



**FLEX Program
Academic Year 2008-2009
Pre-Survey**



Dear FLEX Student,

Congratulations on being chosen as a FLEX participant! Before you leave for your exciting year as an exchange student in the United States, the FLEX Program would like to ask you a few questions.

These questions will only be used to evaluate the FLEX Program and to make it better for you and for future FLEX participants. Please answer all of the questions and respond to them as best you can. This is not a test, and there are no right or wrong answers. Your thoughts and opinions are important to us and will not affect your participation in the program. Once you have completed the survey, the American Councils staff will return them anonymously to the office in Washington, D.C. Thank you for your help, and have a wonderful year.

DIRECTIONS: To mark your response, place a check mark in the box to the right of the answer you wish to choose. Below is an example:

Type of Education	✓	← Correct!
Public	✓	
Private		
Do Not Know		

Some questions ask you to write in an answer. In these cases, please write as clearly as possible.

Privacy Act and Paperwork Reduction Act Statements:

The information solicited on this survey is requested pursuant to the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-62) and the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended, also known as the Fulbright-Hays Act (22 U.S.C. 2451, et seq.). In order to ensure that the U.S. Department of State's international exchange programs meet statutory program requirements (22 U.S.C. 2460(c)), the Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) regularly monitors the programs, gathers data about program accomplishments, and evaluates selected ones. ECA uses the information collected to inform program design, management, and funding. All personal information that is collected through surveys is considered confidential. All responses are coded to ensure the confidentiality of individual responses. Data collected under this study will not be shared, sold, or used for fundraising purposes. Survey data and findings will be used only in an aggregate form for the express purposes of fulfilling the data needs of the outcome assessment. Responses to this survey are voluntary.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average twenty (20) minutes to respond to this survey, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and respondents are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Please send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to: A/ISS/DIR, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Which organization will provide your host/placement organization **upon arrival** in the United States? *Please check one box.*

	✓		✓
4-H Foundation (World Wise)		CCI	
AFS-USA, Inc.		CIEE	
AIFS/AYA		Nacel Open Door	
American Councils		PAX	
ASPECT Foundation		PIE	
ASSE		World Link	
AYUSA		Do Not Know	

2. There are many different reasons for participating in FLEX. In the table below, please identify your **three** most important reasons for participating.

	✓
To increase my understanding of American society, people, and culture	
To promote mutual understanding between both our countries	
To make friends with students from other countries	
To make friends with American students	
To share my culture with others	
To acquire leadership skills	
To improve my education	
To improve my English	
Other (please write in): _____	

3. How difficult do you think it will be to adapt to life in the United States?

	Very Difficult	Somewhat Difficult	Neither Easy Nor Difficult	Somewhat Easy	Very Easy
Adapting to life in the United States will be...					

4. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about the United States?

5. Please rate yourself on the following abilities. *Please check one box in each row.*

	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Being self-reliant, being independent, relying on yourself				
Speaking in public				
Listening to other people's suggestions or concerns				
Expressing ideas and feelings				
Being tolerant of people different from you				
Leading a team and motivating others				
Being flexible				
Solving problems				
Discussing your beliefs/values				
Willing to make changes in your community				
Critical thinking				

II. CURRENT ACTIVITIES IN HOME COUNTRY

The following questions are about activities you participate in at home.

6. Have you participated in any activities or projects conducted by FLEX alumni in your home country? *Please check one box.*

	✓
Yes	
No	

7. In the past year, how often were you involved in the following activities? *Please check one box in each row.*

	Never	Seldom	Some Of The Time	Most Of The Time
Community service (for example: helping others, environment, health, education)				
Civic or political activism (for example: elections, volunteering)				
Cultural activities (for example: visiting museums/historical sites, attending concerts, theater)				
Family activities				
Religious activities				
School clubs or organizations (for example: musicals, band, debate team)				
Sports teams				
Other (Please write in):				

III. CURRENT OUTLOOK AND OPINIONS

This next section includes questions about your opinions, views, and knowledge on various topics.

8. What does community service mean to you?

9. Please rate your understanding or knowledge of the following topics. *Please check one box in each row.*

	No Knowledge	Less Than Basic	Basic Knowledge	Beyond Basic	Advanced Knowledge
United States democracy					
United States economy					
United States values and culture					
Religious and ethnic diversity in the United States					
Freedom of speech and the press in the United States					
Voluntary community service in the United States					
Daily life in the United States					

10. How do you view the United States Government and its relationship with your home country?

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
The United States Government is a trustworthy partner for my country					

11. How do you view the United States Government and the American people? *Please check one box in each row.*

	Strongly Unfavorable	Generally Unfavorable	Neither Favorable Nor Unfavorable	Generally Favorable	Strongly Favorable
United States Government					
American people					

12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statements below? *Please check one box in each row.*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Voting is important because real decisions are made in elections					
Free and fair elections are the cornerstone of democracy					
An independent media is important to the free flow of information					
All citizens in a country should have equal rights and protections under the law					
The Rule of Law is fundamental to a functioning democracy					
Individuals and organizations have the right to free speech and to voice opposition					
Teachers should incorporate democratic principles into their classroom practices					

13. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *Please check one box in each row.*

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Men and women should have equal opportunities					
Men and women should equally share family responsibilities					
Ethnic minorities should have equal opportunities					
People with disabilities (mentally and/or physically challenged) should have equal opportunities					
Religious minorities should have equal opportunities					

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *Please check one box in each row.*

<i>In society, an individual should have the right to:</i>	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Travel freely to other countries					
Have acceptable housing					
Be considered equal under law regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or religion					
Practice any religion					
Receive an education					
Have a job					
Have acceptable health care					
Have access to information					
Have freedom of speech					

15. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about Americans. *Please check one box in each row.*

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
Most Americans are wealthy					
Americans are friendly and open					
Americans are well informed about the world					
Americans express their personal opinions, even if they contradict those of authorities					

16. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements about the United States. *Please check one box in each row.*

	Strongly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree
The United State is a democracy that works well					
The United State has laws and regulations that protect the individual					
The United State economy provides a good living for its citizens					
The United State foreign policy reflects the interests and attitudes of the American people					
The United State imposes its view on other countries					
The United State provides equal opportunities for all					

IV. PERSONAL BACKGROUND

This last section asks you for some demographic information about yourself.

17. What year of school have you **most recently completed**? *Please check one box.*

	✓
8 th year	
9 th year	
10 th year	
11 th year	
12 th year	

18. How would you describe your school? *Please check one box.*

	✓
Public	
Private	
Do Not Know	

19. Were you selected as a finalist or an alternate for the FLEX program? *Please check one box.*

	✓
Finalist	
Alternate	
Do Not Know	

20. Which best describes the geographic location where you live? *Please check one box.*

	✓
My country's capital city	
Another major city in my country other than the capital	
A small city, town or rural location in my country	

21. Home country: _____

22. Age:

	✓
14 years old	
15 years old	
16 years old	
17 years old	
18 years old	

23. Gender:

	✓
Female	
Male	

24. Which religion do you most closely identify with? *Please check one box.*

	✓		✓
Baha'ism		Judaism	
Buddhism		Shintoism	

Christianity (for example: Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant)		Sikhism	
Confucianism		Taoism	
Hinduism		Zoroastrianism	
Islam		None	
Jainism		Other (please write in):	

25. What areas of the world have you traveled to? *Please check all boxes that apply.*

	✓
Africa	
Asia	
East Asia/Pacific	
Europe	
Latin America	
Middle East/North Africa	
North America	
Other	
Never traveled outside my home country	

26. Thank you for completing this survey! If you have any additional comments you would like to make, please do so here. We value your thoughts.

27. How long did it take you to complete this survey? _____ Minutes

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE TO THE AMERICAN COUNCILS STAFF.