

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 each. 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.



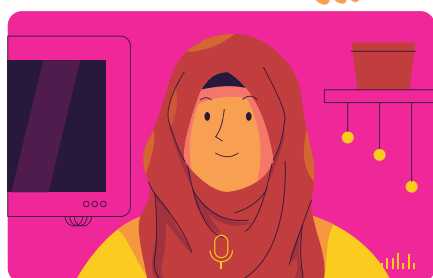
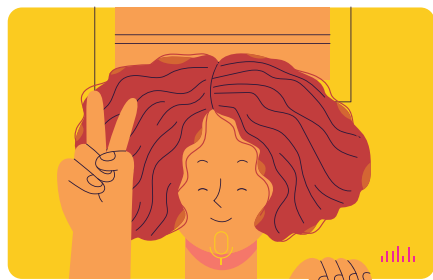
Each participant has access to Soliya’s Exchange Portal where you can continue discussions or post messages to other users. You can also engage with the broader Soliya community via the Exchange Portal streams, where you can connect with our diverse network of thousands of young people from around the 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, and 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, attesting to the skills and experiences gained through your participation, if you successfully complete all the program requirements
- Access to Soliya's global network of 30,000 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 10th to May 2nd

- Prior to 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 Weeks 1 and 4 of the Program, you will read short articles in preparation for these discussions.
- You will work on a final project with your group during the program, and 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 program evaluation.

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 challenges & empowerment

About Soliya

The Soliya team is composed of a diverse team of talented individuals coming from Egypt, France, Finland, Morocco, Ukraine, Tunisia, India, Bangladesh, and the United States of America. In addition to Soliya's staff members, Soliya's operations are based on an extraordinary network of highly trained facilitators from around the world, volunteering their time to catalyze constructive communication. To date, Soliya has worked with 35,000 students from a diverse cross-section of over 280 institutions in 37 countries. To learn more about Soliya, please go to www.soliya.net where you can read about Soliya's staff, volunteer facilitators, and past Soliya participants.

 Have questions? Contact us at students@soliya.net

