

Bilingual Education for Central America is a U.S.-registered 501(c)(3) education non-profit based in Honduras. BECA promotes cultural exchange and affordable bilingual education. Through our partnership with the Asociacion de Padres de Cofradia, over 170 children in Pre-K to 9th grade are educated at San Jeronimo Bilingual School (SJBS) in Cofradia, Honduras by a team of ten BECA volunteers and five Hondurans.

SJBS will graduate its first class of ninth graders in June 2007. While a few of our students' parents have the financial means to continue to offer them access to a quality bilingual education, most do not. In order to guarantee that our students not only continue with their education, but do so at high-quality bilingual schools, we plan to extend our scholarship program to one or more of these students as they matriculate at bilingual secondary schools in San Pedro Sula.

Objective

Provide Student Scholarships and Build Relationships with Bilingual Secondary Schools

The BECA Bachillerato Program (BBP) will provide at least one need/merit-based scholarship annually to a qualifying SJBS ninth grade graduate, to allow SJBS students to continue their bilingual education at high-quality bilingual schools.

Through these high-achieving students' enrollment, we will build relationships with bilingual secondary schools in the surrounding area, yielding potential opportunities for SJBS graduates to receive scholarships directly from these schools in the future.

Funding Need

When students graduate from ninth grade in SJBS, they lack only two years of education to achieve the valuable bilingual bachillerato diploma, since high school in Honduras ends after eleventh grade. Alternatives for SJBS graduates include non-bilingual technical, arts and sciences schools, or simply dropping out of school all together, since none of these options are publicly financed. The bilingual bachillerato is critically important for our students because it certifies their bilingual skills and is equivalent to a college degree in the United States, making graduates eligible for professional career track jobs. Bilingual Hondurans are virtually guaranteed jobs that pay twice as much as their non-English speaking counterparts. Unfortunately, the bilingual high schools in San Pedro Sula are prohibitively expensive for most of the students at SJBS. Further, many do not offer financial aid to new students, but have been known to make exceptions for family members of currently enrolled students.

Providing a scholarship to deserving students to complete high school at a quality bilingual school would contribute to creating a real cohort of future leaders in Honduras who come from diverse economic backgrounds.

BBP Funding Needs - Years One, Two and Three

	Estimated cost per student	# of new awards	total # of active awards	BBP annual financial need
Year 1	\$ 2,447.00	2	2	\$ 4,894.00
Year 2*	\$ 2,691.00	1	3	\$ 8,073.00
Year 3	\$ 2,960.00	2	3	\$ 8,880.00
				\$21,847.00

* first year's recipients graduate

Impact

We will track student outcomes as they graduate from high school. We anticipate that all BBP participants will attain a university level education and/or secure better professional opportunities than would otherwise have been the case.

We also anticipate that recipients will be motivated to return to SJBS as volunteer teachers, administrators, or staff—and will serve as positive role models for future SJBS students, furthering the growth of Honduran leadership within the SJBS community and throughout Honduras.

Budget Calculations

Average Cost per Student

After conducting over 10 site visits to bilingual secondary schools, we have determined that the average cost of attending a quality bilingual secondary school in San Pedro is:

Up-front costs: (matriculation, books, required supplies, and other school fees):	\$750
Tuition: \$167 x 12 months:	\$2,000
Transport: \$55. x 10 months:	<u>\$550</u>
Total cost:	\$3,300

In the last several years, schools' costs have increased by approximately 10% per year. We have factored these increases into our anticipated future costs.

Family Contribution

In keeping with BECA's existing collaboration with the community of Cofradía, a recipient's family will be expected to contribute at least what they paid during their student's final year at SJBS. Further, all recipients and a parent/guardian will be responsible for performing a required number of service hours at SJBS for the duration of their participation in the BBP.

SJBS Tuition and Other Costs

Matriculation:	\$111
Tuition: \$39 x 12 months:	\$467
Transport: \$28 x 10 months:	<u>\$280</u>
Total cost:	\$858

On average, a quality bilingual secondary school in San Pedro Sula costs four times as much as SJBS. The approximate difference in cost is \$2,447.

Note: The final award amount will be determined when the recipient submits proof of acceptance into a school as well as verifiable information regarding the tuition and associated costs. The actual award would be less than \$2,447 if the school costs less, and could be as high as \$3,300 for a student on full scholarship at SJBS, but will in no case be more than \$3,300.

Scholarship Program Details

Purpose: to allow promising SJBS graduates to complete a bilingual bachillerato, thus giving formal certification to their bilingual abilities and allowing them to obtain greater opportunities in Honduras.

Number of recipients: In a given year there will be no minimum required number of new recipients. If there are no qualified applicants, no scholarships will be disbursed. We hope to give at least one complete scholarship per year; any more than that would be contingent upon sufficient available funds to guarantee a student's entire two-year education.

Selection process: In March of each year, the applicants will submit an application and a prospectus to the Committee, which will include an evaluation from each current teacher, both BECA and Honduran. The Committee will be a group of qualified educators and evaluators chosen by the BECA board, but will not include any BECA board or team members. In addition to having a successful application, the applicant must have an academic average of 85 or above in the core subjects (Math, Science, English, Global Studies, Civica, Spanish, and Estudios Sociales).

The Application:

- **From the student:** The student must indicate his/her top three school choices in the application and explain why he/she is interested in those schools. The application will also include two essay questions describing the applicant's interests, strengths, and commitment to academic and professional goals, and will describe how the scholarship will help them achieve those goals.
 - What are your academic strengths and interests?
 - How will completing a bilingual bachillerato help you to achieve your goals for the future?
- **From the parents/guardian:** The parents or guardian must also complete an application explaining how they will support their son or daughter in the completion of said goals, and reaffirming their commitment to the mission of SJBS, and willingness to complete libreta tasks.

Eligibility

Academic: In order to apply, a student must have an average of above 85 in the core subjects for the three bimesters of ninth grade up until March, and must maintain an average in the core of above 85 throughout the ninth grade year.

Financial: Each applicant's family will undergo a financial need assessment during a home visit by a BECA representative. Families who can afford the full costs of a school will not be eligible.

BBP Terms: Our Expectations of Recipients and Parents

Recipients:

- In order to show commitment to the BECA and SJBS project, the scholarship student must volunteer 10 hours per bimester (not including the first bimester) at SJBS as a tutor or teachers' aide. Other ways of volunteering, such as helping new BECA volunteers with cultural orientation, could also be considered.
- Recipients must maintain an average of at least 80 in all their courses, (excluding the first bimester of enrollment in the school) and must maintain good standing at the school.

Parents:

- Parents will follow the same system as parents of SJBS scholarship parents, volunteering their time and energy at SJBS and filling out a libreta accordingly.
- Parents will sign a contract stipulating that they will follow the terms of the becado system and complete their libreta, and that they will be responsible for making sure that their child does the same, or the scholarship will be terminated.
- Parents are obliged to report any scholarship monies the student receives from other sources (e.g. the schools themselves). Such an award will result in a proportional reduction in the amount of the BBP award unless there has been a change in the family's financial situation justifying the additional award in addition to the BBP award.

BBP Administration

The BECA Board is responsible for choosing the Selection Committee and deciding the final amount of each recipient's award.

The Selection Committee is responsible for reading applications and making scholarship recipient decisions.

The SJBS Middle School Teachers are responsible for publicizing and explaining the program to the ninth graders and their parents, assisting students with application questions, and compiling the applications for the Selection Committee.

The BECA Administrator is responsible for in-Honduras administration of the program. She will collect monthly libretas from parents, as well as oversee the progress of the recipients and respond to any changes in the financial situation of the recipients' families. The recipient will also receive a libreta of service hours, which the BECA administrator will sign-off on upon completion of tasks. At the end of each year, the BECA Administrator will assess whether the recipient should continue to receive his/her scholarship, based on academic status and the family's financial situation. The recipient's family will resubmit financial information to re-apply for the scholarship.