

American Secondary School Scholarship Competition
Information for Candidates and Families in Lithuania
For the Academic Year 2018/19

Important Dates

Application Deadline	Saturday, November 25, 2017
Testing Day	Saturday, December 16, 2017 • 10:00 a.m. Kaunas, KTU Electronic Building, Studentu Str. 50
Interview Day	TBA • January 2018

How to Apply

Complete instructions and application materials are available online for all candidates:

www.assist-inc.org/lithuania

Please read *Application Overview* for a complete understanding of how to apply for an ASSIST scholarship. Students who are currently in Grade 10 are eligible to apply to ASSIST for placement in the 11th grade.

Please complete all application materials, make a full copy of all documents, and mail the original and a copy to the address noted below. Applications must be post marked by **Saturday, November 25, 2017**, and those post marked after this date will not be considered. Mr. Bedalis will notify you regarding the results of your application.

Mr. Zenonas Bedalis
The Kazickas Family Foundation
Sv. Jono Str. 13
01123 Vilnius

Phone +370 523 12 629
Mobile +370 698 25 632
e-mail: kff.assist@gmail.com

Application Fee

An application fee of EUR 16 must be wired in advance of submitting the application. Please transfer the application fee to the bank noted below, and mail a copy of the bank slip with your application paperwork (above).

Labdaros ir paramos fondas "Dr. Juozas P. Kazicko fondas
Account No. LT71 7044 0600 0671 9271
Organization code: 192037069
AB SEB Bank

Test of English Language Proficiency and Interviews

As part of the evaluation, each candidate will be invited on **Saturday, December 16**, for two tests. First, each student will sit for an English language proficiency test. Second, each candidate will write an essay – the topic is assigned, and no advanced preparation is allowed.

After receiving the results of the English language and essay tests, and after reading the applications, the competition committee will review the credentials of all candidates. Each candidate will be notified by e-mail if he or she has been offered an interview. Interviews will be held in January 2018 in Vilnius. Decisions are released to all candidates by the middle of February.

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 \$62,500 this year.

As with most international exchange programs, a program fee is charged to all participants. In Lithuania, we ask that families contribute a program fee of US \$5,350 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 the Kazickas Family Foundation and other donors (including Lithuanian alumni), funds have been secured to cover the costs of the overseas flight, health insurance and spending money.

As well, through the generosity of the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius, there is assistance available to fund the program fee for families who qualify (two such program fee sponsorships are available this year).

The intention of our sponsorship program is to encourage talented students, regardless of their family's income, to apply to become ASSIST Scholars. Each family is asked to complete the *Application for a Sponsorship*, and if you wish to apply for a personal costs sponsorship or for a program fee sponsorship for your child, please also complete the *Family Financial Declaration* form.

If, in addition to the personal costs sponsorship, you wish to apply for a program fee sponsorship from the U.S. Embassy, you must also submit two additional documents:

- A certificate from the municipal department of social welfare benefits, from your place of residence, documenting that your family is supported.
- An income declaration to document your family's income.

Applying for a personal costs sponsorship or a program fee sponsorship does not affect your child's chances of being awarded a scholarship.

Each year, ASSIST receives many more applications from qualified students than we have full scholarships to offer. In these instances, partial scholarships – approximately half of the school tuition – may be offered to candidates. The ASSIST program fee in 2018/19 for partial scholarship students is US \$30,700. Tuitions at member boarding schools in 2017/18 range up to US \$62,500. In 2017/18, 82 students were awarded full scholarships, and 78 students were awarded partial scholarships.

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 2018/19 academic year, all students must return to Lithuania 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.

Questions

If you have questions about any aspect of this scholarship competition, please contact Kristen Sullivan: Kristen@assist-inc.org. We wish you well in your application.