



AGTV-BJR STUDENT EXCHANGE

A RECIPROCAL
EXCHANGE PROGRAM
FOR STUDENTS
IN VICTORIA WITH
STUDENTS IN
BAVARIA, GERMANY

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

The **Bayerischer Jugendring** (Bavarian Youth Council/BJR) is a public body commissioned by the Bavarian State Ministry of Education and the Arts, which includes responsibility for international student exchanges. Bavaria is the largest state in Germany. The AGTV has coordinated the AGTV-BJR student exchange program since its inception in 1988.

The Association of German Teachers of Victoria Inc. (AGTV) is a not-for-profit association and a registered Student Exchange Organisation (SEO) with the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA).

The AGTV must comply with VRQA requirements to offer the BJR exchange program in Victoria.

The AGTV Inc. is a child safe organisation and has zero tolerance of child abuse and racism.

ABOUT THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This is a direct exchange coordinated by the AGTV and BJR with the support of volunteer host families, schools and the Group Leaders, who travel with the exchange group.

Exchange students live with their host family as a member of the family and must be formally enrolled and attend school. Students must agree to abide by the AGTV-BJR Codes of Conduct.

Bavarian students arrive in February to live with a family for approximately 10 weeks with an optional study tour organised by the AGTV. They return to Germany in April.

Victorian students travel as a group in November to live with their host family and attend school in Bavaria with an optional study tour to Berlin. Students return at the end of January.

The AGTV Coordinator and the BJR in Munich provide support for exchange students and host families. The AGTV and BJR and Group Leaders monitor and support students and their families during the exchange periods, including during the optional Study Tours.

Independent travel by exchange students is strictly forbidden.

Schools must agree to enrol exchange students, to not charge school fees, to abide by the AGTV Guidelines, and appoint a School Liaison Officer to support the exchange student/s at school, and to liaise with the AGTV Coordinator.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The AGTV acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia and their continuing connection to Country, waters and communities. We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to any members of those communities involved with the exchange program.



COSTS TO VICTORIAN FAMILIES



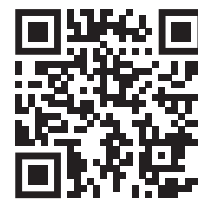
FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXCHANGE

Visit the AGTV-BJR Student Exchange section on the AGTV website:



<https://agtv.vic.edu.au/students/agtv-bjr-student-exchange/>

For information about AGTV Policies including the AGTV Complaints Policy, visit:



<https://agtv.vic.edu.au/about/policies/>

An administration fee of \$850 for Victorian students is payable to the AGTV upon application, including a non-refundable processing fee of \$70. If the student is not matched, \$780 will be refunded.

Families care for their host student in Australia as if they were a member of the family.

Families must agree to meet all financial obligations of hosting a student and every 18+ member of the household/s where the exchange student will be staying must have a current Working With Children clearance.

The AGTV facilitates group travel for Victorian students through a travel agent and appoints Group Leaders. The cost to each family for the return airfare, travel insurance, airport taxes and shared contribution to the Group Leaders travel vary from year to year. It may be between \$3000 and \$4000 dollars.

Victorian families provide pocket money for their own child when they are in Germany.

An optional group 7-day Study Tour to Berlin organised by the BJR in Munich for Australian exchange students costs around \$1500 AUD plus pocket money. This includes travel to and within Berlin, accommodation, meals and activities.

PLEASE NOTE

Bavarian students are formally enrolled at the school when they arrive with their subclass 500 Visa and must abide by the school rules. Schools must not charge fees when enrolling students. The cost of any extra curricula activities (e.g. a school camp) should be discussed with the exchange student's family prior to signing up for an activity and the exchange student's family must agree to pay for the activity.

TIMING OF THE EXCHANGE

Students apply to participate in the year prior to the exchange beginning.

If matched, the Bavarian students arrive in early February for approximately 10 weeks and their Victorian exchange partners fly to Germany in November for approximately 10 weeks.

One exchange group is matched each year.

The Bavarian students will be in Victoria for the Easter school holidays and the Victorian students will be in Bavaria over the Christmas and New Year school holidays. The host families act as loco parentis of the exchange student throughout the hosting period.





BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

Evaluations of each exchange group confirm that the exchange is overwhelmingly rewarding for students in developing friendships, resilience, intercultural understanding and German language skills. Spending Christmas and New Year in Germany and travelling to Berlin on the optional Study Tour have been the highlights for Victorian students.

WHO CAN APPLY

Students learning German in an AGTV member school in Victoria may apply to the AGTV when they are in Year 9 or 10 for travel in the following year. Their school must agree to host exchange students.

Both the family and the student's school must agree to participate within the guidelines of the AGTV-BJR exchange.

Applicants must be Australian citizens or have permanent residency.

PLEASE NOTE

The Bavarian State Government requires all exchange students to be vaccinated against measles.



HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

If a student is interested in applying for this reciprocal exchange program, please **complete the Expression of Interest** by the end of Term 1: **Friday, 4 April, 2025.** (QR code below)

A formal, comprehensive application form and the AGTV-BJR Guidelines will be emailed to the student by Thursday, 1 May, 2025. Families must formally agree to abide by the Guidelines. The school will be notified that students from their school may be applying.

STEP 2 FORMAL APPLICATION

The student and their family complete and submit the application form along with payment of the \$850 administration fee and the required Working With Children Checks by Friday, 6 June, 2025.

The AGTV will ask the school to formally agree to accept exchange students under the AGTV-BJR Guidelines including the requirement that exchange students do not pay school fees and to appoint a School Liaison Officer to work with the AGTV Coordinator. Schools decide how many exchange students they will accept.

PLEASE NOTE

The AGTV and BJR reserve the right to cancel an exchange in response to events including a student not complying with the AGTV Guidelines or Codes of Conduct of the exchange.

STEP 3 MATCHING PROCESS

Students are matched according to their interests and information described on the application form. It is not a competition. Please respond to questions honestly.

Applicants will be notified if a match has been found by the end of August and families in both Victorian and Bavaria must formally accept the matching.

STEP 4 EXCHANGE BEGINS

Victorian host families are provided additional information and attend a compulsory pre-arrival meeting. The Bavarians students arrive in February and are formally enrolled at the school.

Victorian host families are required to attend an in-person pre-departure meeting in October.

GROUP TRAVEL

The AGTV Coordinator liaises with the AGTV's travel agent to arrange group return flights and insurance for Victorian students and Group Leaders. The travel agent invoices families directly for all travel arrangements and will require a copy of the student's passport and a paid deposit in December.



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EXPRESS INTEREST ONLINE

If you are interested in applying for the 2026/2027 Exchange, please express interest via a Google form and an application will be forwarded to you.

If you have any questions, contact the AGTV Coordinator: bjr@agtv.vic.edu.au

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScdno-u3VFTGSMhDKAZ7F181a1cOwUwQJa2gy05fi4oZfViSg/viewform>



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