



# August 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH  
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



- YES PY 2024-25 Applications Open!
- World Exchange Day
- Balkan Language Initiative Summer Programs Conclude
- YES Abroad Arrival and Orientation Activities
- YES PY 2023-24 Departure
- Russian Language Training and Cultural Immersion Program

# YES PY 2024-25

## YES Applications Open

In August, online applications for YES PY 2024-25 opened. With that, we started working on promoting the YES program and providing detailed instructions on applying for the program. American Council's staff posted a series of promotional and educational materials, resulting in numerous online applications sparking interest from high school students across BiH.



### HOW TO APPLY FOR THE YES PROGRAM STEP-BY-STEP



### ROUND 1 ONLINE APPLICATION

- Create your account on [ais.americancouncils.org/yes](https://ais.americancouncils.org/yes)
- Sign personal data consent
- Start your application,
- Provide your biographical information, and
- Answer 3 essay questions.
- Submit your application within 10 days upon start!
- Deadline is the October 24, 2023!



### ROUND 2 ENGLISH TEST

- After submitting your application, you will receive an email with a link to take an online 15-minute English language test.



### ROUND 3 FINAL ROUND

- Selected students will take a longer English proficiency test, have an individual interview and answer more essay questions.
- This round will take place in November.



# World Exchange Day

On August 7, we celebrated World Exchange Day – an opportunity for international exchange participants and host communities to come together to share cultural diversity and American customs and to give back to their communities.

This day marks the occasion to raise awareness of exchange programs that give opportunities to learn, live, and work with others from different cultures. Moving people across borders for educational, professional, or cultural purposes benefits individuals and communities alike!

Join us in raising awareness of the power and breadth of international exchanges.

[#ExchangesImpact](#)





# Balkan Language Initiative

## Online and In-Person Summer Programming Concludes

In early and mid-August, we said goodbye to the in-person summer Balkan Language Program participant Sydney and online participants Logan and Melinda.

We wish them all a lot of luck in the future, and we hope to meet everyone again in Sarajevo!





# YES Abroad

## YES Abroad PY 2023-24 Arrival

In August, we welcomed the twelfth generation of YES Abroad students to Bosnia and Herzegovina!

Over the next ten months, these five students from the U.S. will live with host families, attend local high schools, learn BCS, and more, including lots about Bosnian culture and history.

We welcomed Benjamin, Binisha, Delaney, Savannah, and Valeria at the Sarajevo Airport on August 18 with their host families and YES alumni coordinator Mia and YES alumni intern Silma.

Dobro nam došli!



# YES Abroad

## Arrival Orientation

On the 1st day of their arrival orientation on August 19, the five students felt jet-lagged and tired but were still positive and ready to tackle the program arrival activities.



Throughout the first week, upon their arrival, they started their BCS language lessons and explored their host community in Sarajevo.

Together with YES alumni Silma and Mia ('22) they started their scavenger hunt. They visited various landmarks around Sarajevo and got to know the city better.





# YES Abroad





# YES Abroad

## A Warm Welcome at Četvrta gimnazija

The academic year 2023/24 marks the seventh year of YES Abroad students attending the host school Četvrta Gimnazija in Ilidža.

We are proud of our years-long cooperation with this host institution and wish this year's program participants, Binisha, Valeria, and Delaney, lots of academic success!

Thanks to the wonderful school staff for welcoming our students this year!



# YES PY 2023-24 Departure

On August 8, this year's first YES program participant from BiH, Lamija, set off for her year on the program in the U.S.! Good luck, Lamija, and make the best of your year abroad!

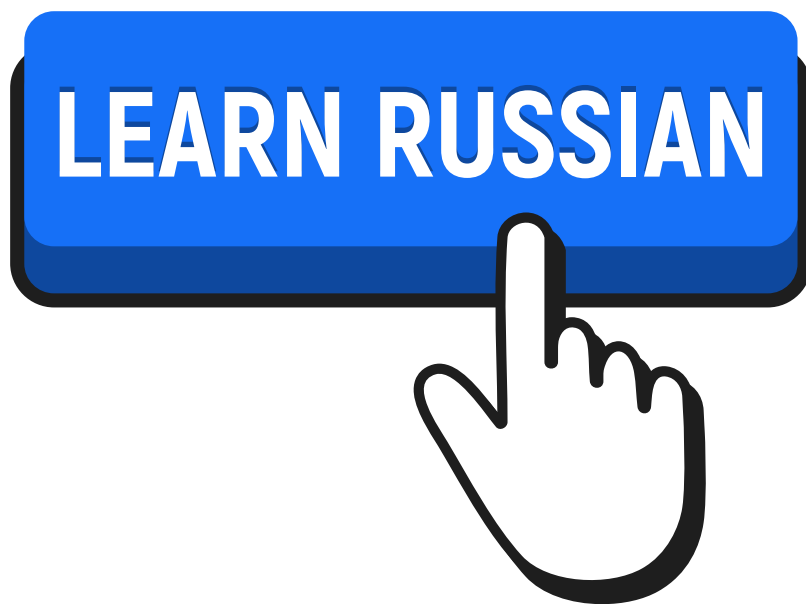
After that, on August 23, another 19 students departed for their journey to the U.S.

This was the 15th generation of YES students heading from Bosnia and Herzegovina to the U.S. since the program's launch here in 2008.



## Russian Language Training and Cultural Immersion Program

For the second time this year, we host a Russian Language Training and Cultural Immersion Program participant, who will spend two months in Sarajevo. During his time here, the participant will learn the Russian language in an intensive course, learn more about the Russian culture through these classes, learn about the Bosnian culture, and visit different cities and locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina!





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

