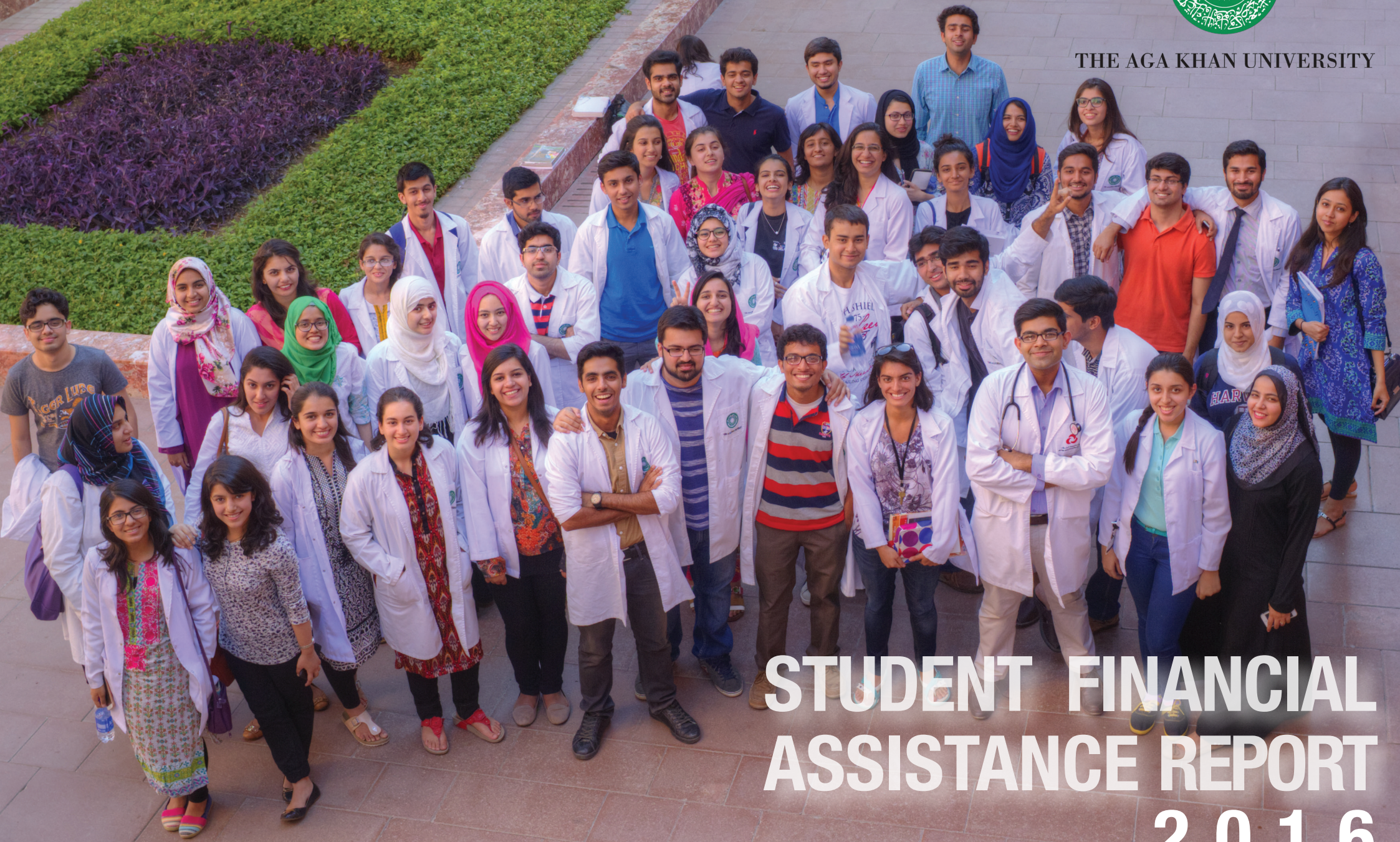




THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT 2016

At the Aga Khan University, we welcome the brightest minds and boldest thinkers of tomorrow to our campuses, where exemplary students are selected to be admitted on the basis of outstanding academic achievement, extracurricular achievement, demonstrated leadership, and commitment to their communities. Applications are determined by committee on the basis of merit regardless of their financial background.

AKU is committed to making our world-class education affordable for every student. The University ensures that students from every background, regardless of financial need, find a home on our campuses in Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom. We offer need-based financial aid that meets 100% of each student's demonstrated need, as we guide these leaders through their education.

The guiding principle of our financial aid programme, which is anchored by support from our many private donors, is that cost should not keep any student from joining AKU.



from
BIG DREAMS
to
BRIGHT FUTURES

Financial Assistance in Pakistan is awarded in the form of a combination of grant-in-aid and student loan. The Student Loan portion of Financial Assistance is interest free and is payable after graduation. Grants are need-based awards distributed primarily on the basis of a student's financial circumstances. The grant portion of financial assistance is not repayable.

Financial Assistance, Academic Year 2015-16

The University's commitment to its students is built first upon its mission to provide instruction. The primary goal of the University's financial aid programme is to ensure that the University remains financially accessible so that economic considerations are not a barrier for academically eligible students in obtaining an AKU degree.

In 2015-16, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the University was able to extend financial assistance worth Rs 218 million (US\$ 2.1 million) to 280 students in Pakistan.

There were a few changes in the disbursement of financial assistance to the School of Nursing and Midwifery (AKU-SONAM). This change was the result of a significant number of students opting for the sponsorship option, which has been introduced since 2012/2013. Under this sponsorship initiative, tuition fees for the entire degree is paid for by the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), i.e. the student pays no fees and in exchange the student agrees to work upon graduation at the institution for a period of time depending on the assistance received and on their degree programme. If a student opts not to accept the sponsorship offer, the financial assistance option remains open to students, whereby they receive a 100% interest free loan with no guaranteed employment. 131 students sought financial assistance in 2014/2015 compared to 52 students in 2016; correspondingly reducing the assistance to nursing students from Rs 41.8 million (US \$0.40 million) to Rs 29.9 million (US \$0.29 million).

In 2015-16, 181 AKU Medical College students received Rs 166.9 million (US \$1.59 million) in student financial support. For many students in the University's professional degree programmes, their debt at graduation will remain manageable due to these students' relatively high earnings upon graduation.

The intake of the Institute of Educational Development increased from 36 students in 2014/2015 to 47 students in 2016, also increasing the assistance disbursed from Rs 13.9 million (US \$0.13 million) to Rs 21.3 million (US\$ 0.20 million). The major reason for this increase was the start of the new academic programme, M.Phil in Education. The M.Phil programme, designed in collaboration with University of Toronto, Canada and Oxford University, UK, has been introduced to enable students with an advanced background in education, to combine their theoretic knowledge with practical application in order to explore questions which are relevant to the developing world. Of the 15 students currently enrolled in the programme, 12 are receiving financial assistance.

Since 1983, over PKR 2.1 billion (US\$ 27 million) has been provided for student financial assistance, benefitting almost 3,179 students in academic programmes in AKU, Pakistan.

ENTITY	NATIONAL STUDENTS		FOREIGN STUDENTS	
	#	AMOUNT RS. IN '000	#	AMOUNT USD IN '000
MEDICAL COLLEGE	181	166,974	4	51
SCHOOL OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY	52	29,954	-	-
INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	47	21,326	-	-
TOTAL	280	218,254	4	51
<i>EQV. USD '000</i> <i>(1 US\$ = RS. 104.60)</i>		US\$ 2,086.56		

Financial Assistance, Academic Year 2015-16

Devoted to inspiring students

The generosity and vision of donors who believe in the future of the country and its youth, has played a pivotal role in transforming the lives of students such as Salima Begum, a teacher from the Institute for Educational Development. IED alumna Salima Begum is one of just 10 teachers around the world to be nominated for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize by the London-based Varkey Foundation. To be considered for the prize, which carries a US\$ 1 million award, nominees must be regarded as “exceptional teachers” who have made an outstanding contribution to their profession.

Over the past 25 years, Salima Begum has worked in roles across the education sector. From leading change in classrooms as a teacher and headmistress in her hometown, to conducting research in the field of education as a faculty member in universities in Sindh and Balochistan, to leading the implementation of wide-ranging programmes in the development sector with the IED, USAID, AusAid and Germany's GIZ-GFA; Salima's career has been devoted to inspiring students.

When describing her youth, Salima says:

“ *I went to the local school in the village of Oshikhandass in Gilgit, northern Pakistan. Conditions were cramped and there was a very rigid approach to teaching. The emphasis was on rote learning and on students memorising text with little to no interaction in class. There were no desks or chairs in junior classes and there wasn't much beyond a blackboard and chalk for the teacher to use. There were no classes beyond Grade 7 and local traditions meant that girls were expected to be married as soon as they ended school. You'd hear phrases such as 'A girl's place is in the home' or and people expressing fears that the outside world would 'corrupt' the character of a girl.* **”**

Salima describes her experience at IED:

"The IED master's programme was a turning point in my life as it gave me the conceptual knowledge to understand curriculums, the structure of a country's education system and the tools to appreciate how to improve an area's educational outcomes."

After graduating from IED, she started working with the Institute's educational programmes and other development agencies in North Pakistan, significantly increasing the quality of teaching and enrollment rates. In order to overcome resistance and to achieve her goals, Salima initiated entrepreneur programmes for women needing financial assistance. She also started parent-teacher meetings, in order to create a healthy rapport between parents, children and teachers.

Salima's achievements are an illustration of the impact of your life-changing contributions to AKU.



Boosted by the support of donors

Humaira Abdul Malik, a student at AKU-SONAM, was encouraged to join the School by her cousins who were successful nurses. After she received admission into the BScN programme, Humaira applied for student financial assistance, as her family could not pay the complete cost of her education. Humaira is astonished at the extent to which she has not been at a disadvantage as a result of being a student on scholarship.



“ Every student is provided an equal chance to avail all the opportunities here. There is no stigma attached to students who are receiving financial assistance.”

- Humaira Abdul Malik

Over the last three years, Humaira's special moments have occurred at the School's annual recognition ceremonies where she has regularly received letters of appreciation and scholarships. As a result of the financial support, Humaira feels that she has been able to focus on her studies without worrying about the payment of fees and other expenses.

The unique structure of the nursing programme, with its combination of class-room based teaching, clinical modules as well as community outreach, has helped Humaira become a better time-manager, communicator and collaborator. She has learnt critical thinking, responsibility and goal orientation. Through her interaction with patients during clinical rotations, Humaira has developed intuition and understood the importance of patient-centered care. She has mastered how to work in inter-disciplinary teams, employ evidence-based practices and apply quality improvement approaches. Humaira plans to join the internship programme at AKUH, after she completes the BScN programme. She also plans to pursue a Masters in Nursing at AKU, in order to eventually teach other students about nursing and clear misunderstandings and incorrect perceptions about the profession in Pakistan. Her goal is to be an educator, and an advocate and champion for her profession.



Her message to all donors is:

"I sincerely appreciate the support of those who value higher education and have made it possible for me to continue my studies. Pursuing a degree in a competitive field is challenging and it's encouraging to know that people are willing to support."

If you are inspired by these stories and would like to help more deserving students, please contact us at:
resource.development@aku.edu
Visit our website at www.aku.edu/supportus