



Forum for Freedom in Education



HMC Projects in Central and Eastern
Europe

Programme Booklet

CALL FOR APPLICATION 2021/2022

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General Information For Applicants

Please read the entire publication carefully. Students are asked to translate important parts of the publication to their parents, if necessary. For all additional information and questions, please contact mbajkusa@fso.hr

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General Information For Applicants

DR EJ WOLSTENHOLME, DIRECTOR HMC PROJECTS

The purpose of this section is to describe the arrangements for the scholarships offered in the United Kingdom through HMC Projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

The Schools

The schools which award HMC Projects scholarships are almost all located throughout the United Kingdom. These are of various types. Some are schools mainly for boarding pupils (boys and girls who live at the school during the school terms). Other schools have some boarders but consist mainly of day pupils. **Scholarship students from Central and Eastern Europe take up boarding places in their schools.**

Many of the schools are coeducational, but some take only girls and others take only boys. We allocate students to the most suitable schools taking account of particular talents. All the schools within the Programme have been selected because they are regarded as entirely suitable and because they are seen to be likely to offer a very valuable experience to the students who are their guests.

Sixth Form Scholarship Programmes

There are two parallel programmes:

Full Scholarship Programme. Just under 50 students from 14 countries won full scholarships in 2020. The scholarship awarded by your school covers the cost of your tuition and also your accommodation and food and other basic requirements. To be eligible to apply your parents'/family income during 2020 must not exceed the equivalent of £30,000.

Reduced Fee Scholarship Programme. 29 students won reduced fee scholarships in 2020. Fees charged ranged from £5,000 to £10,000 *per annum*.

There are differences in how each programme is organised:

- Scholars offered a full scholarship are placed by HMC Projects in a school which has offered a firm place on the programme.
- Students who perform very strongly in the selection process, but who cannot be offered a full scholarship may have their names added to a list of reserves. **These candidates are offered the opportunity to apply for a reduced fee scholarship along with the small number of those specifically selected by the interviewers because parental income is between £30,000 and £80,000 p.a.** Schools which have offered a place or places will then choose their preferred applicants from those who apply. Reduced fee scholars pay partial fees to the school: typically, 20-25% of full fees. They do not pay an administration fee. We cannot guarantee that all recommended students who apply will be offered a place, but we expect that most will.

Opportunity, Challenge, Commitment

You have already been enterprising in asking for details of the HMC Projects Scholarships. Imagine now that you win a scholarship! What would it really involve? Will the benefits match all the uncertainty and upheaval? Should you accept the scholarship?

Inevitably, some features of British schools will be very different from your school. For your time in the UK to be a success **you will need to be adaptable** and willing to accept your school's arrangements. The most important differences are as follows:-

1. You will be living away from home. Many of you will have been on student outings or camps away from home, but with your friends and in the knowledge that life will soon be returning to normal. Coming to the UK, and realising that you will not be seeing your parents for two to four months, you may well feel homesick. For a start the food will be different! Many students do miss their homes at first, but quite quickly they make friends and enjoy having the company of other young people for much of the time. **How do you think that you would cope?**
2. Once you arrive at the school you will be in the care of the school staff at all times when the school is in session. Students live in boarding houses. The houses are usually for boys only or for girls only. In your house there will probably be about thirty to forty or fifty other students, perhaps aged 13 to 18, perhaps all sixth formers. Most students will share a room with another student and usually this will be the place where they not only sleep but do their work and keep their personal belongings, clothes, books and other items. Most schools will expect their boarders to take their share in certain communal responsibilities within their houses. For young people who have always lived at home it takes some time to become accustomed to this situation. If you have no brothers and sisters you will be used to making your own noise at home but not to having to put up with the noise created by others – let alone forty others!
3. In charge of your house, there will be a House Parent (Housemaster or Housemistress), assisted by a House Tutor and a House Matron. You will find that your House Parent will attach great importance to the rules established for the House and will ask that you respect and obey them. A typical rule would be that students will be expected to be in their own rooms by a particular time at night and will be required to be quiet so that others may sleep. Another rule will be that students are not allowed to smoke. Students in boarding schools are not normally permitted to seek or obtain paid employment outside school.

At home it is not usually necessary to make rules of this sort and they may well be more detailed and prescriptive than in your present school. **Our experience is that these rules do not usually create difficulties for students, but we must emphasise that students need to be willing to accept them.** They are made to enable everyone to fit in together and to make it as easy as possible to ensure that all the students are safe and happy. Schools do not, of course, allow smoking or the use of illegal drugs.

If you do not think you could accept such rules, then coming to a UK school would not be right for you, as such tensions can only cause unhappiness for you and for the school.

4. In most schools students wear a uniform during teaching hours and for special occasions. Typically this might be a grey suit for boys or a grey sweater and skirt for girls but schools will send full information about this to those who are selected for scholarships and there is no need for parents to spend much money on these items before your departure.
5. **An important difference is that you will specialise in far fewer academic subjects.** This applies to all the present examination systems in the UK – A Levels, the IB (International Baccalaureate), Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers and the Cambridge Pre-University Examination. Students usually concentrate on three or possibly four main subjects (from a range of fifteen to twenty different possibilities), plus independent projects and/or a general studies course.

For example, a student wanting to specialise in Medicine might take Mathematics (and perhaps Further Mathematics), Biology and Chemistry as the main subjects. Another combination for a would-be engineer might be Mathematics, Physics and one other subject. On the arts/humanities side all sorts of combinations are possible. For more detailed guidance please look at the document "[HMC Projects - Choosing subjects to study in the 6th Form](#)".

A word of warning: *English will mean English Literature; it will not mean English Language - stop and think why! (British students speak English already...!)*

In other words, HMC Projects scholars will study a smaller number of subjects and in greater depth than you would have done at home. The consequence is that you will think more deeply about the subject, rather than just study to absorb information. Of fundamental importance is

the fact that you will be speaking, listening, reading and writing in English all the time, so that your command of English will develop enormously during your time in the UK. Your new school will want to know which subjects you would like to study and will supply full information for that purpose. We are happy to advise as necessary.

6. **A note on languages.** With a few exceptions the British are generally not that good at languages...! They get by with English.... But most if not all of you will speak and study a number of languages and these often include Russian and German. Very few UK schools teach German and Russian is also virtually non-existent. UK schools tend to teach French and then Spanish as European languages and increasingly Mandarin or Arabic. You may well be able to study a language or languages as one or two of your chosen A Level subjects, but please don't come to the UK if your top priority is to continue with German or Russian...!
7. Whereas most schools in your countries aim to provide only teaching in the academic subjects, **British boarding schools offer a wide range of other activities through which students can develop their talents and acquire new skills.** You can expect high standards and excellent facilities in Music, Drama and Sport. It is crucially important that you explore these opportunities for personal recreation and development. It is the easiest and quickest way of making friends with fellow students. Remember too that you will be in school during weekends, when there will be few classes to attend and many hours to fill. **Students who give most to their boarding communities and to the sporting and cultural life of their schools gain most from all the opportunities that their schools offer them.**

In other words, there will be much more to life than simply working hard – although that is obviously important! You should also be able to enjoy yourselves and be happy in the company around you. That way, you will take home lasting friendships and an enduring reminder of your time in Britain.

8. All UK boarding schools have an international outlook and will probably have a number of students from other countries – from Europe, Africa, Asia, Hong Kong and China...along with their British students. UK boarding schools are truly interconnected worlds and one of their great attractions is that they will prepare you well for a world where you may well live and work in a number of countries. But you will need to be sensitive to cultural differences as well as aware that attitudes towards social matters such as racism or gender equality may well be different to those at home.
9. There are a few exceptions but almost all UK boarding schools have a religious heritage and require their students from time to time to attend what may be called “chapel” or “prayers” or a “religious-style assembly”. This is actually also the law of the land and applies to all British schools. Boarding schools see this as an important and intrinsic part of communal life and of the all-round education they offer as well as a valuable cultural experience. The Church of England is as broad-minded a church as any in the world and schools will go out of their way to ensure that services or “prayers” are inclusive. Those leading such occasions know that in a typical British boarding school there will be students from many cultures and of many faiths as well as of none; they shape what they offer accordingly. Students are expected to attend (not least out of courtesy); schools do not normally allow students to opt out of such events. If you or your parents cannot accept this requirement then you should not proceed with this application.
10. **Most UK boarding schools now insist on their international pupils naming a guardian.** The detail of this requirement will differ from one school to another. Typically, a suitable guardian must be resident in the UK, should be over 23 and live within two hours' drive of the school. A few schools help arrange this for their scholars for which there may be a cost, but most do not. Some schools will expect the guardian to be able to provide accommodation if needed. Normally, providing the school with the name of a relative or trusted family friend who is willing to act as a guardian is sufficient but this must be agreed with the school. The alternative is to pay for the services of a guardian arranged through a reputable agency but this can be very expensive. In such cases, the schools will often expect the guardian agency to be approved by Aegis (<https://aegisuk.net/>).

11. **The Scholarship is intended to be for two years and you should not apply if you want to spend only one year in the UK.** In principle this is a two-year programme: full scholarships and reduced fee scholarships will generally be for two years, renewable for the second year on the same or similar terms. It should be noted that schools do, however, reserve the right to withdraw a scholarship from any scholar if they fail to perform to the high standards expected, both academically and socially. The two-year programme allows scholars to complete their education in the UK and to apply for a wide variety of universities across Europe. Schools will expect scholars to demonstrate high academic performance and make a valuable contribution to school life. **There is no absolute requirement for scholars to stay on for a second year, but schools will be expecting this.** Many former scholars have then gone on to university in the UK. However, now that the UK has withdrawn from the EU (Brexit) the financial advantages for a student from an EU country studying at university in the UK are now no longer available and the high cost of tuition is the same as it is for students from outside the EU. In addition, all international students regardless of whether they are from the EU or not are required to have a visa to study in the UK. **The scholarship therefore does not carry with it the opportunity to study at a British university.** You should find out from local universities and from your own current school which examinations or courses of study (if any) will be necessary if you are to resume studies at home without disadvantage when you return. Studying at university in the UK is very expensive in terms of both tuition and living costs.

Before applying, and certainly before accepting, make sure that you have researched this fully, with an eye to your own academic and career aspirations. (Bear in mind that these might change after a year or two in the UK!)

The Shape of the School Year

The school year in Britain is usually divided into three terms, with holidays at Christmas, Easter and in the summer. The school will ensure that you know the arrangements for travelling home and returning to Britain after the Christmas and Easter holidays. **You will not remain in Britain during these holidays unless your school agrees to this and your parents have also given permission, made the necessary arrangements and communicated these to the School. It is not possible to stay at your school during the holiday periods.**

In addition, most schools close for a half-term break in the middle of the term. In the first (autumn) term this will probably be a two week break (taking in three weekends in late October/early November) and most HMC projects scholars fly home – with careful planning costs can be kept down. Later in the school year the half term breaks are shorter.

As a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic, if there are travel restrictions in place or there is a likelihood of the imposition of quarantine many schools may prefer to remain open over the half-term holidays to allow their international pupils to stay there.

Your data and how we use it

The information that you include in your application for a scholarship is essential to us and we undertake to handle it responsibly and keep it secure. It is therefore important for you to know how we use it and who sees it.

Only if you are called to interview will our national coordinator in your country send us a copy of your completed application form as a digital file in advance of the interviews. This is used by our interviewers to learn about you in preparation for the interviews. A copy is kept by the Administrator of HMC Projects. If you are selected for a scholarship then your digital application form is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects for the duration of your scholarship: normally two years. Any printed documents which are passed to the interviewers at the time of the interviews will normally be passed on to the school you will be going to. The confidential parental income information, however, is not passed on to the school but is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects in case a special request should be made by you

for exceptional additional financial assistance. We may make your school aware of the figure for the total net annual income for your family if we consider that it would be helpful to demonstrate a case for additional financial assistance.

If you are unsuccessful in being awarded a full scholarship, but are invited to apply for a reduced fee scholarship, then your digital application form may be passed on to the schools you are applying to in order to help them choose their preferred candidate and make an offer of a reduced fee scholarship. The parental income information is not disclosed to any school. If you are successful and are offered a reduced fee scholarship and you accept it, then your digital application form is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects for the period of the scholarship and any printed documents are normally sent on to the school with the exception of the confidential income declaration.

If you are not successful or decline the offer to apply for a reduced fee scholarship then your digital and printed application forms are kept only until the start of the scholarship period, normally September 1st after which they are deleted or destroyed.

At the end of the scholarship period the Administrator of HMC Projects will retain your contact details in an alumni database and we may contact you occasionally to keep in touch.

It is important that you understand how we use your information as described above and that you and your family agree to this. At all times HMC Projects undertakes to hold all the data on its scholarship applicants, scholars and alumni securely.

A Note about Selection

We like to think that we are good at selecting the right scholars.

We receive a very large number of applications from students in 15 countries. There will therefore be very many high achieving students who are not selected. Our decisions should be viewed as final and we regret that we are not able to enter into any discussion or correspondence subsequently with applicants who are not successful.

We look very carefully at your application form. **You should therefore complete it carefully and fully.** What you write in your essay is very important. We ask all the questions for very good reasons! We have references written about you by your teachers. And then we meet you in groups of three. At the interview we want to learn more about you as individuals but also see how you interact with other students.

Our interviewers are all highly experienced. They are either serving or retired heads or senior teachers who work or have worked in UK boarding schools. At the interview they will get you to talk about yourself, talk with others and discuss topics or play intellectual games. We find that students enjoy the experience – at least afterwards! – and often we are told that they have never done anything like this before....

We have no quotas. We are meeting students (both within your own country and then across Europe from Estonia in the north to Armenia in the south-east) from all sorts of backgrounds and schools. **Nor do we adopt any sort of points-based system** (say for Olympiad performance, or school grades or performance on the violin etc etc....)

We use our judgment and do our best to view all applications in the round.

We select students who, in addition to being very good indeed in their academic studies, are sociable, adaptable, interesting and interested in other people and in ideas; they need to have charm and, above all, be ready to give of themselves to their new communities.

Accepting a Scholarship is a Commitment

Please re-read and think very carefully about the last sentence above!

We are looking for students who understand and who will live out former President J F Kennedy's famous remark: "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country". For "country" read "school"!

In this document we have tried to draw attention to some of the human realities involved in an HMC Projects scholarship. Each year we know that a few students apply for the scholarship mainly because they see it mainly as a prize to be won, but they have not given much, if any, thought to the personal challenges that will face them. Such students will not be selected.

Please don't forget that if you are offered and you accept a scholarship, which gives you the opportunity of studying in the Sixth Form at a school in the UK, then this means that someone else is not going to have that opportunity. We shall expect you to make a success of this opportunity academically and socially and to take a leading part in some of the huge array of extra-curricular activities offered by UK boarding schools.

You owe it not only to yourself, but also to your competitors, to be honest with yourself. You will be moving out of your own 'comfort zone'. If you know that you would find it personally very difficult to adjust to all the differences that I have mentioned, including especially that of living away from home, then you should not proceed.

Since the HMC Projects Scholarships started in 1992 there have been about two thousand scholars. For the vast majority it has been a wonderfully positive, fulfilling and enjoyable experience – **because they have embraced the opportunities and the challenges with enthusiasm and commitment.**

Could you win a scholarship?

- Are you bright, able, adaptable, different, ambitious, interesting?
- Do you have consistently excellent school grades?
- Do you have a very good command of English, spoken and written?
- Are you a self-starter?
- Could you not only cope, but thrive in a new environment, away from home, immersed in a different approach to learning?
- Could you contribute to your new school academically, socially, culturally, in the arts, in sports? Will you inspire others in the classroom?
- Are you ready to make new, lifelong friends?
- Would you be a great ambassador for your own country?

If you can answer yes to all these questions, then apply....!

Information for Parents

DR EJ WOLSTENHOLME, DIRECTOR HMC PROJECTS

The purpose of this paper is to describe the arrangements for the full scholarships offered in the United Kingdom through HMC Projects in Central and Eastern Europe.

Introduction

HMC (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference) is an association of the Headteachers of many of the leading independent schools in the United Kingdom. HMC Projects (HMCP) is a registered charity and is a company with limited liability. Its specific purpose, since its inception in 1992, has been to enable young students from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to study in the UK and, in doing so, to make contacts and friendships with British young people, to gain a better understanding of what the United Kingdom stands for, to perfect their mastery of the English language and to strengthen links between their countries and the UK. In consequence, some two thousand students have received scholarships to spend up to two years in British schools. Quite apart from the benefit to the students, the British schools have also greatly enjoyed their presence and have gained much. The scholarship programmes are run by *HMC Projects* but students are placed not only in schools belonging to HMC but also in some other independent schools and some very good government boarding schools.

The British schools are of various types. Some are schools mainly for boarding pupils (boys and girls who live at the school during the school terms). Other schools have both boarding pupils and day pupils. Scholarship students from Central and Eastern Europe take up boarding places in their schools. The schools are located throughout the United Kingdom. Many of the schools are coeducational but some take only girls and others take only boys.

Scholarships for students in Croatia are arranged through cooperation between three parties:

Who is who?

HMC Projects

HMC Projects (HMCP) coordinates the general programme in the UK and liaises with the **Forum for Freedom in Education Croatia**. Once the student has arrived at the school, formal responsibility for each student transfers to the school.

Even so, our **Student Coordinator**, Mrs Wendy McLachlan, will play a role in monitoring the continuing welfare of students. She is able to offer support and advice as needed. On the recommendation of the Student Coordinator financial help may be given to students confronted with exceptional expenditure (for instance cultural expeditions, field trips, etc.).

Forum for Freedom in Education Croatia

The Forum for Freedom in Education Croatia administers the programme in Croatia, organises student interviews and provides support and advice for the scholars before their departure to the UK.

The School

Your son or daughter will become a full member of the school chosen by HMC Projects and you will be asked to sign the home-school agreement signed by all parents. The School provides a full scholarship, covering all costs of tuition, food and accommodation, and accepts responsibility for the students at all times when the school is in session.

We match our scholars with schools best suited to their individual talents, but I should emphasise that all the schools within the scheme have been selected because we see them as entirely suitable and because we know that they will offer a very valuable experience to the students who are their guests. Once the school has accepted the student assigned to it, a change cannot be made.

A different way of life

Students need to be ready to adapt to the boarding way of life and to desire positively to support the school's philosophy and rules. Inevitably our scholars do find that some features of British schools are very different from their schools at home – for example:

1. **Students live in boarding houses.** Normally about thirty to forty students live in one house, supervised by two or more members of staff. The houses are usually for boys only or for girls only. For young people who have always lived at home it takes some time to become accustomed to this situation. Of course our scholars miss their homes but they quickly make friends and enjoy being members of their house and school communities.
2. Most students will share a room with another student, where they sleep, study and keep their personal belongings, clothes, books and other items. Most schools will expect their boarders to undertake communal responsibilities within their houses.
3. All boarding schools have rules designed to protect the needs and interests of each one of their members. For example, one rule will be that students will be expected to be in their own rooms by a particular time at night and will be required to be quiet so that others may sleep. Another rule will be that students are not allowed to smoke or consume alcohol. Students in boarding schools are not normally permitted to seek or obtain paid employment outside school. At home rules of this sort are probably unnecessary. Our experience is that these rules do not usually create difficulties for students, but we must emphasise that students need to be willing to accept them – otherwise they should decline the scholarship.
4. In most schools (but not all) students wear a uniform during teaching hours and for special occasions. Schools will send full information about this to those who are selected for scholarships and there is no need for parents to spend much money on these items before the students leave for the UK.
5. An important difference is that students in Britain study far fewer academic subjects. This applies to all the present examination systems in the UK – A Levels, the IB (International Baccalaureate), Scottish Highers and Advanced Higher and the Cambridge Pre-University Examination. Students usually take three or possibly four main subjects (from 15-20 different possibilities), plus other options and/or a general studies course.

In other words, HMC Projects scholars will study a smaller number of subjects in greater depth than they would have done at home. The consequence is that they will think more deeply about the subject, rather than just study to absorb information. Of fundamental importance is the fact that they will be speaking, listening, reading and writing in English all the time, so that their command of English will develop enormously during their time in the UK. When they are selected and assigned to their schools, they will become actively involved in the selection of their course of studies, with full information supplied by their school.

6. Another important difference is that, whereas many European schools aim to provide only teaching in the academic subjects, British boarding schools offer also a wide range of other activities which give opportunity for students to develop sporting or other talents. All schools offer excellent opportunities for music with orchestras and choirs; they offer drama and debating. Facilities for sport are excellent. Scholars can be assured that they will be able to enjoy themselves besides working hard. It is indeed important that they do make time for these other activities since these contribute to the lasting friendships which are for many one of the most important features of being in the UK.

7. UK boarding schools have an international outlook and will probably have a number of students from other countries – from Europe, Africa, Asia, Hong Kong and China...along with their British students. Students need to be sensitive to cultural differences as well as aware that attitudes towards social matters such as racism or gender equality may well be different to those at home.
8. There are a few exceptions, but almost all UK boarding schools have a religious heritage and require their students from time to time to attend what may be called “chapel” or “prayers” or a “religious-style assembly”. This is actually also the law of the land and applies to all British schools. Boarding schools see this as an important and intrinsic part of communal life and of the all-round education they offer as well as a valuable cultural experience. The Church of England is as broad-minded a church as any in the world and schools will go out of their way to ensure that services or “prayers” are inclusive. Those leading such occasions know that in a typical British boarding school there will be students from many cultures and of many faiths as well as of none; they shape what they offer accordingly. Students are expected to attend (not least out of courtesy); schools do not normally allow students to opt out of such events. *If you or your son or daughter cannot accept this requirement, then you should not proceed with this application.*
9. Most UK boarding schools now insist on their international pupils naming a guardian. The detail of this requirement will differ from one school to another. Typically, a suitable guardian must be resident in the UK, should be over 23 and live within two hours’ drive of the school. A few schools help arrange this for their scholars for which there may be a cost, but most do not. Some schools will expect the guardian to be able to provide accommodation if needed. Normally, providing the school with the name of a relative or trusted family friend who is willing to act as a guardian is sufficient but this must be agreed with the school. The alternative is to pay for the services of a guardian arranged through a reputable agency but this can be very expensive.
10. The Scholarship is intended to be for two years. In principle scholarships will generally be for two years, renewable for the second year on the same or similar terms. It should be noted that schools do, however, reserve the right to withdraw a scholarship from any scholar, if they fail to perform to the high standards expected, both academically and socially. The two-year programme allows scholars to complete their education in the UK and to apply for a wide variety of universities across Europe. Schools will expect scholars to demonstrate high academic performance and make a valuable contribution to school life. There is no absolute requirement for scholars to stay on for a second year, but schools will be expecting this.

Some former scholars have then gone on to university in the UK. However the scholarship does not carry with it the opportunity to study at a British university. Applicants should find out from local universities and current schools which examinations or courses of study (if any) will be necessary if scholars are to resume studies at home without disadvantage when they return.

Studying at university in the UK is very expensive in terms of both tuition and living costs. All scholars, as international students, would have to pay tuition fees at the higher rate at UK universities; this is normally over twice as much as UK students pay. Obtaining scholarships to offset these fees is very difficult and the competition for these is fierce. This is the case regardless of whether scholars hold an EU passport or not.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for the HMC Projects Scholarship Programme a student should be sixteen years old and not older than seventeen years and six months on 1st September 2021, i.e. a student's date of birth must be between 1st February 2004 and 1st September 2005.
2. Also, to be eligible a student **should not have more than two “good” marks** (ocjene dobar) and **no “sufficient” marks (ocjene dovoljan)** at the end of the first class of the secondary school.
3. An applicant should be attending second grade (drugi razred) of secondary school in Croatia.

4. An applicant and his/her parents should complete all parts of the application form.
5. HMC Projects Full Scholarships are intended to benefit those whose parents cannot afford to pay full United Kingdom boarding school fees. Schools participating in the Scheme consider this to be part of how they offer public benefit. HMC Projects has therefore decided that the combined parental income of applicants must not exceed £30,000 as assessed during 2020.

The parents of applicants for a full scholarship must sign a declaration that their combined net annual income during 2020 will not have exceeded the equivalent of £30,000.

Please note that net income means total disposable income after tax has been paid.

Applicants, whose combined parental income exceeds £30,000 (and falls between £30,000 and £80,000) during 2020 and so who are not eligible for full scholarships, are welcome to apply for a Reduced Fee Scholarship. If family income exceeds £80,000 then applicants are ineligible for both programmes.

6. The parents of applicants invited to interview must also complete a separate Parental Income and Assets Declaration form.
7. A student may not apply for a HMC Projects scholarship if he or she is currently attending another school in the UK or has already been accepted to do so for September 2021.

After Selection

Full Scholarship Programme:

We shall aim to inform successful candidates that we intend to offer them a scholarship by the end of February 2021 or the beginning of March 2021.

Two more things have to happen:

1. Students must accept the offer; and
2. We have to wait until the school has agreed to accept our nominated scholar.

Until both have happened we cannot guarantee that a scholar offered participation in the programme will be placed.

Scholars will therefore normally not learn which school they will attend before April 2021, since we have to await the outcomes of all the interviews before we select the right school for each of the selected scholars and also obtain the agreement of the schools to accept our nomination. In April we shall write with the details of the school and with further procedural information. The school will also get in touch at this time and will normally send formal documents for signature along with further information.

Reduced Fee Programme:

Each year we have a number of students recommended by our interviewers for consideration for a reduced fee scholarship. These will be students who on merit are judged to be of scholarship standard, but who are nonetheless ineligible for a full scholarship because their parents' income exceeds £30,000 during 2020. They and any full scholarship reserve candidates are offered the opportunity to **apply for** a reduced fee scholarship. There is a degree of choice of school for these students and the schools will choose their preferred applicants from those who apply. Reduced fee scholars pay partial fees to the school: typically, 20-25% of full fees (in 2020 between £6000 and £11,000). They do not pay an administration fee and so receive no other benefits from HMC Projects. **We cannot guarantee that a recommended reduced fee applicant will be offered a place, but we expect that most will.**

In 2020 there were 78 new HMC Projects scholars selected from 15 countries: 49 students won full scholarships and a further 29 students were awarded reduced fee scholarships.

A Note on Selection

We receive a very large number of applications from students in 15 countries. There will therefore be very many high achieving students who are not selected. Our decisions should be viewed as final and we regret that we are not able to enter into any subsequent discussion or correspondence with the parents or guardians of applicants who are not successful.

We look very carefully at a student's application form and so this should be completed **carefully** and **fully**. We ask all the questions for very good reasons! What a student writes in his/her essay is very important. We also seek confidential written references from an applicant's teachers. At interview we meet applicants in groups of three. During the interview we want to learn more about them as individuals but also see how they interact with each other.

Our interviewers are all highly experienced. They are either serving or retired heads or senior teachers who work or have worked in UK boarding schools. At the interview we get students to talk about themselves, talk with others and discuss topics or play intellectual games. We find that students enjoy the experience – at least afterwards! – and often we are told that they have never done anything like this before...

We have no quotas. We are meeting students both within your own country and then from 14 other countries across Europe from all sorts of backgrounds and schools. **Nor do we adopt any sort of points-based system** (say for Olympiad performance, or school grades or performance at basketball or on the violin etc.).

We use our judgment and do our best to view all applications in the round. We select students who, in addition to being very good indeed in their academic studies, are sociable, adaptable, interesting and interested in other people and in ideas; they need to have charm and, above all, be ready to give of themselves to their new communities. We try to make judgments about both what an applicant will gain from this potentially life-changing experience of coming to study in the UK as well as what a student will bring and contribute intellectually, socially and personally to the school that is hosting him/her.

Travelling to the UK and to the new School

Once a student has been accepted by a school there will be communication between the school and parents. You will probably be asked to complete the school's standard entry papers. The school will publish its term dates well in advance and tell you when your son or daughter should arrive for the start of term and what the entry and induction arrangements are.

UK boarding schools are well experienced in admitting international students and they will have excellent welcome and induction procedures. You will receive advice from your school about travel.

The Shape of the School Year

The school year in Britain is divided into three terms, with holidays at Christmas, Easter and in the summer. At the end of each term the school will ensure that the student knows the arrangements for travelling home and for returning to the UK after the holiday. Parents or guardians have full responsibility for our scholars during school holidays.

In addition, most schools close for a half-term break in the middle of the term. In the first (autumn) term this will probably be a two week break (taking in three weekends in late October/early November) and most HMC projects scholars fly home – with careful planning costs can be kept down – but in exceptional circumstances HMC Projects may be able to assist with a limited number of homestays. There may also be a supervised stay offered in a Youth Hostel during the Spring Term Half Term.

In terms of flights and travel to and from school, this can involve up to six return flights when considering the start and end of each term and half-term breaks as well. It is important therefore to be aware of the potential cost of all this international travel.

Medical

HMC Projects asks parents of applicants to complete and sign the Health Declaration, which forms part of the application form.

Schools will ask parents to provide information relating to any previous or current medical condition, physical or psychological, from which their child suffers. Schools will hope to be able to welcome students with any controllable condition but must be informed of it beforehand. Schools have the right not to accept students into a residential community if the medical condition could cause extreme difficulties and had not been declared in advance. Parents should not worry about this but schools may wish to seek further information in some cases so that they can be sure that they can give the necessary medical support to students.

Schools will expect all new students to be adequately and currently protected by immunisation against MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella), Polio and Tetanus.

Financial

Full Scholarships. We charge an **administration fee of £1250**, payable to HMC Projects by parents of HMC Projects scholars.

The latest date for payment is **1st July 2021**. **Thereafter, this fee is not refundable.**

To this must be added the cost of a Tier 4 visa and the UK immigration health surcharge (IHS) which will cost in the region of £1525 for the two years. From 1st January 2021, as a consequence of the UK leaving the EU, all scholars including those holding a passport from an EU member country require a Tier 4 visa and must pay the IHS to study in the UK.

We must also emphasise that the cost of living in Britain is much higher than at home including travel within the UK.

(Reduced Fee Scholarships. There is no administration fee payable by parents.)

The full scholarship awarded by the school to your son/daughter will cover all tuition fees and residential boarding fees including meals and laundry during term time. However, there are likely to be some extras that will be added to a termly account presented to parents by the school at the end of each term, to be paid before the start of the following term. This might include such things as weekend trips away from the school site, certain stationery requirements and specialist activities which are not part of the school's core curriculum. It is impossible to give a precise figure for such items, as much will depend upon the individual school and the choices of your son/daughter. On average parents might expect this termly account to be in the region of £50-£100 per term. Students should receive advice and guidance both from their school and from HMC Projects as to how they can keep such costs to an absolute minimum.

At the end of each term all students are expected to return home. This will mean that parents will need to budget for return flights per year. Schools also have a half term holiday in each of the three terms when the school will close for at least a week – normally a fortnight in the autumn term. The precise dates for the main and half term holidays vary from school to school but are generally around the same time. In addition, some schools have what are called weekend leave or exeat weekends.

All HMCP students are expected to travel home during the main school holidays. We also encourage HMCP students to return home during the half term holiday – particularly during the autumn term as

this holiday in the second half of October/early November is usually two weeks long. But this is not always possible and there will be a very limited number of supervised home stay places in the UK. Furthermore, if you have friends/relatives in the UK, we would suggest that your son/daughter stay with them over the half term holiday.

Travel costs to and from school to the nearest airport will also need to be taken onto account. Travel costs can normally be kept to a minimum by booking tickets well in advance. Internal travel in the UK is cheaper with the purchase of a Young Person's Rail or Coach Card. Your son/daughter can easily research this. The school will also be able to offer advice.

Your and your son's/daughter's data and how we use it.

The information that you and your son/daughter include in his/her application for a scholarship is essential to us and we undertake to handle it responsibly and keep it secure. It is therefore important for you to know how we use it and who sees it.

Only if your son/daughter is called to interview will our national coordinator in your country send us a copy of his/her completed application form as a digital file in advance of the interviews. This is used by our interviewers to learn about your son/daughter in preparation for the interviews. A copy is kept by the Administrator of HMC Projects. If your son/daughter is selected for a scholarship then his/her digital application form is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects for the duration of the scholarship: normally two years. Any printed documents which are passed to the interviewers at the time of the interviews will normally be passed on to the school to which your son/daughter will be going. The confidential parental income declaration, however, is not passed on to the school but is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects in case a special request should be made by your son/daughter for exceptional additional financial assistance.

If your son/daughter is unsuccessful in being awarded a full scholarship but is invited to apply for a reduced fee scholarship then his/her digital application form may be passed on to the schools he/she is applying to in order to help them choose their preferred candidate and make an offer of a reduced fee scholarship. The confidential parental income declaration is not sent to any school. If your son/daughter is successful and is offered a reduced fee scholarship and he/she accepts it, then the digital application form is retained by the Administrator of HMC Projects for the period of the scholarship and any printed documents are normally sent on to the school with the exception of the confidential income declaration. If your son/daughter is not successful or declines the offer to apply for a reduced fee scholarship then his/her digital and printed application forms are kept only until the start of the scholarship period, normally September 1st after which they are deleted or destroyed.

At the end of the scholarship period the Administrator of HMC Projects will retain your son's/daughter's contact details in an alumni database and we may contact him/her occasionally to keep in touch.

It is important that you understand how HMC Projects uses your and your son's/daughter's information as described above and that you and your son/daughter agree to this. At all times HMC Projects undertakes to hold all the data on its scholarship applicants, scholars and alumni securely.

You will see that we ask you to sign (on your son/s/daughter's application form) that you have read and agree to what we have set out above about the use of your and your son's/daughter's data.

A Commitment for scholars and parents alike

We must emphasise that acceptance of the HMC Projects scholarship represents a commitment, not least **because it is a scholarship which would otherwise have been won by another very deserving candidate. It also represents a very substantial amount of money given that full boarding fees at an independent boarding school in the United Kingdom now cost between £35,000 and £45,000 p.a.**

Information for Parents

It follows that parents must fully support their child's application. Being separated for a large part of the year will, in most cases, be a new experience for parents and children alike. Every HMC Projects scholar is entitled to come to the UK confident that he or she is there with the full support of his or her parents.

For the vast majority of our students, the HMC Projects scholarship has been a wonderfully positive, fulfilling and enjoyable experience. This is because they have met the opportunities and the challenges with enthusiasm and commitment.

Summary of Responsibilities (Full Scholarship Programme)

Forum for Freedom in Education

- Administers the scholarship programme in Croatia.
 - Provides support and advice before departure.
 - Is responsible for communicating financial arrangements to parents.
-

The School

- Provides a full scholarship for tuition, food and accommodation.
 - Accepts responsibility for the student when the school is in session.
 - Has full authority in regard to the student when the school is in session and keeps in contact with the student's parents.
-

HMC Projects

- Coordinates the programme in the UK.
 - Selects and places Scholars in appropriate schools.
 - Works closely with Forum for Freedom in Education Croatia.
 - Can provide some help in making half-term arrangements.
 - Provides financial assistance, when necessary, for attendance of field trips, cultural visits, etc.
-

Parents

- Sign an agreement with the School accepting the normal conditions of the School.
- Declare that their combined net annual income during 2020 will not exceed **£30,000**.
- Complete a separate financial declaration form if their son/daughter is invited for interview.
- Parents are responsible for all travel costs.
- Parents will pay the termly 'Extras' bill charged by the School and meet such personal costs of their son/daughter as are not funded by HMC Projects.
- Parents pay a fee of £1250 to HMC Projects. This payment is due by 1st July 2021 at the latest. Thereafter the fee is not refundable.

Application Form

Download Application Forms

Use following links to download application documents:

- [Application Form](#)
- [Recommendation – Current English Teacher](#)
- [Recommendation – Current Mathematics Teacher](#)
- [Recommendation – Other Teacher](#)
- [Parental Income and Assets Declaration Form](#)

Instructions for completing the scholarship application form

1. Please complete all sections of the application form.
[See pages 2-4 for detailed instructions.](#)
2. Save the completed form.
3. Send the completed application form as an e-mail attachment to **Maša Tunić** (mtunic@fso.hr) with a message stating that you wish to apply for an HMC scholarship and have attached your completed application form. **Deadline for submitting the application is November 16th, 2020.**
4. Print off a copy of the completed form and sign it where required and get at least one of your parents or your legal guardian to sign it as well.
5. Using the [check list](#) below, send the printed, signed application form and all the additional documents listed to **Forum za slobodu odgoja** by regular post to the address: **Đorđićeva 8, 10 000 Zagreb** with reference: **za HMC stipendije.**

Check list (lista za provjeru)

Please complete all of the following steps before submitting your application and check each box:

- I have answered all of the questions on the application form as completely as I can;
- I have included my subject grades from my last two school reports;
- I have inserted a digital photo of myself on p.1 of my application form before printing the application
- I have read the instructions on completing the application form and writing my personal essay. Please, see additional instructions about [application form](#) and [essay](#);
- I have written my personal essay (750 - 1000 words) on p.7 of the application form;
- My parents and I have read the information about the programme stages and the financial conditions;
- I have signed the application on p. 3 and p. 7, and at least one of my parents has signed p. 4 and p. 5;
- I have included some (no more than 5) informal photos of my family and friends;
- I have included the Teacher Recommendation Forms written in English from 3 of my teachers (One from my current English language teacher, one from my Mathematics teacher and one from my Principal, Tutor or Class teacher) in signed and sealed envelopes. Please make it clear by writing on each envelope the name of the teacher who has written the report.
- I have included a copy of my last report card with my subject grades;
- I have included the receipt for the bank transfer of 300,00 kuna for the administrative fee (this fee is not refundable). This bank transfer should be made to the Forum for Freedom in Education (Forum za slobodu odgoja), IBAN: HR5224020061100082785, reference (poziv na broj): 477.
- I have included the application set (letters of recommendation, pictures & envelopes) in a large size envelope with my name and home address.

Some more detailed instructions for completing the application form

You must complete the application form as thoroughly as possible. What you write in your application form is considered very carefully by the interviewers when making their selections. Please be clear and accurate in all the information you give. You may be asked to support what you have written in your interview.

Section A

- Please make sure that all your personal contact information is accurate ... particularly your e-mail address. Please use your personal email address not your school email address.
- Please make sure you write the month of your birth do not use numbers
- Nationality: if you have dual nationality then please include both nationalities i.e. which passports you hold.

Section B

- **Type of school:** in most cases your school will be a General school. If your school is a **bilingual** school then a number of your school subjects (e.g. History, Geography) will be taught in a second language to your own.
- **Previous schools:** please complete this as it gives us a fuller picture of your education.
- **Year of finishing secondary education:** what year would you expect to complete your education at your school to go on to university.

Section D

- There are three different courses offered in the UK: A levels, IB Diploma (International Baccalaureate), and Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers. Only a small number of schools offer IB or Scottish Highers. If you particularly want to study for the IB, which is quite prescriptive, then you should state this along with your choice of subjects in the first box. There is no guarantee, however, that you will be placed in one of the few schools offering the IB course.
You must do your research to understand what is required on an IB Diploma course.
- If you have lived abroad continuously for over one month then please enter details in the appropriate box for this i.e. where, when and how long.

Section E

If your parents' joint net income (after tax deductions) will exceed £30,000 in 2020 then you can only apply for a reduced fee scholarship. If you are not selected for a full scholarship you may be included in a short list of reserves on account of your application and performance in the interview. All reserves are normally offered the opportunity to apply for a reduced fee scholarship which they may decline. Should you wish to be considered for a reduced fee scholarship you should enter **Yes** in the box for this.

Section F

- **Profession and Job Title:** it is important to enter this information accurately and completely for each parent.
- **Friends or relatives resident in the UK:** please enter the name, address and relationship of family friends or relatives, over the age of 23, in the UK who would be prepared to offer you accommodation. Please state clearly if they would be prepared to act as a guardian for you.
- Please make sure that you sign and date this section.

Instructions for Your Personal Essay

Write your **Personal Essay in English** on p. 7 of the application form. This essay should be about **750-1000 words in length**, describing yourself and what makes you unique, using specific examples and interests. If any of your answers to the questions in the Application Form are not fully informative, please expand on them in your essay.

In addition, the following questions are suggested as the kinds of things you might like to discuss:

- *Have you had an experience or a relationship that has particular importance to you?*
- *Have you had to overcome any personal difficulties and, if you have, what did overcoming them teach you about yourself?*
- *Describe briefly the various members of your family and what they mean to you.*
- *Can you tell us about your most common activities and interests? Which do you enjoy the most, and why?*
- *Do you belong to any clubs or other group organizations, and hold any special positions in them?*
- *Are you particularly interested and active, or particularly talented, in any sports or hobbies?*
- *Do you have any special accomplishments (artistic, musical or other cultural activities and/or talents)?*
- *Do you have any specific plans for the future?*
- *What are your reasons for wishing to study in the UK?*
- *How do you know you will be suited to living in another country in a boarding school?*
- *What might you bring to a school which offers you a scholarship?*

Please sign the essay to confirm that it is entirely your own

Choosing Subjects To Study In The UK Sixth Form

The key point is that in the sixth form in UK schools (Years 12 and 13) pupils study far fewer subjects than you have been studying in your own country. This allows you to specialise and study these subjects in much greater depth. The choice of subjects is very important as it can affect which university courses are available to you and also your eventual career path.

The examination system you will follow will normally be A Level.

A few schools in the programme offer either the International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) or Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers.

Each system leads to examinations at the end of two years' study which are essential for entry into university. These qualifications are recognised not only in the UK but also internationally. However, to qualify for entry into university in your own country you may be required to take mandatory national examinations.

In the **A level system** you will normally choose 3 or possibly 4 main subjects and you will take examinations in these after two years of study. Almost certainly you will also be encouraged to undertake study in non-examined subjects (such as General Studies) or your school may enter you for what is called the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification), a major piece of independently researched work.

For the **International Baccalaureate diploma** you have a choice of subjects but you must study literature and mathematics as well. You study your chosen subjects to standard (SL) or higher level (HL) depending on which are more important for university entry onto the course of your choice. Broadly speaking, those subjects you study at higher level will be equivalent to the subjects studied at A level. The idea of the IB is to maintain your breadth of knowledge. In this system you are also required to write an extended essay and to study 'theory of Knowledge (TOK)'.

The **Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers** are similar to the A level system in that the Highers require one year of study and the Advanced Highers normally require two years. As the name suggests this examination syllabus is followed in many schools in Scotland although some Scottish schools teach A level courses instead.)

The chart on the right shows the proportion of scholarship places available for A level, IB and Scottish Highers courses.

One year or two years in your UK school

The scholarship offered by schools through HMC Projects is intended to be **for two years** to enable you to complete your courses and take the final examinations for entry into university or college.

Your choice of subjects

Your choice of subjects that you study in your UK school depends on a number of factors:

- Your interest and ability in a subject;
- Your choice of university;
- Your choice of subject you wish to study at university;
- Your choice of career.

There is normally a large range of subjects to choose from in any school but not all schools offer the same range of subjects.

The following points may be helpful:

- Studying English involves studying English literature in depth;
- If you think you might want to choose a foreign language for A level, then you must have a fairly advanced knowledge already. Normally, you cannot start from scratch.

It is also important to be aware that universities may prefer certain subjects for entry onto a particular course. Generally, universities can be rather traditional in the subjects they prefer. Be wary if the subject includes the word “studies”... these are not necessarily for the most able students! You should also be cautious about studying a subject for a BTEC qualification as these may not be recognised outside the UK.

You will be wise to check out what is meant in general terms by sciences, mathematics, arts, humanities....

Table of Subjects

Subjects popular with universities		Subjects offered by fewer schools
Normally offered by all schools	Offered only by some schools	
Biology* Chemistry* English Literature* French* Geography* History* Art Mathematics* Further Mathematics* Music Physics* Spanish*	Business Studies Economics Classical Civilisation Computer Science Design Tech (Graphics) Design Tech (Product Design) Drama and Theatre Studies Latin* Greek* German* Psychology Religious Studies Politics	Media Studies Photography Physical Education <i>... and many others ...</i>

**for helpful guidance on subject choices for university courses, go to <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>.*

Examples of subject combinations useful for certain university courses in the UK:

Course	Preferred subjects for university
Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science	Chemistry and Biology are strongly advised (the majority of medical schools require Chemistry). Maths or Physics is desirable.
Natural Sciences	Two or three of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics.
Engineering	Mathematics and Physics are required. Further Mathematics is advised.
Computer Science	Mathematics is required. Computer Science or Physics are desirable.
Psychology	Usually two Sciences are advised, but entry via Arts subjects is perfectly possible.
Economics and PPE	Whilst Mathematics is advised, students should also consider Economics, History, Geography, Politics or Religious Studies.
Business Studies, Management, Marketing	Mathematics can be helpful, but not essential. Business, Economics, Geography, Psychology may be helpful.
Architecture	A combination of Arts and Science subjects; an Art portfolio is essential.
Foreign Languages	Two languages (modern or classical) are desirable but not essential
Law	Any A Levels at the highest grade. English Literature, History or Religious Studies are desirable.

University choices and tuition fees

From the start of 2021 all scholars, including those from EU countries, will have to pay the higher fees paid by all international students to study at a university in the UK. These tuition fees are normally more than double the fees that UK students have to pay. Including living costs this makes study at a university in the UK very expensive. Scholarships and bursaries to offset these costs are rare and difficult to obtain if you are an international student studying in the UK. The competition for such scholarships and awards is fierce. It is highly unlikely that you would be able to afford to stay and study in the UK. It is therefore important that you make the university advisor at your school know that you cannot afford the high fees at UK universities.

All scholars are recommended to consider university options outside the UK. There are universities in some European countries and beyond where the courses are taught in English and the fees are more affordable and access to state funding can bring the costs down to very low level. If you are considering studying at a university in the USA then you need to plan and prepare for this soon after starting at your school in the UK: you should seek advice on this from your school.

For all non-UK university applications, schools may not necessarily be aware of some of the requirements. For example, studying in Germany is a very attractive option for students as tuition is free, but the choice of A Level or IB subjects to study there is very strict. Careful research is needed to explore options in European countries.

< END >