



Virtual National Security Language Initiative for Youth (Virtual NSLI-Y) 2023 Participant Agreement - Terms and Conditions

Instructions

1. **Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):** Read and sign this Agreement. Print your name(s) and date where indicated at the end of the agreement.
2. **Applicant:** Read and sign this Agreement. Print your name and date where indicated at the end of the agreement. **Upload the signature page (page 5) to your online application.**

Deadline: June 15, 2023

Statement of Purpose: Through online learning, 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) and is administered by American Councils for International Education (American Councils). American Councils and consulting teachers (based in the U.S. or abroad) will provide virtual instruction, student support, and academic monitoring throughout the ten-week program. Participants will meet virtually twice a week with their cohort of approximately ten students. Students will be notified of class times in their acceptance letter if selected as a finalist. Students must participate in orientation, all live language and cultural learning sessions, and additional activities. Program participation requires completion of pre-program language assignments, homework, projects, language assessments, and surveys. Other student group meetings will be incorporated and will typically be optional but encouraged.

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 prior to the start of Virtual NSLI-Y.

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 the authority to give 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 provide requested information by established deadlines. We also understand that a scholarship offer may be terminated after notification if our child 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. We understand that scheduling for virtual exchanges can be complex due to variance in global time zones.
6. The U.S. Department of State reserves the right to cancel or alter languages offered if program capacity is limited.
7. Any absence of a class session must be excused in advance by the virtual teacher and program staff via email. If a participant misses a class due to an emergency and was not able to notify staff and their teacher in advance, the participant should follow up via email in writing as soon as possible. Participants are allowed a maximum of three excused or unexcused absences. If a participant misses more than 50 minutes of a 90-minute session, the participant will be considered absent for that session. After an absence, participants are expected to watch the class recording and engage with their teacher to catch up on the lesson.
8. 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

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)

Finalists who do not have access to these required items due to financial need should contact virtualnslily@americancouncils.org immediately for documentation to request funding assistance.

Participation Policies

1. We acknowledge that Virtual NSLI-Y will be delivered through an internet connection in “live” (synchronous) and pre-recorded (asynchronous) activities.
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. Participants are expected to only share appropriate content virtually with others. 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.) online. Participants should not share login information for any Virtual NSLI-Y class meetings or online platforms. Inappropriate virtual activities, which include but are not limited to the use of disrespectful/hurtful terms, profanity, slurs, pro-substance abuse language, stereotypes (such as racial, sexual, ethnic, religious, etc.), bullying, harassment, and pro-violence issues, will not be tolerated.
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. 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.
6. 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. Absences must be excused in advance by the virtual teacher and program staff.
7. We understand that each participant's Virtual NSLI-Y experience is unique. Program activities will vary by program and may differ from past years. The U.S. Department of State and American Councils reserve the right to modify or cancel program activities and components as needed.

Code of Conduct

In addition to the Code of Conduct outlined below, 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 respectful way. Participants must 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. **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 space and avoid eating, using a phone, and any other disruptive behavior.
3. **Communication:** We understand that program staff will primarily communicate with applicants/participants regarding their application status and participation in the program. Participants must respond promptly to any inquiries from American Councils and teachers before and during the program. Failure to respond promptly (within three business days) and honestly may result in dismissal from the program. We understand that program staff will be available to participants primarily during normal business hours.

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 or possibly use other disciplinary actions if a student misrepresents their eligibility, exceeds three absences or the equivalent, has non-excused absences, is regularly tardy, does not attend program activities, does not complete all assignments by the given deadline, or does not come to class prepared.
3. Participants are expected to adhere to high standards of academic integrity. Assignments, projects, exams, and all schoolwork must be the participant's own work. Plagiarism and cheating are grounds for dismissal.
4. 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.



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Language Abroad

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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, emotional distress, 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)

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 _____	X _____
Print name: _____	Print name: _____
Date: _____ <i>(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2023")</i>	Date: _____ <i>(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2023")</i>
X _____	X _____
Print name: _____	Print name: _____
Date: _____ <i>(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2023")</i>	Date: _____ <i>(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2023")</i>

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, and 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: _____ <i>(Enter date in the format: "January 1, 2023")</i>
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: _____