



Youth Exchange and Study Program

2020-2021

About the Program

The Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) was established by the United States Congress in October 2002. YES is fully funded by the U.S. government and administered by the

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the U.S. Department of State. The program provides 10th and 11th grade students with a scholarship to spend a year living in the U.S. with a volunteer host family, attending a U.S. high school to foster understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries around the world.



Now in its 16th year, the YES academic year program has provided scholarships to thousands of secondary school students from many countries. More than 590 students from Southeast Europe have taken part in YES

so far. In 2019-20, 81 students from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, and North Macedonia are studying in the U.S. on the YES program.

The YES program has been active in Kosovo since 2008 and we already have over 80 alumni that form an engaged and passionate group of students ready to make a change.

What **does** the scholarship provide?

The YES scholarship **covers** the following costs:

- Round-trip domestic and international travel (from home to the United States and back).
- Monthly allowance to help students participate in social activities and buy necessary personal supplies.
- Placement with a selected and screened U.S. host family for one year.
- Enrollment in a U.S. secondary school.
- Program orientation activities including pre-program preparation, U.S. orientations, and re-entry preparation.
- Program activities arranged in local U.S. communities
- Medical insurance, excluding pre-existing conditions and dental care.

The scholarship **does not cover** the following costs:

- Any costs associated with receiving an international passport.
- Personal expenses not covered by the monthly stipend.
- Excess baggage costs.
- Phone bills or internet use.

Eligibility Requirements

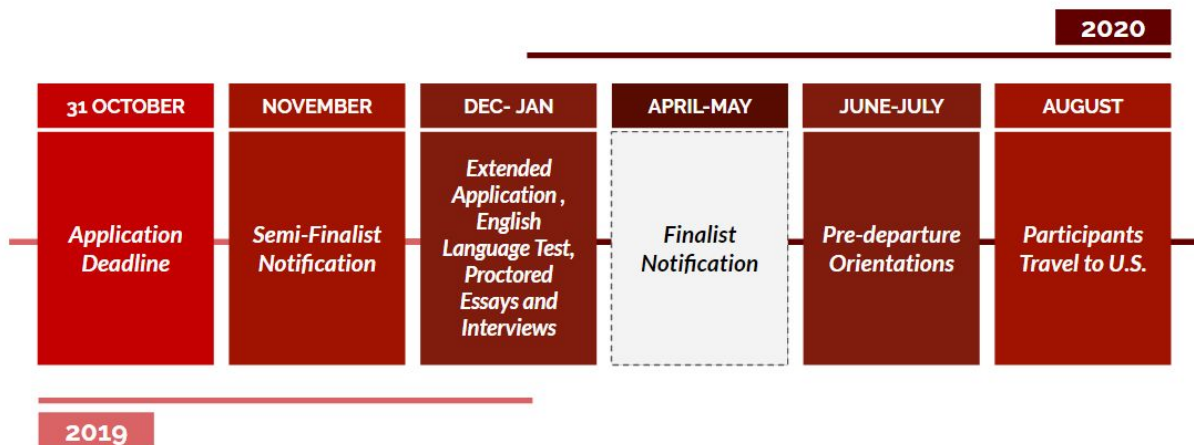
- Be born between **January 1, 2003 and July 15, 2005.**
- Be in the **10th or 11th** year of highschool.
- Have an academic standing of good or better.
- Not have graduated from secondary school prior to the program start date.
- Have previously studied English and demonstrate English language ability at the time of registration.
- Meet U.S. visa eligibility requirements.
- Be able to receive an international passport in the country where they apply to the program where they apply to the program
- **Students with disabilities must be enrolled in secondary school in the fall of 2019 and be born between February 15, 2002 and July 15, 2005.**

Application Process

The application process is made out of **two rounds**:

- **Round 1:** Interested students need to complete an **online application** located at <https://ais.americancouncils.org/yes> (**deadline October 31, 2019**). A selection committee in Washington D.C will evaluate online applications and select semifinalists in November.
- **Round 2:** In the semifinalist round selected students will receive a longer application, take an English language proficiency test, write three essays, and be interviewed in person by American Councils staff.

Timeline



Apply now: <https://ais.americancouncils.org/yes>

Contact:

American Councils Kosova

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