



AMERICA FOR BULGARIA
FOUNDATION
Фондация Америка за България

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION

America for Bulgaria Foundation - Bulgarian Young Leaders Program

The America for Bulgaria Foundation is pleased to announce the launch of the Bulgarian Young Leaders Program (BYLP), administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The program aims to identify Bulgarian undergraduate students of exceptional caliber and promising environmental protection professionals and provide them with unique scholarship and leadership training in the United States. ABF believes that the Bulgarian Young Leaders Program will not only train individuals to become catalysts for Bulgaria's continuous civil society development and economic growth, but that it will also increase mutual understanding and ongoing collaboration between young and aspiring leaders in the U.S. and Bulgaria.

The America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) assists in the development and growth of a vibrant private sector for the benefit of a free and democratic Bulgaria. It was established in 2008 to contribute to Bulgaria's continued prosperity as a modern, free market democracy. The America for Bulgaria Foundation (ABF) is a successor to the Bulgarian American Enterprise Fund, an investment fund created by the U.S. government acting through the U.S. Agency for International Development. The grants provided by ABF will build on the legacy of goodwill and friendship that exists between the American and Bulgarian people. The BYLP incorporates three major components, outlined below:

1) Summer Entrepreneurship Program (SEP)

The Summer Entrepreneurship Program (SEP) provides short-term, non-degree experiential learning opportunity for 30 undergraduate students from all accredited universities in Bulgaria in their second or third year of study. In the course of five weeks of entrepreneurship training and leadership development (July-August 2010) selected students will have the opportunity to study at leading U.S. universities and interact with U.S. executives, entrepreneurs, and American peers. In addition, as part of the program, participants will be developing life plans and business plans. These plans will serve as a blueprint for how the students will apply what they have learned upon their return to Bulgaria.

SEP Eligibility Requirements:

- *Applicants must be Bulgarian citizens who currently reside and study in Bulgaria.*
- *Applicants must have completed at least two years of undergraduate study at an accredited university in Bulgaria before participating in SEP (applications take place in the second or third year of study).*
- *Applicants must have a proven record of high academic achievement.*
- *Applicants must be fluent in English.*

- *Applicants must be able to demonstrate leadership skills and an aptitude for entrepreneurship.*
- *Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in global citizenship while also demonstrating a strong interest in giving back to their country and community.*

Application deadline for SEP: February 22nd, 2010.

2) U.S. Academic Immersion Program (USAIP)

The U.S. Academic Immersion Program is a one-year, non-degree academic program which provides yearlong scholarships at U.S. universities and colleges for 10 to 20 outstanding Bulgarian undergraduate students in their second or third year of study. USAIP provides an opportunity for talented young leaders to gain first-hand knowledge of U.S. culture, society and education, after which they will return to Bulgaria to complete their Bulgarian university degree. Selected applicants will receive a scholarship fully covering the tuition, room and board, living stipend, book allowance and international and domestic travel expenses, as well as academic monitoring for academic year 2010/2011 spent at one of the pre-approved leading U.S. universities.

USAIP Eligibility Requirements:

- *Applicants must be Bulgarian citizens who currently reside and study in Bulgaria.*
- *Applicants must have completed at least one year of undergraduate study at an accredited university in Bulgaria before applying (applications take place in second or third year of study).*
- *Applicants must have a proven record of high academic achievement.*
- *Applicants may be in any field of study provided that their English language skills are strong enough to enable them to pursue their academic program in the U.S.*
- *Applicants must demonstrate a strong interest in global citizenship while also demonstrating a strong interest in giving back to their country and community.*

Application deadline for USAIP: February 22nd, 2010.

3) Junior Environmental Professionals Training Program (JEPTP)

The Junior Environmental Professionals Training Program targets junior environmental professionals from the Ministry of Environment and Waters in Bulgaria, related agencies and NGOs working on environmental issues. This 21-day program will offer a U.S. based professional training to a selected cohort of up to 20 junior environmental professionals with leadership potential. The program focuses on public-private partnership in the environmental sector. Program participants will visit key federal and state environmental agencies and meet with environmental leaders in Washington D.C., Miami (Florida), Denver and Boulder (Colorado), and San Francisco (California).

JEPTP Eligibility Requirements:

- *Applicants must be Bulgarian citizens who currently work and reside in Bulgaria.*
- *Applicants must be employees of the Ministry of Environment and Waters in Bulgaria and other related agencies or environmental NGOs.*
- *Applicants must have up to ten years of relevant professional experience.*
- *Applicants must have a strong interest in giving back to their community.*

- *Applicants must have the potential for future leadership and support of their home agency.*

Application deadline for JEPTP: January 18th, 2010.

For more information on program description and application documents, please visit www.iie.eu (click on "Scholarship Programs" and then select "Bulgarian Young Leaders Program") or contact Ms. Elena Hadjisotirova, Consultant - Institute of International Education, European Office at e-mail: bylp@iie.eu or ehadjisotirova@iie.eu