

CONNECT

"The best thing about the Connect Program was the companionship, and the opportunity to connect even during a pandemic."

- Male, 23, American, Connect Program alumnus



EXCHANGE

"I am glad I was able to be part of this amazing program and got the chance to have meaningful discussions with people from all over the world. I have learned so much about my team member's cultures, their life experiences, their countries' situation and traditions. It was so insightful and I feel like in a way I was able to visit their countries and travel the world just by listening to their stories."

- Female, 20, Hungarian, Connect Program alumna



EMPOWER

"The Connect Program has boosted my confidence and it's an empowering experience which I'm super grateful for. Through my participation, I was able to improve my critical thinking, I've learned how to work in a team, I've learned how to ask clarifying questions and how to respect different points of view. It also helped me improve my English and my communication skills."

- Female, 22, Tunisian, Connect Program alumna



Program Description:

The Connect Program – Soliya's flagship Virtual Exchange initiative – is a unique cross-cultural education and exchange program that enables college students from around the world to collaboratively explore the relationships between their societies with the aim of improving intercultural awareness and understanding. Each semester, participants in the Connect Program will congregate into groups consisting of approximately ten students. Participants are drawn from institutions in North America, Europe, the Middle East & North Africa, and Asia.

Each group will meet for real-time discussions once a week for two hours via an online, videoconferencing platform. To join the group meetings, participants need simply to turn on their webcam and headset and log on to their group's meeting room at their weekly meeting time. Participants are also able to communicate with their fellow students when they are offline on Soliya's Exchange Portal.

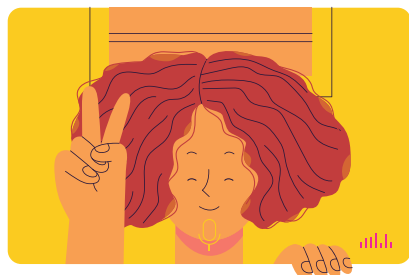


Each participant has access to Soliya's Exchange Portal where they can continue discussions with other users. You can also engage with the broader Soliya community via the Exchange Portal, where you can connect with our diverse network of thousands of young people from around the world. Participants who successfully complete the Connect Program will be invited to continue their journey through Soliya's Continued Engagement activities.

What You Gain:

- An opportunity to engage in a collaborative exploration of the critical current issues that affect the global community and are most important to you.
- A chance to meet your peers from around the world, share your opinions, hear their ideas about critical issues, and build strong contacts with future leaders.
- The opportunity to gain and/or improve upon key 21st-century skills such as leadership, analytical thinking, engaging across differences constructively, and collaborative problem-solving.
- The Connect Program Certificate of Participation, which attests to the skills and experiences gained through your participation, if you complete all the program requirements
- Access to Soliya's global network of more than 33,000 alumni from over 100 nationalities worldwide, and continued engagement and learning opportunities.

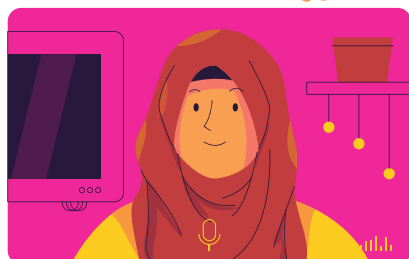
 Have questions? Contact us at students@soliya.net



Commitments:

The Connect Program will run from March 30th to May 1st.

- Before the start of the Connect Program, you will participate in a brief online orientation, and complete some introductory activities.
- During the program, you will spend 2 hours per week meeting with your Connect Program group in your online rooms.
- During Week 1 of the Program, you will read short articles in preparation for the discussion that week.
- You will work on a final project with your group during the program and will write a reflection paper at the end of the program.
- You will complete a program evaluation at the end of the program.



Note: to obtain the Certificate of Participation, you will need to attend a minimum of 75% of your sessions and complete the End of Semester survey.

Discussion Topics:

Here are some topics that participants frequently discuss during their Connect Program sessions:

**Identity, culture
and stereotypes**

**Global and social
challenges**

**Values and
social norms**

**Intercultural
communication**

**Life experiences
and worldview**

**Youth
Empowerment**

About Soliya:

The Soliya team brings together talented individuals from Egypt, France, Finland, Morocco, Ukraine, Tunisia, Turkey, Bangladesh, and the United States. Alongside its dedicated staff, Soliya relies on a global network of highly trained volunteer facilitators who foster meaningful dialogue. Since its inception, Soliya has engaged over 33,000 students from more than 250 institutions across 37 countries. To learn more about our team, facilitators, and impact, visit www.soliya.net.

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