FUTURE LEADERS EXCHANGE

FLEX GLOBAL

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FLEX Global is a program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and implemented by American Councils for International Education in partnership with AFS, Amideast, and iEARN.

What is the FLEX Global Program?

FLEX Global is a program that allows high school aged students from select countries to spend an academic year in the United States living with a host family and attending U.S. high school. FLEX Global builds on the legacies of the Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) program, which has operated for over 30 years, and the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program, which has operated for almost 25 years. FLEX Global aims to develop a network of young leaders who understand and support U.S. culture and priorities, with a focus on entrepreneurship, technology and SI, and leadership.

FLEX Global is a highly competitive, merit-based exchange program funded and administered by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The program will provide participants the opportunity to spend an academic year in the United States living with a host family, attending a U.S. high school, engaging in community activities, developing leadership skills, and taking part in American Excellence enhancement activities focused on business, technology, and entrepreneurship. These young leaders will return to their countries with new skills and knowledge, where they will apply what they learned to benefit their home communities and become lasting partners for the United States.

The FLEX Global program is supported at the local level by thousands of U.S. citizens and local secondary schools that host, educate, and support students with no financial compensation.

Who organizes the program?

AMERICAN COUNCILS FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION · AFS Intercultural Programs USA · amideast أمديست · iearn

FLEX Global is a program of the U.S. Department of State, implemented by American Councils for International Education in partnership with AFS, Amideast, and iEARN, who conduct recruitment, selection, orientation, and travel arrangements for FLEX Global. In addition, several private, non-profit organizations in the United States receive grants from the U.S. Department of State to place FLEX Global participants in carefully selected and supportive U.S. host families, and to organize local activities for students during the year-long program.

What does the FLEX Global program provide?

- Round-trip domestic and international travel (from home to the United States and back);
- Monthly allowance to help students participate in social activities and buy necessary personal supplies;
- Placement with a screened U.S. host family for one academic year;
- Enrollment in a U.S. secondary school;
- Program orientation activities including pre-program preparation and re-entry preparation;
- Program activities arranged in local U.S. communities; and
- Medical insurance, excluding pre-existing conditions and dental care.

What is *not* provided by the FLEX Global program?

- Any costs associated with receiving an international passport;
- Personal expenses not covered by the monthly stipend;
- Excess baggage costs; and
- Internet or data plans.

Who is eligible to apply to the program?

FLEX Global is a merit-based, open competition offered at no cost to applicants who meet the following requirements. Students may only apply once to the program during a given recruitment cycle. Eligible applicants must:

1) Meet the grade/age requirements (see table);
2) Be enrolled in and attending a secondary school in the country in which they apply to the program, at the time of application;
3) Be in good academic standing;
4) Have previously studied English and demonstrate English language ability at the time of application;
5) Meet U.S. visa eligibility requirements; and
6) Be a citizen of Argentina, Armenia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Egypt, Georgia, Greece, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, or Uzbekistan, **and** be able to receive an international passport from the country where they apply.

Visit **discoverflexglobal.org/apply-to-flex** to find out more from the FLEX Global office in your country!

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (by country)

* Students in their final grade of school who are required to complete military service are not eligible.

** Students studying at NIS schools are only eligible if they are in the 10th grade.

NOTE: Students who change their grade level to an ineligible grade before their departure to the U.S. will be disqualified.

COUNTRY	Eligible Grades*	Eligible Birthdate Range	Is student eligible to participate if already graduated from secondary school?
ARGENTINA	1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of secondary school	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
ARMENIA*	9, 10, 11, or I, II, III year of college	15 Jul 2009 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
BAHRAIN	9, 10 (private secondary school); 10 (public secondary school)	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	1st or 2nd grade	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
BRAZIL	1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of secondary school (Ensino Médio)	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
EGYPT	3rd preparatory and 1st or 2nd year of secondary school	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
GEORGIA	9, 10 or 11	1 Jan 2010 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
GREECE	3rd year of gymnasium or 1st, 2nd year of lyceum	15 Jul 2009 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
INDIA	8, 9, 10, or 11	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
INDONESIA	1st or 2nd year of secondary school	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
JORDAN	9, 10	15 Mar 2009 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
KAZAKHSTAN**	9, 10, or 1st year of college if enrolled after 9th grade	1 Jan 2010 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
KENYA	8, 9, 10, or 11	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
KOSOVO	9, 10, or 11	15 Jul 2009 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
KYRGYZSTAN	9 or 10	1 Jan 2010 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
MOLDOVA	9, 10, or 11	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
MONGOLIA	9, 10, or 11	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
MONTENEGRO	9th grade of primary, or 1st or 2nd grade of secondary school	15 Jul 2009 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
MOROCCO	10, 11	15 Aug 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
NORTH MACEDONIA	1st or 2nd year of secondary school	15 Jul 2009 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
PAKISTAN	9, 10; or O levels 9 or 10	15 Aug 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
POLAND	1st, 2nd, or 3rd class of liceum/technikum	15 Jul 2009 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
ROMANIA	9, 10, or 11	15 Jul 2009 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
SERBIA	8th year of primary or 1st, 2nd grade of secondary school	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
TAJIKISTAN	11	15 Mar 2009 - 31 Dec 2010	ELIGIBLE
THAILAND	9, 10, or 11	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
TUNISIA	10, 11; or Troiséme or Seconde in French system school	15 Aug 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
TURKIYE	3rd preparatory and 1st or 2nd year of secondary school	15 Jan 2010 - 15 Aug 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
TURKMENISTAN	8, 9, 10, or 11	1 Jan 2010 - 15 Jul 2012	NOT ELIGIBLE
UKRAINE	8, 9, 10; or 11th grade in schools with a 12 grade system	1 Jan 2010 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE
UZBEKISTAN	9 or 10, OR 1st year of lyceum or college	15 Jul 2010 - 31 Dec 2011	NOT ELIGIBLE

Who is *not* eligible to apply to the program?

- Students who do not meet eligibility criteria 1-6;
- Students whose immediate or other family members have:
  - Applied or are applying to emigrate to the United States; or
  - Made plans to emigrate or have already emigrated to the United States.

How does the testing and selection process work?

Students compete through English testing, proctored essays, interviews with FLEX Global staff, and a complete application. Selection—based in the U.S.—rewards merit and readiness for a year-long exchange, with English proficiency as one factor among several rather than the deciding one. Finalists must pass a medical fitness evaluation and will learn their status in spring. Selected students attend a pre-departure orientation at home in June or July, arrive in the United States in August, and return the following May–June on their assigned program end date. Visas cannot be extended or amended beyond that date for any reason.

How will I benefit from the exchange experience?

FLEX Global is a unique opportunity to live with a host family and attend a U.S. high school for a year. Participants gain firsthand insight into and appreciation of U.S. daily life and culture, share about their own countries with their host communities, and build lasting relationships with their host families as well as between the U.S. and participating countries.

What should I consider before applying to FLEX Global?

Students should consider:

- Will I have to repeat a year of school?
- Will I be home too late to take final school or university entrance examinations?
- Will my university or institute defer my admission?
- Will I be required to serve in the military upon return?
- Will I be eligible to graduate with honors/receive a gold medal at my home school?

For more information visit:
discoverflexglobal.org

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