



**\*\*SICS Seniors Earn Full-Tuition Scholarships to Harvard, Roger Williams University and Smith College\*\***



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**For Immediate Release**

We are overjoyed to announce that Alaya Ayala and Julissa Arce, students from SABIS<sup>®</sup> International Charter School (SICS), a SABIS<sup>®</sup> Network, U.S. charter school, are both recipients of full-tuition scholarship awards, with a combined value of over \$674,000.

Alaya is among the 1,134 students accepted on merit to Harvard University out of 30,167 applicants and has been awarded the Harvard Faculty Scholarship and grants totaling \$294,000 over four years. She is also one of four students awarded the Springfield/Holyoke Partnership Scholarship to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, totaling \$255,600 over four years. The Springfield/Holyoke scholarships recipients are chosen based on three main criteria: a record of top academic performance, a history to serve others, and a commitment to excellence.

Julissa has received the prestigious Intercultural Leadership Ambassador Scholarship to Roger Williams University (RWU) in Bristol, Rhode Island, for her strong academic record and personal perseverance to achieve higher education. This full-tuition scholarship award is valued at \$125,000 over four years. Julissa is the first SICS student to attain this competitive scholarship.

Both Alaya and Julissa are academic superstars, each earning a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 4.3 out of 4.0, the highest academic average awarded at SICS. They have both successfully completed many Honors and Advanced Placement (AP<sup>®</sup>) courses and serve in key leadership positions in the Student Life Organization<sup>®</sup> (SLO<sup>®</sup>).

Julissa, who enrolled at SICS in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, is incredibly grateful to receive this honor and credits SABIS<sup>®</sup> for preparing her for success to achieve her dreams. "When I read the application for this scholarship, I got really excited because I felt like the qualities they were looking for and the responsibilities involved directly correlated with what I do at SICS every day. As a member of the SLO<sup>®</sup>, I strive to promote diversity and inspire my ambassadors in the Outreach Department to do the same. I will be doing many of the same things I do at SICS but now at RWU" said Julissa. "The people at SICS and more specifically, our Student Life Organization<sup>®</sup>, taught me how to manage my time, how to communicate effectively and how to approach life situations in a strategic and thoughtful way."

Alaya's feelings are similar. "I found my voice and learned to be confident at SABIS<sup>®</sup>," said Alaya, who enrolled at SICS beginning in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and after attending multiple schools in the Springfield area. "SABIS<sup>®</sup> promotes the vision to all students that you can accomplish your dreams and that your vision of college is a reality. This 'go-getter' mentality is why I applied to Ivy League schools." Alaya will be attending Harvard University in the fall, with career plans to be a lawyer.

SICS has a long track record of successfully preparing students to gain admission to college. In fact, 100% of the school's graduates to date have earned college acceptances.

To learn more about SICS, visit [sics.sabis.net](http://sics.sabis.net).

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