



CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Do you know a high school student who wants to spend a year abroad in Germany through a fully-funded Department of State Scholarship? Previous German language experience is not required! CIEE is looking for motivated, curious leaders who are interested in spending a year abroad. Germany also has a tradition in Scouting, so it's even possible to get involved while in Germany or provide a new and dynamic cultural perspective their home troop during their time abroad.

CIEE is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization with a mission to help people gain understanding, acquire knowledge and develop skills for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world.

Jointly funded by the German Bundestag and the U.S. Congress, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) is a full scholarship exchange program that annually offers 250 young Americans the opportunity to live with a host family and attend high school in Germany for an academic year. CIEE selects 100 students from the United States (including Puerto Rico) to become CBYX youth ambassadors.

The CBYX program is for motivated high school students who want to experience a different culture and learn a language through a full immersion experience. Academic merit, as well as motivation, curiosity and flexibility are key components to a competitive application. **Previous German language experience is not required.** Participants become fluent in German, earn a competitive edge in college applications and can connect with a global network of other State Department program alumni upon completion from the program. Scholarship recipients spend one academic year attending a German high school, living with a German host family and serving as a youth ambassador. Students who are U.S. Citizens between the ages of 15 and 18 ½ (Birthdate: February 1, 2002-August 1, 2005) with a GPA of 3.0 or higher are eligible to apply. This is also an excellent gap year program for those between high school and college!

Visit our website www.ciee.org/cbyx or email cb@ciee.org for more information! Applications are due December 3, 2019.

We will also be having some informational webinars. Thursday 10/17 (7:00PM EST), Tuesday 10/29 (7:00PM EST), and Tuesday 11/5 (7:00PM EST). Please use the information below to join us!

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CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE

Established in 1983, the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX) Scholarship sends 250 American high school students to live and study in Germany while welcoming 285 German students to live and study in the United States. The U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag (Parliament) sponsor the scholarship, which aims to foster cultural understanding and diplomacy, while also promoting the German and English languages. Participants are also encouraged to learn about the political systems of their host country.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does the scholarship include?

Recipients of the Congress-Bundestag Scholarship will receive a full-year program including the following:

- International airfare to and from Germany (departing from Washington, D.C.)
- Pre-departure orientation in Washington, D.C.
- Four-week language and cultural immersion camp
- Mid-year meeting
- Host family stay in Germany (meals and lodging)
- Schooling/classes while in Germany
- Local Coordinator Supervision and 24 hour emergency assistance
- Health and accident insurance
- End-of-year seminars in Berlin and Washington, D.C.
- Membership to CIEE and Department of State alumni networks

How long is the program?

The CBYX program is approximately 10.5 months, with students beginning the program in August 2020 and returning to the U.S. in June 2021. Students must commit to the full academic year.

Who is eligible?

To apply for the CBYX scholarship, you must be a U.S. citizen, have a GPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and be between the ages of 15 and 18.5 by August 1, 2020 (DOB 2/1/2002 - 8/1/2005). **German language is not required!**

Why participate?

- Learn and become fluent in German
- Experience another culture and community
- Serve as a youth ambassador of the United States
- Gain in-depth understanding of U.S. and European political systems
- Prepare yourself for your future as a global citizen
- Expand your horizons!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where in Germany will I be living?

Students participating in the Congress-Bundestag Program will be placed with host families throughout Germany according to their common likes/dislikes/activities and other criteria supplied on the secondary application (provided once students are selected for the program). The German organizations that partner with CIEE work to make the best match with a host family, school, and Local Coordinator. Placements are made according to such criteria and not geography.

What about school credits?

While CIEE facilitates the exchange to Germany, students are responsible for arranging the transfer of school credits/classes between Germany and the U.S. While most students receive credit for their work in Germany, CIEE does not guarantee specific grade placement, classes, or credits.

Can I come home during the year?

In maintaining the standards of the program, students are not permitted to return to the U.S. during the program year. Family members are permitted to visit students in Germany only in the second semester and only with CIEE/partner approval.

How do I apply?

Interested students can apply online at www.usagermanyscholarship.org. Select your state from the drop-down menu on the left side of the page. Completed applications must be submitted by **December 3, 2019**.

When will I find out if I am selected?

Students who apply for the scholarship by December 3, 2019 will be notified when their application has been processed. The CIEE Selection Committee will review applications and select students to be interviewed in-person in Feb.-Mar. 2020. **Final notification will be sent by April 1, 2020.**

CBYX is funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by CIEE for Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Washington, D.C.



"Thinking back on it now it seems both really close and a lifetime away because of how far it pushed me out of my personal bubble and comfort zone. I try to picture my life before CBYX and it appears foreign to me now. CBYX made me realize how much I like living in between my comfort zone and the unknown. Each and every minute in Germany is a minute that I would not want taken out of my life."

—CBYX Alumna, 2016-2017

CONTACT US

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