Scholarships for Students

2027 Kevin Cessna-Buscemi Global Citizen Scholarships

Pursuant to its mission, the AATSP Exams, a program of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP), is committed to recognizing student achievement and promoting language proficiency in the study of Spanish and Portuguese. To this end, the AATSP Exams is offering either on-site ("residential") placement at the Concordia Language Villages or virtual placement with United Planet. The Kevin Cessna-Buscemi Global Citizen Scholarship covers the cost of tuition for either of the two week-long immersion programs (Concordia or United Planet).

ELIGIBILITY

In order to win this scholarship, applicants ***must***:

- Be 12 years of age or over for residential programs.
- Be 8 years of age or over for virtual programs.
- Have placed at or above the 75th percentile on National Spanish Exam (NSE), National Portuguese Exam (NPE), or won "Outstanding Achievement" on the National Spanish Challenge (NSC) in the 2024/25 or 2025/26 academic year.
- Be registered to take the 2026/27 NSE, NPE, *or* NSC.
- Be studying Spanish or Portuguese in school and agree to *continue* studying Spanish or Portuguese in the 2027/28 academic year.

NOTE: Only ONE student per teacher may apply. (Teachers at participating schools must select an applicant from their own school.)

REQUIREMENTS & COMMITMENT

If selected, each participant must submit a *refundable* $50.00 application fee in the form of a check within two weeks of selection. This fee *will be shredded* upon completion of requirements. However, if the requirements are not fulfilled, the application fee will not be refunded and will be deposited by Sep 30th, 2027. *

1. Recipients of the **residential** scholarship agree to make travel arrangements by May 1st, 2027, and forward confirmation of such to nse@aatsp.org. *Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the scholarship.* A stipend of $300.00 will be *reimbursed* upon return from trip and after all commitments are completed.
2. Applicants must commit to be in attendance for the entire length of the camp session. *Exact dates will be revealed on the application form when they become available*.
3. If a student cannot attend the entire session during the specified time, the trip will be forfeited and another student will be chosen. The award may not be postponed to another year.
4. Any recipient of a **virtual** scholarship needs to be physically present within the United States for the entire duration of the program, especially in order to receive the delivery of program materials from *United Planet*.
5. Upon return from the camp and/or completion of the virtual program (and no later than August 31st), winners are required to send an account of their experiences along with several digital photographs to be published on the NSE/AATSP website to nse@aatsp.org. This can be done via email, google form, or link to an online blog.

*NOTE FOR **RESIDENTIAL** CAMPERS*: Per Concordia, applicants are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. More information about COVID-testing and vaccination status for travel will be shared with winners at a later date.

Scholarships will *only* cover the following costs:

- Tuition expenses for residential or virtual sessions
- Meals during *residential* sessions
- A reimbursement stipend of $300.00 to help cover transportation expenses for those attending *residential* camps after requirements are fulfilled

Students are responsible for covering any additional expenses including but not limited to:

- Transportation to Concordia Language Villages (*reimbursable up to $300.00 upon successful completion of the program*). Any travel/transportation costs over the $300.00 reimbursement stipend will be the responsibility of the participants.
- Personal expenses (i.e. souvenirs, gifts, internet connectivity, or any other personal matter).
- Any additional Covid or other health/medical related testing required by Concordia.

SELECTION

All applications and accompanying materials must be received by **February 2, 2027.** No late applications will be accepted. These proposals will be reviewed by the *NSE/NPE Leadership Council Committee* and scholarship recipients will be notified by **March 2, 2027**. Students are given an opportunity to choose their preference to partake in a virtual or residential program and the *NSE/NPE LC Committee* takes these choices into consideration before awarding any scholarships. As such, any scholarship awarded by *AATSP Exams* is final (whether virtual or residential).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

By **February 2, 2027,** applicants must complete the correct online application form and include the following:

1. A standard video clip in Spanish or Portuguese in which you:
    - Discuss with your teacher: your family, hobbies, and interests, and some of the things you would like to do if you were awarded the Global Citizen Scholarship.
    - Are spontaneous and conversational in tone. (The student should be the dominant speaker.)
    - Speak with your teacher for 3-5 minutes without stopping the recording. (Both the student and teacher are to be visible in the video.)
2. In no more than one typewritten, double-spaced page (in English), choose one of the following essay topics (File Name: Student Name - Essay):
    - What does it mean to be a global citizen?
    - Write a letter to your parents explaining how an immersion program, whether virtual or in-person, would improve your speaking and understanding of Hispanic Culture.
3. One letter of recommendation:
   (File Name: Student Name – Teacher) from your current Spanish or Portuguese teacher who should comment on your language skills, your motivation toward your studies, your ability to get along with others and your ability to adapt to unforeseen circumstances. *This letter may be submitted directly from the teacher to the NSE Office via the nse@aatsp.org email or students may turn in a copy with the rest of their application materials*.
4. Parent authorization/AATSP Exams Media Release form completed, signed, and submitted (File Name: Student Name: - Media Release).

For the student to be considered, all of the above materials must be submitted via the application form. The video clip should be uploaded to YouTube and the proper permissions must be in place to allow us to view it (although it may be submitted as an *unlisted link* if desired). All attachments *must* use the appropriate file names stated and should be attached separately.

Scholarship Application: KCB Global Citizen Application Form

* Once selected for the Global Citizen Scholarship, winners should send their $50 application fee as a check payable to "*National Spanish Examinations*". In the memo section write "*Global*" and your student's name then mail the check to **National Spanish Examinations, 160 Rail Road – Suite 3, Chesterton, IN 46304**. Upon completion of the application requirements, these checks will be shredded. If any of these instructions are not completed in their entirety, then the check will be deposited by September 30th, 2027.