## YES Abroad and NSLI for Youth: Side-by-Side Comparison

Note: Students may apply to both programs but may only participate in one. Find complete eligibility requirements on the program websites listed in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES Abroad)</th>
<th>National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Origin</strong></td>
<td>YES Abroad was initiated in 2008 to complement the inbound YES program, established in October 2002 by the U.S. Congress in response to the events of September 11, 2001.</td>
<td>NSLI-Y is part of the U.S. government National Security Language Initiative started in 2006 to prepare American citizens to better engage with the world through critical languages.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sponsor</strong></td>
<td>U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)</td>
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<td><strong>Brief program description</strong></td>
<td>YES Abroad provides merit-based scholarships for American high school students (ages 15-18.5) to study abroad in select countries for an academic year. YES Abroad is a cultural exchange program focused on enhancing Americans’ understanding of other countries and cultures through fostering lasting personal ties and engaging youth in activities that advance mutual understanding. YES Abroad participants live with a host family and enroll in a local high school abroad.</td>
<td>YESLI-Y provides merit-based scholarships to American high school students (ages 15-18) for overseas study of seven critical foreign languages during a summer or academic year. These languages are not commonly taught in U.S. high schools, but are critical to America’s engagement with the world. NSLI-Y is a language-focused program aimed at developing a cadre of young Americans who will use their language skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global economy, and promote mutual understanding.</td>
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| **Goals** | • Develop leadership skills and tools for community involvement  
• Introduce American high school students to foreign cultures  
• Broaden the understanding of Americans and our values for people from the host countries  
• Encourage a lifetime of learning and future engagement in global issues | • Promote learning of critical languages among American youth  
• Develop a better understanding of other cultures and peoples.  
• Spark a lifetime of interest in foreign languages and cultures  
• Prepare young Americans with language and cultural skills to advance international dialogue, compete effectively in the global economy, and promote mutual understanding. |
| **Countries (Subject to change)** | Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Ghana  
India  
Indonesia | Jordan  
Macedonia  
Malaysia  
Morocco  
Philippines  
Senegal  
Thailand  
Turkey  
Arabic: Jordan, Morocco  
Chinese (Mandarin): China, Taiwan  
Hindi: India  
Bahasa Indonesia: Indonesia  
Korean: South Korea  
Persian (Tajiki): Tajikistan  
Russian: Estonia, Latvia, Moldova, Russia  
Turkish: Turkey |
| **Applicant preference** | Applicants apply to the program, ranking country preferences. | Applicants indicate language(s) not country(ies) of interest. |
| **What kind of student should apply?** | • Committed to cultural immersion and living with a host family  
• Eager to learn about foreign cultures  
• Mature, independent, open-minded, utilizes communication effectively to solve problems, and flexible/adaptable | • Motivated to seriously study the program language  
• Eager to learn about foreign cultures  
• Mature, independent, open-minded and flexible  
• Prepared for the challenges of an overseas immersion experience |
| **Accommodations** | Participants live with host families for the duration of the program. | Accommodations vary by program site. Students will reside either in a host family or combination of supervised dormitories and host family stays. |
| **Placement** | Participants may be placed individually or in small groups at each site. Participants enroll in local high schools. Placements in host families and schools vary greatly both across and within host countries. | Participants are placed in groups of approximately 5 to 30 students per site. Groups tend to be larger for summer programs. Participants enroll in local high schools and/or language institutes. |
| **Duration** | Academic year (9-11 months) | Summer (6 weeks) or academic year (8-10 months) |
| **Participant eligibility** | • U.S. citizen  
• Enrolled in high school at time of application  
• Birthdates between December 19, 1999 and June 19, 2003 | • U.S. citizen  
• Enrolled in high school at time of application  
• Summer: birthdates between July 10, 1999 and June 10, 2003  
• Academic year: birthdates between September 30, 1999 and June 30, 2003  
• 2.5 or higher GPA on a 4.0 scale (or equivalent) |
| **Program website** | www.yes-abroad.org | www.nsliforyouth.org |