



English Access Microscholarship Program

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OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

Common Questions: English Access Microscholarship Program (Access)

How do I apply for the Access Program?

The Access Program does not accept applications for prospective students. Programs occur in [over 80 countries](#) around the globe and students are recruited in the specific locations where Access classes are taking place. Contact your U.S. Embassy to find out if there are Access classes in your area.

How do I become an Access teacher?

Access teachers are employed by the local implementers. Contact your U.S. Embassy to find out if Access classes are taking place in your area.

What is the official name of the program and how should I reference it in program documentation?

The official name of the program is the “English Access Microscholarship Program.” The abbreviation “Access Program” is also acceptable. These are the only names that should be used when referring to the program.

How can I sponsor or partner with an Access Program?

The Access Program presents a multitude of opportunities for sponsorships and partnerships. From sponsoring microscholarships to contributing equipment, from offering apprenticeship opportunities to hosting a summer camp; there are many ways organizations can become involved with the Access Program. Visit the [Public-Private Partnership page](#) to learn about partnering with the U.S. Department of State. Contact your U.S. Embassy to express an interest in partnering with an Access Program.

Where do Access classes take place?

The Access Program is active in [over 80 countries](#) and in all regions of the world. While many programs take place in capital cities, a significant number of classes are taught in small towns and rural villages. Regardless of the location, the Access Program reaches out to youth from economically disadvantaged sectors who would not have otherwise had the opportunity to participate in such a program.

What have Access alumni accomplished?

Access alumni have accomplished great things. Alumni are encouraged to participate in other U.S. Government-sponsored exchange programs, and a significant number have been accepted into prestigious programs including the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange Program (YES), the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX), and Youth Leadership Programs such as the Benjamin Franklin Summer

Institute. Additionally, Access alumni have received scholarships to colleges and universities and taken leadership roles in their communities. Access alumni often return to Access classes to help run intensive sessions, mentor current students, and in some cases even to teach!

What sorts of activities relating to U.S. culture and values take place during the Access Program?

Cultural enhancement activities are a program requirement and must be integrated into the two-year program. These activities increase the students' familiarity with U.S. culture and values while improving English language skills. Cultural enhancement should include U.S. cultural activities, personal development activities, and community service activities. During U.S. cultural activities, course topics such as U.S. history, government, and popular culture often guide English lessons. Personal development activities may include practicing interview skills, resume writing, meeting with professionals, and group presentations which contribute to students' career development. And community service activities such as refurbishing school facilities, planting and maintaining community gardens, and planning fundraising events in response to crises give students leadership opportunities and the invaluable experience of making a positive contribution to their communities.

How often do Access students attend English classes?

Throughout their two years in the Access Program, students receive at least 360 hours of English language instruction. These classes take the form of after school or weekend classes and many students also participate in intensive sessions.

Do Access students and teachers get to go to the U.S. on an exchange?

A small percentage of Access students and teachers are selected by the U.S. Embassy to participate in a short-term exchange in the United States. Access alumni and teachers are encouraged to participate in additional U.S. government-sponsored exchanges and connect with resources to assist them with pursuing study in the U.S., such as educational advising through [Education USA](#).

In what countries does the Access Program take place?

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burma, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Democratic Republic of Congo, East Timor, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Maldives, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, West Bank/Gaza, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

