



International Exchange Program Application Information

INFORMATION FOR 2025 ONLY

The International Exchange Program is now seeking cadets and adult volunteers who are open to new experiences, willing to eat different foods, interested in learning about the host country's history, culture, and military, and eager to interact with peers from other countries.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES:

The countries participating in the 2025 Outbound International Exchanges are Australia, Kong Kong, United Kingdom, and New Zealand. Note that due to differing school breaks, Australia will be held in October 2025.

These countries are subject to change until final confirmation is received from the host country.

The United States Inbound Exchange will host Australia, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and New Zealand in Baltimore, MD.

CADET APPLICATION WINDOW :

Open on **February 15, 2025**, and close on **March 9, 2025**.

The IEP Selection Board must receive recommendations from COs and personal references by the same deadlines. See note on references below.

LINKS:

Complete your online application package via OpenWater.

Sea Cadets, submit your application online by clicking this link:

[Sea Cadet IEP Applications](#)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Four cadets for each exchange will be selected based on their experience, contributions to the program, and other factors. **Priority will go to high school juniors.** Cadets must be:

- At least 16 years old for outbound exchanges and 15 years old for the US Exchange.
- Not reach their 18th birthday before the end of the exchange.
- PO3 or above.
- Currently enrolled in the 9th, 10th, or 11th grade¹
- Have passing grades in the current school year and an overall passing grade point average
- In good health and physical condition to participate fully with the cadets during the exchange
- Possess a current passport valid through 1 March 2025²

¹Cadets graduating in the spring or summer of 2025, and those 18 years or older are not eligible for any exchange.

²*US passports must be in hand before submitting the application package. Passports cannot expire before MARCH 1, 2026. Passport applications, receipts, passport cards, copies of renewals, etc., will not be accepted.*

Physical Requirements

Given the challenging physical demands of the planned activities in exchanges, cadets must be physically fit, healthy and capable of enduring lengthy walks and managing their own bags up and down stairs.

Exposure to new environments and cuisines is a key part of the experience. Cadets needing significant medical accommodations or with severe dietary restrictions should carefully assess their ability to participate. The US IEP Team cannot ensure medical services or special meals abroad. Health and safety are our priorities, and selection depends on meeting essential physical and health criteria.

Basic disqualifiers for all applicants:

- Significant Physical Limitations: Unable to walk long distances (>1 mile) at a steady, average pace or carry a suitcase up staircases.
- At-risk for emergencies: Conditions that significantly increase the risk of medical or mental health emergencies, e.g., chronic or severe heart or lung disease, panic disorder
- Require Significant Disability Accommodations: Mobility requires specific facilities such as ramps and elevators; requires the use of crutches.
- Severe Allergic Reactions: History of severe food allergies resulting in anaphylaxis.

REQUIRED APPLICATION COMPONENTS:

- Name and email of Commanding Officer and personal reference³
- Secondary unit officer's name and email
- Copy of passport²
- Official copy of high school transcript⁴
- PDF copy of current Magellan record
- Photo in complete dress uniform⁵
- Application questions

³As part of the application process, you will provide the names and email addresses of your references. They will be sent an online form directly. You can do this at any point before submitting your application. Cadets must have the recommendation of their CO (or XO if the CO is a relative).

⁴Cadets must submit a current high school transcript that includes grades through the end of 2024. The transcript should show all course and grade history since 9th grade. The transcript must indicate the overall grade point average and total possible score (e.g., 3.5 out of 4.0 or 4.2 out of 5.0). It must be an official transcript from the school; do not submit self-generated reports (e.g., Excel spreadsheet with grades).

⁵All cadets must submit a photo following the prescribed guidelines. The photo must be taken specifically for the purpose of this application and should not have anyone else in the photo or have been cropped to remove others. Applicants should be at the position of attention, standing at a ¾ angle to the camera, facing forward. It must be full-length to show your cover as well as your shoes. Plain background. All ribbons, flashes, and other accouterments must be correctly placed as if for a personnel inspection. The photo should not be blurry or dark.

SELECTION REQUIREMENTS:

The selection process for participating in the exchange is competitive. Candidates are evaluated and ranked based on their applications and references. Finalists will be identified through this initial screening and will then be interviewed online by two members of the IEP Selection Board. The selection of participants for each exchange will be determined after these interviews. An alternate list will be created for instances when a chosen participant cannot attend. Those selected as participants will be promptly notified by phone of their selection. Those not chosen will be informed by email by April 1st.

Training orders for selected participants will be approved once the training fee is collected. *No action is required in Magellan at the time of application.*

COSTS:

Covered: The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps will pay for the following for all participants in outbound international exchanges.

- International flights (round trip) from a designated U.S. gateway airport (includes seat assignment, one checked bag, a carry-on, and a personal item per airline's policy).
- Overnight hotel stay (if required).
- Meals at gateway airport and/or hotel
- Travel visas if required.

Covered by the Participant:

- **Advancement Training fee:** \$250.
- Domestic transportation to/from the U.S. gateway airport or to the US Exchange training site (including baggage fees, etc)

- Travel insurance policy (approx \$80-\$150 depending on state residence) must include trip and medical coverage (required for outbound exchanges only).
- Personal expenses for outbound exchanges (medical or travel-related: payment can be in the form of credit or debit card to cover out-of-pocket expenses until a claim is made with travel insurance)
- IEP polo shirt and ball cap
- At least \$300 for souvenirs and incidentals (such as snacks and meals not covered by host.
- Participants are also responsible for any expenses not covered by the travel insurance, such as trip interruptions or cancellations due to misconduct.

TRAVEL:

A major international airport (such as LAX, DFW , ORD) will be chosen as the “gateway” airport and departure point from the continental United States, where all cadets will meet their escort officers before flying overseas. Escort officers will arrive ahead of the cadets to ensure proper supervision. Parents will be responsible for arranging and purchasing travel to the gateway airport. The Sea Cadets will arrange and purchase the commercial international flights. No upgrades are allowed, and the IEP Travel Manager must approve all flight changes.

Participants are prohibited from leaving the training contingent to visit friends or family or take personal tours. They must not arrive in the host country earlier or depart later than the rest of the contingent.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

For advancement training credit, cadets must complete a pre-training course and a post-training report. The escort officers will be facilitating a pre-training course and submitting a Final Exchange Report. The course is set up in Google Classroom and involves group and individual assignments as well as escort officer-led meetings over Zoom.