



## Give Your Students The AFS College Advantage

Many U.S. colleges and universities recognize the importance of a foreign exchange experience. They seek students who already understand what it means to be a citizen of the world: foreign language proficiency, global awareness, self-confidence, community commitment, and growth in competence.

Ask any AFS Returnee about their experience and they are likely to say it transformed their lives. Many credit AFS with influencing their course of study in college and even their choice of career. When a student goes abroad with AFS they become part of a community of more than 400,000 AFS Returnees around the globe who share a common experience, a true global family linked together for a lifetime.

Each year, thousands of students choose to live and study abroad with AFS Intercultural Programs while experiencing the world in ways that change their lives and careers. The future needs leaders who are globally competent, who can work and communicate effectively in a culturally diverse environment.

*"An AFS Student is someone who has demonstrated his or her independence and an ability to be flexible, curious, and ingenious in approaching problems of life. It is not one of those 'jet-through' international programs that is a tick mark on the resume, instead it is a day-to-day 'how do I deal with school, family, and friends' in a foreign land over an extended period of time. An AFS Student who has successfully conquered those tough questions will, in the eyes of an admissions representative, be someone who goes to the top of the applicant pile."*

*- Nina Guilden Seavey,  
George Washington University*

You can help your students to have the AFS advantage:

- Encourage students to think globally
- Invite students to consider an AFS Intercultural program
- Nominate students for scholarships



### Learning Grows with AFS

AFS Intercultural Programs has been a leader in international high school student exchange for more than 60 years. Find learning tools, classroom support, opportunities for students and educators and more.

### The AFS Mission

AFS-USA works toward a more just and peaceful world by providing international and intercultural learning experiences to individuals, families, schools, and communities through a global volunteer partnership.

### Find it all at

[www.afsusa.org/schools](http://www.afsusa.org/schools)  
1-800-AFS-INFO

Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

*"... Public schools must prepare our young people to understand and address global issues, and educators must re-examine their teaching strategies and curriculum so that all students can thrive in this interdependent society."*

*- Dennis Van Roekel  
National Education Association  
President 2010*

Local Volunteer Contact:



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## Partner With AFS To Build Global Connections



*"The 21st century isn't coming; it's already here. And our students have the opportunity and challenge of living and working in a diverse and rapidly changing world."*

*- Dennis Van Roekel  
National Education Association  
President 2010*



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## AFS Can Build Global Competency In Your Students

### AFS Exchanges Build Global Skills for the 21st Century

Educators today are committed to preparing their students to be global citizens. To succeed, students need to develop global competencies through exposure to, and experience with, other cultures and languages. These skills are critical to students as they connect and work with people and cultures around the world throughout their lives. Participating in an AFS program can foster those skills.

### The Benefits for Schools in Working with AFS

AFS has been a trusted leader in intercultural education for more than 60 years. AFS sends more than 1,400 US students to 40 countries each year and welcomes more than 2,500 international high school students to the United States annually, all of which is facilitated through AFS organizations throughout the world.

When considering to host and send students, the AFS Volunteer support component is an invaluable resource to schools and families. AFS is accredited by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET).

*“As an educator, I want my students to engage with their world and communities. AFS provides authentic global, intercultural, language-immersion education that cannot be attained solely in the classroom. AFS exchange programs change lives and perspectives.”*

*- Ariana L. Wohl, teacher  
Paul Cuffee Charter School  
Providence, Rhode Island*

### Global Competencies Defined

- International awareness
- Knowledge and understanding of world history, socioeconomic and political systems and global events
- Appreciation of cultural diversity
- Ability to know, understand and relate to people from other cultures with other points of view
- Ability to understand, read, write, and speak in more than one language.
- Competitive skills
- Critical thinking skills that enhance creativity and innovation

Global Competence Is a 21st Century Imperative, NEA Education Policy and Practice Department, Center for Great Public Schools, [www.nea.org](http://www.nea.org)

## Why Schools Partner With AFS

### AFS Leads in Intercultural Learning

AFS works in partnership with high school principals, teachers, counselors and administrators to foster student exchange in schools throughout the United States and abroad. AFS is committed to intercultural learning. Through AFS programs, participants are removed from their home environments and introduced to differing values, ways of life and patterns of thought in completely new environments. This experience enables students to acquire skills, attitudes and knowledge useful now and throughout their lives as they attempt to cope intelligently with the world. Similar learning is often acquired by others who come into close contact with participants in AFS programs.

### AFS Leads in Experience

Over 10,000 participants go on AFS programs throughout the world annually. AFS is a nonprofit organization which has been committed to achieving its mission for more than sixty years. AFS offers school-year, semester and summer programs for high school students as well as gap-year programs for graduates. Middle-school students and their teachers can participate on two-week exchanges that are service focused.

### AFS Leads in Volunteer Service and Support

More than 6,000 people volunteer for AFS in the United States. What do our volunteers do? They provide orientation to exchange students and host families before and during the experience, and arrange host family and school placements. AFS Volunteers support our students and host families through the exchange, as they experience cultural adjustment challenges.

*“Microsoft is always on the look-out for quality talent with international experience. We applaud AFS’s continuing work to strengthen the global skill base of high school students. The skills and experience AFS students gain are exactly the skills we value in employees.”*

*- James Thurston,  
Senior Strategist for Global Policy  
Microsoft Corporation*

## Teach

Bring the world to your classroom by using AFS learning tools and activities. Start an AFS international club to expand informal learning opportunities for you and your students.

## Host

Welcome the world. Partner with us and AFS Exchange Students will bring their country and culture to your school. Learn how to host an AFS Student in your school.

## Send

Nominate students to live and learn abroad. When they return invite them to share their learning to bring new perspectives and excitement to your class.

## Engage

Sign up for the Global Classroom e-newsletter, explore teaching and learning tools online, begin student and community dialogs and blog with students abroad. Encourage your students to take the time to get to know AFS Exchange Students. These relationships can open their minds to other cultures and countries.

## AFS Brings The World Into Your Classroom

### Here are Ways to Take Action for Learning

- AFS Volunteers**  
Talk to an AFS Volunteer about how they can help bring AFS into your school and community.
- Global Classroom**  
Subscribe to the AFS Global Classroom e-newsletter.
- Intercultural Learning Tools**  
Explore AFS experiential online learning activities with your students.
- International Dialog**  
Begin conversation with your colleagues and community about intercultural opportunities.
- Read the AFS Student Blogs**  
Use blogs to follow AFS Students experiences abroad.
- AFS Returnees**  
Invite a returning AFS Exchange Student to share their experiences with classes.
- AFS Clubs**  
Start and support an AFS International Club in your School.
- Scholarships**  
Nominate students for scholarships.

Find it all at [www.afsusa.org/schools](http://www.afsusa.org/schools)  
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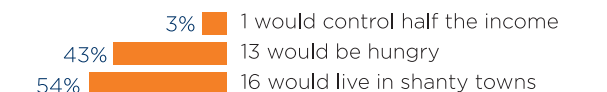
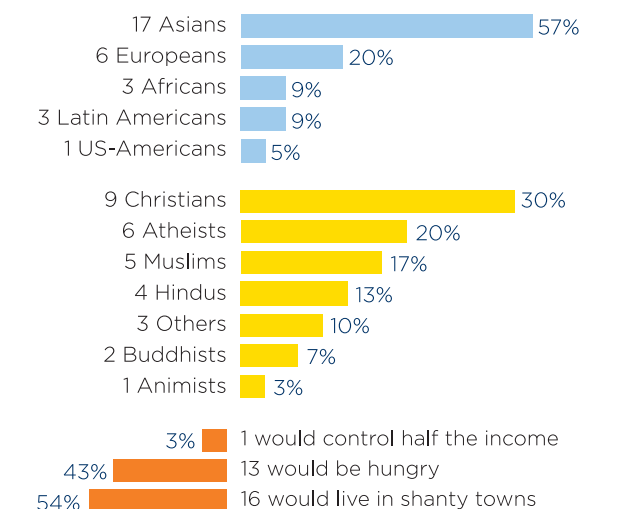
*“We, as Americans, are generally so critical of other cultures, specifically the differences between theirs and ours. I learned that when acquiring knowledge of other people’s customs, it is important to enter with an open mind.”*

*- Participant in  
AFS school presentation,  
“It’s Your World”*

### Sample an AFS Learning Tool

Information like the chart below help students develop an understanding of the world and their role as global citizens. Intercultural games and exercises like these are available online.

If the world were a classroom with 30 students, there would be...\*



\*From AFS “It’s Your World” learning tools