# 

STS Start Your Journey

A YEAR/SEMESTER OR SHORT STAY ABROAD FOR STUDENTS AGED 15-18





Welcome Camp included in the programme fee for all countries



Choose between 16 countries!





#### **STUDY A YEAR ABROAD**

## START YOUR JOURNEY!

Going on a high school exchange means taking a break from school at home and getting a taste of life abroad. It is an unforgettable adventure and a once-in-a-lifetime experience that will stay with you for the rest of your life. You'll immerse yourself in a new culture, make friends from around the world and bond with an international host family that you'll come to think of as your own. You'll enjoy the benefits of the experience in school, in your future career and in your personal life. You'll learn independence, become fluent in a new language and discover countless new things - things you never could have experienced at home!

If you are inspired by what you've seen in this brochure, go to sts-highschool.com to read more or call on 0800 991 991 to talk directly to us. We look forward to helping you and to share with you our passion for international, cultural and educational exchange. Our long experience provides great knowledge and we offer a very personalised exchange. A magical time awaits you!

Welcome to STS!

#### --Your journey with STS------



#### Before You Go

Tailor your journey to your exact wishes.
There are 17 countries to choose from with programmes ranging from 1 to 12 months. You can contact us anytime for extra help choosing the right school, applying for a visa, or preparing for your time away from home. The welcome camp will give you the best possible start.



#### While You're Abroad

Your adventure starts with the STS
Welcome Camp, which prepares you
for your experience abroad alongside
other STS-ers. Then things start for real!
You'll have a local contact person who
will help you every step of the way and
check in with you regularly to make
sure everything is going great!



#### After Your Return

You will return home with new knowledge, new experiences and a desire for further adventures. To keep the fun going, join the STS Ambassador programme to get special benefits and share your experiences with others, or become a host family for future STS-ers!



No matter which country and high school programme you choose, the moment you walk through the door of your new school to meet your new classmates and teachers for the first time, you will get that special high school feeling. This is where you will make unforgettable memories, share a lot of laughter, and get to know a whole group of new friends.

<sup>\*</sup>High School Classic is a traditional exchange programme. With High School Select you have the option to pick and choose aspects of your exchange programme.

Even in your home country, the first day of school is always full of expectations, fresh faces, and motivation for the new year. Starting school at a high school abroad is no exception!

#### A boost for your studies

Arriving in a new school environment is a great chance to add a new dimension and boost for your studies. There are often different subjects available from what you are usually used to, so take the chance to study something you can't study at home! In some countries, school uniforms are common. Each experience is unique and you will also learn a huge amount outside of the classroom, and grow as a person. An exchange year is a school year you will never forget.

#### **Placement guarantee**

With STS, you can feel secure in the knowledge that once you have been accepted into the programme, your exchange is guaranteed.

#### Classic or Select? Which programme suits you?

High School Classic is the traditional exchange programme and most common amongst our students. This is the perfect programme for those looking for a genuine high school year where we match you with a carefully selected host family and school. Read more about High School Classic on page 12.

If you would like to be able to pick and choose aspects of your exchange you should choose High School Select. On this programme, you can choose where you want to stay, which school you want to attend, what subjects you want to study or if you want to practice a particular sport. Read more about High School Select on page 22.

CHOICE	CLASSIC	SELECT
Choice of country	V	V
Choice of language	<b>✓</b>	V
Choice of area/city	<b>✓</b> **	V
Choice of school	-	V
Able to stay for multiple years		

<sup>\*\*</sup> For a number of High School Classic destinations you can request a specific area/city for an extra fee.





Language, friends and self-confidence - everything you gain during your high school year stays with you for life!







Feeling at home in your host family is an essential part of your exchange experience and very important for us. Because your host family is such a big part of your exchange year, we always do our utmost to find the right family for you.

#### Safe and inspiring families

All our host families go through a careful selection process. STS places students over the entire country. Local representatives know the families in their area, collect references, and select only those families genuinely interested in welcoming international students into their homes.

#### Friends for life

Our host families will do everything to make you feel comfortable and at home in your new environment. Often, this is the start of a life-long friendship between student and family. Depending on which country you choose, and what your family likes to do, you can look forward to barbecues, hiking weekends, football matches or trips to the beach with your family.

#### All host families are different

STS host families are all unique. They may live in the city or in the country, have teenage children or toddlers, be single parents or part of large families. The one thing they always have in common is a great commitment to and interest in young people.





Filippo from Italy spent a year with STS in Palmerston North. Pictured here with his host mother and host brother.

#### IN YOUR SPARE TIME

A high school exchange is about more than just studying. You will experience a different way of living, new food, traditions and amazing places you have never been to before. At STS, we arrange trips during the year for you to experience as much of your host country as possible.





#### **Travel and explore**

With STS you can go on a number of different trips so that you can experience as much as possible during your exchange. Travel with us to Hawaii, try snowboarding in Austria, spend a weekend in London or in Nice, ski in Norway or join us for a trip to the south of Argentina.

We also offer two fantastic road trips: USA Coast to Coast, and Canada Adventure. These take place in the summer and are a great way to round off your year abroad. Always with an STS leader and a great mix of international students.

#### **USA** Coast to Coast

At the end of their school year in the US or Canada, many of our students spend three weeks travelling through 11 states, starting in Los Angeles and finishing in New York. On the way, highlights include Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon and Washington DC. Truly a once in a lifetime experience.



#### Canada Adventure

Discover Canada's best side! If you study in Canada or in the US, you have the chance to join a 19-day road trip through this beautiful country. You will experience the west coast and majestic parks like Pacific Rim and Jasper National Park, but also get to spend time in big cities like Vancouver and Calgary.



#### - A PERFECT START

It's important for us that you get a great start to your exchange year. That's why we include an STS Welcome Camp in the programme fee for all our students. It's the perfect way to kick off your time abroad and get to know other STS students who have the same adventure as you in front of them. Time to have fun and get the feel of your new country!

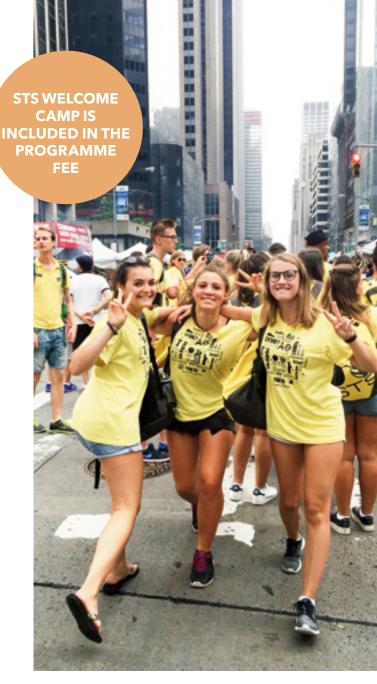
Before you go to your host family, you will have a few days to familiarise yourself with your new life as an exchange student. Workshops, where you learn more about the host country, discuss daily life and adapting to a new environment, are mixed with activities, sightseeing and excursions in the city where the camp takes place. All the time you are preparing with other exchange students, led by experienced STS staff. Most students find the STS Welcome Camp very rewarding, and the contacts made with other students are often of great use during the rest of the exchange. Welcome Camp is sure to be the first great memory of many during your year abroad.

STS Welcome Camp is included in the programme fee to all destinations\*. The length of the STS Welcome Camp varies according to destination.

My experience in New York on STS Welcome Camp was absolutely amazing, not only did I gain some life long memories but I made some life long friends who were all experiencing the same emotions as I was, it was so nice having people to talk to about how I was feeling in the first few days being away from home and getting to see new things with all of them!

Nicole from Otautau spent a year with STS in the USA

\* Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.





If you choose to travel to the United States, you get to spend a few days with other STS students at STS Welcome Camp in New York. Together with our leaders, you will explore one of the world's most amazing cities and create memories for life.

## Axels

Name: Axel Schéle

Age: 23

Host country: USA, Michigan

When: 2011/2012

#### Why did you choose to take a high school year abroad?

I visited my sister who was an exchange student in the USA and I completely loved it. I also wanted to get to know new people, try new sports, see more of the USA and get a "new family". I also wanted to experience education from a different perspective and just try something new.

#### What was the best thing about your year?

That I met so many new people and made friends for life.

#### What has your year abroad given you?

I became more independent and grew a lot as a person.

#### Do you have any advice for students who are considering going on a high school year?

Do it! Becoming an exchange student is the absolute best decision I've made in my life. I'm still in close contact with my American friends and family and I have visited them five times since I moved back home!

#### Any advice for students who have booked their year abroad?

Dare to try new things and step out of your comfort zone. I plucked up the courage to approach a group of students who seemed to have the same interests as me at school. That was the moment that I met my best friends who I hung out with every day for the rest of my exchange.

#### What are you doing now?

Today, I work with the high school programme at STS, to give young people the same opportunity and experience that I received.



#### WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?

The quickest way to learn a language fluently is to live where it is spoken. You will quickly start talking, writing, and even dreaming in your new language and at STS we are incredibly proud of the range of destinations we offer.

































FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR DESTINATIONS ON PAGES 13-24.









#### USA - Live the American Dream!

In one of the USA's 50 states, your dream high school experience is waiting for you. What all states and schools have in common is that famous US high school spirit that will stay with you for life. Apply in good time if you want to choose where in the USA you want to spend your year.

#### High school in the USA

American high schools are known for their school spirit which helps grow the bond between students, teachers and their school. You can especially notice the fun and proud atmosphere during traditional events such as Prom, Homecoming and when the sports teams are competing against other schools. There is a positive mentality that quickly fills you with the belief that nothing is impossible. American school is divided into twelve years, with High School making up the final four years. High School is itself divided into four year-groups: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior and Senior. The rules of each school decide which year you will join. Some subjects are mandatory and some you can choose yourself. Teachers are addressed as "Sir", "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss" and some schools do have a uniform.

#### Get more out of your free time

When lessons are done for the day, there's still plenty to do. A whole host of activities are often offered on site or close by to the school. This is your chance to test out

- Age criteria: 15-18.5 years old upon arrival.
- **Starting months:** January and August-September.
- Visa: yes, additional costs.
- Area choice: yes
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in
   New York included in the
   programme fee (Jan and
   Aug-Sept start).
- School year: August/ September-May/June
- 8am-3.15pm.
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: amongst others Hawaii, Coast to Coast, Canada Adventure Additional costs.
- **High School Select:** yes, see p. 23.

sports and clubs you've only ever seen in the movies - and to experience events like Halloween and Thanksgiving the true "American Way".

#### STS Welcome Camp in New York included

Over the course of a few fantastic days in New York, the STS Welcome Camp eases you into life in the States. Get over jetlag and meet others just as excited to start the best year of their life. You'll also have the chance to take in some of New York's world famous landmarks - the perfect way to start your exchange. STS Welcome Camp is included in the programme fee.











#### Argentina

As an exchange student in Argentina, you can work on your Spanish at high school but also train in rugby, football, tango, asado barbecue, meet gauchos or just sit in a cafe with your friends. What do you choose?

#### **High school in Argentina**

High school in Argentina is divided into two periods, with three grades in each. The first period, "basic level", has a general curriculum and for the second period students choose a particular specialisation. The school decides what grade you are placed in. Being able to speak some Spanish is not a requirement, but of course makes it easier.

#### Spontaneous lifestyle

In Argentina, life is spontaneous. Go with friends to the movies, play football, rugby or sit down on a terrace. After school there is time for extra activities such as theatre, playing in bands and a variety of sports. Buenos Aires is considered the most "European" city in South America and is often compared to Paris. But in Argentina there is also the quiet countryside and charming towns.

- Age criteria: 15-18 years
- Starting months: March, July and December.
- Language requirement: basic Spanish recommended.
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:

- **School year:** March-December.
- School day: 7.30am-1pm
- Subjects: compulsory and
- Optional trips: southern
- High School Select: no.

#### Austria

If the most important thing in your packing is your skis or snowboard, then Austria is the perfect high school destination for you. Here you are always close to the majestic Alps.

#### High school in Austria

In Austria, students go to high school from the age of 10 to 18. You will need basic German knowledge to be able to keep up with what is being taught during lessons at school. The first few weeks you will have classes with the same group of people, and then you, your teacher and contact person evaluate which subjects are best suited for you to continue with.

#### Wonderful nature

Austrian teenagers are very active and in many areas of the country there are activities such as horse riding, skiing and sailing available. The Austrians are known for their "Gemütlichkeit", the warm and pleasant atmosphere, so you will feel very welcome during your exchange year in Austria!

- Age criteria: 15-18 years
- Starting months: February,
- Language requirement:
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:

- School year: September-
- School day: 8am-2pm.
- Subjects: compulsory and
- Optional trips: weekend
- High School Select: no.

 $<sup>{}^{\</sup>star}$  Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.







Canada is trendier than ever and we know why. Canada has it all - amazing scenery, international big cities, friendly people and a high-quality school system. Here you will enjoy yourself.

#### High school in Canada

In Canada, English and French are the official languages, where English is the most common. However, over 20 % of the population have French as their first language. As an exchange student, you get the opportunity to improve your skills in both languages. The Canadian school is highly ranked in the PISA survey and what classes you will attend is based on your age and grades.

#### Experience a lot at your leisure

Canada's nature is beyond beautiful and as an exchange student you get the chance to enjoy this amazing nature in your spare time. If you like winter sports, like hockey or skiing, you have come to the right country. You will soon fall in love with Canada.

- Age criteria: 15-18 years old upon arrival.
- Starting months: January and August.
- Language requirement: some schools in French areas require French.
- Visa: yes, additional costs.
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in
   Montreal\* included in the
   programme fee (Jan and

- Aug-Sept start)
- School year: August-June.
- School day: approx 9am-3.30pm.
- **Subjects:** compulsory and optional subjects.
- **High School Select:** yes, see p. 23.





#### Denmark

Despite Denmark's small size, there is a lot to discover here. Sample typical food such as smorgasbord, rent a bicycle in Copenhagen and treat yourself with an amazing Danish pastry at a cosy cafe!

#### **High school in Denmark**

After elementary school, there are four orientations; High School, Higher Preparatory Examination (HF), Higher Technical Examination Programme (HTX) and Higher Commercial Examination Programme (HHX). All the directions underpin further studies at a college or university.

#### The world's happiest people

Denmark has a high standard of living and has repeatedly been named as the "happiest country in the world". The proximity to Europe is noticed by the open and social mentality and you will quickly settle into the lifestyle. Danish is a fun language to learn and it's very useful in the rest of Scandinavia. Danish people have a very good level of English.

- **Age criteria:** 16-18 years old upon arrival.
- Starting month: January,
- Visa: yes, additional cost
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in Copenhagen\* included in the programme fee (Jan and Aug-Sept start).
- School year: August-May.

- School day: approx 8am-3pm.
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip to Nice are examples of trips running throughout the year. Additional costs.
- High School Select: no.

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.

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Everyone loves France! The country that has everything - big city life in Paris, sunshine on the Riviera and skiing in the Alps.

#### **High school in France**

French school is known for its high standards, high school is called "le lycée" and lasts for three years. In the second year, French students choose one of four orientations: science, literature, economics or technology. Exchange students are often placed in the second year on the literature orientation. Students need to have studied French for at least two years before they apply.

#### **Croissants and culture**

In France, food and cafe culture are important parts of life. Order a coffee and practice French in a relaxed atmosphere. Proud of their food, cities and wonderful beaches, art and tourist attractions, the French love their country, and with good reason! Your host family will make sure you get the absolute best out of your time in France.

- Age criteria: 15-18 years
- Starting months: January,
- Language requirement: two years of French.
- Area choice: yes, you can choose area or city Additional costs.
- STS Welcome Camp in Amsterdam\* included

- School year: September-
- **School day:** approx 8am-6pm (Mon, Tues
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend
- High School Select: no.

\* Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.



Take a high school year in a multi-cultural country, characterised by culture, concerts, festivals and football. A year in Germany is full of highlights!

#### **High school in Germany**

As an exchange student in Germany, you attend what is known as "Gymnasium", which covers year nine to year thirteen. Which year you end up in depends on your age, grades, and German language skills. Germany is a federal republic so schools can differ depending on which state they are in.

#### **Multicultural experiences**

From art and currywurst in Berlin to dream-like castles in Bavaria, a high school year in Germany can take many forms, but one thing is certain: your family will make sure that your experience will be a genuine one! An important part of many people's daily life in Germany is sport; football is the most popular, but handball, tennis, and athletics are also popular.

- Age criteria: 15-17.5 years
- **Starting months:** January, August and December.
- Language requirement:
- Area choice: yes, you can choose area or city. Additional costs.
- **Preparation course:**

- School year: July/Septem-
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend
- High School Select: no.

 $<sup>{}^{\</sup>star}$  Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.



#### Great Britain

Great Britain is full of culture, fashion, music, sport and history. You will develop personally and academically and leave with a perfect English accent!

#### **High school in Great Britain**

The British school system is regarded as one of the best in the world and you might recognise British school life from film and TV. You will likely be placed in one of the final two school years. Most schools have school uniform.

#### Experience the real U.K.

Our British host families look forward to welcoming you and providing a unique insight into British culture. You are sure to find extra-curricular activities like football (where the rivalry between teams is something special to experience), rugby, cricket or music.

**New!** With STS Choice you get more to say when choosing destination. Add in the application what you are looking for and we will provide three schools to choose from.

- Age criteria: 16-18 years
- Starting month: January and September.
- Visa: no, only EU passport holders can apply for Great Britain under the Classic programme.
- Area choice: yes, you can choose London and other cities. Additional costs.
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in
   London or Edinburgh
   included in the programme
  fee (Jan and Aug-Sept
   start).

- School year: England: September-June/July, Scotland: August-June/July
- **School day:** approx 9am-4pm.
- **Subjects:** you choose your subject direction (grade dependent).
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip to Nice are examples of trips running throughout the year. Additional costs.
- **High School Select:** yes, see p. 24.





#### Ireland

Welcome to "the Emerald Isle", with dramatic beaches, enjoyable Dublin and rolling countryside. You are certain to feel at home in one of the world's friendliest countries. Cead Mile Failte! (A hundred thousand welcomes!)

#### **High school in Ireland**

High School in Ireland is divided into two parts: Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. The first year in senior cycle is known as "transition year", and students study a mixture of theoretical and practical subjects to then choose their direction for future years. Irish schools are of a high standard, students wear a uniform and call their teachers "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss".

#### **Proud traditions**

The Irish love their traditions; paint yourself green on St Patrick's Day and try new sports like Gaelic Football or Hurling. With its long coastline and wide open countryside, Ireland is made for an active outdoor lifestyle. Don't forget Irish folk music too!

- Age criteria: 14-17 years old upon arrival.
- **Starting month:** January and September.
- Visa: yes, additional costs
- Area choice: yes, it is possible to choose Dublin for example. Additional costs.
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in
   Dublin included in the
   programme fee (Jan and
   Aug-Sept start).
- School year: September-

- School day: approx 9am-3.30pm.
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip to Nice are examples of trips running throughout the year. Additional costs.
- **High School Select:** yes, see p. 24.







#### Italy

If you ask an Italian why you should take a year in Italy, they will probably mention the world's best food, most beautiful language, and enjoyable lifestyle - it's hard not to agree!

#### **High school in Italy**

Italian High School, known as "Scuola Secondaria Superiore", covers school years nine to thirteen. Exchange students are often placed in year eleven or twelve with an emphasis on scientific or language subjects.

#### Sport, food and shopping

In the north, you find ski resorts and historic football teams in Milan and Turin, and sports such as swimming, rugby and volleyball are popular throughout Italy. Of course, food is a key element of life in Italy, and time spent together with the whole family around the dinner table is very important. Pasta, pizza, gelato, coffee - who doesn't love Italian food? Or if fashion is your thing then you have come to the right country. So come to Italy and sample the good life!

- **Age criteria:** 15-18 years old upon arrival.
- Starting months: January,

- Preparation course:
- School year: September-

- School day: approx 8am-1pm. (Mon-Sat).
- Subjects: a number of
- Optional trips: weekend
- High School Select: no.

#### Japan

Discover a different and fascinating culture. Japan has everything. An ancient culture of geisha, samurai and traditional sushi - but also with world leading technology, unique fashion and modern computer games.

#### High school in Japan

The Japanese school system consists of six-years primary school followed by three years of junior high and three years high school - where you as an exchange student will be placed. Teaching requires some previous knowledge in Japanese. You will meet tradition and innovation in a safe country with one of the world's friendliest people.

#### Tea tasting and tempura

As an exchange student in Japan it is recommended to join a school association, this is a great opportunity to make friends and improve your language. Another way to get to know the culture is to try a classic tea ceremony or try typical dishes like tako-yaki and tempura. Welcome to the land of the rising sun!

- **Age criteria:** 15-17.5 years old upon arrival.
- Starting month: August.
- Language requirement: read and write Hiragana
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:

- School year: August-April
- School day: 8am-3.30pm.
- Subjects: different
- Trips: no organised trips.
- High School Select: no.

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.





The Netherlands may be one of Europe's smallest countries, but despite its size there is a whole lot to see and do in the country. Discover an open culture and learn an exciting language spoken by 23 million people.

#### **High school in the Netherlands**

There are three types of high school in the Netherlands, and they differ in number of years and academic direction. The school will make an individual assessment to find the best option for you as an exchange student. The school starts in August and the academic year consists of three semesters.

#### Tolerant and tightly populated

Learn Dutch in a fun way! Join a sport or an arts club in the area near your host family. Football is a popular sport, as well as skiing and ice skating. Holland is densely populated, flat (making it great for cycling!) and famous for its canal systems (great for skating in winter time), tulips, windmills, and social tolerance. Many famous painters and artists are of Dutch origin.

- **Age criteria:** 15-17.5 years old upon arrival.
- **Starting month:** January, August and December.
- Visa: ves. additional costs.
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in
   Amsterdam\* included
   in the programme fee
- School year: August-

- School day: 8am-3.30pm
- **Subjects:** compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip to Nice are examples of trips running throughout the year. Additional costs.
- High School Select: no.





#### Norway

Norway is a country that has incredibly beautiful mountains, fjords and glaciers, but also cities with a vibrant urban and cultural life. Take the opportunity to study in one of the world's most mesmerising countries.

#### High school in Norway

In Norway, it is mandatory to go ten years in school and after that, the majority go to high school. The school environment is informal and you have a friendly relationship with your teachers. As an exchange student, you will often have some compulsory subjects, but at many schools you can also choose courses of your own.

#### The great outdoors

Norwegians take their traditions seriously and celebrate the national day (17 May) and Easter like no other. Many Norwegian families have a so called "hytte" to travel to, and they gladly pack their backpack to go hiking or skiing. The teenagers often spend their afternoons at cafes or are barbecuing in parks – all year long (so pack your long johns!).

- Age criteria: 16-18 years old upon arrival.
- Starting month: August.
- Visa: yes, additional costs.
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course: STS Welcome Camp in Copenhagen\* included in the programme fee (Aug-Sept start).
- School year: August-June.
- School day: 8am-3.30pr

- Subjects: compulsory subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Hafjell and spring trip to Nice are examples of trips running throughout the year Additional costs
- High School Select: no.

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.







#### Spain

Spanish is truly a world language, with more than 500 million speakers globally. Therefore, a year at school in Spain can open a lot of doors!

#### **High school in Spain**

Up until year ten, school in Spain is known as "Educación Secundaria Obligatoria". Years eleven and twelve are designed to help students prepare for university. Some basic Spanish skills and a curious mindset is all you need to study in a Spanish school, but which year you are placed in depends on grades and language skills.

#### Relaxed lifestyle

Your host family and local representative will be more than happy to help you find activities you enjoy outside of school hours. How about golf, football or flamenco dancing? Spanish culture is relaxed, social and spontaneous for those who enjoy dancing and being in the outdoors with friends socialising. You will quickly adapt to a lifestyle where you enjoy later dinners with your family, and enjoy lively discussions with your friends.

- Age criteria: 14-18 years
- Starting months: January, September and December
- Language requirement:
- Area choice: yes, cities such as Madrid and Barcelona
- Preparation course: STS Welcome Camp in

- School year: Sept.-June.
- School day: 8.30am-2pm.
- Subjects: no subject
- Optional trips: amongst
- High School Select: no.

#### Sweden

Friendly people, stunning summers and snowy winters; Sweden is the biggest of the Nordic countries, and a place where you will certainly make memories for life.

#### **High School in Sweden**

In Sweden, High School is called Gymnasium and is for students between 16 and 19. Exchange students are often placed in the second of these three years. The atmosphere in a Swedish school is friendly, and contact between students and teachers is less formal than in some other countries.

#### Technology and the great outdoors

Sweden is covered in forest and lakes, so there are fantastic opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities and get closer to nature during an exchange year. Why not warm up after a swim in the lake with traditional "fika" (coffee, cake and a chat) at one of the many cozy cafes you find on almost every street corner. Sweden is also very much a modern and forward-looking country though - Spotify, H&M and Skype are all Swedish!

- Age criteria: 16-18 years
- Start month: January, August and December.
- Area choice: no.
- Preparation course:
- School year: August-June
- School day: 8am-3.30pm.

- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip
- High School Select: no.

<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.





# I LOVED BEING IN HOLLAND, THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!

#### Switzerland

Switzerland is known for its expensive watches, luxurious chocolate and for being a skiing paradise. Switzerland has four official languages and as an exchange student, you can choose to stay in the German or French speaking part.

#### **High school in Switzerland**

High school, Gymnasium or Collège, in Switzerland is organised differently, depending on the part of the country - the canton - the school is located in. Swiss schools are academically strong and here you are expected to put a lot of effort into your studies. The school will decide which year you will attend.

#### Skiing, culture and shopping

In Switzerland, generally you do not practise a lot of sport in school. On the weekends, however, the train stations are filled with people heading to the mountains to ski, snowboard, hike or cycle. If you are not fond of outdoor activities, you can visit one of the major international cities that have vibrant cultural life and good shopping.

- Age criteria: 15-18 years
- Starting months: January
- Language requirement:
- **Visa:** yes, additional costs.
- Area choice: yes, you can choose either the French or
- Preparation course:

- School year: August-July.
- School day: approx
- **Subjects:** compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: weekend in London, skiing weekend to Norway and spring trip
- High School Select: no.





<sup>\*</sup> Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.









#### USA

The USA is a vast and multi-cultural country consisting of 50 states. Do you want to experience Florida beaches, skiing in Colorado or the academic feeling in Massachusetts? Wherever you spend your year, you'll experience life the American way.

#### **High School Select in the USA**

Are you an east coast or west coast type of person? Or maybe you feel more at home right in the middle? If you have a clear idea of where you want to live then High School Select is the programme for you. On High School Select, you choose the school that has just the right academic and extra-curricular choices for you.

#### High school in the USA

School in the States is divided into 12 years, of which high school makes up years 9-12. Teachers are addressed as "Sir", "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss" and some schools have a uniform which students have to wear. School is a big part of life and students spend a lot of their free time taking part in sports and social clubs.

- Age criteria: 15-18.5 years
- Starting months: January/ July-September.
- Visa: yes, additional cost.
- Area choice: yes, always included in High School Select.
- Preparation course: STS Welcome Camp in New York included in the programme fee (Jan and Aug-Sept start).
- School year: August/ September-May/June
- **School day:** appro 8am-3.30pm.
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects.
- Optional trips: amongst others to Hawaii, USA Coast to Coast, Canada Adventure Additional costs.
- High School Classic: yes

#### Canada

Canada is the world's second biggest country and can almost be described as one enormous national park, with fantastic wildlife. Of course, Canada also has great cities like Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto and friendly people where living is easy.

#### **High School Select in Canada**

As a Select student, you can choose to study in either the English or the French speaking part of Canada, or why not take the chance to learn both languages! We offer schools in Ottawa, Whistler, Vancouver and many more places. There are also great opportunities to combine school studies with sports like ice hockey, skiing or snowboarding, basketball or golf.

#### **High school in Canada**

The Canadian school system covers thirteen school years, and exchange students are placed depending on age and grades. The school year begins in September and ends in early July, though this can be dependent on location.

- **Age criteria:** 15-18 year old upon arrival.
- Starting months: January and August.
- Language requirement: some schools in French areas require French.
- Visa: yes, additional costs
- Area choice: yes, always included for High School Select
- Preparation course:
   STS Welcome Camp in

- Montreal\* included in the programme fee
  (Jan and Aug-Sept start)
- School year: August-June
- School day: 9am-3 30pm
- Subjects: compulsory and optional subjects
- Optional trips: amongst others USA Coast to Coast, Canada Adventure (see page 8). Additional costs.
- High School Classic: yes, see p. 15.

 $<sup>\</sup>star$  Subject to change. Go to sts-highschool.com for updated information.









#### Great Britain

History, football, rugby, cricket, netball, world-famous universities, music and literature - the UK has the lot. From cool cities to cute villages and from steep white cliffs to rolling green fields, take time to explore this exciting and historic country.

#### **High School Select in Great Britain**

Would you prefer to cycle through rolling countryside, or feel the pulse of the city in the heart of London? With High School Select, it is possible for you to choose exactly where in Britain you want to study - from Scotland in the north to Brighton in the south.

#### **High school in Great Britain**

The school system in Britain is considered one of the best in the world, and teaching standards are high. Most schools require a uniform to be worn and teachers are addressed as "Sir", "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss". The school year starts in September and consists of three terms, finishing in July though this can depend on the particular school or region.

- Subjects: you choose your subject direction (grade
- High School Classic: yes

#### Ireland

Everybody loves Ireland! There is a lot to experience on the green island and here you will have a first-class exchange. Culture in Galway, incredible views along the Wild Atlantic Way, gentle hills, forts and long sandy beaches. Be sure to learn some Gaelic!

#### **High School Select in Ireland**

Do you want to write limericks in Limerick or stroll around at the cosy streets of Dublin with your friends after school? With the select programme you choose where you want to live and study in Ireland. The supply among schools is high.

#### **High School in Ireland**

Just like in the UK, the Irish school year consists of three terms. School uniform is common and teachers are addressed as "Sir", "Mr", "Mrs" or "Miss". Schools have a high standard and students are expected to work hard on their studies.

- School year: September-

- High School Classic: yes,

## The following is included in the programme fee:

- Air travel, round-trip from nearest domestic or regional airport
- Host family
- School placement in a high school and school books for compulsory subjects up to 100 USD
- Personal service and an area representative at home and in your host country
- Orientation meeting before departure
- STS Welcome Camp
- Experienced STS Staff assisting at international departure points
- You can reach us by phone 24/7
- Meetings and materials to prepare you and your parents
- T-shirt and backpack from STS
- STS diploma
- Application fee for CASH passport (available in 9 currencies)











### BECOMEA HOST FAMILY WITH STS

Do you want to invite the world home and get cultural exchange without having to travel? We have curious students from all over the world who wish to spend a semester or two at school here in New Zealand. Our host families choose which student they wish to invite home and the lenght of their stay.

"Having hosted since 1994, I can vouch for hosting being one of the best opportunities to expose your family to!"

Karyn from Invercargill

Is this something you might be interested in? Sign up your interest at sts-highschool.com



#### **HOST & GO DISCOUNT!**

STS offers \$1,500 off the programme fee



#### Programme information

#### Who can participate?

To join our programme, you need to be a full-time high school student during the term prior to your departure. You can apply at 14 but you must be between 15 and 18 years of age at the time of departure. You also need to show average to above school results over the past two years.

#### How to apply

Apply at www.sts-highschool.com, select your destination and click on the departure you want. Our office will contact you on receipt of your application to arrange your interview. A copy of your latest school report will be required.

#### **Acceptance**

Your acceptance on the STS programme will depend mainly on your teacher's recommendation, your academic results, your personal maturity, positive attitude and motivations to go on exchange. You will receive a letter of preliminary acceptance or non-acceptance after your interview report has been fully assessed by our office. Final acceptance will be notified upon completion of your full application and your host country's assessment of your file.

#### **Programme closing dates**

As finding the right family and school for you can take time, it helps us, and you, if we receive your application form as soon as possible. Please note the following pre-application closing dates:

Departure January:	1 September
Departure August:	1 April
Departure November:	1 July
Departure December:	1 August
Late applications may be ac	ccepted depen-

ding on the space availability. Should a late applicant be accepted into the programme, the full fees due and payable on that date will be required.

#### **Programme fees**

The programme fee is paid in four instalments, the first of which is payable within 30 days of preliminary acceptance into the programme. Further instalments are payable according to the payment schedule found on our website, www.sts-highschool.com. We reserve the right to increase programme prices, but we guarantee that once you have submitted your application and paid your \$900 deposit there will be no nasty surprises. At the time of paying your \$900 deposit you will secure the published programme price, thus be protected from increase. Please refer to the accompanying programme fee sheet for programme fees to all countries and optional extras, for example area choice (where applicable).

#### Personal expenses not covered in the programme fee

Personal expenses include pocket money, mobile phone and internet, excess luggage, transportation to and from school, school lunches, language tuition, school uniform, club fees, toiletries, clothing, excursions, other travelling, visa costs and insurance cover. All exchange students are required to have insurance cover. STS offers a very comprehensive and attractive insurance package which includes illness and repatriation, disability and death, personal liability, legal assistance, curtailment, travel documents, luggage and luggage delay, delay of insurance and evacuation.

Details of this package are available to all students upon acceptance to the programme.

#### Cancellation and refund policy

Please see www.sts-highschool.com.

#### **Domestic flights**

Domestic and regional flights to the point of international departure and return within your home country are included in the programme fee where necessary.

#### First country choice

Make sure your exchange programme guarantees this. It is not a good start to be sent to somewhere you do not wish to go. First country choice is subject to Government requirement in each country, students need to apply early, we do have some quota countries.

#### Host & Go

\$1,500 discount payable at the end of a successful years hosting. Families can only host and receive the discount after careful STS screening, including police checking as per Ministry of Education requirements. This discount is subject to the availability of Inbound students

#### Disclaimer

Everything printed in this brochure is accurate as at the time of print.

#### Contact us who have been away!



Claire Thorrold claire-thorrold@live.co.uk



Rory King roryking42@gmail.com



Havlin Neal haylinneal@gmail.com

**SCHOLARSHIPS** AVAILABLE

#### STS accreditations and memberships



The Alliance, an alliance for international educational and cultural exchange. The Alliance serves as a collective public policy voice of the international educational and cultural exchange community in the USA



deration is a not-for-profit associ-ation of youth and student travel operators. They are dedicated to supporting the global industry and connecting the organisations that serve young people who travel to study, work and grow



The Council on Standards Travel (CSIET) is a not-for-pro fit organisation committed to the quality of international educational travel and exchange for youth at the high school level. STS has been listed for many years.



 $Member\ of\ the\ New\ Zealand\ Council\ for\ Intercultural\ Education.\ STS\ is\ aninaugural\ member\ of\ the\ NZCIE,\ which\ aims\ to\ promote\ international\ peace,$ understanding and goodwill by helping people develop the skills necessary for living in a globally interdependent and culturally diverse world through experiencing life in another country and community. Membership to NZCIE is dependent on being both a not for profit reputable international cultural exchange organisation, a signatory to the New Zealand Ministry of Educations Code of Practice for the Pastoral Care of International Students and accepting the NZCIE Principles of Good Practice for Intercultural Exchanges.

## You will be well prepared!

Expectations and preparation is an important part of your high school year. Therefore, we are fully focused on providing you and your parents the best guidance for your big adventure.

#### Support

During your preparation, we invite you to contact our office regularly for guidance and assistance through the steps you need to take. Feel confident that with our support you will complete everything on time.

#### **Pre departure orientation**

We invite you and your parents to a pre departure orientation meeting where you will receive information to help you prepare for your big adventure. You will meet other students traveling to the same country as yourself and hear from past exchange students.

#### Flights to the host country

Students are issued with return International tickets. Dates for travel are in line with school start and end date in the host country. Short term and semester students depart with their return date booked, any change requests to the ticket once booked is at the customers cost. Year students often depart with dummy return dates on the ticket. Once the airline's booking system is in range a return date is booked and once the confirmed return date is booked any change requests to the ticket is at the customers cost.

#### STS on the trip

At your end destination your host family or STS staff will be there to meet you.

#### STS Welcome Camp

We want you to get the best possible start to your exchange year and therefore we include the STS Welcome Camp on arrival for all our destinations (August departure only). The length of the course varies, there may be one or more days where you learn more about the country, practise the language and in some cases overcome your jet lag. Whatever the approach, it is a nice soft start to your exchange with experienced STS staff and other students.

#### Homecoming

The time after the high school year is also important and we talk sometimes about reverse culture shock. We at STS are here for you and can help you keep in touch with other students and keep the memories alive. We welcome stories for our website to help inspire others, please write stories about your experience and send them to us.



## Let the dream come true!

Be sure to apply early to secure your spot on our programme. We look forward to guiding you through the preparation of a terrific high school year. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.



#### Interest

Fill in your application at sts-highschool.com, email us at highschool@sts-education.co.nz or call us on 0800 991 991.

## 2

#### **Free interview**

We invite you and your parents to a free and non-binding interview where we tell more about our programmes.

## 3

#### **Preparations**

We will help you prepare and find a really great host family and school. You are invited to a pre departure orientation meeting.



#### The adventure begins for real

We at STS arrange your flight. On many long haul flights you will be accompanied by STS staff.

## Check out photos and films from our students.

sts-highschool.com

- f STSNZ
- **O** stsworldwide
- stsnewzealand



#### #stsjourney



Thanks to all our students who have contributed with pictures and quotes. Find more stories on sts-highschool.com.

## Start Your Journey!

Call us on 0800 991 991

Find more information, the latest news, current offers and apply on sts-highschool.com









9 Quarry Court, Cromwell 9310, New Zealand

Freephone: 0800-991-991

E-mail: highschool@sts-education.co.nz

Web: sts-highschool.com



#### STS High School | Programme fee 2019/2020

#### STS Classic

Programme	Fee per school year	Fee per semester	Fee per 3/2/1 month(s)
USA	16 300	13 900	-
Argentina	13 600	11 600	10600/9750
Austria	13 750	11 700	9750/8900
Canada	29 900	23 900	-
Denmark	13 900	12 800	11 450 / 10 200
France	13 200	12 200	11 200/10 400/9 800
Germany	14 000	12 200	10400/9800
Great Britain* Great Britain STS Choice**	19 100 from 24 800	16400 from 18900	13 200/-/- from 18 000/-/-
Ireland*	22 900	18 9 0 0	15 400
Italy	13 750	12 600	9800/9300
Japan	16 850	-	-
The Netherlands	13 500	12 400	10 400/9 650
Norway	13 450	12 450	-
Spain	16 900	13 300	10550/10250
Sweden	13 900	12 850	9750/9450
Switzerland	14 250	13 500	-

#### Area/city choice (STS Classic)

Choice	Fee
USA area guarantee state/city guarantee	1 365 2 150
Austria city choice	1 190
Germany area choice city choice	750 2150
France area choice city choice Paris area	750 2230 3350
Ireland area choice city choice	990 1650
Italy city choice: Milan, Florence, Rome	4750/sem.
<b>Spain</b> city choice: 9 cities including Madrid and Barcelona	from 2150/sem.
Great Britain city choice city choice: London, Oxford	3790
city choice: Birmingham, Bourne- mouth, Brighton, Edinburgh, Hastings, Torquay area choice: Midlands, South East, South West	2 150 750

#### High School Select

Would you like to select, not only the country, but also a region, city and even school with a certain range of subjects? Then you should choose High School Select that we offer in the USA, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom. Contact us for school proposals in your selected country.

Programme	Fee per semester
USA	from 22 579
Canada	from 21 529
Great Britain	from 36 100
Ireland	from 21 200

#### Roundtrips

With STS you can experience even more! We offer two exciting journeys, USA Coast to Coast and Canada Adventure. These trips take place in summer and will be the perfect way to end your time abroad. You travel with a great group of experienced leaders and other exchange students.

Trip	Price
USA Coast to Coast	5 900
Canada Adventure	4 690

#### Discounts\*\*\*

Programme	Discount
Host & Go Host an exchange student when attending an exchange programme	from 1,500
Sibling discount If your sibling is already on an STS programme	500
Own host family/direct placement	500

All prices are in NZD and apply from 26 June 2018. Prices may change in exceptional circumstances, e.g. for exchange rate adjustments. STS reserves the right to increase programme prices, but we guarantee that once you have paid your \$900 deposit there will be no nasty surprises. At the time of paying your \$900 deposit you will secure the published programme price, thus be protected from increase.

- \* These prices are for EU Passport holders, there will be additional fees for the non-EU passport holders.
- $\hbox{$^{\star\star}$ Based on your application we suggest a number of schools that perfectly fit your interests and qualifications.}$

The formal application procedure will commence upon receipt of the acceptance fee. Payment schedules and cancellation clauses can be found at www.sts-highschool.com

Programme closing dates: Year & Semester departures January and August 2019, 2 & 3 Month departures January, August, November & December 2019.

Late applications may be accepted depending on space availability. If a late applicant is accepted into the programme the full fees due and payable at that time will be required.

**Insurance:** All exchange students are required to have an insurance cover. STS offers a very comprehensive and attractive insurance package, which includes medical care and treatment, repatriation if necessary, disability, death, baggage and personal property, third party liability, bodily injury and property damage, assault, legal expenses and delay. Full details of the package are available to all students upon acceptance to the programme.

The programme fee includes: Transport to/from the host country, transfer to/from the host family, accommodation and meals with the host family, registration at a local high school, selection of applicants, travel insurance, documents for the visa application, detailed preparation material, contact students before departure, preparation seminar for participants and parents before departure, STS Welcome Camp, support by STS in the home country, on-site support by STS or our partner organisations, STS backpack, STS t-shirt, STS Student Handbook, certificate after completing the programme and access to STS Ambassador programme.

The programmme fee does not include: Insurance package, possible visa fees, programme extensions, rebooking costs of the return ticket, possible school fees in Argentina, possible costs for textbooks, school uniform, excursions, school bus or public transport and pocket money.

We look forward to hearing from you! Phone: 0800-991-991, E-mail: highschool@sts-education.co.nz.



<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Discounts cannot be combined.