

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Student Financial Assistance Report 2014

Dear Donors,

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide financial assistance worth **US \$ 1.9 million** to **375 students** for the year 2013-2014. The University was able to recruit and retain the most talented students regardless of their ability to pay for tuition and living expenses. These students are crucial for the achievement of our ambitious research, healthcare and education goals and our expansion plans.

Over the years, our students have pursued the most dynamic careers within and outside Pakistan, and are a source of great pride and joy. They are also a tremendous source of support within the University Hospital through their intellectual contributions. Our students participate in clinics and wards, visit marginalised communities, help patients and faculty and contribute to cutting-edge research.

In the pages that follow, we have shared some of the stories of AKU's enrolled students and alumni. These stories would not have been possible without your care and interest.

AKU awards aid to students according to financial needs, based on the difference between a student's current educational cost and what the student and the student's family can afford to pay towards these costs. All students receive assistance towards coverage of cost of education. During the year 2013-2014, 165 students from the Medical College, 191 students from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and 19 students from Institute of Educational Development were provided assistance. With the expansion of the University, your assistance has spread to new programmes and specialisations that meet local needs. Thank you for this continuing support!

Best wishes,

Resource Development



Naseerullah Khakar: “Peace is the biggest challenge in our country. Education can shape people to bring this peace.”

Hailing from a background of educational professionals, Naseerullah has always been keen to educate the less fortunate in Pakistan. As a college student, he volunteered in schools and helped tutor children. Naseerullah became a junior English teacher in Balochistan because he felt the quality of education in public schools was inadequate compared to private sector schools. After graduation, he hopes to return to Balochistan and apply what he has learnt at AKU to public sector schools. He believes that he will be able to help teachers, schools and research, and improve the learning process for students.

“How can I improve my professional development as a teacher? By getting a quality education”, he says.

Naseerullah sees an ‘educationist’ as a person who facilitates learning, brings peace and improvement to all settings, and guides students to positive morals and ethics. This is who he strives to be with a Masters in Education from AKU. He chose AKU because it is probably the “closest you can get to an international quality education in Pakistan”.

Through exposure to different cultures, beliefs, and thoughts, Naseerullah has gained many positive attributes. For example, he has learnt the importance of being punctual, responsible, and hard working. He has noticed that he thinks more intellectually and practically and reflects on all the decisions he makes or has made.

“Respect people. Care for people. Think of how you can give happiness and help to others”



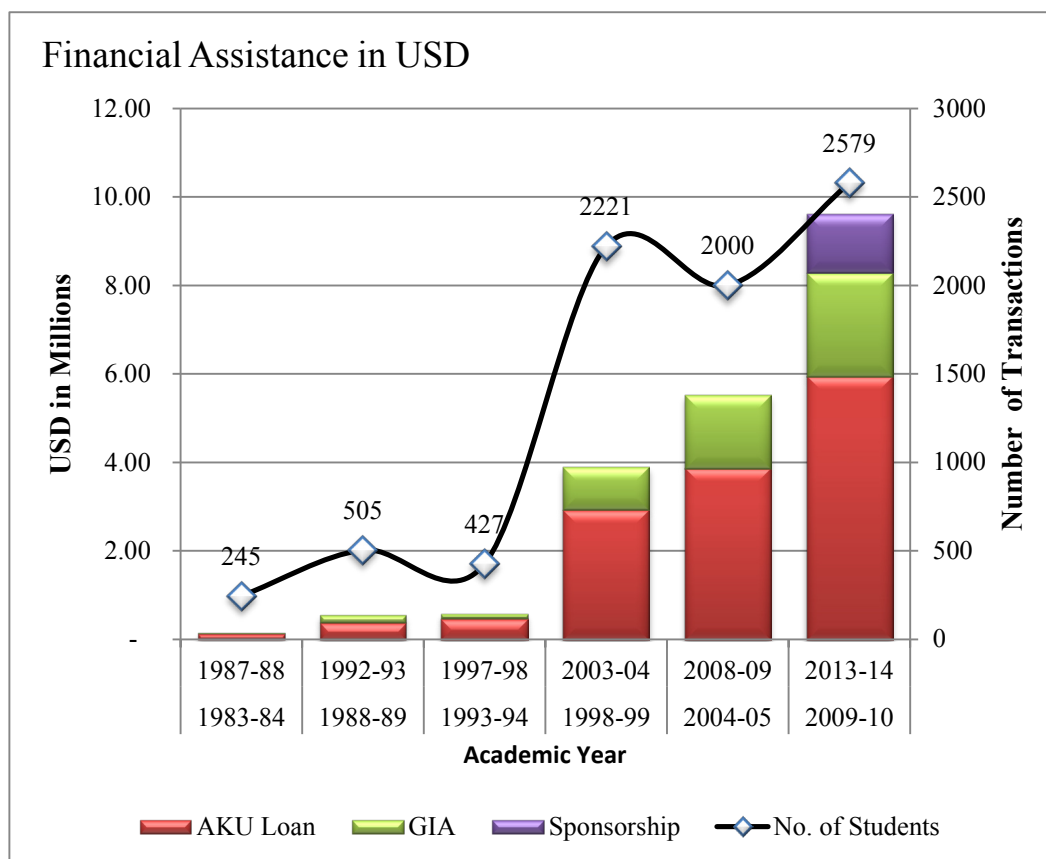
Amin Aziz Sonawalla: “Medicine is not an easy life, but it is a fulfilling one.”

“People in AKU encourage you as an individual, instead of pushing you down.”

Amin believes that this encouragement is one of the greatest strengths of Aga Khan University. AKU was his first choice for MBBS and Amin considers the University to have superiority in both academics and student life - which attracts the great minds of the next generation. “It’s a more holistic experience”, he says. Amin believes that AKU is very different from other universities. AKU offers more extracurriculars and different exposure to cultures. Amin wants to use his knowledge to help Pakistan further its medical endeavors, by coming back and working in hospitals to change and train their future.

“You’re not going to get anywhere without hard work. This is a very competitive world. To be the best at anything you have to push yourself.”

An overview of student financial assistance is provided below:



This data is based on the total number of financial assistance transactions (the number of students receiving financial assistance multiplied by the number of years for each student as per opted programme).



Anila Ali Bardai: Honouring the Nation

Anila Ali Bardai, an alumna of the AKU School of Nursing and Midwifery received the award for excellence in neonatal nursing at the 8th International Conference of the Neonatal Nurses, held in Belfast, Ireland. She is the first Pakistani to win this coveted award.

This award was established to recognise neonatal nurses who have shown ‘unwavering leadership and passion’ and to raise awareness about the important of skilled nursing care for the reduction of global neonatal deaths.

Of the three million newborn deaths globally, Pakistan has the third highest number.

As Head Nurse of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at AKUH, Anila strives to reduce newborn death. She provides counselling to pregnant mothers, for parents of sick babies, or to those who have lost their children. Her work has had a multiplier effect in the country, through the Hospital’s partnerships with other public and private sector organisations.

Anita is “helping to rewrite the statistics on newborn deaths”, said a senior adviser to Save the Children, one of the organising entities of the award.

Who to contact

If you are inspired by these stories and would like to contribute to financial assistance for students, please contact us at resource.development@aku.edu

Visit our website at www.aku.edu/supportus