



# ASSIST

*Today's scholars. Tomorrow's leaders.*

## *Explore becoming an ASSIST Scholar*

51 Countries • 4,650 Alumni • One Family





THE MISSION OF ASSIST

ASSIST creates life-changing opportunities for outstanding international scholars to attend and contribute to the finest American independent secondary schools to promote mutual understanding, cultural interchange, and global citizenship.



ASSIST was founded to create opportunities for leading international students of talent and promise to contribute strongly to American independent secondary school communities. Since 1969/70, 4,650 students from 51 countries have studied in the United States as ASSIST Scholars.

Independent schools in the U.S. participate in the ASSIST program because we help them extend their reach to new countries where they want to recruit in order to build a diverse student body. We select and place ASSIST Scholars with great care: Of the 1,500 students who applied for the Class of 2014/15, 775 were credentialed strongly enough to interview, 87 were selected for full scholarships, and 84 students were awarded partial scholarships.

For 2014/15, our 88 member schools have invested scholarships totaling U.S. \$5.4 million in our students.

“ We never could have imagined the wonderful time ahead when we agreed to have Saskia join our family for the year! We have shared so many adventures and have learned so much from her—not only about her home culture, but also about what it means for friends and family to share in life’s experiences so deeply. What a gift this year has been to all of us!”

THE JOHNSON FAMILY  
MAUMEE VALLEY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL  
TOLEDO, OH



## 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:

- Develop independence and learn to manage challenges on your own—with the right kind of support.
- Attain fluency in English, the world's international language.
- Live successfully in another culture—expose yourself to new ways of thinking and increase your respect for your own country and culture.
- Gain access to the most outstanding education programs in the U.S.
- Meet other future leaders, making lifelong friends and contacts to be of ASSISTance in your continued education, career and all future endeavors.

## Why choose ASSIST?

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

- Identifying, placing and supporting 4,650 alumni representing 51 countries over 45 years of service.
- All students study at outstanding independent (private) high schools in the U.S.
- Careful placement at a school that fits your intellect, personality and special talents.
- If selected, you will earn a scholarship valued up to US \$56,620.
- Ongoing support throughout the placement year.
- A growing international network of alumni who will ASSIST one another in the years ahead.



"I am sincere in saying that the ASSIST year changed my life, and it did so significantly. I have built a bond that I will treasure for the rest of my life. How many families in the whole world would take in a girl from a completely different country and treat her as their own daughter, their own sibling? I was very fortunate."

AN VO , BRENTWOOD SCHOOL '07  
VIETNAM



## 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 in U.S. History. The remaining courses are selected from a variety of options with the assistance of an advisor or the academic dean, and students may tailor their schedule to take advantage of their unique talents. Most students take mathematics, science and a language, and many ASSIST Scholars pursue coursework in computer science, the arts, religion, philosophy and other specialized courses.

Making the transition from your academic traditions to the American system can be quite challenging. However, ASSIST Scholars are capable students, and you will receive support from your teachers and the academic dean to find the courses that are right for you. Each year, more than 90% of the ASSIST Class receives honors or high honors academic recognition.

## 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. 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.

Independent schools are financed primarily by tuition, supplemented by income from philanthropy and auxiliary programs. Although the tuitions at these schools are significant, the schools are committed to funding scholarship programs that allow qualified students to attend, regardless of their financial circumstances.

For the 2014/15 academic year, the value of the scholarship at member boarding schools ranges up to US \$56,620. ASSIST Scholars selected for full scholarships do not pay this tuition fee to the school.



## A Full & 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 and enjoy the company of new friends you have made. Most schools plan activities for student groups that range from dances and class trips to skiing, camping and canoe trips, to visits to the theater, a concert or a shopping mall. The weekends are also an opportunity to relax, become better acquainted with other students, or to visit the home of a friend.



## Integrating into a Community

The schedules of the day and boarding school correspond closely during the day. It is during the evening that day and boarding students have different and equally rich experiences.

**The 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.

Features of family life resemble those at home: shared responsibilities, social activities, emotional support, friendship, and the trust that comes with shared experiences. Many ASSIST Scholars who live full-time with host families develop lifelong friendships with their American families.

**The Residential School** Central to all boarding school experiences is the quality of life in the dormitory. 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 environment where growth and good citizenship are encouraged and intentionally developed. Most boarding schools host a number of international students beyond the ASSIST Scholar.



## Orientation & Yearlong Support

We believe that coming to the U.S. for a ten-month exchange experience is a positive, life-changing opportunity—and understand it is also a significant personal challenge. To support our Scholars, we have developed a yearlong support system designed to anticipate challenges and to help each Scholar prepare to meet them, working from 45 years of institutional experience.

Each Scholar attends a pre-departure orientation before leaving home, and each receives thorough written information from ASSIST and from the receiving American school. Upon arrival in the U.S., the entire Class spends four days together for an orientation experience 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. We e-mail Scholars monthly and visit many on their campuses. We also remain in touch with the Scholars' families back home and with host families in the U.S. During a student's year in the U.S., we can be reached throughout the day and evening for advice and support.

Candidates must remain in the U.S. for the full ten months of the school year, spending holidays with their American host or homestay families. Parental visits are discouraged until the springtime to ensure a successful cultural transition.

## ASSIST: A Lifelong Relationship

Your relationship with ASSIST and with other Scholars does not conclude with the end of your studies in the U.S.—rather, it is the beginning of a lifelong relationship. We will follow you closely throughout your American year, and we will maintain contact with you after you return home, continue your studies, and begin your career.

Most ASSIST alumni have excellent university options in their own countries, but increasingly, alumni are returning to the U.S. for university. More than 400 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 now 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 that facilitates a worldwide ASSIST community. ASSIST alumni can now help one another with university selection, internship acquisition, career advice and placement, and identification of social and leadership opportunities.



**Pia Bungarten** spent her ASSIST year in 1974/75 at Suffield Academy (CT), where she was among the first female students admitted as the school returned to coeducation. After finishing her secondary education in Germany, she returned to the U.S. and earned degrees from Amherst College and the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. Pia's career has focused on public service through political dialogue, and she currently serves as Division Chief for International Dialogue for the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

"I am very grateful for the decisive year I could spend as an ASSIST student at Suffield Academy. It laid the foundation for all I have done since then—opening a new world of ideas and experiences, creating the basis for college and graduate studies in the U.S., and for a life-long commitment to international cooperation and in particular to the German-American partnership. I am still in close touch with my host family from that time, and with many friends I got to know then. My ASSIST-year at Suffield Academy is 'present' for me in many lasting and wonderful ways."



### Arnoldas Pranckevicius

was an ASSIST Scholar in 1996/97 at Montclair Kimberly Academy (NJ) and was later a distinguished scholar at Colgate University (NY). He was named one of 70 worldwide Rotary World Peace Scholars, which funded his graduate work at the Paris Institute of Political Studies. After completing his Master's Degree, Arnoldas returned to his native Lithuania, where he accepted a position as Domestic Policy Advisor to Lithuania's President. In January 2006, he moved to Brussels after winning an open

competition to work in the European Parliament, where he is now an adviser to the President, Martin Schulz, of Germany.

"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."

### Top 30 U.S. College Enrollment

Harvard University	54	Johns Hopkins University	10	Lafayette College	5
Columbia University	22	Mount Holyoke College	10	Macalester College	5
Universities of California	20	Tufts University	9	University of Chicago	5
New York University	19	Brown University	7	University of Richmond	5
Stanford University	17	Vassar College	7	Amherst College	4
University of Pennsylvania	16	Dartmouth College	6	Bowdoin College	4
Yale University	16	University of Virginia	6	Bryn Mawr College	4
Princeton University	13	Duke University	5	Cornell University	4
Mass. Institute of Tech.	12	Furman University	5	Northeastern University	4
Georgetown University	11	Hamilton College	5	Wellesley College	4

Almost 100% of our alumni attend university, many in the most respected centers of learning worldwide. Of the 400+ alumni who have returned to the U.S. for university, the institutions noted above have enrolled the most Scholars.

## Competitive Program Entry

ASSIST conducts a rigorous international competition each year on behalf of our member schools. We connect talented students from around the world with American independent day and boarding schools of stature. Our students study in the U.S. for one academic year and return home afterward to share what they have learned.

During the past year, ASSIST conducted competitions in 22 countries on behalf of member schools. Of the 1,500 applications for the Class of 2014/15, 775 were credentialed strong enough to interview, 87 were selected for full scholarships, and 84 students were awarded partial scholarships. The Class of 2014/15 comprises 171 students from 20 countries.

Applications for ASSIST scholarships far outpace the places available (only 11% of applicants become ASSIST Scholars). Well-qualified students who are placed on the wait list, and for whom no scholarship becomes available, are offered the opportunity to attend an ASSIST member school on a full-paying basis.



## ASSIST Countries 2014/15

Australia	Hungary	Somaliland
Austria	Israel	Spain
Bulgaria	Lithuania	Sweden
China	Moldova	Switzerland
Croatia	Palestine	Turkey
Czech Republic	Poland	Vietnam
Germany	Slovakia	

## ASSIST Member Schools 2014/15

Albuquerque Academy, NM	Indian Springs School, AL	Sidwell Friends School, DC
The Baldwin School, PA	Kents Hill School, ME	St. Albans School, DC
Belmont Hill School, MA	The Key School, MD	St. Andrew's School Rhode Island, RI
Berkshire School, MA	Lancaster Country Day School, PA	St. Andrew's Episcopal School, TX
The Blake School, MN	Laurel School, OH	St. Andrew's School, DE
Bosque School, NM	The Lawrenceville School, NJ	St. Andrew's-Sewanee School, TN
Brunswick School, CT	The Madeira School, VA	St. Anne's-Belfield School, VA
Canterbury School, IN	Maret School, DC	St. Catherine's School, VA
Catlin Gabel School, OR	The Masters School, NY	St. Christopher's School, VA
Chadwick School, CA	Maumee Valley Country Day School, OH	St. John's School, TX
Chatham Hall, VA	Mercersburg Academy, PA	St. Mark's School of Texas, TX
Christ School, NC	Miss Hall's School, MA	St. Paul's School, NH
Colorado Rocky Mountain School, CO	National Cathedral School, DC	St. Timothy's School, MD
Culver Academies, IN	Nichols School, NY	Stoneleigh-Burnham School, MA
Darlington School, GA	Norfolk Academy, VA	The Stony Brook School, NY
Deerfield Academy, MA	North Shore Country Day School, IL	Suffield Academy, CT
Ensworth School, TN	Peddie School, NJ	The Taft School, CT
Episcopal High School, VA	The Pennington School, NJ	Trinity Preparatory School, FL
The Ethel Walker School, CT	Perkiomen School, PA	Wasatch Academy, UT
Ethical Culture Fieldston School, NY	Phillips Academy Andover, MA	Washington International School, DC
Fountain Valley School, CO	Phillips Exeter Academy, NH	The Waterford School, UT
Garrison Forest School, MD	Porter-Gaud School, SC	Wayland Academy, WI
Gould Academy, ME	The Potomac School, VA	Waynflete School, ME
Greenhill School, TX	Princeton Day School, NJ	Western Reserve Academy, OH
Hathaway Brown School, OH	Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School, GA	Westminster School, CT
Hawken School, OH	Saint Andrew's School, FL	Westtown School, PA
Hebron Academy, ME	Salem Academy, NC	The White Mountain School, NH
The Hill School, PA	Salisbury School, CT	Woodberry Forest School, VA
The Hockaday School, TX	Sandia Preparatory School, NM	Wyoming Seminary, PA
The Hotchkiss School, CT		



## Should you apply for an ASSIST scholarship?

ASSIST offers two programs through which to earn scholarships to study at American independent schools:

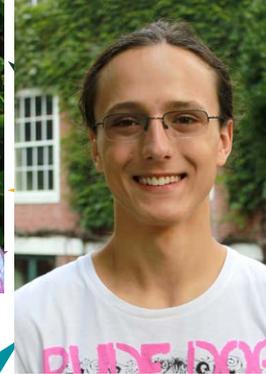
**Full scholarships** The student is awarded a scholarship that covers tuition, room and board at a boarding school or tuition and a volunteer host family at a day school. For 2014/15, 87 students were awarded full ASSIST scholarships.

**Partial scholarships** The student is awarded a partial scholarship that covers part of the tuition, room and board at a boarding school or part of the tuition at a day school, with a volunteer host family being identified by the school. For 2014/15, 84 students were awarded partial ASSIST scholarships.

**A Two-Year Commitment** ASSIST Scholars make a philosophical commitment for two years: an exchange year in the U.S., and then a year at home to share what they have learned. ASSIST scholarships are not renewable; you may not return to your ASSIST school. Students interested in spending more than one year in the States should apply through ASSIST as full-paying applicants or may enter the competition for a Davis Program Scholarship (limited to eastern and central Europe and to eight scholarships worldwide).

We encourage 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, in meeting people who are very different, and in spending ten months independently in a new culture.
- Eager to share your culture as an ambassador of your country, and learn what is unique and valuable about American culture.
- Have a keen sense of adventure and are ready for an experience that will change you forever—an experience that will chart a new course for how you lead your life.



## Application & Selection

Application for an ASSIST scholarship is competitive, and each candidate is encouraged to pursue other options in addition to applying to ASSIST.

**Program Essentials** Candidates for ASSIST scholarships apply through ASSIST country coordinators in their home countries. ASSIST primarily selects students entering the 11th grade. There are also opportunities for students entering the 10th grade, 12th grade or postgraduate years. 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 web site for complete instructions regarding the application process. 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. ASSIST selection committees in each country conduct interviews and evaluate the potential fit of a candidate with the ASSIST program.

As part of the interview or before, most candidates take a test to help determine language proficiency. This is balanced with observations made in the interview, as well as by teacher recommendations.

**Selection & Notification** ASSIST releases decisions in December, January and February for the following academic year. All candidates are notified of the status of their candidacy. Students not offered a full or partial scholarship may be placed on a waiting list.

ASSIST has extensive expertise in placing those Scholars selected at member schools that are a strong match for their talents, skills and interests. ASSIST Scholars may not express a preference for a particular school, geographic region, or type of school (day or boarding). The final decision for acceptance lies with the school, and ASSIST works carefully to present candidates to schools where the fit is felt to be optimal.

**Financial Responsibilities of the Family** A program fee, set by the ASSIST Board of Directors, 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 round-trip airfare to the U.S., the return trip from the school to the point of U.S. departure in the spring, health and accident insurance, visa application fees, a medical examination, and spending money for personal expenses. Most schools ask the family to establish a personal spending account for books, supplies, uniforms, special trips and other personal expenses.

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, and no talented candidate should refrain from applying because of financial constraints. Families are asked to complete a financial aid application to demonstrate that they qualify for additional support.



## ASSIST Overseas Leaders

In addition to staff in ASSIST's international headquarters in Suffield, CT, the organization maintains a part-time employee or volunteer leader in the countries noted below. Our colleagues promote the program, prescreen candidates, prepare and orient the students, and provide support during the placement year. They keep ASSIST abreast of important national trends and serve both ASSIST and member schools as liaisons to families throughout the exchange year.

### International Headquarters

**Robert A. Stanley, Jr.**  
*President*

**J. Martin Milne**  
*Vice President for School and Family Relations*

### International Offices

#### AUSTRALIA

**Dr. Alan Hutchison**  
*Deputy Principal*  
Ivanhoe Girls' Grammar School  
ahutchison@ivanhoegirls.vic.edu.au

**Dr. Peter Stiles**  
*Lecturer and Academic Consultant*  
The Wesley Institute  
p.stiles@bigpond.net.au

**James Seaha**  
*Post Secondary Planning*  
Brisbane Girls Grammar School  
jseaha@bggs.qld.edu.au

#### AUSTRIA

**Katarina Krizková**  
*ASSIST Regional Coordinator*  
kat@assist-inc.org

#### BULGARIA

**Dr. Lydia Dachková**  
*Executive Director*  
Bulgarian Reading Association  
bulra@osf.bg

#### CHINA

**The High School Affiliated to Fudan University**

**Stanley Xu**  
*Co-Founder and CEO*  
Taurus Education  
stanley.xu@taurusedu.com

#### CROATIA

**Karla Golja Milevoj**  
*Country Coordinator*  
ASSIST Croatia  
karla.golja@gmail.com

#### CZECH REPUBLIC

**Zdenka Almerová**  
*Finance Director*  
Open Society Fund Prague  
zdenka.almerova@osf.cz

#### GERMANY & SWITZERLAND

**Rosemarie Wegner**  
*Country Coordinator*  
ASSIST Germany  
rosemarie.wegner@assist-germany.de

**Simone Oliver**  
*Regional Program Coordinator*  
simone.oliver@assist-online.net

**Nicole Malmedé '81**  
*Director of Alumni Relations*  
nicole.malmede@assist-inc.org

#### HUNGARY

**Andrea Pordán**  
*Country Coordinator*  
ASSIST Hungary  
apordan@assist-inc.org

#### ISRAEL

**Leo Baeck Education Center**

#### ITALY

**Beatrice Faleri '13**  
*Country Coordinator*  
ASSIST Italy  
italy@assist-inc.org

#### LITHUANIA

**Zenonas Bedalis**  
*Executive Director*  
The Kazickas Family Foundation  
zenonasb@hotmail.com

#### MOLDOVA

**Iulia Moldovan**  
*Executive Director*  
National High School Debate League  
imoldovan@debate.moldnet.md

#### PALESTINE

**Ramallah Friends School**

#### POLAND

**Joanna Martyni-Orenowicz P'11, '14**  
*Country Coordinator*  
ASSIST Poland  
asia@martyni.net

#### SLOVAKIA

**Katarina Krizková**  
*ASSIST Regional Coordinator*  
katarina.krizkova@osf.sk

#### SOMALILAND

**Abaarso School of Science and Technology**

#### SPAIN

**George Semler, Jr.**  
**Katherine Semler**  
*Country Coordinators*  
ASSIST Spain  
semler@telefonica.net

#### SWEDEN

**Kristina Arheden P'08, P'11**  
*Country Coordinator (Lund)*  
ASSIST Sweden  
kristina.arheden@telia.com

**Miriam Istner-Byman '05**  
*Country Coordinator (Stockholm)*  
ASSIST Sweden  
miriamistnerbyman@hotmail.com

#### VIETNAM

**Richard and Hoan Sherwood**  
*Managing Directors*  
American Education Group  
rich@aegvietnam.com



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# ASSIST

*Today's scholars. Tomorrow's leaders.*

American Secondary Schools for  
International Students and Teachers

P.O. Box 969  
Suite 213, Suffield Village  
68 Bridge Street  
Suffield, Connecticut 06078 USA

Telephone: (860) 668-5706  
Facsimile: (860) 668-5726  
[assist@assist-inc.org](mailto:assist@assist-inc.org)  
[www.assist-inc.org](http://www.assist-inc.org)

ASSIST is a nonprofit organization with tax-exempt status incorporated in Vermont. 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.