



## **PUPILS' EXCHANGE PROGRAMS BETWEEN GERMANY AND SOUTH AFRICA**

**2026**

June 2026 – July 2026 (4 weeks)

November 2026 – January 2027 (6 weeks)

December 2026 – January 2027 (4 weeks)

The Headmaster / Headmistress and Staff,

The FSA Youth Exchange, once again, invites learners from your school to apply for participation in the FSA Youth Exchange Programme between South Africa and Germany.

German as a school subject is NOT compulsory for participation in our programs.

The FSA Youth Exchange (FSA = Freundeskreis für Südafrika / Friends of South Africa) is a non-governmental, non-political, and non-denominational pupils' exchange organisation, registered in South Africa, registration number (1997 / 06295 / 23).

### **2025 top schools in the FSA programme**

Helpmekaar Kollege: 7 participants  
Pretoria Boys High School: 6 participants  
Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool: 4 participants  
Collegiate Girls' High School: 4 participants



To date, 5 288 learners have participated in our exchange programme between South Africa and Germany.

## 1. THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT

### 1.1 Exposure to the way of living and reasoning of a different culture

The stay with an ordinary German family enables the participant to broaden his / her views, knowledge, and opinions on various cultural backgrounds.

### 1.2 Young Ambassadors for South Africa

Participants experience the different educational systems first-hand and have the opportunity to educate German learners about South Africa in the form of a presentation in class. School attendance is compulsory when school is open. Only in exceptional cases will schools be closed during the visit.

### 1.3 Personal growth and development of participants

The impact the stay abroad has on the intellectual and personal development of participants is noteworthy. The feedback and achievements of ex-participants are testimonials to this effect.

## 2. DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

**2.1** Participants stay for 4/6 weeks with a German host family, depending on the relevant programme. Participants are considered members of the families and not guests or tourists. This includes sharing the normal household duties and German cuisine.

**2.2** School attendance is compulsory when schools are open. Participants attend a local German school to experience the difference in educational systems.

**2.3** We expect the German families to continue with their way of living while the guest is there.

**2.4** Private visits are only allowed during the last 4 days, and 3 nights of the programme.



## 3. CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

**3.1** The FSA is a cultural exchange programme and not a travel agency. We do not offer a tour of Europe. Our participants stay with ordinary German families. The allocation of participants to families is done by the FSA. Participants are not allowed to use the families for free accommodation while travelling through Europe/Germany. The programme is for the youth; parents are not allowed to stay with host families.

**3.2** Candidates aged 14 to 19 years, registered at a school in South Africa, may apply.

**3.3** Application does not automatically mean participation. Candidates must complete our selection process. Details about the selection process will be available later. The results are final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

**3.4** A working family cannot entertain the guest 24 hours per day. A certain degree of independence and self-confidence is vital, especially if the family has only younger children. Participants must be prepared to stay in a city or country and with a family with or without children.

**3.5** A shy person will struggle to adapt to the German lifestyle. There will be trying times. The ideal participant should be able to manage these situations without withdrawing himself/herself.

**3.6** Participants must be well informed about South Africa and Germany. Effective communication skills are necessary.

**3.7** Participants must be fluent in English. German as a school subject is not compulsory for participation in our programs.

**3.8** Participants will be 'Young Ambassadors' for South Africa. Therefore, the relevant headmaster/mistress needs to approve the candidates' participation. We will send the list of names to the school.

**3.9** An email address is compulsory for all candidates as all communication is by email.

**3.10** In Germany pets are seen as members of a family and participants need to accept and live with pets.

**3.11** Participants share German cuisine, and no special meals are provided.

**3.12** The programme does not make provision for special training programs e.g., sports or music.

**3.13** Although it is expected of participants to have their views about various subjects, no racism or sexism will be tolerated.

**3.14** An exchange programme is a reciprocal agreement.

Participants must host a German FSA student for the same period during the same year as their participation or provide a suitable host family. For

participants who are not available to host an FSA German exchange student, a surcharge of R4 500 (+ VAT) will be levied.

**Hostel learners:** The surcharge is levied.

**Gr 12 participants:** If you are unable to host before your participation, the surcharge will be levied automatically.

#### 4. PROGRAMME DATES

##### June-July (4 weeks)

25/06/2026 – 24/07/2026\*

##### November-January (6 weeks)

26/11/2026 – 08/01/2027\*

##### December-January (4 weeks)

10/12/2026 – 08/01/2027 \*

\* **Provisional dates!** Denotes the day of departure from and arrival in South Africa.

#### 5. THE COSTS

The final cost of the flight ticket will be available closer to the departure dates. The quote is based on estimates. We distinguish between programme cost (fixed), flight ticket cost (estimate) and compulsory travel insurance (based on the previous year).

##### Programme costs

4-week programs R 9 460

6-week programme R10 560

(Deposit of R 1 000 included)

**Return flight ticket** R22 500

(Estimate, airport tax included)

**Participants are not allowed to use their own flight tickets, including tickets obtained with rewards programs. Our German partner does not accommodate participants without an FSA ticket.**

**Compulsory travel insurance** +/- R1 500



## Included

- Return flights from Johannesburg to Frankfurt.
- Compulsory travel insurance.
- Selection and preparation of the South African participants and the organisation of the visit to Germany.
- Selection of host families in Germany and organising the programme in Germany.
- Meeting of the groups on arrival and departure in Frankfurt by our German colleagues.
- Preparation of train connections from the airport to the host families.
- Assistance to students with train connections from the airport to the host families.

## Excluded

- VAT on the South African part of the programme cost (+/- R1 419 – R1 584).
- Domestic flights within South Africa, if you must fly to Johannesburg.
- Spending money (2025 recommendation ranged between 50 – 60 Euros per week).
- Your train tickets from Frankfurt airport to/from your host family/ies (2025 the cost of a single train ticket ranged between 45 – 95 Euros with an average 85 Euros).
- Bus/train ticket to/from the school (2025 ranged between 50 – 100 Euros per month).
- Cost of Schengen (German) visa approx. 100 Euros.
- Any eventual increase in international airfare.
- In exceptional cases, the German school will require a brotherhood fee of 100 Euros per month.

## 6. DEPOSIT AND CANCELLATION FEES

All applications must accompany a deposit of R1 000. The deposit is **refunded** only to **unsuccessful** candidates. A cancellation fee of R3 000 for the host family and a cancellation fee as determined by the airline will be levied for cancellations

received after the names of the successful candidates have been announced.

EFT payments are preferred. Banking details are on the application form.

**All cash deposits:** Please ensure the required amount appears on the FSA bank statement.

## 7. FINAL PAYMENT

All outstanding fees must be settled eight weeks before departure. Unfortunately, we do not accept any credit card payments.

## 8. CLOSING DATES

Jun 2026 - Jul 2026 (4 wks) 20 March 2026  
 Nov 2026 - Jan 2027 (6 wks) 24 July 2026  
 Dec 2026 - Jan 2027 (4 wks) 14 Aug 2026

## 9. REFERENCE

Ex-participants and parents are available to share their experiences with the FSA. Contact us for this information.

## 10. CONTACT US

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