

# The American Foreign Scholar (AFS)

## Why the AFS Exchange Program:

- More immersion into more cultures
- Experience with international exchange since 1919
- More than 30,000 active volunteers in over 50 countries
- Program support with risk management
- More than 350,000 program alumni

## What Programs does AFS Offer:

**The School Program** – is for one academic year, semester or trimester and begins in July/ August/ September or January/ February/ March depending on the country. AFS students live with a host family and attend a local secondary school as full-time students. AFS offers these exchanges in more than 50 countries across the globe.

**Summer or Intensive Programs** – are for one to three months. These programs focus on homestays, language skills, community service or cultural activities. Participants mostly live with host families, participate in educational activities and enjoy their new communities. To find out more about programs you may be interested in, including the price and any scholarship possibilities, please [contact the AFS office in your home country](#) or check the website of AFS in your country.

## How Do I Participate:

- First you and your family **MUST** be willing to host a student from another country at the same time that you travel!!!
- Call the local AFS office and start the registration process. You should start the process about a year in advance of the date you'd like to travel abroad.
- You must travel before you are 18 years of age
- You must have at least a 70% overall average in your classes and must provide a transcript with grades of the last 3 years of classes
- You will need to take a personality test
- Additionally you will need a letter of good conduct, a letter stating you need no dental work or work on your eyes, and a letter indicating good health.

### **Can I Go To Any Country:**

- Students are sent to hosting countries in January & February to the countries in the southern hemisphere and August & September for countries in the northern hemisphere
- There are some countries in the northern hemisphere where students can go in January & February such as Germany, Switzerland, U.S.A, and some others
- Students must select their 3 top countries they would like to go to. You will not always receive your top choice but AFS tries to put you in the country of your choice. If you do not receive your top choice they will look for openings in your second choice, and then to your third choice.

### **What Does AFS Cost:**

- Costs depend if you go for a semester, or for a year, and also depend on which country you choose. Please look at the Program Costs Chart for 2008 to see current prices by country.
- Costs cover your round trip ticket and taxes included with the ticket, medical insurance, lodging with a family, meals, school costs, visa, and transport to and from school if necessary and depending on country.
- Language classes are offered for some countries, and you will also be given a 3 to 4 day orientation program upon arrival.



### **COMITÉ SANTA CRUZ**

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**\*\*\*SEE COSTS & TESTIMONIES BELOW\*\*\***

# AFS Program Costs

## COSTOS PROGRAMAS ENVIO 2008

PROGRAMAS	TOTAL + VISA 2008
PROGRAMA ANUAL	
AUSTRALIA	7800
ESTADOS UNIDOS	7150
NUEVA ZELANDA	7440
JAPON	7100
ALEMANIA	5820
BELGICA FLAMENCA	5760
BELGICA FRANCESA	5960
CANADA	7300
FRANCIA	5920
FINLANDIA	6020
ITALIA	5650
NORUEGA	5890
HOLANDA	6900
GRAN BRETAÑA	6260
SUECIA	5960
SUIZA	5830
INDONESIA	6900
FILIPINAS	6700
CHINA	6800
HUNGRÍA	5930
ISLANDIA	6900
MALASIA	6600
SUDÁFRICA	6400
TURKIA	5700
TAILANDIA	6800
EGIPTO	5800
RUSIA	6300
DINAMARCA	5740
REPUBLICA CHECA	5980
PORTUGAL	5780
PROGRAMA SEMESTRAL	
AUSTRALIA SEMESTRAL	6990
AUSTRALIA OZMESTER	6990
ESTADOS UNIDOS	5950
NUEVA ZELANDA	6540
GRAN BRETAÑA	5360
ALEMANIA	5020
BELGICA FLAMENCA	4860
BELGICA FRANCESA	5060
FRANCIA	5020

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# Testimonies of past AFS Students

“My most important learning experiences were when I was with my AFS friends, Thai friends, and the many other friends I made thanks to my stay in Thailand. I learned how to relate to other people better and to try to understand other’s culture better. I learned that the world is much bigger than I once believed and that the actions of one person can affect the lives of other, despite how far away. I learned that cultural biases and ignorance of the culture of others can lead to events that can negatively affect the lives of many and that each of us should strive to understand and accept each others differences.”

**AFS Student, USA to Thailand, 2002**

“(I got) One large backpack full of memories and experiences that I don’t think I would have achieved anywhere else.”

**AFS Student, Norway to USA, 2005**

“Being a country of passage of the Mediterranean Sea, it has been influenced by all the populations that have transited through this land. In response to this culture that tries its best to adapt to the new society that is much more materialistic and pragmatic, exists for me a world of mysteries and, sometimes, of contradictions, that I want to discover and understand day by day. The AFS experience gives me the possibility, thanks to the Institute and the family, to introduce myself directly in the Tunisian way of life and I think that this is the only way to really know and understand another culture.”

**Marta Amoros, Spain to Tunisia, 2003**