



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT
2023

THANK YOU FOR EMPOWERING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST STUDENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your invaluable support to the Student Scholarships and Financial Assistance Programme at the Aga Khan University (AKU). Your support in 2023 has been crucial in empowering outstanding students who have everything they need to succeed, except the financial means.

Thank you for giving these students access to a transformative education at AKU.

ABOUT THE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

At AKU, we are committed to supporting talented students for whom a world-class education would not be possible without scholarships and financial assistance. We welcome the sharpest minds and boldest thinkers – future leaders in a growing variety of fields. Many of our students are the first in their family to go to university. Many also come from remote and disadvantaged areas.

Taking into consideration the stark educational inequities in the regions where we operate, student financial assistance and scholarships are vital to our mission of providing access to quality education. Financial assistance is available to deserving students while scholarships are awarded based on need and merit. These provisions enable us to attract students from diverse backgrounds, exposing them to a wide range of cultures and perspectives and preparing them to succeed in a pluralistic world.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING IN 2023

1,897 students

received full or partial support, across our campuses in Pakistan, East Africa and the United Kingdom.

5.18 million USD

provided in financial aid and scholarships - funded by the generous contribution of our donors and the University's own resources.

67% of the students

supported in 2023 were women.



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE FOR JAVED

Having completed 16 years of schooling, Javed Ahmad, from Ghizer in the Northern Areas of Pakistan, felt compelled to devote his life to educating others.

“My progression through roles as a language instructor, lecturer, and principal instilled in me a strong desire to enhance my teaching, learning, and leadership abilities. With this ambition in mind, I set my sights on AKU-IED, renowned for providing quality education to in-service teachers.”

The Master of Education (MEd) programme proved to be a transformative experience for Javed that brought together theory and practice in a seamless manner.

“I am particularly proud of the emphasis AKU-IED placed on educational leadership and research. These pillars were crucial in shaping my academic and professional growth. The focus on educational leadership gave me valuable insights into effective management and administration, while the research component equipped me with the tools to contribute meaningfully to the field. During my two years at AKU-IED, I went through a significant personal transformation and deepened my understanding of education, especially in educational leadership and management. My research focused on educational leadership techniques in rural areas, allowing me to apply theoretical knowledge to practical settings.

Thanks to the generous scholarship I received from a donor, my life has changed significantly. It has given me access to opportunities I would never have imagined due to financial limitations. The scholarship has enabled me to pursue higher education at a prestigious institution like AKU. I feel confident and determined to make a positive impact in the world, especially in my community in the Northern Areas.”



Javed graduated this year with a Master in Education degree, awarded with distinction.

“As I reflect on my time at IED, I am driven by a desire to give back to my community by applying the knowledge acquired. I am also actively looking for opportunities to pursue a doctorate in education, driven by my desire to deepen my knowledge and influence the field of education.

In essence, my journey at IED went beyond academic pursuits; rather, it was a life-changing experience that moulded my career path and enabled me to make significant contributions to the field of education.”

Thank you for helping us prepare the next generation of change makers and community builders.

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

A TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION FOR GLORIA

Gloria Twishime, a mother of three young children, from Kisoro district in south-west Uganda had dreamed of caring after others from a very young age.

“When I was growing up, my aunt was a nurse and I remember visiting her and her friends in the hostel and thinking I want to look after babies and women just like they do”.

Following this dream, she completed her Bachelor of Medical Education from Uganda’s Makerere University and then went on to get a diploma in midwifery. She worked as a midwife, caring for mothers and babies, before teaching at Mutolere School of Nursing and Midwifery. A passionate practitioner and educator, Gloria increasingly felt that she needed to do her Bachelor in Midwifery to progress in her career and to be able to educate the next generation of midwives.

“When I decided I wanted to do an undergraduate degree in Midwifery, I already had three children and family responsibilities. I began looking for good part-time programmes and that is when my friend, an alumna of AKU, suggested I consider AKU. She told me about her positive experience there and that AKU accepts the best students regardless of their ability to pay.”

Encouraged by her friend, Gloria applied and was accepted to AKU’s School of Nursing and Midwifery (SONAM). A couple of weeks later she received news that she had been awarded an endowed scholarship which would take care of the costs of her education.

“The scholarship made my journey at AKU very smooth and meant I could concentrate on my studies. My time at SONAM was unforgettable” she says.

“The learning environment was extremely supportive and inspiring, and the emphasis the faculty put on the importance of research has really stayed with me.”



Earlier this year, Gloria received her Bachelor of Science in Midwifery degree and an Award of Academic Excellence during the AKU Convocation.

“I’m a better person and have gained valuable knowledge and experience. I have now set my sights on doing a Masters in Health Professions Education and eventually setting up a foundation in Uganda to help address the issue of teenage motherhood, which is a big taboo in my community. I can see my students are more engaged because of everything I have learnt at AKU and, already, one of my daughters wants to follow in my footsteps and become a midwife.”

Thanks to the support of donors like you, the best and the brightest students like Gloria can get a world-class higher education and pursue their dreams.



YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT CAN EMPOWER MANY MORE

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Donate directly to AKU or donate through the Aga Khan Foundation offices.



AKU



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AKF, Canada (CAD donations)



AKF, UK (GBP donations)

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For Endowments, please make cheques payable to:

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