

# International Education is For Everyone: Highlights From Our High School Scholarship Students



During his year in the U.S., Batuhan, a YES student from Turkey who is blind, enjoyed attending a baseball game and following along with a board of the field that his host family made for him as well as cross-country skiing and running in a marathon. While at a pre-program workshop conducted by partner organization Mobility International, USA (MIUSA) in Eugene, Oregon, Batuhan learned American Sign Language from Erika, a deaf student from the Philippines. At the end of the workshop, he signed to everyone, "Hello, my name is Batuhan and I am from Turkey. Before coming to America, I didn't know that I can sign. It doesn't matter that I am blind."



Aleksandr, a FLEX student from Russia with a physical disability, is an avid fencer in his home country. Halfway into his exchange year in Maine, Aleksandr qualified for the American Cup Paralympic fencing championship in Salt Lake City, where he won two silver medals in a field of adult competitors from all over the world, and was invited to take part in the American Cup's world championship in April 2015.



Aram, a FLEX student from Armenia, enjoys sports, volunteer work, and spending time with his host family in Oregon. He says that, "If you believe, you can do it."



*"If you believe, you can do it."  
— Aram, FLEX student from Armenia*



Natasa, an A-SMYLE student from Serbia with muscular dystrophy, is active in her host school's choir, yearbook, and photography clubs. Many of Natasa's classmates were unfamiliar with Serbia, so she found interesting, relevant, and fun ways to present it to them. Natasa taught her choir a Serbian song which they went on to perform at one of their concerts, to great fanfare.



Vladyslav is a blind FLEX student from Russia whose host family taught him how to surf and kayak.



Perizat, a FLEX student from Kyrgyzstan, with her U.S. host sister.



Muhammad ("Ahmad"), a YES student from Pakistan, has not let his physical disability hold him back. He is an active member of his host school's Key Club and Adventure Club. He does peer tutoring in his physics class and volunteers twice a month feeding the homeless. Ahmad has introduced his home country's traditional clothing to his host family, as pictured here.