



National Security Language Initiative for Youth
General Information for Parent/Legal Guardian Statements

National Security Language Initiative (NSLI-Y), a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, provides merit-based scholarships for eligible high school students to learn less commonly taught languages in summer and academic-year overseas immersion programs. The languages currently offered include Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), Indonesian, Korean, Persian (Tajiki), Russian, and Turkish. Previous language study is not required, and language learners of all levels are invited to apply. The merit-based scholarship covers the following program costs for participants: travel from the participant's home region to the pre-departure orientation location and the overseas host city; tuition and academic materials; in-country support; cultural activities; room and board; secondary medical benefits; and applicable visa fees.

NSLI-Y is part of a broader, multi-agency U.S. government initiative, NSLI, launched in 2006 to improve Americans' ability to engage with people from around the world. Since its inception, the NSLI-Y program has experienced dramatic growth in the number of languages taught and the number of scholarships offered. Today, the program has expanded to offer summer and academic year programs in eight NSLI-Y languages. By the end of the 2024-25 program year, more than 9,000 students will proudly call themselves NSLI-Y alumni.

For the 2025-26 program year, NSLI-Y is administered by American Councils for International Education in cooperation with other U.S.-based organizations. These organizations implement the programs in NSLI-Y host locations, as conditions allow.

NSLI-Y programs immerse participants in the cultural life of the host country, giving them invaluable formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures. Now more than ever, it is important that Americans have the necessary linguistic skills and cultural knowledge to promote international dialogue and support American engagement abroad. NSLI-Y aims to provide opportunities to American youth that will prepare them to be leaders in a global world.

Parents/legal guardians providing statements for 2025-26 NSLI-Y applicants will receive an email notification and further instructions for the online form from highschoolstudyabroad@americancouncils.org. Parents/ legal guardians are asked to write a brief statement about the applicant that addresses prompts related to the applicant's behavior, disposition, adaptability, and interest in language study through immersion. In addition, parents/legal guardians are asked to comment on factors that should be considered when determining a placement for the applicant and why it is important for the applicant to participate in NSLI-Y. Parent statements should be submitted by 4:00 PM Eastern Time on November 12, 2024.

Thank you for your role in supporting NSLI-Y.

For more information, please visit: www.NSLIforYouth.org

Questions may be directed to NSLI-Y Administration at nsliy@americancouncils.org or 866.790.2086