

American Secondary School Scholarship Competition
Information for Candidates and Families in Serbia
For the Academic Year 2016/17

Mission Statement

ASSIST creates life-changing opportunities for outstanding international scholars to learn from and contribute to the finest American independent secondary schools.

Overview

ASSIST is a nonprofit, international educational and cultural exchange organization based in the United States and active in more than twenty countries around the globe. Our core work is to identify, place, and support outstanding international students on one-year scholarships at leading American independent secondary schools.

One of our goals is to create a worldwide circle of future leaders—friends who have come to know and respect one another, and one another's cultures, by sharing a year of study and living together. International outreach begins with individual relationships; we foster these relationships through a year of academic and cultural immersion designed to affect peers, teachers, friends, family members and business associates for a lifetime. We believe that bringing together future American leaders and future leaders of other nations makes a substantial contribution toward promoting understanding and tolerance of cultures, racial designations and religious beliefs.

Over 46 years, ASSIST has identified, placed and supported 4,820 of the world's leading Scholars from 51 countries at outstanding American independent secondary schools. Each year, 90% of our Scholars submit honors or high honors work, and each strives to make contributions to extracurricular programs while serving as an enthusiastic cultural ambassador.

ASSIST in Serbia

ASSIST became active in Serbia to help young Serbian students currently in the 10th grade who would like to spend one year as exchange students in the United States as 11th graders.

Our work in Serbia began in the 2015/16 academic year. Our first Serbian scholars are distinguishing themselves in their American independent schools. It is through the leadership of our partner, T & T School of English, that this scholarship competition is made possible.

Program Costs

Each successful candidate will be offered a full scholarship at an independent school. The scholarship is meant to cover tuition, room and board at a boarding school or tuition and a volunteer host family at a day school. Tuitions at member boarding schools range up to US \$59,170 this year.

As with most international exchange programs, a program fee is charged to all participants. In Serbia, we ask that families contribute a program fee of US \$2,250 toward the cost of funding the exchange year of their son or daughter. This money helps to underwrite the expenses noted above, an orientation upon arrival in the U.S., and ongoing support from ASSIST throughout the year. Families must also pay expenses associated with the interview process, visa application, and any expenses incurred in excess of the allowance provided.

In addition to the program fee, there are personal costs involved for each student. We know that financing the program fee and personal costs can be a burden to families, and so we have established a sponsorship program to help pay for a student's personal costs. Through the generosity of committed donors, funds have been secured to cover the costs of the overseas flight, health insurance and spending money.



ASSIST

Today's scholars. Tomorrow's leaders.

Purposes of the Scholarships

These scholarships are offered for several important purposes. First, the student gains tremendously and grows in significant ways. Second, we believe that international peace and friendship are advanced when people from different cultures spend significant amounts of time living and learning with one another. Third, the presence of international students greatly enriches the American schools in which they study.

For these reasons, all scholarships offered are for one year. At the conclusion of the 2016/17 academic year, all students must return to Serbia to continue their education, and they must remain in their home country for one year. We hope over the following years that you will share what you have learned with friends, family and fellow students.

Further Study

After spending a year at home, candidates may return to the United States for college or university study. A growing number of our students have taken this route and earned generous scholarships. ASSIST and the independent school attended in the U.S. will support the application with recommendations and advice.