THE EXPERIMENT OFFERS PROGRAMS ON FIVE CONTINENTS.

EXPERIENCE | DISCOVER | TRANSFORM

The countries in green represent where The Experiment is today. Join us in exploring the world.
The Experiment in International Living is the most experienced provider of summer abroad programs for high school students. For 87 years, our immersive programs have allowed participants to authentically explore the world while developing enduring friendships through cultural experiences and homestays, leaving a lasting impact on their lives. Each year, hundreds of students come away from The Experiment with invaluable cultural, leadership, language, and interpersonal skills that help them thrive in diverse environments and prepare them to succeed in college and careers.

We have a long history of developing leaders and global citizens. Most notably, in 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed into existence the Peace Corps, which was shaped in part by one student’s experience with The Experiment.

The Experiment is the flagship program of World Learning (worldlearning.org), a thriving global nonprofit with education, sustainable development, and exchange programs advancing leadership in more than 150 countries. World Learning is part of the World Learning Inc. family, which also includes the School for International Training (SIT), offering accredited undergraduate study abroad programs through SIT Study Abroad and globally focused master’s degrees through SIT Graduate Institute.

WHO WE ARE

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HISTORY & EXPERIENCE

In 1932, The Experiment’s first group of students sailed for Germany with a mission of fostering peace through understanding, communication, and cooperation. They returned with a different outlook on the world and new leadership skills. Today, The Experiment continues to build on its 87 years of experience through immersive study abroad programs that allow students to explore the world, leaving a lasting impact on their lives.

AUTHENTICITY

Experimenters go to learn, not to teach. That means experiencing daily life with a local family through a homestay and learning from teachers and local experts. Experimenters forge real connections by going beyond their comfort zones and occasionally stepping off the beaten path to create authentic bonds with local communities.

LEARNING BY DOING

The Experiment’s educational philosophy is immersive, experiential, and student-centered. By exploring a new country through activities and then reflecting on those experiences, Experimenters gain critical skills such as leadership, teamwork, cross-cultural competence, language acquisition, and problem-solving.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Our comprehensive, 360-degree approach focuses on the well-being of participants before, during, and after the program with expertly trained adult group leaders, in-country support, 24-hour on-call assistance from our staff, and more.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We know it is essential to include all voices to foster peace and understanding. Thanks to a broad coalition of partners and funders, we are able to recruit the most promising young leaders representing diverse socioeconomic, gender, racial, and ethnic identities.

THE EXPERIMENT'S FOUNDING PHILOSOPHY:

- Go to learn, not to teach.
- Expect the unexpected.
- Turn a crisis into an adventure.
- Learn to live together by living together.
- Be quick to observe, slow to judge.
Youth are intensely curious, passionate, and ambitious people who seek to engage with and learn from other cultures. For almost 20 years, I have had the immense fortune to support U.S. and international youth in their desire to learn about the world through exchange programs.

The Experiment in International Living has shaped the lives of tens of thousands of young people for nearly nine decades. Founded in 1932, this transformative program brings U.S. students abroad to develop relationships across cultures, learn about new perspectives, and gain the skills they need to thrive in their careers and lives.

The Experiment is part of the World Learning youth exchange family, which provides nearly 1,500 high school students and adult mentors with unique cross-cultural experiences in the U.S. and throughout the globe each year. They come from different socioeconomic, racial, educational, and geographic backgrounds, but they all have one thing in common: they want to better understand and experience a complex world.

Learning to live together is the first of many steps in understanding ourselves and our globally connected communities. That’s why homestays are at the core of these programs, providing rich immersion opportunities for both students and the host families who welcome these young people into their lives.

Understanding diverse perspectives is another hallmark of The Experiment: our students don’t go abroad to teach or instruct others; they go abroad to learn from others and discover what is needed—especially in terms of leadership and collaboration—to bring about meaningful change in themselves and their communities.

Experimenters are also thinking ahead about the skills they will need to navigate their futures in our highly interconnected social and natural environments; they recognize how critical it is to acquire soft skills in language acquisition, cross-cultural empathy, flexibility, and resiliency.

I am honored and inspired by each student who chooses to participate on an Experiment program. I invite you to contact our team to learn more about The Experiment’s summer abroad programs by calling 800.345.2929 or emailing info@experiment.org.

Thank you,
Christina Thomas
Divisional Vice President, World Learning Youth Exchange
OUR EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

IMMERSIVE, EXPERIENTIAL, STUDENT-CENTERED

Travel and exploration foster the natural curiosity and sense of adventure of young people. The Experiment designs immersive international programs that empower Experimenters to drive their own learning. They come away not only having experienced a new culture but also with critical skills that shape how they learn, see, and think about the world. Experimenters gain the leadership skills to help them address the critical global issues facing their generation, as well as the self-confidence and mindfulness that inspire a desire for lifelong learning.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential learning is a rich process that engages students in hands-on activities and encourages them to reflect on and interpret their observations and extract lessons learned. The Experiment’s group leaders are trained to guide students through this reflective learning process throughout the program. Once learned, Experimenters can apply it across experiences and take the lead in their own learning.

THE EXPERIMENT’S LEARNING GOALS

- Explore a new country through hands-on experience.
- Connect and engage meaningfully with another culture.
- Deepen consciousness toward critical global issues shaping the host country as well as communities back home.
- Cultivate empathy and harmony across ethnic, religious, and national communities while on the program and back home.
- Develop leadership, teamwork, cross-cultural competence, language acquisition, and communication and problem-solving skills.
- Grow personally to become a confident and accountable leader.

THE HOMESTAY EXPERIENCE

HOMESTAY PLACEMENTS

The homestay is the cornerstone of The Experiment philosophy; it sets our programs apart and fulfills those seeking an authentic cultural experience. Living with a host family helps participants make meaningful connections and allows them to better understand and experience the host country. It is through the homestay that Experimenters transition from visitors to fully immersed participants—and most Experimenters list the homestay as key to their growth and learning about their host culture.

Experimenters are placed with families in the same region or town as their group and leaders, which allows for group gatherings and cultural activities, and for participants to be able to reach their group leaders at all times. The homestay experience lasts between one and three weeks, depending on the program.

HOMESTAY REFLECTIONS FROM EXPERIMENTERS

“My homestay family was the sweetest, most kind family I have ever met in my life. They welcomed me with open arms and made me feel a part of their family as soon as I walked through the door.”
— Rosely, Experimenter to Spain, 2019

“The host family was very welcoming, and I felt very safe in their neighborhood. My host sister was very enthusiastic for me to join her and her friends in their activities and generally just wanted us to be together.”
— Claire, Experimenter to Thailand, 2019

“I planted trees with my host family and the rest of the village, and that was very meaningful because it was a chance to do an activity with them that was important and would leave an impact on the community for years to come.”
— Jennifer, Experimenter to Morocco, 2019

“Every first night that I came to stay with my family they walked me through their city, took me out to eat, and told me about their family, the city, and the history of Spain. They were so nice, so funny, and so welcoming. I immediately felt like I had made new friends who really liked me and appreciated me for who I was. They were really kind and helped me with my Spanish to understand what they were saying to me.”
— Jedidiah, Experimenter to Spain, 2019

THE PROCESS

- Our in-country partners match participants with the most suitable families, many of whom have hosted before.
- Every effort is made to ensure the interests of both the students and local host families are considered when identifying homestay placements.
- Families come in all shapes and sizes and represent the diversity of the host communities.
- Our international partners facilitate an extensive recruitment and vetting process that includes home visits and, where permissible, background checks.
- Host families attend orientation sessions prior to meeting their homestay Experimenter.

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HEALTH, SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Experiment recognizes risk as inherent in all travel, and we continually work to identify, mitigate, and manage risks within our program contexts. Our 360-degree approach to risk management has been developed throughout our decades of experience providing safe learning environments abroad.

OUR 360-DEGREE APPROACH

HEALTH REVIEW PROCESS
Experimenter health histories and healthcare provider clearances are thoroughly reviewed by our medical team. This detail-oriented health review process allows The Experiment to anticipate health-related risks and better manage them on program.

All information is kept confidential and shared securely with Experiment group leaders and in-country partners on a need-to-know basis.

PRE-DEPARTURE PREPARATION
The Experiment provides resources to address questions Experimenter and their families may have to help them prepare for safe and successful program experiences. These resources include Experimenter and family handbooks, program-specific health guidelines, detailed packing lists, and comprehensive travel logistics.

MEDICAL INSURANCE
All Experimenter students traveling internationally are covered by the World Learning purchased insurance policy. International students traveling in the U.S. for an Experiment program are covered by a similar World Learning purchased insurance policy.

INTERNATIONAL SOS
The Experiment partners with International SOS to provide medical support and security assistance coverage for all programs abroad. International SOS has been providing high-quality global medical and security services for more than 25 years. All Experimenters and their families have access to extensive country-specific resources through International SOS’s member zone website.

ONGOING MONITORING
The Experiment’s risk management protocol includes continuous monitoring of events abroad and access to up-to-the-minute travel advisories. The Experiment monitors U.S. government advisories issued by in-country embassies and consulates as well as the U.S. Department of State. The Experiment also consults with a team of counselors and medical professionals, and partner organizations—doing so in consultation with a team of councilors and medical staff provided by International SOS.

COMPREHENSIVE IN-COUNTRY ORIENTATION
Each Experiment program begins with an in-country orientation focused on local health and safety best practices, increasing cultural knowledge (such as in-country norms), and developing Experimenters’ cross-cultural communication skills and self-awareness within the context of the program country. Beginning with the in-country orientation and continuing throughout the program, students are routinely familiarized with location-specific emergency response plans.

24-HOUR ON-CALL SUPPORT
The Experiment provides a 24-hour on-call assistance line for any health or safety concerns that may arise during the program season. Our on-call staff communicates with families, group leaders, in-country partners, International SOS, and other relevant support resources.

RISK MANAGEMENT TEAM
With nearly 50 years of collective experience in youth program management, The Experiment risk management team ensures students are set up for success on the program by working collaboratively with Experimenters and their families, healthcare professionals, and partner organizations—always in consultation with a team of counselors and medical staff provided by International SOS.

IN-COUNTRY LOCAL SUPPORT
Each Experiment group is supported by an extensive professional network of in-country resources including partner offices, international educators, homestay coordinators, program guides, and translators. Our in-country partner offices help us design each program and support our groups throughout the program season. All third-party program partners and providers have been vetted for safety standards and compliance with all Experiment policies. All Experimenters are registered with the local U.S. Embassy through the U.S. Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP).

Our Risk Management Team

Kirstin French
Director of Operations

Christina Thomas
Divisional Vice President of World Learning Youth Exchange

Kristen Dowling
Operations Officer
ACADEMIC & CAREER IMPACT

“The Experiment sparked my interest in languages and cross-cultural communications. I was motivated to delve into these disciplines upon my return and studied them as an undergraduate. I continue to use skills that I acquired during my time in Mongolia today working with diverse communities in the Bay Area. I am grateful for The Experiment and the immeasurable ways in which it’s impacted my life.”

Alumnus: Geovanni Ximenez-Garcia Monteon
Experiment program: Mongolia: Nomadic Culture & Outdoor Adventure, 2010
Undergraduate major: Journalism, World Languages & Cultures
Graduated from: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, 2016
Current position: Communications Specialist
Location: Oakland, California

Alumna: Dasia Moore
Experiment program: France: Cultural Discovery, 2013
Undergraduate major: Ethics, Politics, and Economics (interdisciplinary)
Graduated from: Yale University, 2018
Current position and affiliation: Intern at City of New Haven’s Office of Development and Policy
Location: New Haven, Connecticut

Said their experience influenced their educational choices and was helpful in gaining access to academic programs.

92%

Said their experience was helpful in gaining language abilities.

94%

Said their experience was helpful in gaining employment.

85%

“The Experiment opened me to new possibilities for my academic and professional paths. I have become very interested in investigating the intersections between different disciplines, cultures, and problems. I am now pursuing an interdisciplinary major and hope to work in a field that allows me to facilitate connections between government and nonprofit work.”

“The Experiment was an incredible opportunity that exposed me to ways of living I hadn’t experienced before. The friendships I developed with my host family, others on site, and my fellow Experimenters were important formative relationships for me. The Experiment was definitely an important step in my path to work in the nonprofit sector and helped inspire me to commit to a life in public service.”

Alumna: Kate Archibald
Experiment program: France: Fine Arts & Photography, 2006
Undergraduate major: Business
Graduated from: Yale University, 2011 & Stanford Graduate School of Business, MBA, 2017
Current position and affiliation: Consultant at The Bridgespan Group, a nonprofit strategy consultancy that advises mission-driven organizations working to break cycles of poverty
Location: San Francisco, California

Alumna: Erika Nichols-Frazer
Experiment program: Ghana, 2006
Undergraduate major: Creative Writing, Global Development
Graduated from: Sarah Lawrence College, 2010
Current position and affiliation: Communications Manager at the Children’s Literacy Foundation; M.F.A. candidate in Fiction at Bennington Writing Seminars
Location: Waitsfield, Vermont

According to a recent publication by Dr. Alvino E. Fantini (Intercultural Communicative Competence in Educational Exchange: A Multinational Perspective, Routledge, 2019), based on qualitative and quantitative data collected from 2,000+ students of The Experiment and SIT Study Abroad programs:

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“The Experiment nurtured my enthusiasm for languages, my interest in international affairs (which ultimately led to an internship at the U.S. Mission to the E.U., work at the Gates Foundation, and a continued career in social impact), and my love of making art. More importantly, it prepared me for the independence of college and taught me to see myself as part of a global community.”

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Program Themes

The Experiment’s program themes provide an opportunity to explore a host country through a specific lens. Program page colors correspond with the following themes:

Sustainability & the Environment
Discover local, regional, and global perspectives on diverse ecological systems, environmental challenges, natural resource conservation, or sustainable practices.

Cultural Discovery & the Arts
Explore the relationship between art and society in different historical periods while diving deeper into a host country’s culture or developing your own creative skills.

Language Training
Receive formal language training and/or language practice beyond the classroom while exploring renowned historical sites and learning about local culture.

Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Learn how community groups, individuals, and others worldwide have built bridges of peace, tolerance, and understanding to foster more democratic and equitable societies.

Icon Guide
Each Experiment program includes several of the following components. Component descriptions can be used as an overall guide in choosing a program that best fits each Experimenter’s interests. Use the icons to identify components on each individual program page.

*Depending on the number of hours completed, Experimenters may receive a community service or language learning certificate. See page 24 for more details.
THE EXPERIMENT’S GROUP LEADERS

ONGOING SUPPORT FROM START TO FINISH

Experiment groups are accompanied by two carefully selected and trained adult leaders who work collaboratively with in-country partners and The Experiment’s offices in the United States.

Experimenters are greeted by their two group leaders at a specific meeting location in the designated port of departure in the U.S. Group leaders immediately get to know all Experimenters and encourage them to engage with each other. Right away—and continuing throughout the host country orientation—leaders work with Experimenters to increase their knowledge of the country and culture, develop communication skills, and cultivate new attitudes and awareness.

Throughout the program, group leaders keep in close contact with Experimenters and their homestay families, conduct group excursions, and guide Experimenters through the learning process via discussions, activities, and reflections on their experiences. At the end of the program, leaders help Experimenters evaluate their experiences and consider how they can integrate what they learned about themselves and the world into their lives back home.

OUR GROUP LEADERS ARE EDUCATORS

In 2019, The Experiment accepted only 27% of group leader applicants. Our leaders are selected for their leadership and teaching skills, their experience working with young people, and their international experience and language competence. Many of our leaders are teachers and professionals with a bachelor’s or master’s degree, former Peace Corps volunteers, and scholars (Fulbright, Rhodes, Truman, etc.). They are trained at our School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont.

Our Leaders:

• Are professional, flexible, resilient, resourceful, proactive, caring, warm, friendly, and fun-loving
• Genuinely enjoy spending time with high school students
• Demonstrate skills and experience in cross-cultural sensitivity and communication
• Represent a wide variety of backgrounds and social identities
• Are aware of and committed to addressing bias, systemic inequalities, power, privilege, and oppression
• Are, above all, educators and facilitators

CASSIDY BECKFORD MOORE | China

A native of northern New Jersey, Cassidy earned her bachelor’s degree in communications and political science with a concentration in history and linguistics from the University of Pittsburgh in 2014. During her time in undergrad, Cassidy spent a summer term in South Africa as a Vera I. Heinz scholar, participating in a program focused on community building in schools. She later went overseas to teach and coach in Shenzhen, China, where she became a certified Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) instructor. In 2017, Cassidy earned a master’s degree in international education with a focus in social justice education and youth development at SIT Graduate Institute before transitioning into working with students with special needs. Currently, she works as social studies instructor at a charter school focused on environmental sciences and preservation.

FIORELLA MORALES | France

Originally from San Jose, Costa Rica, Fiorella was raised and still lives in Southern California. As a Gates Millennium Scholar, she completed a bachelor’s degree in behavioral neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh (USD) and a master’s degree in post-secondary educational leadership with a specialization in student affairs from San Diego State University. She is working toward a doctorate in leadership studies with a focus on international school leadership and higher education at USD. As an undergraduate student, Fiorella studied abroad in Aix-en-Provence, France, with the Institute for American Universities, which sparked her interest in international education as a career. Fiorella is multilingual in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic.

CALVIN WALDS | South Africa

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Calvin Walds has completed graduate degrees in pan-African studies, general and special education, and cross-genre writing. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and ethnic studies. He is a senior fellow with Humanity in Action. A burgeoning creative writer, Calvin has completed poetry workshops with Cave Canem in Brooklyn, New York, and writing fellowships with Callaloo, Oxford University, and with The Watering Hole. His writing has been published in the journals Callaloo, Coldnoon, and Diffractions. He has taught in New York City as a teaching fellow, served as a visiting teacher at Abaarso School in Somaliland, and completed field research in Detroit, Accra, and the Bijlmermeer neighborhood in Amsterdam.

Our Group Leaders

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COMMUNITY SERVICE & LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION

Many of The Experiment’s summer abroad programs offer community service opportunities and/or formal language classes for participants, with the number of hours varying by program. Community service projects are designed by local organizations and the individuals they serve to create projects that benefit the host community.

Participants who successfully complete 10 or more hours of community service and/or language training will receive a certificate from The Experiment after their return to the U.S.

PROGRAMS WITH COMMUNITY SERVICE CERTIFICATION

**High Intensity (20+ hours)**
- Argentina: Community Service & the Great Outdoors (30+ hours)
- Costa Rica: Biodiversity, Ecology & Sustainability (40+ hours)
- Tanzania: African Cultures & Landscapes (35+ hours)
- South Africa: Leadership & Social Change (25+ hours)

**Medium Intensity (Up to 20 hours)**
- Ecuador: The Galápagos Islands & the Andes (8-12 hours)
- Thailand: From Ancient Temples to Bangkok (12-16 hours)

**PROGRAMS WITH LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION**

- China: Chinese Language & Culture (20 classroom hours, 40+ hours total)
- France: French Language & Culture (22 classroom hours, 40+ hours total)
- Japan: Japanese Language & Culture (33 classroom hours, 60+ hours total)
- Jordan: Arabic Language & the Middle East (40 classroom hours, 80+ hours total)
- Spain: Spanish Language & Culture (Group 1: 40 classroom hours, 60+ hours total; Group 2: 20 classroom hours, 60+ hours total)

Other programs include less formal language instruction and community service without certification. See program components on each program page.

GROUP TRAVEL PROGRAMS FOR YOUR HIGH SCHOOL OR ORGANIZATION

The Experiment partners with organizations and schools to develop custom international programming based on our existing program models and high-quality standards, including our educational philosophy and commitment to health and safety. Our team collaborates with you to learn your travel preferences and learning objectives, then works with our international network to design an itinerary that’s right for you.

Our comprehensive approach means we can design or implement a curriculum incorporating your educational goals; make all travel arrangements; provide support to students and parents/guardians before, during, and after the program; provide trained group leaders; monitor health, safety, and risk; and provide optional pre- and post-program orientation activities.

For more information, visit experiment.org/grouptravel.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

Each year, The Experiment trains up to 100 teachers, youth leaders, and facilitators on a range of topics relating to the broad areas of youth, education, logistics, and health and safety. The Experiment is committed to quality education that develops global leaders and supports all educators to use best practices and maximize student success. To achieve this goal, we offer professional development training programs in program management and facilitation for educators.

The Experiment’s Professional Development Training program offers a range of trainings including: program design and delivery, health and safety standards, day-to-day logistics and management, The Experiment’s experiential learning model, cross-cultural adaptability, and thematic travel-based learning.

For more information, visit experiment.org/professionaldevelopment.
COMMUNITY SERVICE & THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Get to know Argentina while exploring mountains on horseback, hiking through the countryside, rafting river rapids, and camping in the rustic outdoors. Complete service projects in a local Argentine community.

Experience Argentina through a month of outdoor activities and community service. Begin your Experiment in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, where you will explore the city's sights, architecture, and boulevards, and begin practicing your Spanish. Then, travel by boat to the city's surrounding islands in the Tigre Delta and visit artisan markets.

From Buenos Aires, your journey continues in the northern region of Salta, where you will spend two weeks sharing daily life with an Argentine host family. During this period, you will work on community service projects with a school, community organization, park, church, or local government. You will also hike in the beautiful Argentine countryside and ride the rapids in the Juramento River canyon during a group white-water rafting adventure. Marvel at the mesmerizing landscape of the shimmering white Salinas Grandes, Argentina’s massive salt flats.

The program’s outdoor exploration continues as you move to a traditional working ranch, where you will learn rope skills that simulate roping cattle. Explore the countryside on horseback as you ride up the Chicoana Mountain and camp under the stars. You will also enjoy traditional asado, a barbecue, prepared by Argentine cowboys known as gauchos. In Cafayate, take a bike tour of the city and hike the beautiful surrounding areas before returning to Buenos Aires for a final day of exploration and reflection.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ARS.

Note: Participants should bring a horseback riding helmet with them.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of community service hours completed.
CHINA

CHINESE LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Learn or improve your Chinese while exploring bustling cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. Discover the Great Wall and Forbidden City. Experience rural China through homestays.

This Experiment takes you to bustling Beijing, home to nearly 22 million people, to discover a vibrant culture. Explore the modern city’s ancient roots at the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, and the Temple of Heaven. You will experience cultural activities, sample from the thousands of dumpling variations in the local markets, and learn to prepare a typical Chinese meal.

Your Mandarin Chinese language skills will develop through 40+ hours of training through formal classes (20 hours), experiential learning activities, host family interactions, practice with your friends, and more. You’ll learn more about Chinese culture and language through new friendships with Chinese students who will join you for part of the program.

You will travel by overnight train to Inner Mongolia, an autonomous region of China, where you’ll meet herdsmen, watch the sun rise over the grasslands, taste Mongolian food, and learn about Mongolian culture.

Your Experiment continues in the city of Chengde, where you will begin your urban homestay.

Take Mandarin Chinese lessons and practice your language skills with Chinese host families while in Chengde, where you’ll also bike to nearby gardens, palaces, and temples. Then Chinese students from Chengde will join you for a rural homestay in a Han village in Buyang-zhuang. Together, you will hike scenic mountains and visit the historic city of Qufu, the hometown of Confucius.

Return to Shanghai to explore the sights such as the nearly 500-year-old Yuyuan Garden, Old City, and Longhua Buddhist Temple. Soak in the melting pot of Shanghai’s cultures, from architecture and technology to fashion and art, as you prepare for your journey back home.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/CHD.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of language training hours completed through formal classes, homestays, and experiential learning activities.

Program Suspended

Theme: Language Training
Components: City and rural exploration, history, physical activity, language training, hiking/trekking, outdoor activity, rugged travel, camping
Orientation: Beijing, 3–4 days
Homestay: Chengde, 6–8 days; Buyangzhuang, 5 days*
Other Accommodations: Hotels, hostels, and gers

Duration and Dates: Program suspended for summer 2020
Depart/Return City: San Francisco
Program Tuition: $6,150 (does not include international airfare)

U.S. citizens require a visa for this program. Participants will work with The Experiment’s visa agency to acquire and pay for a visa. Please see our website for details.

*Homestay locations may vary.
COSTA RICA

BIODIVERSITY, ECOLOGY & SUSTAINABILITY

The rainforest is your classroom as you learn about conservation in one of the most biodiverse countries on Earth. Witness sea turtles and other wildlife. Hike, zip-line, and swim along the way.

A remote biological station nestled in the rainforest will be your classroom as you learn about Costa Rica’s efforts to protect the more than 500,000 species of rare tropical birds, indigenous animals, and plants. An experienced Costa Rican naturalist will guide you throughout the program. After zip-lining and hiking your way through the rainforest’s dense canopy, visit the Terraba-Sierpe National Wetlands, one of the largest mangrove systems in Central America, home to a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish.

In San José, learn about Costa Rican culture with visits to museums and markets. From there, you will visit nature reserves and national parks, kayak in the aquamarine waters of the Golfo Dulce or along the Osa Peninsula, and explore the rainforests of Isla Chira, which has the most thriving biodiversity in all of Costa Rica.

Learn more about Costa Rica’s culture and communities during a two-week homestay with a local host family. There, you will enjoy nature hikes, eat traditional meals like gallo pinto, and experience authentic daily life in the town. Complete 40+ hours of community service as you work on a project that focuses on rural development, ecological sustainability, or local community.

Following your homestay, you will visit the Ostional Turtle Lodge, a conservation center set near mangroves where millions of baby turtles hatch every year, to learn about sea turtle conservation efforts. Before your Experiment comes to a close, sail the Pacific on a catamaran with your group.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/CSS.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of community service hours completed.

Theme: Sustainability & the Environment
Components: City and rural exploration, community service, ecology, water activity, wildlife, basic language classes, hiking/trekking, outdoor activity
Orientation: San José, 2-3 days
Homestay: La Palma, Santa María de Dota, or Palmichal de Acosta*, 12-14 days

Other Accommodations: Hotels, lodges, cabins
Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 29–July 27
Depart/Return City: Miami
Program Tuition: $6,320 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
THE GALÁPAGOS ISLANDS & THE ANDES

Explore Ecuador’s natural wonders, from the Andes mountains to the Amazon basin and the Galápagos archipelago. See seals in their natural habitat, snorkel, hike a volcano, and take in the country’s vast biodiversity.

Land in Ecuador’s capital, Quito, to begin your Experiment. There, you will explore the 16th-century gold-inlaid churches and colonial buildings of the Old Town. Your first excursion is to the equator, where you can stand on the spot where the Northern and Southern Hemispheres meet. Experience the diverse wildlife of the Mindo Nambillo cloud forest, then travel to the Andes (the world’s highest mountain range outside of Asia) for a weeklong homestay in the small city of Riobamba, where you will share daily activities such as sports, movies, and walks through town with your host family.

Continue on to the Amazon Basin to see the stunning waterfalls of Baños and get up close and personal with monkeys and exotic birds. Then, you’ll travel by boat and sleep aboard as you make your way through the Galápagos Islands, the famous site of Charles Darwin’s research, where scientists and nature lovers flock to research and admire some of the most biodiverse islands in the world. You will have the incredible opportunity to visit the Charles Darwin Research Station, a biological research facility and active breeding center. There, you will learn about the conservation efforts that maintain and improve the ecology and biodiversity of these remarkable islands. Activities include island-hopping on a night cruise, snorkeling, swimming in lava grottoes, visiting turtle hatching sites, exploring mangrove forests and flamingo lagoons, and observing the courtship displays of rare tropical birds.

Another adventure awaits as you hike Chimborazo, an inactive volcano that rises 20,548 feet above sea level, and bike back down through a beautiful Andean landscape. Throughout your Experiment, you’ll develop your Spanish language skills through interactive lessons with local teachers and conversations with locals and try your hand at preparing a typical Ecuadorian dish (such as ceviche or empanadas). You will participate in a community service project to support environmental efforts or the local community.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ECA.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of community service hours completed.

Theme: Sustainability & the Environment
Components: City and rural exploration, work with experts/scientists, sustainability, wildlife, basic language classes, hiking/trekking, rugged travel, boating, community service
Orientation: Quito, 2 days
Homestay: Riobamba, 8–9 days*
Other Accommodations: Hostels, hotels, and cruise boat

Duration and Dates: 3 weeks | July 6–27
Prerequisites: Spanish (at least one year)
Depart/Return City: Miami
Program Tuition: $6,150 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
Advance your French language through classes and cultural immersion. Find inspiration while visiting the world’s most celebrated art museums in Paris and go on a quest to capture the city’s charm under the guidance of local artists.

Embark on a creative journey through French language, culture, and art in Paris and other charming quintessential French cities in the north. Take in the art at galleries and world-renowned museums such as the Louvre and Musée d’Orsay. Develop your art appreciation and photography skills through workshops and projects under the guidance of professional photographers and local artists. Explore the “City of Light” through your camera lens as you learn about photo composition and practice your darkroom skills by developing photos and creating your very own photogram.

During your homestay in Brittany, France’s northernmost region, you will have continuous opportunities to enhance your language skills and knowledge of French culture. Take French classes with a local teacher while immersing yourself in la vie quotidienne, or daily life, of a French family.

Delight in the regional food and try your hand at making some favorites through a cooking class and a crêpe making lesson. Take day trips to nearby places of interest, such as breathtaking Mont-Saint-Michel.

You will rendezvous back in Paris to reflect on your journey and capture some final snapshots.

To learn more about this program, visit experiment.org/FRCH.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of language training hours completed through formal classes, culinary training, homestays, and experiential learning activities.
Discover the richness of France through its diverse cultures and regions—from Paris to a border community and its neighboring country.

Start your journey with an immersive introduction to French history and culture in Paris, “The City of Light.” You will visit the city’s most iconic sights and museums, including the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Arc de Triomphe, and Champs-Élysées. Explore diverse neighborhoods and sample French cuisine in quaint street-side cafes as you deepen your understanding of Parisian culture and the city’s role within France.

Discover *la vie quotidienne*, or daily life, of a French family during a 10-day homestay in another region of France, usually near the country’s border. You will get an intimate look at French life and the unique culture specific to the region. Enjoy getting to know your host siblings, checking out local sites, and enjoying meals with your new family before heading to your next destination.

After saying goodbye to your host family, you will cross the French border with your group into either Italy, Germany, or Spain to explore the cultures, landscapes, and sights of a neighboring country. You might find yourself strolling through Germany’s picturesque towns and picnicking in the Black Forest, exploring the villages of Italy’s stunning Cinque Terre, or taking in Spanish art in Barcelona. As your program comes to a close in Paris, you’ll reflect on the deeper insights you’ve gained into the diversity of France and the culture of a neighboring country.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit: experiment.org/FRSD.
G E R M A N Y

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & THE E.U.

Travel through Germany, Belgium, and Luxembourg as you learn about international politics and gain fascinating insights into the European Union.

As you travel throughout Germany and across national borders, you will spend time in Frankfurt, Berlin, Niederalteich, Brussels, Cologne, Bonn, Munich, and Schengen. Your Experiment begins with a group orientation in Frankfurt, a global hub for commerce, culture, education, and more, where you will begin taking German language classes.

Continue to the region of Bavaria, where you’ll meet your host family and share in their daily life during your homestay. Attend school with German students to experience local high school culture and spend a fun-filled day with your group completing a treasure hunt in nearby Munich.

Travel to Luxembourg and visit the site where the famous Schengen Agreement was signed in 1985, eliminating many of Europe’s internal borders. Then continue to Brussels, Belgium, the seat of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning European Union (E.U.), where you will visit the European Commission and explore the E.U.’s institutional structure. Return to Germany to visit the 2,000-year-old city of Cologne, where you will continue language classes and see the awe-inspiring Kölner Dom, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Your program will wrap up in Berlin, Germany’s capital and bustling cultural center. You will begin with a tour of the city’s important sites, including the Bundestag (Germany’s parliament). You’ll also attend workshops on the structure of the E.U., including competencies, tasks, and stakeholders, and a seminar on European asylum politics to learn about the current refugee situation on the continent.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/GESD.

Theme: Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Components: City and rural exploration, cultural discovery, history, politics
Orientation: Frankfurt, 2–3 days
Homestay: Niederalteich, 10–12 days*
Other Accommodations: Hostels
Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 29–July 28

Program Tuition: $6,880 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
ITALY

CULINARY TRAINING & CULTURE

Receive formal culinary training as you fall in love with the flavors of Italy. Wander along the enchanting canals of Venice, learn to cook in Turin, and take in the historic sites of Rome and Florence.

Prepare for bold flavors and aromas as you embark on an Italian culinary adventure and learn about the communities, traditions, and cultures that produce the country’s legendary cuisine. This culinary Experiment explores the importance of seasonal, organic, and locally grown foods in different regions. Explore the food cultures of the different regions of Italy as you make your way from Rome, to Florence, to Asti. Whether you’re making pasta, tasting olive oil, or sampling homemade desserts, you will deepen your understanding of the intimate connections between food, culture, and sustainability within the context of Italy and beyond.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ITCD.

Travel to Asti and spend eight days at Agenzia di Formazione Professionale delle Colline Astigiane, the prestigious cooking school, where you will learn to prepare traditional Italian dishes including risotto, focaccia, and tiramisu, as well as regional Piedmont specialties like taglierini, agnolotti del plin, and baci di dama cookies, under the guidance of a professional chef. The program’s culinary excursions include a visit to the famous University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo and agritourism visits to local farms and an agrigelateria to see how real artisanal gelato is made.

Begin with an orientation in Rome, where you will receive basic language training and visit ancient sites such as the Colosseum. Next, travel to gorgeous Tuscany, where you will take an introductory Italian class and explore medieval towns. In Florence, the birthplace of the Renaissance, you can see many famous works of art and historic landmarks throughout the city. Continue practicing your Italian as you share daily life with a local family during your homestay and buy fresh food in outdoor markets.

Theme: Cultural Discovery & the Arts
Components: City and rural exploration, culinary training, language training, physical activity, arts
Orientation: Rome, 3 days
Homestay: Cosenza, Desenzano, or Naples, 12 days*
Other Accommodations: Hotels

Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 29- July 28
Depart/Return City: New York
Program Tuition: $7,720
(does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
Land in Tokyo for orientation before traveling to Sapporo, where you will begin Japanese classes and practice writing systems like hiragana and kanji. Your language skills will develop through 60+ hours of direct exposure through formal classes, host family interactions, peer-to-peer practice, and more. English is not widely spoken in Japan (especially in Hokkaido), providing countless opportunities for immersion. Local college students will be your language exchange partners for some activities in Sapporo, such as visiting their homes to cook and share a meal or experiencing karaoke the Japanese way. You’ll also enjoy sushi and indulge in handmade noodles at the city’s famed ramen shops.

Continue practicing your Japanese and deepen your understanding of the culture and family life during your homestay in Hokkaido, known for its natural beauty. Learn to cook homemade soba noodles or roll your own sushi with your host family. Participate in cultural activities such as the art of etegami (colored paper collage), learn Zen meditation, experience a traditional tea ceremony, or visit local schools and activity clubs to interact with students. Your journey through Japan continues as you spend several days in ancient Kyoto, exploring its temples, markets, and shrines. Finally, return to Tokyo, where you will discover what its exciting and unique districts have to offer, including anime and manga in Akihabara and the colorful fashion scene in Harajuku.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/JAL.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of language training hours completed through formal classes, homestays, and experiential learning activities.
Immerse yourself in the anime and manga capital of the world. Develop your illustration skills and design techniques through interactive classes with industry experts.

Learn from the best as you attend an authentic anime school in Tokyo, one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world and safest travel destinations. Develop your artistic ability and style through classes taught in Japanese by design and animation professionals. Learn voice-acting in Japanese from a professional voice actor and experience dubbing a scene in a studio. Practice animation techniques such as color blending with Copic markers; inking with fountain pens; and screen-toning, a method of applying textures and shades to drawings. Work on character development; then take your characters from paper to the screen through digital animation, using programs like Photoshop, Adobe Premiere, and After Effects.

Immerse yourself in Japan’s pop culture through visits to its vibrant neighborhoods. Play games in the colorful arcades in Akihabara, the city’s anime, manga, and tech district, or Ikebukuro, known for the Pokémon Center. Wander through the busy market streets of Ameyoko; then ride the maze of escalators at Ginza’s skyscraping department stores. See the famous alternative street fashion of the Harajuku neighborhood.

Broaden your perspective on Japanese culture during your homestay on Hokkaido, Japan’s second-largest island, known for its natural beauty and indigenous Ainu culture. Visit a local high school for activities with Japanese students, such as cooking lessons or creating a Japanese family crest. Visit a Buddhist temple and study the art of Japanese calligraphy as you share daily life with your host family. Learn about Japanese history by visiting shrines, museums, and hot springs and by participating in a traditional tea ceremony or learning the art of wearing a kimono.

Return to Tokyo for final city exploration and reflections before heading home.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/JLN.
Develop your Arabic language skills while exploring Jordan’s social, political, and environmental landscapes. Explore the country’s ancient landmarks, such as Petra and the Dead Sea.

Your Experiment starts in Amman, the capital of Jordan, a modern city with ancient roots. This fascinating city of contrasts—a unique blend of traditional and contemporary—is where you will begin your 40 hours of formal Arabic classes and experience Jordanian history, culture, and day-to-day life. Get a taste of Jordan’s culinary culture with tea nights and cooking classes. Then deepen your immersion by becoming part of a local family for four weeks during a homestay and take advantage of around-the-clock opportunities to practice Arabic beyond the classroom. Your language training may exceed 80 hours with practice through formal classes, host family and peer interactions, and more.

Expand your knowledge of present-day Jordan through discussions on politics, Islam, democracy, human rights, the role of refugees, and multiculturalism. You will also learn about the ongoing debates surrounding Jordan’s environmental and natural resource challenges.

Outside the capital, explore Jordan’s ancient history in Gerasa (Jerash) and Gadara (Um Qais), two cities of the Decapolis, a Greco-Roman federation of cities east of the Mediterranean. Float in the Dead Sea, the most spectacular natural landscape in Jordan; visit Petra, one of the new seven wonders of the world; and trek the rocky mountains of Wadi Rum on camelback.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/JOL.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of language training hours completed through formal classes, homestays, and experiential learning activities.
THE NETHERLANDS

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS & ADVOCACY

Discover the Netherlands’ progressive approach to LGBTQ+ rights, gender issues, and sex education. Learn how to become a better advocate for the community.

Travel to the Netherlands to explore the country’s longstanding progressive history of international human rights advocacy through workshops and visits with organizations that are engaged in gender and transgender issues, marriage rights, and other social justice topics. After an orientation in Heemskerk, you will travel to Amsterdam to visit important historical and cultural landmarks, such as the Anne Frank House and the unique Artis Zoo. Seminars and workshops about LGBTQ+ rights and gender issues will give you an opportunity to investigate how intersectional issues such as immigration, race, and gender play a role in modern Dutch identity formation. You will check out a museum to learn how the history of slavery has affected black identity in the Netherlands, and you will visit the Rutgers World Population Foundation, one of the oldest organizations promoting sex education in the Netherlands and the world.

As you enhance your knowledge of LGBTQ+ rights and advocacy, you will have opportunities to better understand Dutch culture by sharing daily life with a local family during your homestay. You will also complete community service hours while you meet with an elderly LGBTQ+ population.

Your program will continue in The Hague, where you’ll visit the Peace Palace and the International Court of Justice. Then you’ll stop in Rotterdam to meet with LGBTQ+ youth and experience the city’s multicultural vibe. You will also take day trips to the towns of Middleburg and Cadzand in the Zeeland province.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/NLP.

This program is designed for students who are engaged in LGBTQ+ and allied communities and/or are comfortable discussing topics related to gender and sexuality.

Theme: Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Components: City and rural exploration, cultural discovery, physical activity, history, politics, leadership and advocacy
Orientation: Heemskerk, 3 days
Homestay: Amsterdam, 10-12 days*

Other Accommodations: Hostels

Duration and Dates: 3 weeks, June 28 - July 20
Depart/Return City: New York
Program Tuition: $6,320 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
Experience South Africa's diversity, complex history, and modern life while exploring social change. Learn leadership and project planning skills to make a difference in your own community.

Embark on your immersive journey at the southern tip of continental Africa in stunning Cape Town, where you will learn about South Africa’s complex past and explore breathtaking sights such as Table Mountain and the Cape Peninsula, where you will spot penguins while taking in the views. Visit the country’s historical landmarks, such as Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison before going on to become president. You will also visit community organizations to learn about community building, witness social change in action, and interact with local youth.

Travel to either Kranshoek, an Afrikaans-speaking community, or Kwanokuthula, a Xhosa-speaking community, for a homestay with a South African family. During the homestay, you will work on a service project alongside members of the community, take Afrikaans or Xhosa language lessons, and participate in hands-on music and drumming workshops. Get ready for a safari adventure as you travel north! Visit Kruger National Park for a chance to spot giraffes, wildebeests, antelopes, lions, and zebras in their natural habitat.

Your Experiment concludes in Johannesburg, South Africa’s largest city, where you will intensify your focus on leadership and social change. Visit important historic landmarks and the Apartheid Museum to better understand the country’s transition to democracy, and explore the artsy and business-forward neighborhoods of modern Johannesburg. Your Experiment will come to a close as you complete your leadership training and design a project to create change in your community back home.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ZASD.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of hours of community service completed.

Theme: Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Components: City and rural exploration, history, politics, leadership, introductory language classes, safari, hiking/trekking, travel by safari vehicle, community service
Orientation: Cape Town, 5 days
Homestay: Kranshoek or Kwanokuthula, 10–12 days*
Other Accommodations: Guest houses, dormitories, and lodges

Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 30–July 31
Depart/Return City: New York
Program Tuition: $6,650 (does not include international airline)

*Homestay locations may vary.
SOUTH KOREA

K-CULTURE & PEACEBUILDING

Explore themes of peace and conflict resolution while experiencing South Korea’s distinct blend of modern K-pop culture and ancient traditions.

Begin your journey through South Korea’s past and present in Seoul, a leading and modern global city. You will visit places of great historical importance, such as the 14th-century royal palaces of the Joseon Dynasty, then deepen your understanding of the country’s split with North Korea through an excursion to the DMZ. Hands-on peacebuilding workshops will broaden your understanding of conflict analysis and introduce skills for peace advocacy in any community. Meanwhile, you’ll also immerse yourself in South Korea’s contemporary culture, learning some new moves during a K-pop dance class in the breakdancing capital of the world.

Travel to diverse regions to gain new perspectives on typical life in South Korea as you continue to explore topics of peace and development. Interact with Korean youth to discuss peace on the peninsula and learn about their daily lives and perspectives, from K-culture to Reunification. Engage with local activists and develop peace sensitivity while sharing your thoughts with your peers and local students. Take basic Korean language classes while continuing to immerse yourself in contemporary life; then go from modern to ancient as you spend the night in a Buddhist temple to learn about religious traditions and the art of meditation from Buddhist monks. Experience daily life with a Korean family during your homestay and try out different flavor combinations during dinner, which can be something of a feast. You’ll also complete a community service project alongside Korean students. Return to Seoul to visit cultural sites such as Seoul Tower, enjoy a traditional theater performance, and reflect on your journey with your group.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/KORE.

Theme: Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Components: City and rural exploration, history, politics, basic language training, rural hiking/trekking
Orientation: Seoul, 7 days
Homestay: Goyang or Busan, 7-10 days*
Other Accommodations: Guest house, temple, dormitory, and hostel
Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 29 - July 28

Program Tuition: $6,800 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
SPAIN
CULTURAL DISCOVERY

Explore Barcelona, Madrid, Valencia, and Toledo as you learn about the differences in cultures across Spain’s distinct regions. Experience flamenco, taste tapas, see renowned works of art, and interact with locals along the way.

Your journey begins with an immersive orientation in Spain’s capital and largest city, Madrid. Immediately begin practicing your Spanish as you navigate the city’s lively streets and visit the Reina Sofia and Prado Museum on Madrid’s “museum mile” to see original art by Spanish artists such as Picasso and Dalí. Order tapas in local cafes as you visit the Habsburg district. Take a full-day excursion to historic Toledo as your knowledge of Spain’s history and culture deepens.

Experience an entirely different region of Spain as you and your group travel from Madrid to your homestay in Valencia. Spend two weeks immersed in the community as your language skills grow through daily interactions with your host family and local students. Take a bike tour through the Gardens of Turia, explore multiculturalism in Spain, and learn to make paella in a cooking class.

Your discovery of Spain’s cultures and regional differences continues as you and your group travel to Barcelona, Spain’s second-largest city and the capital of Catalonia. Visit Barcelona’s numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites and parks, and see the Picasso Museum. Discover some of Europe’s most intriguing architecture as you visit Gaudi’s La Sagrada Familia, one of Spain’s most famous landmarks. Stroll along La Rambla, Barcelona’s bustling central street.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ESS.

EXPERIMENT.ORG                        CULTURAL DISCOVERY & THE ARTS

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Theme: Cultural Discovery & the Arts
Components: City exploration, fine arts, hiking/trekking, bicycling, cooking class
Orientation: Madrid, 4 days
Homestay: Valencia, 11 days*
Other Accommodations: Hotels
Duration and Dates: 3 weeks | June 29-July 20
Prerequisites: Spanish (at least one year)

Depart/Return City: New York
Program Tuition: $5,880 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
SPAIN

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Improve your Spanish with formal language training as you explore Madrid and Andalucía’s cultural landmarks and hidden treasures.

Begin your Experiment in Spain’s capital, Madrid, exploring the famous sights, museums, and neighborhoods while trying authentic foods such as paella and pulpo. Take a day trip to Toledo, the “Imperial City,” known for its 2,000+ years of history, before continuing on to the province of Andalucía in southern Spain, where you will dive into intensive Spanish language classes.

This program has two separate language learning groups. Both groups will develop their Spanish language skills through 50+ hours of exposure and practice through formal classes, experiential learning activities, host family interactions, peer-to-peer practice, and more. Group One will have formal language instruction in the historic city of Granada, attending exclusive small classes divided by level at the Centro de Lenguas y Educación Intercultural. In addition to formal instruction, this group will learn through music, film, city scavenger hunts, field trips, and organized activities such as playing sports with local students. Group Two will take formal language classes and immersive arts training, delivered fully in Spanish, in Guadix. You will practice by doing, developing your Spanish language skills by using them in ceramics and flamenco, or other arts classes. Both groups will visit and explore Granada, Guadix, and Alhambra.

Your Spanish language immersion continues with a homestay in an Andalusian town, where you will enjoy home-cooked meals and visit local markets, beaches, and cafés with your friends and host family. Experience Spain’s outdoors during activities such as trekking along a river and canoeing. Return to Madrid for final reflection and language practice before departing for home.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/ESLD.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of language training hours completed through formal classes, homestays, and experiential learning activities.
AFRICAN CULTURES & LANDSCAPES

Discover Tanzania’s natural beauty as you travel from the coast to the interior grasslands. Experience African traditions, spot incredible wildlife on safari, and work on a community service project.

Your adventure begins in Tanzania’s capital, Dar es Salaam, where you will explore the city on a bike tour with visits to markets, coffee breeders, food vendors, and artists. As your journey unfolds, you will witness the country’s changing landscapes and breathtaking beauty. Travel to Arusha to take in the majestic views of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa. Learn about traditional African cultures and arts while meeting with educators, artists, and musicians, and gain basic Swahili language skills that you can practice with your host family and local Tanzanians. Participate in a series of community service projects such as teaching English, renovating a school, or planting cashew trees, one of the local cash crops.

Experience the wonders of African wildlife on two safari adventures. The first will take place in Arusha National Park, while the second safari will come as you wrap up your Experiment journey at the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site, where you’ll have a chance to spot elephants, lions, hippos, and baboons in their natural habitat.

Discover the vast differences between urban and rural Tanzania as well as the country’s diverse ethnic communities through two homestays. During your first homestay in the village of Stahabu, you will learn about the role of Islam in Tanzanian culture and sail in a traditional dhow along the beach. A Maasai tribe will welcome you into its community for your second homestay, where you will camp in a mud hut, known as boma. In the morning, herd goats with your host family and learn traditional beading for making Maasai jewelry; then, in the evening, sit under the stars around a campfire discussing important issues that impact indigenous communities.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of hours of community service completed.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/TZS.

Theme: Cultural Discovery & the Arts
Components: City and rural exploration, community service, basic language classes, hiking/trekking, outdoor activity, safaris, rugged travel via off-road vehicle
Orientation: Dar es Salaam, 4 days
Homestay: Swahili coastal community*, 9 days; Maasai community*, 10 days
Other Accommodations: Hotels, community center, camping
Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 30–July 30

*Homestay locations may vary.
THAILAND: FROM ANCIENT TEMPLES TO BANGKOK

Journey through the diverse wonders of Thailand, from bustling markets in Bangkok to ancient Buddhist temples in Chiang Mai and the ancient ruins of Sukhothai.

Your Experiment begins in the northern mountain city of Chiang Mai, home to hundreds of ancient temples. You will visit the city's famous sights, explore lively street markets, discover Buddhist temples, and take in the tropical landscapes as you get to know your group. Get a taste for Thai food culture with a cooking instructor who will help you shop for the freshest ingredients at a local market, then teach you how to whip up traditional dishes. Discover an important part of Thai culture as you stay overnight at a Buddhist temple and learn about the art of meditation. Introductory Thai language lessons will prepare you to communicate with your host family during your homestays.

Relish the northern region’s lush tropical valleys and highlands as you take part in outdoor activities such as trekking and zip-lining. Visit an elephant sanctuary and get close to these majestic creatures as you feed and bathe them. Your Experiment will also take you to the historic city of Ayutthaya, a former capital of Siam and a UNESCO World Heritage site, before traveling to the seaside town of Hua Hin to explore breathtaking beaches.

As your Thai adventure continues, you will live with a family in a lowland northern village in Chiang Mai province and then with a hill tribe in Chiang Rai province. You will work on a community service project, such as teaching English to young children, helping build a natural water dam, or assisting with reforestation work. You will continue to develop your Thai language skills as you interact with locals. Introductory Thai language lessons will prepare you to communicate with your host family during your homestays.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/THS.

At the conclusion of this program, students will receive a certificate noting the number of hours of community service completed.

Theme: Cultural Discovery & the Arts
Components: City and rural exploration, cooking, arts, history, community service, basic language classes, outdoor activity, wildlife, rugged travel
Orientation: Chiang Mai, 5–7 days
Homestay: Northern Thai village outside of Chiang Mai, 9–11 days; Lisu hill tribe community in Chiang Rai province, 3 days*
Other Accommodations: Guest houses, meditation retreat housing
Duration and Dates: 4 weeks | June 29–July 29
Depart/Return City: Los Angeles
Program Tuition: $6,000 (does not include international airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
HUMAN RIGHTS & COLLEGE DISCOVERY

Travel from the North to the South while learning about the history of civil rights in the United States. Experience America’s rich diversity and human rights movements while visiting the campuses of top universities, along the way.

UNITED STATES

Start your Experiment in the Big Apple: New York City. Witness where many immigrants first entered the United States at Ellis Island and marvel at the Statue of Liberty that greeted them. Go on a walking tour of the city to learn about the history of the African Diaspora and the impact it has had on the U.S., and visit the United Nations headquarters to learn about the organization’s commitment to maintaining international peace and security. Tour the Columbia University campus and experience a real college class by taking a workshop with a professor from its esteemed human rights program. While in New York, you’ll also visit the LGBT Center, participate in a workshop with the Theatre of the Oppressed, sample the rich diversity of the city’s food scene, and take in breathtaking views at the Empire State Building.

Hop a train south to Washington, DC, the nation’s capital, where you’ll learn about the city’s unique history and engage with local organizations and human rights activists. Visit the National Mall to see some of the country’s most famous monuments, such as the Lincoln Memorial, where Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, and the Washington Monument. Explore the Smithsonian Institution’s museums, including the National Museum of the American Indian, where you’ll take a workshop on indigenous rights. You will also tour George Washington University, where you’ll stay during your time in the capital city.

Travel to Atlanta, Georgia, a cultural center of the American South that is noted for its ethnic diversity. Here, you’ll learn about the city’s crucial role in civil rights and get your first taste of Southern life and culture as you begin your homestay with a local family. Continue learning about human rights at Emory University and stay on the college campus while learning about the college process. Visit Clarkston, just outside Atlanta, to discover how a coffee shop provides job-training opportunities to resettled refugees. Meet with students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) and learn about the role of HBCUs in civil rights history. Complete your journey with final reflection and visits to key sites such as the Center for Civil and Human Rights, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Martin Luther King, Jr.’s home, and the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/USA.

UNITED STATES: HUMAN RIGHTS & COLLEGE DISCOVERY

P R O G R A M
AT A G L A N C E

Theme: Peace, Politics & Human Rights
Components: City exploration, cultural discovery, college visits, social change, politics, history, physical activity
Orientation: New York, 3 days
Homestay: Atlanta, 4 days
Other Accommodations: Hostels
Duration and Dates: 2 weeks | July 13-27
Depart/Return City: New York/Atlanta

Program Tuition: $5,000 (does not include airfare)

*Homestay locations may vary.
The Experiment Leadership Institute offers a highly competitive, fully funded program for participants with demonstrated interest in intercultural leadership, global issues, and civic engagement. This program is carefully designed to provide students with the extraordinary opportunity to acquire key skills and intercultural competencies necessary to become an effective leader through an international experience coupled with pre- and post-travel workshops. Participants also complete a post-program project with the continued guidance of Experiment mentors and a small stipend.

The Experiment Leadership Institute offers a four-week program in India specifically focused on leadership development. This program fosters discussions on critical global issues in public health, human rights, and social change. The Experiment Leadership Institute promotes understanding of these and other global issues and provides insight into what communities are doing to address these challenges.

**PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

- **Intensive four-day Leadership Seminar in Washington, DC.** Based on a powerful experiential leadership curriculum, the Leadership Seminar includes training, workshops, field trips, group exercises, and discussions with political and NGO leaders to lay the foundation for working toward social change.
- **Three-week immersive program in India.** See The Experiment Leadership Institute’s individual program page for details about the program.
- **Three days of project planning sessions at the School for International Training (SIT) in Brattleboro, Vermont.** You’ll have workshops and brainstorming sessions on designing a post-program project.
- **Work with Leadership Institute mentors throughout your senior year to complete a project in your own community.**

You have the option of enrolling in a college-level course that accompanies The Experiment Leadership Institute experience. Credit may be subject to approval by your institution.

**A FULL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

Fifteen competitive, fully funded scholarships for students accepted to The Experiment Leadership Institute are available through the generous support of individual donors.

International Applicants: The Experiment Leadership Institute welcomes and encourages international students to apply. International applicants should note that due to the high-variability of international airfare, the flight from your home country to Washington, DC, at the beginning of the program and from Vermont back to your home country at the program’s conclusion will not be covered by The Experiment. Please contact The Experiment admissions office for more information.

**PROGRAM DETAILS**

**Program Eligibility**

Applicants must:

- Be rising seniors who are 16 to 18 years old at the time of the program
- Have a high school graduation year of 2021
- Demonstrate community leadership or commitment to academic pursuits
- Obtain a passport that is valid through at least February 2021

**How to Apply**

- Go to experiment.org and click on The Experiment Leadership Institute under the Program tab.
- On the Program Selection page, choose India (Leadership Institute): Community Development and Public Health
- Select a program that is not part of The Experiment Leadership Institute for your second choice. We will consider your application for this second program if you are not accepted to The Experiment Leadership Institute.

**Application Deadline & Details**

The deadline to apply for The Experiment Leadership Institute is January 15, 2020. Applicants will be required to submit references from two adult teachers, mentors, or coaches as well as essays and other relevant materials. Applicants will be asked to describe previous leadership roles, what they learned from those roles, and what they hope to gain through participation in The Experiment Leadership Institute.
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC HEALTH

Examine public health priorities as well as community development in urban and rural areas of northern India as you strengthen your leadership and social change skills.

This program begins with intensive leadership training in Washington, DC, where you will visit community organizations and explore what it means to be a changemaker. Depart for India’s capital, New Delhi, to continue that exploration. You’ll learn about the country’s history, stroll its open air markets, and visit sites like Gandhi’s tomb. Against this dynamic backdrop, you’ll advance your leadership skills and knowledge of global health and how it relates to community development.

Through site visits, lectures, and workshops in four Indian states, you will explore healthcare rights, challenges to gender justice, the political economy of health, social determinants of health, caste discrimination, and other critical issues. Then, work with local youth to create your own community development project.

As your knowledge of India’s community development and healthcare issues grows, you will experience Indian culture and daily life through a two-week homestay with a local family in a mountain village in the Himalayas. There, you will meet with community leaders, public health specialists, and grassroots activists. Learn the basics of the Hindi language and practice in markets and restaurants and on train rides across the Indian countryside. Visit the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Continue to build your leadership skills as you return to the U.S. for guided project planning in Vermont. Throughout your senior year, you will work with a Leadership Institute mentor and cohort of peers to carry out a community project in your hometown.

To learn more and view a sample itinerary, visit experiment.org/LII.

Theme: The Experiment Leadership Institute
Components: City stay, rural stay, community service, language classes, language immersion, hiking/trekking, outdoor activity, rugged travel, leadership
Orientation: New Delhi, 3 days
Homestay: Nainital*, 8-10 days
Other Accommodations: Hotels and school dormitory
Duration and Dates: 5 weeks | June 30-August 3

Program Sequence:
Washington, DC | 4 days
India | 3 weeks
Brattleboro, VT | 3 days

*Homestay locations may vary.

U.S. citizens require a visa for this program.
SCHOLARSHIPS

The Experiment is committed to giving participants from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds access to our immersive international programs. The Experiment offers merit-based scholarships and discounts. Please contact our admissions office for more information. In 2019, The Experiment and its partner organizations awarded more than $1.4 million in scholarships. This support comes from The Experiment’s generous network of alumni, individual donors, foundations, and corporations. For more information, visit experiment.org/scholarships.

THE EXPERIMENT’S PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Experiment partners with more than 60 high schools, mentoring organizations, community groups, and individual donors and foundations to provide funding for need- and merit-based scholarships. A sample of these partnerships includes:

![Partnership Logos]

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

We accept applications for admission on a rolling basis. For more program availability, we recommend you apply or pre-register online before our priority enrollment deadline of February 12 or our final admissions deadline of April 10. After May 1, we charge a rush fee of $500 and the group flight is not guaranteed.

- **Priority Enrollment Deadline:** February 12, 2020
- **Final Admissions Deadline:** April 10, 2020

SPECIAL DISCOUNTS

EARLY APPLICATION DISCOUNT

Apply or pre-register online for summer 2020 programs. We offer early application discounts ranging from $200 to $600; visit our website for the most up-to-date information. To be eligible for the discount, the online portion of the application (applicant profile, short-answer questions, and essay) must be complete and the nonrefundable enrollment deposit of $400 must be paid by the deadline. This discount cannot be combined with others.

ALUMNI DISCOUNT

The Experiment offers an early application discount of $400 for participants who have an immediate family member who is an alumnus/alumna of The Experiment and/or for participants who are applying for a second Experiment program and who submit their application for admission before February 12, 2020.

EDUCATOR DISCOUNT

Educators are eligible to receive $400 off an immediate family member’s program fee. Educators include teachers, school administrators, guidance counselors, and education staff at nonprofit organizations. This discount cannot be combined with others, but merit- and need-based scholarships are still available to recipients of this discount. To be eligible, the applicant or the applicant’s parent must inform The Experiment in writing (info@experiment.org) before February 12 that an immediate family member is an educator.
THE EXPERIMENT PARTICIPANTS
Experimenters are high school students of different races, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical abilities, and socioeconomic backgrounds. The Experiment actively seeks to engage and enroll participants from a diversity of backgrounds throughout the U.S. and abroad.

THE EXPERIMENT GROUPS
Our groups are small, typically comprising 12 to 16 participants. They come from small towns and large cities; urban and rural areas; and public, private, and home schools. The diversity of our groups is an important part of what makes The Experiment a unique and rich experience. In addition to learning about their host culture, Experimenters should expect to learn about the diverse cultures and backgrounds that exist within the U.S. and throughout the world.

SUMMER 2019 EXPERIMENT GROUPS—AT A GLANCE
• 440 Experimenters traveled to 22 countries worldwide.
• Experimenters came from 35 U.S. states.
• Experimenters came from 14 countries: Canada, China, Colombia, France, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Pakistan, Philippines, Senegal, and the U.S.
• The average Experiment group had 14 participants with two adult group leaders.
• $1.4 million in merit- and need-based scholarships were awarded to summer 2019 Experimenters, including $450,000 paid for by 60+ partner organizations/schools.

“The highlight of my group experience was being able to relate to and at the same time learn from the people in my group due to its diversity. In my group I mostly felt comfortable that we could have open conversations and everyone seemed to be very educated. It felt good to not feel like I was the only one who thought a certain way.”
- Syreeta, Experimenter to France, 2018

EXPERIMENT SHOP
The Experiment’s online store offers everything from cozy hoodies for long plane rides to bottles that can keep your water cold while you explore all day. These items are perfect for both your summer abroad and beyond.

EXPERIMENT CONNECT
THE ALUMNI NETWORK
Participating in The Experiment is just the beginning of lifelong engagement with a global network of contacts, resources, and opportunities. Experiment alumni join a worldwide community of 125,000 students and participants from the entire World Learning Inc. family, which includes The Experiment; World Learning, a global nonprofit with education, sustainable development, and exchange programs advancing leadership in more than 150 countries; and the School for International Training (SIT), offering accredited undergraduate study abroad programs through SIT Study Abroad and globally focused master’s degrees through SIT Graduate Institute.

The Experiment, SIT, and World Learning alumni are engendering change worldwide—in fields that include sustainable development, international education, conflict transformation, public policy, advocacy, food security, and social justice, among many other areas. We strongly encourage our alumni to stay connected and engaged with the entire World Learning Inc. community.

JOIN EXPERIMENT CONNECT
Join the online alumni community at experimentconnect.org! ExperimentConnect is a portal designed for alumni to search for and connect with Experimenters worldwide, see what’s new, and check out upcoming events. Access the Experiment Connect alumni network when you move to a new city, look for a new job, or wish to connect with others like you.