



The 31th AFS Youth Assembly

Intercultural Leadership Academy

Rise. Reimagine. Rebuild: A World for All



About AFS Youth Assembly:

The AFS Youth Assembly annual conference gathers about 500-800 of the world's most dynamic young people each year, from over 100 countries to connect with like-minded peers, trailblazers, and influencers; develop global competence and critical skills; and transform their vision for a better future into action.

- One of the **world's largest youth events** focused on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Founded in **2004**, with roots going back to **1958**.
- **20,000 Alumni from 160 countries**, including the UN Secretary General's first-ever Envoy on Youth Ahmad Alhendawi
- **1,000+ youth-led projects** generated by Youth Assembly participants in their home communities.
- **Multiple leadership opportunities for delegates** to win awards and prizes of up to **\$10,000 dollars** to fund their social impact projects, and recognition on a global stage.

The Youth Assembly is expertly organized by AFS Intercultural Programs, a global not-for-profit. Since its founding in 1914, AFS has exchanged more than 500,000 young people all around the world.

Program Content Includes:



Keynote Talks



Thematic Discussions



Skill-building Workshops



Global Citizen Award Finals



Networking



Awards



Special Events

Intercultural Leadership Academy:

The **Intercultural Leadership Academy** is an intensive learning program focusing on **Intercultural Leadership** for youth and emerging leaders aged 18–35 who are interested in developing leadership skills in a global context. The program will take place from 9–15 August 2026 in Champéry and Geneva, Switzerland.

The program highlights **hands-on learning** in real-life environments, allowing participants to:

- Develop self-awareness and deepen understanding of their own culture and others
- Practice communication and collaboration with people from diverse cultural backgrounds
- Understand how cultural differences influence leadership and problem-solving
- Experience the rich culture and breathtaking natural landscapes of Switzerland

Key Objectives of the Intercultural Leadership Academy

This Academy aims to enable participants to:

- Understand how personal values and cultural background shape leadership styles
- View situations from diverse cultural perspectives
- Manage misunderstandings and transform them into opportunities for collaboration
- Adapt and lead effectively in multicultural and diverse environments

Eligibility:

- Motivated youth and emerging leaders aged 18–35 who are interested in developing leadership skills in a global context.
- Proficient in **English (Intermediate Level)**

Activities and Experiences:

The program is divided into **two main components**:

1) Intercultural Leadership Academy (9 – 11 August 2026)

- The first component of the Academy program, held in Champéry, a scenic alpine village in the Swiss Alps.
- This phase focuses on experiential and in-depth learning in **Intercultural Leadership**.
- Participants will engage in a retreat-style immersion experience, living closely within the local environment while:
 - Developing leadership skills alongside peers from diverse countries
 - Participating in workshops, simulations, and reflection sessions
 - Exploring local culture and experiencing the natural beauty of Champéry in the Swiss Alps

2) AFS Youth Assembly Conference (12–15 August 2026)

Following the Academy, participants will join the main Youth Assembly conference held in Geneva, Switzerland. This global platform brings together youth aged 18–35 from around the world to:

- **Attend Keynote Talks**
Engage with global leaders and experts from international organizations.

• **Participate in Thematic Sessions**

Reclaiming Development as a Human Right for All

Focuses on redefining development as a fundamental human right rather than solely economic growth. The session emphasizes equity, social inclusion, and ensuring that no one is left behind—particularly youth in vulnerable communities. Discussions also explore peace, justice, and human dignity in modern global development.

Policy, Justice and Adaptation: Real-World Solutions for Climate Resilience

Explores strategies to address climate change impacts through equitable policy frameworks and adaptation planning. Participants will examine practical and scalable solutions for building resilient communities in the face of environmental challenges.

Rethinking Education: Youth Innovation for Future-Ready Skills

Examines modern education systems that prepare youth for rapidly evolving global challenges. The session highlights creativity, technology integration, participatory learning, and empowering youth to co-design future education models.

Bridging Divides: The Power of Connection in a Polarized World

Explores how dialogue, technology, and collaborative networks can foster understanding among people with diverse perspectives, helping reduce societal polarization and strengthen inclusive communities.

• **Workshops and Networking Sessions**

Collaborate with international participants to develop innovative ideas aligned with the theme:

“Rise. Reimagine. Rebuild: A World for All.”

Location	Champéry & Geneva, Switzerland
Program Dates	9–15 August 2026
Partner	AFS Switzerland
Certificates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate from AFS Switzerland • AFS Global Competence Certificate (Global Up (virtual) program)
Special Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Dinner and Networking • Culture Fest at Closing • Opportunities Fair* • Global Up (virtual program)* • Swiss train ride from Geneva to Champéry

*The Opportunities Fair allows participants to engage directly with institutions and partners, gaining insights into global pathways and professional development opportunities.

*Global Up (Virtual) Program: An online program designed to develop intercultural communication skills prior to departure.

Travel Arrangements and Program Participation Fee:

Application Period	17 February – 15 May 2026
Program Dates	9 – 15 August 2026
Arrival Date	9 August 2026
Departure Date	15 August 2026
Program Participation Fee	145,000 THB
Payment Schedule:	<p>1st Installment: 50,000 THB</p> <p>2nd Installment: 50,000 THB within 15 days after the first payment</p> <p>3rd Installment (Remaining Balance): 45,000 THB within 30 days after the second payment and no later than 15 May 2026</p>
Program Fee Includes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program participation and training activities • Visa fee and visa processing service • Accident and health insurance throughout the program period • Accommodation (Double Room) (9 – 14 August 2026) • Meals during the program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast: 9 – 15 August 2026 • Welcome Dinner: 9 August 2026 • Local transportation for official program activities (9 – 14 August 2026)
Program Fee Excludes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International round-trip airfare • Airport transfers (both domestic and international) • Additional meals not specified in the program • Passport application fee • Document translation fees for visa application (if required)
Terms and Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancellation by Participants The program participation fee is non-transferable to another person or future sessions of AFS Youth Assembly. In principle, the fee is non-refundable if the participant cancels participation for any reason, including but not limited to health issues, family matters, travel restrictions due to COVID-19 or government regulations, or any other personal circumstances. Once an application is submitted and payment is made, AFS Intercultural Programs will begin application processing and participant selection. The participation fee is considered a service fee for this process. Accepted applicants are not eligible for refunds, credits, or payment disputes before, during, or after the program. • Termination of Participation AFS reserves the right to terminate a participant's involvement if the participant is deemed to negatively affect the program or the reputation of AFS. In such cases, registration and Academy fees (if applicable) are non-refundable, and AFS will not be responsible for any additional expenses incurred by the participant. AFS also reserves the right to remove participants who disrupt program activities, whether during in-person or online sessions. Any expenses resulting from termination will be the participant's responsibility, and unused program benefits are non-refundable.

For more information, please contact:

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During office hours, Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM (excluding public holidays).