

Capital City of Podgorica Scholarship 2026

Scholar Selection Process

Details of the application and scholar selection process are as follows:

- Candidates completed an online application form hosted on the One Young World website (see [here](#)).
- All applications from candidates based in Podgorica were assessed by the One Young World Programmes Team. 157 applications were received in total, with 13 being eligible applications from candidates based in Podgorica.
- The team selected a shortlist of the 3 strongest candidates, based on the agreed criteria (see Candidate and Selection criteria below). One Young World looked to achieve balance between genders and individuals working across the relevant areas of impact. The 3 shortlisted candidates were:
 - **Sara Čabarkapa** - Active Citizenship Programme Coordinator at the Centre for Civic Education. In her role she leads initiatives aimed at strengthening citizen engagement, democracy and institutional accountability.
 - **Marija Blažević** - Young European Ambassador, member of the Council of Youth Initiatives under the President of Montenegro, Danube Youth Council member, European Forum Alpbach scholarship holder and member of the Steering Committee of the project Podgorica Youth Capital 2028.
 - **Ilija Franeta** - Youth Scientific Advisory Board member of Youth and Environment Europe, and climate consultant at the World Bank with a focus on investment policy and promotion, particularly in green investments, renewable energy and climate resilience.
- All members of the One Young World Programmes Team reviewed the applications of the 3 shortlisted candidates, and voted for the strongest candidate, based on the agreed criteria (see Candidate and Selection criteria below).
 - Sara Čabarkapa received 5 votes.
 - Marija Blažević received 2 votes.
 - Ilija Franeta received 0 votes.
- With the most votes, Sara Čabarkapa was confirmed as the scholar, and her application shared with the Capital City of Podgorica.

Candidate criteria

Candidates must:

- Be living and making an impact in the city of Podgorica, Montenegro.
- Be a national of Montenegro.
- Be aged 18 – 30 by the date of the One Young World Summit 2026 in November.
- Have a strong working understanding of and ability to communicate in English, as the One Young World Summit will primarily be held in English.
- Be available to join the programme full time between 2 - 7 November, and participate in all mandatory sessions and a pre-Summit onboarding call.

Selection criteria

- Proven record of creating positive change in Podgorica or in the wider context of Montenegro.
- Active engagement in the community, such as through youth work, volunteering, civic engagement or community initiatives.
- Evidence of exceptional academic, professional or extracurricular accomplishment.
- Clear articulation of vision for post-event impact, and how the One Young World experience would be used to create a measurable impact upon return to Podgorica.
- The ability and motivation to represent Podgorica on an international platform, and to serve as a youth ambassador after the Summit.
- Alignment with One Young World mission to create a fair, sustainable future for all.