



# January 2024 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH  
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo

- **Balkan Language Initiative (BLI) Program**
- **YES Abroad**
- **YES Alumni**



# Balkan Language Initiative (BLI)

## Ryan's Arrival to Sarajevo

We are thrilled to announce the arrival of another language enthusiast, Ryan Boles! He is ready to embark on a four-month journey in the heart of Sarajevo through the Balkan Language Initiative Program!

Amidst the winter chill, Ryan embarked on an exciting journey to join us for a transformative four-month program.

With eagerness and curiosity, Ryan has already begun immersing in the vibrant culture and rich history of Sarajevo.



# Balkan Language Initiative (BLI)

## National Museum Visit

Ryan kicked off his Sarajevo adventure with a fascinating trip to the National Museum. Inside, he soaked in centuries of Bosnian history, from ancient artifacts to modern art.

The visit to the National Museum marked the beginning of Ryan's cultural exploration in Sarajevo, igniting a passion for discovery that will undoubtedly shape his program experience.



# Balkan Language Initiative (BLI)

## Meeting with YES Abroad Students and Staff

A week after Ryan arrived, YES Abroad students and staff met and shared experiences in Bosnia and Herzegovina with Ryan!



One highlight? Witnessing brave Ryan, drinking water from Bašćaršija, igniting the legendary belief that he will return someday!

We're certain that the unforgettable experiences and deep connections made here will ensure our student's return in the future!



# Balkan Language Initiative (BLI)

## What made Ryan Apply for the Program in Bosnia?

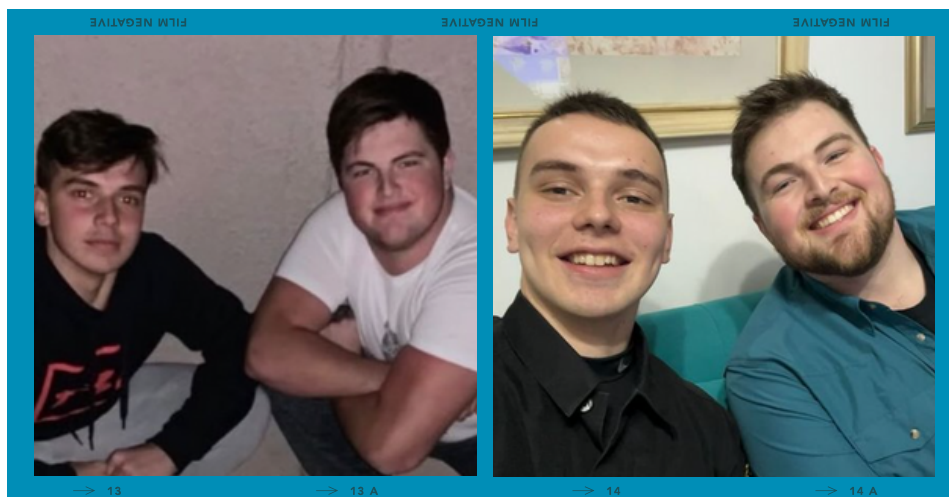
If you are wondering what made Ryan apply for the Balkan Language Initiative program, read the following passage about friendship and lifelong bonds:

A few years ago, Amel, a bright Bosnian student from Sarajevo, embarked on a life-changing journey to the USA through the YES program. Little did he know destiny had a special friendship in store for him. In his host state, Amel met Ryan. Their connection was instant, transcending borders and cultural differences. Despite the miles that would eventually separate them and the COVID-19 pandemic, their bond remained unbreakable.

Fast forward to today, and their story comes full circle. Ryan, fueled by his desire to reunite with his Bosnian friend, applied to the BLI program. This time, his destination? Sarajevo, the very city where Amel resides.

As Ryan explores the streets of Sarajevo, immersing himself in its rich culture and history, he finds solace in the familiar presence of his Bosnian friend.

Let's celebrate the countless friendships and endless possibilities that our exchange programs foster!



# YES Abroad

## YES Abroad Alumnus Ayush Visits Sarajevo

In January we met up with one of our YES Abroad alumni, Ayush, who was on the program in Sarajevo in 2019-2020!

Ayush was in town visiting his host family and friends for the first time since 2020! It was lovely catching up and also having our current YES Abroad cohort meet up with Ayush and share tips and experiences!



# YES Abroad

## Mid-Year Orientation

In January, the YES Abroad cohort in BiH was immersed in their mid-year orientation at Mt. Igman, symbolizing the end of the initial five months of their program journey.

Students were engaging in activities to ponder the experiences of the first half, chart goals for the remaining program year, and gear up for a successful second half.



# YES Abroad

## Spanish Lessons by Valeria

In January, YES Abroad student Valeria began hosting lively Spanish lessons at the American Corner. With enthusiasm and flair, Valeria brings the vibrancy of the Spanish language and culture to our community.

Through interactive activities and engaging discussions, participants immersed themselves in the beauty of Español, expanding their horizons and embracing new perspectives.

*Thank you, Valeria!*



**SPANISH LESSON**

*Valeria Martinez*

Learn about Mexican culture, a chance to learn some Spanish, & participate in activities!  
Anyone can Join @ American Corner

18.01.2024 & 25.01.2024  
TIME: 13.00

AMERICAN CORNERS BIH SARAJEVO

Kennedy-Lugar Youth YES to Study



# YES Abroad

## Visiting National Museum with Bosnian2Go

BCS language teachers from the language school “Bosnian2Go” recently joined YES Abroad students on a trip to the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They also visited the Museum of Literature and Performing Arts, and the goal was to explore as many of the city’s museums as possible as part of outside-of-the-classroom enhancement activities.



# YES Alumni

## Journal Through Our Feelings

On January 27, City Representative Silma Jahic '22 and Alumni Coordinator Mia Krcum '22 held the third part of a three-part project called Journal Through Our Feelings. They were joined by five YES Abroad students. They shared their journal entries to show off the skills they learned during the workshop.



**Thank You for Reading Our  
Monthly Newsletter!**

