



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Paraguay Host School FAQ

When does the school year begin and end?

School starts in mid-February and ends in November. There is a two week winter vacation in July.

What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?

Public schools in Paraguay have two sessions: a morning session and an afternoon session. Students attending the morning session go to school from 7:00am to 12:00pm. Those attending the afternoon session go to school from 1:30pm to 6:30pm. The school day usually consists of about six classes, each 45 minutes long. Students remain in one classroom all day, while teachers move from room to room.

In most private schools, students attend school until 3pm. In some cases, they have a longer school day once or twice a week.

In what type of school will I be enrolled?

Most AFSers attend private schools, though some attend public schools. Private schools provide AFS with a tuition waiver, so exchange students do not have to pay any tuition-related fees.

In what grade level will I be enrolled?

Students usually attend the second year of high school (junior year) or the third year of high school (senior year), depending on the students' age and the school's requirements for admitting exchange students.

Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?

Students in Paraguay focus on one of three areas of study. These three areas are business/accounting/administration, social sciences, and biological sciences. Each area of study has a set curriculum and there are no elective subjects. Students in all areas of study take Spanish language, math, history, and basic sciences.

Not all schools offer all three areas of study, and not all areas of study in a particular school will have spots open for exchange students. Because of this, AFSers should be prepared to take part in any of the areas of study available at their host school.

In what language will classes be taught?

All instruction, with the exception of foreign languages, is done in Spanish.

Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?

Yes, students will need to acquire books and a uniform, but they can usually borrow them from the AFS-Paraguay office or from a host sibling. Students will need to buy school supplies such as paper, pens, and pencils.



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Are extra-curricular activities available?

Some schools have extra-curriculars available, but they are not as common as in the US. Most schools have sports teams, but students usually organize the teams themselves. Some schools have clubs focusing on activities like chess, arts, and music. P.E. is available to all.

Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?

Yes. Exchange students are provided with a declaration of attendance and a transcript of grades.

Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?

The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the U.S. so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS does not have any influence over obtaining academic credit for your studies abroad and cannot assist you with course or grade information for your time on program.