



## Peer Counseling

The Peer Counseling Session is required for Filipino emigrants 13 to 19 years old. The sessions aim to provide a venue for the young migrants to discuss their own concerns about leaving their country of birth. The Peer Counseling is unique because it is the youth themselves who bring up their issues: from their unfamiliarity with the foreign language of the host country to fear of rejection, from their separation from friends in the Philippines to the possibility of bullying and discrimination in their new schools, from feelings of homesickness, isolation and depression to culture shock.

While sessions are not country-specific, country profiles and settlement concerns are also discussed. No other government agency provides this specialized pre-departure program for migrating Filipino youth. CFO decided to implement a separate counseling program for the youth when the registrants between 13 to 19 year old reached 32% of the CFO clientele.

In 2017, there were 12,317 attendees in the peer counseling session.