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## HMC PROJECTS – IN BRIEF

*HMC Projects in Central & Eastern Europe* – usually shortened to *HMC Projects* – is a charitable trust which organises scholarship programmes targeted at talented young people from non-affluent backgrounds in central and eastern European countries, so that they can come to study in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form in UK boarding schools in membership of HMC, GSA, SSBA and Society of Heads.

### Sixth Form Scholarship Programmes

There are two scholarship programmes for students who join the Lower 6th initially for one year, although it is now the normal practice for schools to invite students to stay on for the second year of the Sixth Form. Full details of the two programmes – the full scholarship programme and the reduced fee programme – can be found on the HMC website [www.hmc.org.uk/projects](http://www.hmc.org.uk/projects)

**Student quality and philanthropy (on the part of schools) lie at the heart of the programmes.** Although much has changed over the past 25 years (since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the opening up of countries in central and eastern Europe), the *raison d'être* of the programme remains arguably as valid as ever. *HMC Projects* seeks to identify very able, interesting and distinctively different young people from less affluent backgrounds, who in turn bring an enormous amount to the schools which host them.

For both the full and reduced fee programmes *HMC Projects* and the country coordinators are targeting academically able and talented young people from non-affluent backgrounds, but there are differences in how each programme is organised.

Combined parental income of student applicants for *full scholarships* must be restricted to £30,000 p.a. *Scholars offered a full scholarship are placed by HMC Projects in a school which has offered a firm place on the programme.* HMC Projects encourages schools to be as prescriptive as they wish and takes huge care to place successful scholars in the most appropriate school.

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. *Provided that their parental/family income does not exceed £80,000 p.a. 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 exceeds £30,000 p.a.* Schools which have offered a place or places will 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 administrative fee and so receive no bursary or any other benefits from *HMC Projects*. We cannot guarantee that all recommended reduced fee scholars will receive an offer, but in reality almost all do.

This September over 90 new *HMC Projects* Scholars started. They came from 14 countries in all: Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. In all since *HMC Projects* started in 1993 some 1800 young people have come through them to a range of boarding schools (HMC, GSA, State maintained & Society of Heads) in all parts of the UK and in some cases abroad.

*HMC Projects* has particular expertise and contacts in the countries where it operates and identifies types of students who may not appear through more conventional routes or through profit-making agencies.

Students are selected through entry procedures conducted in home countries and interviews by members of *HMC Projects* (usually trustees and executive – experienced serving and former headteachers or senior teachers who offer their services on a *pro bono* basis). In five countries we collaborate closely with ASSIST (American Secondary Schools for International Students and Teachers [www.assist-inc.org](http://www.assist-inc.org)).

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