



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship Programme
Sunday, 26 February 2023



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Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

Project EduAccess is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

Meet your panelist



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Aga Khan Scholar 2021-23



Overview

- The [Aga Khan Foundation's International Scholarship Programme \(ISP\)](#) aims to support students from developing countries, who have no other means of financing their studies, to pursue [full-time postgraduate studies](#) at reputable higher education institutions of their choice.
- Interested students must contact their country office for [application forms](#), deadline dates and application requirements, as these may vary by country. You can contact the [India Office](#) at scholarship.esc@djtrust.org or 2023.akfispindia@gmail.com.
- The ISP awards are structured as a [half grant and half loan](#).
- Scholarships for [Master's studies](#) are granted for the [entire duration](#) of the degree course, renewed on an annual basis. For [PhD](#) students, scholarships are awarded for the [first two years](#), after which students are expected to find funding from alternative sources.
- The award covers [tuition fees and living expenses](#) for the student. The award does not cover living expenses for family members or the cost of international travel.

Eligibility Criteria

- The ISP is available in: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Canada*, Egypt, France*, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, Mozambique, Pakistan, Portugal*, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda and the USA*. [*Note: in Canada, France, Portugal and the USA, applications are accepted from those who are originally from one of the above developing countries, are interested in development-related studies and who have no other means of financing their education.] Applicants must be a national residing in of one of the aforementioned countries.
- As the ISP must be considered a lender of last resort, preference is given to those who have been able to secure funding from alternative sources.
- Preference is given to young professionals under 30 years of age.
- Applications for short-term courses are not considered; neither are applications from students who have already commenced their postgraduate studies or who are enrolled in part-time programmes.



Timeline

- Completed applications must be submitted to the agency from which the ISP application form was obtained by 17 March 2023.
- Local scholarship committees may interview applicants about their financial situation, academic performance, extra-curricular achievements and career plans.
- As this is a global, competitive award, final decisions are made by an international selection panel in July. Students who are part of the final, global round will be informed of the outcome of their application shortly thereafter.



Selection Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria in order to apply for the programme:

- Excellent **academic** records
- Genuine **financial need**. Financial assistance is provided according to needs, but the ISP must be considered a resource of last resort. Applicants must demonstrate that they have explored and secured multiple sources of funding. Funding need is determined individually, by deducting from the eligible student expenses, the total of other grants, loans, parental contribution, etc.
- **Admission to a reputable postgraduate institution of higher learning**. The programme gives priority to Master's degree courses but also considers applications for PhD studies. Local/ regional universities and distance learning programmes are acceptable for ISP funding, if the quality of the courses is maintained.
- Relevance of the **field of study** to the foundation's focus areas
- **Strong professional experience, extracurricular achievements, volunteer contributions and leadership skills**



Application Form

The application form requires the following details:

- Personal information
- Nationality, immigration status and country of residence
- Course of study, university, offer conditions/ admission notification date
- Educational qualifications
- Publications, academic activities, club participation, extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Personal statement
- Household income and expenses, household assets and savings, household's contribution towards study expenses
- External funding received, external funding decisions pending
- Financial needs analysis (eligible expenses such as tuition fees, available/ expected funds, amount requested from the foundation per year)

Personal Statement

- The personal statement is your chance to tell the selection committee **how and why you have decided to pursue a graduate degree in your field of study at your chosen university**. The statement should be a thoughtfully written piece that reflects maturity and profound thinking about your educational and career goals and future course of action.
- Specifically it should address:
 - Significant factors that have influenced your **personal and professional development**.
 - Reasons **why you wish to undertake further studies** in this field and **how is the graduate programme a good fit** with your professional aspirations.
 - **Why** you have chosen **the university/ institution** which you wish to attend?
 - **How** will the course you plan to pursue **prepare you for the future** and how do you intend to use this education for the **benefit of your country**?
- The statement should also include your **proposed occupation or profession** after completion of your studies.
- You can attach an additional sheet to the application form, but the length of the statement **should not exceed 2 pages**, typed in 12 point Times New Roman font.



Supporting Documents

1. Passport Size Photo

2. Official University Admission Letter

The letter should clearly indicate the course of study to which you have been admitted.

3. Official University Cost Estimate

Provide a copy of the official university cost estimate for the academic year in which you will start the course. Clearly highlight the tuition and fees, cost of housing, food, local transportation, health insurance (if applicable), books and other study related expenses for an academic year.

4. Academic Transcripts and Diplomas

Submit a copy of the official transcripts and diplomas from all secondary (high school) and post-secondary institutions you have attended. The transcripts should show the final results obtained for each degree level and provide an explanation of the grading system.

5. Language and Standardized Tests

Provide copies of language and other standardized test scores required for admission to the university.



Supporting Documents

6. Certificates of Academic/ Extracurricular Achievements

Provide copies of major achievements/ honors in academic/ extracurricular activities.

7. Curriculum Vitae/ Resume

Include a CV/ Resume with summary of your academic and professional experiences. The CV/ Resume should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font and should not exceed 2 pages.

8. Letters of Recommendations

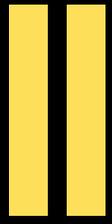
Submit **three letters of recommendations/ references** from people under whom you have studied or who have supervised you in a work setting. At least one academic and one professional/work related letter must be submitted. Do not submit letters written by family, friends or other relatives.

9. External Funding Letters

Include copies of official letters received from external funding agencies which will provide you financial support for your course of study.

10. Other Documents

Include copies of documents that may be required by the local office processing your application.



Interview

- There is no interview as part of the scholarship process.

Meeting with Champions

- Qualifiers for the second round will meet with their 'champions'.
- Your champions are individuals from the Aga Khan Foundation who support your application and will present your case to the international selection panel.
- Present your case to the champions, answering their questions in detail, delineating anything that you could not include in the application form. Take this opportunity to present your work till now, and the future directions you intend to pursue. This is a chance to contextualise your application.



Stay Connected

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Other ways to get in touch

