American Councils for International Education is a premier, international nonprofit creating educational opportunities that prepare individuals and institutions to succeed in our interconnected world. Being immersed in other countries and cultures enables individuals to grow personally and professionally while empowering them to address – and solve – the world’s most complex political, economic, and social challenges.

Funded by the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, the Year of Exchange in America for Russians (YEAR) Program brings a select group of remarkable young Russians aged 18-20 to study at community colleges and universities throughout the U.S. for one academic year. Fellows arrive in their host communities in late July to participate in a month-long homestay experience with a local family, giving them the chance to build strong cross-cultural relationships with members of the community. After completion of the homestay, students move into on-campus dormitories for the start of the academic year, but maintain close contact with their family throughout the remainder of the year. The YEAR Program is administered by American Councils for International Education.
No one does more to foster good feelings toward the U.S. throughout the world than the thousands of Americans who every year bring international students into their homes, make them part of their families, and develop lasting ties that stretch around the globe. Host families are our greatest diplomats and our most important ambassadors. In today’s world, the impact of hosting is greater than ever before.

By hosting a YEAR fellow, you will gain an understanding of Russia’s culture, history, and current society that goes far beyond anything to be found in the headlines and sound bites of today’s media. YEAR fellows are eager to learn about American society while sharing their customs, culture, and beliefs with their new American families.

Host families are the single most important factor shaping an international student’s understanding of the U.S. and American culture. They also play a decisive role in shaping a young person’s perception of the world at large by demonstrating that kindness, generosity and basic decency extend across borders, oceans, and languages.

Provided they speak English as their primary language, families and individuals as varied as the U.S. population itself can host YEAR fellows. The only requirements are that they provide a caring environment, daily meals, and a comfortable bed – and most importantly, support, conversation, and guidance as the students adapt to America.

YEAR fellows are selected on the basis of their outstanding academic abilities, flexibility, leadership skills, and commitment to cultural exchange. They undergo a rigorous selection process that includes essay writing, interviews, and language testing. YEAR fellows are enrolled as full-time students at U.S. host institutions and complete coursework that includes at least one American studies subject each semester. They also perform at least 20 hours of community service and conduct three informational interviews in their proposed field of study during their year in the U.S.

INTERESTED IN HOSTING?
Apply online today at yearprogram.org
For more information, contact us at year@americanuncils.org