



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT 2015

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AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
FULLY ACKNOWLEDGES
THE GENEROSITY OF
HABIB ALI G. KASSIM & FAMILY
FOR THE PROVISION OF
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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As another year passes by, we are delighted to inform you that we have provided support of over PKR 210 million (US\$ 2.1 million) to a total of 345 students. We are very grateful to you - our valued donors, for your kind support in getting us where we stand today. We would like to introduce you to just two of the many students you have helped over the years.



ENTITY	NUMBER OF STUDENTS	AMOUNT RS '000
MEDICAL COLLEGE	178	155,083
SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY	131	41,832
INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	36	13,992
TOTAL	345	210,907

The data in the table shows the monetary support disbursed to students for the year 2015.

“In Syria, you are provided with the course material and books, but they do not teach you how to apply those principles practically. AKU has taught me how to think critically for myself. They make you learn the correct application of theoretical knowledge.”

- Ali Saad
Student at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, MScN Programme 2015



“When I first came to Pakistan, it was a new world for me. But now, AKU feels like ‘home’.”

- Ali Saad

Ali Saad, a 32 year old Syrian student has just graduated with an MSc in Nursing from AKU. Ali has lived in Damascus his entire life and is only one of AKU's many foreign students. He first enrolled in the nursing programme in 2010, having been directed to the school following the advice of a former student and now practicing doctor in Syria. He is the first of his family to join the medical profession.

When asked why he decided to pursue this line of career, the dedicated Syrian replied quietly, *“I wanted to make a ‘small change’ by helping people in the best way I could.”*

There is fierce competition for the very limited seats available in the scant Syrian medical colleges leaving many potential students like Ali at a disadvantage. AKU's programme offers such students an opportunity to realise their dreams without facing financial constraints. It crosses geographical terrains with the ease of technology with its' relatively new **Blended Learning Programme**, a combination of on campus and online (virtually) taught courses. *“More than 50% of my modules were of the blended learning variety and I have learned a lot,”* said Ali.

For example, he lived in Pakistan till 2012 but was able to return to his hometown for two years without any disruption in his studies due to the distance learning facility. The online group discussion forum, an interesting feature of the blended learning programme, helps enormously in overcoming language barriers as it allows students to learn at their own pace. The forum also facilitates in articulating better responses to assignments as the students can keep re-accessing the curriculum whenever they feel overwhelmed by the syllabus. It is a very efficient way of keeping the class at the same level through easily available pre-recorded lectures and videos. Ali says, *“The AKU is innovative: it regularly updates its teaching techniques, but incorporates the newer methods systematically into the courses so that the students are not confused.”*



“It was a very exciting experience for me. The environment was very conducive to learning. **”**

- Nooreen Maqsood Karim

Nooreen Maqsood Karim, aged 19, is enrolled in the dental hygiene programme at AKUH. The **Diploma in Dental Hygiene** is a two year programme that combines clinical course work with class work and community service. While visiting her hometown, Hunza, Nooreen spoke with a practicing dentist there and was shocked to discover the locals' lax attitudes towards dental hygiene. She says, *“Do you know that people over there prefer to remove their teeth instead of getting proper treatment?”* Determined to help her people and armed with knowledge from a rigorous programme at AKU, she declares, *“I would love to improve oral healthcare in my hometown.”*

She has already equipped several children with toothbrushes and toothpaste, teaching them about the importance of regular dental hygiene.

The Student Financial Assistance Programme has helped both Ali and Nooreen in making their dreams a reality. Help us to give others like them a chance too.

If you are inspired by these stories and would like to donate, please contact us at:

resource.development@aku.edu

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