Yes, there really is a Transylvania

A part of the Kingdom of Hungary for 1,000 years, the 94K square mile region was ceded to Romania after WWI. Thus, the turbulent history of the largest ethnic Hungarian minority living outside the borders of present-day Hungary began. Sadly, the legacy includes the communist regime's systematic campaign, beginning after WWII, to forcibly assimilate the 1.5 million-strong community. Despite facing many obstacles since the 1989 fall of communism, the Hungarian community is vibrant and thriving; a significant cultural, economic and political force in Romania, reaching new heights in their centuries-old traditions of excellence. Yes, "Count Dracula," Béla Lugosi, hailed from a Hungarian village called Lugos, but Transylvania is so much more. A place of immense, natural beauty, living folk culture and traditions not found elsewhere in Europe, it is a true multi-ethnic region. Transylvania's rich and proud heritage includes being the first place in history to declare religious tolerance in 1568.

Support this amazing opportunity

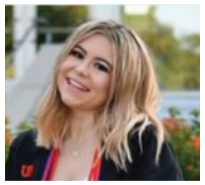
The scholarship is funded entirely through donations and the in-kind contribution of our partners in Transylvania.The six-month cost for one recipient is $6,000, not including the transatlantic airfare. Contributions by check, credit card or Paypal are gratefully accepted and tax-deductible. To make your online gift please visit **https://reconnecthungary.org/donate** and indicate **Reconnect Transylvania+** in the comment field.

Peyton Snyder 2024-25
Scholarship Recipient

Peyton is a fourth generation Hungarian-American from Florida. He completed his degree in history with an emphasis on modern Europe at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Marcus Kinney 2022-23
Scholarship Recipient

Sarah Carroll 2019-20
Scholarship Recipient



Sarah Agronow 2019
Scholarship Recipient

Lianna Hendrick 2018
Scholarship Recipient

Reconnect Transylvania+ is a program of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in the State of New York, and founded in 1976.
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Reconnect Transylvania+

Scholarship Opportunity in Transylvania
for Young Hungarian-Americans and Canadian Adults

reconnect HUNGARY
Hungarian Birthright Program

HHRF
Hungarian Human Rights Foundation

Reconnect Transylvania+ immerses American and Canadian young adults of Hungarian background in Transylvanian-Hungarian communities for a 3–6 month period. The program is a natural extension of our Reconnect Hungary and ReConnect Transylvania birthright programs.

Finishing college?
Looking to hone your skill set and gain real- life know-how?
Seeking a new direction?

Now, young adults of Hungarian heritage have an exciting opportunity to gain valuable work experience in various areas and also mentor local students. The scholarship provides room & full board, and a monthly stipend. Transatlantic airfare is not included.

The program empowers Scholarship recipients in three ways:

Teaching: you mentor high school or university students informally by tutoring them in English, and deepening their knowledge of American culture.

Interning: you gain invaluable, hands-on work experience by volunteering 25 hours a week at a nonprofit - each one with a different mission - and expanding your network of professional contacts.

Connecting: you have the opportunity to learn upfront and personal how other young Hungarians live; form life-long friendships; and enrich your Hungarian identity through cultural immersion that simply is not possible elsewhere.

What does the Scholarship provide?

The scholarship provides room & full board in the selected school's facilities, and a stipend to cover local transportation costs in Transylvania. Your internship at the NGO is unpaid, and you make your own travel arrangements from the United States/Canada to Romania. Our local program coordinator, based in Kolozsvár (Cluj), provides guidance and assistance.

Duration of the Scholarship

The Program coordinates with the academic calendar in Transylvania. High School semesters are September 15 - February 1 and February 15 - June 15. The semesters in higher education institutions are October 1 - December 21 and February 1 - May 31. Recipients arrive a few days before the semester begins. There is flexibility for participants to stay on.

Where will you teach and intern?

The Program aims to match participants with educational institutions and volunteer organizations best suited to their talents and goals, the hosts' needs, and the time period chosen. Kolozsvár/Cluj is the unofficial capital of Transylvania, a cultural and educational hub, with 350,000 residents. Marosvásárhely/Targu Mures is medium-sized; while the Székely towns of Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfantu Gheorghe (54,000), Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc (42,000) and Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc (34,000) in the Székely region are smaller, rural cities.

Applying for the Scholarship

We are accepting applications for 2025. Please submit the following information in one Word document:

1. Your availability in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.
2. One-page motivational letter describing your (a) Hungarian background and involvement in local Hungarian organizations, if any, (b) how you think you will be able to best contribute, and (c) how this Program fits in with your personal and professional goals.
3. In addition, please provide a resume which contains your contact information, educational background and work experience, a letter of reference, and a passport-sized photo. Send your email to: info@reconnecthungary.org with the subject line: Application for Reconnect Transylvania+ scholarship. You do not need to have any Hungarian-language ability for this program but we encourage you, if selected, to take Hungarian or Romanian language classes before departure, if possible.