

# Youth Ambassadors Frequently Asked Questions

*How do I apply?*

* Please visit [**this webpage**](https://www.worldlearning.org/youth-ambassadors-program-apply-details/) to begin your application online. You will need an email address to create a User ID to access the site.
  + All open applications are listed on this website. Please select the 1) Country that applies to you and either 2) Youth or Adult Educator applications
  + Once you are logged in, read the program description and click “Create a Profile to Get Started”
    - *Please remember that you must be a citizen of the country you are representing on the exchange.*
* Having trouble applying? Email [youthambassadors@worldlearning.org](mailto:youthambassadors@worldlearning.org)
* You must submit supporting documents as outlined within the application. Students must submit parent/guardian permission. Adults must submit a resume/CV.

*What is the cost of this program?*

* There is no application fee for applicants.
* The U.S. Government will pay for international transportation to and from the United States, orientations, program and visa fees and administration, site visits and seminars, lodging and meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, and accident and sickness insurance while abroad.
* Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.), passport fees, vaccination fees (if applicable) and spending money for souvenirs and other items in the United States or in your exchange country.

*I go to school/work. How can I take off three weeks?*

* Youth Ambassador Programs are highly educational. We strongly suggest that you apply even if you are not sure you have permission to miss work/class yet. We are able to provide official letters detailing the program’s academic and professional benefits. If you have questions, please contact us at [youthambassadors@worldlearning.org](mailto:youthambassadors@worldlearning.org)

*What do I need to apply?*

* One photo of yourself
* Most recent academic record
* Copy of valid passport if possible *(it is not mandatory to have a passport to apply to the program)*
  + - * If selected, you will need a passport for the program that is valid for 6 months following the exchange (Ex: your exchange takes place in July, your passport should be valid through January.) If you do not already have a passport, we strongly suggest that you apply for a passport upon notification of being a *Semi-Finalist*
* Parental consent form
* ***Letters of Recommendation for applicants of Youth Ambassadors FROM countries in the Caribbean, Canada, and South America (Non-U.S. Citizens going to the United States)*** You are NOT required to submit letters of recommendation to complete your application. Letters of recommendation may be requested later in the process. We will notify you if **you** have been selected to be interviewed and we will then request letters of recommendation, there is absolutely no need to attach them to the application at this time.

*Can siblings apply to the Youth Ambassadors Program?*

* Yes, siblings can apply to the Youth Ambassadors Program if they meet all eligibility requirements.

*What if I am not accepted to the Youth Ambassadors Program this year; can I apply again next year?*

* Yes, provided you meet the eligibility criteria again next year.

*Do I need a passport to apply?*

* No, however if selected, you will need a passport for the program that is valid for 6-months following the exchange (Ex: your exchange takes place in July, your passport should be valid through January). If you do not already have a passport, we strongly suggest that you apply for a passport upon notification of being a Semi-Finalist.

*Who should I contact if I have any questions about the application or program?*

* Please send all questions about the program to [youthambassadors@worldlearning.org.](mailto:youthambassadors@worldlearning.org)

# SELECTION PROCESS

*What are the criteria for selection?*

**Students** will be evaluated on the following factors:

* a demonstrated interest in and commitment to volunteer and civic activities;
* ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and tolerate the opinions of others;
* leadership potential;
* good social and communication skills;
* good academic performance;
* an energetic, positive attitude; and
* ability to implement projects that benefit the applicant’s school and/or community.

**Adult** applicants will be evaluated on the following factors:

* a demonstrated interest in and commitment to service in their local regions;
* demonstrated history of supporting youth activities;
* strong record in teaching and/or youth programs;
* demonstrated leadership ability;
* ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups of students and peers and tolerate the opinions of others;
* commitment to working with youth after the project to help them implement projects.

*Are there language requirements for the exchange?*

* **Exchanges to the United States:** There are different language requirements for U.S. based exchanges. Look at the program application for specific language requirements. All U.S. based exchanges will be English immersion programs.

*Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received? When will I know if I’ve been accepted?*

* Yes. You will receive an email to inform you your application is complete and has been received after submitting all required forms. You may also refer to the progress meter.
* Yes, you will receive an email to inform you of your status- Not Selected or Semi-Finalist. All Semi-Finalists will receive an invitation for an online interview prior to final selection. Semi-Finalists will receive an email after their interview informing them of their new status- Not Selected or Finalist.

*If selected…*

* Apply for a passport **immediately** if you do not have one already;
* Additional information and materials will be provided via email.

**Important note for all applicants:**

World Learning and our partners at the U.S. Department of State, ECA continue to closely monitor the impact of COVID-19 on the Youth Ambassadors Program and the travel industry. Currently, we are planning for the 2023 Youth Ambassadors Program with Canada to be implemented as a travel program. Given the changing nature of the pandemic, programs may need to pivot to hybrid (in-country) or virtual exchanges. Impacted programs, with open or upcoming applications, have been noted on the "Apply Now" page.

2020 and 2021 Virtual Youth Ambassadors Program youth participants and Adult Mentors are eligible to reapply to the Youth Ambassadors Program in the future to experience the traditional three-week U.S. exchange program if all eligibility requirements are still met.