FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD AWAITS

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GHANA FRANCE HUNGARY INDONESIA ITALY JAPAN

APPLY TODAY!

2027 YOUTH AMBASSADOR EXCHANGES

Fort Worth Sister Cities has provided international outbound youth exchanges since 1985 to give students a competitive edge in today's global society. Fort Worth has eight sister cities around the world ready to be explored. Students that are selected:

- Participate in U.S. Department of State-recognized program
- Meet city officials in both Fort Worth and the city visited
- Participate in global community service projects
- Share Texas culture and promote Fort Worth to the world
- Gain an understanding of different cultures
- Make life-long friendships

"Over the course of my time with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, I was selected to travel to Reggio Emilia, Italy and chosen for the Harashin Scholarship to travel to Nagaoka, Japan. The way I view my life has changed, as well as my view of the world. By forming relationships with new people and experiencing new cultures, I learned that our similarities far outweigh our differences. I made lifelong friends on these exchanges and personally grew so much by journeying outside of my comfort zone. I am forever grateful for the friendships and the experiences that I have gained through Sister Cities."

-Connor Smith, FWISD Student & Harashin Scholar

	Dates*	Grades	Cost*
Nîmes, France	March 13—21, 2027	9-12	$3690- $4090
Reggio Emilia, Italy	March 13—21, 2027	9-12	$3690- $4090
Budapest, Hungary	June 2027 (tentative)	9-12	$3690- $4090
Ghana, Africa - Learning Service	June 1—12, 2027	9-12	TBD
Nagaoka, Japan	June 1—11, 2027	8-12	$4690-$5090
Bandung, Indonesia	June 11—22, 2027	9-12	$4690-$5090
Harashin Scholar		9-11	$600
Inbound	July 16—24, 2027		
Outbound	July 27—August 5, 2027		

****DATES AND COSTS ARE APPROXIMATE***

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

To apply, complete the online application and submit a one-page essay about a person who has inspired your interest in global awareness and peace.

This year, we will have two separate deadline dates. All applications for spring exchanges, Harashin scholars and the Yamagata Emerging Leader Scholar are due by ***Oct. 18, 2026. Spring exchanges and Harashin Scholars applicants will be invited for an interview in early November***

All summer exchanges have a deadline date of ***January 24, 2027***. Summer exchanges will have interviews conducted in early February. A parent or legal guardian must attend the in-person interviews with the applicant.
****All Harashin and Yamagata Scholar applicants are required to submit their most recent report card with their applications***

COST AND DEPOSITS
Round-trip airfare, taxes, ground transportation, lodging, program fee, most meals, local excursion fees, day trips, insurance, and orientation materials are included. If selected, a ***$500 non-refundable deposit is due Dec. 1, 2026 for spring exchanges, and February 15 for summer exchanges.*** Final balance is due 45 days prior to departure. ***Deposits will be refunded if exchanges are postponed or cancelled by Fort Worth Sister Cities.***

APPLY HERE

SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort Worth Sister Cities International offers three opportunities to obtain scholarships for Youth Ambassador Exchanges. Each scholarship has different requirements and include additional items, as well as the standard application. ***Please read carefully to make sure you understand the requirements.*** You may apply for more than one.
NOTE: Submit your scholarship application(s) on the Youth Ambassador Application.

NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS

- Partial scholarships, awarded in various amounts up to $2000
- Limited numbers of scholarships awarded, earlier submissions recommended

YAMAGATA EMERGING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP
This scholarship was created to honor two community leaders, the late Tadashi and Elaine Yamagata.

- Covers up to $2,000 of exchange (not including $500 program fee)
- Only current 10th and 11th graders are eligible
- Applicants must submit a second essay on "How my leadership and volunteer service has impacted the community," as well as a resume outlining leadership and community service. Applicant must also attend a second interview
- Recipients are expected to join and volunteer with Fort Worth Youth International
- Yamagata Scholarship Applications are due at the same time as spring youth ambassador.

HARASHIN SCHOLAR
Since 1990, The Harashin Company of Nagaoka, Japan has funded academic- and leadership-based scholarships for eight Fort Worth students and two teachers to travel to Japan, for an educational- and cultural-enrichment exchange. In return, ***the families of these Fort Worth students must host students and teachers from Nagaoka*** in their homes for a reciprocal exchange.

- Scholarship applies only to Harashin exchange to Nagaoka, Japan
- Covers entire cost (except $600 program fee)
- Only current 9th – 11th graders are eligible
- Must participate in reciprocal exchange in July and host their Japanese brother/sister
- Recipients are expected to serve on the Fort Worth Youth International board

REGGIO EMILIA, ITALY

Experience the culture and classics of Italy in the historic city of Reggio Emilia. Cultivate lasting friendships with your Italian host family where you will learn about the daily life and culture of Italy. Historical sites include spectacular cathedrals and palazzos (palaces) dating back to the 12th century, the Municipal Theater, as well as the famous Reggiano Parmigiano cheese factory. Enjoy a day excursion to the city of Florence to visit the famous Uffizi Museum and Michelangelo's statue of David. Also enjoy a day trip to Verona, the scene of Romeo and Juliet, and explore the famous ancient Roman ruins. Your adventure ends with a farewell pasta party with your host family and new friends bidding you "arrivederci!"

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Experience 2000 years of history unfolding in a city reborn several times from pre-Roman to Magyar time, to post-Iron Curtain. Journey through time in a city known for its rich culture and architecture. Relive the city's medieval and Baroque pasts as you visit colorful palaces and the Hungarian Parliament. You will also see the Danube River, which divides the twin cities, Buda and Pest, that united in 1872. Explore the beautiful countryside of Hungary during day excursions such as Szentendre, and a possible cruise down the Danube.

GHANA, AFRICA
LEARNING SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Our newest opportunity will focus on a learning service experience in the African country of Ghana. Our partner organization, Youth Advocates of Ghana, will work in tandem with us to plan this immersive experience in Ghana, where students will help build schools and learn about Ghanaian culture.

NAGAOKA & TOKYO, JAPAN

Immerse yourself in the tranquility of Japan. Discover the history of the Samurai, exchange ideas and stories with Japanese classmates and delve into hands-on cultural activities with your host brother or sister. Local tours will include the Museum of History, the famous Aoshi Shrine, a possible overnight stay in a Buddhist Temple, one-night stay in Tokyo, and an excursion to the Sea of Japan. As you bid your family "***sayonara***," you will leave with a new appreciation of this ancient culture and country.

NÎMES, FRANCE

Located in southern France nestled between the Mediterranean Sea and the Cévennes mountains, venture to Nîmes and discover a variety of food, monuments, and culture. Founded by the Romans roughly before 118 B.C., Nîmes has become known as the French Rome. Filled with ancient ruins and monuments, Nîmes offers sites such as the Roman amphitheater, the Pont du Gard aqueduct, the Nîmes Arena, and the Maison Carrée that capture the rich Roman influence ingrained within the city. Immerse yourself in the French language and culture and find that certain "je ne sais quoi" you can only find there.

NAGAOKA, JAPAN
HARASHIN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

Since 1990, the Harashin Co. of Nagaoka has funded this unique program demonstrating a commitment to cultural enrichment. They generously provide scholarships for eight Fort Worth students and two teachers each year. While living with a host family, you will experience the rich traditions of Japan and attend the spectacular Hanabi, a three-day fireworks festival, the largest in the world. This is a reciprocal exchange where the Fort Worth scholarship recipient must host a brother or sister from Nagaoka in July 2027.

BANDUNG, INDONESIA

Explore the rich traditions and beauty of Bandung, the provincial capital of West Java and third largest city in Indonesia. Known as the "The Paris of Java", Bandung maintains its European ambience with Dutch influence, and is proudly recognized as the educational capital of Indonesia. Host families will welcome our youth with incredible warmth to share their homes, beautiful tea plantations, and luscious green rice paddies. In addition to visiting schools to share our culture, you will learn about the art of Batik and traditional Sundanese dance. A tour is planned to Yogyakarta where you will visit the Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist monument built in the 8th century.