



## *Virtual National Security Language Initiative for Youth (Virtual NSLI-Y) Fall 2025* **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 on page 5.
2. **Applicant:** Read and sign this Agreement. Print your name and date where indicated on page 5. **Then upload the signature page (page 5) to your online application.**



**Deadline: June 9, 2025**

### **Statement of Purpose:**

The Virtual National Security Language Initiative for Youth (Virtual NSLI-Y), a program of the U.S. Department of State, offers U.S. high school students the opportunity to learn languages critical to national security through an engaging online experience. This 10-week, beginner-level program combines language study with cultural exploration in an interactive virtual setting, following nationally recognized standards. Participants gain insights into the cultures of regions where the language is spoken, promoting intercultural understanding through activities designed around global competence, and encouraging 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) provide virtual instruction, student support, and academic monitoring throughout the ten-week program. Participants meet virtually twice a week with their cohort of approximately ten students. Students are notified of class times in their acceptance letter if selected as a finalist. Students must participate in orientation, 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 are typically optional but encouraged.

Scholarships for the Virtual NSLI-Y program include the following:

- Textbooks or materials, if applicable
- Language instruction and cultural learning opportunities delivered online 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 (tablet). 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 [virtualnsliy@americancouncils.org](mailto:virtualnsliy@americancouncils.org) immediately upon admission to request funding assistance.



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 or on-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 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 is not able to notify staff and their teacher in advance, they should follow up via email as soon as possible. Participants are allowed a maximum of three excused absences. If a participant misses more than 45 minutes of a 90-minute session, the participant is 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.

### **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 on the internet. We understand our child’s image, likeness, and program activities 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. They are expected to be respectful of their peers, teachers, and guests.
5. Due to the interactive nature of language and culture learning, participants are 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 share 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. 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.

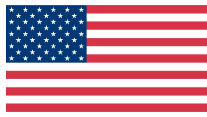
## Code of Conduct

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 in a physical classroom, they should act and dress appropriately during class sessions to foster an optimal learning environment. Participants should participate from a quiet space and avoid eating, using a phone, and any other disruptive behavior during class.
3. **Communication:** 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. Program staff will be available to participants primarily during normal business hours.

## Program Dismissal

1. My child will be considered for dismissal from Virtual NSLI-Y 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 class sessions, 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 and use of artificial intelligence tools/software to complete them is not permitted. Plagiarism and cheating are grounds for dismissal.
4. If a participant admits to violating a state or federal law, is arrested, or is charged, they will be considered for dismissal.
5. If my child voluntarily withdraws or is dismissed from Virtual NSLI-Y 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.
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 or blogs, including inappropriate use of memes or any misuse of the Internet will be considered for dismissal from the program.

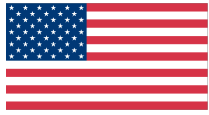
### Privacy

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 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 Virtual NSLI-Y 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2025")

X\_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2025")

X\_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2025")

X\_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter date in the format: "June 1, 2025")

### 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 Virtual NSLI-Y 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 be a dedicated participant of Virtual NSLI-Y and complete all work to the best of my ability.

### Signature of Finalist:

X\_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Enter date in the format: "January 1, 2025")

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: \_\_\_\_\_