



ASSIST

Connecting America's finest schools
with the world's leading scholars



Experience the Year that Lasts a Lifetime

52 COUNTRIES · 5,210 ALUMNI · ONE FAMILY





OUR MISSION

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



Become an ASSIST Scholar

ASSIST was founded to create opportunities for leading international students of talent and promise to contribute strongly to American independent secondary school communities.

Because of the strong credentials of our Scholars, we are able to place them on scholarship at independent (private) schools in the U.S. These are America's strongest schools, and they participate in the ASSIST program because we place high-impact cultural ambassadors from under-represented countries to help member schools build a diverse student body.

Why choose an exchange experience in the U.S.?

Living successfully and happily in the 21st century means becoming a skilled global citizen. An exchange experience in the U.S. enables you to:

- ▶ **IMMERSE YOURSELF** in American culture and share your own.
- ▶ **TAKE YOUR ENGLISH FROM THE CLASSROOM** into an American community.
- ▶ **LEARN AND PRACTICE LEADERSHIP** skills through the challenge of cultural exchange.

Why choose ASSIST?

ASSIST is the acknowledged leader in the independent secondary school exchange community.

- ▶ **RECEIVE A FULL-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP** from the highly selective private school that is a perfect match for you.
- ▶ **JOIN A GLOBAL NETWORK** of ASSIST alumni who have gone on to attend prestigious universities and start fulfilling careers.
- ▶ **RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM ASSIST STAFF** throughout your exchange year—all day, every day.



NOTABLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ALUMNI

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Groton School
Massachusetts

President John F. Kennedy

Choate Rosemary Hall
Connecticut

President George

H.W. Bush
Phillips Andover Academy
Massachusetts

President George W. Bush

Phillips Andover Academy
Massachusetts

President Barack Obama

Punahou School
Hawaii

Mark Zuckerberg

Phillips Exeter Academy
New Hampshire

Bill Gates

Lakeside School
Washington

King Abdullah of Jordan

Deerfield Academy
Massachusetts



American Independent Schools

ASSIST Scholars attend member independent schools located across the U.S. in every major region. Schools are selected to join ASSIST because of their excellence and their commitment to the well-being and success of their students. The faculty are well-educated and dedicated, and the campuses and facilities rival universities in the U.S.

Matching schools and Scholars

Over 50 years, ASSIST has developed unmatched expertise in selecting just the right American school for each Scholar. We do not “place” Scholars; rather, we select a school that matches their academic interests, their extracurricular strengths, and their personalities—and that feels like home.

DAY SCHOOL A day student lives with a volunteer host family and so shares morning and evening meals, as well as weekend activities, with the family. The families are chosen carefully by the school and are also vetted by ASSIST, and each has an affiliation with the school and a desire to make their new ASSIST family member feel welcome and at home.

BOARDING SCHOOL A boarding student eats meals in the school dining hall and lives in a dormitory with a roommate, other students and faculty dorm parents, who supervise the dormitory. Dorm parents often have families, and they are appointed by the school leadership to ensure that the dormitory is a safe, friendly environment where growth and good citizenship are encouraged and intentionally developed. Most boarding schools host a number of international students beyond the ASSIST Scholar.



BILYANA GEORGIEVA
Bulgaria
Greenhill School
Texas

High honors. Outstanding Accomplishment in AP Statistics Award, Excellence in Physics Book Award, History Book Award, Theater Award, and Dance Award. Cross-country team, dance company, spring musical.

“My ASSIST year broadened my perspective in so many ways and helped me define myself as an individual. I met so many wonderful people whom I now call my second family, and I know this wouldn’t have been possible without this exchange.”





ARNOLDAS PRANCKEVICIUS
Lithuania
Montclair Kimberly Academy
New Jersey

ASSIST Scholar 1996/97; distinguished scholar at Colgate University (New York). Named one of 70 worldwide Rotary World Peace Scholars, which funded his graduate work at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. Since completing his master's degree, Arnoldas has served as Domestic Policy Advisor to Lithuania's President; worked in the European Parliament, where he was an adviser to President Martin Schulz; and now represents the EU to his native Lithuania.

"All of this came as a great surprise, not only for my family, but for me as well. The first few months were a real challenge. But as I learned from my ASSIST experience, every challenge, if handled well, in the end can positively contribute to the growth of one's character and to the quality of one's endeavors."

Academic Life

The academic program at an American independent school is centered on the relationship between willing learners and well educated, dedicated teachers. Class sizes are small—typically 15 or fewer in each section—and most courses are taught seminar-style, meaning that students participate fully in open discussion. Students prepare thoroughly for each academic day by completing two to three hours of homework each prior evening.

ASSIST Scholars are required to take courses in English (literature) and U.S. History. Students select remaining courses to take advantage of their unique talents and interests with the assistance of an advisor or academic dean.

ASSIST Scholars thrive in this university-style academic environment. The Class of 2017/18 were much like their predecessors: 26% of the Class did honors-level work, and 70% of the Class did high honors-level work.

A Full and Busy Lifestyle

Outside of the classroom, ASSIST Scholars engage in the arts, community service, athletics, clubs and other activities. In American independent schools, each of these activities is woven into the life of the community. Out-of-class commitments are an important part of learning, making friends and building school pride. Weekends provide a time to change pace, relax and enjoy the company of new friends and your host family.

ASSIST BY THE NUMBERS · 2018/19

200+

Number of American families who will host ASSIST Scholars



21

Countries represented by the Class of 2018/19



\$64,449

Top scholarship awarded in 2018/19



\$6.4 MILLION

Scholarships awarded in 2018/19



THE SELECTION FUNNEL

1,195

Applicants

604

Interviews

175

ASSIST Scholars

15%

Selectivity

96%

Percentage of Scholars on the honor or high honor rolls in 2017/18



5,210

Number of ASSIST alumni



49

Years of operation



1 FAMILY

A worldwide clan including Scholars, alumni, parents, host families, teachers, donors, volunteers and friends



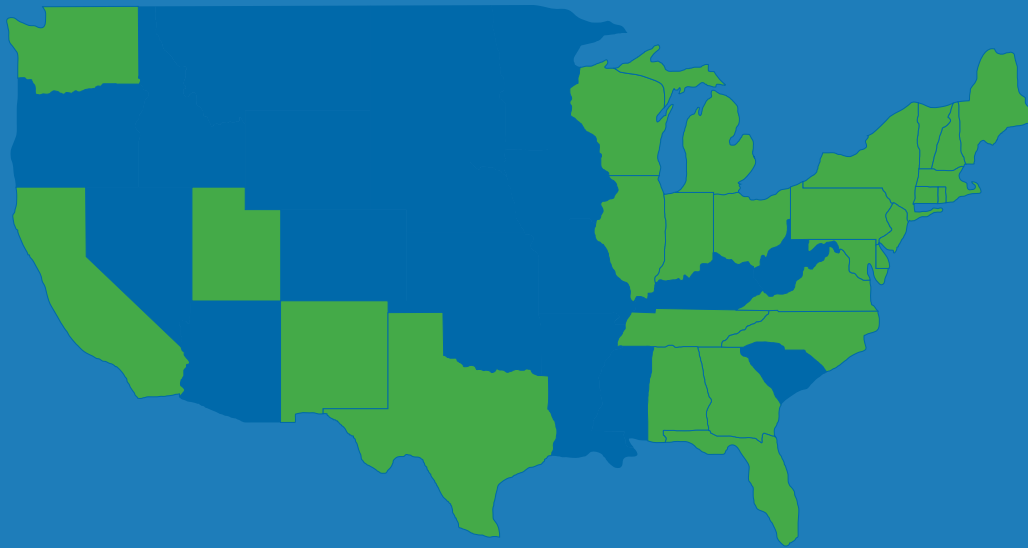
\$970,478

Philanthropic support in 2017/18

100s

Worldwide volunteers who make the program go





**ASSIST COUNTRIES
2018/19**

- Australia
- Austria
- Bulgaria
- Cambodia
- Croatia
- Czech Republic
- Germany
- Hungary
- Lithuania
- Moldova
- Norway
- Palestine
- Poland
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Somaliland
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- Vietnam

**ASSIST MEMBER
SCHOOLS**

2018/19

Each ASSIST member school is a member of NAIS (National Association of Independent Schools), subscribes to principles of nondiscrimination, and is accredited by an officially recognized evaluation agency in the state or region in which it is located.

ALABAMA

Indian Springs School

CALIFORNIA

Chadwick School
Laguna Blanca School
San Domenico School

CONNECTICUT

The Ethel Walker School
The Gunnery
The Hotchkiss School
Salisbury School
Suffield Academy
The Taft School
Westminster School

DELAWARE

St. Andrew's School
Tower Hill School

FLORIDA

Bolles School
Saint Andrew's School
Seacrest Country Day School
Trinity Preparatory School

GEORGIA

Darlington School
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School
Savannah Country Day School

ILLINOIS

North Shore Country Day School

INDIANA

Canterbury School

MARYLAND

Bryn Mawr School
Friends School-Baltimore
Garrison Forest School
St. Timothy's School
West Nottingham Academy

MAINE

Hebron Academy
Kents Hill School
Waynflete School

MASSACHUSETTS

Belmont Hill School
Berkshire School
Deerfield Academy
Miss Hall's School
Phillips Academy Andover
Stonleigh-Burnham School

MICHIGAN

University Liggett School

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Derryfield School
Dublin School
Kimball Union Academy
Phillips Exeter Academy
St. Paul's School

NEW JERSEY

The Lawrenceville School
Peddie School
The Pennington School

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Academy

NEW YORK

The Masters School
The Stony Brook School

NORTH CAROLINA

Carolina Day School
Christ School
Salem Academy

OHIO

Hawken School
Laurel School

PENNSYLVANIA

George School
The Hill School
Lancaster Country Day School
Linden Hall
Perkiomen School
Westtown School
Wyoming Seminary

TENNESSEE

Girls Preparatory School
St. Andrew's-Sewanee School
Webb School

TEXAS

Greenhill School
The Hockaday School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School
St. John's School
St. Mark's School of Texas

UTAH

Wasatch Academy
The Waterford School

VERMONT

The Putney School

VIRGINIA

Chatham Hall
Episcopal High School
Foxcroft School
St. Catherine's School
St. Christopher's School
Stuart Hall School
Virginia Episcopal School
Woodberry Forest School

WASHINGTON

Charles Wright Academy

WASHINGTON DC

Sidwell Friends School
St. Albans School

WISCONSIN

Wayland Academy



JANNIS STÖTER
Germany
Woodberry Forest School
Virginia

Walker Scholar. Princeton Book Club Award. Lettered in Varsity Soccer and Varsity Diving. Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach. International Forum, acting and directing class. Cast member in fall and spring plays; took vocal lessons; arranged for Holocaust survivor Esther Bauer to address the school.

“With ASSIST I embarked on a journey unprecedented in my life. I learned how to look out for opportunity, where to find it, and how to take advantage of it. I realized how much potential there is in the world and comprehended what it means to think critically.”

Orientation and Yearlong Support

Each Scholar attends a pre-departure orientation before leaving home, and all Scholars receive detailed written information from ASSIST and from their American school. Upon arrival in the U.S., the entire Class spends four days together for an orientation program at Pomfret School, near Boston. Orientation in the U.S. is almost universally cited as a highlight of the exchange year.

ASSIST stays in touch with Scholars throughout the exchange year.

ASSIST: A Lifelong Relationship

Most ASSIST alumni have excellent university options in their own countries, but increasingly, alumni are returning to the U.S. for university. More than 500 alumni have now returned to the States for undergraduate or advanced degrees, and ASSIST leaders and member schools are most willing to support university applications by writing recommendations and providing advice.

Owing to the power of the ASSIST experience and the opportunities afforded by the Internet, ASSIST students remain in contact with one another and with us long after their year of study concludes. We have launched an alumni-only web e-community, *My ASSIST Connect*, that facilitates a worldwide ASSIST community. ASSIST alumni can help one another with university selection, internship acquisition, career advice and placement, and identification of social and leadership opportunities.

ASSIST ALUMNI MAKE THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD

TOP U.S. COLLEGE ENROLLMENT (4 OR MORE SCHOLARS)

Harvard University	64	Brown University	8	Lafayette College	5
Columbia University	28	University of Chicago	8	Macalester College	5
University of Pennsylvania	24	Dartmouth College	8	University of Richmond	5
Yale University	23	Vassar College	8	Wellesley College	5
New York University	23	Duke University	7	Wooster College	5
Stanford University	20	Northwestern University	7	Bowdoin College	4
Univ. of California, Berkeley	18	Amherst College	6	Bryn Mawr College	4
Princeton University	16	Univ. of California, LA	6	Colgate University	4
Mass. Inst. of Technology	13	University of Virginia	6	Cornell University	4
Georgetown University	12	Bates College	5	Georgia Inst. of Technology	4
John's Hopkins University	10	Emory University	5	Northeastern University	4
Mount Holyoke College	10	Furman University	5	University of Notre Dame	4
Tufts University	9	Hamilton College	5	University of Washington	4

TOP U.K. COLLEGE ENROLLMENT (4 OR MORE SCHOLARS)

University of Oxford	40	Warwick University	6
University of Cambridge	21	University of Edinburgh	5
London School of Economics	19	London Business School	5
University of London	11	King's College	4





ISABEL BYRNE
Australia
Hathaway Brown School
Ohio

High Academic Honors. Lettered in Varsity Swimming and contributed strongly to the dance program. Joined service trip to Nicaragua. Member of Hathaway Brown Orchestra and Choir, winner of HB Talent Quest, and sang a solo at the internationally acclaimed Nighttown Jazz Club.

“ASSIST has given me a global perspective—I now view the world with a stronger understanding and awareness of issues outside the comforting borders of my own country. As this world becomes increasingly smaller, global citizenship and participation is imperative.”

ASSIST Scholarships

ASSIST offers two opportunities to study at American independent schools. *All scholarships are offered for one year and may not be renewed.* Scholars return home after their ASSIST year to share what they have learned.

FULL SCHOLARSHIPS cover tuition, room and board at a boarding school or tuition at a day school, and housing with a volunteer host family. For 2018/19, 79 students were awarded full ASSIST scholarships.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS cover part of the tuition, room and board at a boarding school, or part of the tuition at a day school and housing with a volunteer host family. For 2018/19, 96 students were awarded partial ASSIST scholarships.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FAMILY A program fee is charged to the family of each candidate who is chosen and accepts a place in the program. As a nonprofit educational organization, ASSIST seeks to keep its fees low and responsive to family needs. Families are also responsible for all personal expenses.

HELPING FAMILIES AFFORD THE FEES Students in some countries, who come from families of very modest financial means, are sponsored by generous donors. Some or all of the costs associated with participating in the ASSIST program are underwritten by the donors. ASSIST works actively to raise funds for these students. *No talented candidate should refrain from applying because of financial challenges.*

Application and Selection

PROGRAM ESSENTIALS Candidates for ASSIST scholarships apply on-line, and the competitions are managed by ASSIST country coordinators in each country. ASSIST primarily selects students entering the 11th grade. There are also numerous opportunities for students entering the 10th grade, with more limited opportunities for students entering the 12th grade or seeking positions as postgraduate students. Students study in the States for ten months and then return to their home countries—ASSIST scholarships are not renewable.

THE APPLICATION Please visit our website for complete instructions regarding the application process: www.assistscholars.org/apply

The elements of the application are:

- ▶ Application Form
- ▶ Essay
- ▶ Academic Transcript
- ▶ Recommendations

THE INTERVIEW For the most highly qualified applicants, interviews take place from October through January in each country where ASSIST maintains a presence. As part of the interview or before, most candidates take the ELTiS, a test to help determine language proficiency. This is balanced with observations made in the interview, as well as by teacher recommendations.



FILIP FLENHAGEN
Sweden
Belmont Hill School
Massachusetts

High Honors. Community service at Camp Starfish (children with intellectual disabilities). Member of Model UN and Chinese Clubs and wrote for the student newspaper. Acted in the Senior-directed play. Lettered in Varsity Golf and Varsity Soccer. Honorable mention by the Independent School League Council for contributions to the Belmont Hill soccer team and Second Team All-ISL Soccer selection.

“Being a part of the ASSIST program allowed me to explore and learn from a foreign culture; furthermore, my ASSIST year helped me understand who I am and what I believe in.”



Apply today for an ASSIST Scholarship

We urge you to apply for an ASSIST scholarship if you are:

- ▶ **A HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENT** proficient in English who wants to take on the challenge of one of America's finest secondary schools.
- ▶ **INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING** in all of the activities outside of class, meeting people who come from different backgrounds, and spending ten months in a new culture.
- ▶ **EAGER TO SHARE** your culture as an ambassador of your country, to learn what is unique about American culture, and to share what you have learned back home.
- ▶ **ADVENTUROUS** and ready for an experience that will change you forever—an experience that will chart a new course for how you lead your life.



ASSIST is a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status incorporated in Connecticut. ASSIST is designated by the United States Department of State as an authorized Exchange Visitor Program. ASSIST is able to facilitate the issuance of the J-1 visa under which our students study in the U.S. for one academic year on Exchange Visitor status.

ASSIST does not discriminate, nor does it condone harassment on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national or ethnic origin, disability, age, sexual orientation or any other basis proscribed by applicable policies or laws.



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with the world's leading scholars

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Teachers**

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