

A WORLD  
OF POSSIBILITIES

ASSE

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS





# Student Exchange Programs



**You have probably felt the urge to do something different?** To chart your own path? Life isn't only about what you see and do in your own country, hometown or school, or even with your friends. What is beyond? You need to challenge yourself, to take a chance. For a school year (or even for a few weeks) you can dare to be different!

What makes an exchange student different? When someone leaves the familiar behind and plunges into the unknown, he or she is showing a commitment to understanding other people, to learning about the world in a way that textbooks and school assignments never reveal. A year spent abroad is a year that will redefine your world.

You'll discover that every moment, every conversation and experience, challenges the way you look at the world. You'll see differences as well as similarities in people and their actions, in their beliefs and values. You'll experience the intricately structured social code of the Japanese, or the egalitarian beliefs of the Scandinavians, considered the most socially progressive Europeans. Suddenly you'll realize what it means to belong to a certain country and culture. You'll learn about yourself as you learn about others.

Becoming an exchange student gives you more than knowledge about another country and its language and culture. A year abroad teaches you about building friendships, taking responsibility for yourself, respecting differences and tolerating the beliefs of others. Exchange students develop leadership skills,

self-confidence and a greater understanding of the complexities of the world around them. This is why the best universities, as well as corporations and professionals, look favourably on students who have spent a school year abroad. They know that former international exchange students bring a higher level of maturity and a global frame of reference to their university studies and activities.

If you become an ASSE exchange student abroad, you will experience life in another culture and make close friends in your host country. Sit in the small cafés, play sports, shop in the same outdoor markets; these are things tourists miss, and this is where you really discover the way of life in another country, with all its subtleties.

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While you live the typical daily life of another culture, you are learning every minute of every day. You might live in a French city meant for walking, with cobblestone streets so narrow you can touch the walls of buildings with outstretched arms on both sides. Or you may live in a Spanish village where the remains of an entire castle lie. Perhaps you'll find yourself in Sweden living in a walled city dating back to medieval days, or that your homestay town in Germany includes a "living castle," an actual private residence still being used today. These are the sorts of discoveries you will make as you learn firsthand about what you have only studied in the classroom until now.

You'll also find that the school systems are among the best in the world, and that the teenagers are much the same as they are at home. They work hard at their studies, play sports, love parties and cinema, and pursue hobbies just like you. A few will become your friends for life.



With ASSE you're  
not just part of a program,  
you're part of a **Family**.

The best way to truly become involved in the culture of a foreign country is to live among its people as a member of a family. Every ASSE exchange student does just that. Host families are carefully screened by ASSE and consider it a privilege to welcome students like you into their home. Host families feel they benefit from the experience as much as you do! They want to learn about your culture and introduce you to theirs. Many families have children your age, and you may find that a family member speaks English, even if it's only a little.

**And every ASSE exchange student has a local ASSE representative who is conversant in English and who will plan some social activities and be available to help you during your stay.**

## Speaking a Foreign Language

While someone in your host family may speak some English (except in the European Summer Language programs), you'll quickly realize that it's not of much concern. In fact, you'll probably find that after a few weeks you'll be asking them to speak in their native tongue.

This may be hard for you to believe. You might be wondering how you'll express yourself; how you'll communicate with store clerks, teachers, classmates and your host family. Even if you've studied a foreign language in school, you won't feel ready to live in that language. But when you're surrounded by that language from morning till night, you learn the fastest way possible. It's like a month of classes in a single day!

And in non-English speaking countries, you'll either spend the first days receiving instruction within your host country at an ASSE Language and Cultural Enrichment Program or be provided with remedial language instruction / training (included in the program fee), during your initial few weeks.

With that initial preparation, plus the constant exposure you'll have to the language, you'll be talking comfortably with your host family in just a few weeks. Within four months, exchange students should speak the host country language fluently. You'll tell jokes and gossip with friends, even dream and speak to pets in the foreign language. And the fluency you develop will give you a great advantage in your future schooling and career.





# The Program

**A year or a semester away can't be measured in days alone.** You'll only be gone for a school year, but the experience will enrich the rest of your life. Living in another country for a year is something most people never have the opportunity to do. You'll return with new knowledge, cultural understanding, maturity and lifelong friends from your host country. The hardest part will be leaving your ASSE host family. They will have shared in your adventure and learned from you, as you will have from them.

Your exchange year may cost no more than a year at home. Believe it or not, that's true. ASSE programs are offered to you at cost. Your host family is not paid for hosting you **(except in the European Summer Language Programs).**

Your ASSE host family will provide your meals and lodging; all they ask in return is that you participate as a responsible member of the family, assuming your fair share of chores around the house and sharing in family activities.

Of course, you'll need pocket money just as you do here. Your only other expense besides the fee (see application page) will be your domestic connecting flight to and from your home to the international gateway airport, the point of your ASSE flight overseas. Or, for academic year exchanges within North America, you must furnish your own flight to the airport nearest your homestay city. You are fully covered in the event of an illness, property loss or other emergency because all ASSE programs include comprehensive health, travel and liability insurance.

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## A few words about ASSE

ASSE was established in 1976 as the American Scandinavian Student Exchange by the Swedish Government to organize student exchange programs between Sweden and the United States. Soon Denmark, Norway and Finland elected to participate.

**Since then, the program has grown to include:**

At present, ASSE also works closely with the Canadian provincial education ministries. ASSE maintains 38 offices in 31 countries and accommodates more than 30,000 high school age students and host families annually in its programs in the participating countries.



Ireland

France

Germany

Switzerland

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Portugal

Czech Republic

Denmark

Romania

Moldova

Slovakia

Turkey

Finland

Sweden

Estonia

Ukraine

Canada ( French & English speaking )

Mexico

Brazil

Argentina

Japan

South Korea

Thailand

China

Mongolia

Taiwan

Hong Kong

Vietnam

Australia

New Zealand

South Africa

## How you qualify for an ASSE Exchange Year

To qualify, you must be no younger than 15 nor older than 18 1/2 years of age upon departure, and be mature enough to adjust to the different values, lifestyle and attitudes of a foreign country. You must also be a student in good standing in the upper third of your class or have a B grade average (C for summer programs), be in good health and have excellent character references.

Having studied a foreign language is certainly helpful, but not essential. Most important is a sense of adventure and a serious commitment to learning the language and becoming an active participant in the family, school and community life of your chosen country. It's an experience you will remember and cherish for the rest of your life.







# Europe



**The origin and foundation of ASSE have been its exchange programs** with its European countries where there has been a major influence on our country's history, language and culture. Considering that European schools are among the best in the world, attending one of these schools and living with a host family will let you quickly master the language and absorb the culture. These countries are a blend of old traditions, dynamic societies and modern technology, making your semester or year in Europe the adventure and opportunity of a lifetime.

The natural beauty of the continental Scandinavian countries draws many exchange students to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Striking green forests and valleys,

brilliant blue lakes and fjords, and white snow-capped mountains give these countries a feel of pure open space and freedom. Combined with this natural beauty are modern cities with socially—and environmentally—conscious citizens proud of their progressive ideas.

By spending a year or a semester in a Scandinavian country, you can experience things distinctly characteristic of this area of the world. The northern sun never setting during the summer allows you to ski the slopes at night. And you can enjoy the lifestyle of a region that has more boats than cars, yet still has everything modern within its borders.

Nothing compares with Western Europe's ancient history and contemporary influence gracefully coexisting in villages, towns and cities. In Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, or Switzerland, you

may at one moment feel transported back in time as you walk along knobby cobblestone streets past centuries-old pubs, or taken to the cutting edge at the next, as you pass trendy boutiques. There is no better way to learn the language, culture and history of one of these countries than by experiencing life as a European student.

In France, you'll discover that discussion is a national pastime, where gathering with friends to talk over coffee in a café is an art form. France is especially proud of its traditions, language and culture. You'll soon appreciate the importance placed on fine meals enjoyed at a leisurely pace, good conversation, fine art, music, cinema and fashion. At the same time, you'll be able to ride the TGV, the fastest train in the world, and see how new technology is shaping France today.

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In Spain, experience the emphasis on family and friendship. You'll enjoy meals with every family member present, and a lifestyle that allows for a two hour lunch in the middle of the day. You'll learn to distinguish between the distinct regions of Spain, such as Catalonia or Galicia, with their own local dialects and special traditions.

Or venture further down South to charming Portugal where you will find captivating landscapes and historic villages. The warmth and easy smiles of the Portuguese people will make you feel at home immediately.

Experience life in Germany, with charming, historic towns and fascinating cities, such as Berlin. Germany offers opera houses, theatres, lush wooded areas and lovely blue lakes.

Birthplace to the Roman Empire, home of the Vatican and many other famous and historic landmarks – you'll experience history and the latest in fashion design and modern technology rolled into one when you spend an exchange year in Italy.



The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland, formerly East Bloc countries, are truly the heart of Europe. These countries are in the process of reinventing themselves after their economic transformations. Study abroad in one of these newly founded democratic nations and prepare yourself for the future while still savouring Europe's "old world flavour."

Between Asia and Europe, Turkey is at the crossroad of Western and Eastern cultures. Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, is the only city in the world that lies on two continents. Stunning mosques, incredible ruins and a fascinating cultural style are just a few of the numerous exciting encounters awaiting you in Turkey.



## Orienda, 1 year in France

"Every day holds something new and I never stop learning new things, whether it be language wise, academically, or a lifelong lesson."







# USA



**Discover the incredibly colourful kaleidoscope of America!** This young country of the West encompasses such a variety of climates, customs, and ethnic groups in its immense dimensions that it's like a living encyclopedia.

Imagine the excitement and sophistication of the "Big Apple," New York City. The spectacular autumns of a quaint New England village; the bustle of university life in historic Boston. The gracious and warm hospitality of the Old South; Florida's sub-tropical gentle breezes. The Midwest heartland with its beautiful lakes, forests and gently rolling hills. America's "Wild West" stretching from the rugged Rocky Mountains to the wide open spaces of Texas ranch country. Califor-

nia where the stars glitter from the beaches of Malibu, the cable cars of San Francisco or the hills of Hollywood.

The USA brings us Levi's and T-shirts, high-tech Silicon Valley and giant skyscrapers, rap music and cinema, world-class symphonies and basketball, Disneyland® and McDonald's.®

The USA is also middle-America filled with families living in towns, cities and suburbs throughout the country. You will live with a family who is looking forward to sharing their home and lifestyle with ASSE exchange students of all nationalities.

As an ASSE exchange student to the USA, you will not only improve your English (if it's not your first language), but also gain a greater understanding of the diversity of this coun-

try's people. While in school, you will deepen your appreciation of the history and society of this diverse and ever-changing country. Learn firsthand why Americans are known for their "can-do" attitude as you become part of your host school and host family. As a member of your ASSE host family, you will experience what it means to live as an American. Whether you are chatting with your "brothers" or "sisters" or perhaps helping your host parents set the table for Sunday dinner, you will enjoy a daily life filled with laughter, love and learning.

And get excited about attending a typical American high school where there are a million and one activities in which to get involved—in addition to studying, of course. You can play in a band, become a cheerleader, act in a school play, run for student government, study art, join a debate club, write for the school newspaper, or play a wide variety of school sports, includ-

ing basketball and football “American” style. And these are just a few of the choices. Participating in these activities is a great way to have fun, be active in your school and community, and meet countless new friends.

## ASSE Private High School Program

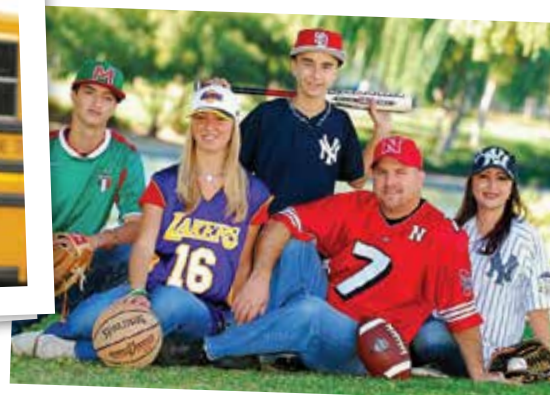
Satisfy your special interests with quality education in selected Private High Schools cooperating with ASSE throughout the United States. If you are a skier seeking the thrill and challenge of snow covered mountains, a hockey player wanting to play and learn more, if music or art is your passion, even horseback riding, rowing, racquetball, as just a few examples, then ASSE has a Private High School that can satisfy your interests while continuing your progress in the academics.

Smaller classes provide more personal attention from your teachers, friendships that occur easily, an experience in an English speaking location all combined to make this a special year to remember.

Quality academics, beautiful campuses, American life, and attention to your special interests ... **no matter which ASSE Private High School you choose, the excitement is waiting for you!**

**Alix,**  
1 year in the U.S.A.

“I made friends from around the world! This exchange year was just the start of something big in my life.”







# Canada

**Bilingual and multicultural, Canada embraces a wide variety of peoples, landscapes and lifestyles.** From the rural villages of the North to the dynamic modern cities found throughout its ten provinces and three territories, Canada has come to be known as home for many. You will live with a host family and experience life as the Canadians do—always with a flair of the European. Get involved in all types of activities, from clubs and sports, to music and drama groups at the local high school or within the community. Community life plays an important part in the everyday life of the Canadian. As do sports and recreation. From ice hockey to downhill skiing to windsurfing, there is something to satisfy every interest. Spend time with your new friends while exploring the many wonders Canada has to offer.

## English Speaking Canada

A fascinating mosaic of different cultures and natural diversity of landscapes. You can enjoy the cosmopolitan atmosphere of cities like Toronto, Calgary or Vancouver, or explore the wild, untamed nature of the wilderness areas. Imagine the breathtaking Canadian Rocky Mountains with world-class ski resorts, crystal clear lakes and rivers, or Toronto's CN Tower—one of the world's tallest free-standing structures.

Here you may experience the adventure of being a part of a new culture while still feeling secure within the bond of a common language. School and family life will be comfortable and more familiar in your new Canadian community.

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## French Speaking Canada

Learn French right here at home, in North America, while you discover Canada's largest province and savor the rich distinctive French Canadian culture. With a perfect blend of French and North American, Quebec earns its recognition as the "Europe of North America". Thanks to its rich Francophone heritage, you will experience arts, cuisine and culture that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. You will soon come to love the warmth and sophistication of the "Québécois" and your host family, no matter where in "la belle province" (the beautiful province) they live.

Spend your exchange year outside the lively city of Montreal, the second-largest French speaking city in the world after Paris, or in a

cottage of a quaint country village. Walk the cobbled streets of the only walled city on the continent, the old town of Quebec City, also considered the birthplace of North American history.

The province of Quebec is home to one of the most comprehensive educational systems in North America. While most schools teach in French, and English may be offered as a second language, ASSE students can also choose to attend an English speaking school while living with a bilingual family. No matter your choice, the culture is undeniably French.

With its beautiful landscapes and vibrant cities, Quebec is the perfect destination for students wishing to experience a truly unique culture. You will return home bilingual, speaking French like native "francophone" Canadians. So Europe, so close!







# Mexico

Spend a school year or semester in Mexico, a land of cordial hospitality with a strong sense of family, community and heritage. As an ASSE exchange student to Mexico, you may experience life in one of its traditional, colonial towns or quaint villages. While attending high school, you will soon make friends and get to know the warmth and generosity of the Mexican people. As you become proficient in Spanish, you will enjoy chatting with your ASSE host family over meals.

In addition to flavourful cuisine, Mexico is proud of its cultural dances which are an important link to the country's heritage. Youngsters learn such dances and perform on special occasions with pride. As a member of your host family, you too may celebrate local festivals with your host family in traditional costume.

The rich, Mexican culture encompasses both Spanish heritage and folklore as well as a history that stretches back many centuries to the Mayan and Aztec civilizations. Learn about the uniqueness

of each state, such as Oaxaca with its beautiful folk art. As you master Spanish, you will learn about Mexico City, the capital and historic home of North America's only king and queen! As an exchange student in Mexico, the learning opportunities are as numerous as the country is varied.

A year spent in this enchanting land and culture is sure to change your perspective on life, family and the world.

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# Argentina

The land of endless pampas, gauchos, rainforests with beautiful natural waterfalls, the Andean mountains, beautiful sandy beaches, but also the lively and sophisticated city of Buenos Aires, a metropolis style Europe: all this is Argentina.

If you like music, dancing, good food and the Latin culture, Argentina will give you an unforgettable experience of study and life. As family plays a central role in the social structure of Argentina, you may find the grandparents living with your host family and many other family members nearby; you will soon realize that the hospitality and the warmth of the people will remain with you forever. Chatting with them all over an extended lunch or dinner, on nice days perhaps over asado, the famous Argentinian barbeque, will become your favorite pastime.

The excellent school system will allow you to take interesting classes while you perfect your Spanish and perhaps join one or more sports team. All with ample space for getting together with your Argentine friends, in the central town square, at home or in the local café.

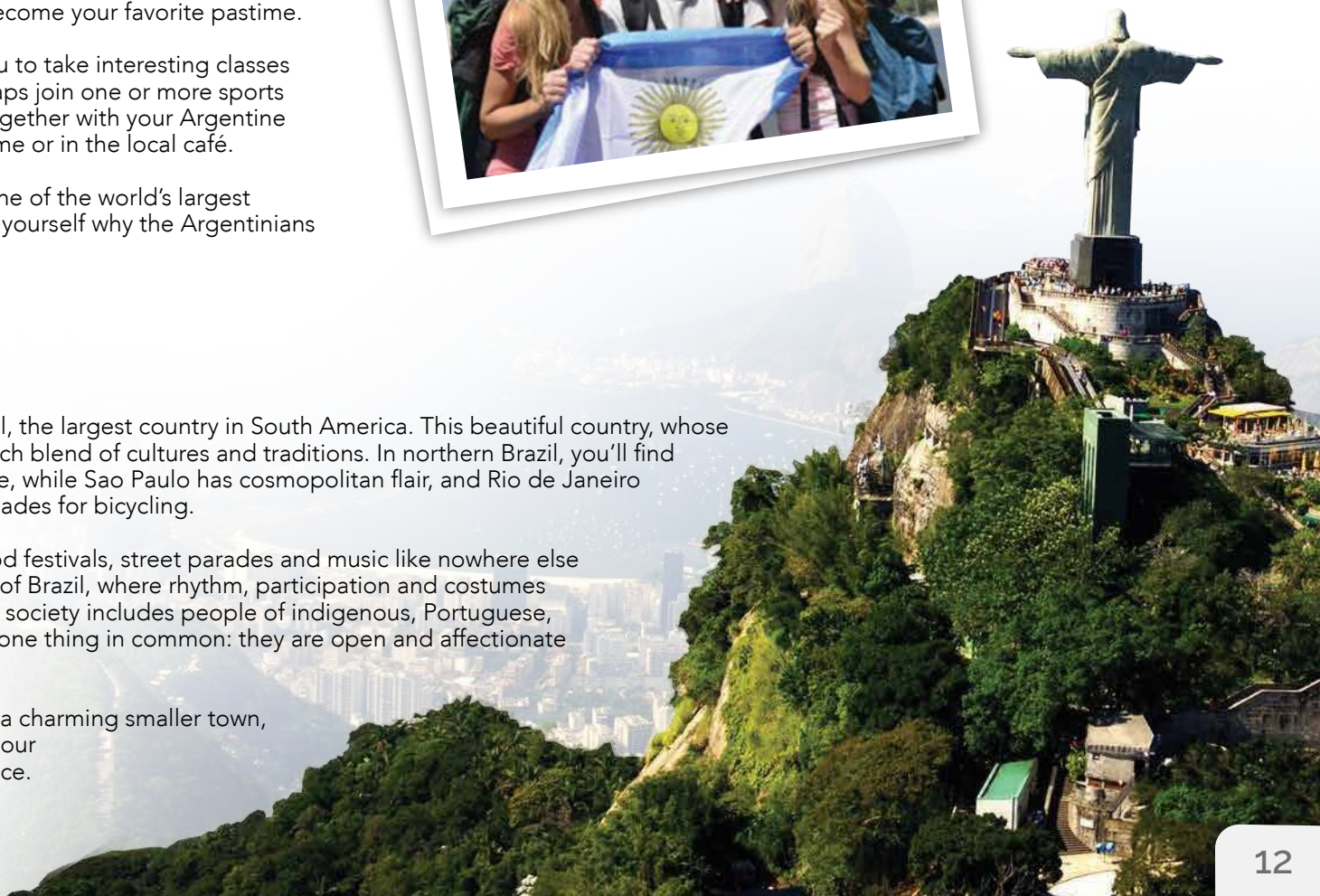
Study as an ASSE Exchange Student in one of the world's largest Spanish speaking countries and discover yourself why the Argentinians value tradition and hospitality so much.

# Brazil

Imagine a school year in captivating Brazil, the largest country in South America. This beautiful country, whose official language is Portuguese, offers a rich blend of cultures and traditions. In northern Brazil, you'll find smaller towns and a more rustic way of life, while Sao Paulo has cosmopolitan flair, and Rio de Janeiro offers relaxing beaches and wide promenades for bicycling.

Year round you will discover neighborhood festivals, street parades and music like nowhere else in the world. Most famous is the Carnival of Brazil, where rhythm, participation and costumes vary from one region to another. Brazilian society includes people of indigenous, Portuguese, European and African descents. All have one thing in common: they are open and affectionate and highly value meal times.

Wherever you live, from a modern city to a charming smaller town, the warmth and spirit of Brazil will make your exchange year an unforgettable experience.







# Japan

**This string of islands epitomizes a nation of dramatic contrasts.** Underneath the fast-paced bustle of Tokyo—one of the world's largest cities—are layers of history and unchanging tradition. While the Japanese find inspiration in the quiet beauty of a small, formal rock garden, Japan has secured its place as an economic and technological leader in global markets. Learning the language and culture will open up a world of future opportunities.

You may find that your host family lines the home with tatami, the traditional, fragrant and soft straw mats, or that your home is filled with many shoji, paper screens that soften the light in each room. You will enjoy special meals of fresh seafood such as sushi, and taste the many delicious meals based on

shun, or “food in season.” Celebrate holidays in the typical Japanese style with your family and friends. Your exchange year will be filled with the never-ending experience of discovering the rich culture of Japan, and your knowledge of the language and culture of this great country will give you a competitive advantage in whatever your future endeavours.

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# China

One in five people in the world today lives in China. It is a country whose history and civilization stretch back thousands of years, a country boasting regions as diverse as the country is grand. A large proportion of the population still lives in the countryside, mainly relying on traditional methods to cultivate tea, rice and cotton, but the number of city dwellers is steadily rising. Spending a year living with a Chinese family, mastering the intricacies of the language, and gaining enhanced sensitivity to the national culture, will help pave the way for a successful understanding of one of the world's oldest and most impressive civilizations.

By choosing to spend an ASSE exchange year in China, you are stepping into a new world. The language is totally different and the writing an art in itself. Say goodbye to knives and forks, as chopsticks become your means to sampling new and tasty Chinese dishes served in small bowls. Discover that even the daily chore of grocery shopping becomes an amazing adventure when small market stalls jam-packed with interesting wares replace large supermarkets, and where handlers haggle for the best prices. Attend a Chinese high school, and learn the importance of education in a country where only those who graduate have what it takes to compete in the expanding economy. Most importantly, experience life amongst a people who nurture close family relations, loyalty and a dependency on one another mostly unknown in the western world.







# South Korea

Why not venture to the tantalizing South Korea for your exchange year? Immersed in a rich culture and way of life so different from what you have ever experienced, you will live with a traditional Korean host family and learn about their values and their strong sense of duty and responsibility, while you become familiar with new unique foods. Depending on where your host family lives, you may spend your year in a high-rise apartment building or in the countryside in a traditional house, hanok, with paper doors and windows.

Koreans highly value education, and schooling is taken very seriously. Despite the intense studying, you and your newfound Korean friends will find time to have fun. Your school might offer clubs, ranging from

drama, radio broadcasting, filming, conversation in foreign languages, newspapers, astronomy, and cartoon animation, or you may find yourself singing karaoke in the singing room.

Characterized by some 3,000 islands, quiet unspoiled countryside, beautiful mountains and ultramodern cities, Korea is one of very few places in the world where hundreds of years old royal places sit harmoniously next to huge modern urban skyscrapers.

Imagine visiting traditional fishing villages or farmers, admiring the spectacular eruption of active volcanoes, exploring Buddhist temples and UNESCO designated sites or learning Taekwondo in a royal palace.

The unique things to see and do in Korea are endless, and a year spent here is sure to change your life.

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# Taiwan

When Portuguese sailors first set foot on the island of Taiwan in 1590 they christened it Ilha Formosa, the “Beautiful Island,” because of the lush, mountainous terrain they saw stretched out before them. Today, all across the island ancient temples punctuate the landscape, and serve as popular social centers as well as places of worship for the Taiwanese people. Although there are three main religions—Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism—they are all closely linked and share the same philosophy: aiming to live in harmony with nature by searching to strike a balance between the calm, feminine side of the body and mind (yin) and the active male side (yang).

As an ASSE exchange student in Taiwan you will have the unique opportunity of experiencing firsthand the amazing contrast created by the beauty and serenity of the Taiwanese countryside, and the hustle and bustle of the rapidly growing city of Taipei, which over the last 20 years has been transformed into the modern high-tech capital of the island. Spend an ASSE exchange year in a land of such fascinating polarity, learning the language and being immersed in the culture. Gain a priceless insight into a culture so vastly different from your own.

# Thailand

A gentle country with a spiritual calm, where every man must spend a year of his life as a Buddhist monk contemplating the meaning of life. In contrast, the glittering gold temples, colourful floating river markets and a fragrant tropical atmosphere fill Bangkok, Thailand’s capital city, with energy and activity.

As an ASSE exchange student, you can live life as the Thais do, learning the language and all about the fascinating Buddhist culture, and experiencing the warm hospitality for which Thais are known. The royal family still earns enormous respect, though people today balance religion, royalty, a modern political system, and a rapidly growing economy.

Live an exchange year in this country of peaceful dignity and modern progress, and you will have a special understanding of the complex country of Thailand.

# Mongolia

Home to the famous ruler, Genghis Khan, Mongolia is seen as the last true frontier for those who seek a path less traveled. An enchanting country filled with wonders reminiscent of Marco Polo’s trips to the Orient, Mongolia’s vast steppes are dotted with horses and yaks, long-haired cow-like animals found in the mountains of Asia. With yaks outnumbering cars, and almost half of its 2.5 million people still leading a somewhat nomadic life, Mongolia is the place to spend an ASSE exchange year if you are looking for something different.

As an ASSE exchange student to Mongolia, you may live in a “ger”, the traditional, round tent made of canvas and white felt which can be easily disassembled and transported. You’ll learn from your ASSE host family the importance that Buddhism still holds in this country filled with traditions of the past, but eagerly looking toward the future’s possibilities. During your ASSE exchange year, you may sip from a beautiful tea bowl or learn the favourite Mongolian sport of horseback riding. By spending your ASSE exchange year in this intriguing country, you will learn the fascinating culture and language of the Mongolian people.





# Australia

## Australia - You'll Be Welcomed With A Cheery "G'Day"

Your host family will speak a language that bears a striking resemblance to your own. It sounds a lot like the "Queen's English" would if Her Majesty spent more time teasing koalas or chasing around in the rugged Outback. You'll return speaking British English like an "Aussie."

Discover the wonders "down under" in Australia, an ancient island continent of contrasts. Its huge supermodern cities have the feel of London with San Francisco thrown in, yet with a lot of local colour. The tropical splendour of the Great Barrier Reef, the charm of koalas and kangaroos. Its good-natured, friendly people with close

families and adventurous spirit. Its world-famous Sydney Opera House, year-round warm sunshine on sparkling beaches, rugged "bush" adventures, and bustling cosmopolitan cities.

## New Zealand

### New Zealand - A Spectacular Island Nation

And then there's New Zealand...a paradise where natural beauty strikes your senses at every turn. It's like all of Europe rolled up into one country. Lush rolling hills where sheep graze peacefully. Beautiful beaches. Towering, snow-capped mountains, reminiscent of the Swiss Alps. Great fjords and glacial lakes. And, of course, major modern cities like Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington with their con-

tinental flavour. New Zealand is ideal for those who love nature and beauty, and who want to live among some of the warmest, friendliest, and most generous people on earth.

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# South Africa

## South Africa - A Country Of Gold

Let South Africa welcome you to a world in one country. South Africa has breathtaking scenery, incredible wildlife and a complete diversity of people. The peaceful transition to democracy was good news for all South Africans. The undergoing changes are setting new standards for sophisticated cities like Johannesburg, the capital of South Africa, also known as egoli-place of gold, along with simple villages. Together they make up the Rainbow Nation, where you should always expect the unexpected!

**Jackson,**  
1 year in Australia

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"International exchange is so much more than learning another language, it's a life-changing experience that has ever-lasting rewards."







# Summer Programs

If you're still undecided about making the commitment to spending a school year abroad, ASSE's Summer Homestay or European Summer Language programs offer the perfect solution.

You'll get a firsthand experience with another country's culture and way of life, and you'll be able to improve your foreign language skills dramatically! (In some countries we can place you in a family where English is spoken as a second language.)

You may choose from ASSE's long list of partner countries (see page 4) for a short-term exchange experience during the months of July and August.

## Summer Immersion – 6 Weeks

What better way to immerse yourself in a country's language and culture than by experiencing life as a member of a family? You don't just observe life in another country but actually live it just as a native does.

If you're just beginning to study a foreign language, or even if you haven't yet but want to, ASSE's Summer Homestay programs are ideal for you. You'll live with a volunteer host family and share in their daily summer activities. And in doing so, you'll discover the heart and soul of your chosen homestay country. Spending your days as a typical teenager might, you'll play sports, see films, get involved in your host family's activities, or perhaps join them during their summer holiday travels.



**Fiona,**  
Summer Immersion in Italy

"I truly feel now that Italy is my second home, and my host family a second family."



## European Summer Language Camps – 4 Weeks

Are you ready to live another culture and language instead of just learning through textbooks? If you think it's time for a new challenge and an unforgettable adventure, ASSE's 4-week European Summer Language programs in France, Spain or Germany may be the answer.

These specially-designed courses include structured language study with professional teachers and cultural excursions to surrounding areas of interest. You'll have group recreational activities with some extra time to explore your favourite parts of the local community and culture – the sports, shops, art, food or sunny weather. And all the while you'll live with a local family, giving you the perfect chance to practice the language and pick up on the customs.

The European Summer Language Program is ideal to provide you with an inside look into the world of France, Spain or Germany. You'll return with a world of new knowledge and experience.

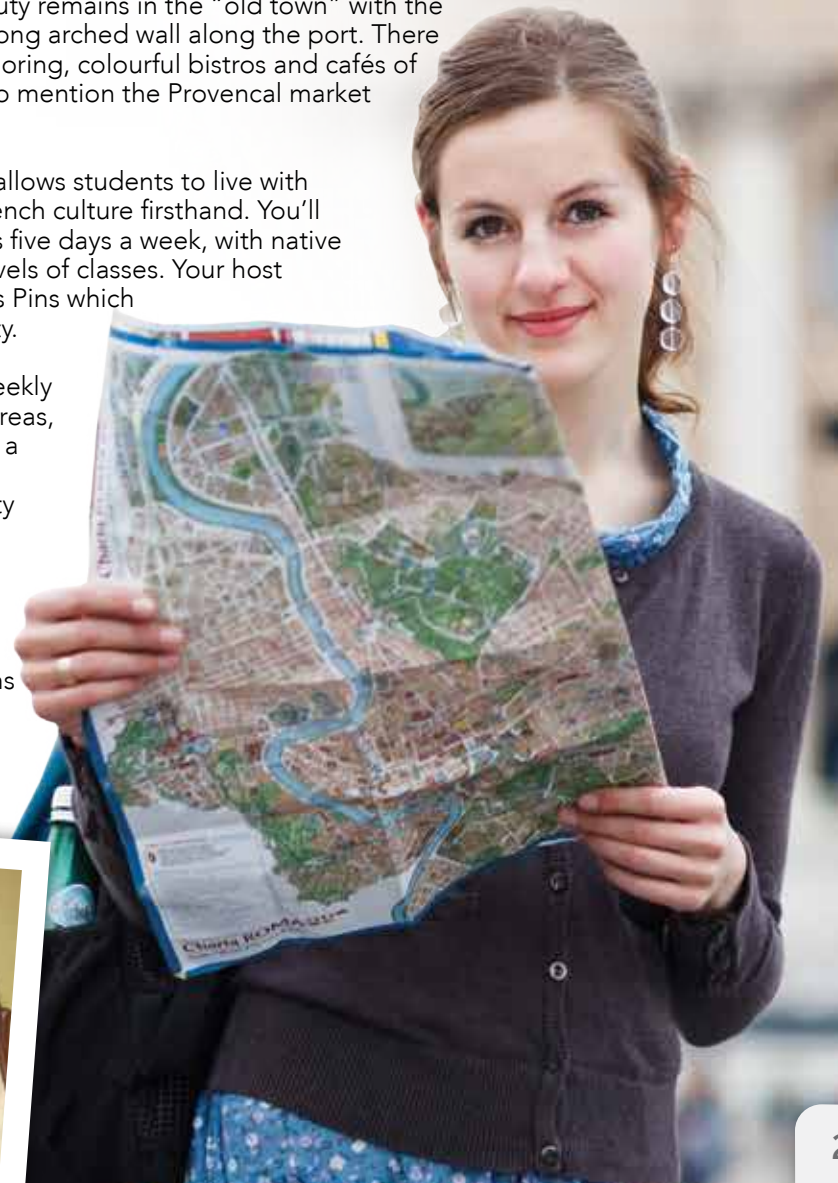


## Summer In Antibes – French Language Camp

Located on the Cote d'Azur close to Nice, Cannes, and Italy, Antibes was a Greek fortified town named Antipolis that later became a Roman town. Today, it's an attractive and active town, popular with French and international visitors. The natural beauty remains in the "old town" with the ramparts along the sea and the long arched wall along the port. There are plenty of little streets for exploring, colourful bistros and cafés of all types, and lots of shops, not to mention the Provençal market and the medieval castle.

The summer language program allows students to live with local families and learn about French culture firsthand. You'll attend morning language classes five days a week, with native French instructors teaching all levels of classes. Your host family will live in Antibes/Juan les Pins which together form a single community.

You'll see more of France with weekly organized tours to surrounding areas, the Lerins Islands or Aquasplash, a very popular sports amusement park. The school also offers plenty of outdoor afternoon activities like windsurfing, barbecues, and kayaking, if you don't choose to simply spend the afternoon on the lovely beaches. One of the highlights in Antibes/Juan les Pins is the annual International Jazz Festival held in July, just when you will be there!







## Summer In Berlin - German Language Camp

**As the capital of Germany, Berlin** is on the cutting edge of change and development. You'll cultivate your German language skills and, at the same time, live just outside of one of Europe's most exciting cities.

To complement the intensive language study weekday mornings, day excursions are organized in and around the city of Berlin. Stand at the Brandenburg Gate, where the Berlin Wall once divided the city in two, and explore the Checkpoint Charlie Museum. Visit Potsdam, a town boasting Frederick the Great's Palace of Sans Souci, as well as other rich historic castles and gardens. Tour the cultural heart of what

was East Germany—Leipzig—where the famous composer Johann Sebastian Bach once lived. Explore the beautiful countryside and farming communities of Brandenburg in its antiquated style. Berlin and its surrounding regions have much to teach about Germany's turbulent history. Each day will be filled with discoveries that go beyond what you've ever learned in school.

### Summer On The Costa Del Sol - Spanish Language Camp

Translated into English, "Coast of the Sun" is the ideal description for this warm, sunny region of Spain. Not only is the program located right on the Mediterranean Sea, but it is also within two hours of Spain's most exceptional Andalusian cities.

Spanish language lessons are taught every weekday morning by certified teachers with experience teaching Spanish to international

students. To ensure the coursework fits each student's language level, students are tested upon arrival and placed in one of four groups—from beginning to advanced. To enhance the language learning of the classroom setting, many group activities and cultural excursions to nearby cities are planned.

Feel the presence of the Moorish culture at Granada's world-famous Alhambra Palace, shop in Marbella's exclusive boutiques, sightsee in the beautiful resort city of Malaga, and visit Spain's oldest Plaza de Toros (bullfighting ring) in Ronda. There's so much to discover in Spain, you'll be learning at every moment, inside the classroom or out on the town.

**Jacob**, summer in Germany

"Learning a second language is like discovering another part of yourself."

SUMMER PROGRAMS



# Hosting an ASSE Exchange Student

Whether or not you decide to spend a year, a semester or a summer abroad, your family may be interested in hosting a foreign exchange student from one of many exciting countries — Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Finland, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, Estonia, Turkey, Serbia, Lithuania, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kuwait, Yemen, Lebanon, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Mali, Qatar, Senegal, Suriname, Oman, Russia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, South Africa, USA, Canada (English and French), Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, Thailand, China, Mongolia, Taiwan, Hong Kong, South Korea, Vietnam, Australia, and New Zealand.

By opening up your home for just a year, a semester or quarter, your family will be giving an exceptional young person from another country the opportunity of a lifetime —to live with a family and experience the language, customs and culture of your country. In return, your exchange student will bring a bit of his or her homeland into your lives and offer your entire family a world of enlightening experiences and cultural adventure.



## Sauerborn Family, Seattle, WA

"We shared so many laughs the year Lorenzo was with us, and we loved watching our children bond with him."





# Why ASSE?

As one of the oldest and largest international student exchange organizations, ASSE is able to offer the most comprehensive programs with the lowest possible fees.

## No Foreign Language Requirement

You're not required to know the language of your host country, although it is certainly helpful. ASSE programs provide language assistance such as preliminary language/culture programs or tutoring during the initial weeks of the program.

## You Choose Your Country

ASSE is able to offer over 95% of its students their first choice in host country. And you aren't required to accept assignment to a country you haven't requested.

## ASSE's Fees Are The Lowest and All Inclusive

ASSE subsidizes all of its programs abroad, essentially offering partial scholarships to all students. Hence, ASSE can include program components for which other programs charge extra fees or "add-ons." ASSE fees include: international and host country domestic transportation, Language and Cultural Enrichment Program (non-English speaking countries), comprehensive insurance (including full medical, travel, accidental death and personal liability coverage), program orientation and much more.

## APPLICATION TIPS

The sooner you apply, the better your chances for acceptance in the program of your choice. A limited number of ASSE scholarships are available based upon financial need and academic merit. An academic year, semester

or a short-term program abroad will be the most challenging experience of your life. But if you're ready to face the unknown, the excitement, adventure and rewards of an exchange experience abroad can be yours, too!

For your convenience ASSE accepts credit cards. You may pay your program fees (deposit and final payment) by Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

## 10% High School Year Program Early Application Discount

If you are applying to spend a high school year as an exchange student and you submit your Preliminary Application and Fee, fully completed Application Packet and full Program Fee by:

- 15 Dec. | Programs starting July / Aug / Sept
- 15 May | Programs starting January through May

you will receive a 10% reduction in the Program Fee (excluding the Preliminary Application Fee) for applying early.

WHY ASSE?



## FEES & TERMS 2026-2027 Program

(Priced and payable in USD)

**ALL INCLUSIVE.**  
Fee includes language/culture-  
instruction, comprehensive insurance,  
pre-departure orientation, etc.

### Preliminary Application Fee: (Non-refundable and exclusive of Program Fee)

All candidates for acceptance in the ASSE Exchange Program must complete the attached Preliminary Application form (or you can apply on-line) in full and submit it with a \$350 cheque for processing to ASSE. This fee is only refundable if you are not accepted into the ASSE program. Consideration for acceptance and country of preference will be based upon your qualifications and the date of receipt of this application.

### Program Fee – School Year or Semester

#### August/September 2026 Departure

<b>Italy, Argentina, Czech Republic, Estonia, Thailand, Slovakia, Romania, Moldova</b>	
School Year	\$9,500
Semester	\$8,900
<b>France, Germany, Denmark, Spain, Finland, China (School Year only), Taiwan, Turkey</b>	
School Year	\$11,500
Semester	\$10,900
<b>Australia (Depart July), Japan (School Year only), Netherlands, South Korea (Semester only), South Africa</b>	
School Year	\$16,500
Semester	\$15,900
<b>Mexico</b>	\$8,400
<b>English Canada, French Canada</b>	\$14,630

#### Spring 2027 Departure

<b>Italy (depart January), Thailand (Depart May/June), Argentina (Depart January)</b>	
Semester	\$8,900
<b>France, Denmark, Spain (All depart January)</b>	
Semester	\$10,900
<b>Australia (Depart January), Japan (Depart February/March)</b>	
School Year	\$16,500
<b>Australia (Depart January), South Korea (Depart February), South Africa (Depart January)</b>	
Semester	\$15,900

### Summer Immersion – 6 weeks

#### July 2026 Departure

<b>Italy, Spain, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Czech Republic, Argentina, Slovakia, Romania, Turkey</b>	
	\$9,600
<b>Mexico</b>	\$7,500
<b>France, Germany, South Korea, China</b>	
	\$10,200
<b>Thailand, Taiwan, Mongolia</b>	
	\$9,800

### Summer Language Camp – 4 weeks

#### July 2026 Departure

<b>Spain</b>	\$7,500
<b>France</b>	\$8,350
<b>Germany</b>	\$9,500

**Program fees include:** Round trip international airfare from New York to Europe and South Africa, from Miami to Brazil and Argentina, from Los Angeles to Asia/Pacific. Summer and Year programs between USA, Canada, and Mexico exclude airfare. Fees also include comprehensive health, accidental death and travel insurance, host family recruitment and screening, non-English speaking country language training (School Year and Semester Programs only), and orientation.

**Program fees exclude:** domestic travel from home to international gateway city (special "youth fares" available upon request), passport and visa fees, school uniforms (if required), educational/recreational overnight field trips, school lunch money (if necessary), and pocket money.

① Program fees subject to change due to major exchange rate or airfare fluctuations.

② Due to variances in host country school start and end dates, program group departures, compatibility with home country and host country school terms, availability of suitable volunteer host families, etc., School Year Program may start before or after host country school start dates and may finish before or after host country school end dates.

③ Program fee excludes airfare.

## PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

If you are interested in being considered to become an ASSE High School Exchange Student, please complete this Preliminary Application form and return it to ASSE with a cheque in the amount of \$350. You can also get started faster by completing your pre-application directly on our website!



### PROGRAM TYPE:

School Year

☐

Semester

☐

### DEPARTING:

month ..... year .....

Summer Language Camp

☐

Summer Immersion

☐

month ..... year .....

ASSE Representative (if any): .....

Full Name: ..... Sex: M ☐ F ☐

Address: .....

Email: .....

Home Phone: ( ..... ) ..... Cell: ( ..... ) .....

Birthdate: .....  
DAY MO YR

Family: Mother's Name .....

Father's Name .....

Do you smoke? ..... What is your current high school year? .....

Current grade average? ..... Last year's grade average? .....

Have you ever studied a foreign language? If yes, which language(s) and how many years each?

.....

.....

.....

Do you have health problems or disabilities to be considered? If yes, please explain:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

If you have a preference of countries please indicate below:

#### Europe:

France ☐  
Germany ☐  
Spain ☐  
Italy ☐  
Denmark ☐  
Finland ☐  
Czech Republic ☐

#### Netherlands

Slovakia ☐  
Estonia ☐  
Moldova ☐  
Turkey ☐  
Romania ☐

#### Americas:

USA ☐  
Canada (Eng) ☐  
Canada (Fr) ☐  
Mexico ☐  
Brazil ☐  
Argentina ☐

#### Africa:

South Africa ☐  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
China ☐

#### Asia/Pacific:

Japan ☐  
Thailand ☐  
China ☐

Mongolia ☐  
Taiwan ☐  
South Korea ☐  
Australia ☐



Name of High School: .....

Address: .....

City: ..... State/Province: ..... Zip/Postal Code: .....

Name of teacher/counselor ( if any ) who told you about ASSE: .....

What are your favourite high school subjects? .....

.....

Are you active in sports? ..... Which sports?.....

.....

.....

Which (if any) foreign countries have you visited? .....

.....

.....

What are your favourite hobbies, interests, etc.?.....

.....

.....

.....

In a few words, why do you wish to become an ASSE Exchange Student? .....

.....

.....

.....

How did you first learn about the ASSE Student Exchange Programs? .....

.....

.....

Please attest to the factual accuracy of the above information by signing below:

Applicant Signature .....

Date

Signature of Father/Legal Guardian .....

Date

Signature of Mother/Legal Guardian .....

Date

**Financial Scholarships** (School Year Program Only): A limited number of scholarships are available to students demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship, please check the following box: ☐



## FEE SCHEDULE (US\$)

### Preliminary Application and Fee

All Programs	\$350
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Submitted as soon as possible. This Preliminary Application Fee is non-refundable.

### Final Application Packet and Program Fee Deposit

Summer Programs	\$950
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School Year and Semester	\$2,000
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#### Submitted Prior to

March 01 School Year and Semester Program to Australia (July Departure)

April 01 ❶ School Year and Semester Programs departing in August or September, Summer Immersion Programs, and Summer Language Camps

Sep. 15 ❷ School Year and Semester Programs departing in January, February, March or May

### Final Payment of Program Fees ❸

All Programs	Program Fees minus Deposit
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#### Submitted Prior to

May 01 School Year and Semester Programs to Australia (July departure), Summer Immersion Programs and Summer Language Camps

June 01 School Year and Semester Programs departing in August or September

Nov. 01 School Year and Semester Programs departing in January

Dec. 10 School Year and Semester Programs departing in February, March or May/June

## Refund Policy

- Preliminary application fee refundable if applicant is not accepted by ASSE.
- Program fee deposit refundable if applicant is not accepted by ASSE or not granted ASSE scholarship.
- Program fee deposit less \$750, any airline fees and host country cancellation fees, refundable if ASSE receives cancellation in writing at least 90 days prior to departure.
- Program fees less deposit, airline fees and host country cancellation fees refundable if ASSE receives written cancellation within 60 days of departure date.
- No refunds subsequent to departure for program.
- \$350 change fee, plus any airline imposed penalties/fees, for any exchange student not returning home on the international flight with his/her group.

10% reduction in Program Fees (excluding Preliminary Application Fee) for early school year program application. Please see page 21 for details.

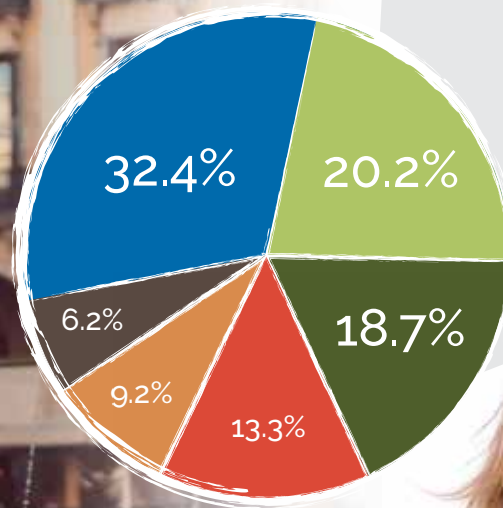
10% reduction in Program Fees if your family is hosting an ASSE/WH Exchange Student the same program year.

Discounts are not cumulative.

❶ Scholarship Applications due by February 15. (School Year Program Only)

❷ Final Program fee payment by cashier's cheque, money order, bank transfer or credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express).

## ASSE Student Program Cost Allocation



- Host country administration & support
- ASSE home country administration & support
- ASSE subsidy for each exchange student abroad
- Airfare/Transportation (where applicable)
- Student recruitment, screening, preparation and materials
- Medical, Travel & Accident Insurance

Simply fill out and return this coupon to the ASSE Representative or send it to the ASSE office listed on the back cover.

### I would like to be contacted on:

- ☐ How to become a high school exchange student abroad.
- ☐ How to become a host family for an international exchange student.

Name: .....

Address: ..... City: .....

State/Province: ..... Zip/Postal Code: .....

Home Phone: ( ..... ) ..... Cell Phone: ( ..... ) .....

Email: ..... Best time to call: .....

### I would like to refer a friend! Please send information on program to:

Name: .....

Address: ..... City: .....

State/Province: ..... Zip/Postal Code: .....

Home Phone: ( ..... ) ..... Cell Phone: ( ..... ) .....

Email: .....





## FOR MORE INFORMATION

contact one of the following ASSE  
or World Heritage U.S.A. offices:

ASSE

### EASTERN OFFICE

225 N. Washington St, 3rd floor  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Telephone: (703) 518-5022

**Toll Free: (800) 677-2773**

Fax: (703) 518-5033

Email: [asseusaeast@asse.com](mailto:asseusaeast@asse.com)

### MIDWESTERN OFFICE

307 Manitoba Ave, Ste 3

Wayzata, MN 55391

Telephone: (952) 473-4373

**Toll Free: (800) 736-1760**

Fax: (952) 476-7612

Email: [asseusamidwest@asse.com](mailto:asseusamidwest@asse.com)

### WESTERN OFFICE

312 Broadway St, Ste 204

Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Telephone: (720) 452-1522

**Toll Free: (800) 733-2773**

Fax: (206) 458-6045

Email: [asseusawest@asse.com](mailto:asseusawest@asse.com)

[www.asse.com](http://www.asse.com)



### WORLD HERITAGE

1516 Village Harbor Drive, Ste 212

Clover, SC 29710

Telephone: (949) 342-1777

**Toll Free: (800) 888-9040**

Fax: (323) 544-8193

Email: [info@world-heritage.org](mailto:info@world-heritage.org)

[www.world-heritage.org](http://www.world-heritage.org)



Representative:



WYSE TRAVEL  
CONFEDERATION  
FULL MEMBER