Directory of
U.S. State Department Cultural Exchange and Educational Opportunities

Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support (OPATS)
April 2019
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Section I: Introduction

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) supports the development of peaceful relations between the people of the United States and the people of other countries through educational, cultural, and professional exchanges and presenting U.S. history, society, art, and culture in all of its diversity to overseas audiences. ECA works in countries around the world in cooperation with the Public Affairs Sections of U.S. Embassies.

As the preeminent international service organization of the United States, the Peace Corps sends Americans abroad to tackle the most pressing needs of people around the world. Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) work at the grassroots level toward sustainable change that lives on long after their service—at the same time becoming global citizens and serving their country. When they return home, Volunteers bring their knowledge and experiences—and a global outlook—that enriches the lives of those around them.

Together, ECA and the Peace Corps have compiled this resource guide that outlines international exchange and scholarship opportunities for a variety of audiences, including Peace Corps Volunteers and community members, students, and counterparts in the communities they serve, Peace Corps post staff, and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs). For more information on the exchange programs in each Peace Corps country, please review the associated program website or exchanges.state.gov.

Who Should Use This Guide

1. Peace Corps Volunteers
Volunteers can promote ECA programs among youth, counterparts, and community members and:

- Identify young leaders, students, teachers, and professionals in the communities where Volunteers serve as candidates for ECA exchange programs.
- Assist students, teachers, and community members to apply for exchange programs or to pursue U.S. higher education study opportunities.
- Invite ECA exchange participants or alumni to classrooms as teaching resources, or collaborate on community development and service projects.
- Collaborate with Embassy English language programs and access English teaching materials and resources at americanenglish.state.gov.
- Work with American Spaces as a platform for programs and information resources.
2. Peace Corps Post Staff

Peace Corps post staff can contact the Public Affairs Section at the Embassy and:

- Invite the Public Affairs Section to brief Peace Corps Volunteers on ECA opportunities during training sessions and other Volunteer events.
- Determine if there are programmatic synergies and opportunities for Volunteers to get involved with ECA programs.
- Learn about available resources, such as American Spaces and English language materials and programs.

3. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs)

RPCVs can explore post-Peace Corps opportunities such as:

- Exchange opportunities such as English Language Fellows, Fulbright English Teaching Assistants, and Critical Language Scholarships.
- Employment and internships with the U.S. State Department (careers.state.gov).
- Host an ECA-sponsored international high school exchange student in your home or school (hosting.state.gov). Help make American high school students aware of ECA-sponsored study abroad scholarships (exchanges.state.gov).

How to Use This Guide

This guide provides a list of U.S. Department of State exchange and educational opportunities available in each Peace Corps country. Readers can identify exchange programs by country in Section II, and then learn about the programs in more detail in Section III. Note that program locations are subject to change.

For more information about country-specific criteria and opportunities, Volunteers should contact their director of programming and training (DPT) to liaise with their local embassy’s Public Affairs Office. The opportunities are free. Volunteers should not receive any compensation for assisting youth to identify or apply for them, and should not contact the Embassy directly.

Contact Information

Peace Corps post staff should contact the Public Affairs Section at the U.S. Embassy for more information. Peace Corps Volunteers should contact their Director of Programming and Training for more information and should not reach out directly to the Embassy.
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- Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES)
- Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Camp
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- Youth Leadership Program

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Section III. Descriptions of Exchange & Educational Opportunities

Opportunities for Host Country Citizens

The following international exchange opportunities are open to both non-U.S. Citizens and U.S. citizens. Currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers may be interested in making youth and community members they work with aware of these international exchange and educational opportunities, and if they are interested, support them in the application process.

**American Spaces**
More than 700 American Spaces are hosted in embassies, schools, libraries, and other partner institutions worldwide to offer access to a rich and diverse range of information resources, educational advising, and English language and cultural programs. PCVs are invited to draw on American Spaces as a place for programs and resources. For more information visit [http://www.state.gov/r/iip/amerspaces/](http://www.state.gov/r/iip/amerspaces/) or for a list of Spaces and programming ideas, contact AmericanSpaces@state.gov.

**EducationUSA**
The EducationUSA network of more than 400 advising centers worldwide provides students with accurate, comprehensive, and current information on U.S. higher education study opportunities. PCVs make excellent EducationUSA Ambassadors to inform students generally about the U.S. higher education system and connect them to EducationUSA advising centers for further support. They can also provide mentorship support for non-elite EducationUSA Opportunity Fund recipients to prepare for the application and admissions process. For more information visit [https://educationusa.state.gov/](https://educationusa.state.gov/).
**Fulbright**
The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program active in more than 160 countries for U.S. and non-U.S. citizens and is designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Program provides grants for U.S. citizens to conduct research, study, and/or teach abroad and for foreign citizens to conduct research, study, and/or teach at institutions in the United States. Visit [http://eca.state.gov/fulbright](http://eca.state.gov/fulbright) for additional information about the programs by country and region.

**Target Audience:**
Graduate and/or post-graduate students, scholars, teachers, artists, scientists, and professionals.

**Ages:**
Varies by Fulbright program

**Gender:**
Open to all

**Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) Program**
FLEX provides competitive, merit-based scholarships to approximately 800 international high school students each year to study in the United States. Students live with host families, attend local high schools, perform community service, and develop leadership skills. Visit [http://discoverflex.org/](http://discoverflex.org/) for more information.

**Target Audience:**
Non-U.S. high school students from Europe, the Caucasus, and central Asia

**Ages:**
15–18

**Gender:**
Open to all

**International Leaders in Education Program (ILEP)**
ILEP brings secondary school teachers from around the world to U.S. universities for a semester to develop their teaching skills, increase their subject-matter expertise, receive training in using technology in instruction, and pursue coursework and practical teaching experiences in American schools.

**Target Audience:**
Secondary school teachers of English, math, science, and social studies from select countries with a minimum of five years of experience.

**Ages:**
Open to all

**Gender:**
Open to all

**International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)**
IVLP is the U.S. Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. Through short-term visits to the United States, current and emerging foreign leaders in a variety of fields experience this country firsthand and cultivate lasting relationships with their American counterparts. There is no application for IVLP; participants from around the world are nominated by the Public Affairs Section staff at U.S. Embassies based on recommendations by members of the Mission IVLP selection committee. More information can be found at [http://www.iie.org/programs/IVLP](http://www.iie.org/programs/IVLP).

**Target Audience:**
Non-U.S. current and emerging professionals with influence in their communities and with little or no previous travel to the U.S.

**Ages:**
Open to all

**Gender:**
Open to all
**Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program**
The YES Program awards competitive, merit-based scholarships to nearly 900 international high school students each year to study in the United States. Students live with host families, attend local high schools, perform community service, and develop the skills necessary to be leaders in the global community. Visit [http://yesprograms.org/](http://yesprograms.org/) to view country-specific application guidelines and requirements.

**Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders**
The Mandela Washington Fellowship, which began in 2014 as the flagship exchange program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative, brings 500 or more leaders to the United States each summer for academic coursework and leadership training on the topics of business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management. The Fellowship also includes a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C., with President Obama and internships for some participants. For more information, visit [http://yali.state.gov](http://yali.state.gov).

**Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) Camp**
MOOC Camps are facilitated discussions around online courses (MOOCs) hosted at U.S. Embassies, Consulates, American Spaces, and other public spaces around the world. Facilitated discussions are led by alumni of U.S. government programs (such as the Fulbright Program), U.S. Embassy staff, and others who are familiar with the course materials. U.S. Embassies in more than 40 countries are currently participating, in subjects ranging from entrepreneurship and college writing to science and technology. Where technology permits, PCVs could serve as facilitators for discussions in coordination with the Embassy.

**Target Audience:** Non-U.S. high school students from countries with significant Muslim populations.

**Ages:** 15–18

**Gender:** Open to all

**Target Audience:** Non-U.S. sub-Saharan African leaders who have accomplishments in promoting innovation and positive change in their organizations, institutions, communities, and countries.

**Ages:** 25–35

**Gender:** Open to all

**Target Audience:** Non-U.S. citizens interested in gaining new skills and learning more about higher education in the U.S.

**Ages:** Open to all

**Gender:** Open to all
SportsUnited
Devoted to engaging non-elite youth at the grassroots level, SportsUnited uses sports to help youth around the world develop important leadership skills, achieve academic success, and build mutual understanding with people from different countries. Opportunities for involvement of PCVs include nominating participants for visitor and envoy programs. SportsUnited can also help support and make connections for PCV community-based sports programs. For questions, email sportsunited@state.gov.

Study of the U.S. Institutes
Study of the U.S. Institutes (SUSI) for scholars and/or students are short-term academic programs for groups of undergraduate leaders, educators, and scholars from around the world. Hosted by academic institutions throughout the United States, these five- to six-week Institutes include an intensive academic residency and an integrated educational study tour. Nominations are through U.S. Embassies. For more information, visit http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/study-us-institutes

Teaching Excellence and Achievement Program (TEA)
The TEA Program brings international secondary school teachers of math, science, English and social studies to the U.S. for six-week institutes at university schools of education to further develop their subject area expertise and enhance teaching skills, including seminars on using technology in teaching. More information can be found at https://www.irex.org/projects/teaching-excellence-and-achievement-program-tea

Youth Leadership Programs
These three- to four-week exchanges bring together high school students and adult mentors from 130 countries worldwide to promote civic participation, increase leadership skills, and prepare youth to make a difference in their communities. This program model includes Youth Ambassadors (Western hemisphere), Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institutes (Europe), and TechGirls (North Africa/Middle East).

Target Audience: Non-U.S. underserved youth and youth influencers.
Ages: Open to all
Gender: Open to all

Target Audience: Non-U.S. undergraduates, high school teachers, and university professors from any country.
Ages: Open to all
Gender: Open to all

Target Audience: Non-U.S. secondary school teachers of English, math, science, and social studies from select countries with minimum of five years of experience.
Ages: Open to all
Gender: Open to all

Target Audience: Non-U.S. high school students and educators. Adult participants may be teachers, trainers, school administrators, and/or community leaders who work with youth.
Ages: Students 15–18
Gender: Open to all
English Language Programs

English Access Microscholarship Program

The English Access Microscholarship Program (Access) is a global scholarship program supported by the U.S. Department of State that provides a foundation of English language skills to talented 13-20 year-olds from economically disadvantaged backgrounds through after-school classes and intensive sessions. Access students also gain an appreciation for U.S. culture and democratic values through enhancement activities. Access seeks to equip selected students with strong English language skills that can lead to better jobs, educational opportunities, and gain the ability to participate in and compete for future exchanges and study in the United States. Access students are encouraged to interact with native speakers when possible. PCVs can visit to Access classes or assist with fun camp activities during the intensive sessions.

Target Audience: Non-U.S. youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds

Ages: 13-20 years old

English Language Fellows

The English Language Fellow Program sends highly qualified U.S. English as a Foreign Language (TESOL) educators on 10-month exchanges to work at academic institutions around the world. Through projects developed by U.S. Embassies with strategic partners in-country, Fellows work directly with local teachers, students, and education professionals. Fellows have primary duties that usually involve direct teaching and secondary duties that involve teacher training, cultural programming at American Corners and Access programs, etc. but each project is extremely unique. Fellows must have a Master’s degree in TESOL or related field and some teaching experience. We often have a wide range of accepted applicants from relatively new teachers with Master’s degrees to highly qualified TESOL experts with Ph.Ds.

Target Audience: U.S. citizens

Ages: Open to all

English Language Specialists

The English Language Specialist Program sends experts in the field of TESOL on short-term assignments to participate in high-level projects developed by U.S. Embassies. EL Specialist projects range from 2 weeks to 5 months and projects often include curriculum development, conference presentations, program evaluation, and teacher training. EL Specialists are required to have a high-level of experience and expertise.

Target Audience: U.S. citizens

Ages: Open to all
E-Teacher Program

The E-Teacher Scholarship Program offers non-U.S. English teaching professionals the opportunity to take one of nine innovative, online university-level classes, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), webinars, a thriving Community of Practice, and an open educational resource library. The program aims to introduce and explore current methodological concepts and issues in the English as a Foreign Language field, provide an innovative distance-learning experience that uses the latest technology, and connect participants with U.S. English language teaching experts and creates a professional network of international colleagues. More information can be found here: http://exchanges.state.gov/non-us/program/e-teacher-scholarship-program

Target Audience: U.S. citizens

Ages: Open to all

American English Website

The American English website is a robust resource for American English teaching materials. Here, teachers can find resources for professional teacher development, lesson planning, and classroom use, as well as nearly 15 years of English Teaching Forum, a professional journal for teachers by teachers. In addition, the website includes a Teacher's Corner, where new material is added each week, including practical classroom activities, information on new technology to use in the classroom, and ways to build professional networks. The website also features resources on American culture, including lesson plans centered on U.S. holidays, classic readers such as The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, and traditional American songs.

Target Audience: U.S. and non-U.S. teachers

Ages: Open to all

English Teaching Forum

English Teaching Forum, a quarterly journal published by ECA's Office of English Language Programs, supports the teaching of English around the world through the exchange of innovative, practical ideas. ECA supplies Peace Corps with copies of Forum for all TEFL volunteers, who benefit from Forum’s articles and easy-to-use language teaching activities. PCVs who teach English as a secondary project might seek additional copies of Forum from PAS or American Spaces, while PCVs with Internet connectivity can download Forum articles and activities from the online version at www.americanenglish.state.gov/english-teaching-forum. Any TEFL PCV who has developed a successful classroom activity is encouraged to write a Teaching Technique article and submit it to Forum for possible publication; submission guidelines are posted at www.americanenglish.state.gov/submission-guidelines.

Target Audience: English teachers
**Ages:** Open to all

**MOOCs**

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are free online courses for adults with often thousands of participants. The Office of English Language Programs’ *College Writing 2x* is a free MOOC for learners who want to improve their skills in academic English. The course, which can be found at www.edx.org, covers topics such as essay writing, editing, and style, and is offered twice each year. English for Specific Purposes, which will launch in Spring 2016 on www.coursera.org, is a series of five free Office of English Language Programs MOOCs for language learners in five specific professional and academic content areas. PCVs can host facilitated sessions called MOOC Camps with their colleagues and/or students at host institutions, libraries, or American Spaces. At these MOOC Camp sessions, PCVs can lead a group of participants enrolled in the same MOOC. US Embassies can provide guidance on best practices in conducting successful MOOC Camp sessions. More information on MOOC Camps can be found here: http://eca.state.gov/programs-initiatives/mooc-camp.

**Target Audience:** English language learners

**Ages:** Open to all

**Webinars**

The American English Webinar Series is an online professional development course for English teachers worldwide that is delivered via Adobe Connect and includes a Ning social networking site where teachers can access previous sessions and supplementary materials as well as participate in online discussions with their colleagues. Teachers receive an e-certificate of participation. PCVs can contact their Embassy Public Affairs to nominate participants. PCVs can also sign up to host Webinar viewing parties at a library, host institution or American Space. Recorded webinars are available on http://americanenglish.state.gov.

**Target Audience:** English teachers

**Ages:** Open to all

**American English Facebook Page**

The American English Facebook page is a space to promote American English resources, publish daily English language learning materials in infographic format, drive traffic to the American English website, promote American culture and holidays, and interact with our active and diverse community of English language learners and teachers. The American English Facebook page provides daily English language bite-sized lessons in visual formats. Our Facebook content is regularly shared on other English language teaching Facebook pages, such as British Council and Voice of America, as well as other USG Facebook pages and Twitter feeds. We cross-promote content with Voice of
America and Share America, creating content used on their Facebook page and website, respectively.

Target Audience: English Teachers and Learners

**Ages:** Open to all

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**Exchange Opportunities for U.S. Citizens**

The following international exchange scholarships are a few of the many opportunities available to U.S. citizens, including graduate, undergraduate, and high school students, and teachers. To view all exchange opportunities visit ECA’s study abroad website: [https://studyabroad.state.gov/](https://studyabroad.state.gov/)

Volunteers may connect with participants in some of these programs for classroom, cultural enrichment, or service learning activities. The high school and college students are often interested in learning more about Peace Corps and the first-hand experiences of Volunteers.

RPCVs may be interested in applying for these international opportunities after Peace Corps service, or may wish to make students they encounter/teach in their American communities aware of these scholarship opportunities.

**Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) Program** The CLS Program offers intensive summer language institutes for undergraduate and graduate students in 14 critical foreign languages: Arabic, Azerbaijani, Bangla/Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Persian, Punjabi, Russian, Swahili, Turkish, and Urdu. Each CLS institute provides intensive formal classroom learning as well as cultural activities and regular one-on-one meetings with local language partners. For more information, visit [http://www.clscholarship.org/](http://www.clscholarship.org/).

**Fulbright** The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program active in more than 160 countries for U.S. and non-U.S. citizens and is designed to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The Fulbright Program provides grants for U.S. citizens to conduct research, study, and/or teach abroad and for foreign citizens to conduct research, study, and/or teach at institutions in the United States. Visit [http://eca.state.gov/fulbright](http://eca.state.gov/fulbright) for additional information about the programs by country and region.

**Target Audience:** Graduate and/or post-graduate students, scholars, teachers, artists, scientists, and professionals.

**Ages:** Varies by Fulbright program

**Gender:** Open to all
**Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study Abroad (YES Abroad) Program**
The YES Abroad program awards competitive, merit-based scholarships to American high school students to spend the academic year in countries with significant Muslim populations. Students live with host families, attend local high schools, perform community service, and develop leadership skills. Volunteers may have the opportunity to connect with YES Abroad participants for classroom, cultural enrichment, or service learning activities. For more information visit [http://www.yes-abroad.org/](http://www.yes-abroad.org/).

**National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)**
NSLI-Y is part of a U.S. government initiative that prepares American citizens to be leaders in a global world. NSLI-Y provides merit-based scholarships to American high school students to study seven less-commonly taught critical languages overseas in summer and academic year programs. The program includes classroom language instruction, cultural enrichment activities, and host family stays. Beginners are welcome to apply for any of the target languages. Visit [http://www.nsliforyouth.org/](http://www.nsliforyouth.org/) for more specific eligibility requirements.

**Target Audience:**
American high school students who want to spend a year in countries with significant Muslim populations.

**Ages:** Students 15–18.5

**Gender:** Open to all

**Target Audience:**
American high school students who have a passion for learning languages and want to be immersed in a foreign culture.

**Ages:** Students 15–18

**Gender:** Open to all
Examples of Collaboration

Below are some examples of how Peace Corps and the Department of State have collaborated to provide exchange and scholarship opportunities to both U.S. Citizens and Non-U.S. Citizens around the globe.

- Peace Corps participation in an ECA workshop strengthened English language teaching expertise of students from 16 countries. For the last four years, ECA’s Workshop for Youth Leaders in Teaching English (WYLTE), held each Spring in Washington, DC, has brought together 30 international students participating in the FLEX and YES programs for an intensive, week-long training program on teaching English. The workshop’s interactive and content-rich instructional sessions were led by experienced teaching staff at American Councils, the U.S. Department of State’s Office of English Language Programs, and the Peace Corps. Students are expected to put their skills to use when they return to their countries and can be great resources to Peace Corps Volunteers.

- After spending the 2004–2005 academic year in the United States through the YES program, student Carla Dela Cruz returned to the Philippines and was awarded a full scholarship from the Peace Corps Alumni Foundation for Philippine Development (PCAFPD). In 2011, she graduated with honors from Trinity University of Asia in Manila. Dela Cruz uses a wheelchair and she is from the remote island province of Catanduanes. She majored in special education, and is now teaching younger children with special needs.

- In January 2014, the U.S. Embassy in Azerbaijan and Peace Corps/Azerbaijan conducted a networking dinner with 40 Peace Corps Volunteers and 30 alumni of U.S. government-funded exchange programs. The event connected regional and Baku-based alumni with PCVs serving throughout Azerbaijan and provided an opportunity for them to develop concrete ideas to implement in their communities.

- Many U.S. Embassies around the world continue to support the alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs, and often welcome currently serving Peace Corps Volunteers to take part in these programs. Peace Corps Volunteers can provide a unique perspective and expertise during Embassy or alumni-initiated projects, while also presenting an opportunity for increased host country engagement with Americans. PCVs can also provide expertise during the annual Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund¹, a small grants program designed for alumni to carry out public service projects in their communities that promote shared values and propose innovative solutions to global challenges.

¹This is an example of Volunteers assisting community members and counterparts to magnify the impact of the scholarship program. PCVs may assist community members and counterparts in applying for Embassy grant funds. However, Peace Corps Volunteers may only accept and manage grant funds from the Peace Corps Small Grants Program. Any funds a Volunteer helps to facilitate for a counterpart or community member from the Embassy grants cannot be managed by the Peace Corps Volunteer.
Overseas Programming and Training Support

The Peace Corps Office of Overseas Programming and Training Support (OPATS) develops technical resources to benefit Volunteers, their co-workers, and the larger development community.

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Volunteers are encouraged to submit original material to KLU@peacecorps.gov. Such material may be used in future training material, becoming part of the Peace Corps’ larger contribution to development.

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