



CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE (CBYX)

SCHOOL COUNSELOR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Who is eligible to apply?

All current high school students between the ages of 15 and 18.5 years old by August 1, 2027 are eligible to apply for CBYX.

Please note: Students may participate in this program during a gap year as long as they fall within the age range listed above. Students will still attend high school courses.

What kinds of classes will students 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.

Students cannot graduate from a German high school or receive a German diploma. All students must make sure they complete the requirements for and are on track to earn their U.S. high school diploma.

Are Advanced Placement (AP) classes available?

AP classes are not available in the German school system. However, we encourage students to take the AP German test after their return to their U.S. high school in order to receive college-level credit for German.

At what grade level will a student be placed 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.

What are options for transferring credits?

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 their school counselors before departing for Germany. The U.S. high school must make the determination of what credits to accept. Many schools and students are able to work out accepting core credits on a pass/fail basis given Germany's different numerical grading system.

Can students take online classes to fulfill graduation requirements while participating in the CBYX program?

It is possible to take one online class per semester while participating in the CBYX Program. However, we strongly urge students to complete all necessary online classes prior to or after the program so as not to distract from the language and cultural immersion experience.

Can students take the SATs while in Germany?

Yes. Students may contact international schools or U.S. military bases, which offer testing dates throughout the year, to register for the exam. 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.

Can students apply to college while in Germany?

Yes. Students may apply to U.S. colleges while abroad. We encourage students to prepare ahead by using the Common Application where possible and securing teacher recommendations before departure.

Can students enroll in a German university after or while on the CBYX program?

German schools do not offer dual enrollment with universities. Students should remain engaged with their CBYX school curriculum. An American HS Diploma does not directly meet the minimum enrollment requirements for German universities.

What are the benefits of the CBYX program?

CBYX, a year-long cultural and language immersion program, fosters deep intercultural understanding and helps participants build strong international relationships that often last a lifetime. Participants also have the opportunity to fully immerse themselves in a new language and culture, all the while developing their personal character and academic and future career and professional interests. Why is this so important? Because demonstrating global experience and knowing a second language are invaluable in today's job market. After the program ends, participants can also utilize an extensive online network of U.S. Department of State and CBYX alumni.

Is financial assistance available?

Most costs are covered by the scholarship. Students are responsible for their transportation to and from Washington, D.C. at the beginning and end of the program. This is in addition to passport and visa fees, as well as a monthly spending allowance to cover personal costs. All students receive a \$150 monthly stipend to assist with personal costs. For individuals who demonstrate financial need, additional financial support may be available for domestic transportation and can be applied for after an individual is informed of their selection for the program.



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