

The Congress-Bundestag

VOCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM



Congress-Bundestag
Youth Exchange



Conceived by members of the United States Congress and the German Bundestag, this full scholarship program is designed to strengthen ties between the successor generations of each country. The friendships developed through this special program will deepen each participant's understanding of the commonalities and differences in German and American social, economic and political institutions. The program provides an opportunity for the exchange students, our future leaders, to expand their perspectives and awareness of each other's culture, society, history and politics. At the same time, it enables German and American families to extend their friendships across international boundaries and to relate to one another as members of the same world community.

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program provides a unique intercultural educational opportunity for American and German youth. Each year over 300 American high school students receive full scholarships to become exchange students to Germany, where they will live with host families for a year and attend German schools. Similarly, German students live for a year with American families in the United States. This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and is jointly supported and funded by the United States Congress and the German Bundestag.

THE CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG VOCATIONAL YOUTH EXCHANGE SCHOLARSHIP

For the upcoming school year, a special outbound Congress-Bundestag scholarship opportunity is being offered to 25 graduating U.S. high school seniors with a vocational background. This program is being administered by Nacel Open Door.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

13th Year Abroad for High School Graduates with a Vocational Background

The Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program offers graduating high school seniors with vocational interests the opportunity to spend their 13th year abroad living with a German host family, participating in a training or school program, and gaining work experience through internships with German companies. It is important to emphasize at the outset that this is a "Young Adult" program which seeks to enroll students who have demonstrated maturity and responsibility and who can be entrusted to fulfill their roles as exchange students without day-to-day supervision.

- 1) All students will receive two months of intensive language preparation following their arrival in Germany before being assigned to their permanent host family and school. The family / school experience is meant to ensure their integration into German society, more fully prepare them to communicate in German, offer them opportunities to meet other young people their age, and prepare them for internships, wherever possible.
- 2) Students should be aware that Nacel Open Door's partner in Germany will make every effort to place them in a school or work situation in their field of interest or related to their field of interest. This, however, will not necessarily be possible in all cases. Students should fully understand that their "international experience" is the important and essential element in the exchange, rather than specific training in their given fields of interest.
- 3) Students are required to bring sufficient spending money to cover personal expenses.
- 4) Students will provide their own domestic round trip transportation from their home to Washington D.C.



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PROGRAM OUTLINE

This full scholarship program, which runs from July to June, includes:

- A Pre-Departure Orientation plus a Re-Entry Workshop in Washington, D.C.
- Two months of intensive German language training.
- Training/School attendance and an internship while living with a German host family.
- A Mid-Term Seminar in Weimar and Final Seminar in Berlin.
- Room and board for the duration of the program.
- Health, liability and accident insurance.
- International travel to and from Germany.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

High school students must meet the following minimum requirements to be eligible to apply for this program:

- Age: At least 18 and no more than 19 years of age by August 1 of the departure year.
- Grade level: Graduating seniors who will complete U.S. school studies in January or June prior to departure.
- Academic achievements: Minimum of a 2.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- U.S. citizenship.
- Ability to serve as an ambassador of your country - the USA! Although previous study of German is advantageous, it is not a prerequisite for scholarship selection. The program encourages applicants from all economic backgrounds, ethnic groups, gender identity, geographical locales, races, religions, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic groups.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested students must be nominated by their high schools to apply for this program. FULL APPLICATION PACKET CAN BE FOUND ON THE NACEL OPEN DOOR WEBSITE, www.nacelopendoor.org. Each participating school may nominate up to three students, who then complete the application materials. Students should consult their principal, guidance counselor, teacher, vocational education administrator or call Nacel Open Door at 800-622-3553 for assistance. Completed applications must be electronically submitted by JANUARY 15TH of the departure year. Students/schools should submit completed application materials as directed in the instructions found on the Nacel Open Door website.

SELECTION PROCESS

- 1) Application materials are evaluated during February by Nacel Open Door in cooperation with selected educators and program alumni.
- 2) Semi-finalists are interviewed at designated sites. Students are notified of the selection committee's decision by early April.
- 3) Final decisions on scholarship awards will be determined by Nacel Open Door after additional medical, placement and grade transcript materials have been submitted.



THE EXCHANGE ORGANIZATIONS

The vocational component of the Congress-Bundestag program is administered by Nacel Open Door in cooperation with Open Door International e.V, in Germany.

For more information about this program, contact us at:

NACEL OPEN DOOR

101 5th St. E., Suite 1900, St. Paul, MN 55101

800-622-3553 or **www.nacelopendoor.org**