

# EASY LANGUAGES

## *High School in the USA - Classic*

### *Why choose Classic High School in the USA?*

- 15-18 years old
- Academic year & semester study abroad
- Total immersion in US American culture
- Experience the US American high school system
- Gain an international perspective, life skills and maturity
- An asset for your future

### Programme

This programme is available to motivated students aged **15 to 18½** who wish to experience a semester or academic year in an American **High School**, (Secondary school) and be a part of an American family's day-to-day life.

### *Why the United States?*

Experience a semester or academic year abroad in a public American high school living with an American host family. If you're aged 15-18½ with intermediate English skills and a desire to experience American living for yourself, this is the programme for you. Full of a multitude of cultures, stunning landscapes and welcoming people, the only difficult thing about this programme will getting on the plane to go home again!

Please note that **this programme places students all over the United States** and that you will not be able to choose your exact placement location. However, students are generally placed centrally in the USA. Host families are usually situated in cities of **moderate size**, and students are therefore able to easily integrate into local communities and local activities. To choose your destination,

have a look at our [Premium High School](#) programme.

## Classes

You will attend a local public high school where you will be placed in the grade appropriate to your age, academic achievement and English ability. Along with your American peers, you'll take between 5 and 7 classes, of which two, English and US History, are compulsory. Classes are held in the morning and extra-curriculars take place in the afternoon.

In most American high schools, students choose from **a wide range of classes and electives**, from sociology and literature to journalism and IT. This is a great way to study subjects previously unknown to you or acquire a different perspective on topics you formerly studied in your home country. Some classes run for one semester, meaning you'll be able to study a variety of subjects over the course of the academic year.

**Extracurricular activities are an important part of the American school system** and you will be able to choose from a wide variety of options: track and field, football, baseball, tennis, volleyball, charity club, student council, fanfare, debate club, speech club, glee club.

A student can take courses at different levels depending on the materials selected, for example: US History in 9th grade, in the 11th grade Environmental Science and Geometry in 10th grade. The choice of the class will be sent to the school principal.

## Host family

Your host family is the defining feature of your study abroad experience, helping you become fully accustomed to US American culture and feel part of the local community.

Our partner organization's volunteer host families are carefully screened and regularly inspected. Families are not compensated for hosting international students and take an active interest in choosing a student to host and sharing

their homes, lives and culture with their guests.

While staying with your host family, you will have a **single or shared room** depending on your placement. All stays are **half board**.

### ***Our Local Correspondants***

The local correspondent is an experienced staff member who knows the host families and is in regular contact with the students and their American parents throughout the programme. They regularly organize meetings to ensure that your experience is going smoothly, both with your host family and at school. Your local correspondent is on hand to lend assistance in case of any issues and should be your first point of contact on the ground.

Our partner organization's local correspondants are all experienced and fully qualified to assist international students on the ground, offering support and assistance quickly and efficiently should issues arise.

## **Destination**

### ***United States of America***

Few countries on earth are as splendidly varied and diverse as the United States of America. The country boasts such a range of different landscapes, cities and experiences that you would be hard-pressed to explore them all, even over the course of an entire lifetime. As an exchange student, you'll have the opportunity to get up close and personal with a few of its key features: its multicultural diversity, breathtaking scenery, and warm, "can-do" people eager to share their lives and values. The hardest part will be saying goodbye at the end of your stay!

You may be placed in any state in the USA; however, most of our students are placed in the Midwest, America's heartland. Host families usually live in medium-sized towns, making it easier for students to get involved with their local community and experience the American way of life hands-on - the best way to make your study abroad experience a success.

## ***The American education system***

American students study for a minimum of 12 years (elementary, middle and high school). High School includes the final four years of secondary education:

- 9th Grade (Freshman)
- 10th Grade (Sophomore)
- 11th Grade (Junior)
- 12th Grade (Senior)

Students are required to take English and US History, which are mandatory subjects. They can choose three or four additional electives from the subjects offered at their school depending on their interests.

In the afternoons, extracurricular activities are held. Students can choose to take part in sports or cultural events as well as clubs and associations.

### **Dates & Prices 2019-20**

#### ***Dates 2019 - 2020***

- Academic year: mid August to mid June (according to schools)
- Academic semester : mid August to mid December OR mid January to mid June (according to schools)

#### ***Prices 2019-2020***

Programme prices - AUD - Australian Dollar  
BRL - Brazilian Real  
CAD - Canadian Dollar  
CHF - Swiss Franc  
EUR - Euro  
GBP - British Pound  
JPY - Japanese Yen  
KRW - Korean Won  
NZD - New Zealand Dollar  
PLN - Polish Zloty  
USD - US Dollar

Programme of 1 semester to 1 academic year including classes, accommodation and all registration fees.

[Click here to pre-register](#)

**Classes, accommodation and meals, all registration fees (transfers included, flights are not)**

Course duration	Price
Academic year	7,990 €
Academic semester	6,990 €

Classes, accommodation and meals, all registration fees, flights and taxes included	
Course duration	Price
Academic year - leaving from Paris, Brussels & Geneva	9,290 €
Academic semester - leaving from Paris, Brussels & Geneva	8,290 €

Weekend orientation in Chicago (for those leaving in August only)	
2 days	500 €

Prices include:

- English test and preliminary interview
- All necessary documents for the visa required for the school year
- High School enrollment for a year or one semester
- Supervision throughout the stay from local correspondent
- Homestay accommodation, half-board
- Personal assistance, constant support and advice from our local correspondent
- Medical insurance
- Assistance for parents in Europe throughout the stay
- Regular contact and evaluation
- Official certificate of participation including transcript of records, depending on destination
- American diploma (**in some cases**)
- Return flight from Brussels, Paris or Geneva, if requested (at extra cost from Lyon or Marseille - please contact us for information on flights departing from other locations)
- Return transfer from the airport to the host family

Prices do not include:

- Orientation week-end in Chicago (for August departures only)
- Visa fees (around €300)
- School material fees (depending on school, bring up to \$400)
- Midday meals at school (around \$3-5 per day)
- Pocket money - bring about \$250-300 per month

**Early Bird Deal** : €250 discount for every booking made and complete application file received before **December 15 2018**

## Practical Information

### *Eligibility*

To be eligible for this programme, you must:

- Be between **15 and 18 ½ years old** at the time of departure
  - For a departure in August 2019, participants' date of birth must be between **1st March 2001 and 1st August 2004**.
  - For a departure in January 2019, participants' date of birth must be between **1st August 2001 and 1st January 2004**.
  - For a departure in January 2020, participants' date of birth must be between **1st August 2002 and 1st January 2005**.
- Demonstrate intermediate English language proficiency (minimum 3 years' of English classes or previous study abroad experience). Students **must have passed the ELTIS test** with a minimum score of 213 for August/September departures and 223 for January departures. Students can take the test at our offices in Brussels or Paris.
- Demonstrate a good academic record for the three school years prior to departure
- Demonstrate their flexibility, maturity, adaptability, and readiness to face

the challenges of living in a new culture

### ***Enrolling in our study abroad programme***

Do you fit the criteria for participation? Think this high school abroad program is for you?

1.  
Send us a [registration form](#) as soon as possible.
2.  
You will then receive a pre-confirmation form and an application form to be completed. We will invite you to pay €90 in order to take a proficiency test and to provide us with your school results for the past 3 years. The interview fee is non-refundable and is deductible from the final cost if enrolment is confirmed.
3.  
We will then invite you to come to our office in Brussels or Paris for the full interview. You must come to our office with the first part of the application form filled in.
4.  
If the interview is successful, we will ask you to pay a deposit (25% of the total amount, minimum €1,500) and to send us the relevant documents completed. This includes recommendation letters from your teachers, your medical history and other information needed to process your booking. As soon as we receive all the documents and the deposit, we will send the application file to our partner.
5.  
The final decision belongs to our partner
6.  
Once your application is confirmed, our partner will start to look for a host family and a school.

### ***Enrolment Deadlines***

The deadline for handing in completed application forms is:

- **15th April for August departures**

- **15th October for January departures**

The booking forms must be completed and sent to our office (in Brussels or Paris) \*\* at least 3 weeks\*\* before the deadline. All late applications will incur an additional €200 rush charge.

**Just missed the deadline?** Why not try our [High School Classic Plus](#) programme? With practically the same conditions, this programme allows you to send your application on 13 June at the latest for August departures, and 28 November for January departures.

### ***Pre-Orientation Meeting***

To make sure your stay goes smoothly and have all the information about the different aspects of the programme, you can attend an information and orientation meeting.

This is organised by Easy Languages Brussels in June. This is an opportunity for Easy Languages students to mingle, share questions and experiences and ask the Easy Languages team any questions they may have. Students from previous years are also invited to share their experiences. The final administrative formalities for your stay will also be undertaken during this meeting.

If you do not live in Belgium, a phone meeting will be arranged to explain all of the procedure so that your stay goes as smoothly as possible.

A second orientation takes place in **Chicago** on arrival (only for participants arriving in August). Students from all over the world arrive on Friday evening in Chicago. They are welcomed by the local team and follow a two-day programme that allows them to get to know each other, explore Chicago and ask any last questions about the programme. On Sunday, students arrive in their host families equipped with all of the information necessary for a great time.

**Please note:** Placements sometimes reach us at the last minute, in some cases even after orientation in Chicago. In this case, students will not be able to take part in this meeting and will have a personalized orientation with their local coordinator once they have arrived.

### ***Duration of Stay and Visa***

**Departure is booked for August** for stays of one semester to one year. Departures are also booked for **January** for stays of one semester. Your family or local correspondent will welcome you at the airport and take you back to the airport at the end of your stay.

Once enrolment is confirmed by our partner, we can **make your travel arrangements** to the USA if you wish. The booked ticket will include the least amount of changes possible. One free of charge change to the ticket may be made, once the return date is confirmed.

If you prefer to make your own travel arrangements, we will provide you with the relevant information necessary for your booking.

**A student visa is required to take part in this programme (J-1 Exchange Visitor Visa).** This visa is valid for the duration of your stay. We will provide you with the necessary documents to obtain the visa and assist you throughout the visa process.

### ***Health Insurance and Assistance***

Basic medical insurance is included in the costs mentioned. For more complete coverage, we recommend the insurance we offer, tailored to youth stays abroad [Insurance and guarantees](/ linguistic-stays / 7-insurance-and-garanties\_a425)

## **What Students Say**

### ***Student Testimonials***

**Marianne:** "I would really encourage other students to take part in this programme. I really don't know what to say, it was a spectacular experience!"

**Malcolm:** "There are so many things going on in my new American life! I have just arrived at St Paul, Minnesota. Settling in with my family was easy, my host father is really cool and very friendly!"

**Tatiana:** "Don't be afraid to take part in this, you will definitely not be

disappointed! ;)"

Pauline: "I would say that if future students are still having doubts whether to try this experience or not, they really just have to go for it without hesitating."

Want to find out more about studying in the USA? [See more of our students' stories!](#)

*It could be you...*

Hi, I'm Agnès, an exchange student from Belgium.

I've been staying in Tucson, Arizona since the 4th of August with my host family.

Early February we went to Phoenix for an ice Hockey Game. We are Coyotes Fans ! (Phoenix ice hockey team) The next day, we went horseback riding. It was wonderful to see the area where i'm living since 7 months in a completely other way : on the back of a horse, through the paths.

The amazing saguaro cactus, the bright blue sky and the mountains, welcome in Tucson, a spread-out city in the middle of the desert. It's really different from my home country where rain, clouds and green grass are usual.

The same day, my host family and I went to the "Tucson Gem' and Mineral Show". People from all over the world were presenting all kind of stones, pearls, fossils and so on of all sizes, colors, shapes, prices.

The weekend after, my host siblings, Eme and Max, and I left school earlier. We went to Sunrise Ski Resort in the White Mountains (north-east of Tucson). On the way there, we drove through the Salt Lake River Canyon and later on, we got to see female moose on the side of the road. It was hard to believe I was still in Arizona with so much snow. The landscapes were amazing, really different from the French Alps where I usually go skiing. I love skiing so much. We all had a great time.

Last weekend, we had 4 days off of school. It was "Rodeo break", a holiday special to the state of Arizona. Professional rodeo competitions were taking place downtown Tucson. Sunday, I went with my hostmother to see the finals. it was pretty intense. The atmosphere was really "western" : cowboys, horses, boots and so on.

What a busy and wonderful February we had, my host family and I.

I thank them for all the different activities we do, for the great things we see, for all those great times we spend together. And also “Merci” for making me part of their family.

Agnès