



The American College of Sofia

Tuition Reduction Information Packet



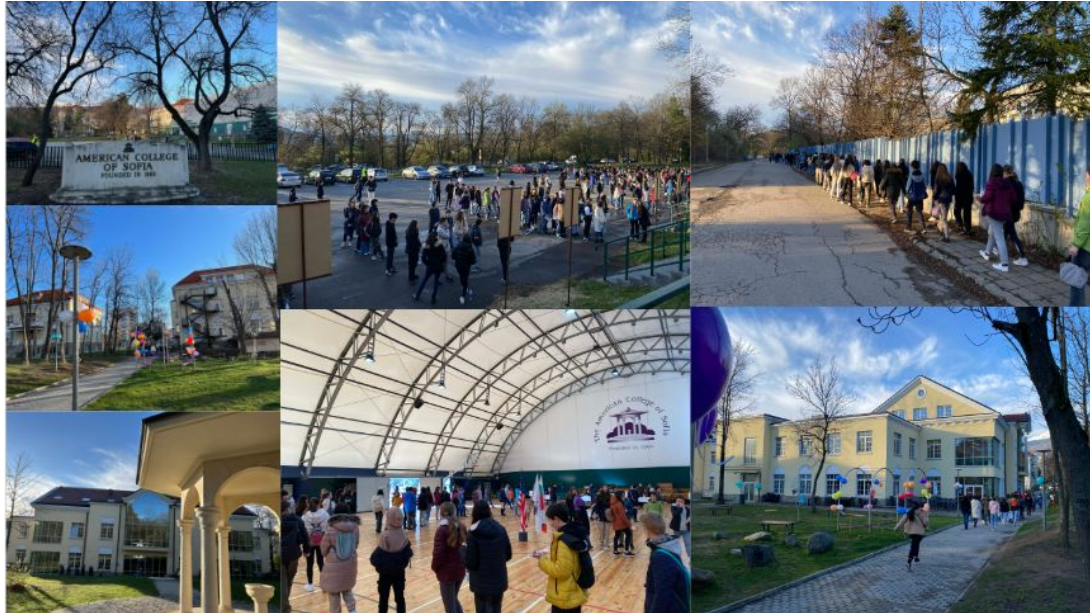
The American College of Sofia

integrates the values and best practices of American pedagogy with the rich educational traditions of Bulgaria and 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.





Let's talk about the Tuition Reduction program



We believe that every successful applicant should have the opportunity to study at the College.

If you are accepted and your family cannot afford the full cost of tuition, you can attend ACS thanks to our **Needs-based Tuition Reduction Program.**



Affordable Education: Guiding Principles



Steadfast commitment

- We offer various *full and partial* five-year scholarships that cover the cost of the entire period of study that are funded by trustees, alumni, parents and friends of the college.

Community connection

- Families from outside of Sofia may apply for additional tuition reduction to reflect their increased costs.



Needs-based Financial Assistance

Financial assistance at the American College of Sofia is need-based; fee reductions are granted to families who demonstrate financial need.

Cost of Education

- Expected Family Contribution

= **Family's Demonstrated Need**





What is the Expected Family Contribution?

The **expected family contribution** represents the calculated ability of the family to contribute financially toward the cost of their child's education.

It takes into account household income, property, savings and loans.

The expected family contribution is determined annually, which allows for changing factors.





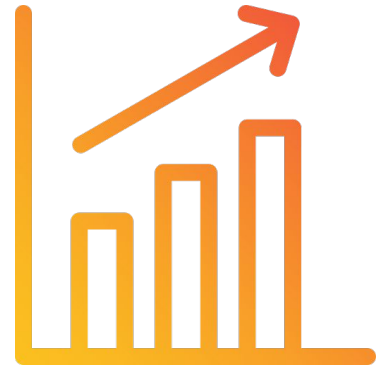
Tuition Reduction statistics for the 2024-25 SY

2,360,503 leva in tuition reduction was distributed in the school year 2024/2025 school year to support our families and students.

85% of all families who applied for tuition reduction were awarded support.

10% to 90% is the annual tuition fee reduction range.

264 students are currently receiving tuition reduction.





Five-year Scholarships



All families of Bulgarian seventh-grade students who are offered admission to the American College of Sofia and prove considerable financial need may apply for a full scholarship.

Criteria for the evaluation of scholarship applications

1. **Application:** Considerable financial need proven.
2. **Essay:** Evaluation of a composition on a given topic. The candidates will be invited to write the composition at ACS.
3. **Interview:** Interview with the candidates approved on the basis of their composition results.
4. **Results:** The candidates' overall results from the Admissions Exam.



The Polansky, Oberbauer and Gipson Full Scholarships

The Polansky and Oberbauer Scholarships were established in 2008, and the Gipson Scholarship in 2018, and they will pay all tuition fees of each recipient for the entire period of his/her enrollment at the College, provided each recipient maintains the minimum academic performance requirements of the scholarships.

Two Polansky Scholarships

Named for the Hon. Sol Polansky (1926-2016), former U.S. ambassador to Bulgaria (1987-1990). Mr. Polansky was instrumental in helping the College reopen in 1992. Mr. Polansky continued his deep involvement with institutions committed to the political, economic, and educational development of Bulgaria. He served on the Boards of Trustees of the American College of Sofia as well as the American University in Bulgaria.

The Oberbauer Scholarship

Named for Joseph Oberbauer. An engineer and architect, Mr. Oberbauer moved to Sofia in the 1890s from Austria. He was one of the principal architects of the city plan of modern Sofia. He lived in Bulgaria until his death in the 1930s. These scholarships were established with a generous grant from the Tianaderrah Foundation. They are intended to foster the concept of civil service in Bulgarian society.

The Gipson Scholarship

Named for the Gipson family, extraordinary ACS friends and supporters, and philanthropists of longstanding. Nellie and Robert Gipson share an abiding belief in the essential role of education in building a civil and democratic society. Nellie Gipson worked at ACS in the 1990s and joined the ACS Board of Trustees in 2004. Robert Gipson is the recipient of the Cyril and Methodius Medal for his many years of leadership in support of Bulgarian education, science, and culture.





The Sunrise and Robin Mittenthal Full Scholarships

Sunrise Scholarship

The Sunrise scholarship was established in 2021 by an ACS alum who has chosen to remain anonymous. Currently the scholarship covers the full tuition fee for the education of three Bulgarian students for the complete five-year term of education. The Sunrise scholarship will be offered with preference to a student from Plovdiv whose family has high financial needs. Bulgarian students, recipients of the Sunrise scholarship, residing outside of Sofia, will have the opportunity to be accommodated for free at the dormitory of the American College of Sofia. The recipients of the scholarship will have to maintain a GPA for every semester of minimum 5.25 and exemplary conduct throughout the five-year course of study at the American College of Sofia.

Robin Mittenthal Scholarship

The Robin Mittenthal scholarship was established in 2023 by ACS alumna of the first graduating class since the school's reopening Daniella Molle '97 in honor of her late husband. The scholarship covers the full tuition fee for the education of one Bulgarian student for the complete five-year term of education, the first recipient of the scholarship being an incoming 8th grade student in the school year 2023-2024 at the American College of Sofia and will be offered again in 2028. The Robin Mittenthal scholarship is offered with preference to a student from a minority, from a single-parent household or residing outside of Sofia, whose family has high financial needs. Bulgarian students, recipients of the Robin Mittenthal scholarship, residing outside of Sofia, will have the opportunity to be accommodated for free at the dormitory of the American College of Sofia. The recipients of the scholarship will have to maintain a GPA for every semester of minimum 5.25 and exemplary conduct throughout the five-year course of study at the American College of Sofia.



The Teodora and Darina Spasov Partial Scholarship & The Boris Lozanov and Maria Vladimirova Partial Scholarships

The Teodora and Darina Spasov Scholarship, the first scholarship by a Bulgarian citizen, is named after two sisters who graduated from ACS with the classes of 2004 and 2005 respectively. The scholarship was established in 2005 with the goal of partially supporting the girl in every Class who has the keenest financial need and maintains a GPA of minimum 5.00 and exemplary conduct throughout her course of study.



The Boris Lozanov Scholarship was established in the 2021-2022 academic year by ACS parent Lyubomir Lozanov, in honor of his father, Boris Lozanov. This scholarship awards €5,000 annually to a deserving student for each of the five years of study at the American College of Sofia. To be eligible, the student's family must demonstrate significant financial need, and the student must maintain a GPA above 5.00 and exhibit exemplary conduct throughout their time at the College.

In 2024, Mr. Lozanov introduced a second scholarship, **The Maria Vladimirova Scholarship**, in honor of his mother. This scholarship follows the same application process and criteria as the Boris Lozanov Scholarship.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our donors for their generous contributions to education in Bulgaria and their continued support of the American College of Sofia.



2025 Calendar

Let the ACS Journey begin!

- Registration for the ACS Admission Exam:
 - February 12- March 4
- ACS Admissions Exam:
 - March 23

The ACS Tuition Reduction Schedule is released together with Admission Results that include deadlines and necessary documentation, including but not limited to:

- Tuition Reduction Application Process
- Full Scholarship Application Process



What will I need to apply?



All families who apply for tuition reduction should submit information about:

- Family status and size;
- Parents' profession and occupation;
- Total income for the preceding year and the most recent months of the current year – five or six depending whether they are new or returning students accordingly;
- Information about additional income received from other sources such as rents, inherited and donated income / property, income from investments, income from participation in companies, alimony, sale of real estate and vehicles, etc.;
- Family savings;
- Real estate owned by the family;
- Automobiles owned;
- Information about family companies, if any, including dividends distributed;
- Information about family travel in the past 2 years;
- Medical issues in immediate family, if relevant;
- Information about the schools where the student's siblings study.



Frequently asked questions

Q: What does the tuition fee cover?

A: The full tuition rate covers the education costs and materials, such as personal Chromebook, as well as use of the school laboratories, libraries, and sports facilities. The fee does not include food, transportation, school trips, and other supplementary costs.



Q: What is the dorm fee?

A: The dorm fee is set each year by the Board of Trustees. The fee covers three meals a day at the school's cafeteria on weekdays, washing services, internet, cleaning the rooms, etc. For school year 2024-2025 the dorm fee for Bulgarian citizens is 5,800 Euro.

[See full FAQ here](#)



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