

NEWSLETTER

December 2021



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Scholarship holder contracts signed with students across Bosnia and Herzegovina

For the Hastor Foundation and the scholarship holders, the end of 2021 is the beginning of a new story and adventure. On Wednesday, 29 December 2021, on the premises of ASA Prevent, the university students – scholarship holders signed the contracts for further scholarship. Those who prolonged their scholarship contracts were joined by new scholarship holders that recently became freshmen. In total, 526 scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation signed the contracts and some of them are just starting their stories as university students. Although they were divided into groups, with respect to all the epidemiological measures, these students were finally together after a long time.

Despite monthly online meetings which provided a sense of unity and collectiveness, the students could not hide their joy during our reunion. Just like the monthly online meetings, the university scholarship holders were met by the always cheerful director of the Hastor Foundation Seid Fijuljanin, who congratulated all the students on their signed contract while motivating them with to continue stringing their successes together.

If I had to sum up the mission of the Hastor Foundation, I believe that the most fitting word would be helping, which is our very essence. All our scholarship holders from their elementary, high school and later college years, go through various paths that lead to the fulfilment of their personal goals and ambitions. During this time, their style, way of life and work is exactly helping others. University students – scholarship holders are the base of Hastor Foundation's mission, the most important pillar in its structure since they work with their younger counterparts, giving them an image, which will lead them further into the future, said director Fijuljanin.

Our students are the primary role models for our younger scholarship holders who, through the process of mentoring, become just like their own mentors. Director Fijuljanin added that the way in which the university students motivate and inspire their younger counterparts is crucial, and it allows the younger scholarship holders to view their mentors as "role models". Among topics handled in regular volunteer meetings, it is important that younger students obtain trust in their mentors and know that they can contact them whenever they need help. Volunteering in mentor groups and local communities represents one of the main characteristics of the Hastor Foundation that makes it recognizable to others. Our scholarship holders do more than 20 000 hours of volunteer work monthly. This volunteer work is important for the whole country.





Director Seid Fijuljanin announced an admission call for new students wishing to join the Hastor Foundation. These new students will become a little army, a force of good changes

Students showed exceptional responsibility regarding their university obligations, but also towards the Hastor Foundation which inspires them toward success in everything they do. The main goal, however, is to be good people who change society and become role models through their positive acts. They were informed about their duties toward the Foundation by the member of the administrative team Maida Husnić, who explained the main rules and the way in which the Foundation operates.

Since its creation in 2006, the Hastor Foundation has supported and empowered young people. Its main goal is that every scholarship holder becomes a responsible, diligent, and inspiring citizen who will be an initiator of positive change, primarily in their local community and after that in the whole country.

The contract signing shows us that the students will soon move into the world of the labor market, but that does not worry us. Quite the contrary, we are happy that the employers will have a chance to meet these wonderful young workers and we are sure that it will make us

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

The Hastor Foundation can be proud of its diligent, ambitious, and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the fields of education and science. Therefore, the Foundation's team is comprised of young people who contribute to its work, improving the quality with their knowledge and skills. Exactly those values and dedication towards the volunteer work is analyzed every month to award the title of "Scholarship Holder of the Month". In the continuation of the article, read about the student who claimed this title!

Ajka Čamdžić



Scholarship holder Ajka Čamdžić comes from Brijesnica Velika, Doboj-Istok municipality. After graduating from the Elementary School "Brijesnica" in Brijesnica Velika and the Medical High School in Gračanica, she began studying at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo, where she is currently a fourth-year student.

Why pharmacy? *After primary school, I enrolled in medical high school with the desire to finish medicine one day, however, through an internship at the hospital, I did not see myself in that profession. At the first practice class in the course of Pharmacology, my interest in drugs, drug interactions, and the like began. I spent my free time researching it myself. That's how I discovered my affinity for pharmacy, and today it's even greater since I don't study because I have to but because I want to. I am happy to have the opportunity to study what I love and where I will hopefully use my own knowledge to help other people because that has always been my goal.*

Scholarship holder Ajka Čamdžić comes from Brijesnica Velika, Doboj-Istok municipality. After graduating from the Elementary School "Brijesnica" in Brijesnica Velika and the Medical High School in Gračanica, she began studying at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Sarajevo, where she is currently a fourth-year student.

Her beginnings as a volunteer go back to elementary school. She is proud that teachers have taught her about empathy during extracurricular activities from a young age. In addition to the extracurricular activities through which she prepared for the competitions, she was also a member of the environmental club, which will leave a later mark on her volunteer activities.

Her beginnings as a volunteer go back to elementary school. She is proud that teachers have taught her about empathy during extracurricular activities from a young age. In addition to the extracurricular activities through which she prepared for the competitions, she was also a member of the environmental club, which will leave a later mark on her volunteer activities.

At the end of primary school, she became an active member of the Red Cross Doboj-Istok. She actively continues her volunteering at the beginning of her studies in Sarajevo, where she had the opportunity to raise her volunteering to a higher level of creative workshops, participate in the organization of humanitarian actions, and help the administration of the dormitory. She also had the opportunity to volunteer on the radio.

During one workshop, she heard about the Hastor Foundation. ***I've heard only the best about the Foundation, so without much thought. I decided to apply for the call for students. What attracted me the most to apply for the scholarship is the fact that the Hastor Foundation is one of the rare organizations that appreciate volunteer work. I have been an active scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for three years. Ever since I joined, it has been clear to me that the Foundation is a family where everyone helps and supports each***

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

She says that in the three years since she received a scholarship from our Foundation, she has had the opportunity to improve herself and help others with her talents. She considers volunteering to be the key to acquiring work habits, because thanks to them, the transition from student life to everyday work is not a challenge: ***I want to thank the Foundation the most because it made me a more mature and complete person.***



She views volunteer activism as a fundamental aspect of her work. She believes that it helps her build faith in herself and her ability to offer her own answers to the problems around us all, that is, faith that she can change her own and someone else's world. However, in addition to working for the benefit of others as a volunteer, she says that the most beautiful thing is that, at the same time, she works on herself, her personal and professional development

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people. This is very important, especially if you are in a new environment. It made me primarily a more responsible and happier person. I do this because I make people happy by helping, and that makes me happier. In addition to daily responsibilities at home and obligations for college, as a volunteer, I have to find time for additional activities. It also motivated me to take the organization of my own time and plan daily activities more seriously. In addition, one of the most valuable things is making new acquaintances, both in the Foundation itself and through numerous projects of which I was a member.

In the Foundation, she claims to be happy when she shares her happiness with the younger scholarship holders.

It is an indescribable joy when high school students tell me that they got a good grade or that they applied some skill we learned in our meetings, when after a cleaning action I see a clean part of land, river or lake or when I see the smile of a person I helped in some way.

She considers the foundation a large family that provides her with help and support and that encourages her to be the best possible version of herself. In addition, she gained new friendships, experiences, and skills, and through volunteering, she realized the importance of volunteer work and the ways in which young people are changing the world.

What I would like to say to the other scholarship holders is to follow the path of humanity. In these difficult times, we all need support and common problems bring us even closer. Don't be neutral and let your voice be heard, and together we can hear each other even louder. I especially recommend the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation to appreciate the status of a scholarship holder, because the Foundation gives us the opportunity to show our skills and qualities and improve them.



RAM - CATEGORY OF ACTIVE YOUTH

By definition RAM is the working memory of a computer. The "working memory" in Bosnia and Herzegovina are exactly the proactive and diligent young people who, through their actions, present an example of the society that our country needs. Through this section, we will present active and young scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation who, in addition to volunteering, do phenomenal things and thus represent the Foundation in the best light!



Merima Osmanović is a third-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla, Department of Political Science, field of International Relations and Diplomacy. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for 8 years. For the past 6 years, Merima has been performing the role of volunteer and activist and president of the Youth Association "Trick" and coordinator of the "Center for Children and Youth" Kalesija.

The activist story of this girl begins in 2013, when she first attended a seminar with the international organization World Vision BiH, and the topic was the prevention of peer violence. After that, she became active in many organizations, but she continued her volunteering at World Vision and believes that thanks to them, she has achieved everything she is now. With them, she grew, strengthened, found herself and realized her love for the non-governmental sector and for World Vision itself. There are also some other organizations that have contributed to Merima's training, PRONI Center for Youth Development, Youth Movement Revolt, Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs Kalesija, Let's Do It Tuzla, Red Cross and many others. The most impressive in Merima's activist story is certainly the establishment of the Youth Association "Trick" in the municipality of Kalesija,

There she found herself and met many friends. Thanks to "Trick", our scholarship holder travelled a lot and learned many things that are useful to her at the university, but also in other spheres of life. Now she gets the opportunity to facilitate and lead trainings where she is engaged by many organizations and associations and thus strengthen her skills.

The activity I am most proud of is the opening of the Center for Children and Youth in the municipality of Kalesija. Through our activities, we felt the need for the existence of such center and we opened it in August this year with the support of the international organization World Vision BiH and the Municipality of Kalesija. The center exists so that all children and young people have a safe space for their growing up, as well as training.



RAM - CATEGORY OF ACTIVE YOUTH

90,000 KM was invested in the space itself and it is equipped according to world standards. Merima has worked hard to equip the Centre, where she has spent almost every day since February working on preparations for the opening. It's something she's most proud of and always likes to point out. Throughout this process, our scholarship holder coordinated all activities and communicated with suppliers, craftsmen, and donors. She is proud and overjoyed that she got the opportunity because, thanks to her engagement so far, she has shown and proved that she can bring out the whole process. What is of special importance is the fact that Merima has shown that she has a great desire to achieve great things like this.



I think that it is very important to be active in our communities and to contribute to them, but, above all, the most important thing for me is that through our activism we learn about ourselves, get to know ourselves, strengthen our capacities and skills. All this will serve us for the future, and I can rightly say and prove from my own experience that the skills of public speaking and building self-confidence later pay off and will be recognized and appreciated.



In Merima's story, the Foundation has always been there as a support and motivation to be better and more responsible in everything she does. Through volunteer and activist engagement, she transferred her skills to other scholarship holders and spoke about them, and the Foundation constantly appreciated her work.

Her message to Hastor Foundation scholarship holders is to always be their own and never give up on their goals and desires and what they consider right. Despite all the difficulties, they should never give up. The most important thing is that they believe in what they do and what they want. She has proven her words with the works she speaks of with pride, and the Foundation is here to support students who have something to say and show the world with their works.

INTERESTING FACTS

Descartes' Square

In the times of many tough decisions or uncomfortable situation, you surely have thought how good it would be to have a magic stick that would work like the ones in cartoons and could help you solve a problem. However, has it ever crossed your mind that all those problems or uncomfortable situations make our characters stronger? There is a saying that goes "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger", and this is partially true. The French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes invented the said "magic stick" that can help us be in control of our problems and most importantly, come out as winners. The procedure that he invented is called "Descartes' square". The idea of the square is to give an honest answer to these four questions:

**What
happens
if this
happens?**

**What will
happen if
this doesn't
happen?**

**What won't
happen
if this
happens?**

**What won't
happen if this
doesn't
happen?**

The four questions enable us to observe a problem from four different viewpoints, without making it worse, which is something that we often do. Answering the questions will create a balance in our mind, and this helps us to see the nature of a problem more clearly. Since the questions are similar, you should pay attention to the double negation in the question "What won't happen if this doesn't happen?". Our brains will try to avoid the double negation, so the answer to this question might be similar to the answer given to the first question.

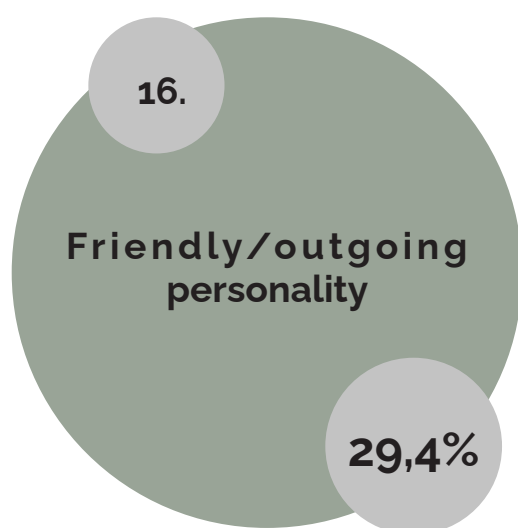
In order to avoid this, take a piece of paper and a pen, and write down all the questions; or you can do that on your mobile phone by using an app. The best way is to draw a square (hence, Descartes' square) and to answer the questions in that way. Use the top two corners for positive questions, and the bottom ones for negative. This analysis will point out the main pros and cons of a problem. If we analyse our problems this way, we will be able to make choices and predict risks more easily. We will also be able to see potential outcomes. This method is effective because it helps us make rational decisions and use the four questions to solve a problem or make a tough decision.

If you haven't used the method before, we kindly recommend it. Not only will you be able to make tough decisions, but you will also learn how to analyse things and possibilities from different angles. This way, you will be less disappointed, and you'll easily determine your goals and overcome the obstacles ahead. This is also a certain way of talking to oneself, so it can also help you understand your own personality better.

LET'S BE (MORE) COMPETITIVE!

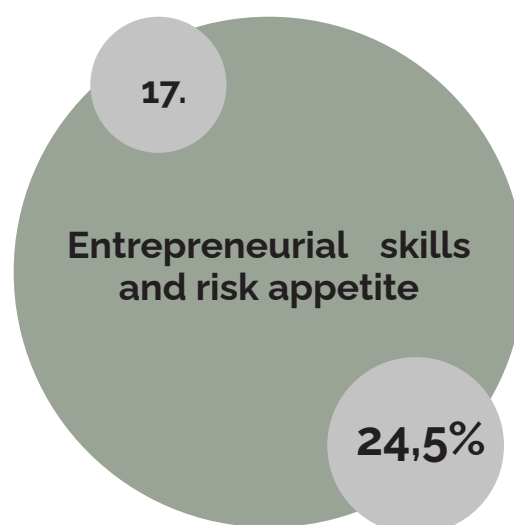
In the 21st century, it's not enough to achieve great success in the process of education to make the person attractive at an international level, level of studies, or level of employment. It can often be observed that recent bachelor's or master's degree graduates are unemployed, yet they applied and sent their biographies (Curriculum Vitae) to many job advertisements. Fewer and fewer young people know how to properly use the online resources they have at their disposal (e.g. proper email etiquette). This section's goal is to promote educations, seminars, and exchange programs, but also to show how international- level students work on self-improvement.

When employers look at a graduate's CV, they are focused on finding evidence of problem- solving and teamwork skills. NACE Job Outlook 2020 is a survey that shows that, in addition to the grade point average, the skills we just mentioned are the most important to employers. More than 91% of employer respondents require knowledge of problem-solving skills in the candidates they employ, and more than 86% want proof of skills to participate in teamwork. This research consists of a list of the 20 most desirable skills, and for the end of this year, we bring you the final 5 skills, ranked 16th to 20th, as well as tips on how to build and/or improve them.

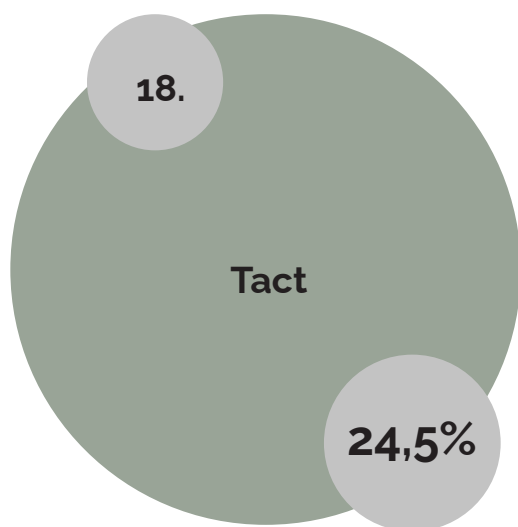


Start contacting the people around you through small steps, whether they are strangers, acquaintances, colleagues or friends. Eye contact and small friendly gestures can help a lot. They say that a smile is contagious, so if someone looks at you directly while shopping at a store, smile at them and you will see that most people react positively and will probably respond with a smile, which will boost your confidence immediately. Once you master the smile, move on to the greeting, and then ask someone for advice or just give a compliment. The more you get used to establishing communication with strangers and acquaintances, the more natural your openness will become both to yourself and to the people around you. At the end of the day, no one will remember how nervous you sounded the first few times you met these people but will remember you as a person who tried to take the first step, who was not afraid to ask a question in a group and who had something nice to say at the end of a conversation, like, "It was great talking to you, we should do this again!"

Successful people are willing to take risks to overcome obstacles. Risks can expose you to some degree of physical, financial or emotional danger, but they are sometimes necessary to take advantage of new opportunities. Taking calculated risks is accompanied by increased self-confidence (emotionally risky activities, such as public appearances, can lead to positive outcomes where you gain new confidence in your abilities), acquiring new skills (going outside your comfort zone in sports, art or academy can also lead to increased self- confidence), and financial rewards (investing requires risk calculation, and the search for a new job or a better work-life balance also involves a certain level of risk for most people). Some risks may not pay off, but an optimistic person willing to take risks will always view failure as an opportunity to learn. Willingness to experiment with new ideas is key to professional growth.



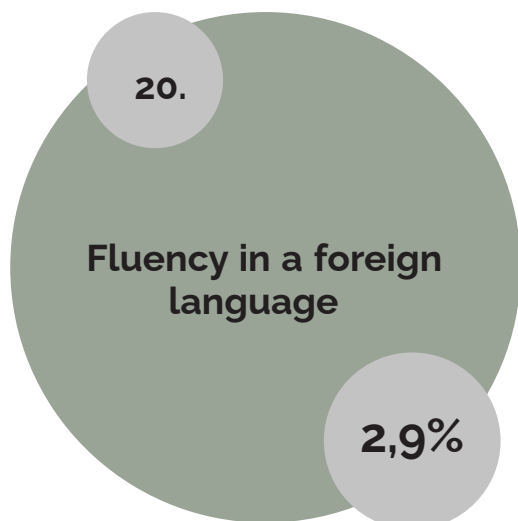
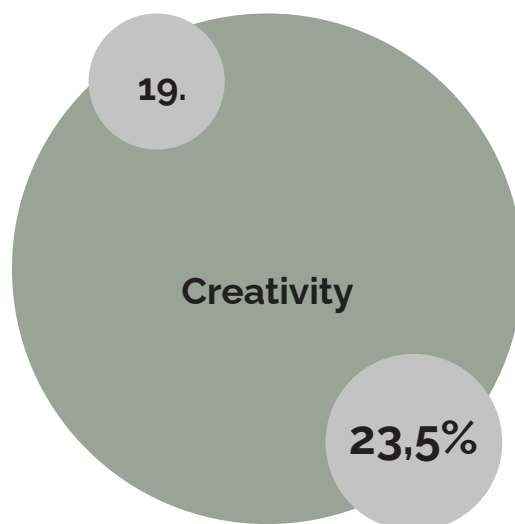
LET'S BE (MORE) COMPETITIVE!



Being tactful means giving a true and honest opinion to another person without hurting their emotions and feelings. It is a way to preserve and maintain a relationship without offending the person. More often than not, honest people tend to hurt other people's emotions because of rudely communicating the truth. The art of tact and diplomacy teaches a person to preserve and maintain a relationship without creating cracks in it. It provides space for giving feedback without cultivating complaints and misunderstandings in relationships. A talkative person loses control over the choice of words in communication. To learn the art of tact, one should always remain specific in terms of seeking explanation. Examining your behaviour to overcome shortcomings will be of great help in learning the skills of tact and diplomacy. In these situations, it is important to listen more than to talk, and tact will certainly help you a lot in your first work environment when you face its challenges.

Many employers value creativity. No matter what industry you work in or plan to work in, you'll find that creativity can help you with everyday tasks and long-term goals. Learning how to apply creative thinking to your business obligations can help you develop new and effective solutions to common challenges you face in your work role. You can start thinking creatively in your career using the following tips:

1. Consolidate the information you already have.
2. Consider an obvious solution or process.
3. Consider additional solutions.
4. Think about how the topics are related.
5. Apply solutions.



Although only 2.9% of employers pointed out knowledge of a foreign language as an important skill for students, it is important to note that this research was conducted in a market where English is the official language. This skill is much more important for students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, so we encourage you to improve your knowledge of foreign languages or even learn a new one. We have written before about different platforms that you can use for learning, and it is quite certain that knowing any foreign language and its presence in your CV will make you more competitive compared to some other candidates who do not know any foreign languages.

THROUGH THE LENS



Adisa Bajramović



Harun Hadžo



Emina Nukić



Marja Šišić



Džejna Čizmo



Asja Hadžić



Ajla Imamović



Alma Ćosić

POETRY CORNER

Homeland - The Cure

If you had a gloomy day
Or if warm rains fell down your cheeks
Remember that you are under your own roof
That you are not alone, someone is always breathing with you

Tomorrow, when you cross the Old Bridge
Stop for a moment, and take a little bit of air that raised you
Then take a look at the Neretva
May it take the burden that has been pressing you

You, the one who walks Travnik's streets every day
Admire the slopes of Vlačić today
Embrace the old town with your eyes
Believe me, that's the cure to your sleepless nights

Even though you have been looking at it since day one
Bihać is still the cradle of life
Wash your dark eyes with waves from the Una
You'll see, your eyelids will have an easier night

The ones who walk through Sarači every day
Good for them, they are loved by the life in many ways
I would give everything to feel Sarajevo's frozen hands
And let Baščaršija embrace everything that aches

Nedžma Latić

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