

Travel Policy

For safety and security reasons, Ayusa needs to know the whereabouts of students at all times. Students are expected to comply with the following rules and conditions regarding any travel.

- All student overnight travel away from the host community and without the host family must be approved by Ayusa and the student's natural parents. Students are responsible for completing an Ayusa Request for Student Travel Form and communicating details to their local Ayusa representative at least 14 days before proposed travel date.
- Students must obtain travel permission from Ayusa for trips with their host family that include more than three overnight stays. Natural parent approval is required in addition for host family trips that involve leaving US territory.
- For all trips that involve less than three overnight stays, students are responsible for informing their Community Representative in advance and must provide contact information where they can be reached while traveling.
- Flights and accommodations should not be purchased prior to obtaining approval for travel. Students and natural families are financially responsible for any trips that must be cancelled or rescheduled due to lack of travel permission.
- All student travel must occur after January 15th and should be limited to weekends and school vacation periods. Exceptions may be made for trips with the host family, and for school or Ayusa sponsored trips including Belo Tours. In order for students to be permitted to miss school in the context of travel, his/her school and Ayusa must grant approval.
- Students may not travel independently; to travel, a student must be accompanied by a responsible adult (25 years or older) that is approved by Ayusa. Exceptions may apply for flights to and from Ayusa sponsored events.
- Students may not visit their home country during the program.
- Educational travel or sightseeing tours that are not with the host family or sponsored by the school or Ayusa, must be booked through Belo Tours, which is a pre-authorized Ayusa partner tour company.
- In order to travel, a student must be in "good standing" with Ayusa. Students are not considered in "good standing" if they are on warning or probation, or if their behavior indicates that they cannot be trusted to conduct themselves in a responsible, safe, and mature manner while traveling. For students who were placed on warning at an earlier time in the program, travel permission may be granted at the discretion of the Regional Manager if significant improvement has been made on the part of the student.

Please note: The Ayusa Travel Policy goes into effect the moment when students enter the United States.

Visits To and From Friends and Family

Visits from natural parents and friends from the student's home country (and to/from relatives and friends in the U.S.) can be extremely detrimental to the student's adjustment process and language learning. Therefore, visits from natural parents, extended family, or friends are not authorized by Ayusa until the end of the program. Additionally, any travel that a student undertakes with his or her natural parents must take place after the student completes the program in accordance with Ayusa Travel and Program Release Policies. Violation of this rule is grounds for dismissal from the Ayusa program.

Returning Home / Program Release

The Ayusa program follows the U.S. academic calendar. Students are expected to return to their home countries within two weeks after the last day of school. If a student remains in the country after this date, he or she must complete and submit an Ayusa Program Release form, which must be signed by the natural parents and approved by the Ayusa Regional Manager. After the program release date, Ayusa and the host family will not be responsible for students as part of the Ayusa program, and all benefits and services associated with the program will no longer be available. Program release is a privilege that can be revoked at any time. Students who withdraw or have been dismissed from program are not eligible for program release and must return home immediately. A program release will only be granted based on the following conditions:

- The student will be in the care and supervision of an adult over the age of 25 for the duration of the stay.
- The student must be in "good standing" with Ayusa with no disciplinary record or concerns.
- The student will uphold all visa rules and regulations set forth by the U.S. Department of State during the program release period, including the requirement that you have health and accident insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in the U.S.
- The circumstances surrounding the request must be in the student's best interest and consistent with Ayusa's mission.

Please note that any violation of Ayusa program release policy and expectations may impact a student's SEVIS immigration record and future re-entry to the U.S.

Participants understand that while Ayusa reviews each student's situation on a case-by-case basis, any infraction of any of the above rules and/or acceptable behavior may be grounds for dismissal from the Ayusa program. Ayusa reserves the sole and final right for decisions on student dismissals and may return a student to his or her home country immediately at any time at his or her own expense.