



Republic of Serbia
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

PROJECT

“WORLD IN SERBIA”

Scholarships for students from Non-Aligned Movement member states and observer states in the academic year 2023/2024 for the Serbian language learning in the academic year 2024/2025 and for the enrollment at the higher educational establishments in the Republic of Serbia in the academic year 2025/2026

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1. Introduction

The "World in Serbia" project, which awards scholarships from the Government of the Republic of Serbia to candidates from member states and observer states of the Non-Aligned Movement (hereinafter: NAM), has been successfully implemented since the academic year 2010/2011.

Thanks to this project, the Republic of Serbia has the honour of hosting young people from 116 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America. The traditional hospitality of our people, the helpfulness and responsible attitude of the professors and staff of the student-standard institutions where the students are accommodated, made it possible for scholarship holders from all over the world to feel welcome and to adapt to the way of life in the Republic of Serbia.

The "World in Serbia" project provides exceptional conditions, enabling scholarship holder accommodation and food in the student standard system of the Republic of Serbia, health insurance and a monetary scholarship in the amount of RSD 18,000.00 per month. Such scholarship conditions, as well as welcoming the scholarship holders, undoubtedly contributed to the huge interest among member states and observer states of the NAM for new scholarships.

All the bilateral talks that the representatives of the Republic of Serbia held with the representatives of the NAM member states and observer states, highlighted the satisfaction with the cooperation so far within the Project and expressed interest in continuing the cooperation, including countries that have not nominated their students so far.

With the aim of affirming the Republic of Serbia and its culture, tradition, higher education, and policy of good relations of cooperation and mutual respect in the NAM member states and observer states, the Republic of Serbia will, through the "World in Serbia" Project offer new scholarships in the academic year 2023/2024 for the Serbian language learning in the academic year 2024/2025 and for the enrollment at the higher educational establishments in the Republic of Serbia in the academic year 2025/2026.

The following stand out as special specific goals of the "World in Serbia" Project:

1. Providing opportunities for young people from other cultures to get to know the Republic of Serbia, its language, culture, and traditions.
2. Providing opportunities for young people from the Republic of Serbia to get to know colleagues from different continents, their culture, values, and traditions.

3. Affirmation of the Republic of Serbia, as a state and the system of higher education, through scholarship holders - future promoters of professional ties between our country and their home countries.

2. Project Partners

The implementation of the Project is managed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia. The Ministry of Education appoints a person from the ranks of employees for coordinating the implementation of the Project. In addition to the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Health and the Agency for Qualifications of the Republic of Serbia as well as the Universities of the Republic of Serbia and other institutions according to the needs of students, also participate in the implementation of the Project, in accordance with the law.

3. Project Description

3.1 Project Implementation Phases

The project envisages scholarships for citizens of NAM member states and observer states proposed by the governments of their countries, and is implemented in two phases:

In the **first phase** of the Project, upon the arrival in the Republic of Serbia scholarship holders attend intensive Serbian language course starting from the month of September and ending in June. Project scholarship holders who speak the Serbian language because they finished the previous level of the studies in Serbia, do not attend the Serbian language course, and then they take the entrance exam at the higher school establishment intended to enrol in the academic year 2024/2025. Project scholarship holders who pass the Serbian language test after the language course, take entrance exam in June enrolment period and enrol the desired studies in the academic year 2025/2026. If some scholarship holders do not succeed to enrol the desired studies, they have chance to enrol in the following enrolment period at the higher education establishments that have available places left.

During the period of Serbian language learning, classes intended for the enrolment at the desired higher educational institution will be provided to the scholarship students.

The project also foresees the assistance of students - hosts, who will provide support to the scholarship holders from their arrival at the airport, reception upon arrival in the country, and through support to perform all administrative, organizational, and other needs of the scholarship holders in the period from their arrival to the Republic of Serbia.

In the **second phase** of the Project, it is planned for scholarship holders to attend studies according to their interests, in accordance with the offered study programmes in Serbian or teaching in Serbian with the possibility of consultation in English at higher education establishments founded by the Republic of Serbia, which are part of the University of Belgrade,

University of Novi Sad, University of Kragujevac, University of Niš as well as the Academies of the Vocational Studies founded by the Republic of Serbia .

The Contract on scholarship with the scholarship holders will be signed upon the arrival.

3.2 Scholarship Structure within the Project

The project scholarship **includes**:

- free preparatory classes of the Serbian language (online course and intensive Serbian language course after the arrival in the Republic of Serbia); This is not applicable for the students who already studied in Serbia and attended the Serbian language classes.
- free education within one educational study level in basic academic, basic academic and vocational studies, specialist vocational studies, Master's academic and vocational studies, specialist academic or doctoral studies.
- Scholarship money in the amount of RSD 18,000.00 per month;
- free accommodation and food in student standard institutions;
- voluntary health insurance for the scholarship holders who are learning the Serbian language
- compulsory health insurance for scholarship holders up to the age of 26; voluntary health insurance for the scholarship holders older than 26 years
- free residence visa;
- free recognition of secondary school diplomas;
- free recognition of higher education diplomas.

The project scholarship **does not include**:

- travel expenses for arrival and departure from the Republic of Serbia;
- costs of public transport in the Republic of Serbia;
- costs of textbooks and work resources during the studies.

3.3 Conditions for Receiving a Scholarship

The scholarship can be granted to a candidate who meets the following conditions:

- they are a national of a NAM member state and observer state;
- they were nominated by the competent authority of the country participating in the Project;
- they are younger than:
 - 21 years for the enrolment at the first degree studies – basic academic studies, basic academic and vocational studies, basic vocational studies;
 - 25 years for the enrolment of the specialist vocational studies of the first degree and for studies of the second degree – Master’s academic studies, Master’s vocational studies, specialist academic studies;
 - 35 years for the enrolment of the third degree studies – doctoral academic studies.
- They have completed adequate education:
 - for enrolment in graduate academic/ academic and vocational/vocational studies – they have completed a **four-year secondary education**;
 - for enrolment in Master's academic studies:
 - o in the amount of 60 ECTS points – has an adequate diploma of a higher education institution obtained in graduate academic studies with at least 240 ECTS points, that is, a corresponding diploma of a higher education institution lasting **four years**;
 - o in the amount of 120 ECTS points - has an adequate diploma of a higher education institution obtained in graduate academic studies with at least 180 ECTS points;
 - for enrolment in specialist vocational studies - has an adequate diploma of a higher education institution, obtained in graduate academic or vocational studies with at least 180 ECTS points achieved.
 - for enrolment in master vocational studies - has an adequate diploma of a higher education institution, obtained in graduate academic or vocational studies or graduate basic academic studies with at least 180 ECTS points achieved.
 - for enrolment in doctoral academic studies - has finished bachelor academic and master academic studies, i.e. integrated academic studies, with obtained average assessment mark at least 8 at bachelor academic and master academic studies, i.e. integrated academic studies
 - obtain conversational level (at least A1 level) of the English or Serbian language at the moment of arrival to the Republic of Serbia.

3.4 Application Documentation

Documentation submitted by the candidate when applying:

- curriculum vitae with a motivational letter
- a photocopy of travel document (passport) – it is not needed to be translated / putne isprave (pasoš)
- evidence of acquired education - photocopies of documents that are evidence on acquired education certified by authorized person (secondary school certificates, secondary school diplomas – in order to enroll bachelor Studies, higher education diplomas – in order to enroll Master Studies, higher education diplomas and Master's degree – in order to enroll PhD Studies, transcripts of grades at the both level of Studies and diploma supplements)
- confirmation on obtained average assessment mark at the previous level of education – in order to enroll PhD
- evidence of the knowledge of English or Serbian Language at the conversational level (certificate, confirmation and similar)
- confirmation on medical condition not older than six months – medical certificate attached with the text of competition proposition – it should be taken from the competent diplomatic authority of Republic of Serbia

3.5 Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting the application forms with accompanying documentation is at latest **until 1st of June 2024**. **The provided documentation that is not translated into Serbian/English will not be examined.**

The list of candidates is provided by the competent institution of the each country participating in the Project and submitted to the diplomatic and consular missions of the Republic of Serbia.

The candidate fills out application form at the following link [https://bit.ly/World in Serbia](https://bit.ly/World_in_Serbia) and submits the scanned original documentation altogether with translations in Serbian or English language certified by authorised person to the email address worldinserbia@prosveta.gov.rs. **The copies of original documentation altogether with filled out and signed application form and copy of medical certificate with indicated tests results submits to the competent diplomatic and consular authority of the Republic of Serbia for the country where the candidate lives**

The competent diplomatic and consular authority of the Republic of Serbia submits the list of candidates that is agreed with the competent institution of the candidate country and signed

application forms to the Ministry of Education via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia.

3.6 Obligations of Project Scholarship Holders

The scholarship holder is obliged to:

- come to Belgrade within the period starting from 1st of September and ending on 15th of September.
- bring the original documents (secondary school certificates, diplomas of higher education, Master's degrees, transcripts of grades and diploma supplements), translated into Serbian/English upon arrival in the Republic of Serbia;
- a medical certificate not older than six months with indicated test results translated into Serbian/English;
- do the mandatory general medical examination when entering the student standard facility
- pass the Serbian language exam before starting with the studies at the faculties of a University in the Republic of Serbia;
- pass the entrance exam at the desired higher institution establishment and do the enrolment
- to attend classes regularly and pass the exams
- acquire 37 ECTS points for enrolment in the next year of study, within the enrolled study programme during the academic year; the PhD scholarship students need to, taking into account that exams, scientific seminars, scientific researches and works, PhD dissertation have certain number of ECTS points
 - pass the exams for that year of study planned by the study programme
 - submit confirmation about approved topics for scientific researches and works, scientific seminars etc. planned by study programme
 - submit confirmation that the topic of the PhD dissertation is applied for and approved
- respect the regulations of the Republic of Serbia and the acts of the higher education establishment in which he/she receives the scholarship;
- compensate for all damage caused to the premises of the student standard facility and higher education establishment;

- observe the rules of conduct prescribed by the statute of the higher education establishment;
- observe the rules of conduct and house rules in the student standard facility;
- regulate temporary residence and timely submit a request for its extension when the conditions are met, in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Foreigners ("Official Gazette of RS", number 24/2018, 31/2019 and 62/2023);
- keep the Ministry of Education informed about all changes of importance to the status of the scholarship holder within the Project in a timely manner, and no later than within 30 days from the date of their occurrence (if the status of the student is lost, suspension of student's rights and obligations /inactive status, graduation, withdrawal from studies, etc.)
- return to the country that nominated him/her for a scholarship under the Project, upon the completion of his/her studies.

Scholarship holders in doctoral studies are obliged to:

- pass the exams provided by the study programme for a specific year of study;
- provide confirmation that the topics for scientific and research work provided for in the study programme have been approved;
- provide a confirmation that they have submitted a dissertation (because exams, scientific research papers and dissertations carry a certain ESPB number).

3.7 Reasons for Losing the Scholarship

The scholarship holder loses the scholarship if:

- submit documentation that is not authentic when applies for the scholarship
- he/she fails to pass the Serbian language exam with at least a passing grade;
- do not enrol at some higher institution establishment in Republic of Serbia in academic year 2025/2026
- candidates who finished the previous level of studies in Republic of Serbia within the Project, to whom is given the scholarship for the enrolment of the new study level, do not pass entrance exam in the first or second enrollment period in school year 2024/2025
- do not enroll studies at higher institution establishment in Republic of Serbia in school year 2025/2026
- during the academic year, within the enrolled basic, master or PhD study programme, he/she fails to acquire 37 ECTS points required for enrolment in the next year of study in the status of a student financed from the budget within the Project, in accordance with the general act of the higher education establishment, which determines the conditions for enrolment in the following year;

- he/she violates provisions of the Contract on scholarship
- he/she fails to keep the Ministry of Education informed about all changes of importance to the status of the scholarship holder within the Project in a timely manner, and no later than within 30 days from the date of their occurrence (if the status of the student is lost, suspension of student's rights and obligations /inactive status, graduation, withdrawal from studies, etc.)
- he/she seriously violates the student's obligations, stipulated by the general act of the higher education establishment or student standard facility, in accordance with the law;
- he/she violates provisions of the public order
- he/she has been legally sentenced to a prison sentence of at least six months' probation or a more severe sentence;
- he/she behaves inappropriately, that is, grossly violates the rules of study, prescribed by the statute of the higher education establishment and the student standard facility;
- he/she gives up the scholarship on his/her own initiative.

Beside abovementioned, scholarship holders in doctoral studies lose their scholarship if:

- they fail to acquire the 37 ECTS required for enrolment in the next year of study;
- they fail to pass the remaining exams in the following school year
- they fail to bring a confirmation that their topics for scientific-research works provided for in the study programme have been approved;
- they fail to bring confirmation proving they submitted and get approval of PhD dissertation;
- they fail to defend the doctoral dissertation within the legal deadline.

3.8 General Provisions for Studying within the Project

Within the status of scholarship student and the scope of the Project, the scholarship holder can attend only one study programme at one level of the studies.

During the academic year, within the enrolled study programme, the student is obliged to acquire 37 ECTS points required for enrolment in the next year of study as a student financed from the budget within the Project, in accordance with the general act of the higher education establishment, which determines the conditions for enrolment in the following year;

A scholarship holder who has acquired at least 37 ECTS points in each academic year during the course of his/her studies, after completing the last year of the study programme, reserves the right to a scholarship for the duration of another academic year until the end of started studies.

Students who have graduated and who need to perform a medical/professional internship in order to have their diploma recognised, are allowed to extend part of the scholarship in the form

of free accommodation, food, health insurance, with scholarship money in the amount of RSD 18,000.00 per month during the internship period. It is obligatory to submit confirmation that they are scholarship students volunteers at the internship and that they are not employed.

Students who have lost their scholarship can regain their scholarship status only in the following academic year if they acquire 37 ECTS points during current academic year.

A scholarship holder is obliged to attend the enrolled study programme, as any transfer to another study programme within the Project is not possible.

If scholarship holder wants to continue with the second educational level of the studies, after finishing the level of the studies to which scholarship holder initially applied within the public call for scholarship, he/she has right to it by applying to the new public call for scholarships.

A scholarship holder who, due to a serious illness during the entire academic year, is unable to acquire a sufficient number of ECTS points envisaged for enrolment in the following year of study as a student financed from the budget, has the right to enrol in the same year of study for a second time and reserve the right to the scholarship only if submits the proof about suspension of student's rights and obligations /inactive status. The scholarship holder is obliged to submit complete medical documentation (with confirmation from the council of doctors of the institution where the scholarship holder was treated, that it is a serious illness) to the Ministry of Education by the end of the current academic year, i.e. by September 30 as well as the proof about suspension of student's rights and obligations /inactive status.

During the repeated academic year, the scholarship holder is obliged to pass the remaining exams, i.e. to acquire a sufficient number of ECTS points for enrolment in the next year of study. Otherwise, the scholarship holder loses the right to the scholarship.

The scholarship holder is obliged to inform the competent authorities about the rights and obligations related to the regulation of temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia.

Higher education establishments included in the Project are obliged to submit reports on the progress of scholarship holders at least twice a year (within fifteen days from the end of the winter semester, i.e. summer semester) at the request of the Ministry of Education.

Higher education establishments included in the Project are obliged to inform the Ministry of Education about all changes of importance to the status of scholarship holders within the Project in a timely manner, and no later than within 30 days from the date of their occurrence (graduation, withdrawal from studies, etc.).

4. Nomination and Selection of Candidates

Each country participating in the Project should nominate the candidates proposed for the scholarship within the Project. All registered candidates must meet the conditions for receiving the scholarship.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs submits to the Ministry of Education integrated list of nominated candidates until the 4th of June as well as applications forms of all applying candidates.

The minister in charge of education will issue a decision appointing a special interdepartmental committee, which will review the documentation received by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the selection of nominated candidates. The committee will be composed of representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Agency for Qualifications - ENIK/NARIK Centre. This decision will determine the tasks of the committee for the selection of candidates and the awarding of scholarships.

The decision on the selection of the shortlisted candidates, made by the minister in charge of education, is forwarded by the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until the 24th of June for the purpose of informing the embassies, that is, all the candidates who applied. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has obligation to inform all the embassies within the period from 25th of June until 5th of July.

5. Expected effects of the Project Implementation

The successful implementation of the Project will enable the achievement of short-term and long-term positive effects for the Republic of Serbia, namely:

- positioning of the Republic of Serbia as a modern, open, and European country, the affirmation of which will be contributed by scholarship holders, as future bearers of the social, economic, and political life of their respective countries;
- improving and deepening friendly relations between young people from all over the world;
- getting to know colleagues from different continents provides an opportunity for intercultural learning of young people, getting to know other cultures and values, increasing their sensitivity to differences;
- promoting the higher education system of the Republic of Serbia;
- promoting the cultural, scientific, economic, tourist and other capacities of the Republic of Serbia.