Virtual National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) 2021
Participant Agreement - Terms and Conditions

Instructions

1. **Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):** Read this Agreement, and then sign, print your name(s) and date where indicated at the end of the agreement.

2. **Applicant:** Read this Agreement, and then sign, print your name and date where indicated at the end of the agreement. Upload the original signature page (page 5) to your online application.

**Deadline: October 20, 2021**

**Statement of Purpose:** The U.S. Department of State’s Virtual National Security Language Initiative for Youth (Virtual NSLI-Y) program assists participants in acquiring foreign language skills, cultural awareness, and knowledge needed to contribute meaningfully in a culturally diverse, increasingly interdependent world. The goals of NSLI-Y programs are to promote the learning of languages critical to the foreign policy interests of the United States, introduce American high school students to foreign cultures, foster mutual understanding with citizens of other countries, and encourage lifetime learning and career plans that include the use of critical foreign languages.

**Structure:** Virtual NSLI-Y is a program of the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), administered by American Councils for International Education (American Councils).

Experienced teachers (based in the U.S. or abroad) will provide language instruction, cultural exchange activities, support, and monitoring in a virtual environment throughout the ten-week program (January - March 2022). Participants will be placed into a beginner-level language class of approximately ten students to meet virtually, twice a week, for 90 minutes each session. Other orientations, meetings, and activities may be conducted for participants before and during the period of the program.

Virtual NSLI-Y programs will include interactive instruction from an experienced language teacher via synchronous videoconference platform and asynchronous online class collaboration space; homework, quizzes, and language assessments; conversation practice; and cultural learning opportunities. Additional activities may be provided by teachers or program staff.

Hired as consulting teachers through American Councils, virtual teachers will be selected through an application and vetting process based on qualifications and experience teaching Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Korean, Russian, or Turkish as a second language.

The following Terms and Conditions identify the framework under which the U.S. Department of State and American Councils operate programs with the cooperation of participants and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s). Participants and their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) must read and sign to confirm understanding and acceptance of these Terms and Conditions for the Virtual NSLI-Y application process and participation policies.
Terms and Conditions

We the undersigned participant and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) agree to abide by the following Terms and Conditions of participation:

General Program Policies

1. We agree with the Statement of Purpose of the Virtual NSLI-Y program and have given our child permission to participate in this program and related activities. We and our child agree to obey the policies described in the Terms and Conditions herein and acknowledge that our child will be required to follow additional policies described in the materials and guidelines for the specific program, which may be provided by the virtual teacher(s) or American Councils.
2. We affirm that our child is a U.S. citizen.
3. We understand that our child must meet all program eligibility requirements.
4. We understand that a scholarship offer may be terminated prior to program completion if our child does not complete pre-program requirements or exhibits behavior not in line with the Code of Conduct below.
5. We understand that our child will indicate preferences for class times in the application, but those preferences will not necessarily be honored. Class placement will depend on teacher availability and other factors.
6. The U.S. Department of State reserves the right to cancel or alter languages offered if program capacity is limited.
7. Scholarships for the Virtual NSLI-Y program include the following:
   • Textbooks or materials, if applicable
   • Language instruction and cultural learning opportunities delivered through virtual platforms for ten weeks
   • Staff support
   • Language assessments
8. Participation in the Virtual NSLI-Y program requires students to have access to the following:
   • Stable internet
   • Computer or web-enabled device (tablets). Smartphones are not an acceptable device.
   • Webcam or video capability
   • Headset (headphones and microphone combination)

Note: Students without adequate resources or access to technology for participation in Virtual NSLI-Y may qualify for financial support upon request to nsliy@americancouncils.org.

Participation Policies

1. We acknowledge that Virtual NSLI-Y will be delivered via the internet in “live” (synchronous) interaction and also pre-recorded (asynchronous) materials.
2. Participants will engage with other participants, teachers, guest speakers, and possibly peer tutors through the internet. We understand our child’s image, likeness, and activities in participation will be viewable to fellow participants, virtual teacher(s), peer tutors, and guest speakers.
3. Due to the interactive nature of language and culture learning, participants will generally be expected to participate in sessions fully with their cameras on for active engagement with their teachers, guest speakers, and peers. Sessions will likely be recorded. Virtual NSLI-Y staff will provide recording policies and indicate how recordings will be stored and used, and when recordings will no longer be available for
viewing. Participants should not share Virtual NSLI-Y recordings on social media or with others outside the program.

4. Participants are expected to act in the spirit of “cultural ambassadors” in learning their target language and culture. Participants are expected to be respectful of their peers, teachers, and guests.

5. Participants are expected to attend and participate in all program activities throughout the duration of the program. These activities include pre-program preparation, test sessions, surveys, language assessments, homework/assignments, and class sessions. If an absence is necessary, it must be excused in advance by the virtual teacher and program staff. Non-excused absences, regular tardiness, and non-attendance in program activities may result in disciplinary action and dismissal from the program. Participants are expected to complete all assignments by the given deadline and come to class prepared; late or missing assignments may result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program.

Code of Conduct
General policies for all participants follow. Teachers may have additional policies participants are expected to observe.

1. Behavior: Participants must understand that they are representatives in a U.S. Department of State program and must behave and treat others in an appropriate and a respectful way. Participants should not engage in conduct that will bring disrepute to the U.S. Department of State, Virtual NSLI-Y, American Councils virtual teachers, or other participants.

2. Computers: Participants are expected to only share appropriate content. Participants must not share anything that could be potentially incriminating or embarrassing. Participants should not share personal identifying information (credit card numbers, Social Security numbers, etc.). Participants must not share images or information about other participants, teachers, guests, or others outside of the program cohort. Participants must not share login information for any Virtual NSLI-Y class meetings or online platforms outside of the program cohort. Inappropriate activities, which include but are not limited to the use of disrespectful/hurtful terms, profanity, slurs, pro-substance abuse language, stereotypes (racial, sexual, ethnic, religious), and pro-violence issues will not be tolerated.

3. Class Etiquette: Although Virtual NSLI-Y participants will not gather together in a physical classroom, they should act and dress appropriately during class sessions to contribute to a conducive learning environment. Participants should participate in classes in a quiet room and avoid eating, using a phone, and any other disruptive behavior.

Program Dismissal
1. Our child will be considered for dismissal from the Virtual NSLI-Y program for behavior that American Councils, with the concurrence of the U.S. Department of State, considers detrimental to our child or to the program.

2. The U.S. Department of State or American Councils may dismiss a participant from Virtual NSLI-Y program if a student has several (normally no more than three or the equivalent) absences. Non-attendance in program activities may result in dismissal from the program.

3. In the event that a participant admits to violating a state or federal law, is arrested, or is charged, he/she will be considered for dismissal from the Virtual NSLI-Y program.

4. If our child voluntarily withdraws or is dismissed from the Virtual NSLI-Y program at any time, the scholarship, academic activities, and other items included with the scholarship will be canceled.

5. Participants who break local laws regarding the use of a home computer, who engage in risky online activity, or who place any participant, virtual teacher, or administrator’s personal information anywhere on the Internet may face criminal charges and will be considered for dismissal from the Virtual NSLI-Y program.
6. Participants who in any way put the safety of themselves or others at risk or bring disrepute to the U.S. Department of State, Virtual NSLI-Y, American Councils, or virtual teachers by inappropriate or inflammatory postings on social media, memes, or blogs or misusing the Internet will be considered for dismissal from the Virtual NSLI-Y program.

Privacy

We understand that the data generated by participants, teachers, and guests will not be sold or otherwise transferred to third parties for any purpose other than Virtual NSLI-Y program administration, implementation, and evaluation, unless otherwise required by law. We understand and accept that American Councils will share information about our child that has been provided in the application for program implementation and outreach purposes. American Councils may transmit such data to third parties, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Department of State, members and staff of the U.S. Congress, application evaluators, virtual teachers, volunteer presenters, and independent organizations that facilitate program evaluation for any purpose reasonably required for safety, participant support, proper organization, fulfillment, and promotion of Virtual NSLI-Y. Under certain conditions students who are aged 18 may elect to not share some information about their program with their parent(s)/guardian(s).

Waiver and Release

For and in consideration of the undersigned participant’s opportunity to participate in the Virtual NSLI-Y program, the participant (and parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of participant if under 18 years of age) hereby releases and waives any and all claims against American Councils, virtual teachers, program representatives, and the U.S. Department of State and its employees, agents and instrumentalities, which may arise out of participation in Virtual NSLI-Y, including but not limited to: claims of online harassment, personal injury, property damage or wrongful death; claims arising out of natural disasters, war, terrorism, and civil disturbances; and claims arising out of the dismissal of the participant from the Virtual NSLI-Y program.

(Signatures on next page...)

Virtual NSLI-Y Participant Agreement - Terms and Conditions 2021
Declaration by Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)

1. We have discussed the goals and structure of the Virtual NSLI-Y program and this Agreement with our child, and each of us fully understands the obligations.
2. We confirm that all information provided in the application is truthful.
3. We understand that any material changes to the information provided in this Agreement must be conveyed promptly to American Councils.

Signature(s) of Parent(s) or Legal Guardian(s)

At least ONE legal guardian listed in the applicant’s online application must sign this document.

| X | Print name: ____________________________ | X | Print name: ____________________________ |
| X | Date: ____________________________ (Enter date in the format: “June 1, 2021”) | X | Date: ____________________________ (Enter date in the format: “June 1, 2021”) |

| X | Print name: ____________________________ | X | Print name: ____________________________ |
| X | Date: ____________________________ (Enter date in the format: “June 1, 2021”) | X | Date: ____________________________ (Enter date in the format: “June 1, 2021”) |

Declaration by Participant

I have read this Agreement and discussed its terms and conditions with my parent(s)/guardian(s). I agree with the purpose of the Virtual NSLI-Y program and fully accept all terms and conditions of this Agreement, all other rules, regulations, and conditions set forth concerning the program. I will do my best to become an integral part of my Virtual NSLI-Y program and complete all work to the best of my ability.

Signature of Finalist:

| X | ____________________________ | Date: ____________________________ (Enter date in the format: “October 1, 2021”) |
| X | Print name: ____________________________ | Participant Number*: ____________________________ |

*The Participant Number Reference Code is the ID code with four (4) letters and four (4) numbers that can be found near the top of each page of your online application. It looks something like this: “GROM0943”

For Office Use Only

RC: __________ Name: __________