



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Bosnia and Herzegovina Host School FAQ

When does the school year begin and end?

The school year runs from early September to early June and is divided into 2 semesters.

What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?

School classes are held during working days, from Monday through Friday. At some schools, classes are held only in the morning (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.), and at the others in the afternoon (1 p.m. – 7 p.m.). However, it is also possible to have classes one week in the morning and the other week in the afternoon.

In what type of school will I be enrolled?

It is most likely that you will go to the Gymnasium (college prep school).

In what grade level will I be enrolled?

AFS BiH tries to place AFSers with students their same age, though it cannot be guaranteed (i.e. 16-year-olds are usually placed in the 2nd year of secondary school).

Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?

Students visiting 1st or 2nd grade usually have following subjects:

Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and literature, two foreign languages, Math, Informatics, Sport, Psychology, Sociology, Music, Art, Geography, History, Chemistry, Biology and Physics.

Students visiting 3rd or 4th grade can choose between 4 directions in the most of gymnasiums in BiH:

- a) Natural Sciences: chemistry, biology and physics;
- b) Math and Informatics: math, informatics and physics;
- c) Languages: English, German, French/Spanish/Italian, Latin;
- d) Social Sciences: Geography, History and Sociology.

Obligatory subjects for all directions in these two grades are: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and literature, two foreign languages + Latin, Math, Sport, Psychology or Philosophy, Sociology, World religions.



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

Bosnia and Herzegovina Host School FAQ

In what language will classes be taught?

With the exception of foreign language classes, all classes are in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language.

How will I get to school (walking, bus, train, etc.)?

Depending on how far school is from your home, you can walk or use the public transportation. AFS BIH covers the costs of public transportation to school, if needed.

Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?

Uniforms are not required. AFS Bosnia and Herzegovina will provide school books which you will need to return after the program end. You will need to buy notebooks, pens and similar.

Are extra-curricular activities available such as sports, music, or art?

School clubs and activities such as music, sports, art, and drama sections are mostly held on Saturdays. Apart from regular school life, many schools organize one-day or one-weekend school trips inside of Bosnia and Herzegovina or to the neighboring countries. As an exchange student you have the option to participate in these trips, but you should be prepared to bring along sufficient funds for this trip, since it will not be refunded by AFS.

Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?

Because exchange students are not officially enrolled in the educational system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, schools cannot provide them with official grades. However, some schools allow hard-working students to write final exams and receive an unofficial transcript. As long as AFSers attend school regularly, they should be able to receive a certificate of attendance from their school.

Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?

The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the U.S. so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS does not have any influence over obtaining academic credit for your studies abroad and cannot assist you with course or grade information for your time on program.