



## The National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y)

is an important component of a multi-agency Presidential initiative launched in January 2006 to increase American citizens' capacity to engage foreign governments and peoples through the critical languages of Arabic, Chinese, Farsi, Hindi, Korean, Russian and Turkish. The Department of State, in cooperation with American Councils for International Education, AFS-USA, iEARN-USA, and Concordia Language Villages, awards U.S. government funding to high school and just-graduated students (ages 15 – 18) to participate in summer, one-semester and full-year language programs in countries where these languages are widely spoken. Programs immerse participants in the cultural and political life of their host country, giving them invaluable formal and informal language practice and sparking a lifetime interest in foreign languages and cultures.

**EXCHANGES** NSLI-Y has funded high school students in 15 overseas summer institutes, focusing on Arabic and Chinese language and culture. In 2008-2009, the program expands to seven languages and begins semester and one-year immersion programs for 550 participants. The programs encourage language facility, cultural sensitivity, as well as mutual understanding and respect.

**EDUCATION** NSLI-Y emphasizes life-long learning of foreign languages and cultures in order to develop a cadre of Americans with advanced linguistic skills and enlightened cultural awareness who will promote international dialogue, support the security of the United States, and compete effectively in the world economy.

## National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) Youth Programs Division Office of Citizen Exchanges

### Program Benefits

- Pre-program language preparation
- Pre-departure language and cultural orientation
- In-country orientation and support for participants
- In-country language, culture and current events classes with opportunities to apply acquired skills and knowledge
- In-country field trips with local experts
- In-country host family experience
- In-country volunteer service projects
- Re-entry orientation
- 330-member alumni association with outreach activities
- Opportunities and incentives for continuing language study, mastery, and use



**Additional Information and Contacts:**  
<http://exchanges.state.gov/youth/programs/nsli.html>



## ENGAGEMENT

Participants embrace opportunities for meaningful language practice with in-country counterparts at academic and other public and private institutions. Students gain broad linguistic and cultural facility by engaging native speakers in homes, markets, schools and places of worship throughout the host country.

## EMPOWERMENT

Participants' insights into other cultures and languages play a lasting role in shaping their lives and communities. Participants are encouraged to further develop their skills throughout their university education and their professional lives. After serving as unofficial representatives overseas, participants remain engaged in the international arena, sharing their experiences with peers and local communities through self-initiated outreach as well as the NSLI-Y alumni network.

## ELIGIBILITY

- All applicants must be U.S. citizens.
- All applicants must be currently enrolled in high school or have just graduated and be between 15 and 18 at the start of the program.
- Minimum GPA of 2.5 is required.
- The U.S. Department of State and American Councils for International Education seek broad diversity, including but not limited to ethnicity, race, gender, religion, geographic location, and disabilities.