



THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SOFIA

Profile: School-Year 2019-2020



STUDENTS: ACS's student population of 872 is 97% Bulgarian (with 15% of students coming from outside Sofia), and 3% international students who represent 10 other countries. There are 161 students in the Class of 2020. 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, 37.2% of applicants who applied to the College were admitted, and 73.5% 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 6,700 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. All ACS students take English as their first profile, mathematics as their second profile and their choice of third profile. Choices for the student-selected profile include chemistry, physics, humanities, and computers (informatics) for 11th and 12th grades only. 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 2019 is the 13th 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 2019 seven seniors earned the full IB diploma with an average score of 32.

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:	34	37	37	37	37

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 2020	MEAN GPA
Prep Year	5.50
9th Grade	5.56
10th Grade	5.64
11th Grade	5.69

SAT Class of 2020 Scores from May 2019 & Oct. 2019	Average # of students testing	Average Score
Total	25	1332
ERW (Evidence-based Reading & Writing)	25	649
Mathematics	25	685
Subject Tests Class of 2020 Scores from Nov. 2018 - Oct. 2019	Number of Students	Average Score
Biology Ecology	11	643
Chemistry	2	520, 740
English Literature	14	670
French	1	780
German with Listening	1	610
Math I	13	694
Math II	21	682
Physics	9	739
World History	2	620, 650



AP Exams (10th-12th graders) 2019 Exams with 5 or more students	# of test takers	Score of 3	Score of 4	Score of 5
Percent of total exams (60 exams)	48 students	22%	37%	27%
Computer Science A	9	2	6	1
Calculus BC	7	0	4	3
Biology	7	4	2	0
Physics 1	5	1	1	3
Macro/Microeconomics	5/5	1/0	2/3	1/0
Psychology	7	0	3	2

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