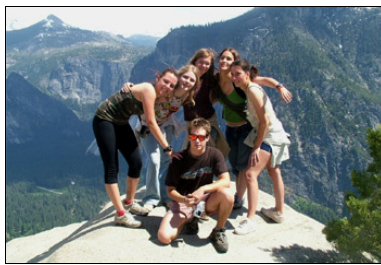
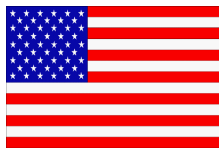


USA



	Programme price \$US*	Departure date	Return date	Application deadline	Departure Date	Return Date	Application Deadline
Semester 5/6 months	US\$4145	Late August or early September	Early January	31 March.	Late January	By 30 June.	30 Sept.
Academic year (10/11 months)	US\$5480	Late August or early September	By 30 June	31 March.	ONLY in late August or early September		

*Prices are subject to change without notice as exchange rates fluctuate, airfares vary and contracts are renegotiated.

** Fee does not include international and domestic airfares. These are charged separately at cost.

Semester and academic year programmes

Our US affiliate offers semester programmes starting at the beginning of each semester or academic year programmes which start only at the beginning of the academic year.

Expectations

The USA can be a very exciting destination and it requires a strong sense of adventure in order to go there and to have a successful exchange. The country is huge and so is the range of environments in which you can be placed. Unfortunately, you can't choose where you go.

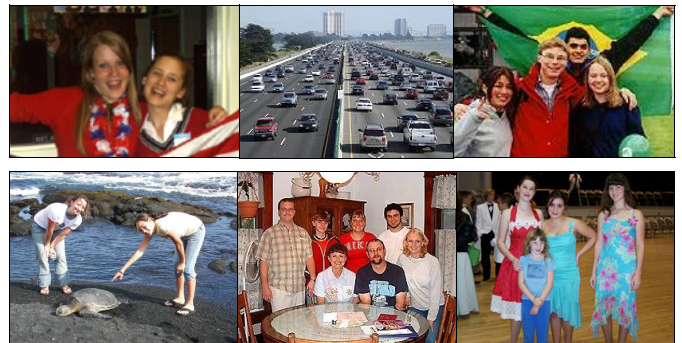
Many people think that they will be going to a version of a TV programme where they will understand and recognise everything. That isn't necessarily the case as many communities use unusual variations of English and some are not predominantly English-speaking. It is important to recognise that while the USA is an English-speaking country, it is culturally different from New Zealand, often strikingly so.

Our ability to place you is restricted first of all by your age. While we can send older students to most countries, this is not true of the US. Most US students leave for university at the end of Year 12 and schools are sometimes reluctant to accept even Year 13 students much less those in a gap year. Also, we have a yearly quota which at present is small. Preference is given to those who apply early and complete forms satisfactorily.

Placements

These are made before you leave and if you have applied at the correct time you should be in contact with your host family for at least a week before you leave. Some students are in contact for a month or more. Host families have to go through an interview and vetting process and your personality and preferences are taken into account if at all possible. However, it is best to keep an open mind about which situation is going to give you a good experience.

Successful placements depend as much upon you as upon the family you're given. Some students stay with the same family for a whole year while others may have two or three.



Applications

These begin with the simple form in the initial application brochure. It requires basic details, a photo, the permission of your parents or guardians, a copy of your passport and \$50 to convince us that you're serious. It is followed by a full application form. This takes most people quite a while to complete. Then comes an interview/chat at home with at least one of your parents/guardians present and it takes about two and a half hours. Most people who get to this stage are able to go on exchange. If the interview works well, we'll begin looking for a placement for you, booking flights, buying insurance and obtaining a visa. This can take three months so it is good to apply early.

Visas

Visa processes are quite stringent in the USA due to events of recent years and it is important to have all documentation filled out completely and accurately. This makes things run smoothly. You will be required to leave the country within one week of the end of your exchange. Programmes are extendable under specific circumstances for US\$1300.

Travel

Since 2008 we have been pricing the fee separately from the travel cost. Travel is usually in and out of LA or SF and then there is a domestic leg which also must be paid for. Most recent placements have been on the West Coast and domestic fares have been relatively low. You can be placed in any state. Be prepared to pay extra for the domestic leg.



NZIIU

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