



# ASSIST

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

Updated 9/24/18

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

### Important Dates

Application Deadline	<b>Sunday, November 25, 2018</b>
Testing Day	Saturday, December 15, 2018
Interview Day	TBA • January 2019

### How to Apply

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

<http://www.assistscholars.org/apply-now.html>

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 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please complete all application materials, make a copy of the web-based application, and mail the original and a copy to the address noted below along with your letters of recommendation and your transcript. Applications must be post marked by **Saturday, November 24, 2018**, and those post marked after this date will not be considered. Ms. Zivile Lazauskiene will notify you regarding the results of your application.

Mrs. Zivile Lazauskiene  
TBD

Phone +370 696 98660  
e-mail: zivile@assistscholars.org

### Application Fee

An application fee of €20 is due once the web-based application is complete. Please follow the instructions on the ASSIST Lithuania webpage to make payment. Candidates should include proof of payment when submitting the completed application.

### Test of English Language Proficiency and Interviews

As part of the evaluation, each candidate will be invited on **Saturday, December 15**, 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 2019 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 \$64,499 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 \$5,850 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).



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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 \$32,250. In 2018/19, 79 students were awarded full scholarships, and 95 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 2019/20 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@assistscholars.org](mailto:Kristen@assistscholars.org). We wish you well in your application.