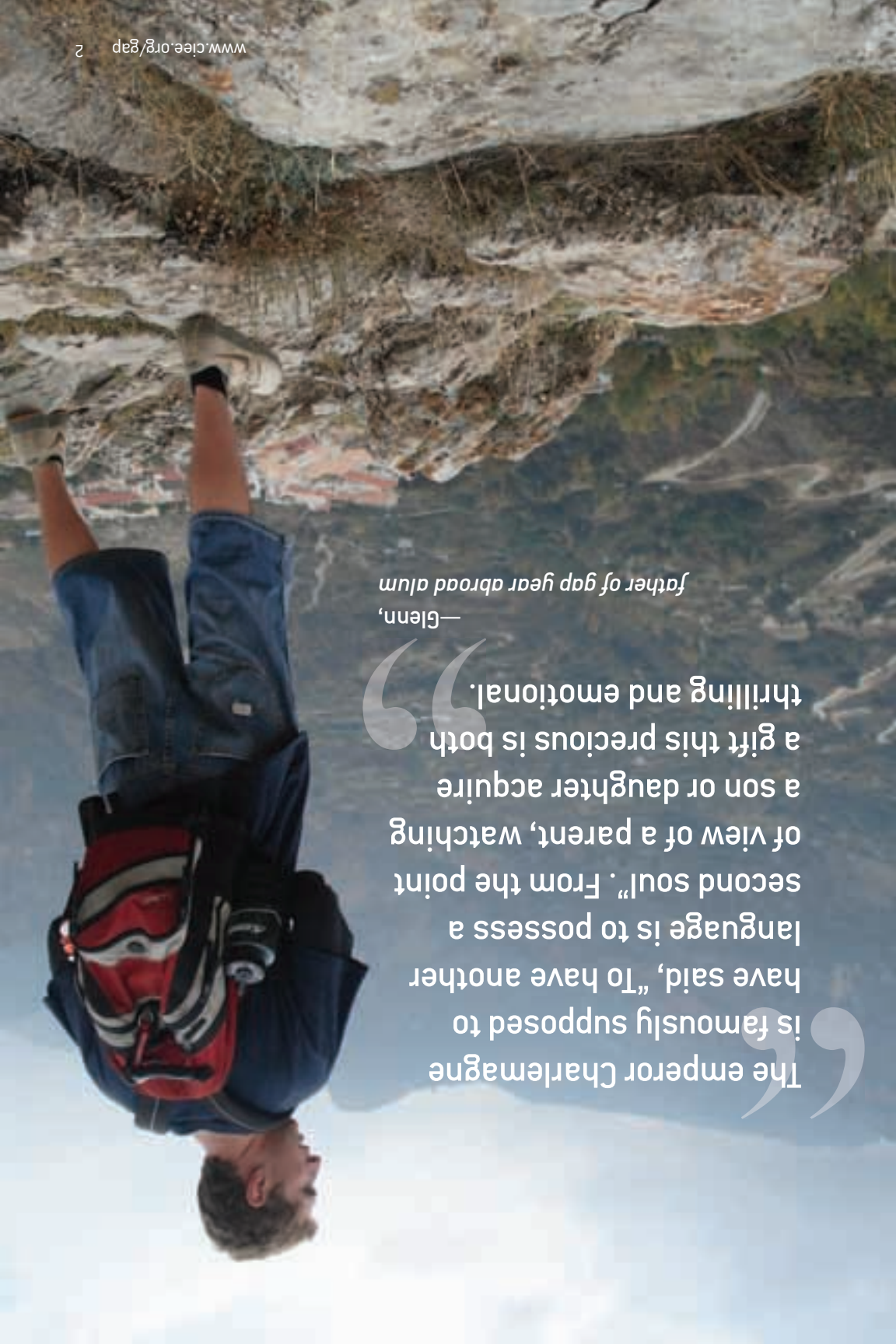
- No prior language requirement
- Language classes for beginner to advanced Chinese speakers
- Peer mentoring program: Chinese students serve as conversation partners and help you become oriented to Chinese life and society through cultural excursions and sporting activities
- Weekly seminar with field trips and activities exposes you to Chinese culture and society
- Volunteer opportunities at a local elementary school for migrant children



gap year abroad

CIEE offers you a unique way to explore the world. A Gap Year Abroad with CIEE offers high school graduates an opportunity to stretch intellectually, explore new vistas, and broaden your global perspective through living with a host family, studying a language through classes and immersion in the local culture, and volunteering in the local community.

>> where you'll go <<



“The emperor Charlemagne is famously supposed to have said, “To have another language is to possess a second soul”. From the point of view of a parent, watching a son or daughter acquire a gift this precious is both thrilling and emotional.

—Glenn,
father of gap year abroad alum

graduating seniors

Are you graduating from high school this year? Do you want to experience the world before heading off to college? In today's world, many students are choosing to postpone college for a year to gain real world experience and personal growth to prepare for their university experience. Bridge the world you experienced in high school with the world that lies ahead through a CIEE Gap Year Abroad program.

CIEE offers you a unique way to explore the world. A Gap Year Abroad with CIEE offers college bound graduates an opportunity to stretch intellectually, explore new vistas, and broaden your global perspective through living with a host family, studying a language through classes, direct immersion in the culture, and volunteering in the local community.

CIEE offers you semester and year-long Gap Year Abroad options in:

chile: valparaiso / china: shanghai / dominican republic: santiago
france: paris / japan: tokyo / spain: seville

the unique CIEE approach

As a recognized leader in study abroad programs at the university level, CIEE is uniquely positioned to provide Gap Year Abroad programming to recent high school graduates.

- One-of-a-kind combination of intensive language instruction and service-learning
- Cultural activities in diverse social settings
- Significant travel opportunities
- Counseling throughout the selection process
- Unparalleled on-site orientation and preparation at the start of the program
- Total immersion in the local culture
- Time for self-reflection and discovery
- Supportive local staff on site

eligibility

- High school graduate
- 17 years of age or older at the time of departure
- Students must demonstrate maturity, flexibility, and the willingness to adapt to and learn from the challenges of living in a new country

how to apply

Download the application form from our website at www.ciee.org/hsabroad/apply, or call us at 1.800.40.STUDY for more information.

program features

- Housing and meals with families
- Language study designed to accommodate students with a range of entering ability and experience
- Community service opportunities
- International medical insurance and 24-hour worldwide assistance provided through the CIEE iNext travel card
- Support throughout your stay; 24-hour in-country emergency support
- Trips and excursions to important historical and cultural sites

ciee

language / culture / challenge



2011

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gap year abroad