



# INTERNATIONAL VISITS & EXCHANGES

a funding information leaflet from *funderfinder*

## The British Council

British Council Educational Information Service, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN, tel: 020 7930 8466, website: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

The British Council is the place to find out about the wide range of programmes available providing an international experience for children, young leaders, students, graduates, teachers, business professionals and employers. It has operations in 110 countries, and can offer help to find partners and provide the support to develop lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships. There are programmes for schools, for people seeking vocational training and work experience, for sports and for teaching. For more details see: [www.britishcouncil.org/learning-international-experience.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-international-experience.htm)

Many of the exchanges are for young people and are administered as part of Connect Youth - a department of the British Council. It runs programmes that give young people an international experience. These programmes range from group exchanges to individual voluntary service. It also provides funding to help those working in the youth field develop skills and establish contacts necessary to do their work better. Connect Youth is supported by a network of twelve committees across the UK who make nearly all the grant-giving decisions and offer a wide range of advice and support locally. There are currently six major programme areas:

1. European YOUTH Programme - this programme is subdivided into four areas: European Youth Exchange Programme, European Voluntary Service, Youth Initiatives and Support Measures
2. Bilateral Youth Exchanges
3. Causeway British-Irish Exchange
4. Language courses for youth workers
5. Training courses for youth workers, leaders and administrators
6. Special projects

Detailed information is given on their website: [www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-our-programmes.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-our-programmes.htm)

Youth in Action is another British Council programme of exchanges and projects aimed at young people in Europe. Further information is at: [www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-programmes-youth-in-action.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/connectyouth-programmes-youth-in-action.htm)

The British Council also administers the Lefevre Trust which provides funding for groups of young people in the UK and France, aged 11-19 years, to have a one-way or reciprocal visit. For more details see: [www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust.htm](http://www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-france-lefevre-trust.htm)

## **Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council**

Commonwealth House, 7 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, Clapham, London SW4 7NQ, tel: 020 7498 6151, website: [www.cyec.org.uk](http://www.cyec.org.uk)

This is a voluntary body responsible for giving information, advice, training and government money to groups of young people aged 16-25 involved in two-way exchanges with Commonwealth countries. Priority is given to reciprocal exchanges with Commonwealth countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. Applications for a grant must be in at least nine months before the visit.

CYEC awards a small number of travel bursaries each year to individual youth exchange organisers but no money is available for individual study visits or research projects.

## **European Youth Foundation (EYF)**

Website: [www.eyf.coe.int/fej/](http://www.eyf.coe.int/fej/)

This is a fund established by the Council of Europe to provide financial support for European youth activities. Its purpose is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values such as human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. Grants are available for:

- educational, social, cultural and humanitarian activities of a European character;
- activities aiming at strengthening peace and co-operation in Europe;
- activities designed to promote closer co-operation and better understanding among young people in Europe, particularly by developing the exchange of information;
- activities intended to stimulate mutual aid in Europe and in the developing countries for cultural, educational and social purposes;
- studies, research and documentation on youth matters.

Organisations have to register with EYF before applying for funding - but this can be done by filling in an online form.

