



# ASSIST

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



## Experience the Year that Lasts a Lifetime

EARN A SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND AN  
AMERICAN PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL







## **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 with 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 more than twenty 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 and build your confidence 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 expertly matched 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.
- ▶ **PREPARE YOURSELF FOR ENTRY** into one of the world's leading colleges or universities.





### GEORGI KLISSURSKI

Bulgaria

Woodberry Forrest School

Virginia

B.A. from Dartmouth College in Economics and Engineering Sciences. Master in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School. Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Worked in economic consulting and in tech — for PayPal and Airbnb. Served as Chair of the Board of Bulgaria Heli Med Service, the first helicopter network providing emergency medical services in Bulgaria. Currently serves as Deputy Minister of Finance of Bulgaria.

"My ASSIST year left an enormous mark in my life's journey. I will never forget how during ASSIST orientation, Mr. Bob Stanley urged us to think of how we can apply our U.S. experience to better our home countries. I took this to heart, and it has influenced my life's choices ever since. I could have stayed in the U.S. or London and had a very comfortable life working a corporate job, but in large part thanks to my ASSIST year, I have the desire to find ways to contribute in Bulgaria."



## American Independent Schools

ASSIST Scholars attend member schools located across the U.S. The schools are selected to join ASSIST because of their excellence and their commitment to the well-being and success of each student.

### IMPORTANT BENEFITS

- ▶ Individual class sizes are small—typically 15 students or fewer.
- ▶ Teachers are well-educated, motivated and dedicated.
- ▶ Classes are very challenging and diverse.
- ▶ School campuses are beautiful, with excellent facilities in academics, the arts, the library sciences, and athletics.
- ▶ Students join a variety of clubs: for example, Debate, Yearbook, Dance, Model UN.

### *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 a home.

**DAY SCHOOL** A day student lives with a volunteer host family and 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. 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.





## 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 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. Each year, more than 90% of the Class members submit honors or high honors academic work, placing them among the finest students in their schools.

## A Full and Busy Lifestyle

Outside of the classroom, each school offers numerous and varied opportunities that are normal parts of the daily schedule. 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 school 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.



**ARNOLDAS  
PRANCKEVICIUS**  
**Lithuania**  
*Montclair Kimberly  
Academy New Jersey*

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."



**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. ASSIST also organizes an orientation program for the entire class so new Scholars can meet their classmates and be well prepared for their year ahead at their American school.

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 700 alumni have returned to the States or gone to the U.K. for undergraduate or advanced degrees. ASSIST leaders and member schools are very 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.

For more information: [www.myassistconnect.org](http://www.myassistconnect.org)





## NOTABLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ALUMNI

### **President John Adams**

Braintree Latin School

### **President Franklin Pierce**

Philips Exeter Academy

### **President Calvin Coolidge**

St. Johnsbury Academy

### **President Franklin Roosevelt**

Groton School

### **President John F. Kennedy**

Choate Rosemary Hall

### **President George H.W. Bush**

Phillips Academy

### **President George W. Bush**

Phillips Academy

### **President Barack Obama**

Punahou School

### **King Abdullah of Jordan**

Deerfield Academy

### **Jane Fonda, *Activist and actress***

Emma Willard School

### **Tene Hamilton Franklin,**

*Facilitator, Human Genome Project*

Baylor School

### **Bill Gates, *Microsoft***

Lakeside School

### **Katharine Graham, *Publisher,***

*Washington Post*

Madeira School

### **Rebecca Miller Harvey, *Founder,***

*Crabtree & Evelyn*

Miss Porter's School

### **Thomas Jolly, *Editor, New York Times***

Baylor School

### **Sally Ride, *First female astronaut***

Harvard-Westlake School

### **James Taylor, *Musician***

Milton Academy

### **Ted Turner, *Founder, CNN***

McCallie School

### **Mark Zuckerberg, *Facebook/Meta***

Philips Exeter Academy



# ASSIST Scholarships

ASSIST places *all* of its students on scholarship 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.



**BARBORA  
KVASNICKOVA**  
Czech Republic  
Tower Hill School  
Delaware

*Year abroad at ETH Zurich.  
Working towards a B.S from  
Utrecht University in Global  
Sustainability Science.  
Finalist for a Josef Vavrousek  
Award for efforts to preserve  
the environment. Former  
Czech Youth Delegate to the  
United Nations.*

"I am proud to say my year in the States shaped who I am today. It started from the moment I stepped foot in the ASSIST interviews in Prague: I decided it would be great. And great it was for the whole year. 6 years later, I often replay a memory in my mind and the day gets better - cooking with my host family, running with friends in a forest near our school, or, of course, blasting music out loud on car rides. I try not to fly much, but I would jump on that plane to Philly I took in 2016 again and again."

## Sanderson Scholarships

The Sanderson Scholarship is named after the visionary founder of ASSIST, Paul "Sandy" Sanderson Jr., who believed that bringing together young people from different cultures and backgrounds to interact and learn from one another is a means to creating a more peaceful world.

The Sanderson scholarship covers: full tuition, and room and board at a private American boarding school, or full tuition at a private day school and housing with an American volunteer host family. It also funds the personalized support and lifelong network unique to the ASSIST experience.

## Lindfors Scholarships

The Lindfors Scholarship is named after former President and Vice President of ASSIST, Kenneth and Betsy Lindfors. Ken and Betsy were distinguished lifelong educators and leaders who believed the ASSIST program was building a network of future leaders who would create positive change in their home countries and the world.

The Lindfors scholarship covers: approximately half of the tuition and room and board at a private American boarding school, or approximately half of the tuition at a private day school and housing with an American volunteer host family. It also funds the personalized support and lifelong network unique to the ASSIST experience.

***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 many countries, who come from families of more modest financial means, are sponsored by generous individuals and organizations. 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.*

*For more information on financial aid, please visit your country's Apply Now page on [assistscholars.org/en/apply](https://assistscholars.org/en/apply)*



# 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 10th and 11th grades. There are also 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: Please note the application for 2024-25 will be available by August 1, 2023.  
[https://assistscholars.schooladminonline.com/users/sign\\_in](https://assistscholars.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in)

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. Zoom interviews will take place in all other countries. As part of the interview or before, most candidates take the **Duolingo**, a test to help determine language proficiency. This is balanced with observations made in the interview, as well as by teacher recommendations.



**UBAH ALI**  
Somaliland  
*Miss Hall's School*  
*Massachusetts*

Social activist and educator who campaigns against female genital mutilation. Listed by the BBC in 2020 as one of the world's most influential 100 Women. Master of Arts in International Conflict and Cooperation at University of Stirling. B.A. from The American University of Beirut in Political Science with a focus on international law. Currently works for Lloyds Banking Group in the UK as well as a Research Assistant at University College London.

“Through ASSIST’s core values, I learned the power of philanthropy and how it can create intellectually diverse, youthful minds that transform the world positively. As someone born and raised in Somaliland, I never dreamed of attending one of the best independent schools for girls in the United States, however, ASSIST taught me to always dream big. And because of that, I am currently helping Somali youth find scholarship opportunities. From my ASSIST and Miss Hall’s School families, I learned how collective efforts and solidarity can create a positive and inclusive environment.”



## Apply Today for an ASSIST Scholarship

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

- ▶ **A HIGH-ACHIEVING STUDENT** with strong skills 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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International Students  
and Teachers**

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