



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA

Profile: School-Year 2020-2021



STUDENTS: ACS's student population of 901 is 97% Bulgarian (with 15% of students coming from outside Sofia), and 3% international students who represent 10 other countries. There are 166 students in the Class of 2021. Admission to ACS for Bulgarians is based on the results of an entrance examination taken in the spring of 7th grade in Bulgarian language, mathematics and analytical skills. Knowledge of English is not required. Each year the highest scoring 180 students in the country are admitted to the College. Last year, 37% of applicants who applied to the College were admitted, and 73% of the admitted students enrolled. Admitted students then spend a full "prep" year studying English. International and Bulgarian students who have studied abroad are admitted on the basis of English proficiency and a strong academic record in their previous school. Annual tuition for students is 7,000 Euros. All families who require financial assistance may apply, and about 29% of the students in the entering prep class received a reduction in tuition fees.

STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM:

All ACS courses are advanced college/university-preparatory level, as the pace and depth is necessary in order for them to achieve the two diplomas and pass the final examinations. ACS has five academic grades: 8th or "prep" grade (in which emphasis is placed on intensive English training) and the four high school grades, 9th-12th. All students earn an American High School Diploma. Bulgarian students also earn the Bulgarian Diploma, the curriculum for which is largely dictated by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, and international students also earn the IB Diploma. A summary of ACS students' weekly academic schedule by grade level is charted below. In grades 9-10 all courses are taught in English except Bulgarian and foreign languages. During grades 11-12 all courses are taught in English except Bulgarian language and literature, foreign languages, Bulgarian geography and Bulgarian history (in grade 12). Profiles are areas of academic concentration in which students go into more depth as well as breadth. We offer a wide selection of profiled education in the following areas: Math, Software & Hardware Technologies, Humanitarian Sciences, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences and Entrepreneurship. ACS also offers select SAT and AP preparation electives to familiarize students with standardized testing.

GRADES AND RANKING-RATING POLICIES:

As a matter of policy, ACS does not rank or rate students. All academic courses receive grades of 2-6 according to the standards noted in the chart below. A 6.0 is the highest possible GPA. All academic courses are taught at an advanced college/university-preparatory level, and students are required to maintain a 4.50 average or above. Students who earn a semester GPA of 5.50-5.89 are placed on the Honor Roll. Students with a GPA of 5.90-6.00 are placed on the President's List. In the event of a tie for highest GPA, the student with the most electives/credits is named Class Valedictorian at the end of the 12th grade year.



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INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE (IB) PROGRAM: At ACS, the IB program is available only to international students. The Class of 2020 is the 14th ACS class to have its International members graduating with either an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or subject specific certificates, as well as the American High School Diploma. In 2020 seven seniors earned the full IB diploma with an average score of 33.

CURRICULUM & Periods per Week	8th grade (Prep):	9th grade:	10th grade:	11th grade:	12th grade:
English (Profile #1)	20	6	5	5.5	6
Bulgarian	4	3	3.5	3	5
Mathematics (Profile #2)	3	3	3	5	5
Biology		2.5	2	2	
Chemistry		2.5	2	2	
Physics		2.5	2	2	
Foreign Language		2	2	2	3
History		4	3.5	2	2
Geography		2	2.5	1.5	1
Philosophy	1	1	2	1.5	2
Physical Science	1				
Computers	3	1	0.5	1.5	2
Physical Education	3	3	3	3	3
Art	0.5	0.5	0.5		
Music	0.5	0.5	0.5		
Electives		2	4	4	4
Student Selected Profile		1.5	1	2	3
Total Hours Per Week:	36	37	37	37	36

GRADING SYSTEM	
6 (A)	Excellent (91.5-100%)
5 (B)	Very Good (80.5-91.4%)
4 (C)	Satisfactory (70.5-80.4%)
3 (D)	Needs Improvement (59.5-70.4%)
2 (F)	Unsatisfactory (0-59.4%)
Class of 2021	MEAN GPA
Prep Year	5.44
9th Grade	5.55
10th Grade	5.68
11th Grade	5.59

SAT Class of 2021 Scores from Dec. 2019 & Oct. 2020	Average # of students testing	Median Score
Total	50	1400
ERW (Evidence-based Reading & Writing)	50	680
Mathematics	50	730
Subject Tests Class of 2021 Scores from Oct. 2019 - Oct. 2020	Number of Students	Median Score
Biology Ecology	3	610
Chemistry	1	770
English Literature	2	580, 670
French with Listening	1	750
Biology Molecular	1	770
Math I	1	730
Math II	6	690
Physics	2	550, 730
World History	1	740



AP Exams (10th-12th graders) 2020 Exams with 5 or more students	# of test takers	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5
Percent of total exams (63 exams)	47 students	22%	37%	27%
Computer Science A	6	0	1	3
Calculus BC	6	1	0	5
Biology	11	5	2	0
Physics 1	6	1	3	1
Macro/Microeconomics	11/6	3/1	4/1	3/2
Psychology	5	1	2	1

CREATIVITY-ACTION-SERVICE (CAS) PROGRAM and SENIOR INDEPENDENT HONORS PROJECTS (SIHP):

Following the IB CAS model, all ACS students are required to complete 75 hours of extracurricular involvement each year within the areas of creativity (planning and organization of projects), action (active involvement), and service-related activities. As seniors, students may choose to complete CAS and/or SIHP. Senior Independent Honors Projects require a professional and teacher sponsor, research essay, and presentation of the project's outcomes. Students who elect to complete a SIHP do work above and beyond ACS's graduation requirements.



HISTORY: The American College of Sofia (ACS) is one of the oldest American educational institutions outside the United States, tracing its roots to a boys' school founded in 1860 at Plovdiv and a girls' school founded in 1863 at Stara Zagora. The school was shut down in 1942 by the Bulgarian government and reopened its doors to a preparatory class of 100 students in September 1992. ACS is among the top private college preparatory schools in the Balkans. Admission is highly selective. Integrating the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Europe, we seek to develop critical thinking, lifelong intellectual curiosity, leadership, and collaboration among multi-talented students of various social, cultural, economic, and geographic backgrounds. ACS graduates are accepted into some of the most prestigious universities in the U.S. and Europe and are valued critical thinkers and problem solvers able to set clear goals and achieve them. They are engaged in social issues and are able to compete with outstanding students world-wide. We provide a rigorous university preparatory education to motivated young people and are fully accredited by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, as well as the International Baccalaureate Organization. Currently the IB Diploma Program is only available to non-Bulgarian international students. The majority of students receive both a Bulgarian diploma and an American diploma. The ACS curriculum is rigorous and all courses are taught in English at an advanced college/university preparatory level.

ACCREDITATION: ACS is an approved secondary school under the auspices of the Bulgarian Ministry of Education, and all graduates receive Bulgarian diplomas, whether or not they have met ACS's criteria for the American diploma. ACS is fully accredited with the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and the International Baccalaureate Organization.



COLLEGE MATRICULATION: On average, 98% of ACS seniors apply to non-Bulgarian colleges and universities each year. ACS students from the classes of 2013–2019 have attended undergraduate programs in the following colleges and universities, oftentimes having been awarded significant scholarship or financial aid from US institutions:

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN

Aberdeen
Abertay
Aberystwyth
Anglia Ruskin
Arts Inst.
Bournemouth
U of Arts London
Aston
Bangor
Bath
Bedfordshire
Birkbeck
Birmingham
Birmingham City
Bournemouth
Brighton
Bristol
Brunel
Cambridge
Cardiff
Chester
City, U of London
Courtauld Inst. of Art
Coventry
U for Creative Arts
DeMonfort
Dundee
Derby
Durham
U East anglia
East London U
Edinburgh
Essex
Exeter
Falmouth Coll. of Arts
Glasgow
Glasgow Cal. U.
Glasgow Schl. of Art
Goldsmiths
Greenwich
Guildhall School
Heriot-Watt
Hertfordshire
Huddersfield
Hull
IFS School of Finance
Imperial
Keele
Kent
King's College
London
Kingston
Lancaster
Leeds
Leeds Met. U.
Leicester
Lincoln
Liverpool
London College
Fashion
London Met. U.
LSE
London Southbank U.

Loughborough
Manchester
Manchester Met. U.
Middlesex
newcastle
Northampton
Northumbria
Nottingham
Nottingham Trent
Oxford Brookes
Oxford
Plymouth
Portsmouth
Queen Margaret U. C.
Queen Mary U.
London
Queen's U. Belfast
Reading
Regents Business
School
Richmond
Robert Gordon U
Roehampton
Royal Holloway
Salford
Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam
SOAS
South Wales
Southampton
Southampton Solent
St. Andrews
Stirling
Strathclyde
Sunderland
Surrey
Sussex
Swansea
Teesside
UCL
Warwick
West Eng. Bristol
Westminster
West Scotland Paisley
Wolverhampton
York

CONTINENTAL EUROPE & ASIA

Amsterdam UC
Bocconi
BHMS (Switzerland)
Delft
Ecole Pol. Lausanne
Eindhoven
Erasmus
ESSEC France
ESCP Europe
EU Barcelona
Frankfurt SM
Groningen
Hanze
The Hague UC
Heidelberg U

Hotel Inst. Montreux
Hotelschool Den Haag
Humboldt U Berlin
IE U
Inst. Eur. Design Italy
Jacobs U Bremen
Leiden
Maastricht UC
Modul
Moscow State Inst. IR
NABA Milano
Radboud
UC Roosevelt
Saxion
TBS Barcelona
TU Muenchen
Tilburg
Twente
UC Utrecht
Sorbonne
Utrecht U
VU Amsterdam
Webster Vienna
Nagoya U
Medical U Sofia
Nat'l Acad. Art BG
Sofia U

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Albany Coll. of Pharm.
Amherst College
Bard
Barnard
CUNY Baruch
Berklee C. of Music
Binghamton
Boston U
Brandeis
Brown
Bryn Mawr
Cal. C. of Arts
Carnegie Mellon
Carroll U
Case Western Reserve
Chapman
U Chicago
Colby
Colgate
Colorado State
U Colorado
Columbia
Corcoran C of Art
Cornell
Dartmouth
DePauw
Dickinson
Drew
Drexel
Duquesne
Earlham
Emerson
Emory

Fairleigh Dickinson
U Florida
Fl. Inst. of Tech.
Florida Southern
Florida Int'l U
Fordham
Franklin & Marshall
Furman
Georgetown
Ga. Inst. of Tech.
George Washington U
Grinnell
Hamilton
Harvard
Haverford
Houston U
Hofstra
Ill. Inst. of Tech.
Indian U Bloomington
Johns Hopkins
U Kansas
Keiser U
Kenyon
Kettering U
Lafayette
Lehigh
Lewis and Clark
Lynn U
Macalester
Mars Hill U
MCPHS
U Massachusetts
MIT
U Miami
Middlebury
Michigan
Millsaps
Minerva
Mt. Holyoke
New College of Fl.
UNC Chapel Hill
UNH Durham
Northeastern
Northwestern
Notre Dame
The New School
New Schl. Jazz
SUNY Buffalo
NYU
NYU Abu Dhabi
Occidental
Ohio Northern
Ohio Wesleyan
Oregon State
Pasadena City College
Pace
Parsons NYC
U Pennsylvania
Pepperdine
Pomona
Pratt
Princeton
Ramapo College of NJ
RISD
Rice

U Richmond
U Rochester
Rochester IT
Rutgers
U San Francisco
San Diego State
Santa Monica College
SCAD
SAIC
Schl. of Mus. of FA
Smith
Sewanee
USC
St. John's College
St. John's U
Stanford
Suffolk
Swarthmore
Syracuse
Tampa
Temple
U Texas Austin
Trinity College, CT
Tufts
UC Berkeley
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
U La Verne
Utica
Vanderbilt
Vassar
Villanova
UVA
Washington & Lee
U Washington
Wellesley
Wesleyan
West Virginia U
Whitworth
Whittier
William & Mary
Williams
WPI
Yale

USA ABROAD

AU Bulgaria
AU Paris
John Cabot
NYU Abu Dhabi
Yale-NUS

CANADA

UBC
Concordia
McGill
Ryerson
U Toronto
Western
York