

Program Highlights 2007

University of Elbasan Students and Embassy Staff Bid Farewell To English Language Fellow

June 2007 – A large group of adoring students of the University of Elbasan and US Mission staff gathered to say goodbye to English Language Fellow Ysabel Vasquez, who spent two years in this central Albanian city teaching, mentoring, and working on curriculum reform. The Fellow made direct and lasting contributions toward improving the quality of English language education and the training of future ESL teachers in this often neglected but important Albanian city.

Elbasan University Outreach – 100 Students, November 23, 2007

Over one hundred students attended the presentations on Masters programs and opportunities to study in the US presented by Linda Meniku and Mirela Cupi.



November 24, 2007
Patrica Myslimi shaking hands with jury members during a US Mission student outreach event

Key EducationUSA Partners

- ▶ US Embassy, Public Affairs and Consular Sections
- ▶ American Councils for International Education: ACTR/ACCELS

Country Statistics	2006	2007
Number of students in the US:	904	841
Total number of center inquiries:	60	(new center)

Albania

Advising Center Network

In partnership with and overseen by the US Embassy, EducationUSA Albania offers a range of student advising and outreach services. In 2007, the advisers focused outreach efforts on universities and high schools. Presentation topics ranged from undergraduate and graduate study in the US to discipline-specific sessions on engineering and natural sciences. As the new EducationUSA center continues to grow in 2008, thousands of prospective students will benefit from unbiased educational advising about the full range of accredited US institutions.

Recent Trends: US Study ▼ -7.0%

- ▶ Interest in US study opportunities remains high among prospective students. Recent declines in student mobility may be attributed to less expensive study options in Europe and abroad.
- ▶ In 2007, Albanian study in the US fell by 7% to 841 students.
- ▶ Funding for US study is extremely limited. Most students require full support.
- ▶ Being approved for a visa is a concern among some students.

Resource Links

US Embassy, Public Affairs Section: http://tirana.usembassy.gov/education_exchange.html
Ministry of Education and Science of Albania: www.mash.gov.al/ministria_eng/home.html

Education System Overview

	Secondary Education	Higher Education (Bachelor's Degree)
Language of instruction:	Albanian	Albanian
Years of study required:	4 years – General Education High School 5 years – Vocational High Schools like: Harry T. Fultz, French Lyceum; Hotel Management and Tourism	3 – Undergraduate 2 – First Level of Master's Degree 1/2 Second Level of Master's Degree 3 – Doctoral Degree (Graduate programs to be implemented as of October 2008 based on the Bologna process)
Grading system & US equivalent:	10 – A 8, 9 – B 6, 7 – C 5 – D 4 – F	10 – A 8, 9 – B 6, 7 – C 5 – D 4 – F
Scholarship for US studies:		Fulbright, Humphrey and Junior Faculty Development programs

Upcoming Events 2008-2009

- ▶ A sub-regional workshop for EducationUSA in the Western Balkans is planned for fall 2008. Please contact the REAC or EducationUSA adviser for details on outreach.
- ▶ EducationUSA Albania aims to organize a US university fair in November as a major event of the International Education Week 2008. Please contact the US Mission or advisers for outreach opportunities.

Partnering with EducationUSA Albania

In 2008/09, EducationUSA will focus on group advising and extensive outreach. The advisers and US Embassy will play a joint role in addressing student concerns and questions. The team will take part in advising tours of the country. US institutions may contact the adviser or the Embassy regarding recruiting in Albania or presentation opportunities in the region.

Country Contact

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