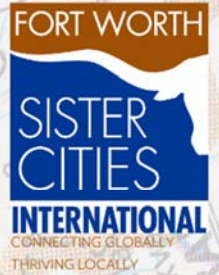


TIME TO

TRAVEL



FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL



Travel to China, Eswatini,
Italy, Germany,
Hungary, Japan, or
France. Apply today!

2025 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 nine 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 AND COSTS ARE APPROXIMATE***

	<u>Dates*</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Cost*</u>
Budapest, Hungary	March 15—23 2025	9-12	\$2,850
Nîmes, France	March 15—23, 2025	9-12	\$2,850
Reggio Emilia, Italy	March 15—23, 2025	9-12	\$2,850
Trier, Germany—Sport Camp	July 12—20, 2025	9-12	\$2,750
Nagaoka, Japan	June 19—27, 2025	8-12	\$3,550
Nagaoka, Japan—Harashin	July 30—Aug. 8, 2025	9-11	\$500
Guiyang, China	June 15—30, 2025	9-12	\$4,300
Mbabane, Eswatini	June 2026	8-11	\$4600

See pages 4-5 for more information.

APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

To apply, complete the online application and submit a \$25 student membership fee, copy of last report card, recommendations from two teachers, and one-page essay: "Describe experiences I have had that prepare me for the role of a youth ambassador of Fort Worth" by **Oct. 18, 2024**. You will be contacted to schedule a personal interview in early November where you must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

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. 2, 2024**. Final balance is due 45 days prior to departure. **Deposits will be refunded if exchanges are postponed or cancelled by Fort Worth Sister Cities.**

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

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.

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 for Fort Worth Youth International.

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 \$500 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

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Fort Worth Sister Cities funds students in need who wish to participate in international exchanges. Scholarship recipients will receive a letter after their interview detailing their scholarship award.

- Need-based and limited
- Scholarship amounts range from \$100-\$1,000
- Applicants must complete the Scholarship Request Form and submit their last household tax return
- Recipients are expected to volunteer for the Fort Worth Youth International.

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 which were united in 1872. Explore the beautiful countryside of Hungary during day excursions such as Szentendre , and a possible cruise down the Danube.



TRIER, GERMANY—SPORT CAMP



Trier is Germany’s oldest city founded in 16 B.C. by the Romans and is nestled on the banks of the Moselle River. Explore famous archaeological sites, medieval markets, theaters, museums, palaces and take a bike ride along the Moselle taking in the panoramic view of a country castle. This is a special sports exchange, where students to get try a variety of sporting activities—from sailing to swimming and volleyball. It is important to note that students do not need to be athletes to participate.

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 captivate the Roman influence coursing throughout 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 2025.

GUIYANG, CHINA

Uncover China's rich tapestry on this immersive journey. From the ancient charm of Guiyang with its historic sites and community service opportunities, to the dazzling metropolis of Shanghai, and the tranquil beauty of Lijiang, this adventure offers a diverse cultural experience. Conclude your trip in Beijing, exploring iconic landmarks, practicing Tai Chi, and indulging in local delicacies.



MBABANE, ESWATINI—FOR 2026

Discover why Eswatini is known as “The Kingdom of Smiles.” Mbabane is the capital of the Kingdom of Eswatini bordered by South Africa and Mozambique, and known for its ceremonial culture. You will visit a wildlife safari, museums, nature preserves and glimpse the classic Swazi lifestyle. Mbabane, nestled in beautiful rolling hills, will be a welcome respite from Texas’ summer heat, with temperatures ranging from 45 to 65 degrees. During the visit you will interact with students and participate in activities that include visiting schools, a community center, and sharing Texas culture with your new friends. The journey will include ⁵a 2-3 day excursion to Johannesburg, South Africa.

