



**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

PROJECT "WORLD IN SERBIA"

Scholarships of the Government of the Republic of Serbia for the Serbian Language study in the 2026/2027 academic year and for enrollment in Higher Education Institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia in 2027/2028 academic year, for the candidates from member and observer states of the Non-Aligned Movement

Belgrade, February 2026

INTRODUCTION

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

Through this initiative, the Republic of Serbia has the honour of hosting young people from 127 countries in Africa, Asia, Central and South America. The traditional hospitality of our people, the helpfulness and responsible approach of professors and staff at student accommodation institutions, have enabled the scholarship recipients from all over the world to feel welcome and adjust to life in the Republic of Serbia.

The "World in Serbia" project provides excellent conditions, offering scholarship recipients accommodation and meals within the student support system of the Republic of Serbia, health insurance, and a financial scholarship of RSD 18,000 per month. These scholarship conditions, along with the warm reception the scholarship recipients received, have undoubtedly contributed to the immense interest among NAM member states and observer states in the new scholarships.

In all bilateral discussions held by representatives of the Republic of Serbia with representatives of NAM member states and observer states, they expressed satisfaction with the collaboration within the project and have shown interest in continuing the collaboration, including those countries that are yet to nominate their candidates.

In order to promote the Republic of Serbia and its culture, traditions, higher education, and policy of good cooperative relations and mutual respect in NAM member and observer states, the Republic of Serbia will, through a call for applications under the "World in Serbia" project, offer new scholarships for learning the Serbian language in the 2026/2027 academic year, and subsequently for enrolment at higher education institutions in the Republic of Serbia in the 2027/2028 academic year.

The specific objectives of the "World in Serbia" project are as follows:

1. Providing young people from different cultures the opportunity to get to know the Republic of Serbia, its language, culture, and traditions;
2. Offering young people from the Republic of Serbia the opportunity to meet colleagues from different continents, learn about their cultures, values, and traditions;
3. Affirming the Republic of Serbia as a country and its higher education system through scholarship recipients – future promoters of professional connections between our country and their home countries.

PROJECT PARTNERS

The implementation of the project is managed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia. Apart from the Ministry of Education, the implementation of the Project is also supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Qualifications Agency of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the law, as well as universities founded by the Republic of Serbia, student's standard institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia or the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, and other institutions according to the needs of the students.

Project description

Implementation Phases

The Project provides scholarships for citizens of member states and observer states of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) proposed by the governments of their respective countries and is implemented in two phases:

Phase one: Upon arrival in the Republic of Serbia, scholarship recipients undergo intensive Serbian language courses from September to June.

Project scholarship recipients who already know Serbian, having completed the previous level of study in the Republic of Serbia, do not attend the language course, instead they take an entrance exam at their desired higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia, for the next level of study, for enrolment in the next academic year.

Project scholarship holders who successfully pass the Serbian language examination upon completion of the course sit an entrance exam during the June admissions period and enroll in their chosen study programme in 2027/2028 academic year.

Should a scholarship holder be unable to secure a place at their institution of choice, they may sit entrance exams at the higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia during subsequent admissions periods, where vacancies exist.

During the Serbian language learning process, scholarship recipients will be provided with preparatory lessons for admission to their desired higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia.

The Project ensures support by their hosts for scholarship recipients, starting from their reception at the airport, their arrival in the country, and continuing with assistance in handling all administrative, organizational, and other needs throughout their stay in the Republic of Serbia.

In **Phase two** of the project it is envisaged for the scholarship recipients to pursue studies according to their interests, in line with the offered study programmes in the Serbian language, with the possibility of consultations in English at higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia: the University of Belgrade, the University of Novi Sad, the University of Kragujevac, and the University of Niš, as well as the academies and colleges of applied studies, founded by the Republic of Serbia.

A formal Scholarship Contract will be signed between the Ministry of Education and each scholarship recipient.

Scholarship Structure within the Project

The scholarship within the project **includes:**

- Free preparatory Serbian language instruction (intensive Serbian language course upon arrival in the Republic of Serbia). This does not apply to scholarship recipients who have already studied in Serbia and attended Serbian language classes;
- Free tuition within one level of studies, including undergraduate academic, integrated academic, and vocational studies, specialist vocational studies, master academic and vocational studies, specialist academic or doctoral studies;
- A monthly scholarship in the amount of RSD 18,000.00;
- Free accommodation and meals at student standard institutions founded by Republic of Serbia or the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina;
- Voluntary healthcare insurance for scholarship recipients studying the Serbian language. Scholarship recipients are strongly advised to secure a health insurance policy independently;
- Mandatory healthcare insurance for scholarship recipients under 26 years of age, and voluntary healthcare insurance for scholarship recipients over 26 years of age. Scholarship recipients over the age of 26 are strongly advised to secure a health insurance policy independently;
- Free recognition of secondary school diplomas;
- Free recognition of higher education diplomas.

The scholarship within the Project **does not include:**

- Travel expenses for arrival and departure to and from the Republic of Serbia;
- Public city transportation costs within the Republic of Serbia;
- Costs for textbooks and study materials during the studies;

- Cost of exam registration fees and other administrative charges levied by higher education institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia (e.g. issuing fees for graduation certificates, diplomas and similar), as well as charges established by the student standard institutions (e.g. the cost of meal fob cards) in line with the law;
- Scholarship holders pay administrative fees for procedures under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in connection with temporary residence approval and the issue of a biometric residence card – tariff no. 1: application/requests RSD 420, tariff no. 37 issue of temporary residence permit, unique permit RSD 2,120. The above-mentioned administrative taxes are payable on the account of the Republic of Serbia Budget number 840-742221843-57, in line with the law;
- A fee of RSD 1,788 is payable for the issue of the biometric identity card, pursuant to the Regulation on the types of services provided by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the applicable fees (Official Gazette of the RS, nos. 51/19, 86/19 – other regulation, 80/22 and 8/24) which is payable to the Institute for Manufacturing Banknotes and Coins, account no. 980-333-07 reference no. 091101.

Conditions for receiving the Scholarship

A candidate may be eligible for a scholarship if they meet the following conditions:

- They are a citizen of a member state or observer state of the NAM.
- They have been nominated by the competent authority of the participating state in the Project.
- They are younger than:
 - 21 years old for enrolment in first-level studies – undergraduate academic studies, integrated academic studies, undergraduate vocational studies;
 - 25 years old for enrolment in first-level specialist vocational studies and second-level studies – master's academic studies, master's vocational studies, specialist academic studies;
 - 35 years old for enrolment in third-level studies – doctoral academic studies.
- They possess the appropriate educational qualifications:
 - For undergraduate academic/integrated/vocational studies: completed secondary education of four years' duration;
 - For master's academic studies (60 ECTS), a relevant higher education diploma from undergraduate academic studies with a minimum 240 ECTS credits, or a relevant four-year higher education diploma;
 - For master's academic studies (120 ECTS), a relevant higher education diploma from undergraduate academic studies with a minimum 180 ECTS credits;

- For doctorate academic studies: has finished undergraduate and master academic studies, or integrated studies with overall pass grade at 80% at undergraduate and master, or integrated studies;
- Knowledge of English at least at A1 level, or knowledge of Serbian at least at A1 level upon arrival.
- Be in overall good health.

Application Documentation

Documentation to be submitted by the candidate when applying:

- Curriculum Vitae with a motivational letter;
- Copy of the travel document (passport) – not translated; it is necessary that the travel document be valid for at least another 6 years at the date of submission for a visa;
- Proof of acquired education – transcripts of educational qualifications certified by an authorized person (secondary school certificates, diploma of completed secondary education – for enrolment in undergraduate studies, higher education diplomas – for enrolment in master's studies, higher education and master's diplomas – for enrolment in doctoral studies, and transcripts for both study levels and diploma supplements);
- Certificate of the average grade from the previous level of studies for enrolment in doctoral studies;
- Proof of proficiency in English or Serbian at a conversational level (certificate, attestation, confirmation, etc.);
- Health documentation, comprising:
 - 1) Proof of immunisation (vaccination). An extract from the official vaccination record or valid medical documentation is required, clearly indicating the vaccines administered, the number of doses received, and the dates of vaccination. The following vaccinations must be evidenced: tuberculosis, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella, Streptococcus pneumoniae, and Haemophilus influenzae.
 - 2) A medical certificate addressing: general state of health; chronic conditions; current treatment regimen (report of the relevant specialist physician, specifying the prescribed therapy); and a psychological / psychiatric assessment.
 - 3) Results of laboratory testing for the following communicable diseases: HIV; Hepatitis B; Hepatitis C; Tuberculosis (QUANTIFERON-TB test for the diagnosis of latent or active tuberculosis, or chest X-ray); and Malaria.

All health documentation must bear the signature and official stamp of a physician from a recognised health institution in the candidate's country of origin. All diagnoses must be recorded in Latin and coded in accordance with the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).

Note: Upon arrival in the Republic of Serbia, the Student Health Care Institute of Belgrade will verify the candidate's health documentation and, where necessary, conduct a general medical examination which may include appropriate clinical tests and analyses to assess the candidate's general state of health.

The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia reserves the right to decline a candidate's application where the health certification and documentation submitted cannot be verified by the Student Health Care Institute of Belgrade, or where the candidate's health state is incompatible with residency in shared accommodation and the fulfilment of scholarship obligations.

Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting application forms with supporting documentation is no later than 1st June 2026. Documentation that is not translated into English or Serbian will not be considered.

Candidates should submit their applications via the link https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevQItl0KUaeWDHfofPfa539kcV_T2Gb0fuoUiCOC1KkPbt5A/viewform?usp=header, and send the scanned original documentation, as well as translations into Serbian or English certified by an authorized person, to the email address worldinserbia@prosveta.gov.rs.

A copy of the original documentation, along with the completed and signed application form and a copy of the health certificate with the required test results, **should be submitted to the relevant institution in the candidate's country, in order to obtain formal endorsement.**

The list of endorsed candidates for the "World in Serbia" project scholarships should be submitted by the candidate's country's relevant institution to the competent diplomatic-consular mission of the Republic of Serbia. The relevant diplomatic-consular mission of the Republic of Serbia may propose a candidate not on the list of the candidate's country's institution, based on their assessment.

The competent diplomatic-consular mission of the Republic of Serbia will forward the list of endorsed candidates to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, which, after reviewing it, will send it to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Serbia.

Obligations of the Project Scholarship Recipient

The scholarship recipient is obligated to:

- Arrive in Belgrade between 15 October and 15 November;
- Bring the original documents (secondary school certificates, diplomas of higher education, master's diplomas, grade transcripts, and diploma supplements), translated into Serbian or English, upon arrival in the Republic of Serbia;
- Bring the original health documentation that contains all the above-mentioned documentation for application;
- Undergo a mandatory general medical examination, including appropriate clinical tests, conducted by the Student Health Care Institute of Belgrade upon arrival, to verify good general health.
- Pass the Serbian language examination prior to commencing studies at a higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia.
- Pass the entrance exam at the chosen faculty and complete the enrolment process.
- Attend all scheduled classes regularly and sit the prescribed examinations.
- Earn a minimum of 37 ECTS credits during the academic year within their enrolled programme of study, as required for budget-funded re-enrolment in the subsequent year. Doctoral scholarship recipients must additionally: pass the examinations prescribed for the relevant year; submit to the Ministry of Education confirmation of approval for research paper topics, research seminars, and similar activities planned within the study programme; and submit confirmation of the registered and/or approved doctoral dissertation topic;
- Comply with the laws and regulations of the Republic of Serbia and with the statutes and rules of the higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia;
- Comply with the Statutes of the Student's Standard Institutions founded by the Republic of Serbia or Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, including House Rules and Rules of Conduct;
- Monitor the validity of their travel document and apply for a renewal at least one year prior to expiry at the embassy or consular section of their country of citizenship;
- Regularise their temporary residence status and submit timely applications for renewal when the conditions prescribed by the Law on Foreigners (Official Gazette of the RS, nos. 24/18, 31/19, and 62/23) are met;
- Inform the Ministry of Education of all changes of material relevance to their scholarship status — including loss of student status, suspension of student rights and obligations, or withdrawal from studies — no later than 30 days after such changes occur;
- Return to the country that nominated them upon the completion of their studies.

Scholarship recipients on doctoral studies are obliged to:

- Pass the exams planned with the study programme for the respective year of study;
- Provide confirmation to the Ministry of Education that the topics for research papers, research seminars, etc, as planned within the study programme, have been approved;
- Provide confirmation to the Ministry of Education that they have submitted a doctoral dissertation topic or that their dissertation topic has been approved (considering that exams, research seminars, scientific research papers, and the dissertation carry a certain number of ECTS credits).

Reasons for Losing the Scholarship

A scholarship may be terminated if the scholarship recipient:

- Submitted documentation during the application process that is subsequently found to be inauthentic or fraudulent;
- Has their health documentation not verified by the Student Health Care Institute of Belgrade;
- Fails to pass the Serbian language examination with at least a minimum passing grade;
- Previously completed a cycle of studies in Serbia under the Project, was approved for a subsequent cycle, but failed to pass the entrance examination in both the first and second admissions periods for the following academic year;
- Enrolled in Serbian language classes from October 2026 to June 2027 but did not subsequently enrol in studies at a higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia for the 2027/2028 academic year;
- Failed to earn 37 ECTS credits during the academic year within the enrolled programme (as required for budget-funded re-enrolment in the next year of study), in accordance with the institution's applicable regulations;
- Failed to complete the cycle of studies for which the scholarship was awarded;
- Violated terms and conditions of the Scholarship Contract;
- Failed to notify the Ministry of Education within 30 days of any changes of material relevance to their scholarship status, including loss of student status, suspension of student rights and obligations, or withdrawal from studies;
- Committed a serious breach of student obligations as defined by the applicable general acts of the higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia and/or Student's Standard Institution, founded by the Republic of Serbia or Autonomous Province of Vojvodina;
- Disturbed public order and peace, contrary to the relevant legislation of the Republic of Serbia.

- Was convicted by a final and binding judgement to a custodial sentence of no less than six months, whether suspended or otherwise;
- Failed to regularise their residence status in accordance with the deadlines established by the Law on Foreigners (Official Gazette of the RS, nos. 24/18, 31/19, and 62/23);
- Behaved improperly or grossly violated the rules of study as established by the Statute of the higher education institution founded by the Republic of Serbia and the General acts of the Student's Standard Institution;
- Voluntarily renounced the scholarship.

Scholarship recipient enrolled in doctoral studies additionally forfeit their scholarship if they:

- fail to earn the 37 ECTS credits required for enrolling in the next academic year;
- fail to pass the remaining exams in the following academic year;
- fail to provide confirmation that the topics for their scientific research papers, research seminars, etc., have been approved as part of their study programme;
- fail to provide confirmation that they have registered their doctoral thesis topic or that their thesis topic has been approved;
- fail to defend their doctoral thesis within the legal timeframe.

General Provisions for Studying within the Project

Under the Project, a scholarship recipient may only pursue one study programme within a single cycle of studies.

Scholarship holders are required to earn a minimum of 37 ECTS credits during the academic year within their enrolled programme in order to re-enrol in the subsequent year as a budget-funded student under the Project, in accordance with the applicable regulations of the higher education institution.

A scholarship recipient who has earned at least 37 ECTS credits in each academic year retains entitlement to the scholarship for one additional academic year beyond the final year of the programme, pending completion of studies.

Students who have completed their chosen level of studies but who are required to undertake a medical or professional internship as a condition for the recognition of their diploma are entitled to a scholarship extension encompassing free accommodation, meals, health insurance, and a financial scholarship of RSD 18.000,00 per month, on the condition that they provide confirmation of their status as volunteers and confirm that they are not in paid employment during the internship period.

Students who have lost their scholarship entitlement may be reinstated as scholarship recipients in the following academic year, provided they earn 37 ECTS credits during the intervening academic year.

Scholarship recipients must remain enrolled in their original programme of study - transfer to a different programme within the framework of the Project is not permitted.

Upon completion of the level of studies for which they applied, scholarship recipients who wish to pursue studies at the next level may do so by applying under a new competition.

A scholarship recipient who, as a result of a serious illness during the academic year, is unable to earn the ECTS credits required for budget-funded re-enrolment, has the right to repeat the relevant year of study once while retaining their scholarship entitlement, subject to the submission of proof confirmation from a panel of physicians at the treating institution that the condition constitutes a serious illness — must be submitted to the higher education institution. Proof of suspended student rights and obligations must be submitted to the Ministry of Education by the end of the current academic year, or no later than 30 September.

During the repeated academic year, the scholarship recipient must pass the outstanding examinations and earn sufficient ECTS credits for re-enrolment in the subsequent year; failure to do so will result in the termination of scholarship support.

Scholarship recipients are required to seek information from the competent authorities regarding their rights and obligations in connection with the regulation of temporary residence in the Republic of Serbia.

Higher education institutions covered by the Project are required to submit progress reports on scholarship students to the Ministry of Education at least twice per year — within fifteen days of the conclusion of the winter and summer semesters respectively — upon request.

Higher education institutions covered by the Project are required to inform the Ministry of Education of all changes of material relevance to a scholarship recipient's status — including graduation, withdrawal from studies, and similar developments — no later than 30 days after such changes occur.

Nomination and Selection of Candidates

Each participating state is required to nominate candidates endorsed for a scholarship under the Project. All nominated candidates must meet the eligibility criteria.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs transmits to the Ministry of Education the lists of nominated candidates, together with the application forms of all applicants, no later than 10 June.

Following a formal review of submitted applications, the Minister responsible for education appoints, by administrative decision, a special inter-ministerial commission to review the documentation received from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to conduct the selection of

nominated candidates. The commission shall comprise representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Agency for Qualifications (ENIC/NARIC Centre), and the Student Health Care Institute of Belgrade. The decision establishing the commission shall also define its mandate and terms of reference.

The decision on the final list of endorsed candidates, adopted by the Minister responsible for education no later than 26 June, is transmitted by the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the purpose of notifying the relevant embassies and all applicants. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is required to notify all embassies in the period from 27 June to 4 July.

Expected Outcomes of Project Implementation

The successful implementation of the Project is expected to yield both short-term and long-term benefits for the Republic of Serbia, including:

- Positioning the Republic of Serbia as a modern, open European country, promoted by scholarship recipients who will become future leaders in the social, economic, and political life of their respective home countries;
- Strengthening and deepening friendship ties among young people from across the world;
- Facilitating intercultural exchange and learning among peers from different continents, fostering mutual understanding of diverse cultures and values, and increasing sensitivity to difference;
- Promoting the higher education system of the Republic of Serbia on the international stage;
- Promoting the cultural, scientific, economic, touristic, and other capacities of the Republic of Serbia.