

# See the World, Plant a Seed.



## History of Helping



For over 60 years, the program sponsored by Worldwide Farmers Exchange has helped more than 10,000 men and women from more than 70 countries to improve their agricultural skills at placements in all fields of agriculture and all climate zones in the United States. Working with co-operating sponsors in other countries, WFE currently has trainees and interns from more than 40 countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America.



## About Us

Worldwide Farmers Exchange (WFE) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization sponsoring programs for young farmers and agriculture students from every continent. Trainees and interns learn practical agricultural techniques on farms in the U.S., while experiencing life in a different culture. WFE also sends Americans to other countries for a similar experience.

The program began when Earl Warren, then governor of California, responded to a request from the Japanese Government for a training program to train young farmers on California farms. In 1984, the program became Worldwide Farmers Exchange, and has expanded to many countries and continues to grow.

Our goal is to teach young men and women skills that allow them to help increase the quantity and quality of food and fiber produced around the world.



**Worldwide  
Farmers Exchange**

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# FAQs for Student Farmers



## Get Started: Apply Today for the Professional Experience You Need



### Q: What will it cost me if I am accepted into the program?

You will need to pay for

- U.S. Government visa processing fees of about US\$ 350.00.
- Costs of your travel to your host farm and return home.
- A co-pay amount paid to medical providers if you have medical treatment in the U.S.

### Q: Do I have to pay a fee to apply?

No! Unlike other programs, there is no fee for applying to WFE.

### Q: What will I receive in the program?

In addition to practical training and experience on a U.S. farm and immersion in U.S. culture, you will receive housing with utilities, medical insurance (excluding the co-pay) and a minimum monthly stipend of US\$ 1,100.

### Q: When can I start? How long before I can travel to my host farm?

WFE accepts applications and makes placements year round. Upon receipt of your complete application, WFE immediately seeks to match you with possible host farms and sends a copy of your application to each prospective host. Hosts have the final say as to whether or not to accept you. See the section "Get Started" for the timeline.

### Q: How long may I stay?

Because of visa restrictions, WFE's programs are for up to one year. Most programs are for the full 12 months.

### Q: What kind of farms are in the program? Where are the farms located?

WFE partners with a wide variety of farms, including swine, dairy, cattle, tropical fruit, grain, ornamental horticulture, vegetables and greenhouses. WFE works with farms across the U.S. from Maine to Florida to Hawaii, providing a range of climate zones and learning experiences.

### Q: What kind of visa do I need? How do I get the visa?

You will travel on an Exchange Visitor "J" visa. When you and a host have both agreed to a placement, WFE will send by express mail the documents you will need to apply to the U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate for a "J" visa together with specific instructions.

### Q: How is WFE financed?

WFE charges hosts a monthly fee because work-experience training provides some work product benefit to the host. From the host payments, WFE takes a program fee which pays for medical insurance and WFE's operating expenses. The remainder is used to pay monthly stipends to the trainees and interns. In some instances, a trainee or intern is placed on a host's payroll and must authorize the host to deduct WFE's program fee from his or her paycheck.

### Q: What is a "co-operating partner"?

WFE is required by the U.S. State Department to have co-operating partners, when possible, to assist in screening and preparing candidates for visa interviews. WFE will work only through co-operating partners in some countries, based on their success obtaining visas. Some co-operating partners charge a fee for their services.

### Q: Where can I get an application form?

Applications and more information can be found on our website: [www.worldwidefarmers.org](http://www.worldwidefarmers.org).

The entire application, placement and visa process may take from two weeks to six months or longer. Placements are very competitive. WFE acts quickly to prepare documents, but delays may occur while matching you with a host, signing the Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002 form) or obtaining an interview appointment at the U.S. Consulate.

The following timeline will help guide you through the process of obtaining a placement, applying for a visa and traveling to a host farm:

- 1 Get started by contacting WFE by e-mail with any questions you have about the program.
- 2 When you are ready, send an application to WFE. You may send it by e-mail, but must also send us the signed original by post. The U.S. State Department requires that we have an original signed application in our office before we can prepare visa request documents.

A complete application must include the following:

- WFE's application form, providing as much detail as possible.
- A WFE Medical Statement, or equivalent.
- CV, if available.

- A copy of the identity page of your passport before visa documents can be issued.
- Copy of diploma or other school record, if you are a college or university student or graduate.

- 3 Because placements are very competitive, you should provide as much information as possible and be specific about the type of placement you are seeking. WFE may refer you to a co-operating partner.

When WFE receives your complete application, we match you with a suitable host and send a copy of your application to the host for review.

- 4 As soon as a host selects you, WFE prepares a Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002 form) and sends it to the host for signature. The Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002 form) is required by the U.S. Government and is an agreement between you, the host, and WFE to carry out the training plan outlined in the form.

- 5 Once the host has signed the Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002), WFE sends the form to you, directly or through a co-operating partner in your country, for your signature. Under U.S. Government regulations, WFE cannot prepare visa documents until all parties have signed the Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002 form).

- 6 When both you and your host have signed the Training/Internship Placement Plan (DS-7002), WFE will prepare the documents you need to apply for an Exchange Visitor "J" visa. WFE will send the documents to you by express mail, directly or through our co-operating partner.

- 7 When you receive the documents, you must make and appointment for an interview at the U.S. Embassy or nearest U.S. Consulate. Interview appointments are set by the U.S. Consulate, and the decision to approve or decline the visa is at the discretion of the consular officer. If and when a visa is granted, you must contact WFE immediately to coordinate travel arrangements.

