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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Programs for 2020

Lower Division

Spring 2020
Open to all students in grade 5
New Orleans - Cultural Learning and Guided Restoration (March 12–16)

Middle Grades

Spring Break 2020
Open to Avenues students currently enrolled in the target language in grades 6–8
China – 美 (Méi): A Journey of Appreciating Culture and Nature in Chengdu
Panama – Impact of Trade: How Infrastructure Can(al) Change a Country

Minimester 2020
Open to all students in grades 6–8
Hawaii – Serving the Sea: Examining Climate Change in an Island Paradise
Belize – Exploring Access to Quality Education in Belize
São Paulo, Brazil – A Traveling Song and Dance Review to Avenues São Paulo

June 2020
Open to all students in grades 6–8
Japan – Read, Eat, Write: Japan! An Exploration of Food, Culture and Identity

Upper Grades

Spring Break 2020
Open to all students in grades 9–12
Iceland – The Fragility of a Pristine Paradise
Taiwan – A Taste of Taiwan: Examining Food, Culture and Sustainability

Fifth Term 2020
Open to all students in grades 9–12
Costa Rica – From Bean to Barista: Economics and Ethical Coffee Consumption
Bhutan – Happiness in the Himalayas
Ecuador – From Trees to Seas: Adaptation and Biodiversity in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands
Italy – Art and Architecture: Tools for Social Change
São Paulo, Brazil – A Global Social Impact Exchange

Please note: All itineraries in the following pages are samples and are subject to change or cancellation based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School. Prices are also subject to change based on group enrollment.

For more information please email globaljourneys@avenues.org
Visit our website at https://www.avenues.org/nyc/extended-learning
Global Journeys empowers Avenues students through innovative, cross-cultural experiences to develop the essential skills and capacities needed to understand and address global challenges.
Global Journeys creates opportunities for students to experience the world from a new perspective, immerse themselves in another culture and further their language skills through authentic international community engagement. Programs are designed to be growth experiences, asking students to step outside of their comfort zones. Students build understanding, empathy and appreciation for the diversity of the human experience.

Global Journeys programs are designed to have lasting benefits for students. Every program is proposed by faculty, staff or students and developed in collaboration with the Global Journeys department and local partners. Programs address contemporary, global-scale issues alongside local experts who are knowledgeable about the needs and successes of host communities.

All programs include:
+ Pre-departure preparation and post-travel integration
+ Ties to grade-level themes and curriculum and rooted in the Avenues World Elements
+ Facilitation by Avenues instructors
+ Clear learning outcomes and cohesive themes
+ For language programs, opportunities to practice language skills
+ Opportunities to build cross-cultural competence
+ Focus on community engagement and social impact, both abroad and upon return

We ensure that students travel thoughtfully, ethically and sustainably. At the heart of our programs is the kind of experiential education that prioritizes reciprocity in relationships through cooperative, cross-cultural participation in learning, service and impact. It foregrounds the process of Avenues students developing the core competencies that will enable them to actively and critically engage with the world and help make it a more just and sustainable place.

As a true World School, Global Journeys will continue to provide international opportunities for students from both the New York and São Paulo campuses.

There are opportunities for students to travel to and engage in experiential learning programs at other Avenues campuses. Additionally, two Fifth Term Global Journeys programs are open to both Avenues New York and Avenues São Paulo students. These joint programs are indicated on the program specific pages.

While we firmly believe in the educational value of international experiential learning, we also recognize that the greenhouse gases emitted by our transportation on these programs have a negative impact on our climate, and that the negative consequences of climate change are most heavily felt in developing countries with the least ability to adapt. We will pilot a program that aims to offset greenhouse gas emissions caused by air travel from our sustainability-oriented programs through the purchase of verified carbon offsets which support projects to prevent or remove greenhouse gas emissions. Such projects may include replanting trees, improving forest management, capturing landfill emissions or helping farmers develop more sustainable practices. Participants can choose to pay for these carbon offsets on select programs.
Lower Division New Orleans

New Orleans, LA
March 12-16, 2020
Dan Wallace

Cultural Learning and Guided Restoration

Interested in some fun, hands-on, service-based learning opportunities over spring break? Join us in New Orleans as we learn about and contribute to ongoing relief efforts from Hurricane Katrina.

This program focuses on conservation, service work and culture in New Orleans. You will examine the long-lived traditions of the city through activities such as a guided tour of the French Quarter, visits to local museums, a visit to the world famous Cafe du Monde and an unforgettable swamp tour to view alligators, pigs and other wildlife.

After experiencing the vibrant history of New Orleans, learn more about the devastation that the city endured in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Experience how the community came together to rebuild the city's infrastructure and morale and keep local traditions alive. Meet with residents affected by the hurricane and participate in service work in New Orleans' City Park. Through this program, you will earn hands-on experience in service work while also getting a taste of one of the most dynamic and multicultural cities in the United States.

This program is open to all students in 5th grade. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!

Cost $1800 + airfare (est. $863)
Orientation Students will be required to attend one orientation session. Dates TBD.
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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>After a flight from New York City, meet our New Orleans leaders at the airport. Head to the cabins and participate in orientation activities to get settled in.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>In the morning get an in-depth look at the wetland restoration and take a trip to the 9th Ward, the area hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina, to learn about the factors that led to the devastation there and the community spirit that led to its rebuilding. In the afternoon, participate in a thrilling low ropes course and connect with the other members of your group. End the day with some jazz, the heartbeat of New Orleans.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Explore the world-famous French Quarter! Learn the history of the city by participating in a guided tour of the city center. Make a quick pit stop at Cafe du Monde to enjoy a fluffy beignet. Contribute to the conservation and service work at the State Park and learn first-hand from restoration experts. This meaningful project will allow us to engage in disaster relief projects while getting to know local community members affected by Hurricane Katrina.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Uncover the magic of Mardi Gras through a visit to the famous Mardi Gras World, a museum that guides you through the journey of a parade float, from the design to the debut. In the afternoon step outside and into the Wetland boat tour. Spot the numerous animals that call the swamps of New Orleans their home.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Depending on departure time, head into the city for a final tour and last-minute souvenirs. Fly back to New York to meet your family and tell them all about your wonderful experiences in New Orleans!</td>
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_Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School._
美 (Méi): a Journey of Appreciating Culture and Nature in Chengdu

We are calling all adventurers on a journey to the southwest of China: Chengdu. In a region heavily influenced by the Shu culture from the period of the Three Kingdoms (220–280 A.D.), and nested in natural beauty described as “Tianfu” (a heaven on earth), we will experience the local culture of Chengdu, China. Get a taste for the spectacular arts in the region by exploring the secret of Bian Lian techniques in Sichuan opera or dive into Chinese philosophy that is heavily influenced by the ideas from Taoism and Buddhism. See first hand how Chinese culture advocates for humility and peaceful minds.

Animal conservation will also be our focus on the program. We will be volunteering to work with giant pandas, cleaning their houses, feeding them and learning more about how to preserve their homes in natural bamboo forests. Did you know, giant pandas spend about 12 hours a day eating?

We will have a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience Chinese culture first hand by spending several days with a host family. Homestays are a fantastic way to strengthen our language skills, deepen our understanding of Chinese customs and build overseas connections. Homestays are a hit in every program!

As an added bonus this year, our partner school in Chengdu will send a group of students to New York for a homestay program with our Avenues community in January. Host the same student who will host you over spring break!

Cost
$4300 + international airfare and visa (est. $1013)

Prerequisite
Students must be currently enrolled in Chinese at Avenues

Orientation
Students will be required to attend three orientation sessions
Saturday February 8, 2020, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
Wednesday February 19, 2020, 7:30–8:00 a.m.
Thursday February 20, 2020, 7:30–8:00 a.m.

Homestay
This program includes a homestay component for six nights
Sample Itinerary

Day 1–4
We arrive in Chengdu and will travel into the city center for our orientation. Find our bearings in the city through a bookstore scavenger hunt and a visit to the Sanxingdui Museum, an ancient archaeological site. Bond with our peers through an escape room activity. Get a taste of the local flavors with a traditional hot pot meal.

Take in the historic, scenic beauty with a visit to Du Fu Thatched Cottage. This is a memorial museum to the Tang Dynasty poet who sought refuge during the An Lushan Rebellion of 759 A.D. Enjoy a thrilling performance of traditional Sichuan Opera which presents a unique technique called Bian Lian, where the performers magically switch masks.

Explore the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, a UNESCO world heritage site. Hike up Mount Qingcheng while learning about the role this mountain played as a birthplace of Taoism in China. Enjoy an evening banquet dinner with our host families and transition into your homestay.

Day 5–12
The homestay phase of the program officially begins. Enjoy home-cooked meals with our host families every day for breakfast and dinner. We will spend each day together enjoying a myriad of activities related to the program theme. Over the weekend, our itinerary is left open for each of our host families to plan special activities just for us. We will visit the Wolong Panda Research Center and learn about how to feed and care for the adorable pandas.

Strengthen our language skills by visiting the Chengdu Royal Foreign Language School (CRFLS) for cultural exchange activities with our homestay buddies and tour the school’s campus. Skip over to the ancient town of Luo Dai, said to be the first town of the Hakka people, one of China’s major ethnic groups.

Day 13–15
We’ll say goodbye to our host families and wrap up the program in Ya’an, a countryside town two hours outside of Chengdu. This place was a key checkpoint along the Silk Road and is home to some of the oldest tea plantations in the world. This scenic spot will provide a perfect backdrop for reflection and an opportunity to learn about traditional tea culture in China. Enjoy a final farewell dinner with your peers and instructors before departing for New York City the following morning.
Impact of Trade: How Infrastructure Can(al) Change a Country

Panama has long been an attractive tourist destination. A profoundly diverse country—where indigenous cultures, local farmers, scientific researchers and international corporations cohabit—provides access to a wide spectrum of learning experiences. The evolution of the country has been directly impacted by the construction of the canal. Join us on this Global Journeys program to discover the story of trade and infrastructure in Panama.

Panama City is a major global metropolis with one of the busiest airports in Latin America, where myriad of nationalities and languages are seen and heard just walking down the street. This program in Panama engages students in this global epicenter of international trade, exploring current cultural and environmental challenges, international diplomacy and trade realities and local perceptions of the world and their surroundings. Students will also experience the incredible biodiversity of the rainforest and learn about ongoing efforts to preserve the land and protect the culture of the indigenous people who live within the jungle.

While studying the impact of the canal on the environment, diplomacy and culture, this program also offers the unique opportunity to practice and develop your Spanish language skills. By living with a Panamanian family and participating in Spanish language workshops you have the chance to not only enhance your vocabulary, but develop more confidence in your language abilities.

Cost  $4800 + international airfare (est. $920)

Prerequisite  Students must be currently enrolled in Spanish at Avenues

Orientation  Students will be required to attend one orientation session from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on Saturday February 29.

Homestay  This program includes a homestay component for three nights
Lower School China

We will arrive in Panama City and begin mapping out our new location with a hike through Parque Metropolitano and discover the variety of flora and fauna sprawled throughout. We’ll head down to the Miraflores locks, the last set of locks that ships must pass through before entering the Pacific Ocean and visit the Locks Museum to critically examine the history, the site and the role of the canal in international trade. Meet the UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean officials who focus on assisting governments and communities to achieve sustainable development goals.

Day 1-3

Ride bicycles across the Amador Causeway, a thin stretch of land made from rock excavated during the canal construction. Visit the Biomuseo to discover not only the fascinating exhibits, but the beautiful architecture of the building itself. Spend the next few days in the homelands of the indigenous Embera community. Sleep in tents and learn about the unique cultural and social traditions of the Embera people. The next day, we’ll hike with our hosts through the rainforest to learn about the use of plants for medicinal purposes and how flora and fauna have adapted to create a sustainable (though dynamic) ecosystem.

Day 4-6

Travel out to the City of Knowledge to work with MarViva, a renowned organization in the Caribbean working to protect marine life. Learn about how the new infrastructure impacts the surrounding biodiversity. Learn about bird conservation and participate in service-learning at the Rainforest Discovery Center.

Day 7-8

We will truly immerse ourselves in Panama culture and strengthen our language skills by living with local Panamanian families. Learn about Fortaleza Tours and their efforts to empower young locals through story sharing. Visit the Calicanto Foundation and learn about other initiatives, from providing support for local women through life skills and coaching or general community education. Participate in cross-cultural exchange workshops and Spanish language classes.

Day 9-12

Discover Isla Taboga, an island off the coast of Panama City that is experiencing a major increase in tourism. Explore the winding streets, shops and restaurants. Participate in a beach clean up project and grapple with the intersection of tourism and conservation. Spend our last moments in Panama by reflecting on the incredible journey.

Day 13-14

Panama Canal
Serving the Sea: Examining Climate Change in an Island Paradise

Join us and discover the unique culture and biodiversity of the Hawaiian islands. Isolated in the Pacific Ocean, these volcanic islands face immense pressures, both culturally and biologically. Climate change, the introduction of invasive species and habitat loss is pushing native plant and animal life to the fringes. Work with local grassroots organizations to assist with conservation-focused service projects. Remove plastic trash from remote beaches, plant native crops in traditional Hawaiian taro patches and work with scientists at the Maui Ocean Center to learn about shark, turtle and monk seal rehabilitation projects.

Embark on a sailing catamaran to explore Maui’s coast. Snorkel in secluded bays with naturalist guides to see first-hand how rising sea levels and ocean acidification are affecting coral reef health. Visit Ho’okipa beach to watch world-class kitesurfers ride the waves and interview them about how changing weather patterns are altering ocean and shore conditions. Hike into the lush jungle in search of secret waterfalls and pick fresh guava off the trees. Visit with Hawaiian elders to ‘talk-story’ about traditional Hawaiian culture and the efforts being made to preserve the Hawaiian language, then watch the sunset from the slopes of the 10,000 ft. Haleakala Volcano, learn native chants and practice the art of the hula with Hawaiian educators.

Cost $4700 + airfare (est. $1438)

Prerequisite All interested students are welcome to apply

Orientation Students will be required to attend five orientation sessions from 7:20–8:20 a.m. Thursdays starting on February 27.

Carbon Offset This program is part of the Carbon Offset Pilot. The Hawaii flights will generate an estimate of 23 metric tons of CO2. Upon enrollment participants will have the option to contribute 22 dollars to help offset these greenhouse gas emissions.

Sea turtle swimming in Hawaii
Fly from New York to Kona, Hawaii. Explore beautiful beaches and begin cultural immersion with a visit to the City of Refuge, an ancient Hawaiian cultural site used by defeated warriors and sacred lawbreakers and now a national park. Settle in to accommodations near the rim of Kilauea caldera, the most studied active volcano in the world. Explore the park with rangers and guides to learn about the history of the volcano, delve underground into lava tubes, identify native species and help remove invasive ginger plants. Get your hands dirty doing a beach clean up with members of the Hawaii Wildlife Fund. Categorize the collected debris and use the information to help inform marine policy. Learn why lava flows are important to the health of the ecosystem and how hardy plants and animals are able to re-colonize fresh lava flows so quickly. Stargaze from the slopes of Mauna Kea and learn how ancient Polynesian navigators were able to sail between Tahiti and Hawaii using only the currents and stars as their guides.

We will take a flight to Maui and transfer to our accommodations in West Maui, near the town of Lahaina. Camp Olowalu offers a comfortable but rustic living experience right on the shores of a magnificent but endangered coral reef. Embark on a sailing catamaran and snorkel secluded reefs to see how coral is affected by ocean acidity and rising sea levels. Go behind-the-scenes at the Maui Ocean Center to work with scientists on projects aimed to help protect turtle, shark and monk seal populations from human interactions, light pollution and changes in the marine environment. Discover ancient petroglyph sites and compare the traditional Hawaiian ahupua’a land and sea management techniques with those used today.

Explore the small town of Pa‘ia and watch the sunset into the Pacific during a final evening Hawaiian barbecue with locals. Practice traditional chants and learn the hula before returning to New York City the following day.

Please note: There is a possibility of content-relevant water activities on this program and Global Journeys will facilitate adequate preparation for those able to participate.

*Will lead upon sufficient enrollment (12+ students).
Exploring Access to Quality Education in Belize

As Nelson Mandela once said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Join us in Belize as we explore access to education. The UN Sustainable Development Goal number 4 is to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” What does quality education mean to different people? What is needed to access quality education? Join us to explore these questions and many more.

The core fabric of this program centers on creating authentic, immersive learning opportunities with local community partners. Visit numerous schools and interact with students around your age, interview school administrators and compare Belize’s school system to our own. We will work on a service project alongside our local peers and provide tutoring support. The type of service project will be determined closer to the program date but will be a project much needed by the community, such as rehabilitating school classrooms or recreational facilities.

We will be immersed in the Belizean community through visits and meals with local families, sports and recreational activities, and participating in a local craft, such as hammock or basket making. We’ll also learn about the ethno-social composition of the country, which includes Mayan, Creole, Mestizo and Garifuna peoples. Finish your journey in Belize by learning how the Mayan chocolate drink is made using a traditional Mayan stone or strolling outside and taking in the rich wildlife and natural environment.

Cost  $4200 + international airfare (est. $863)

Prerequisites All interested students are welcome to apply

Orientation Students will be required to attend an orientation session from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 4.

Students learning about the landscape of Belize
Sample Itinerary

**Day 1-2**
Land in Belize and take in the natural wonders of the country, from the lush green forests to the stunningly blue waters. Meet our local guide and travel to the Monkey Bay campus, all while learning about important landmarks. Orient to the new surroundings with a walking tour and orientation.

Meet with the school principal of St. Agnes Anglican School in La Democracia Village, and engage in discussions regarding educational issues impacting the school. Connect with Standard 6 (grade 8 students) and chat with them to compare and contrast United States and Belize educational systems. End the day by playing games or sports with our new peers.

**Day 3-4**
Uncover the flora, fauna and animals that inhabit Belize. A morning hike takes us through five distinct vegetation habitats to learn about plant identification, traditional medical uses and wildlife.

Study the wildlife through a visit to the Belize Zoo, which serves as a stronghold for wildlife conservation and rehabilitation, and environmental education in Belize. (No zoo animal has been taken from the wild!)

Dig deeper into the context of Belize by visiting the ceremonial center of Xunantunich Archaeological Reserve, learning about the Iguana Rehabilitation Program, and grinding down our own cacao to make an authentic Mayan chocolate drink.

**Day 5-9**
In the mornings, focus on the service project work at a local school. Projects will be informed based on the guidance and expressed needs of the school community. In the afternoon, participate in a range of activities from canoeing, hammock making sessions, a baboon sanctuary tour, among others. In the evenings, learn about the people of Belize through interactive cultural presentations.

On our last evening, gather around the campfire and enjoy live drumming and dance performances by Emmeth Young and the Tala Wala Vibrations Band, local Sambai drummers from Gales Point. Dance, sing, clap or jump to the sounds of these intense and exquisite African and Creole rhythms.

*Will lead upon sufficient enrollment (12+ students).*
A Traveling Song and Dance Review to Avenues São Paulo

If you’ve got a voice you want to be heard around the world, if you enjoy singing and dancing and you want to immerse yourself in a new culture and have an unforgettable experience, this is your opportunity. We are taking our annual show on the road, this year to Brazil. Make new friends, experience Avenues São Paulo for yourself and, above all, be part of the first international Avenues Song and Dance Review.

During the course of this program we will come together for rehearsal prior to departing for Brazil. Showcase your talent in signing, playing an instrument or dancing. Come together in São Paulo with your Avenues peers for an unforgettable show. Spend the week rehearsing, exploring São Paulo and connecting with the greater community. The song and dance review will examine water as both an artistic lens as well as a global issue. Join us for a spectacular show at Avenues São Paulo.

Cost
$2500 + international airfare (est. $1150)

Prerequisites
Participation is contingent on an audition. Please coordinate with the instructors regarding the audition schedule.

Orientation
Students will be required to attend an orientation session from 9:00-3:00 on Saturday, April 4.

Homestay
This program includes a homestay component for the entire program. Students will stay with Avenues São Paulo families.
Every applicant must audition and be selected for participation: vocalists, instrumentalists, and/or dancers. You will meet frequently to practice and will participate in the New York Cabaret on March 5 and 6. At the same time, your São Paulo counterparts will also be engaged in creating, learning and rehearsing the performance.

Students arrive in São Paulo and orient themselves to their surroundings, all while surrounded by the familiarities of Avenues. You will meet with and begin bonding with your homestay host families. All homestay matches are carefully selected Avenues São Paulo families.

New York and São Paulo participants will engage in joint rehearsals for the performance during one half of the school day (morning or afternoon). Together with the students from Brazil, you will learn various drumming rhythms and movement pieces. The other half of the day will be spent on excursions focusing on the musical and dance traditions of Brazil, such as visiting schools for capoeira or samba and museums such as São Paulo Museum of Image and Sound or the Afro-Brazilian Museum.

Portuguese/Spanish Show—Performances for the Avenues community in São Paulo as well as local institutions. This service-learning component will enable you to perform for local audiences such as local schools and homes for the elderly.

Say goodbye to your fellow performers and host families. Fly home to NYC on an overnight flight from São Paulo.

*Will lead upon sufficient enrollment (12+ students).

Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.
Read, Eat, Write: Japan! An Exploration of Food, Culture and Identity

Read, Eat, Write: Japan comes back for another year of fun and flavors! Explore how the culture and identity of the Japanese people are connected to their national cuisine. Sample both the traditional and “wild” foods of Japan while simultaneously learning about the cultural values that impact Japanese foodways. We’ll practice food photography, learn to prepare authentic Japanese dishes and refine our writing skills through journaling and posting on our food blog each night.

Pick up some simple Japanese phrases to use in your interactions with locals. Explore Asakusa, a city that reminds visitors of an older Tokyo, through an interactive scavenger hunt. Visit a school for games and fun and sample the school lunch. Learn techniques for creative food writing from professionals. Hone your sushi making skills alongside sushi masters and experience ancient food practices such as sado, a tea ceremony, and Zen Buddhist eating. Lend a helping hand to an organization that distributes food to those in need.

Cost
$4200 + international airfare (est. $1926)

Prerequisites
All interested students are welcome to apply.

Orientation
Students will be required to attend an orientation session from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16.
Sample Itinerary

Day 1–3
Arrive in Tokyo and begin to navigate our new location with a traditional Japanese breakfast and introductory scavenger hunt. Engage in a food blog workshop with experienced writers. Explore the famous Tsukiji Fish Market with guides and sample some of the most unique and fresh street food and sushi. Stroll through the Kappabashi Street, where there are dozens of specialized stores for cooking utensils, and discover the art of crafting realistic wax food models which are used by restaurants all over Japan to display their menus.

Day 4–6
Before boarding the bullet train to Kyoto, we’ll volunteer at an organization that serves food to people in need. While in Kyoto, go to a local historic market to buy ingredients for our lunch, then learn about washoku culture and how to prepare traditional Japanese dishes at a cooking school. Uncover the intricacies for Zen Buddhism through meditative training and mindful eating. The traditions and values of Zen eating promise to inspire us, and the thousands of orange torii gates lining the mountain at the Inari Shrine will create a backdrop for deep reflection. We’ll also have a unique opportunity in Kyoto to learn how to make sushi from sushi masters and understand the significant differences between traditional sushi in Japan vs. sushi in the United States.

Day 7–10
On day seven, we’ll have our school exchange experience with a local elementary school. The students will teach us origami and we’ll come prepared to share some fun games or crafts from the United States. Then, we’ll participate in their recess time after enjoying a delicious school lunch, Japanese style. For the remaining time in Kyoto we’ll continue to discover the connection of food and identity by participating in a formal tea ceremony, making tofu or traditional Japanese sweets. On our last day, we’ll get to dress in traditional kimono and learn about kimono manners and etiquette. We’ll fly home via the Osaka international airport.

Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.

Avenues students learning how to cook
The Fragility of a Pristine Paradise

Iceland’s capital, Reykjavik, is one of the most sustainable cities in the world. Every building is fueled using clean geothermal power, made possible by the continental rift running directly underneath the country. Only through a concerted effort by citizens, scientists and policymakers has Iceland become a global leader in sustainability. This is a chance to learn how collective action can influence the way humans interact with their environment and foster positive change for the planet.

Iceland is in a particularly vulnerable position with respect to climate change. As an island nation with 11% of its landmass covered in glaciers, rising global temperatures are felt strongly by communities with a deep connection to the sea and the glaciers. Recently, a plaque was installed to commemorate the death of the Okjokull glacier. We will have the chance to meet with Icelanders in regions where glacial melt and rising sea levels are tangibly evident, and we’ll trek out over coastal and volcanic landscapes to see the impact ourselves.

Right now Iceland is also undergoing an enormous economic transformation. It has rapidly become one of the most desirable tourist spots in the world, meaning this tiny country is being inundated with all sorts of visitors—visitors not unlike ourselves. This reality inspires new questions for us to explore. How can we act more conscientiously as travelers? Can tourism be a force for good?

Iceland’s unique geography, combined with its political will and technological focus, contribute to its national push toward sustainability. By exploring a variety of elements in this systemic effort, we will work to understand how similar programs could be explored back home in the United States.

Cost  $5400 + international airfare (est. $748)

Prerequisites  All Avenues students in grades 9–12 are welcome to apply.

Orientation  Students will be required to attend an orientation session from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on February 29.

Carbon Offset  This program is part of the Carbon Offset Pilot. The flight to Iceland will generate an estimate of 17 metric tons of CO2. Upon enrollement participants will have the option to contribute 20 dollars to help offset these greenhouse gas emissions.
Fly to Iceland and begin the adventure by looking down over Reykjavik from the top of Hallgrímskirkja Church, before a traditional Icelandic dinner. Here we will have the chance to meet with Icelanders to get the local perspective on how sustainability is part of daily life in the country.

Discover the impact of geothermal activity by engaging with local resources and discuss the geological forces that make and break Iceland. We will also witness climate change first-hand while traversing one of Europe’s largest glaciers. Finally, stand beneath towering waterfalls and spot nesting puffins from black sand beaches.

Explore an eco-village where we’ll work with the community on some of their projects as well as our own research goals. We will visit the famous geothermal tomato farm and learn how Icelandic ideas of self-sufficiency still influence people today. On the quest of sustainability, uncover geothermal and hydropower plants to understand how local clean energy is created and the impacts this power has on the country. Witness the forces of nature through a visit to the “original” Geyser and the thundering Gullfoss waterfall.

Take time to wrap up our projects—how can we address climate change both at home and worldwide? Synthesize our research and test new ideas with input from local friends or experts. Enjoy a final dinner in the capital and celebrate the work done over before heading home.

Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.
A Taste of Taiwan: Examining Food, Culture and Sustainability

One of the world’s most densely populated regions, Taiwan sits precariously on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” the volatile intersection of several tectonic plates and the Philippine Mobile Belt. The ancestral home of the Taiwanese indigenous peoples—Taiwan was first drawn into the whirlpool of international politics through Dutch colonial invasion in the 17th century. Since then, the “Island of Formosa” has been characterized by numerous political annexations and power disputes.

In a modern environment of economic growth and general political stability, Taiwanese people have continued to negotiate their country’s past and present as they reinvent their political and cultural identities. This program offers a unique window into the cultural fusions of Taiwanese identity via the delectable medium of food. Explore culinary processes of production, distribution, consumption and meaning-making in rural and urban settings. Living and working with farmers, students learn about the processes of food production and the continuing struggle to ensure that those processes are fair and sustainable.

This program is a holistic cultural immersion with a strong academic focus on Taiwanese food systems, their sustainability and their cultural significance. Open and curious interaction with a carefully guided host of activities will provide students with the building blocks for a substantial understanding of Taiwanese food systems and culture—while simultaneously encouraging heightened capacity for student leadership, a deepened sense of self and a more developed understanding of their own place in a global community.

Cost $5000 + international airfare (est. $1150)
Prerequisites All Avenues students in grades 9–12 are welcome to apply
Orientation Students will be required to attend one orientation session from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 29.
Homestay This program has a homestay component of two nights
Carbon Offset This program is part of the Carbon Offset Pilot. The flight to Taiwan will generate an estimate of 25 metric tons of CO2. Upon enrollement participants will have the option to contribute 26 dollars to help offset these greenhouse gas emissions.

Taiwan
March 14–27
Brielle O’Brien
Zahara Wignot
İsil Çelimli*

Avenues students farming in Taiwan in 2017
Sample Itinerary

Day 1-5
After a nonstop flight from New York, we will depart for the countryside of Yilan. We’ll receive our orientation to our new home away from home and learn “survival” phrases in Mandarin. We will learn from experts about various farming techniques, including aquaponics, organic farming and small farming practices. They will guide us in examining the overlapping motivations for each technique, from sustainability to productivity to income-generation. Beyond examining how each of these styles of farming is situated within larger economic, cultural and environmental systems, we also get a taste of what they mean close-up. We join our farm-stay hosts and local families in their labor in the fields, working in small groups and getting a feeling for the quotidian reality of food production. In the evenings, we have the opportunity to take the fruits of our labor to the table, learning new recipes and diving into Taiwanese cooking culture as we enjoy our evening meals.

Day 6-9
Travel on to Zhenxibao: an indigenous Atayal community surrounded by some of the largest and oldest trees in Taiwan. We will be welcomed into the homes of local families, with whom we spend our mornings and evenings helping out with household chores, cooking, practicing our Mandarin and hanging out. During the day, we will gather as a group for lessons on indigenous Atayal culture and its relationship to food. We’ll uncover the complexities of zoning and land use and the impact pollution and waste have had on this community.

Day 10-14
From Zhenxibao, we will transition to the contrastingly fast pace of Taipei. This metropolis gives us the chance to observe how rural farming relates to urban food systems and draw parallels to our own food systems in New York City. We meet with food system experts from the National Taiwan University, learn about urban gardening and vegetable foraging and interview the managers of a local farm-to-table restaurant. We also discuss the topic of food waste, exploring what happens to the scraps we leave on our plates. On our final night in Taipei, we chronicle the lessons we’ve learned and questions we’ve sparked on our journey, preparing to bring these themes back with us for further study at Avenues and beyond.

Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.

*Will lead upon sufficient enrollment (12+ students).
From Bean to Barista: Economics and Ethical Coffee Consumption in Costa Rica

Think back to the last cup of coffee you drank—how was it made? Where did it come from? Who grew it? Who processed it? When is the last time you wondered where your coffee came from or whose lives your purchases affected? Everything we consume has a story but few commodities are as interesting as coffee. This ubiquitous drink—how many products can claim a place in bodegas and Michelin-starred restaurants?—has raised economies, sparked revolts and shaped the history of labor in Latin America. Curious about the story of coffee?

This May, travel to Costa Rica to discover that story for yourself. Engage in the opportunity to work on coffee farms with local coffee farmers and learn about the challenges and successes found in sustainable coffee farming. Examine all stages of coffee production—from seed to bean to cup—and see first hand what goes into each step of the way. Learn from workers about the economic and social dynamics at play that take the raw, green pit of a coffee cherry to a mug.

During this incredible opportunity, you will have the chance to experience both the story of coffee and the story of Costa Rican people by living and learning with local homestay families. Engage in service projects that focus on a need identified by the community and facilitated by local experts. Dive into this Costa Rican coffee course and discover what the bean means.

Cost
$4000 + international airfare (est. $633)

Prerequisites
All Avenues students in grades 9–12 are welcome to apply

Orientation
Orientation will be held during the first few days of Fifth Term

Homestay
This program has a homestay component of ten nights

Carbon Offset
This program is part of the Carbon Offset Pilot. A flight to Costa Rica will generate an estimate of 20 metric tons of CO2. Upon enrollement participants will have the option to contribute 18 dollars to help offset these greenhouse gas emissions.

Coffee farmers working in the field
Sample Itinerary

Days 1–5  Land in Costa Rica and transfer to Providencia de Dota. Here we will begin our interactive orientation and meet our homestay families. The first part of the program will be spent getting to know our host families by eating meals with them. In the morning dive into a community engagement project. Projects will be determined by the community and guided by local experts. In the afternoon enjoy time with your peers while you engage in coffee tours and group discussions about the meaning of ethical, sustainable coffee consumption.

Days 6–8  Enjoy breakfast with our families before transferring to Turrialba where we will meet with a coffee specialist and settle into the Turrialba lodge. Turrialba is a small city in Cartago Province and is well known for its textiles, agriculture and tourism. As we walk through the Costa Rican forests, you will discover the beauty of the natural surroundings.

Days 7–12  We return to homestays and community engagement work. Enjoy meals with your family and participate in group activities in the afternoon, such as the Extreme Forest Park. The Extreme Forest Park is not only a chance to relax and rejuvenate but also a place to discover local sustainability efforts to combine tourism and environmental conservation. Participate in a number of cultural activities, such as cooking and dance lessons, playing soccer and improving your Spanish. Visit the river and take some space for yourself in the Los Santos Forestal Reserve.

Day 13–14  Finally, we will transfer to Poás Volcano and explore the surrounding environment before heading home. Stay the night close to the airport in San José and be ready to say goodbye to this beautiful experience in Costa Rica.

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*Will lead upon sufficient enrollment (12+ students).
Happiness in the Himalayas

Cloistered by the dramatic backdrop of the Himalayas, Bhutan (officially named Druk yul, “Land of the Thunder Dragon”) has captured the imagination of explorers and scholars alike as an almost mythical nation. Part of its allure can be found in Bhutan’s intentional seclusion from the world beyond its boundaries. Up until very recently, the nation was never colonized by any other power and the royal monarchy carefully controlled external influences, only allowing television into the country in 1999 and establishing a deliberately restrictive visa program for foreign visitors. The country is widely known for their unique development indicator, the Gross National Happiness Index, which measures citizens’ wellbeing according to 33 different indicators as not only a measure of development but also an important policy consideration.

Students will dive into the themes of Buddhism and happiness as they manifest in a country with a completely different historical, social and cultural context. Through homestays and close, immersive community engagement paired with sociological and psychological analysis, Avenues students have the opportunity to explore their own assumptions and beliefs about the meanings of development, happiness and success, both relating to Bhutan and to their lives at home. Students also engage thoughtfully with the darker sides of “cultural preservation,” maintenance of traditional values and religious devotion. As they discuss Bhutanese history, culture and future with local leaders and educators, students develop a holistic picture of what life is like in Bhutan for various groups of people, avoiding romanticization and grappling with the always complex realities of life in another country. Throughout this process, students will consistently engage the practices of empathy, reflection and thoughtful debate.

Cost
$4800 + international airfare (est. $1200)

Prerequisites
All Avenues students in grades 9-12 are welcome to apply

Orientation
Orientations will begin at the start of Fifth Term.

Enrollment
Due to in-country partner constraints this program may only run with a minimum of 16 students.

Homestay
This program has a homestay component of four nights
Sample Itinerary

**Day 1-2**
Fly to Paro and begin to explore the history, safety guidelines and culture of the region. Take some preliminary lessons in Buddhism, learn a few words in Dzongkha and prepare for the incredible journey ahead.

**Day 3-5**
We spend our first two full days in Bhutan between Paro and Thimphu. We dive into Bhutanese history and recent political transitions with an expert historian and parse the Gross National Happiness Index with a Ph.D. student from the Royal University of Bhutan. We visit one of the largest Buddha statues in Bhutan for a lesson on Buddhism and shop for traditional Bhutanese clothing at a local market, where we learn how it is worn and why it is so culturally significant.

**Day 6-8**
In Jakar we connect with UWICER (Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research) students to learn about the ways conservation and environmentalism relate to spirituality and happiness in Bhutan and how these topics manifest in students’ lives. We also connect with a local weaving cooperative to learn about the ancient tradition, the economic structures in Bhutan and how this connects to Gross National Happiness. We’ll also visit a nearby monastery, where we connect with practitioners and hear what Buddhism means in their lives.

**Day 9-13**
We transfer to our homestay village where we establish a daily balance of time with our families mixed with group activities. In our homestays, we learn what it means to help with chores, cooking and even farming in a Bhutanese household. We also observe and discuss the ways Buddhist practice and official happiness measures appear in the daily lives of rural villagers. Along the way, we ask how the lifestyles and beliefs of our hosts relate to our own mindsets and realities at home.

**Day 14-16**
It’s time to bid farewell to our hosts and head back toward Paro and the international airport. On our way, we begin our reflection process and journaling. In Paro, we join for group reflection and celebrate the journey we’ve completed together. We then set goals for continued learning and exploration at Avenues and beyond. We depart Bhutan for Kathmandu and fly back home.

*Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.*
From Trees to Seas: Adaptation and Biodiversity in Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands

How can we best adapt to radical change? This May, Avenues Global Journeys invites you to Ecuador on a riveting exploration of the Andes, Amazon and Galápagos. In your guided exploration of the most bio diverse hotspots on the planet, you will encounter a myriad of microclimates that rise and fall on the slopes of active volcanoes and trace how an effusion of plants, animals and people observe, respond, create, adapt, compete, cooperate and evolve within a landscape of extraordinary extremes.

Like all great explorers, we will set out upon our journey with key questions to guide our understanding of adaptation: How do creatures respond to adversity? What is the relationship between frustration and creativity? What role does community play in creating a dynamic, integrated balance between distinct living beings? How is communication important to survival? We will consider how creatures interact with each other and establish their niche, and explore the wisdom that nature provides for us in times of transition and transformation. Our journey will be far more than a program to gawk at distant animals, but rather a direct and directed encounter with the wild that will make us all wiser and more able to find our own place in our shared landscape.

Cost $4900 + international airfare (est. $920)
Prerequisites All Avenues students in grades 9–12 are welcome to apply
Orientation Orientation will be held at the beginning of Fifth Term
Cross-campus This program is open to students on New York and São Paulo campuses
Homestay This program has a homestay component of four nights
Carbon Offset This program is part of the Carbon Offset Pilot. The Ecuador flights will generate an estimate of 15 metric tons of CO2. Upon enrollement participants will have the option to contribute 18 dollars to help offset these greenhouse gas emissions.
Upper Grades Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands

Sample Itinerary

Day 1–2
Arrive in Quito and meet your fellow travelers. After a morning orientation, travel through the Avenue of the Volcanoes to Baños, a beautiful pilgrimage town nestled on the flank of the volcano, Tungurahua. After a group lunch, visit the colorful artisanal market, basilica and museum. Test your bravery at Casa del Arbol by soaring on a swing at the end of the world. Finally, meet your homestay host and get to know your new family.

Day 3–5
Over the next few days, we will focus on evolutionary biology, diversification of orchid species and important conservation work with Ecominga in the Pastaza watershed. Search for orchids during morning hikes and learn about capturing their beauty in botanical drawing classes. Participate in a minga, a traditional community work project, with your homestay family.

Days 6–9
Hike to the spectacular Pailón del Diablo waterfall and then travel into the Amazon basin to a research station on the Napo River. Explore the rainforest with local guides and expert biologists. Discover Kichwa culture and mythology. Help tend manioc in a chagra, a traditional garden. Learn to make mucahuas, delicate clay bowls, with skilled Amazonian artists. Canoe downriver to the town of Misahualli and observe mischievous monkeys playing in the treetops.

Day 10–15
Return to Quito and then fly out to the Galápagos Islands. Visit highland farms on Santa Cruz where giant Galápagos tortoises graze. Catch a ferry to Isabela, and spend the next four days learning about the amazing endemic creatures that make their home on this magical island. Climb through lava tunnels and up the Sierra Negra Volcano. See flamingos, sea lions, marine iguanas, penguins, blue-footed boobies, hawks and more! Return to Santa Cruz and visit Darwin’s Station. Take some time to reflect on this incredible journey before heading home.

Please note: There is a possibility of content-relevant water activities on this program and Global Journeys will facilitate adequate preparation for those able to participate.

Marine Iguana in the Galápagos
Art and Architecture: Tools for Social Change

This program offers a unique opportunity to explore the relationship between Italy’s art, architecture and its use in social movements. Master a glossary of art historical terms and styles by examining the work of such brilliant innovators as Giotto, Masaccio, Brunelleschi, Da Vinci and Michelangelo, as well as the collaborative efforts that made the Roman Colosseum. While immersed in the inspirational wonders of Italy, gather evidence to answer the question: How can art and architecture influence social change?

We will have the chance to explore the combination of art and architecture, especially as it pertains to social change and community engagement. This program will offer a look into Western architecture, the historic influence and modern social movements. Italy, a place steeped in artistic history and talent, will allow us to develop their own critical eye and artistic process. The program will allow us a chance to actively view art, inquire and critique, and foster an understanding of the interconnection between art and social impact. Join us in Italy this Fifth Term and set out to answer the question: How can art and architecture be used as a tool for social change?

Cost $5200 + international airfare (est. $1124)

Prerequisites All Avenues students in grades 9-12 are welcome to apply

Orientation Orientations will be held at the beginning of Fifth Term

Cross-campus This program is open to students on New York and São Paulo campuses
Sample Itinerary

Day 1–5
When in Rome, start by getting a feel for the city, its principle landmarks and customs. We end the first day by walking through the Imperial Fora and visiting the Coliseum. Continue exploring Rome by visiting open air markets, ruins of the Flavian Palace, and the Piazza Navona. We will also visit a local university to meet local architecture students and learn how they’re inspired by their city. We will receive a course on architectural drawing before heading out to visit several famous sights.

Day 6–9
Move from Rome to Florence and familiarize yourself with the history and layout of the city. We will take a walk around the trail that circles Florence and connects to the larger Renaissance Ring. Learn more about the various civilizations that have inhabited this land through time, and how art and architecture shifted based on the evolution of culture, politics, priorities and frame of mind. Visit a nonprofit artist-run collective, which presents exhibitions and workshops with the goal of providing a home and a venue for discussion on contemporary art.

Day 10–15
Save Venice! We take a trian to Venice and settle into our hotel before lunch. We start getting to know Venice with a walk over the Rialto Bridge, which crosses the Grand Canal. We continue our walk along alleys and over bridges, discovering a city that is unique in the world and in danger of leaving it for good. In the afternoon, we meet with members of a nonprofit that combines social entrepreneurship, academic research and direct action to work towards the preservation of Venice. We spend the entire day at the Biennale, continuing our exploration of the exhibits and our discovery of new and established artists, and then meet up with an official Biennale tour guide for a presentation and guided tour. Students are challenged to interview an artist of their choice about their historical influences and the political, social, or other contexts for their work.

Please note: This is a sample itinerary and is subject to change based on group interest, opportunities to engage in local cultural events, health and safety concerns and/or other factors beyond the control of Avenues: The World School.
Exchange Programs

Avenues families on both the New York and São Paulo campuses will have the opportunity to participate in programs based on the other Avenues campus. The academic calendars align across the hemispheres allowing for students from São Paulo to come to New York and vice versa.
Exchange Groups

Up to 12 students will be enrolled from each campus. Two faculty from the New York campus will be appointed as exchange program leaders, essentially functioning as temporary deans for these students, attending to the social/emotional needs of the exchange students, conducting host family visits and engaging students in regular check-ins with their New York student group.

Host Family

Each student will be carefully placed with an Avenues host family at the receiving campus. Host family placements will provide an opportunity for students to build authentic cross-campus and cross-cultural relationships as we truly realize our mission of being a world school.

Host Family Expectations

We ask that families provide a safe and supportive home and welcome the exchange students as members of their families. Additionally, host families must provide:

- The student with their own bed. Sharing a room with a sibling of the same gender is fine
- Transportation to and from school
- The opportunity to participate in the family’s daily life and events
- Two meals a day during the school week and three meals a day on the weekends, as needed
- The love and understanding a young person needs to have a successful experience

Matching Process

Exchange students from both campuses will be asked to provide a brief profile of themselves and a letter of introduction. In consultation with deans and division heads, the Global Journeys team will match students with host families of similar interests, whenever possible. When the exchange families have been finalized, we will share out contact information, so families can get to know each other and coordinate this exciting exchange.
A Global Social Impact Exchange

A total of approximately 24 to 30 Avenues students, half of them from Avenues New York and the other half from Avenues São Paulo, will participate in a unique pilot program for Fifth Term.

Twelve to 15 Avenues São Paulo students will fly up to New York for the first two weeks of Fifth Term and, alongside 12–15 of their New York City peers (whose families will ideally serve as their hosts), engage in orientation and team building activities before diving deep into a social impact project around an identified issue or theme. The issue will be identified by students and teachers and will be something of importance to São Paulo, New York and the wider global community. The São Paulo students and the New York students will then fly together to Brazil for the second half of the program, where they will continue working on their community engagement and social impact project. The cohort will wrap up the program by presenting their work in the Fifth Term showcase in Avenues São Paulo.

Cost  $2500 + international airfare (est. $1265)

Prerequisites  All interested students in grades 9–12 are welcome to apply.

Homestay  Students will stay with Avenues São Paulo families for this program

Sample Itinerary

May 27–May 28  Overnight flight to São Paulo. Meet your host family and participate in orientations and welcome events while getting to know your surroundings.

May 29–June 8  Continue working on your Fifth Term project and settle into life as an Avenues São Paulo student. Spend the evenings with your host family and live like a local, learning about the family’s culture, customs and routines.

Your host family will have special plans for you each weekend, perhaps showing you around their local community, attending cultural events or sightseeing around the most populous city in the Western Hemisphere. The São Paulo campus will also arrange a weekly excursion for exchange students after school to familiarize the group with Brazilian culture and the rich history of the city. There will also be specific excursions related to project work.

June 9  Present your work at the Fifth Term Showcase

June 10–11  Fly back to New York overnight
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Student Application and Selection Process

**The Global Journeys Traveler**

Avenues is looking for students who possess:
+ Patience, flexibility, good humor, goodwill and the ability to tolerate uncertainty
+ Responsibility and sensitivity to others
+ Motivation and curiosity

**Application**

Visit [https://avenuesglobaljourneysny.campbrain registration.com/](https://avenuesglobaljourneysny.campbrainregistration.com/) to apply by Sunday, November 10 at 11:59 p.m. If you would like a hard copy of the application, please contact us at globaljourneys@avenues.org.

**Eligibility**

In order to participate in an Avenues Global Journey program, participants must:
+ Be in good academic, disciplinary and financial standing
+ For language and culture programs, study the language of the host country at Avenues
+ Possess a valid passport and/or other appropriate travel documents for non-US citizens
+ Attend program meetings before and after the international experience
+ Specific program requirements may apply. Please see each program page for details.

**Pre-departure orientations**

Participants will meet with the instructors to prepare for their program content, review health and safety information and forge positive group dynamics. Attendance at these orientations is required to participate in the in-country portion of the program. Dates are listed on each program page.

**Integration sessions**

Participants will meet with the instructors back in New York to do their final reflections, integrate their experience abroad into their learning at Avenues and prepare to showcase their learning for parents and the Avenues’ community. Attendance at these sessions is also required and essential to completing the learning objectives for each program.

_Avenues students in Yangshuo, China_
## Student Application and Selection Process

### Selection Process
Depending on the program location and our partner’s capacity, programs will generally consist of 10–15 students and 2–3 faculty members. Select programs can support upwards of 18–24 students.

Students will complete an online application which includes short answer responses to questions that gauge the students’ interest in the program theme and ability to fully and passionately participate in the program. Students should demonstrate that they possess the traits of the Global Journeys traveler listed above. The short answer responses will be evaluated and weighed with recommendations by the students’ teachers, deans and program instructors. The application questions should be given careful thought as they impact the student’s eligibility to participate.

The student selection team, comprised of the head of school, division heads and the Global Journeys team, will review each application to determine whether or not a student is right for their selected Global Journeys program and whether or not the program will be able to support their needs. Students’ teachers, deans and members of the Student Success Team will also be consulted. In some cases, there will be follow-up interviews with students and parents.

Please note: Participation is contingent upon review of completed health forms. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

### Program Fee and Payment Information
Each program is priced differently depending on the length, exchange rate and itinerary. The price will also vary slightly depending on the total number of confirmed participants.

The program fee includes the following:
+ All meals and lodging, including homestay, if applicable
+ In-country transportation, program activities and orientations
+ Instructor supervision throughout the program
+ Health, accident and medical evacuation insurance
+ 24-hour medical and travel security assistance and advice before, during and after travel
+ Travel insurance
+ 24-hour on-call Avenues support throughout the program

The program fee does not include:
+ Pre-program medical examinations or immunizations
+ International airfare, passport or visa fees
+ Personal spending money

### Enrollment
Upon acceptance, a non-refundable $500 deposit is due within one week. The Global Journeys team will communicate additional details on the program’s policies and payment process once you are enrolled.

### Financial Aid
The same percentage of assistance that has been awarded for tuition will be offered toward any Global Journeys program in Lower Division and up to two programs in Upper Division, with a maximum of one program for students in the middle grades. Children of regular full-time employees are also eligible to receive financial aid. Please contact Global Journeys for more information. Financial aid families should direct questions to Chequanna Kelley at accounting@avenues.org.

### Contact Information
Please contact us at globaljourneys@avenues.org or at 646-780-0849 with any questions.
Dan Wallace is the associate division head of 5th grade. Dan joined Avenues in fall 2012 as an associate teacher in an English section of 1st grade and has been a Lower Division teacher ever since. He has led two previous 5th grade programs to New Orleans and loves incorporating the 5th grade curriculum with the culture of the Crescent City. His favorite part of the New Orleans Global Journeys program is planting trees in City Park.

LiMei was born in Chengdu, China. During her many years of teaching, her passion has only grown in working with students of different ages. She has planned, coordinated and led many field trips for middle and high school students when working in New Hampshire. She worked as a lead instructor at China Institutes StarTalk summer immersion camp for New York City high school students in 2013. LiMei was one of three instructors who led a middle grades Global Journeys group to Guilin, China. She is extremely excited to come back to an Global Journeys program to China.

Born and raised Chongqing, China, Junhua is very excited to help connect her students with Chinese culture. With five years of teaching Chinese in the U.S., she deeply understands the importance of tying language learning to cultural, thematic experiences. She was an instructor on the middle grades China program last year, and she looks forward to leading students again as they travel together to places familiar to her.

Reynaldo has 13 years of experience teaching middle school. His license area is bilingual special education but he has taught middle school math and most recently Spanish. He traveled to Mexico and Chile during his study abroad programs when he was a student at Connecticut College. After teaching in charter schools in New York City, he moved to Puebla, Mexico in 2014, where he taught English for two years. Reynaldo has traveled extensively throughout Latin America including Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, Peru and Costa Rica. He led our spring break Argentina program for middle grades last year.

Evelyn Vivar Bravo is thrilled to be leading a program to Panama and supporting students as they learn about economics and trade. Evelyn grew up in a Spanish speaking home where she developed a passion for the language. With that same passion she earned a masters degree in childhood education as well as a Spanish bilingual education degree. She hopes to continue inspiring students to love speaking Spanish and is thrilled to have the opportunity to inspire students through their Global Journeys program.

Yi-Ching has led numerous programs with Global Journeys, and has participated in several overnight school trips to Black Rock Forest. Outside of school, Yi-Ching loves the outdoors and travels and goes hiking and scuba diving as often as she can. She is also an active runner and has completed three New York City marathons. This year, she is excited to bring their experience to our Avenues community and lead this year’s Global Journeys program to Hawaii. She looks forward to facilitating the students’ experiences before, during, and after the program.
Instructor Bios

Amanda Williams
MG Hawaii
Amanda Williams is a middle grades science teacher at Avenues. In her three years at Avenues, she has taught each grade level in the middle school and this will be her second time leading a Global Journeys program. Last year, Amanda led the middle grades program to Cape Town, South Africa. There she and her students experienced what life was like with a lack of life’s most precious resource: water. Upon returning, Amanda described the experience as “life-changing.” This year Amanda is looking forward to helping in the battle against climate change in Hawaii.

William Roble
MG Hawaii
Will Roble is in his third year of teaching at Avenues as a HIP Thinking teacher for grades 6 and 7. He cannot wait to lead his second Global Journeys program this spring! In the spring of 2019, he led a program to Cape Town, South Africa. In addition to having led a Global Journeys program, Will was the trip leader for an annual 6th grade trip to Bryce Canyon, Zion National Park, and the Grand Canyon when he worked at Rise Academy. There is nothing that invigorates Will more as a teacher than taking students out of the building to learn about their world through experience.

Ted Ogden
MG Belize
Ted Ogden joined Avenues in 2017 as associate head of Upper Division. In the two years before, he earned his M.A. and M.B.A in education and business leadership at Teachers College and Columbia Business School, along the way helping to lead a strategic review of curriculum at the Chapin School. Ted worked as a teacher, advisor and coach at Landon School in Bethesda, Maryland, and designed and taught innovative, interdisciplinary courses including creative nonfiction, American studies and introduction to genre and composition to students grades 9 through 12. Outside of work, Ted enjoys playing outdoor sports, hiking, camping and fly-fishing, as well as cooking, reading and visiting the theater. He is very excited to lead the Minimester Exchange Program!

Michelle Tursellino
MG Belize
Michelle Tursellino is excited to lead this year’s Belize program. She has led two previous Global Journeys programs, one to Italy and one to Puerto Rico. Michelle has been teaching for 14 years and has been a part of Avenues for the last five. She is involved with the Highliner, Penumbra and the middle grades book club. Outside of teaching she loves traveling, exploring New York City and is an avid baker. Michelle is looking forward to exploring the education systems in Belize with you!

Mike Shaffer
MG Belize
Mike Shaffer is a 6th grade English teacher in his second year at Avenues. He served as a founding teacher and 6th grade level leader at a charter middle school in Brooklyn. He loves teaching, reading, writing, running and is especially excited to participate in service learning with students through this Global Journeys Program. As a child and teenager, he went on service trips once or twice a year to Mexico, which powerfully shaped the person he is now. He looks forward to facilitating a similarly formative experience for the middle grades students in Belize this year.

Jordan Kravitz
MG Japan
Jordan Kravitz teaches English at Avenues. He has previously led students to Costa Rica, and he has travelled throughout Japan, with his wife and family. He also taught English for a year in Japan. A reader, writer and eater, and a lover of Japanese literature, art, and food, Jordan is thrilled to lead students as they Eat, Read, and Write their way through Tokyo and Kyoto.
Instructor Bios

Dina Gray
MG Japan

Dina Gray has been a dance educator for over 20 years and has been teaching dance and movement at Avenues since 2014 in the ELC and in the Upper Division. She is the director of the Avenues middle school dance club. In 2004, she founded City Kids Dance, a dance program for children of all ages in New York City, offering both camps and specialized dance and movement programs. She loves reading, dancing, hiking and traveling to explore new places. She is excited to have the opportunity to lead students abroad and support them in having a rewarding cross cultural learning experience.

Gustavo Schartz
MG São Paulo

Mr. Schartz, born and raised in Argentina, is a music teacher with 25 years of experience who has taught at Avenues since 2014. Currently, Mr. Schartz teaches grades 4 to 12. He lived in Israel (12 years) and Cuba (1 year) before he came to the U.S. Mr. Schartz has co-led two Global Journeys programs, to Botswana and Puerto Rico. In the past he also traveled with students to Bermuda. In addition, he performs in New York City, mainly playing Cuban music.

Josef Woodson
MG São Paulo

Josef Woodson is excited to join the Cabaret in São Paulo Brazil this year. Josef is the Upper Division dance instructor with WAM and the director of Dance Now Avenues (DNA) company. He has collaborated and worked on several Avenues productions, including last year’s production of Mamma Mia as choreographer. He is looking forward to the cultural exchange between campuses and working with all of the amazing vocalists and musicians that will bring their own artistry to create a unique and moving celebration of art!

Alex Aron
MG São Paulo

Alex Aron has been an Upper Division drama teacher for the past four years. Her career as a theater director has brought her around the world; her collaboration with the Klezmatic’s Frank London “A Night in the Old Marketplace” has been seen in Warsaw, Milan, Toronto, Copenhagen, MASS MoCA and most relevantly at SESC Pompeia in São Paulo in 2013. Alex’s most recent project is producing GREY ROCK, written and directed by Amir Nizar Zuabi with an all-Palestinian cast, which will be at New York’s Public Theater in early 2020, the start of a four city US tour.

Jessica Curley
UG Iceland
UG Costa Rica

Jessica Curley is an Upper Division math teacher at Avenues. Last year Ms. Curley led a program to South Africa and learning about and experiencing other cultures has always been a priority in her life. Ms. Curley studied abroad in college in Salamanca, Spain and majored in Spanish in addition to math. As a passion, Ms. Curley continues to travel throughout the U.S. and abroad with the intention of immersing herself in other cultures. She is incredibly excited to be an instructor on the Global Journeys program to Iceland and Costa Rica.

Jason Hoeksema
UG Iceland

Jason Hoeksema is a science teacher in the upper grades at Avenues. He previously co-led immersion programs in Uruguay, Spain, India and Hawaii. Jason believes there is no better place to learn science than in the field, where students can weave together the curricula with the necessary skills required of a scientist and researcher. Outside of teaching, Jason enjoys long distance backpacking and hiking, especially on the Appalachian Trail.

Zahara Wignot
UG Taiwan

Zahara Wignot is the assistant to the head of school at Avenues New York. Zahara is entering her ninth year at Avenues and is excited to be a Global Journeys instructor for the third time. She had previously gone abroad with students to China and Italy. Zahara has a B.A. from the University of Washington and enjoys traveling to new countries whenever the opportunity arises.
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<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Bio</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brielle O'Brien</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Taiwan</td>
<td>Brielle hails from New Jersey originally and has been living in New York City for three years. After attending the University of Vermont, she moved to Shenzhen, China to teach English as a Foreign Language. After two years abroad, she landed in New York City and is now in her third year working as the college counseling administrative assistant at Avenues. In her spare time, Brielle likes to exercise, go to the beach and try new things. Brielle is beyond excited to lead an awesome group of students back to Asia and explore Taiwan together!</td>
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<td><strong>Isıl Çelimli</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Taiwan</td>
<td>Isıl Çelimli works as a research scientist at Avenues, and previously taught World Course and statistics in the Upper Division. This is Isıl’s sixth year at Avenues and her second as a Global Journeys instructor. Isıl has a doctoral degree in sociology from Columbia University. Originally from Turkey, Isıl had the excellent opportunity to work as a program assistant for a study abroad program run by Pitzer College.</td>
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<td><strong>Spencer Baron</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Bhutan</td>
<td>Spencer is a Chinese teacher in the Upper Division who has led Global journeys programs to China twice: once on a Buddhist themed-program and the other on martial arts and mastery program. He is thrilled to lead this year’s Fifth Term program to Bhutan on happiness studies and Buddhism with Simon Jarcho, a program in-line with the curriculum he is teaching in his junior and senior elective: Eastern Philosophy.</td>
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<td><strong>Simon Jarcho</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Bhutan</td>
<td>Mr. Jarcho is an Upper Division math teacher at Avenues who has a range of experience traveling with students around the world. At his previous school, he was the academic coordinator for all global programs, which brought him on an amazing journey with students to Belize that focused on environmental science and sustainability, as well as a full-semester program in Spain that focused on European literature and art history. Mr. Jarcho is excited to join the Avenues Global Journeys team, and he can’t wait to partake in the rich learning and growth that results from travel and cultural immersion.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tori Marroquin</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Bhutan</td>
<td>Tori is currently a World Course teacher for 9th grade students. Before joining Avenues she worked at the American School of Barcelona and led numerous travel education programs around China, Russia and throughout Europe. Tori holds dual citizenship in both the U.S. and Mexico and knows English, Spanish, Portuguese and French. In her personal time she loves reading and yoga. Tori is excited to share her passion for travel on this year’s Bhutan program.</td>
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<td><strong>Christopher Bolduc</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Costa Rica</td>
<td>Prior to coming to Avenues, Mr. Bolduc worked in the field of international education, serving as an international educator leading experiential education programs for Thinking Beyond Borders in South America, Africa and Asia. Having already lead three trips to Ecuador focusing on education and sustainability, he is excited to share his knowledge, experience and excitement in a country that has such rich diversity.</td>
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<td><strong>Sebastian Martin</strong>&lt;br&gt;UG Costa Rica</td>
<td>Sebastian Martin is a social entrepreneur and the social innovation program lead at Avenues in New York. Previously he founded Cambio Coffee, an organic social enterprise coffee company that sourced directly from cooperatives in Latin America and China. Ethical coffee trade and empowering coffee farmers has been part of Sebastian’s lifelong mission, and he is incredibly excited to live out this prerogative as an educator and instructor in Costa Rica!</td>
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### Instructor Bios

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Background and Experience</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nima Rouhanifard</td>
<td>UG Ecuador</td>
<td>Nima is a dean at Avenues entering his fourth year. This is his 15th year in education where he has been a teacher, coach and administrator. Prior to coming to Avenues, Nima led end-of-year trips both domestically and internationally. Finally, Nima studied Spanish literature as one of his majors and he is thrilled to be able to immerse himself into an environment where he can both refine his own skills while encouraging Avenues students to embrace a new and different environment.</td>
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<td>Warren Tappe</td>
<td>UG Ecuador</td>
<td>Warren has been a Global Journeys team member on excursions to Hawaii, South Africa, Australia, India and Madagascar, believing fully in the deep, intrinsic educational value such experiences offer. Still walking six inches above the ground after last year’s program to Hawaii, he is looking forward to helping develop the incredible potential of this program to Ecuador/Galápagos.</td>
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<td>Ana Paula Giorgi</td>
<td>UG Ecuador</td>
<td>Ana Paula Giorgi could not be more excited to lead a Global Journeys expedition to Ecuador and Galápagos. Ana Paula is a biologist and pursuing a PhD from UCLA Geography. Before joining Avenues in 2018, for the Os Primeiros Program, Ana Paula was the research coordinator of Earthwatch Institute Brazil. She can’t wait to embark in this journey with our students discovering fascinating stories about these places and their unique biodiversity!</td>
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<td>Kate Howard</td>
<td>UG Italy</td>
<td>Kate Howard is an artist and educator who currently teaches film and advanced art in the upper grades on our NY campus. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe for personal project work, family and leisure. Previously, Kate led a team of high school students to build homes on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Kate is thrilled to collaborate with New York and São Paulo colleagues on the design and implementation of this dynamic program to Italy and to tackle critical issues about the future of co-habitation through the lens of art and architecture.</td>
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<td>Adam Jernigan</td>
<td>UG Italy</td>
<td>Adam Jernigan teaches in the English department at Avenues New York. He earned a B.A. in comparative literature from Stanford University as well as a Ph.D. in English from the University of Chicago. His doctoral research focused on the question of how literary texts, visual art and architecture can transform how people feel about, and interact with, one another. He has traveled extensively in countries across Europe and Latin America, and he couldn’t be more excited to join the talented group of faculty and students who will be traveling to Italy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas Anderson</td>
<td>UG Italy</td>
<td>After teaching and leading in boarding schools in the U.S. for 16 years, Thomas Anderson pursued a dream of living and working abroad when he relocated from the Washington, DC area to Viterbo, Italy to teach with a study abroad program for high school students. During that time, in addition to teaching mathematics, he led groups of students as they explored the country from Sicily to Venice. Thomas is excited to share another country he called home with Avenues students from both Brazil and the U.S., particularly as they consider how we can live together in this global society.</td>
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<td>Morgan Jones</td>
<td>UG Exchange</td>
<td>Morgan is a born and raised New Yorker is currently the Director of Community Engagement and Partnership at Avenues, New York campus. Before joining Avenues Morgan worked on community engagement under both Mayor de Blasio and Bloomberg. He dealt directly with Hurricane Sandy relief through the city as well as NYU Langone Health. Outside of his work, Morgan enjoys hanging out with his two and a half year old daughter. He is excited to be part of this year’s social engagement fifth term program.</td>
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Parent Testimonials

New Orleans, 2019  Stretching their minds by stretching their comfort levels through travel. Innovative education at its best. Global Journeys reinforces our belief in raising and educating children that are exposed to the world and because these programs expand and extend the Avenues classroom.

Chile, 2018  The program to Chile exceeded my son’s expectations. The teachers made for a comfortable and wonderful experience. It is obvious how much they care for the kids. The ability for my son to utilize his second language skills in an immersion program was invaluable for his confidence and advancement of skill.

Brazil, 2018  The Global Journeys team is extraordinary. In addition to curating one of a kind educational and cultural experiences, they devote their time to guiding parents through every step of the process. From application to flight takeoff and everything in between, I am so grateful for their assistance. I was truly made to feel at ease in order for my child to have an unforgettable time abroad.

Argentina, 2017  Global Journeys is a fulfillment of the Avenues mission. It’s a way to open one’s eyes to the real world around us, to dig in deep, and to use experiences to grow as human beings. For our daughter, it was a great experience, and we’d highly recommend it.

China, 2019  Global Journeys is one of the best programs Avenues has to offer. It is managed very professionally and keeps getting better year after year. My daughter has traveled with them 3 years in a row and her first words on her return this year was “Most amazing trip ever... can’t wait to go back next year!”

Student Testimonials

Brazil, 2018  Meeting the students from São Paulo and creating relationships with them was the most valuable part of the experience. I loved learning from my peers there, and just connecting with them.

Guatemala, 2019  In my opinion, the homestay part of the program was the most valuable. The reason why is because it was such an eye opening experience for me. Although I spent only five days, they quickly became part of my family.

Taiwan, 2018  My most valuable experience was at the school in Hualien because it helped me feel more connected to the culture. Even though I did not know the language, the children were still able to teach me some of their customs and ways of life. Also, when I played basketball with them, I was able to communicate with them without words. I thought that was very special.

China, 2018  I appreciated everything about the Avenues instructors! The program wouldn’t have been the same with any other group of instructors. Every teacher went out of their way to engage with the students in casual conversation and in intellectual discussion. Just amazing faculty members who are really invested in the students and success of the program. They all really care about the learning and this care made the program what it was.
Student and Parent FAQs

Does an itinerary ever change in the course of the program?
We do everything possible to stick to the proposed itinerary. Sometimes changes are required for group health or safety. In these cases, we create alternate, comparable itineraries.

Who are the Avenues instructors?
Avenues instructors are faculty and staff selected based on their language competence, cross-cultural skills, regional expertise and experience working with students outside of the classroom. The role of the instructor is to make sure the program is safe, educational, transformative and fun!

Can my child’s allergies, dietary restrictions and health issues be accommodated?
All dietary and health restrictions must be communicated with the Global Journeys team as soon as possible. We then work with our in-country partners to determine whether or not proper arrangements can be made. If we feel we cannot safely accommodate a pre-existing condition, we may need to postpone the student’s participation.

How are the homestay families selected?
Avenues’ in-country partners work to arrange safe and supportive homestays. Host families are recommended by the school and/or local representative and are selected based on a predefined set of criteria. Since Avenues’ partners have experience hosting foreign students, many homestay families have hosted students in the past. All families receive homestay training to better understand the needs of Avenues’ program and students. Family members will have varying degrees of English proficiency, but will be encouraged to use the host language with our students.

When the students are not in homestays, what are their accommodations?
When not living with a homestay family, students stay in appropriate accommodations with their group and instructor. These include guesthouses, educational institutions, hostels, dorms and small hotels, depending on local conditions and customs. All accommodations are chosen and vetted by our in-country partner. When possible, we prioritize supporting locally-owned accommodations.

How does communication work on the program?
The primary point of communication is through World Talk, the online Global Journeys blog that students will update on a regular basis. Family and friends can follow their experience online. Students will leave their personal cell phones at home. During the homestay portion (if applicable), students will be issued temporary phones for local emergency calling. Access to internet cafes may be issued and permitted at other times at the discretion of the instructors. Each instructor will carry a cell phone at all times for daily communication with other on-site instructors, partners, affiliates or third party providers.

How is international travel arranged?
All students and instructors will travel to the host country together on a group flight. Because of this, the international airfare must be arranged through Avenues; miles cannot be used to purchase the ticket and upgrades will not be allowed.

What are the pre- and post-program requirements?
Participants are required to attend meetings with Avenues instructors before and after the international experience. The pre-departure sessions will prepare students for the international experience and the post-travel sessions back at Avenues will help students debrief and process their learning experience abroad as well as prepare their presentations.
What kinds of travel documents are needed?

**Passport and Immigration Documents:** All students must have a current passport for international travel. It must be valid for at least six months after the end date of the program. In the event of an unexpected emergency where a parent must fly to the program destination, at least one parent/guardian must have a valid passport and their immigration documents in order (if applicable).

**Immigration Documents:** Non-U.S. citizens need to ensure their immigration documents are in order.

**Visas:** Depending on your country of citizenship and the program destination, a visa may be required. If the destination country requires U.S. citizens to have a visa, Avenues will coordinate the visa applications for the group. If a visa is not required for U.S. citizens to visit the destination country, non-U.S. citizens will be responsible for obtaining their own visas (if necessary), and Avenues will provide any necessary resources.

**For 2020 programs:**

China and Bhutan: U.S. citizens need a visa. Avenues will coordinate on behalf of the group. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, please check to see if a visa is required for your country of citizenship.

Panama, Belize, Japan, Brazil, Iceland, Taiwan, Costa Rica, Bhutan, Ecuador and Italy: U.S. citizens do not need a visa. If you are a non-U.S. citizen, please check to see if a visa is required for your country of citizenship.

Upon enrolling in the program, you will receive more information on obtaining visas.

What is covered in the program fee?

+ All meals and lodging, including homestay, if applicable
+ In-country transportation, program activities and orientations
+ Instructor supervision throughout the program
+ Health, accident and medical evacuation insurance
+ 24-hour medical and travel security assistance and advice before, during and after travel
+ Travel insurance
+ 24-hour on-call Avenues support throughout the program

The program fee does not include:

+ Pre-program medical examinations or immunizations
+ International airfare, passport or visa fees
+ Personal spending money

Does my child need a physical before the program? What vaccinations does my child need?

If your child has not had a physical in the last year, they will need one in order to complete the medical form. Vaccination requirements will depend on the destination(s) of your child's program. Refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov) for required and recommended vaccinations.

How much money should I send with my child?

Since the program fees cover all necessary expenses, this depends on the student's personal spending/shopping habits. In our experience, some people spend less than $100 while others spend well over $500. A general rule of thumb is $100 per week.

How can I reach you if I have other questions?

We are happy to answer any questions. Please contact us at globaljourneys@avenues.org or +1 646-780-0849.
Cross-cultural competence can be described as the skills, attitudes and behaviors necessary in order to successfully interact within a transcultural setting. This includes processes such as the ability to examine the self, cultural knowledge, specific cultural skills, using cultural encounters as learning opportunities and a motivation to learn. Cross-cultural competence is not an end or a single goal, but rather a continuum and process. It is important to help students develop cross-cultural competency because it is a highly sought-after soft skill in the job market—important for making friends and fostering relationships—and can increase one’s ability to lead and motivate others. Moreover, it helps to establish a well-rounded, compassionate individual.

Since its inception, Global Journeys, in collaboration with Julia Higdon, Avenues’ Director of Research Analytics and Measurement, has been collecting data on each Global Journeys participant’s perceived cross-cultural competence through a pre- and post-program evaluation. Students are asked to rate their confidence level in performing certain tasks (e.g., solving a problem with a person from a different culture) as well as rank how different experiences (e.g., hearing a culturally-insensitive joke) impacts them. In 2019, Morgan Baum, a member of the Global Journeys team, took it to task to analyze these statistics for her master’s thesis in comparative international education at Teachers College. She found statistically significant results that suggest Global Journeys participants experience perceived growth in cross-cultural competence in all areas measured, regardless of gender, age or program location. These findings are important because they suggest that cross-cultural competency can be developed through shorter programs geared towards younger students, and they support the mission, vision and purpose of not only our programming but also the Avenues educational experience more generally.