

# Virtual Student Exchange Programs

2024-25 School Year

## What is a student exchange?

These unique programs are facilitated by Alberta Education's Student Exchange Programs. Alberta students are paired with students from a region that speaks the language they are learning. The students will participate in weekly online meetings over a period of six weeks.

Exchange partners will meet twice a week. They will take turns hosting meetings and discussing a variety of topics provided and topics of the students choosing.

## List of Student Exchanges

Exchange Country	Program Dates
Japan (Hokkaido)	November 4 – December 15, 2024
Ukraine (Lviv Oblast)	March 24 – May 4, 2025
Germany (Hessen)	February 3 – March 16, 2025
Spain (Asturias)	February 3 – March 16, 2025
Italy (Milan)	March 24 – May 4, 2025

"I enjoyed talking to my partner every week and getting to know her family as well. I learnt a lot about Germany and improved my language skills through our meetings."

## Cost

There are no costs associated with applying to and participating in the virtual exchange.

## Eligibility

Grade 9 – 12 students studying German, Italian, Japanese, Spanish or Ukrainian and Grade 10 – 12 students studying Japanese are eligible to apply based on the following criteria:

- Students in a bilingual or immersion program are eligible to apply;
- Students in language and culture programs must have completed the 10 – level or equivalent to be eligible to apply; and
- Students must be recommended by their language teachers based on language proficiency and academic standing as well as personal qualities such as maturity and openness to other cultures.

"I enjoyed the student-led nature of the exchange. I loved meeting my partner and becoming friends; we even cooked together online! I was really able to improve my Japanese."

## Benefits

Virtual exchanges provide valuable personal and academic experiences to students, such as:

- Structured meetings with an exchange partner that allows the student to develop and showcase their language skills;
- Flexibility in scheduling virtual meetings that allows the student to continue athletic or academic extra-curricular activities without interruption;
- Opportunities for developing intercultural awareness and appreciation through discussions with exchange partners;
- Building leadership and career skills through preparation and hosting online meetings'
- A cost-free way to continue language and cultural development; and
- Preparation for an in-person study abroad experience at a later point in the students' education.

For more information, go to: [www.studyabroad.alberta.ca](http://www.studyabroad.alberta.ca)

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## Applications

For more information, speak with your language teacher or visit [www.studyabroad.alberta.ca](http://www.studyabroad.alberta.ca). Interested students must ensure that their application is emailed to [studyabroad@gov.ab.ca](mailto:studyabroad@gov.ab.ca) by the deadline listed on the application package. Application instructions and forms are available online.



## Contact

Alberta Education  
International Education Services  
Student Exchange Programs  
Phone: 403-297-5896

E-mail: [studyabroad@gov.ab.ca](mailto:studyabroad@gov.ab.ca)  
Website: [www.studyabroad.alberta.ca](http://www.studyabroad.alberta.ca)

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