



## Our new students 2020/2021

Dear supporters of Kidshelp Kambodscha e.V.,

Another year has passed, and we would like to again invite you to support young, talented people from Cambodia by enabling them to study in Phnom Penh.

Our first scholarship holders started their studies in 2006. We were subsequently able to welcome our first Kidshelp alumni in 2010/2011. Many of these alumni have stayed in contact with us and help us as much as they can. For example, a young woman who studied with the support of Kidshelp is now a psychiatrist and offers free counselling to scholarship holders who have problems and feel the need to talk about them. Another student works in human resources management and even during her studies, she was able to explain to scholarship applicants the challenges of moving to and living in Phnom Penh. She continues helping scholarship holders prepare for the job market. Since 2020, another graduate of our programme has been working as a doctor at the renowned Pasteur Institute. Following the careers of these young people gives us great pleasure every year!

What began as a small pilot in 2006 has since developed into a full-fledged project that includes regular support and study counselling for current and future students. It ranges from the possibility of accommodation in one of our dormitories to the implementation of various trainings and workshops provided by volunteers and the permanent staff on site. Almost all of our students achieve good to very good results and, so far, every graduate has found a job after completing their studies.

2020 was, as with rest of the world, not an easy year in Cambodia. Schools were closed for months and the final high-school exams were postponed several times from their original date in August, only to be completely cancelled in December. According to the Ministry of Education and due to the missing results, an objective evaluation of the graduates was not possible. Thus, it was decided that everyone who had registered for the examinations would receive their high school diploma. However, this year's certificates are not graded. This made it even more difficult for us to select candidates for scholarships. Fortunately, many of the teachers who work at our English school also teach at the high schools in the area and know the majority of the applicants. Because of the lack of grades, we have placed even more emphasis on how our teachers assessed this year's candidates.

From an administrative point of view, it is easiest for us when a sponsor fully finances the cost for one scholarship holder. Full financing means that the sponsor pays the costs for a place in the dormitory (if the student wants to stay there), the tuition fees and our administrative charges (see page 3). Since not everyone can afford this, some sponsors may decide to pay either the dormitory fees or the tuition fees. The administrative charges are then divided equally among all sponsors for one student.



The cost for a place in one of the dormitories is currently 450 EUR per year. The amount of tuition fees depends on the field of study and the choice of university. Usually, tuition fees at university range between 500 US Dollars (e.g. for English studies) and 1,650 US Dollars (for medicine) per year. If the fees for a certain subject at the different universities are approximately the same, we leave it up to the students to decide where they want to study. However, if a student wants to study at a significantly more expensive private university, we refuse to support this choice and refer them to cheaper alternatives. Due to the pandemic and the government's sudden decision to cancel the A-level exams and allow all students to pass, some universities have not yet officially announced the prices for first-year students. Also, some of our candidates plan to take entrance exams at renowned faculties and would need to study at different university if they do not pass these exams. Thus, if the profile of a specific candidate mentions a price range rather than a fixed amount, it is because of these temporary uncertainties.

We charge additional 100 EUR per year per student to cover the cost for project implementation and administration. What applies for all of our projects also applies here: In case we make any surplus from collecting these fees, all funds will be used for statutory purposes only.

In terms of transparency, a note on the administrative surcharge: In 2017 we calculated that we spent an average of 150 US Dollars (currently equivalent to about 125 EUR) for the support and administration of a student. However, due to good management and favourable exchange rates, we generated a surplus at the same time, which we included to the calculation of the fees. We will continue to check these costs each year and adjust them if necessary.

We use the following exchange rates to calculate the amounts in Euro:

1 EUR = 1.14 USD,      1 USD = 0.88 EUR

For more information about our scholarship programme, please visit our homepage ([www.kidshelp-kambodscha.org](http://www.kidshelp-kambodscha.org)) or connect with us on Facebook.

If you are interested in providing someone with a scholarship, please contact us via [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org)


Perhaps you can also persuade your family or your friends and colleagues to join together and make it possible for a young person to study? It also happens from time to time that companies or foundations, which our supporters are associated with, take on sponsorships. Small organisations like ours live on personal recommendations. It would therefore be great if you shared the profiles with everyone who might be interested in sponsoring this year's candidates.



Additional information:

- We issue donation receipts which can, for German taxpayers, be claimed for tax purposes.
- If you are a UK tax payer and complete a Charity Gift Aid Declaration, we will be able to file a tax claim in UK, meaning for every £1.00 donated we will, after tax claim receive £1.25.
- For some of the featured candidates the costs of sponsorship are significantly higher. We would not advertise these candidates if we were not convinced that they could achieve great things with your help. Especially with regard to these candidates, we would like to point out that a sponsorship can be shared between several sponsors.
- Some of the applicants' profiles below do not include the costs for accommodation in our dormitories. This is because these some candidates are able to stay with relatives living in Phnom Penh. We do insist that accommodation outside of our dormitories is with direct family.
- If there is a remark " already sponsored " next to the candidate's name, we have already found sponsors for him or her. If a sponsor agrees to provide partial funding, we will note "partially sponsored" alongside the amount that is still missing.



Met Leanghay		
Field of study:	Informatics / Computer Science (IT)	
Duration:	4 years	
Costs per year:	440 EUR (Tuition fee) 450 EUR (Dormitory) 100 EUR (Administrative charges)	
Total costs per year:	990 EUR	

Leanghay comes from a simple background. His parents run a small farm and grow mainly rice and also, some fruits and vegetables.

At our school he is known by his nickname Hay. He is popular with his fellow students as well as with the teachers and volunteers, due to his diligence and willingness to help. Hay has assisted and supported our teachers for several years and has occasionally even taught the youngest classes when a substitute tutor was needed. In addition, the teachers turn to him for all kinds of technical problems, for example when the beamer or the audio equipment (for music and listening assignments) are not working. It is therefore no surprise that he wants to study *IT*. He has had this dream for several years now and, thus, has the best prerequisites to master the quite difficult course of studies.

During the annual graduation ceremonies at our school, he has acted in plays several times, danced and participated in the speech competition. He is curious and always has an open ear for others. Hay possesses everything needed to succeed in his studies. This is why we are looking for a sponsor to support him.



Nov Lyvouch		
Field of study:	Medicine/Engineering	
Duration:	8 or 5 years	
Costs per year:	450 EUR (Dormitory) 100 EUR (Administrative charges)	
Total costs per year:	550 EUR	

According to our teachers, Lyvouch is one of the best students in her year. Just as in Europe, you have to be one of the best students in order to have any chance of studying *medicine*. However, good grades alone are not sufficient in Cambodia. You also have to pass the centralised state exam for medical students. Moreover, even if you pass, only a handful of graduates will also receive a scholarship from the state. The vast majority may then choose whether they can afford the exorbitant tuition fees of 1650 USD per year for the next eight years. Otherwise, they have to look for a different field of study. Lyvouch knows this and has already considered *engineering* as an alternative. This is also a demanding field of study, but the yearly fees are less than a third of those for medicine and also, it takes "just" five years to complete the course.

Judging by both her school performance and her interview with us (she speaks good English), she clearly deserves a scholarship. However, her family is somewhat better off financially than the families of our other candidates. Lyvouch's mother is a teacher. Her father and one of the older sisters run the local branch of a service which allows people without a bank account to transfer money within the country. You don't get rich with that either. Her family could pay the engineering fees themselves and we proposed to reward her impeccable performance with a place in one of our dormitories. However, if she passes the medical exams, we would agree with the family on a contribution that is manageable for them and look for sponsors for the balance of the tuition fees.



Phalla Ratha	
Field of study:	Accounting
Duration:	4 years
Costs per year:	500 EUR (Tuition fees) 450 EUR (Dormitory) 100 EUR (Administrative charges)
Total costs per year:	1050 EUR



Ratha is the oldest of three siblings. Her little sister (12 years old) goes to school and her little brother (16 years old) dropped out in eighth grade in order to assist their father in farming full time. This is not unusual and quite understandable if he plans to take over the farm one day. Nevertheless, it is of course a pity that he did not have the opportunity to finish school and proceed in formal education. In that light it is even more impressive that his older sister has managed to graduate and wants to study. We don't know yet whether she herself plans to get involved in farming one day. But it would certainly be helpful for the father and the brother have an *accountant* at their side.

They live in the simplest of circumstances in a small stilt house typical for the region. The family could not afford to pay for Ratha's studies. Because Ratha was the first in her family to graduate from high school and, according to our teachers, is a talented and hardworking student, she more than deserves the scholarship.





Ra Rina	
Field of study:	English Literature
Duration:	4 years
Costs per year:	420 – 530 EUR <sup>1</sup> (Tuition fees) 100 EUR (Administrative charges) <sup>2</sup>
Total costs per year:	520 – 630 EUR



Rina's parents weave traditional Cambodian shawls (krama). They also take care of the neighbours' cows, but they do not own any themselves. Their income is just enough to support the livelihood of Rina and her two younger siblings. She told us that the demand for scarves has decreased due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The family is getting by, but there is no way they can afford their children to study.

To us there is no question that Rina has what it takes to study *English literature*. She ranked first place in the speech competition at our school in 2019 (there was a draw between two teams of two, so there were four winners). Moreover, she ranked first in the English test taken by our scholarship applicants. She says her goal is to become an ambassador one day.

In the first two years of the English programme at the *Institute for Foreign Languages (IFL)* students study basics before choosing a specialisation from year three onwards, which in Rina's case would be *English for International Relations*. However, this will only be possible if she passes the difficult entrance exam. Otherwise, she would enrol in *English literature* at Norton University. If she does well there, she may still enrol for a master's degree course later on, which again could bring her closer to the dream of becoming a diplomat. We have every confidence that she can pursue such a career.

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<sup>1</sup> She takes the entry exam at the *Institute for Foreign Languages* (530 EUR). If she does not pass, she will study at *Norton University* (420 EUR).

<sup>2</sup> There are no dormitory charges for her because she will stay with relatives in Phnom Penh.



Than Sovisal		
Field of study:	English Literature	
Duration:	4 years	
Costs per year:	420 – 530 EUR <sup>3</sup> (Tuition fees) 100 EUR (Administrative charges) <sup>4</sup>	
Total cost per year:	520 – 630 EUR	

Sovisal and Rina (see above) are good friends. It is therefore no coincidence that they have similar aspirations. Sovisal came first in the speech competition at our school in 2019 with Vin Daly (who also is one of the scholarship holders this year). He shares first place in the English test with his friend Rina. He has also been ranked top in the state school for years. Nevertheless, he is modest and always friendly and helpful. He is the oldest of four siblings and lives with them, his parents and his grandmother in a small wooden house. The parents are farmers. Because the income from farming fluctuates greatly from season to season, the mother also weaves scarves and the father additionally works as a day labourer on construction sites.

He actually wanted to study tourism because he is passionate about communicating with people from other cultures. However, this goal dates back to the time before the pandemic. The tourism sector has been completely idle for a year now, thus, Sovisal aims to study English literature instead. He thinks that, with a bachelor's degree in English, he could still get a foothold in tourism later as an alternative or additional career option. If he passes the entrance exam at the Institute for Foreign Languages (IFL), he could specialise in the field of communications as from the third year. This would make him an

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<sup>3</sup> He takes the entrance exam at the *Institute for Foreign Languages* (EUR 530). If he does not pass, he will study at *Norton University* (420 EUR).

<sup>4</sup> There are no dormitory charges for him because he will stay with relatives in Phnom Penh.





interesting professional for several industries in an international context. Just like Rina, he more than deserves to study, both because of his achievements and attitude and because of financial need.



Chhan Sreyoun (already sponsored)		
Field of study:	Bioengineering	
Duration:	4 or 5 years	
Costs per year:	400 – 530 EUR <sup>5</sup> (Tuition fee) 450 EUR (Dormitory) 100 EUR (Administrative charges)	
Total costs per year:	950 – 1080 EUR	

During the interview for this scholarship Sreyoun immediately told us that she definitely wants to study *bioengineering*. Overall, there are more students who aim to study technical subjects this year. And we welcome this development! When we asked her why she chose to study bioengineering, she said that biology had been her favourite subject at school and she couldn't wait to learn more about it. The subject is relatively new in Cambodia and therefore only offered at a few universities. The fact that she had already collected exact information about the entrance exams at the *Institute of Technology* by the time of the interview shows that she is serious and there is no doubt about her motivation. Like the majority of this year's applicants, she has regularly participated in speech competitions at our school. She already speaks good English and it is easy to communicate with her.


Currently, Sreyoun's family lives from selling fried snacks, which they produce freshly every morning. They also run a small trade for firewood. That is enough to make ends meet. However, their income does not suffice to finance their daughter's studies. We have therefore readily agreed to search for sponsors for Sreyoun.

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<sup>5</sup> She wants to study either at the *Royal University of Phnom Penh* (4 years at 530 EUR) or at the *Institute of Technology (ITC)* of Cambodia (5 years at 400 EUR). Which university she ultimately chooses will depend on whether she passes the entrance exam at the *ITC*.



Vin Daly (already sponsored)			
Field of study:	Nursing/International Relations (IR)/ English		
Duration:	4 years		
Cost <sup>6</sup>	Nursing	International Relations	English
Tuition fees	1100	530	440
Dormitory	450	450	450
Administrative charges	100	100	100
Share paid by her family	-440	-440	-440
Costs per year and study programme	1210 EUR	640 EUR	550 EUR



Daly has four siblings, one older brother and three sisters aged 13 to 22. The younger sisters go to school. Daly and her siblings live with their parents, as does her older sister's husband with their new born child. Her father grows rice and her mother takes care of a beverage business which the family runs out of their home. Her brother studies law in Phnom Penh.

The household income is sufficient to support the family and pay for the brother's studies. However, it would be difficult to finance further studies completely. If Daly does not receive a scholarship, the family would either have to go into debt or she would be forced to work. Because she was a very good student according to our teachers, and both her application documents and the impression she made in the interview with us were excellent, we want to avoid this.

If she does not pass the exams to study nursing, she wants to study International Relations or English. She has already proven in the speech competition at our school in 2019 that she has the necessary level

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<sup>6</sup> We explain why the costs are still unclear in the text. If you would like to support her and have further questions, simply write us an email.



of English for these subjects. She won the speech competition in a team with Than Sovisal, another candidate for this year's scholarships.

Tuition fees for International Relations and English are 530 EUR and 440 EUR per year respectively. The fees for Nursing are much more expensive at 1100 euros.

Compared to the families of many other applicants, the parents' income is relatively high. We discussed this with the family in the interview. Because Daly's brother is studying and this is already a financial challenge for the family, they proposed as a compromise to pay 500 US Dollars per year (currently 440 EUR) themselves. For us, this means that we are looking for sponsors who will cover the difference between the total costs minus the 500 US Dollars. How big this difference is in the end depends on whether she passes the nursing entrance exam.

Because the exams are not until the end of February, we are currently unable to make any more precise statements regarding the total costs. If you would like to support Daly, please write an email to [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org). We will discuss details regarding the amount of funding as soon as the results of the entrance exams are available and a choice of studies can be made.

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These were all the profiles for our scholarship candidates for the academic year 2020/2021. All of the candidates are extremely talented and hard-working young people, and we are eager to help them.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the candidates, please email us at [info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org](mailto:info@kidshelp-kambodscha.org)