



FLEX 2017-18 Testing Open!



American Councils is proud to announce that the FLEX 2018-19 testing cycle for FLEX is open! We would like to thank the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan for their support of the program. There are 15 available slots for this cycle. American Councils would also like to thank the US Embassy in Turkmenistan for their support of the FLEX program. The FLEX program is fully funded by the government of the United States of America. Finalists will only pay for the cost of obtaining an international passport, notarization of parental permission, and transport of documents to our office in Ashgabat. Good luck to all applicants!

FLEX Program Testing Schedule 2018/19 Academic Year

Students are required to take the exam for their home region on the date and time assigned below - NO EXCEPTIONS.

Regions	Date	Time	School	Address
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Mary, Mary region Dashoguz, Dashoguz region Balkanabat, Balkan region*	January 14	10:00	School 20, Ashgabat	Ashgabat, 20 Rejep Byashimov St.
Turkmenabat, Lebap region Turkmenbashy, Balkan region Ahal, Region*	January 21	10:00	School 20, Ashgabat	Ashgabat, 20 Rejep Byashimov St.
Ashgabat*	January 28	09:00	School 20, Ashgabat	Ashgabat, 20 Rejep Byashimov St.

*** Students can only participate in one Round 1 Test per year. Students who take the exam more than once will be disqualified from the competition. Students must take the exam on the specific date for which they are assigned.**

We invite all students to participate in competition who:

- **were born between March 15, 2000 to May 31, 2002; students in the 11th grade who are required to complete military service are ineligible;**
- have not stayed in the United States for more than three months in the last five years;
- speak English well;
- are currently enrolled in a secondary school, having an academic standing of good or better;
- are eligible to receive a U.S. visa;
- are citizens of Turkmenistan.

All eligible students are invited to take part in the first round of testing. In order to participate in the competition **ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS MUST:**

- bring proof of eligibility (original passport [no copies] or original birth certificate),
- bring one recent photograph (3×4 cm);
- bring a pen;
- wear their school uniform.

All students at the testing center must demonstrate respectful and appropriate behavior at all times or risk disqualification from the FLEX competition.

No cellular phones or other electronic equipment (computers, iPads, iPods, e-readers, cameras, etc.) will be allowed in the testing center. Students bringing these items to the testing center risk disqualification from the FLEX competition.

American Councils is not responsible for organizing or providing travel for eligible participants in the FLEX competition. Parents and students must make their own travel arrangements for all rounds of the competition. NO REIMBURSEMENT OR PAYMENT FOR TRAVEL EXPENSES WILL BE PROVIDED FOR PARTICIPANTS OR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS BY AMERICAN COUNCILS.

Testing will be conducted by American Councils staff for all five regions of Turkmenistan in Ashgabat only.

The competition consists of a 15-minute test on basic knowledge of English (Round One), essays in English (Round Two), and an English test, essay and interview (Round Three).

Now in its 26th year, FLEX will offer scholarships to secondary school students from Turkmenistan for the 2018-2019 academic years. Scholarship recipients will be provided with round-trip travel from their home to the United States and back, as well as an allowance for living expenses.

Scholarship recipients will learn about the United States firsthand by participating in family life, school study and extracurricular activities. Program participants will also participate in activities in their local communities or areas,

and will also have the opportunity to share their own culture with others.

Recipients of FLEX scholarships are selected by an independent panel of experienced educators in the United States on the basis of merit demonstrated in application materials. Merit is determined by evaluating the written application, recommendations, English language proficiency and an applicant's demonstrated preparedness for a year-long exchange experience.

This program is open to all high school students who meet requirements of the program including students with disabilities. More than 300 disabled students have already studied in the U.S. on this program.

For more information about the program or testing in your area, please contact
American Councils for International Education
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<http://americancouncilstm.org/flex/>