

## Summer Work & Travel Ambassadors Program

The **U.S. Embassy Bratislava** is pleased to invite university students to apply for the **Summer Work & Travel (SWT) Ambassador Scholarship program**. The SWT Ambassadors Program is a scholarship add-on to the regular Summer Work & Travel exchange program. Timing and all conditions of the regular program apply; please find more information at [www.letovamerike.sk](http://www.letovamerike.sk). Participants attending universities in Slovakia are allowed to work in the U.S. between May 15th and September 15th for a maximum of 120 days and must return to Slovakia by the beginning of the fall semester at their universities. The program is implemented in cooperation with Camp Leaders ([website](#)).

**The application deadline is midnight on March 15, 2024.** The Embassy Committee will select candidates approximately every two weeks from pool of applications. Candidates who are eligible for the program will stay in the pool until the process closed after the final round of selection. Selected candidates will need to contact their agency and proceed with the preparation and visa process in accordance to their normal procedure.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Summer Work & Travel Ambassadors Program is a scholarship add-on to the regular cycle Summer Work & Travel Program, which means all requirements, restrictions and benefits of the SWT program apply.

The Summer Work & Travel Program provides foreign students enrolled in colleges or universities with an opportunity to live and work in the United States during their summer vacations. Jobs are located across the United States. The program runs 3 to 4 months; participants attending universities in Slovakia are allowed to work in the U.S. between May 15th and September 15th for a maximum of 120 days and must return to Slovakia by the beginning of the fall semester at their universities. Please note: Summer Work & Travel is not for visitors who are only interested in tourist travel in the United States; participants must commit to the work portion as well. Please find more information on the program at [www.letovamerike.sk](http://www.letovamerike.sk).

In summer 2024, 83 students will have the opportunity, for only the cost of the U.S. visa fee (and otherwise free of charge), to experience the United States as thousands of American college students do during their own vacations. Ambassadors will have the opportunity to travel at the end of their work program to learn first-hand about different parts of the country, show the real United States to their friends, colleagues, and followers, and positively shape how Slovaks view the U.S. while combating misperceptions. There will be 83 slots open for various jobs at summer camps through Camp Leaders.

SWT Ambassadors are required to have and to present a plan to promote their own experiences and the SWT program upon their return to Slovakia.

The Summer Work & Travel Ambassadors program is open to Slovak citizens or permanent residents of the Slovak Republic who speak and work fluently in the Slovak language. The Embassy and/or implementing agencies might ask for proof of proficiency in Slovak language. The program is open to university students in Slovakia.

All program costs except for the visa application fee (\$185) will be covered by the U.S. State Department, Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs, and the U.S. Embassy in Bratislava. The program will be implemented by one Summer Work & Travel agency and only selected participants will be notified which will be their implementing agency.

## **CANDIDATE PROFILE**

Summer Work Travel Ambassadors must:

- Be sufficiently proficient in English to successfully interact in an English-speaking environment and/or willing to improve their language skills.
- Be a post-secondary school student enrolled in and actively pursuing a degree or other full-time course of study at an accredited classroom-based, post-secondary educational institution in Slovakia (university).
- Have successfully completed at least one semester or equivalent of post-secondary academic study.
- Plan on continuing their university education in the next academic year after return (i.e. cannot be in the final year of study).
- Demonstrate their commitment to promote the program in the future.
- Be willing and able to fully participate in the program.
- Be willing to adhere to the terms and conditions stated by the Department of State and implementing agencies.

The Summer Work & Travel pool of 83 participants will be gender and regionally balanced. Summer Work & Travel Ambassadors from marginalized communities and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds and/or first-time applicants for SWT Program will be prioritized for the scholarship program. Preference may also be given to students who are demonstrably active within their own communities/online since the goal of the Ambassadors program is to reach a wide audience. The SWT Ambassador program is not open to final year students.

Participants will travel to the United States on J-1 visas. It's recommended that participants arrive in the U.S. at least 1 day prior to the start date of their program, and they cannot arrive more than 30 days early or to remain in the U.S. more than 30 days after its end date. Violations of program rules, SWT agency rules, or local, state, or federal laws can be grounds for immediate dismissal from the program.

## **Application:**

In order to apply, please submit the completed online Application form by midnight March 15, 2024 at [www.letovamerike.sk](http://www.letovamerike.sk). Please do not send documents in pdf! If you have more questions, please reach out to [BratislavaSWT@state.gov](mailto:BratislavaSWT@state.gov).

## **FAQ**

### **Do I need to have permanent residency in Slovakia?**

Yes, the program is only open for permanent residents and citizens.

### **Will you select candidates from my university as well?**

Yes, the pool of Ambassadors will be regionally balanced so we are looking for students from all over Slovakia.

### **Can I travel earlier than May 15?**

No, this date is the earliest possible date when you can enter the U.S. You can, however, leave for the U.S. later once you have successfully finished your academic year.

### **How can I demonstrate my plan for promotion?**

This plan will be up to you – it can be anything you can think of, from posting on social media to giving an interview for your school media outlet to hosting community events for your peers.

### **Where can I ask more questions?**

If you have any additional questions or if something was not clear in this document, please, write us an e-mail at [BratislavaSWT@state.gov](mailto:BratislavaSWT@state.gov).

## **PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS**

The U.S. Embassy in Slovakia reserves the right, in its sole discretion, as part of the final analysis, to verify all the information given by an applicant. The Embassy reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to modify, suspend, terminate, or cancel the Program for any reason.

## **GDPR**

By accepting these rules, the applicant also grants consent to:

- the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, POBOX 309, 814 99 Bratislava,
- Camp Leaders Slovakia s.r.o., Mierová 406/8, 930 11 Topoľníky
- Digital agencies PS:Digital, s.r.o., Šustekova 5, Bratislava and Elia, s.r.o., Hviezdoslavovo nám 7, Bratislava (as cooperating subjects)

to the processing of personal data in the scope of: Name and surname, address of permanent residence, e-mail address, telephone, school, nationality of the applicant and all other information required in the application form, for the purpose of implementing the program and its further promotion by the U.S. Embassy in Slovakia, Camp Leaders, PS:Digital and Elia. At the same time, s/he expresses his consent to the processing and storage of provided personal data for an indefinite period. Consent to data storage can be revoked at any time by written revocation of consent delivered to the US Embassy in Bratislava, POBOX 309, 814 99 Bratislava, or electronically to [contact\\_Bratislava@state.gov](mailto:contact_Bratislava@state.gov).