



# English Access Microscholarship Program

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OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

## Building a Foundation

Many bright but economically disadvantaged foreign students encounter a common hurdle in the quest for higher education and better jobs: a lack of English language skills. The English Access Microscholarship Program gives them the skills they need to fulfill their aspirations.

Access scholarships provide a window to American culture and democratic values through two years of English language programming. Many English Access Microscholarship programs include leadership training, preparation for jobs and community service projects.

## A Path to Mutual Understanding

English Access Microscholarships increase the pool of candidates eligible to compete for and participate in exchanges in the United States. Access Alumni have been selected for participation in State Department-sponsored high school exchanges and undergraduate student leader institutes in the U.S.

The Access Program has a multiplier effect on mutual understanding. Access students have a more favorable view of the American people and in turn share their Access program experiences with their family and peers. In the photos above, bright, disadvantaged Access students are in a student-centered learning environment.

The English Access Microscholarship Program provides a foundation of English language skills to talented 14- to 18- year-olds from disadvantaged sectors through after-school classes and intensive summer learning activities. The program gives participants English skills that lead to better jobs and educational prospects. Participants also gain the ability to compete for and participate in future exchanges and study in the United States. Since its inception in 2004, over 70,000 students in more than 85 countries have participated in the Access Program.

## Providing Opportunities

Access alumni prove that English language acquisition is often necessary to successfully realize formerly unattainable goals. For example:

Four Lebanese Access alumni were selected to participate in the State Department’s Youth Exchange and Study Program (YES), which brings high school students to the United States.

Five Access alumni from Algeria were selected to participate in a State Department- sponsored Student Leaders Study of the U.S. Institute.

Access graduates have earned scholarships from the American University in Beirut.

A Moroccan Access graduate remarked, “Because of the Access program I’ve got a job...and I don’t think without this opportunity I would have a job now.”

Sultan, the son of a Yemeni trash collector, wanted to go to college, but did not speak English. After receiving an Access microscholarship and completing the course, he won a scholarship to study Information Technology.

Another Yemeni Access graduate won the English Speaking Union’s 2007 public speaking competition.

“**T**he English Access [Micro-scholarship] Program has provided me a remarkable opportunity to study the most important language which will help me in the university study, as well as later when I apply for a job. I also have learned how to deal with many types of people.”

Access Participant  
Yemen

“**T**hrough this program, I’ve acquired the spirit for giving and sharing, and that is something I’m planning to do for the rest of my life.”

Access Participant  
Lebanon

