

APPLICATION

2005-2006

PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING (P4L) UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM



PARTNERSHIP FOR LEARNING (P4L) UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM SUPPORTS ONE YEAR OF NON-DEGREE UNIVERSITY STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE FIELDS.

IN ADDITION TO COURSE WORK, STUDENTS PERFORM COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AND CONDUCT INTERNSHIPS.

THE COMPETITION IS OPEN TO CITIZENS OF:

- MACEDONIA
- BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
- SERBIA

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00 PM, JANUARY 14, 2005



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***A PROGRAM SPONSORED AND MANAGED BY
THE BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE***

Thank you for your interest in the Partnership for Learning (P4L) Undergraduate Program.

For more than half a century, the people of the United States have supported international educational and cultural exchange programs as an investment in global understanding and peace. Such exchange programs have a long track record of bringing future leaders from around the world to the United States—and of giving talented young Americans invaluable experiences and insights abroad.

As President George W. Bush has observed, “In today’s complex and rapidly changing global marketplace, our collective and individual prosperity relies increasingly on political, economic, and social cooperation that transcends traditional national and cultural barriers.” Academic and cultural exchange initiatives such as the Partnership for Learning (P4L) Undergraduate Program address this challenge by inviting talented students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Serbia to experience the U.S. educational system, upgrade their knowledge in their fields of study, and explore U.S. culture and values.

The Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) in the U.S. Department of State is responsible for the management and oversight of many of the U.S. government’s international exchanges. Underlying the role of exchanges in U.S. foreign policy is the belief that mutual understanding is of vital importance in an increasingly interdependent world, and that person-to-person exchange and training is the most effective way to promote mutual understanding. ECA also considers that international exchanges enhance the effectiveness of the United States in dealing with other nations, and that the exchange of persons and ideas is essential to the promotion of democracy, economic prosperity, international cooperation, peace and security around the world.

U.S. Embassy Office of Public Affairs in Skopje handles all aspects of “public diplomacy” for the United States Government. Public diplomacy covers a wide range of programs in the fields of press, information, culture, and education. Unlike diplomacy, which is conducted at the government-to-government level and out of public view, public diplomacy is an open communications process intended to foster government-to-people and people-to-people contacts and understanding.



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I. Program Description

The Government of the United States of America is pleased to announce the open competition for the **Partnership for Learning (P4L) Program** for the 2005-2006 academic year. The P4L Undergraduate Program is managed and funded by the **Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State (ECA)**. The United States Congress annually appropriates funds to finance U.S. Government exchange programs, and authorizes the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to oversee these funds.

Academic Program

The scholarship provides for one academic year of undergraduate, non-degree study in the United States in the humanities and social science fields.

Non-Academic Program Components:

In addition to the academic component, P4L Undergraduate Program participants are engaged in several non-academic components throughout the year. These are mandatory parts of the program and are as important and rewarding as the academic portions. They include:

- **Pre-Departure Orientation:** P4L Undergraduate Program participants must attend a pre-departure orientation (PDO) prior to departing to the United States. All parts of the PDO must be attended in their entirety.
- **Community Service:** In an effort to involve the P4L Undergraduate Program participants in their local communities while in the U.S., the students will be required to take part in community service activities. Students must provide 20 hours of volunteer service to local organizations throughout the academic year. Organizations may include soup kitchens, AIDS clinics, Habitat for Humanity (building houses for homeless or poor people), or environmental groups. Students may not receive stipends or salaries for their work. Students will be expected to write a summary report of their experiences and how they could possibly develop or work with community service organizations in their home countries.
- **Professional Internships:** Upon conclusion of the academic year, students will participate in a professional internship in their field of study and/or related to their career plans. Internships will be four to nine weeks, and may be paid or unpaid. Students must apply to and find their internships on their own, using the resources and assistance of their universities to aid them in this search. For students who receive unpaid internships, stipend support is available to pay for housing and meals. Students who do not find internships will return to their home country immediately after the end of the academic program.
- **End-of-Program Workshop in Washington, DC:** All students participating in internships will attend a workshop in Washington, DC prior to returning to their countries. The workshop must be attended in its entirety.

Financial Support

The P4L Undergraduate Program sponsors program-related domestic and international travel, tuition, room and board payments, accident/health insurance, cultural allowance, monthly stipend and course books.

II. Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for the program, applicants must:

- be a citizen of either Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, or Serbia;
- be enrolled as an undergraduate in the second or third year of study at the time of application;
- currently reside and study in his/her country of citizenship;
- be between the ages of 18 and 26;
- have a strong command of written and spoken English;
- be able to begin study in the United States in August 2005. Participants will **not** be allowed to defer until a later date;
- be able to receive and maintain the U.S. student exchange visa (J-1) required for this program.
- receive a score of 550 or more on the TOEFL test (or TEP equivalent).

Individuals will **not** be eligible to participate in the program if they are:

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the United States;
- Individuals currently participating in academic, training or research programs in the United States;
- Individuals currently residing or working outside the three participating countries.
- Individuals who have participated in an exchange visitor program sponsored or funded by the U.S. government (e.g. U.S. Department of State, Public Affairs Sections at U.S. Embassies or other U.S. government agency) for a period of more than six weeks and who have not fulfilled their two-year home residency requirement by the time of application;
- Individuals who have applied for U.S. permanent residency in the past three years;
- Local employees of the U.S. missions abroad who work for the U.S. Department of State are ineligible for grants during the period of their employment and for one year following the termination of employment;
- Immediate families (i.e. spouses and dependent children) of U.S. Department of State employees for a period of one year following the termination of such employment. This provision does not disqualify self-supporting members of families who live apart from their parents;
- Persons arrested for, charged with, or convicted of a crime (excluding minor traffic violations).

Opportunities to conduct independent research will not be provided on this academic exchange.

The P4L Undergraduate Program does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national and ethnic origin, handicap, or disability.

III. Participant Responsibility

Individuals participating in the P4L Undergraduate Program are required to uphold the academic standards of the host institution and the program, and undertake full-time study for the duration of the program. Failure to maintain academic standards or meet the goals of the program may result in the participants' dismissal from the program. Students will perform at least 20 hours of community service during the academic year and submit a written report of their experiences. Students will carry out a professional internship during the summer after the end of the academic program, and attend an end-of-program workshop in Washington, DC. Under the terms of the grant and under the laws governing the student visa required for participation, students must return to their home country immediately upon completion of the program.

Students will be placed in groups of two to three at colleges and universities throughout the United States that are selected through a competitive process. Students **will not** be able to select their own placement. Students will take courses in their fields of study as well as classes outside their major fields. Students will live in university dormitories and will have the opportunity to participate in campus organizations and activities.

IV. Instructions for Applying to the P4L Undergraduate Program.

Read all instructions and information carefully before completing the application. Neatness is important. Before filling out the original application, answer the questions on a separate sheet of paper.

All forms in this application are to be completed in English and must be typewritten or hand printed in blue or black ink. To be considered for evaluation, each applicant **MUST** include:

- Pages 1 through 6 of the application. Every question must be answered completely and carefully. Please make every effort, however, to limit yourself to the space provided;
- Detailed essay question;
- Two letters of recommendation with certified translations, if necessary. One recommendation **must** be completed by an instructor or advisor from the student's university, and must be certified with the official university seal. The other recommendation can be from another instructor, an employer, coach, colleague, former exchange program coordinator or host family. Recommendations cannot be from family members or friends.
- Official undergraduate transcripts with certified English translations. The grades and translations must be printed on official university stationery, signed by a dean or equivalent official, and certified with the official university seal.

The contents of transcripts and recommendations will be verified with the appropriate institutions and instructors. Applications containing false information or lacking **any** of the above items will **not** be considered.

Submit one original copy of the application form and attachments (transcripts and recommendations) and **two copies**. Keep a third copy for your records.

V. Application Deadline

Applications must be received by the Office of Public Affairs in Skopje, Macedonia by **5 p.m. on January 14, 2005** at the below address. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.**

US Embassy Skopje
Office of Public Affairs
Bul. Ilinden bb,
1000 Skopje
Macedonia

VI. Selection Process

Competition for the P4L Undergraduate Program is open and merit-based. Selection committees of specialists in international education will review completed applications for candidates meeting the eligibility requirements. The committee will designate semi-finalists to be interviewed and tested for English language proficiency (the Institutional Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)). Another selection committee in Washington D.C. will evaluate test scores and interview reports, and choose finalists and alternates. Finalists and alternates will be required to fill out a medical report form and take any necessary vaccines **at their own cost**. Participation in this program is contingent on availability of funding.