



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT EXCHANGE AND STUDY ABROAD!

Study overseas for a short term, semester or year
from 15 years old



France · Belgium · Italy · USA · Denmark · Spain · Germany
Finland · Thailand · Argentina · Canada · UK

WEP.ORG.AU

WEP Australia Student Exchange and Study Abroad programs

The cultural immersion experience
of a lifetime!



8 LANGUAGES | 12 DESTINATIONS

EXCEPTIONAL RATE OF
SATISFACTION

OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

24/7 SUPPORT

Photo: Artémise • High School Exchange
in the USA

479 Hampton Street, Hampton 3188 Victoria
1300 884 733 (calls within Australia) · info@wep.org.au

wep.org.au



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Member of:



DEAR STUDENTS, AND PARENTS,

In participating in a WEP student exchange or study abroad program, you/your child is joining the ranks of thousands of others whose experiences abroad have helped open the door to successful futures in a variety of industries and sectors. Day-after-day, we hear stories from our wonderful network of returned WEP exchange students who have gone on to succeed, to innovate and to lead.

"My WEP exchange gave me a confidence I would never have believed achievable. I have a new, diverse view of the world." Greta spent a semester in Belgium. She studied Law and Global Studies and, at the time of writing, was working for the Australian Red Cross.

Student exchange not only provides teenagers with considerable language skills (in non-English speaking countries) but also 'soft skills' like social maturity, intercultural communication and self awareness. In turn, through the international connections they create, exchange students contribute to peace and understanding between people of different backgrounds.

Despite the many and varied positive outcomes of WEP programs, sending your most prized possession, your child, overseas is no small thing. We understand how nervous you must feel! In fact, many of the WEP team have been where you are and felt what you are feeling. We have sent our own children on exchange, lived or studied overseas ourselves or hosted exchange students here, in Australia. Together, we bring a wealth of personal and professional

experience to the program of each and every child that we send abroad.

During your child's program, they will have access to a broad support network, but we are also here to support you through the process.

The student exchange industry has certainly faced challenges since its inception over a century ago. Student exchange has overcome many global events, not least world wars, natural disasters and several global pandemics (Spanish Influenza, 1918-1920; H1N1, 2009-2010 and now COVID-19, 2020-2022). However, student exchange and WEP Australia more specifically, has continued towards our shared goal of enabling young people to make global friendships, enhance their language abilities and ultimately advance harmony across communities.

We are proud of our industry, of its aims and outcomes and we are passionate about enabling all students to create a successful future through WEP programs.

Browse through this brochure, meet our team and know that we are here for you, before, during and after this unique adventure.



Muriel Scheid
CEO

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WHY GO WITH WEP?



HOMEGROWN

World Education Program (WEP) Australia, formed in 2001 in cooperation with WEP International, is proudly an Australian organisation.



NOT-FOR-PROFIT STATUS

As a registered charity/not-for-profit organisation, our program fee is based solely on the cost of program components, both in Australia and overseas.



CHILD SAFE POLICY

WEP Australia is committed to providing safe environments for all WEP students, regardless of race, physical features, culture, linguistic background, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability. WEP's Child Safe Policy is available on our website wep.org.au



EXPERIENCE

Breadth of knowledge and first-hand experience are vital ingredients for the development, production and management of successful programs. WEP staff have lived and worked overseas, hosted exchange students, participated in exchange programs or been the parents of exchange students. We understand your concerns, we've been there! Muriel Scheid, CEO of WEP Australia, has more than 25 years of experience within international education.



96% OF PARTICIPANTS RECOMMEND WEP

We value our students' and parents' feedback about our programs. 96% of participants recommend going on a student exchange or study abroad program with WEP. By choosing WEP, you too make the right choice!



REGISTRATION

WEP Australia sets the benchmark for secondary student exchange organisations in Australia. WEP is registered/approved by the education departments/regulatory authorities in the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria and observes the Codes of Ethics and professional service standards demanded by membership of many organisations (see below). WEP is a founding member of CASEO (Council of Australian Student Exchange Organisations).



WEP guarantees your country of choice! 



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EXCHANGE STUDENT?

A student exchange or study abroad program involves you being immersed into another culture, family and way of life. You will gain insight into your chosen country's customs and culture, build meaningful friendships along the way and make memories to last a lifetime! Exchange means...



Immersing yourself into a different culture for a short term, semester or year.



Living with a local host family who will consider you a part of their family.



Attending high school like a local student.



Adopting the lifestyle of your chosen country and discovering the language and customs by living in the local community!

5 REASONS TO BECOME AN EXCHANGE STUDENT

STUDY ABROAD AND STUDENT EXCHANGE

Throughout this brochure, you may notice the terms "Study Abroad" and "Student Exchange." While they sound similar, the programs are actually a little different. On a **Student Exchange program**, host families are volunteers and do not receive any payment/reimbursement for hosting. On a **Study Abroad program**, host families receive a payment and schools may charge tuition. Our processes remain the same for both programs, so regardless of which program you choose, we will provide the highest quality overseas experience!

1. IT IS THE MOST AMAZING EXPERIENCE

Dare to be different, step out of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in a new family and school for the adventure of a lifetime.

2. BECOME A LANGUAGE PRO

On non-English speaking programs, you will be surrounded by another language every day! This is the perfect way to learn the language. If you opt for a long term program, you could even become fluent.

3. MAKE FRIENDS FOR LIFE

You will make friendships at school and in your local community that will last a lifetime! Many students remain in contact with their friends well after their exchange has ended.

4. LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF

You will discover and learn more about yourself. You will overcome challenges and become resilient and confident and show yourself that you can do anything.

5. SET YOURSELF UP FOR THE FUTURE

Going on exchange looks great on a CV! You will have additional skills which employers will look for when you finish high school.



A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO YOUR WEP EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE!



1

GET ALL THE INFORMATION YOU NEED

We have plenty of events that can give you all the information you need about WEP and our programs.

- **Information Sessions:** Learn all about WEP and our exchange programs in more detail, including information about overseas school, host families and more.
- **1 on 1 meetings:** After an Information Session, meet with one of the WEP Team members to ask questions that are personal to your needs. Feel free to bring family or friends along.
- **Returned Student Q&As:** Hear from our returned students as they tell you all about their exchange experience.

Have any other questions? We are always available by phone (1300 884 733) or email (info@wep.org.au).

The WEP advantage: Experience counts

WEP Australia has been promoting school programs overseas since 2001. With all these years of experience and a dedicated team, WEP is the ideal partner to organise and follow your exchange adventure.

2

APPLICATION / ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

- Complete the online pre-application form and pay the \$100 application fee.
- You will be invited to complete an eligibility interview, either online or at our office, to help us assess your motivations and make sure you are making the right choice.
- If you are eligible, you will receive instructions on how to proceed with the full application. In the event of ineligibility, we will refund the \$100 application fee.
- Program acceptance will be confirmed to you in writing upon assessment of your complete application by WEP Australia and the overseas partner organisation.

Note: documents to be completed by your school and doctor will be required, as well as vaccinations (depending on destination). Don't worry, we'll explain everything to you!

The WEP advantage: Our procedures

Thanks to procedures developed by WEP and the experience accumulated over the years by our team of experts, we can effectively assess our students' motivations to ensure that each of them makes the right program choice.

3

FINDING YOUR HOST FAMILY AND SCHOOL

- Your application is sent to our partner organisation in the country of your choice, so they can begin the search and selection of a host family and school.
- Placement with a host family and school is a complex process. It can take some time to secure your host family and school enrolment overseas.
- Placement information can arrive at any time, sometimes close to your scheduled departure date.
- You will receive your placement information from WEP by phone. We will then send you the details by email for you to start communicating with your host family.

The WEP advantage: Host family selection

Each potential host family is visited by a local coordinator. The coordinator determines whether the home offers the right environment for a successful exchange experience. Host families submit their own application, and criminal history checks are completed in all countries for anyone aged 18 or over living in the home.



Terms of payment:

\$100 application fee due at the time of pre-application

- 25% of the program fee due upon confirmation of eligibility ➤ 3 instalments of 25% due before departure



4

PREPARING FOR YOUR DEPARTURE

- You attend a comprehensive orientation (see below). Part of the orientation is dedicated to parents, who need to be prepared as well. This will be an opportunity to get answers to all final questions that you may have.
- We'll help you with all the travel arrangements before you leave. We'll take care of your flight booking, the insurance that covers you during your stay, and supervise your visa processing.
- You receive your student pack with your backpack, luggage tags and most importantly, your WEP hoodie!

The WEP advantage: Program preparation

Our pre-departure orientation covers everything you will need to know about your program! We cover all the essential information for a successful stay overseas, leaving nothing to chance. Visas, luggage, pocket money, insurance, integration, social life, cultural differences and communication are just some topics that we discuss.

5

YOUR DEPARTURE AND PROGRAM

- We organise your departure from A to Z.
- You receive travel information periodically from acceptance to departure, including travel documents, insurance information, travel/visa instructions.
- On the day of departure, we will assist you with your airport check-in, run through some final information and take a photo of your exciting day!

The WEP advantage: Support and assistance

We're always there for you and your family: before you leave, during your stay and after your return. Throughout your exchange, you have the assistance of an experienced local coordinator on site, as well as help from our partner organisation and our staff here in Australia. We provide students and parents with a 24/7 number to be used in cases of emergencies.

6

YOUR RETURN

- You have the opportunity to evaluate your program to help us continuously improve.
- You receive a certificate of participation.
- You are invited to remain an active member of the WEP Tribe and help future WEP students prepare for their own exchange adventure!

The WEP advantage: Our continued involvement

We love keeping in touch with our returnees! If you wish, you can remain in the WEP Tribe to share your experience with future students and participate in WEP events such as orientation or the Returned Student Q&As.

The first step towards the adventure of a lifetime!

At WEP, we place great importance on preparing our students for their program. WEP orientation is a very special and intense time for students. It's a chance for them to really come to terms with the adventure that they are about to embark on, through an immersive and interactive course that alternates between training and socialising with other WEP students, returned students who have all lived the experience of the school program overseas, and WEP staff.

The orientation, entirely designed by WEP, covers all the key topics: your expectations of the program, your host family, the challenges you will face, the school system in your host country, cultural differences... You will also be able to exchange ideas and share your experiences with other young people who are about to embark on the same experience as you, and realise that you are not alone! Parents also attend a session with content designed specifically for them. Attendance is compulsory for students and parents.

Once your orientation is complete, you will be ready to leave with a clear head, and all the cards in your hand to make your overseas program a success!



FRANCE

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



“

My experience was incredible. I met so many new people and discovered a culture that is so different from Australian culture. I became more self-aware and confident, and I would do it again if I had the chance.” **Shenara**

Become immersed in the vibrant French culture, surrounded by impressive architecture, tasty foods and the famous French language!

When you think of France, do you think of the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, Arc de Triomphe or the Louvre Museum? France is not only full of iconic attractions, but a lively culture with language, family and food as a priority.

The French language is highly respected, and a language that is spoken around the world. The French language is often linked to the French cultural identity, making the country's residents proud of their language. French is the second most learnt foreign language in the world. A cultural immersion is the best way to become an expert.

Some of the tastiest foods come from France, including croissants, macarons and baguettes. France is also known for less common foods, including snails and frog legs! Trying new foods with your host family is one of the best ways to get to know the local culture.





STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Life in France

Family is important to French people. Weekends are often spent visiting family members. In some areas, families may reside with grandparents and other members of the family. Many people will continue to reside in the towns or cities that they grew up in to remain connected to their family.

Food and eating culture is important to the French. There are typically three meals a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dinner is the largest meal of the day and often eaten with family. Meals may include an entrée, the main and dessert. Sometimes, cheese is served after the main course. Before a meal, it is common and polite to say "bon appétit", meaning "enjoy your meal".

Greetings in France are quite different to Australia. Most French people will greet friends and family members with "la bise", a kiss on both cheeks. If you are unsure how to greet someone, you can always follow the lead of your friends and host family.

School life

School in France starts in September and ends in July the following year. School takes up most of the day and may be tiring at first, but the experience will allow you to master the language and make friends in no time! Classes usually last 55 minutes each and take place Monday through to Friday, from about 8:30am to 5:30pm.

The main subjects are French, history, English, geography, maths, physics, chemistry, science, biology, and physical education. During the lunch break, you will eat at the school cafeteria. This is a chance to try the local cuisine and bond with classmates you've met in class.

School generally does not have a wide choice of extracurricular activities, but it is still easy for students to participate in sports and activities outside of school hours. Whether you wish to continue a sport or activity that you do in Australia or try something new, your new friends and host family will be able to assist you in joining a local club.



“ Exchange taught me to explore new ideas and new things. I have learned to become a better person for myself and others. I feel as if I have another home on the other side of the world where I am always welcome. I have been given opportunities that would have never been presented to me in Australia that I am very thankful for.” **Maleah**



Optional extra!

Start your program with an optional orientation in Paris! Meet other exchange students from around the world and see famous sights including the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre museum, l'Arc de Triomphe and the Château de Versailles! The orientation includes workshops about French culture.

AGE	min. 15 years old		
DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES	short term (up to 90 days)	from \$9,400*	January or August or November
	semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$11,450*	January or August
	academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$12,800*	August
	calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$13,500*	January
ACCOMMODATION	Volunteer host family		
CONDITIONS	Minimum C grade average • Minimum one year of French language study at the time of application, plus ongoing study • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to secondary schooling after the program).		
INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED	see p.28		

(*) Note: all prices are indicative only and are subject to change. Only the prices published on wep.org.au are valid.

BELGIUM

(FRENCH SPEAKING)

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



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My exchange to Belgium was an experience I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I learnt so much about different cultures, different people and most of all myself. I am so grateful for the experience.”

Mary



Don't be fooled by the small size of Belgium! From delicious foods, cities filled with medieval history and a rich arts and music scene, Belgium is sure to delight.

Belgium is a small country located in Western Europe, bordering the Netherlands, Germany and Luxembourg. There are three main languages spoken in Belgium; French, Dutch (Flemish) and German. Belgium is divided into two main regions, Flanders (Dutch speaking) and Wallonia (French speaking).

The capital of Belgium, Brussels, is known as the heart of Europe. The city is home to many important international organisations, including NATO, the European Parliament and the European Commission. The country's royal family lives in Brussels.

Belgium is known for some of the best foods that they are very proud of. You will have to try Belgian waffles with chocolate sauce and powdered sugar, fries with mayonnaise served in paper cones, and their famous chocolates!



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Life in Belgium

An exchange in Belgium will see you enjoying the good things in life with your friends and host family. Belgians have a unique sense of humour and an affinity for self-mockery. They will expect some sort of good humour in return. Above all, Belgians are modest and tolerant and gladly share their culture and stories with others.

Belgians value quality time with friends and family. Generally, families will continue residing in the same city or town they grew up in to remain close to family. Weekends are often spent with family, visiting grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Soccer is an important sport in Belgium. The national team, the Red Devils, are admired by Belgians, with supporters wearing team colours on game day. The country hosts the Belgian Pro League, a soccer league with 16 clubs from different areas in Belgium.

Belgium is very proud of perfecting the recipes for the best waffles and fries. A walk in Brussels is not complete without trying Belgian waffles with chocolate sauce and powdered sugar, fries with mayonnaise served in paper cones, and their famous chocolates!

Whether you are passionate about sports, love trying new foods or simply want to engage in an energetic culture, an exchange program to Belgium will have you amazed!

School life

The Belgian school year starts in early September and ends at the end of June. Students get the summer off to relax and get ready for the following school year.

Secondary education is split into three stages, each lasting two years. The first two years of secondary education include the same compulsory subjects: French, history and geography, a foreign language, science and physical education.

In the following secondary school years, students have more choice, and can choose a study stream based on their career goals and interests. Subject selection is broader, with options including economics, social sciences, physical education or another language.

Schools in Belgium are either French, Dutch or German, depending on the region and the language spoken. Each region governs their own school system, with small differences between the regions. For this program in particular, your school will be French speaking.

It is common for Belgian high schools to not offer extracurricular activities. However, you can look into different activities with the help of your new community.



“ Belgium is such an incredible country to live as an exchange student. The people are so friendly, the food is amazing, and the landscapes are beautiful. It felt like a really safe place to live and I felt so welcomed by my school and host community from the first day I arrived. I also found it really interesting to learn about how a country can function with three official languages spoken.” **Eloise**



AGE

min. 15 years old

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days)	from \$9,450*	January or August
semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$10,450*	January or August
academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$11,750*	August
calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$12,450*	January

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteer host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to secondary schooling after the program).

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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ITALY

“

My experience in Italy has taught me so much, not just about a new culture and language, but also about myself. Including how to be more independent, make decisions, and what makes me feel the happiest. I loved being able to fully immerse myself into the country and it's way of life” **Harriette**

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



Italy not only offers the tastiest of foods (think pizza and pasta), but also has a rich culture and history. Make yourself at home in a thriving European country... that's amore!

Discover the warmth and friendliness of the Italian people as you live and study in Italy. As a local in Italy, you will encounter a culture that is based on family, tradition and food. Practise your Italian with your host family over authentic Italian pasta which can be eaten with all kinds of sauces, or pizza with simple, but delicious toppings!

Italy has been inhabited for hundreds of thousands of years. Many aspects of the Italian culture today stem from Roman influence, including food and architecture. Some of the most notable Italian attractions, including the Colosseum, the Pantheon and the Roman Forum, were built by the Romans.

Located in Southern Europe, Italy has a geography that varies from snow capped mountains in the north, to stunning coastal towns in the south. The country's history is rich! Be surrounded by centuries old architecture from the Roman Empire and the Renaissance as you get to know this fascinating country from the inside.



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Life in Italy

Family is one of the most important aspects in Italian culture. Family structure differs in the north of Italy compared to the south. Typically, families in the north form a nuclear structure (parents and children), whereas in southern Italy, it is not uncommon for extended family members to live together.

Italians are known to be friendly and helpful when foreigners speak their language. They are easy to talk to and will not hesitate to exchange a few words with you.

From the tantalising smells of markets and restaurants to the sweet perfumes of lavender fields and olive groves, Italians truly live "La Dolce Vita", or "the sweet life"!

School life

High school in Italy typically goes from September to June. As an Italian student, you will attend high school like your peers, with the school day usually starting at 8am and finishing at 2pm. Students spend the afternoons completing homework, playing sport or engaging in other extracurricular activities. Due to the reduced hours, many schools have classes on a Saturday.

Learning will be content focussed, with teachers given a great deal of respect. It is common for students to remain in the one classroom all day, with the teachers moving between the rooms.

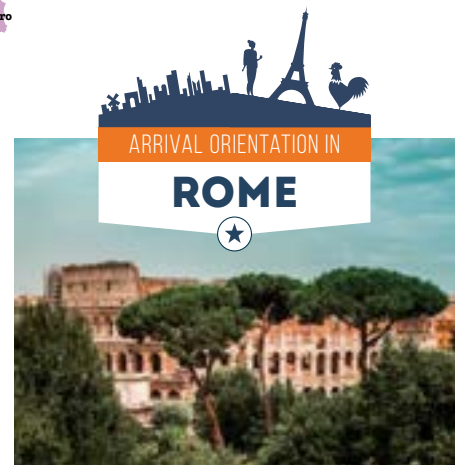
Subjects in Italy can vary school to school. Generally, Italian students study maths, sciences, languages, music and physical education.

WEP+

A WEP+ program offers an additional level of choice. On this program, you can choose to be placed in one of four Italian regions: Northern Italy, Central Italy, Southern Italy or the Italian Islands.



- Ski
- Sea
- Turin Mole
- Rome Colosseum
- Milan Duomo
- Universities
- Venice
- Countryside areas
- Sun
- Greek Temples
- Pizza
- Windsurf / Sailing
- Beaches
- Beaches
- Trulli
- Volcanoes



Optional extra

Get to know Rome with an optional orientation! Activities include seeing iconic sights in Rome, walking tours and getting to know other exchange students. This optional extra is the perfect way to start your exchange and get to know the Italian culture before you start school.

AGE

min. 15 years old

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

			WEP+	
short term (up to 90 days)	from \$9,450*	from \$10,950*		January or September or November
semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$10,950*	from \$12,450*		January or September
academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$11,950*	from \$13,450*		September
calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$12,650*	from \$14,150*		January

ACCOMMODATION CONDITIONS

Volunteer host family

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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USA

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



“

Most amazing experience ever, it was also the most challenging year, but that's what made it even better, I felt accomplished and so much more independent. I learnt so much not only about their country but about myself.”

Pippa

Live your American dream on an exchange to the USA. From school spirit, prom, yellow buses and Halloween, the USA has something for everyone!

The USA is a powerhouse country when it comes to TV, movies and music. The country has produced some of the biggest movies to hit the big screen. On an exchange to the USA, you will get to know the locals and the culture on a different level to how the movies portray the country.

The geography of the USA varies from state to state. States in the Southwest region have desert landscapes. States in this area include Arizona, the home of the Grand Canyon. Further to the east is the mid-Atlantic region, which includes populated cities such as New York and Washington D.C. Washington state is good for nature lovers, with half of the state covered in forest.

The food in the USA is always a hot topic. On exchange, you could try some of the most iconic American foods, such as the American apple pie, deep dish pizza or a Texas barbeque.

Not matter what you are into, the USA will certainly satisfy your craving!



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

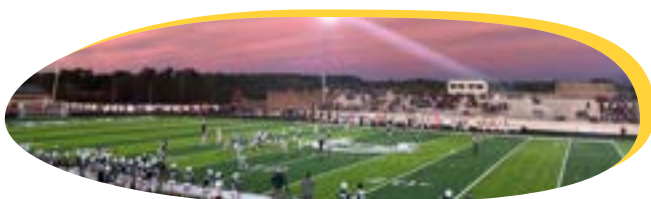
Life in the USA

The immensity and diversity of the landscapes across the country's 50 states are breathtaking! Huge metropolitan cities like New York or Los Angeles, the Great Plains in the centre, dream beaches in California or Florida, the Rocky Mountains, the Grand Canyon, deserts and lakes all form the USA's unique environment.

Like its landscapes, the American culture is as varied. The United States has the greatest ethnic diversity in the world! Despite their differences, all Americans are deeply patriotic and attached to their nation and the values that make it strong. They all rally around the national anthem and the flag, two strong symbols of American patriotism that are present at school as well as during major events.

Despite English being the official language spoken in the USA, the country has many different accents and slang. With an estimated 30 different dialects, English in the USA may not be what you are used to. Americans are often intrigued by the Australian accent! Use this to your advantage to start conversations and make friends!

“ My experience in America was fantastic. I am going to miss my school and all the teacher greatly along with all of my classmates. I made a number of great friends that showed me the ways of being an American, and I hope to keep in contact with all of them.” **Cameron**



School life

Depending on the state in which you are placed, the school year begins between the end of July and mid-September and ends between mid-May and the end of June of the following year. The year is divided into two semesters: from the beginning of the school year to the end of December or mid-January, and from the end of December or mid-January to May/June. A typical school day may start around 7:30/8:00am and end around 2:00/2:30pm, with a 20-30 minute break for lunch.

Apart from a few compulsory subjects such as English or American history, each student chooses their courses according to their desires. And the choice is enormous: from drama to design, from photography to cooking, from journalism to computer science or psychology. Choice is just as important when it comes to afternoon sports, cultural and social activities. Choose from soccer, baseball, athletics, basketball, volleyball, marching band, cheerleading, debate club, speech club, or year book staff... Joining a club is one of the best ways to get involved and make friends!

At school you'll finally have the chance to experience for yourself all those typically American things you've seen in movies and TV series: the lockers where you keep your items, the cheerleaders, homecoming, prom night, cafeterias, your high school football and basketball games and "school spirit" - the sense of community that unites students from the same school.



HOST FAMILIES IN THE USA

Hosting an exchange student has become a way of life in the USA, and families are proud of their relationship with the exchange students. Of course, they expect you to be just as involved! As a member of your host family, you will share in household activities such as outings, activities, family visits, shopping (but also household chores!) and, throughout your stay, you'll have the opportunity to discover all the little cultural differences that make the experience so rich.

On an exchange program to the USA, you can be placed anywhere within the country. This is an exciting opportunity to really get to know the American culture outside of stereotypes from TV and movies. No two exchanges in the US are ever the same!



AGE	min. 15 years old		
DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES	semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$13,450*	January or August
	academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$14,950*	August
	calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$14,950*	January
ACCOMMODATION	Volunteer host family		
CONDITIONS	Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)		
INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED	see p.28		

(* Note: all prices are indicative only and are subject to change. Only the prices published on wep.org.au are valid.

DENMARK

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



An exchange program to Denmark will have you immersed into the culture of one of the happiest countries in the world. See for yourself what makes this Scandinavian country so joyful!

In Denmark, generally two parents work full time outside of the home. Families typically get together at the end of the day to share a meal and talk about their day. Traditional Danish food is often on the menu, including herring, or *smørrebrød*, a type of open sandwich usually topped with cold meats, cheese and garnishes.

The weather in Denmark varies intensely from summer to winter. Typical summer weather consists of long days and temperatures in the mid to high 20s. Winter in Denmark is cold and dark, with snow coating most of the towns and cities. However, the Danish spirit does not dampen, with plenty of Christmas markets, winter activities and the feeling of "hygge", which roughly translates to "cosiness".

Cycling is a popular method of transport in Denmark. The country is relatively flat, making cycling an easy and inexpensive way to get around. Cities are built for cyclists, with many Danes cycling to school and work. The country even has a cycling embassy whose goal it is to further promote cycling both in and out side of Denmark.



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

Students aged between 6 and 16 years attend a type of school called *Folkeskolen*. Upper secondary education (for those aged between 16 to 19) is known as *Gymnasium* and consists of 2 streams: a general stream that gives access to higher education, and a technical stream which prepares students for particular industries or trades. Classes typically begin at 8-9am and finish around 2-3pm or later.

Danish schools are usually pretty casual. Wearing a uniform is not required and some students call their teachers by their first names. Nevertheless, respect and discipline are obligatory. Active participation in class and lots of group work are two signature aspects of the Danish education system.

Sport classes, such as Physical Education, is not as common as other countries. However, many students take advantage of their free time by joining a sports club.



“The best decision I made, and I would not change it for the world, sounds cliché but it’s true. I learnt so much about myself and gained so much independence. I don’t think I’ll ever forget it.” **Caitlin**

AGE

min. 15 years old

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days) from \$12,550*

semester (4 to 6 months) from \$13,950*

academic year (9 to 12 months) from \$15,750*

calendar year (9 to 12 months) from \$16,550*

January or August or November

January or August

August

January

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteer host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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SPAIN



THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



Take the time to live the Spanish life to the fullest and experience the Spaniard charm and passion in every encounter.

Spaniards live up to their positive reputation! Known as friendly and welcoming, they are charming and proud and will go out of their way to make you feel at home. Family is a sacred value for Spaniards, who like to get together for the simple pleasure of being together and sharing lively conversations. A relaxed, festive atmosphere is guaranteed!

One of the main differences you will have to get used to is the daily routines, especially when it comes to mealtimes. Spaniards tend to eat much later than we do, both at lunchtime (around 2pm) and in the evening (around 9 or 10pm).

Discover the melancholy of flamenco, feast on tapas, paella and tortilla, mingle with the crowd of fans at your favourite soccer team's match, and experience the joy of life that the entire country is known for!



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

Secondary education is compulsory until age 16. Students then enrol into two years of high school. High school offers a general option and a vocational option. Subjects at schools can vary, but can include languages, sciences, maths, history and business studies.

Generally, the school year begins at the end of September and ends in June. Classes are Monday through Friday, from about 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with an average of 30 classes per week. Some schools finish early enough for students to eat lunch at home, whereas others have a break during the day for students to eat at school.

School in Spain usually does not offer extracurricular activities. With the help of your host family, you can arrange after school activities to be able to attend different sports, classes and other clubs.



“It was a challenging, but the most rewarding experience of my life. I am so grateful for all the amazing friendships I made that I am sure will last a lifetime. Being immersed in the culture was so incredible and it was really worth it. My host family in particular were such incredible people.” **Isidora**

AGE

min. **15 years old**

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days)	from \$10,950*	January or September or November
semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$12,350*	January or September
academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$15,650*	September

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteer host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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GERMANY

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



Get to know the diverse and fascinating German culture and language as you immerse yourself into the local way of life.

At first glance, Germans may seem cold and distant, but generally they are warm and friendly. The country has been unified for just over 30 years after the fall of the Berlin wall. Young Germans are building their society a fresh, new image, thanks to their free spirit and first-class visual art, music and fashion scenes.

The official language in Germany is "Deutsch" (German). The language has many different dialects and accents, varying across different regions. People in northern Germany speak slightly different to southern Germany. Despite the differences, Germans can usually understand each other, regardless of which dialect they speak.

German is home to some unique and tasty foods! Try German sausage, authentic pretzels or Schweineschnitzel (pork schnitzel)!



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

Your day in German high school can start between 7:30am and 8:00am, and end between 1pm and 1:30pm. From 9 Klasse to 11 Klasse, students combine compulsory subjects (German, science, maths, geography, history, social sciences, art, sport and 2 foreign languages) with 2 major subjects, selected by the student, to be studied in more detail (3rd foreign language, philosophy, psychology, religion, computer science, music, sport...).

The afternoon is free for you to practise a sport or activity, or simply spend time with your new friends. You can also stay at school and take part in Arbeitsgemeinschaften (AG), lessons offered after school hours and supervised by teachers.

The final year of study ends with the Abitur examination. Exchange students are never placed in the final year at German schools, which is reserved for local students preparing for their final exams.



“ My host family and the local community around me were so kind and welcoming and made everything easier. I made some great new friendships and had some experiences which were amazing.” **Nick**

AGE

min. 15 years old

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days) from \$9,750*

January or August or November

semester (4 to 6 months) from \$12,750*

January or August

academic year (9 to 12 months) from \$14,250*

August

calendar year (9 to 12 months) from \$14,250*

January

ACCOMMODATION

Volunteer host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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FINLAND

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance

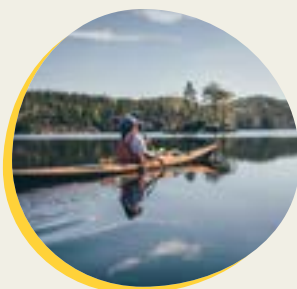


There are hundreds of reasons to fall in love with Finland's country and people. The lakes, forests and saunas are just some of Finland's treasures to be discovered!

If you are a nature lover, Finland is perfect for you! The country is the most forested country in Europe and is home to crystal-clear lakes and stunning scenery such as the legendary Lapland area.

In this unspoiled natural environment, outdoor sports are a must. In addition to the classic activities of walking, cycling and jogging, you can enjoy skiing, ice skating or ice hockey in winter, and hiking, sailing, fishing and canoeing in summer.

Finns enjoy a wide range of activities, sometimes which can be a bit absurd! Finland has some interesting competitions, such as the phone-throwing championship, the wife-carrying championship, the mosquito-hunting championship or the air guitar championship.



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

The Finnish school year runs from August to May, with school hours typically being between 8am-2pm. Students usually learn Swedish as their first foreign language and core subjects include maths, geography, history and science. Despite the fewer school hours, Finnish students are rarely given homework to complete. Instead, they use free time to be involved with extra activities and to spend time with friends or family.

A free lunch is provided to all students in Finland, taking place over a 45 minute lunch break. Students are not required to wear uniforms.

Senior students who are finishing their studies complete the matriculation examination. The exams take place twice a year, once in Autumn and once in Spring. The exams scores are used for admittance into higher education.



“My exchange was a one in a lifetime experience that I'm glad I jumped at. I got to bond with my host family whilst seeing Finland, the friends I met will be lifelong friends.”
Jessamy

AGE	min. 15 years old		
DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES	semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$13,250*	January or August
	academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$13,250*	August
	calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$13,250*	January
ACCOMMODATION	Volunteer host family		
CONDITIONS	Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)		
INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED	see p.28		

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THAILAND



THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



Get to know the “Land of Smiles” as a local in Thailand and experience the inviting and welcoming culture of Thai people firsthand!

Home to beautiful beaches, magnificent temples and lush rainforests, the scenery in Thailand is some of the best in the world! Located near the equator, the climate in Thailand is tropical, with temperatures averaging the high 30s in summer and mid 20s in winter.

Thai people place emphasis on being social. Families and friend groups can be large. Close neighbours and friends may also be considered family.

Having fun is a way of life in Thailand. In fact, the term “sanuk” means to enjoy yourself and have fun, no matter what you are doing! Sanuk is engraved into the Thai culture, and it is common to see people laughing and having fun while working or doing mundane tasks. No wonder Thailand is referred to as the *Land of Smiles!*



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

Most Thai schools have two semesters. The first semester runs from May to early October, and the second from November to late February. In some schools, students must be at school by 8am to sing the national anthem and watch the raising of the Thai flag. Like Australia, students in Thai schools wear a school uniform.

Schools in Thailand follow eight core subjects: Thai language, health and physical education, religion and culture, maths, science, social studies, arts, careers and technology, and foreign languages.

There is an emphasis on social life in the Thai culture as well as in school. After school activities that students can join to be with friends are very popular. Some schools require their students to join an extracurricular activity. Activities include a variety of sport, art and music.



“It was the best thing I’ve ever done and I couldn’t recommend it more. I wouldn’t change a single thing about my exchange.” **Amy**

AGE	min. 15 years old		
DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES	semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$10,650*	May or November
	academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$12,650*	May
ACCOMMODATION	Volunteer host family		
CONDITIONS	Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)		
INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED	see p.28		

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ARGENTINA

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



Experience Argentina's diverse landscapes while sharing the locals' passion for sport, food, and adventure. If you like a friendly and relaxed lifestyle, you'll quickly feel at home in Argentina!

Argentina is the second largest country in South America and is a country of contrast and wide-open spaces. Argentina is divided into four main regions: the Pampas, the Andes, Patagonia and the Northeast. From the Andes mountain range to the Perito Moreno Glacier, the incredible Iguazú Falls to the immense plains of the Pampas, Argentina's landscapes are varied and magnificent.

European, Latin American, and Indigenous traditions have helped influence Argentina's culture into what it is today. Locals are very sociable, warm-hearted, and proud of their culture. Argentina is a country of musicians and dancers: tango is a world-renowned dance that originated in Buenos Aires.

Family is important to Argentinians. Many extended families often get together for celebrations and to catch up.



STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAM

School life

High school students in Argentina choose their studies based on their career goals and interests. Students choose from Bachiller schools (humanities), Commercial schools (business and economics) and Escuelas Tecnicas (technical and applied sciences). The curriculum can vary from one school to another, but three subjects are compulsory: history, geography, and languages (English, French, Portuguese, or Italian).

The school year begins at the beginning of March and ends at the end of November. Similar to Australia, students have three months of holidays from December to February.

Classes start at 8:00am and end around 2:00pm. The afternoon is devoted to extracurricular activities. You will have the choice between a lot of sporting activities (soccer, rugby, basketball) or cultural activities (music, dance, theatre). Getting involved in these clubs is one of the best ways to integrate and make friends!



“It was a very rich, fulfilling experience which taught me very much about myself and about the world. I'm so glad that I've met amazing people from the other side of the world and, I'm so excited to share my experience with others.” **Ellen**

AGE

min. **15 years old**

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days)	from \$12,350*	February or July
semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$14,250*	February or July
academic year (9 to 12 months)	from \$15,650*	July
calendar year (9 to 12 months)	from \$15,650*	February

ACCOMMODATION CONDITIONS

Volunteer host family

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program)

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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CANADA

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



I knew when others told me this experience would be life-changing, that it would be true. But now, having actually lived through it, I couldn't agree with that statement any more. You'll make connections with people all across the world, see places you might've never seen as a tourist, and create lifelong memories with a new family."

Emily



Canada Eh! Experience this country's friendly people and stunning nature as a local on a Study Abroad program in Canada.

Canada is the second largest country in the world. Nature and open spaces are everywhere! You'll never cease to be amazed by the magnificent landscapes of lakes, mountains, and maple forests that await you... You'll feel so small in front of all the vastness. In addition to a stunning natural environment, the country is also home to modern, innovative cities like Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, and Montreal.

Canada is also said to be one of the most pleasant countries in the world to live in. Canadians are known to be particularly warm and welcoming, and their enthusiasm is infectious. They are proud of their country's education and employment opportunities, ease of access to healthcare, tolerance, and multiculturalism.

On this program, you will be able to choose your school region according to your interests and hobbies. Whether you're a city dweller or a nature lover, you'll find what you're looking for in Canada.



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

This program offers more flexibility that allows you to choose an element of your program: a specific region or academic focus, or to continue practising your favourite sport or artistic activity. WEP has selected a series of school districts in the most popular provinces, and our team is here to help you choose the district or school that's right for you.

ONTARIO • LAMBTON KENT

Located in southeastern Canada, Ontario is the most populated province. The Lambton Kent School District is located in the south of the province, bordering the US. The district falls within the Great Lakes region, making it perfect for nature lovers.

ALBERTA • RED DEER

The Red Deer district, located in Alberta, is close to the Rocky Mountains, Banff and Jasper National Parks, Calgary and Edmonton. School subjects vary from theatre to business to design. Regardless of your hobbies and interests, there is something for everyone in the Red Deer district.

NOVA SCOTIA

Nova Scotia is located in the far east of Canada. The province is connected to Canada only by a narrow strip of land. The area is rich in nature, with plenty of rivers and woods. Schools offer a variety of subjects, from arts to sciences, and many extracurricular activities.



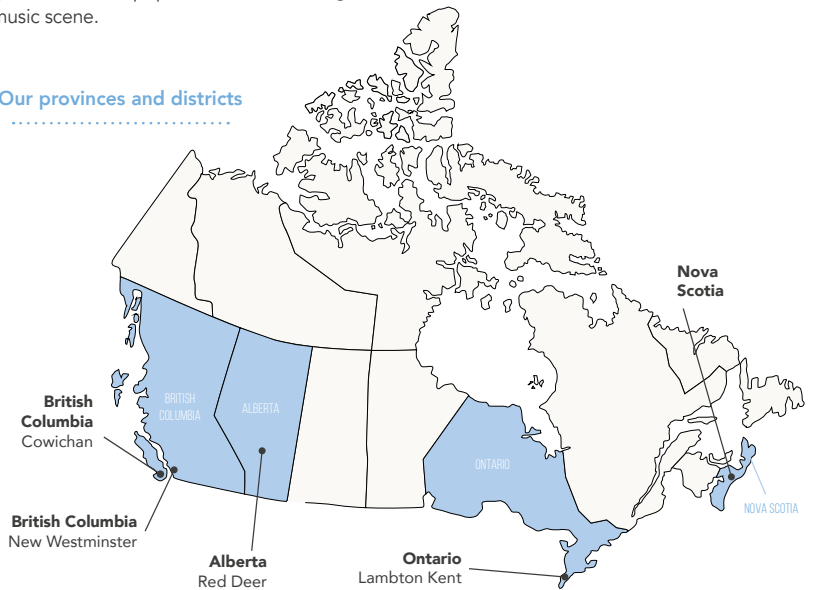
BRITISH COLUMBIA • COWICHAN

British Columbia is known for its magnificent nature, the city of Vancouver, and ice hockey! The Cowichan school district is located in the south of Vancouver Island, between Nanaimo and the province's capital city, Victoria. Team spirit and physical education are fundamental in these schools, making it a perfect option for sporty students.

BRITISH COLUMBIA • NEW WESTMINSTER

This school district is located in Vancouver, British Columbia. Known for its friendly people, scenic views and close proximity to Whistler Blackcomb, Vancouver is both a metropolitan hub and nature escape. This coastal city has plenty to offer, including a multicultural population and a thriving art and music scene.

Our provinces and districts



AGE

min. 15 years old

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days)
semester (4 to 6 months)

from \$14,730*
from \$20,050*

January or August
January or August

ACCOMMODATION

Paid host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program).

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28

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ABOUT STUDY ABROAD

Study Abroad programs offer a very similar experience to Student Exchange programs, with placement in a host family and enrolment in a local school. However, host families are receiving a payment or a subsidy from our overseas partner organisation and tuition fees may be charged by the host school.

Study Abroad Programs are not registered and supervised by our Regulating Authorities in Australia, as they do not meet the requirement of a volunteer host family and a volunteer host school applying to Student Exchange Programs. However, WEP requires the same level of screening and quality of placements from the overseas partner organisations, and program rules and expectations of our students are the same.



UK

THE WEP ADVANTAGE!

- Guaranteed country of choice
- Comprehensive preparatory materials
- Check-in assistance on departure day
- 24/7 support while on program
- Support to returned students
- Included airfares and travel insurance



“

An experience that will always remain in my heart, that made me grow and understand so many things about myself! Best experience of my life.”

Caterino



Whether you are placed in England, Scotland or Wales, a Study Abroad program in the United Kingdom offers you the chance to experience the British lifestyle as a true local!

The landscape in the United Kingdom is extremely varied, from seaside resorts in the south to the Scottish Highlands in the north. Castles, colourful villages, white cliffs and historic cities like Bath, Oxford and Edinburgh are dotted around the United Kingdom. Whichever region you're in, you will have plenty to discover!

The weather in the United Kingdom can be highly unpredictable. The United Kingdom has a reputation for lots of rain and cold temperatures. However, depending on the area, some parts of the United Kingdom can reach temperatures in the high 20s or low 30s in summer.

The United Kingdom has produced some iconic TV shows and movies known around the world, including Dr Who, Mr Bean and the world of Harry Potter.



STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Life in the UK

A program to the UK will see you placed in either England, Scotland or Wales. Regardless of where you are placed, the culture remains fairly similar. They share the same currency, language and Royal Family, but have varying accents and English dialects.

The people of the United Kingdom are very passionate about sport. Many popular sports were invented in the United Kingdom, including modern day soccer and tennis, rugby and cricket. Many people follow the English Football League, with teams from England and Wales. Cricket is also very popular, with a strong competition between the English and Australian cricket teams.

Whether Scottish, English or Welsh, the British have one thing in common: a cheeky and sarcastic sense of humour. Whether you're watching a soccer match with friends or enjoying an afternoon tea with your host family, a sense of humour and mockery are always on the menu. Don't take yourself too seriously on a program in the United Kingdom!

“ England will always be part of me forever, not just the place but especially the people I met there: my host family and my friends. England made me grow stronger, even in difficult times. This is my home and I will always hold it in my heart.” **Aldo**

School life

The United Kingdom's school year begins between mid-August and early September and ends between late June and mid-July, with a summer break in between.

The school system varies according to the region of the United Kingdom in which you will be placed: England, Scotland or Wales. Students attend Secondary School from ages 11 to 16, then the final two years, known as Sixth Form, from ages 16 to 18. Most schools require students to wear a school uniform.

In the United Kingdom, you may start your day with a hearty breakfast of cereals, eggs, bacon, sausages and a glass of orange juice or tea. Your day starts at 9am and finishes around 3pm, with a 15-minute mid-morning break and a lunch break at midday. Each class lasts between 45 minutes or 1 hour. The afternoon is devoted to homework and extracurricular activities.



ABOUT STUDY ABROAD

Study Abroad programs offer a very similar experience to Student Exchange programs, with placement in a host family and enrolment in a local school. However, host families are receiving a payment or a subsidy from our overseas partner organisation and tuition fees may be charged by the host school.

Study Abroad Programs are not registered and supervised by our Regulating Authorities in Australia, as they do not meet the requirement of a volunteer host family and a volunteer host school applying to Student Exchange Programs. However, WEP requires the same level of screening and quality of placements from the overseas partner organisations, and program rules and expectations of our students are the same.

AGE

min. **16 years old**

DURATION / FEES / DEPARTURES

short term (up to 90 days)	from \$13,950*	November
term (approx. 3.5 months)	from \$16,350*	January or August
semester (4 to 6 months)	from \$17,350*	January or August

ACCOMMODATION

Paid host family

CONDITIONS

Minimum C grade average • Physically and emotionally healthy • At the time of departure, not have graduated high school in Australia (i.e. returning to high school after program).

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

see p.28



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FOR PARENTS

WEP has the experience and knowledge to assist you in making an informed decision. We understand your concerns...we have sent our children overseas and we have welcomed someone else's most prized possession, their child, into our homes.

Professor Gavin Andrews, Professor of Psychiatry at the University of NSW, undertook a study of 500 Australian adolescents who went overseas on exchange and said:

"Most of them went to foreign speaking countries so they were away from their families and operating in a foreign language and they were having to cope and we know it was stressful. For most of them very enjoyable — a great challenge. We compared them with their peers who were carefully matched on the sorts of things we are talking about — personality and maturity — but who stayed at home.

And the exchange students went away 17, came back 18, but were actually 27 year olds inside their heads. Emotionally they made a nine year gain in personality and maturity. And that's really exciting because it means that those people, because of this controlled stressor, because they were safe the whole time, just had a lot of challenge, because of the controlled stressor they are going to come back advantaged over all their peers. As undergraduates at university they are not going to wipe themselves out with alcohol and they are not going to play with paper darts. They are going to know how to have fun, but they are also going to keep their eyes on the target, work hard and they are not going to be upset when there are tragedies, threats and reversals. Their maturity will let them cope with it."

Excerpt from ABC television program,
Stepping Forward, Looking Back
produced by David Flatman Productions



“

We are very impressed by WEP and how informed we were. We really like the reports we get on James as they are an independent assessment. The organisation of the students at departure was amazing and they really felt supported and that they were part of something special.”

Fiona and Jonathan, parents of WEP exchange student, James

“

We'd like to thank WEP for the tremendous work and dedication that is put into the program overall, not just our exchange. Exchange is important to fostering understanding around the world. We are proud of Sophie for taking part in this.” **John and Jillian, parents of WEP student, Sophia**



FAQ



The most frequently asked questions by our students and their parents.

WHAT ARE THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A WEP PROGRAM?

Sound academic performance reflected by passing grades in core subjects and teacher recommendations. Minimum C grade average required. Please note that the USA does not accept failing grades. In an English speaking country, students are required to maintain passing grades whilst overseas. In non-English speaking countries, students are expected to display a concerted, conscientious approach to their schoolwork and learning the local language.

DO STUDENTS HAVE TO REPEAT SCHOOLING ONCE THEY RETURN?

Typically, students embarking on a WEP program during years 9-10 will not have to repeat the Australian schooling that they'll miss, while students in years 11 and 12 tend to opt for short term programs over the Australian summer. Students should discuss plans with their school before applying. WEP Australia can give no assurances about whether or not students will be required to repeat study or not.

WILL I BE ABLE TO CONTACT WEP AUSTRALIA 24/7?

We pride ourselves on our openness and accessibility as an organisation. We are available to parents and students from the moment of enquiry until long after a student's return. In the event of an emergency, students and parents are able to call an emergency phone number that is answered 24/7.

WHAT IF A STUDENT HAS A PROBLEM WITH THEIR HOST FAMILY?

Most problems encountered are due to cultural differences and miscommunication. Students have access to competent, knowledgeable people at all times. Local coordinators, host organisations and WEP Australia play a significant role in advising and supporting students and ensuring they are happy living with their host families. When problems cannot be resolved, a change of host family is possible.

WHAT AIRLINES DOES WEP USE?

As WEP Australia is not a travel agent, we have no ties to any particular airline. We only make bookings with reputable carriers.

WHAT IF OUR FAMILY ALREADY KNOWS A POTENTIAL HOST FAMILY?

It may be possible for students to live with a family that they already know. However, the family will have to be approved, prepared and supported by our partner organisation in the same manner as any host family and school enrolment must be available. Students cannot live with family relatives.

WILL OUR FAMILY HAVE TO HOST IN RETURN?

No, your family will not be required to host an exchange student in return. WEP Australia, however, would be grateful if your family did consider offering another student the same hospitality and care that you will receive. Hosting offers enormous benefits to all concerned. See the section on hosting on pages 30-31 of this brochure or visit our website.

CAN PARENTS AND FRIENDS VISIT STUDENTS WHILE THEY ARE OVERSEAS?

Parents and friends are not permitted to visit students while on the program. Our experience shows that such visits unsettle students and interrupt schooling. If time and visa conditions allow (airline tickets are only valid for 12 months), parents may meet the student after the program end date. Students will only be allowed to visit friends or family if approved by our partner organisation and host family.

WHAT DOES THE TRAVEL INSURANCE POLICY COVER?

The policy, included in the program fee, is comprehensive. It includes cover for medical, baggage, accident and public liability.

IS IT SAFE?

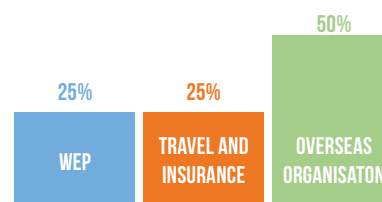
The safety of our students is our highest priority. However, it is normal to feel concerned about students embarking on an overseas program. While overseas, a host family, local coordinator and our partner organisation will provide comprehensive support.

HOW MUCH POCKET MONEY SHOULD STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO?

Students should have access to at least AUD \$500 a month to pay for personal items, lunches taken at school, books, entertainment, a phone plan, school trips etc. In some countries, the cost of living is considerably higher than in Australia. When exchange rates are taken into account, it may be possible that students need more than the average amount. Additionally students should have access to AUD \$650 for initial purchases on arrival in their host country.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation. We work with independent international partners to organise WEP programs. As a result, the program fee is based solely on the cost of program components, both in Australia and overseas.



The portion of the fee going to the overseas organisation (approx 50%) subsidises the recruitment, screening, criminal background checks, appointment and orientation of the volunteer host family, facilitation of host school enrolment, recruitment and training of the local coordinator, arrival orientation, supervision of your program and provision of 24/7 support while you are in your host country. The portion of the fee going to WEP Australia (approx 25%) subsidises the organisation of your program from the Australian end, ensuring your application is processed, assessed and prepared for the international organisation and you are interviewed in a timely manner, provision of a departure orientation and resource materials, bookings of relevant domestic and international airfares to and from your final destination, detailed assistance with the visa process (where applicable), registration for a comprehensive medical/liability/baggage insurance policy, and support 24/7 in Australia. The portion of the fee set aside for flights and insurance is approximately 25%.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

FEES

P.	Destination	Term	Short term	Semester	Academic Year	Calendar Year
21	Argentina	-	From \$12,350	From \$14,250	From \$15,650	From \$15,650
10	Belgium	-	From \$9,450	From \$10,450	From \$11,750	From \$12,450
22	Canada	-	From \$14,730	From \$20,050	-	-
16	Denmark	-	From \$12,550	From \$13,950	From \$15,750	From \$16,550
19	Finland	-	-	From \$13,250	From \$13,950	From \$13,950
8	France	-	From \$9,400	From \$11,450	From \$12,800	From \$13,500
18	Germany	-	From \$9,750	From \$12,750	From \$14,250	From \$14,250
12	Italy	-	From \$9,450	From \$10,950	From \$11,950	From \$12,650
12	Italy WEP +	-	From \$10,950	From \$12,450	From \$13,450	From \$14,150
17	Spain	-	From \$10,950	From \$12,350	From \$15,650	-
20	Thailand	-	-	From \$10,650	From \$12,650	-
24	UK	From \$16,350	From \$13,950	From \$17,350	-	-
14	USA	-	-	From \$13,450	From \$14,950	From \$14,950

Note: all prices are indicative only and are subject to change. Only the prices published on wep.org.au are valid.



WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE WEP PROGRAM FEE?

- **Guaranteed placement in country of choice**
- Selection interview
- Research, selection and preparation of a host family
- Full board with a host family
- School enrolment in chosen country
- Local Coordinator assistance and progress reports
- 24-hour emergency support overseas and in Australia
- Access to resources on WEP's online support platform for students and parents
- WEP hoodie and backpack
- Comprehensive medical, baggage, accident and public liability travel insurance
- Provision of documentation and assistance with visa application
- International and domestic airfares from Melbourne, Brisbane or Sydney, Adelaide and Hobart as determined by WEP
- All prepaid airport taxes
- Round trip transfer between your arrival airport and your host family
- Pre-departure orientation including information session for parents
- Airport check-in assistance on departure in Australia
- Final destination greeting by a representative of the WEP overseas partner organisation and/or your host family
- Arrival orientation in host country — this varies in style and length
- WEP Australia administrative costs
- International partner organisation's administrative costs
- Post-return assistance to students and involvement in the WEP Rewards program

NOT INCLUDED

- Passport and all visa costs (in Australia and overseas)
- Optional excursions, language lessons and trips
- School-related costs (if applicable), including uniform, stationary, books or subject levies
- Spending money. WEP recommends at least AUD \$500 a month to cover personal items, school lunches and other school-related expenses, entertainment, phone calls, etc.
- Note: a flight surcharge may be applied if at the time of making flight bookings airlines are charging significantly higher airfares.



HOW DO I APPLY?

WE MAKE THE PROCESS SIMPLE!

Want to learn more? We have plenty of events so you and your family can learn more about WEP and make sure that our programs are right for you. Dates and locations are published on our website at wep.org.au under "Information Sessions."

Ready to take the next steps? You can start the process by submitting a pre-application online!



1 

Log on to wep.org.au.
Use the search bar on our homepage to find your program:

- First, choose "Study overseas (high school)"
- Then choose a language (optional)
- And choose your destination (optional)



2 

The list of results is displayed according to your search. You can filter the results by language, country, type of program, duration or departure, to refine your search and find your ideal program quickly.

3 

Once you are on the country's program page, make sure you read the entire description. To start your pre-application, simply click the "Pre-apply now" button! We recommend that you request a free online quote by clicking on "Generate a free and immediate online price quote."

4 

Complete the online pre-application form.

5 

To confirm your pre-application and please pay the \$100 application fee to our bank details below:

Account name: World Education Program Australia Ltd

BSB: 063-220

Account number: 1007 2106

In the event of ineligibility, we will refund the \$100.

6 

We will get in touch with you as soon as possible to arrange a date and time for your eligibility interview, either online or at our office.



CAROLA,
STUDENT FROM ITALY



Open
your heart
to the world!

Become a host family in Australia!

Host an exchange student and welcome a new family member and culture into your life,
and share an unforgettable experience!

Hosting an international student encourages families to see Australia in a new and delightful way. It provides an opportunity to show off Australian customs, teach the local lingo, visit new places and revisit favourite hang-outs and most important of all, to gain a new family member and friend for life.

Overseas students arrive in Australia in January, April, July, and October and come from many different countries for varying program lengths (from 2 to 11 months). Caring, volunteer host families provide nurturing, supportive home environments and three meals a day.

Although hosting is not a requirement of your outbound program, it is rewarding to be able to provide the same hospitality and care to an international student as a host family will provide for you.

If you are interested in becoming a WEP host family, please complete an enquiry form on our website, hostastudent.org.au, phone 1300 884 733 or email info@wep.org.au.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have!

Why host ?

- Rediscover your backyard through new eyes
- Learn to see and understand another way of life and a different way of thinking
- Establish enduring relationships
- See exchange from the other side and develop an understanding of the challenges encountered when living in a foreign country
- Complement your exchange program and continue the cultural connection.

ABOUT HOSTING

Families and students who participate in student exchange discover that, although the world is vast and full of many different cultures and languages, people everywhere share similar hopes and goals for the future. WEP host families are curious, open and tolerant. They are keen to discover another culture, another way of life, another way of thinking and other traditions and practices. Hosting a student allows families to bypass busy airports and travel from the comfort of their own armchair.

WEP's wonderful host families come from all walks of life. They live:



in cities



in houses



on the coast



in apartments



in the bush



on farms

And everywhere in between!

Host families may have children or may not, they may be young or they may be older. In selecting a host family, WEP Australia gives priority to the following characteristics:

- A real and profound desire to become involved in the hosting experience
- An openness and flexibility of approach and attitude
- A desire to learn more about other cultures
- A willingness to obtain a Working with Children Check.

The majority of WEP exchange students are aged between 15 and 18 years. Most students come from European countries. Host families choose the student that they wish to open their home and heart to!

Government regulations dictate that host families are not remunerated for hosting WEP exchange students. Students pay for the cost of their exchange program, including the cost of transport between their country of origin and Australia and health insurance. We ask families to house and feed the student, but above all to share the local life. The student must pay for their telephone usage, school materials, local transportation costs and, in general, all expenses that are not the family's usual expenses. The students will also have their own pocket money.



“ I would recommend the experience of hosting to anyone. It is such a rewarding experience, for everyone involved. The student, the children of the host family, the family of the student, and of course, me as a host mother. I feel blessed that I have been allowed to “borrow” someone else’s son, and am sad to “give him back”. I have had an eye opener of things to come when my children reach the teenage years, and feel that I am better prepared for the experience.” **Kelly & Ian - host parents of Rafael from Brazil**



CONTACT US

For more information on becoming a host family or a WEP coordinator call 1300 884 733

email info@wep.org.au

hostastudent.org.au

Join our coordinator team



A critical factor in the success of an exchange program is the role of the local coordinator: a volunteer who help source and screen host families, assists the students to assimilate into their family and community, monitors their progress at school and provides a friendly shoulder to the student and host family when required.

The greatest reward comes from knowing that they help form meaningful new friendships between international students and their Australian families.

It is rewarding, enlightening and fun. Training and full support is provided.



Need more information for your student exchange or study abroad program?

Register for one of our many events.



Information Sessions

Learn more about WEP and our programs overseas.

Returned Student Q&As

Meet some returned WEP students, ask them your questions and hear about their exchange experience.

INFO@WEP.ORG.AU

Join us on our socials



Our office
479 Hampton Street,
Hampton VIC 3188

Opening hours
9am - 5:30pm

1300 884 733
03 9598 4733

WEP.ORG.AU