

**United States  
Information  
Agency**

Washington, D.C. 20547

**USIA****CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX), known in Germany as the Parlamentarisches Patenschafts-Program (PPP), is an official exchange program of the governments of the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany. It provides a full scholarship for an academic year experience of living in the host country. Part of the exchange involves students aged 16-18 preparing for university or for vocational or professional careers, who live with host families, attend school, and participate in community life. Another part is dedicated to young professionals and workers aged 18-22 who study and receive practical training. The program is conducted in the United States by the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and in Germany by the Bundestag Committee for International Exchanges.

CBYX was inaugurated in 1983 when Congress and the Bundestag passed legislation to authorize and fund the program. It was part of the three-year President's International Youth Exchange Initiative and celebrated the 300th anniversary of German settlements in the U.S. Both national legislatures have renewed funding each year, and this has enabled 2,211 American and 2,411 German youth to participate between 1984 and 1989.

Participants are chosen according to procedures and criteria established by each government. In Germany each interested Bundestag member submits the name of a candidate from his/her district. In the U.S. participants are chosen through a national competition conducted by the cooperating private organizations. For academic year 1990-91 386 U.S. participants have been selected, who represent 250 Congressional districts and 49 states and the District of Columbia.

USIA administers the program through grants to private not-for-profit exchange organizations, each of which processes a share of the American outbound and German inbound participants. Their services include homestay and school placements, internships for the young workers/professionals, counseling services, orientation, and a field trip to Washington. The following four organizations handle the teenaged high school portion of the program: Youth for Understanding (based in Washington, D.C.); AFS Intercultural Programs (New York); Experiment in International Living (Vermont); and ASSE International (California). Future Farmers of America handles the portion dedicated to agricultural youth. Open Door Student Exchange recruits and selects

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vocational school youth for a special component. New York-based CDS International (formerly Carl Duisberg Society), the U.S. affiliate of a German organization, administers the young professional/worker exchange component.

The German counterpart organizations administer CBYX in the Federal Republic and provide a similar range of services. American participants receive intensive language training upon arrival and travel to Berlin for their field trip.

Funding for the program on the U.S. side has been limited to \$2.5 million for each fiscal year. While the optimum number of exchangeees would be 400 in each direction, limited U.S. funds this year will permit only 386. This number will decline to 370 in 1991-92 if no additional funding becomes available. USIA is considering a plan to charge part of the program costs to the participants -- most likely domestic airfare -- as a temporary measure to make up the difference.