



# Why Study Abroad?



## What do you gain from a year abroad?

- Learn a new language and become fluent enough to communicate well in that country
- Opportunity to study a new culture and also learn more about your own culture
- Serve your country by being an ambassador – especially to young people in other countries
- Meet people from around the world and make connections that will last a lifetime
- Increase your independence, confidence, speaking skills

## Why might a High School Exchange (or gap year) have some advantages over a semester abroad during college?

- First – it is much cheaper!!! Rotary provides housing, food and school
- You live with host families – this gives you a much better perspective of a culture than living in dorms or in flats with other same-aged students
- Living with a host family is the best way to learn a language – you use it daily!
- High School is one of the most important parts of almost every culture – how a country educates its youth reflects the values and beliefs of the culture
- Many students feel they are just getting really comfortable with the language at 4 to 5 months and starting to move from studying the culture to being a part of the culture (that is right when college students have to go home from their semester abroad!)
- College Semesters abroad can be difficult to schedule and may not fit with some majors.
- Pressure to focus on college studies can seriously detract from the goal of learning a new language and culture
- But to be honest, almost every student who goes abroad during High School finds a way to make it happen in college too. They get hooked on travel and culture.

**Dream Big! Take a chance! Learn about the World and Yourself!**

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**Check Out Rotary Youth Exchange**