



Connecting Lives, Sharing Cultures

## Serbia Host School FAQ

### **When does the school year begin and end?**

The school- year starts on the first Monday of September and lasts until late June. These 10 months are divided in two semesters. There are also some school holidays which last a week at the end of October, around Christmas and New Year, at the end of February, and at the beginning of May.

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

Students go to school from Monday to Friday. Many schools work in two shifts, so half the students go to school in the morning (8am to 2pm) and the other half go in the afternoon (2pm to 8pm). Students may change shifts weekly or monthly. Classes last 45 minutes. There are 5 minute breaks between the classes and one 20 minute break, usually after the second or third period.

### **In what type of school will I be enrolled?**

There are two types of schools in Serbia. You will most likely be placed in an academic state school, which helps prepare students for university and offers general subjects such as languages, mathematics, sciences and social studies. The other type of school is vocational and it helps students get into trained professions (nursing, accounting, technical, etc.)

### **In what grade level will I be enrolled?**

Depends on the school, but usually in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year of high school (10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade) as most exchange students are 16 or 17 years old. If a student is older, they can be placed in 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

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

Students in Serbian schools have about 15 subjects, depending on the type of school and the year they are in. They have most subjects 2-3 times a week. All the subjects are mandatory. However, it is possible to arrange with the school for the exchange student to attend only certain subjects and learn Serbian or take part in some other school activity during the other classes.

In the general high school, the subjects are Serbian, English and another foreign language (French, German, Russian, Italian, and Spanish), History, Geography, Art, Music, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Math, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. In professional schools, students have a combination of general subjects and specialized subjects (economics, technical, nursing, etc.)



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### **In what language will classes be taught?**

All classes will be taught in Serbian, with the exception of languages.

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

With public transportation or private car.

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

No.

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

Most schools have a number of activities that students can engage in – drama club, debate club, choir, and foreign language club. In all towns there are local sports clubs and gyms or swimming pools, where students can practice. Exchange students who like dancing and music could join a Serbian folk dance group or a choir.

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

All the schools will issue certificate of attendance and it is possible also to get the transcript - this will depend on the effort of the student.

### **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.