Ariana Nexus. | Academy

DIRECTORY · UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Where you can study

The university and scholarship directory for Afghan students — thirty-nine universities, fourteen scholarship routes, and what is truly open in 2027.

د پوهنتونونو او بورسونو لارښود · رهنمای پوهنتون‌ها و بورسیه‌ها

Organized by country, then by university, with a full profile of each.

11

AN·AC·2026·11 · Edition 1 · 2027 admissions cycle · verify before use

Complimentary for Ariana Nexus Academy students

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ARIANA NEXUS ACADEMY · DOCUMENT AN·AC·2026·11

Where you can study, and how to get there

Thirty-nine university profiles and fourteen scholarship routes across the United States, Canada, Germany, Türkiye, Japan, South Korea, the Gulf, Central and South Asia and online — with what each one costs, what it asks for, and what is actually open to Afghan applicants for the 2027 admissions cycle.

READ THIS FIRST

This directory was researched and checked in September 2026. Admission rules, deadlines, fees and visa policies change every cycle, and for Afghan applicants they have changed sharply in 2026. Treat every date here as a guide and confirm it on the official page before you act.

Admission rates are shown as bands from recent published classes. International applicants are usually admitted at lower rates than the overall figure.

Ariana Nexus Academy takes no commission from any university and never asks students for money.

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How to read a profile

Every university has the same page structure, so you can compare them in minutes. The black tile names the university; the gold rule separates what is fixed about it from what matters to you.

ADMISSION	The share of applicants admitted in recent classes, as a band. The gold bar shows it to scale; a grey bar means admission is decided by grades and program capacity, not a single rate.
LEVELS	Undergraduate (bachelor's), master's and doctoral study offered.
COST AND AID	How the university treats your ability to pay — need-blind, need-aware, merit scholarships — and what the named awards cover.
TESTS	Whether the SAT or ACT, an English test, or the university's own examination is required.
KEY DATES	The deadlines that matter most for the 2027 cycle. Verify them.
LANGUAGE	The language of instruction.
FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS	What is specific to you: named programs for Afghans, document issues, strategy.
VISA AND ENTRY	How you get there, and what is currently blocked.
ACADEMY TIP	The one piece of advice our mentors would give you first.

■ A gold square marks universities where mentees of Ariana Nexus Academy have been admitted.

The map: where Afghan students can go in 2026

Admission and entry are two different decisions. A university can admit you while a government refuses you a visa. Plan for both — and never let the second stop you from winning the first, because offers can be deferred and policies change faster than degrees take to finish.

COUNTRY OR ROUTE	STATUS FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
United States	Admission open · entry suspended	The most generous financial aid in the world for international students, and in 2026 the hardest door to walk through.
Canada	Open	Open to Afghan students, with two of the strongest named scholarships for international undergraduates anywhere.
Germany	Open	Public universities that charge little or no tuition, and the only scholarship in the world built specifically for students denied education at home.
Türkiye	Open	One of the most realistic fully funded routes from inside Afghanistan, with placement at a university included in the scholarship.
Japan	Open through scholarships	Excellent research universities and a government scholarship that still accepts Afghan applicants through the embassy every year.
South Korea	Open through scholarships	A fully funded government scholarship with places reserved for Afghan applicants, and technical universities that fund their international students.
The Gulf: UAE and Qatar	Open · entry rules vary	American degrees — NYU, Georgetown, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, Texas A&M — earned without a U.S. visa.
Central and South Asia	Open	Universities built for students like you: an American-accredited liberal arts university in Bishkek, and a women's university in Bangladesh where Afghan women are the largest international group.
United Kingdom	Closed to new student visas	Closed to Afghan students applying from abroad since March 2026. Read this page before you spend anything on a UK application.
Online	Open all year	Accredited degrees you can finish from home — the right answer when every border is closed, and a bridge to campus study later.

Gold: open. Grey: open with restrictions — read the chapter. Black: closed to new Afghan applicants from abroad. Status checked September 2026.

THE TWO CHANGES OF 2026 EVERY AFGHAN APPLICANT MUST KNOW

United States: since January 1, 2026, entry is suspended for Afghan passport holders and visa issuance is paused. Admission and financial aid remain open, and the restriction does not apply to people already in the United States, visas issued before that date, or dual nationals travelling on another passport.

United Kingdom: since March 26, 2026, Student visa applications made from outside the UK by Afghan nationals are refused, even with a university offer. The measure is to be reviewed after 18 months. Chevening Afghanistan is closed.

Choosing well: fit, funding, feasibility

Rankings tell you which universities are famous. They do not tell you which ones will admit you, pay for you and let you in. Test every name on your list against three questions, in this order.

QUESTION	WHAT TO CHECK	WHERE IT IS IN THIS DIRECTORY
Fit — would I thrive there?	The program you want, taught in a language you can study in, at a university whose strengths match your record.	Levels, Language, the "why" paragraph of each profile
Funding — can I afford it?	Need-blind or full-need aid, or a named scholarship you have a real chance of winning. Full cost, not tuition alone.	Cost and aid, Scholarships and fellowships, the Routes chapter
Feasibility — can I get there?	Whether a student visa is currently issued to Afghan nationals, what documents you need, and how long it takes.	The map, Visa and entry, For Afghan applicants

A balanced list of twelve

SHARE	KIND OF PLACE	EXAMPLE FROM THIS DIRECTORY
3	Reach — excellent aid, admission rate under 10%	Harvard, MIT, Bowdoin, NYU Abu Dhabi
4	Target — your record is typical of admitted students, and funding is realistic	UBC with International Scholars, METU or Bilkent, Saarland, KAIST
3	Likely — high admission rate with merit aid, or a scholarship route you meet comfortably	Arizona State, Utah Tech, Türkiye Bursları, AUCA
2	Floor — an option that cannot close	University of the People, ASU Online

Your shortlist

Fill this in, one row per university. Delete it from the printed version if you prefer to keep your list private.

UNIVERSITY	FIT	FUNDING	VISA OPEN?	DEADLINE

UNIVERSITY	FIT	FUNDING	VISA OPEN?	DEADLINE

American degrees without a U.S. visa

The U.S. entry suspension closes a door, not a degree. These routes lead to an American university degree — or an American-accredited one — earned somewhere a U.S. visa is not needed.

ROUTE	DEGREE	WHERE	AID
NYU Abu Dhabi	New York University	Abu Dhabi, UAE	Full demonstrated need for all admitted students
Education City: Georgetown, Carnegie Mellon, Texas A&M, Northwestern, Weill Cornell Medicine, VCUarts	Each university's own degree	Doha, Qatar	Need-based support by campus
Duke Kunshan University	Duke University and Duke Kunshan	Kunshan, China	Scholarships for international students
AUCA — Bard dual degree	American University of Central Asia and Bard College	Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan	Donor scholarships for Afghan students
Asian University for Women	U.S.-supported international degree	Chittagong, Bangladesh	Full scholarships for most students
ASU Online	Arizona State University	Online	ASU tuition; scholarships limited
University of the People	U.S.-accredited online university	Online	Tuition-free; Afghan women's fund covers fees

A degree from any of these is a strong base for a later graduate application to the United States when entry reopens — and transfer credit can shorten the path.

Scholarship routes that are not tied to one university

Government and foundation scholarships that place you, fund you or both. Some are the strongest routes open to Afghan students today; some are closed or restricted, and this chapter says so plainly so that you do not lose a season on them.

GOVERNMENT OF TÜRKIYE · ALL LEVELS

Türkiye Bursları

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Tuition, monthly stipend, accommodation, health insurance, one flight, a year of Turkish, and university placement

LEVELS

Bachelor's, master's, PhD, research

WHEN

January 10 – February 20 each year (online, free)

WHO CAN APPLY

All nationalities. Age: under 21 for bachelor's, under 30 for master's, under 35 for PhD. Minimum results: 70% (90% for medicine, dentistry, pharmacy) for bachelor's; 75% for graduate study.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply at turkiyeburslari.gov.tr, choose up to twelve programs, then document review, an interview, and placement. About 5,000 awards a year from more than 120,000 applications.

OUR ADVICE

Choose preferences you would genuinely attend; scholars are placed in one of them. The Turkish year is compulsory unless you already hold a C1 certificate.

GERMANY · STUDENTS AT RISK

DAAD Hilde Domin Programme

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Tuition waived; monthly stipend (€992 master's, €1,400 doctoral), travel allowance, insurance, optional German course

LEVELS

Master's (up to 24 months), PhD (up to 48 months)

WHEN

By nomination only — e.g. nominations for winter semester 2027/28 closed September 15, 2026; the DAAD then invites nominees to apply

WHO CAN APPLY

Students denied the right to education in their home country because of their gender, ethnic or religious identity, or civic activity. B2 English or German. Not resident in the EU at nomination. Excludes medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, pharmacy and law.

HOW TO APPLY

A German university or organization nominates you with a risk assessment; you cannot nominate yourself. Up to about 50 awards a year, with demand many times higher. Afghan women are a principal group served.

OUR ADVICE

Write to the international office of the German university whose program you want and ask about their internal Hilde Domin nomination window — most open it months before the DAAD deadline.

GERMANY · PROFESSIONALS

DAAD development-related master's (EPOS)

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Full scholarship for selected master's programs with a development focus

LEVELS

Master's (some PhD)

WHEN

Set by each program, mostly August–October for the following year

WHO CAN APPLY

Graduates with at least two years of professional experience from developing countries; each program lists its eligible countries.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply to the program directly through the DAAD scholarship database; the program selects and nominates.

OUR ADVICE

Your work experience is scored as heavily as your grades. Document it with letters, not claims.

JAPAN · EMBASSY TRACK

MEXT (Japanese Government)

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Tuition, monthly stipend, return flight

LEVELS

Research students (graduate). The Afghanistan embassy track does not accept undergraduate applications.

WHEN

Late May application (May 25 in 2026) · written examination in Kabul in June · interviews in July

WHO CAN APPLY

Afghan nationals meeting MEXT age and degree limits (the age limit is final).

HOW TO APPLY

Soft copies of all documents to the embassy's published address; the Aga Khan Foundation Afghanistan collects applications and runs the written examination but has no role in selection.

OUR ADVICE

Incomplete applications are not considered and reasons are not given. Contact a Japanese professor before you apply — a named research fit is what carries the interview.

SOUTH KOREA · EMBASSY AND UNIVERSITY TRACKS

Global Korea Scholarship (GKS)

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Airfare, tuition, living expenses, medical insurance, a year of Korean language

LEVELS

Associate, bachelor's, master's, PhD

WHEN

Undergraduate: September–October · graduate: February–March

WHO CAN APPLY

Under 25 for undergraduate, under 40 for graduate. Two undergraduate embassy-track places were reserved for Afghan applicants in the 2026 cycle.

HOW TO APPLY

Embassy track through the Korean embassy responsible for Afghanistan, or university track directly with one participating university.

OUR ADVICE

The university track often has more places than the embassy track. Apply to one department at one university on the university track, not scattered choices.

EUROPEAN UNION · MULTI-COUNTRY MASTER'S

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Tuition, a monthly allowance, travel and installation costs for the full program

LEVELS

Master's

WHEN

Set by each consortium, usually October–January for the following September

WHO CAN APPLY

All nationalities, including Afghan applicants.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply to the consortium of your chosen program; each studies across two or more European countries.

OUR ADVICE

Schengen student visas for Afghan nationals take time; ask the consortium which country issues your first visa and start the day you are selected.

GRADUATE · AFGHAN NATIONALS ELIGIBLE

Aga Khan Foundation International Scholarship

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

50% grant and 50% loan (repaid with a 5% annual service charge, guarantor required); tuition and living costs, not travel

LEVELS

Master's (priority); PhD only in exceptional cases

WHEN

Forms from January 1; completed applications by March 31 (local deadlines may be earlier)

WHO CAN APPLY

Nationals of eligible countries including Afghanistan, residing where an Aga Khan office processes applications; preference for applicants under 30 with genuine financial need.

HOW TO APPLY

Obtain the form from the Aga Khan Foundation or Aga Khan Education Service office in your country of residence and return it there — never to Geneva.

OUR ADVICE

Apply to strong universities first; admission to a highly reputable program is a selection criterion.

PAKISTAN · FOR AFGHAN STUDENTS

HEC Allama Muhammad Iqbal Scholarships

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS

Tuition, hostel, living and book allowances at Pakistani universities

LEVELS

Bachelor's, MS/MPhil, PhD

WHEN

Batches announced by the Higher Education Commission; the third batch of phase III closed September 30, 2025 — watch hec.gov.pk for the next

WHO CAN APPLY

Afghan nationals. Bachelor's: 12 years of schooling, age 17–23, at least 75% in the Shahadatnama (65% equivalency for medicine, 60% for engineering). Master's: 16 years, CGPA 2.5+, under 35. PhD: 18 years, CGPA 3.0+, under 35.

HOW TO APPLY

Online application to HEC; placement at a Pakistani university; scholars sign an undertaking to complete the degree and return to Afghanistan.

OUR ADVICE

4,500 scholarships in phase III. Your Shahadatnama needs an equivalence certificate from IBCC — start that before the call opens.

REFUGEES IN THEIR COUNTRY OF ASYLUM

UNHCR DAFI Scholarship

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS
Tuition and a monthly living stipend, with mentoring and community activities

LEVELS
Undergraduate only (no master's)

WHEN
Set by each country office — e.g. Tajikistan: July 6–31, 2026

WHO CAN APPLY
Registered refugees in countries where DAFI operates, including Pakistan, Iran and Tajikistan; age limits apply (28 in Tajikistan).

HOW TO APPLY
Through the UNHCR country office or its education partner in your country of asylum.

OUR ADVICE
DAFI funds study in the country where you are a refugee, not abroad. Keep your registration documents current.

IIE · EDUCATION ABOVE ALL

Qatar Scholarship for Afghans Project (QSAP)

Restricted — read before applying

WHAT IT COVERS
Full scholarships at partner universities in the United States, Canada, Germany, Qatar, Albania and the United Kingdom

LEVELS
Undergraduate and graduate

WHEN
Not an open annual call — placements are arranged through IIE and partners

WHO CAN APPLY
Afghan students displaced from Afghanistan whose education was interrupted.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact qsap@iie.org. A separate Education Above All project with Alight funds 50 Afghan students at Indonesian universities.

OUR ADVICE
More than 400 QSAP scholars have studied at more than 60 institutions; 74 graduated in 2025–26. Ask, but do not wait on it.

UNITED KINGDOM

Chevening

Closed to Afghan citizens

WHAT IT COVERS
Full funding for a one-year master's — closed to Afghan citizens

LEVELS
Master's; two fellowships remain open

WHEN
Scholarship closed after the UK visa brake of March 26, 2026

WHO CAN APPLY
Afghan citizens remain eligible for the Chevening South Asia Journalism Fellowship and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Fellowship.

HOW TO APPLY
Through chevening.org for the fellowships.

OUR ADVICE
Do not pay anyone who offers a "Chevening route" for Afghans. There is none until the visa brake is lifted.

HUNGARY · GOVERNMENT NOMINATION REQUIRED

Stipendium Hungaricum

Restricted — read before applying

WHAT IT COVERS
Tuition, monthly stipend, accommodation contribution, health cover

LEVELS
Bachelor's, master's, PhD

WHEN
Usually November – January 15

WHO CAN APPLY
Citizens of countries with a current bilateral agreement, nominated by their home government's designated authority.

HOW TO APPLY
Check the current sending-partner list on stipendiumhungaricum.hu before you prepare anything.

OUR ADVICE
Because nomination runs through the home government, this route may not be available to Afghan nationals at present. Verify before you invest time.

CANADA · RESETTLEMENT THROUGH STUDY

WUSC Student Refugee Program

Restricted — read before applying

WHAT IT COVERS
Resettlement to Canada as a permanent resident, with a year of sponsorship at a Canadian campus

LEVELS
Post-secondary

WHEN
A 2–3 week call between November and April in each participating country

WHO CAN APPLY
Refugees aged 18–25 in the countries where WUSC selects. WUSC no longer selects in Pakistan.

HOW TO APPLY
Only through the WUSC office or partner in a participating country of asylum.

OUR ADVICE
Unless you are a registered refugee in a participating country, this is not a route for you now.

ACADEMICS, NOT STUDENTS

For researchers at risk

Open to Afghan applicants

WHAT IT COVERS Fellowships and placements for scholars whose work or safety is threatened	LEVELS Postdoctoral and faculty
WHEN Rolling or set by each program	WHO CAN APPLY Researchers and faculty, including Afghan academics.
HOW TO APPLY The Philipp Schwartz Initiative (Humboldt Foundation, Germany), Scholars at Risk, and the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund.	OUR ADVICE If you taught at an Afghan university, these programs exist for you — they are not student scholarships.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

United States

The most generous financial aid in the world for international students, and in 2026 the hardest door to walk through.

Status for Afghan applicants: Admission open · entry suspended

How admission works

Undergraduates apply through the Common App or a university's own portal, usually with an essay, teacher letters, a school report, an English test and — at a growing number of selective universities — the SAT or ACT. Graduate programs admit by department, and most PhDs in science, engineering and the social sciences are fully funded with a stipend.

Money

Nine universities are need-blind for international students and meet full demonstrated need: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Dartmouth, Brown, Amherst, Bowdoin and Notre Dame. Several others meet full need for the international students they admit but consider need in the decision. Financial aid applications are usually the CSS Profile or the free ISFAA form.

Visa and entry

U.S. entry is suspended for Afghan passport holders under Proclamation 10998 (in force since January 1, 2026), and visa issuance to Afghan passports is paused. It does not affect students already in the United States, visas issued before that date, or dual nationals travelling on another passport. Apply for admission anyway if this university is your goal — then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad with the admissions office.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

If you are already in the United States, your immigration status decides whether you apply as a domestic or an international student. Refugees, asylees and permanent residents usually apply as domestic students and can file the FAFSA; others may be treated as international. Ask each financial aid office in writing. A USCIS memorandum of January 2026 put pending immigration benefits for

nationals of travel-ban countries on hold — take legal advice before any travel outside the United States.

Calendar

Early Decision and Early Action: November 1–15 · Regular Decision: January 1–15 · Decisions: March–April · Reply by May 1

> ARIANA NEXUS ACADEMY
>
> Mentees of Ariana Nexus Academy have been admitted to Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Cornell, Dartmouth, the University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Duke, NYU, Arizona State and Utah Tech.

In this chapter

Harvard University · Yale University · Princeton University · Massachusetts Institute of Technology · Dartmouth College · Brown University · Cornell University · The University of Chicago · Johns Hopkins University · Duke University · New York University · Amherst College · Bowdoin College · University of Notre Dame · Bard College · Arizona State University · Utah Tech University

Harvard

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Harvard University

Private research university · Founded 1636

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

Under 4% of applicants admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-blind for every applicant, including international; meets full need with grants, no loans

TESTS

SAT or ACT required — with alternatives where testing is genuinely unavailable

KEY DATES

Restrictive Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1

LANGUAGE

English

The oldest university in the United States. Harvard College admits every applicant in the world without regard to ability to pay.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based grants for tuition, housing and food; families below published thresholds pay nothing
- PhD students funded with tuition and a stipend
- Kennedy School and School of Public Health fellowships for master's students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App or Coalition, with Harvard supplement
- School report, two teacher letters, counselor report
- SAT or ACT; an English test is strongly advised
- CSS Profile or ISFAA for aid

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- If no test centre is reachable, say so in the additional information section — Harvard allows alternatives
- If your school closed, your counselor report can come from the person who knows your schooling best

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Harvard reads for what you did with what you had. A self-taught student who built something for other people reads better than a long list of certificates.

college.harvard.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Yale

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

Yale University

Private research university · Founded 1701

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

Under 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need, no loans

TESTS

SAT or ACT required from the 2026–27 cycle

KEY DATES

Single-Choice Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 2

LANGUAGE

English

A residential-college system that puts undergraduates at the centre, with some of the strongest programs in the world in the humanities, law, global affairs and the life sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based scholarships for international undergraduates on the same terms as U.S. students
- PhD programs fully funded
- Jackson School of Global Affairs: need- and merit-based fellowships for master's students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App or Coalition, with Yale's short-answer questions
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter, school report
- SAT or ACT; TOEFL, IELTS or Duolingo if English was not your language of instruction
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Yale's short answers reward specific, surprising detail — the most memorable Afghan applications use them for small, concrete things, not summaries of hardship
- Yale ended its test-flexible policy in May 2026; plan for the SAT or ACT from the outset

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Use the short answers to show your intellectual curiosity — one question you cannot stop thinking about is worth more than a list of interests.

admissions.yale.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Princeton

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

Princeton University

Private research university · Founded 1746

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

Under 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need with grants

TESTS

Optional for Fall 2027 entry; required from Fall 2028

KEY DATES

Single-Choice Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1

LANGUAGE

English

A research university built around undergraduate teaching, with a senior thesis for every student and no law, medical or business school.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Grant-only aid for undergraduates, including international students
- PhD programs fully funded
- The public affairs MPA has been fully funded with a stipend — verify for your year

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App, Princeton supplement, a graded written paper
- Teacher and counselor letters, school report
- Test optional this cycle; English test if applicable
- Princeton aid application and CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- If your graded paper is in Pashto or Dari, send a translation with the original
- The MPA is one of few fully funded policy master's degrees in the U.S.

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Princeton wants to see the student who will write a senior thesis. Show one sustained piece of independent work.

admission.princeton.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

MIT

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Private research university · Founded 1861

ADMISSION
Under 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS
Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
Need-blind for international applicants; meets full need; families earning under $200,000 typically pay no tuition

TESTS
SAT or ACT required

KEY DATES
Early Action Nov 1 · Regular early January

LANGUAGE
English

The benchmark for engineering, computer science and the physical sciences, with a culture of making things. Undergraduates join research labs in their first year.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based grants for international students on the same basis as U.S. students
- Engineering and science PhDs funded through research and teaching assistantships

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- MIT does not use the Common App — apply through MIT's own portal
- Short essays, two teacher evaluations (one mathematics or science, one humanities), counselor report
- SAT or ACT; an English test if English is not your first language
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Show what you have built — code, a device, an experiment — with a link; MIT reads the "maker" portfolio seriously
- Olympiad results matter; national and provincial competitions count

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

MIT asks what you do for fun. Answer truthfully and specifically; they are looking for people who build things when nobody is grading them.

mitadmissions.org · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Dartmouth

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dartmouth College

Private research university (Ivy League) · Founded 1769

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 5–6% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-blind for international applicants since 2022; meets full need, no loans

TESTS

SAT or ACT required

KEY DATES

Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January

LANGUAGE

English

The smallest Ivy, with an undergraduate focus, a quarter system and professional schools in business (Tuck), engineering (Thayer) and medicine (Geisel).

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based scholarships for international undergraduates without loans
- Graduate funding by program

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Dartmouth supplement
- Two teacher recommendations, counselor report; an optional peer recommendation
- SAT or ACT; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Dartmouth's optional peer recommendation is a chance to have a classmate or study partner speak for you — valuable if your school closed
- Dartmouth was the first Ivy to reinstate testing, citing evidence that scores help identify strong students from low-income backgrounds

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Dartmouth reads for community. Show one thing you built for other people and kept going.

admissions.dartmouth.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Brown

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Brown University

Private research university (Ivy League) · Founded 1764

ADMISSION

About 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-blind for international applicants from Fall 2025 entry; meets full need, no loans

TESTS

SAT or ACT required

KEY DATES

Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January

LANGUAGE

English

The Open Curriculum: no general-education requirements, so students build their own program. Strong in the humanities, public health, international affairs and applied mathematics.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based grants for international undergraduates
- PhD programs funded; School of Public Health master's aid by program

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Brown's supplemental essays
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter
- SAT or ACT; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- The Open Curriculum rewards applicants who can explain what they want to learn and why — a strength for self-taught students

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Tell Brown what you would study if nobody required anything of you. That answer is the application.

admission.brown.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Cornell

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · ITHACA, NEW YORK

Cornell University

Private research university (Ivy League) with state-supported colleges · Founded 1865

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 7–8% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-aware for international applicants; meets full demonstrated need for those admitted

TESTS

SAT or ACT required for first-year applicants from Fall 2026 entry

KEY DATES

Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular Jan 2

LANGUAGE

English

Eight undergraduate colleges — from engineering and agriculture to hotel administration and public policy — under one roof. Three of the four mentors of Ariana Nexus Academy are Cornell graduates.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for admitted international students
- Master of Public Health, public policy and engineering master's aid by program
- Research PhDs funded

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App; you apply to one specific college with its own essay
- Two teacher letters, counselor report
- SAT or ACT; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Choose the college deliberately — the college-specific essay is where Cornell decides fit
- Cornell considers need for international applicants, so a strong application with a clear aid request is normal and expected

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Our mentors know Cornell from the inside. Ask us about the college that fits your field before you choose.

admissions.cornell.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

UChicago

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The University of Chicago

Private research university · Founded 1890

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-aware for international applicants; need-based aid for admitted students — confirm the current international aid statement

TESTS

Test optional

KEY DATES

Early Action / Early Decision Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular early January

LANGUAGE

English

A rigorous common Core, an intense intellectual culture, and world-leading economics, sociology and physical sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for admitted international students
- Merit scholarships awarded at admission
- PhD programs funded

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App or Coalition with the UChicago Supplement, including its famously unusual essay prompts
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- The "uncommon" essay is an opportunity, not a trap — play with the idea rather than reaching for a hardship story

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

UChicago wants to see how you think. Pick the strangest prompt and enjoy it.

collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Johns Hopkins
UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Johns Hopkins University

Private research university · Founded 1876

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION
About 6% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS
Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
Need-aware for international applicants; meets full need for those admitted

TESTS
Test optional

KEY DATES
Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular early January

LANGUAGE
English

America's first research university, with the world's leading school of public health (Bloomberg) and a school of international affairs (SAIS) in Washington, D.C.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for admitted international undergraduates
- Bloomberg School of Public Health: scholarships and fellowships for master's and doctoral students
- PhD programs funded

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App or Coalition with the Hopkins essay
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Public health applicants from Afghanistan bring field knowledge committees rarely see — describe what you observed, with numbers

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Hopkins wants researchers. One project you ran from question to answer beats five you joined.

apply.jhu.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Duke

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Duke University

Private research university · Founded 1838

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 5% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-aware for international applicants; meets full demonstrated need for those admitted

TESTS

Test optional; no disadvantage for non-submitters, including international applicants

KEY DATES

Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January

LANGUAGE

English

Strong across public policy, global health, engineering and medicine — and Duke Kunshan University in China, which awards Duke degrees, is a route to a Duke education outside the United States.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for admitted international students
- Duke Kunshan University: generous scholarships for international students
- PhD programs funded

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Duke supplement
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Ask about Duke Kunshan in the same cycle — a Duke degree earned in China is not affected by U.S. entry restrictions

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Duke reads for engagement. Show what you do with other people, not only what you achieve alone.

admissions.duke.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

NYU

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · NEW YORK, NEW YORK

New York University

Private research university · Founded 1831

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 8–10% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Need-aware; aid for international students is limited and competitive

TESTS

Test optional

KEY DATES

Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular Jan 5

LANGUAGE

English

A global network university: New York, NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU Shanghai and study-away sites on several continents. Strong in business, film, public service and data science.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Limited need-based and merit aid for international students
- NYU Abu Dhabi meets full need for all admitted students (see its profile)

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with NYU's questions — you can list NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai as well
- Teacher and counselor letters
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile for aid

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Apply to NYU Abu Dhabi in the same Common App — same university, full-need aid, and no U.S. visa

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

If cost is the barrier, NYU Abu Dhabi is the NYU you can afford.

nyu.edu/admissions · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Amherst

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst College

Private liberal arts college · Founded 1821

ADMISSION

About 9–10% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS

Undergraduate only

COST AND AID

Need-blind for international applicants (one of the first to be so); meets full need, no loans

TESTS

Test optional

KEY DATES

Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January

LANGUAGE

English

Small classes taught by professors, an open curriculum, and one of the strongest financial aid programs for international students in the country.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Grant-only need-based aid for international students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Amherst supplement
- Two teacher letters, counselor letter
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Liberal arts colleges read every file closely and value students who have taught others — a strength for many Afghan applicants

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Do not overlook liberal arts colleges. For a strong international applicant who needs full aid, they are often the best odds in the country.

amherst.edu/admission · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Bowdoin

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Bowdoin College

Private liberal arts college · Founded 1794

ADMISSION
About 7% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS
Undergraduate only

COST AND AID
Need-blind for international applicants from the class of 2028; meets full need without loans

TESTS
Test optional

KEY DATES
Early Decision I Nov 15 · Early Decision II and Regular early January

LANGUAGE
English

A small, rigorous liberal arts college on the Maine coast with close faculty relationships.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based grants for international students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Bowdoin supplement
- Teacher and counselor letters
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Bowdoin became need-blind for international students recently — fewer international applicants know it than know the Ivies

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Apply where the aid is certain. Bowdoin is one of nine places in the U.S. where it is.

bowdoin.edu/admissions · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Notre Dame
UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

University of Notre Dame

Private research university (Catholic) · Founded 1842

ADMISSION
About 11% admitted in recent classes

LEVELS
Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need

TESTS
Test optional through at least 2026–27

KEY DATES
Restrictive Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1

LANGUAGE
English

A strong residential university with a service ethic, respected programs in peace studies (the Kroc Institute) and engineering.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for international students on a need-blind basis
- Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies: funded graduate programs

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App with Notre Dame supplement
- Teacher and counselor letters
- Test optional; English test if applicable
- CSS Profile or ISFAA

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Students interested in peace, conflict and development should look closely at the Kroc Institute's graduate programs

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Notre Dame is need-blind for international students — and often overlooked by them.

admissions.nd.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Bard

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NEW YORK

Bard College

Private liberal arts college · Founded 1860

ADMISSION

About half or more of applicants admitted

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's

COST AND AID

Need-aware; substantial need-based aid

TESTS

Test optional — or the Bard Entrance Examination instead of the standard application

KEY DATES

Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1

LANGUAGE

English

A liberal arts college with an unusually global reach: dual degrees with the American University of Central Asia, the Open Society University Network, and a record of hosting Afghan students after 2021.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid for international students
- OSUN network opportunities across partner universities

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App — or the Bard Entrance Examination: four research essays, graded by faculty, in place of grades and tests
- Teacher and counselor letters

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- The Bard Entrance Examination is made for students whose schooling was interrupted: you are judged on four essays, not on records you may not be able to obtain
- Bard's partnership with AUCA means an AUCA–Bard degree is also a Bard degree (see AUCA)

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

If your transcripts are incomplete, the Bard Entrance Examination may be the fairest admission process in the United States.

bard.edu/admission · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

ASU

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · TEMPE AND PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Arizona State University

Public research university · Founded 1885

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About 90% of applicants admitted

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD · Online

COST AND AID

Automatic merit scholarships for international students at admission; full degrees online

TESTS

SAT or ACT not required for most programs; English test required (Duolingo accepted)

KEY DATES

Rolling admission, with priority dates in the spring

LANGUAGE

English

One of the largest research universities in the U.S., consistently ranked for innovation, with more than 300 degrees online. Its free English courses are offered to Afghan girls through Begum Academy.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- New American University International Academic Scholarships, awarded automatically at admission
- ASU Online: full degrees at ASU tuition
- Education for Humanity: ASU's program of free online courses for refugees

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- ASU's own online application
- Transcripts with translation; English test
- No essay required for most undergraduate programs

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- ASU Online lets you begin an ASU degree from home now and move to campus if entry opens
- Its English courses via Begum Academy are free and certified — a practical first step

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

A high-admit, high-quality university where strong Afghan grades earn automatic scholarships. Put it on every U.S. list.

admission.asu.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Utah Tech

UNITED STATES

UNITED STATES · ST. GEORGE, UTAH

Utah Tech University

Public university (formerly Dixie State) · Founded 1911

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

Most qualified applicants admitted

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's

COST AND AID

International merit scholarships tiered by grades; comparatively low cost of attendance

TESTS

SAT or ACT not required; English test required

KEY DATES

Rolling admission, with priority dates in the spring

LANGUAGE

English

A growing polytechnic university renamed in 2022, with a hands-on approach, small classes and a low cost of living compared with coastal cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

— International student scholarships based on grades

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

— Online application

— Transcripts with translation; English test

— Proof of funds for the I-20

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

— A realistic, affordable U.S. option where a strong Afghan transcript earns merit aid

VISA AND ENTRY

Entry suspended for Afghan passport holders since January 1, 2026. Not affected: students already in the U.S., visas issued earlier, dual nationals on another passport. Apply anyway, then plan a deferral, online study or a campus abroad — see the chapter overview.

ACADEMY TIP

Every strong list includes a university where you are likely to be admitted and can afford to go. Utah Tech has been that for our students.

utahtech.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Canada

Open to Afghan students, with two of the strongest named scholarships for international undergraduates anywhere.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open

How admission works

Undergraduates apply directly to each university (in Ontario through OUAC), with grades, an English test and sometimes a supplementary profile. Admission is by program, so the rate varies widely inside one university. Graduate funding is common in research master's and PhD programs.

Money

International tuition is high and need-based aid is limited, which is why the named entrance scholarships matter: the Lester B. Pearson at Toronto and the International Scholars Program at UBC cover tuition and living costs for a small number of students each year. Most other awards are partial.

Visa and entry

Study permit from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, usually with a Provincial Attestation Letter, biometrics and proof of funds — living costs of roughly CAD 22,900 for a single applicant plus first-year tuition (verify the current figure). Apply the week you hold the offer; processing for Afghan applicants is slow and refusals often turn on unclear funding.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans resettled in Canada as refugees or permanent residents apply as domestic students, pay domestic fees and can use provincial student aid. The WES Gateway Program evaluates Afghan credentials for displaced people already in Canada when documents are missing.

Calendar

Pearson nomination: early October · UBC International Scholars: November 15 · Most undergraduate deadlines: December–February

ARIANA NEXUS ACADEMY

Ariana Nexus Academy is approved to nominate one student each year for the Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship. Mentees have been admitted to The University of British Columbia.

In this chapter

University of Toronto · The University of British Columbia · McGill University · York University

U of T
CANADA

CANADA · TORONTO, ONTARIO

University of Toronto

Public research university · Founded 1827

ADMISSION
Varies by program; around 40% overall

LEVELS
Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
High international tuition; the Pearson Scholarship covers everything for about 37 students a year

TESTS
No SAT required; English test required

KEY DATES
Pearson: school nomination Oct 9, 2026 · OUAC application Oct 16 · scholarship application Nov 6

LANGUAGE
English

Canada's leading research university, across three campuses, in one of the world's most multicultural cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship: tuition, books, incidental fees and full residence for four years — about 37 scholars a year
- Entrance scholarships for international students, including the International Scholar Award
- Graduate funding packages in research programs

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- OUAC application (the 105 form for international applicants)
- Transcripts, English test, supplementary application for some programs
- Pearson: nomination by your school, then the scholarship application by the November deadline

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Ariana Nexus Academy is approved to nominate one student each year for the Pearson Scholarship — tell us early if you are a candidate
- Pearson candidates must be in their final year of secondary school or have graduated no earlier than June 2026 for 2027 entry

VISA AND ENTRY

Study permit with proof of funds (about CAD 22,900 plus first-year tuition — verify) and usually a Provincial Attestation Letter. Apply the week you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

The Pearson is judged on leadership and impact as much as grades. Build the evidence before the application window, not during it.

future.utoronto.ca/pearson · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

UBC

CANADA

CANADA · VANCOUVER AND KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA

The University of British Columbia

Public research university · Founded 1908

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

About half overall; competitive programs far lower

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

High international tuition; International Scholars awards cover tuition and living costs in proportion to need

TESTS

No SAT required; English standard by January 31

KEY DATES

International Scholars application Nov 15 · UBC application Dec 1

LANGUAGE

English

North America's most international university by its own measure, on two campuses — Vancouver and Okanagan.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Karen McKellin International Leader of Tomorrow Award (need- and merit-based, renewable)
- Donald A. Wehrung International Student Award — for students from war-torn or impoverished areas who achieved under difficult circumstances
- International Impact Award and Vantage One Excellence Award
- About 35 International Scholars are selected each year

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- UBC online application by December 1
- International Scholars application with a nominator (your school counselor or equivalent) and an academic referee by November 15
- Financial documentation for need-based awards

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- The Donald A. Wehrung award exists for exactly the circumstances many Afghan students have lived through
- If your school closed, ask us about nomination options — UBC also accepts nominations from some organizations a student is involved with

VISA AND ENTRY

Study permit with proof of funds (about CAD 22,900 plus first-year tuition — verify) and usually a Provincial Attestation Letter. Apply the week you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

Apply for the International Scholars Program by November 15, two weeks before the admission deadline. Most students miss that it comes first.

you.ubc.ca · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

McGill

CANADA

CANADA · MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

McGill University

Public research university · Founded 1821

ADMISSION

Varies by program; around 40% overall

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

High international tuition; limited need-based support; merit entrance scholarships

TESTS

No SAT required for most applicants; English test required

KEY DATES

International undergraduate deadline Jan 15

LANGUAGE

English (in a French-speaking city)

One of Canada's most respected universities, English-medium, in Montréal — a bilingual city with a lower cost of living than Toronto or Vancouver.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Major Entrance Scholarships (merit, renewable) and one-year entrance scholarships
- Limited need-based entrance support

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- McGill online application
- Transcripts, English test, supplementary materials for some programs

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Québec requires a Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) before the study permit — an extra step that adds weeks
- Budget carefully: without a named full scholarship, international costs at McGill are high

VISA AND ENTRY

Study permit with proof of funds (about CAD 22,900 plus first-year tuition — verify) and usually a Provincial Attestation Letter. Apply the week you are admitted. In Québec, a Québec Acceptance Certificate (CAQ) comes before the federal study permit — allow extra weeks.

ACADEMY TIP

Apply for the CAQ the week you are admitted. It is the step Afghan students most often start too late.

mcgill.ca/undergraduate-admissions · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

York

CANADA

CANADA · TORONTO, ONTARIO

York University

Public research university · Founded 1959

ADMISSION

Most qualified applicants admitted

LEVELS

Undergraduate · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Entrance scholarships for international students, including the Global Leader of Tomorrow Award

TESTS

No SAT required; English test required

KEY DATES

Most international undergraduate deadlines in February

LANGUAGE

English

Home of the Centre for Refugee Studies, one of the world's leading research centres on forced migration — a natural home for Afghan students in social sciences, law and policy.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Global Leader of Tomorrow Award for international students
- Automatic entrance scholarships by grades

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- York application or OUAC
- Transcripts, English test

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Students interested in migration, refugee law and humanitarian policy will find faculty whose work is about Afghanistan and its diaspora

VISA AND ENTRY

Study permit with proof of funds (about CAD 22,900 plus first-year tuition — verify) and usually a Provincial Attestation Letter. Apply the week you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

A strong, more accessible Toronto option — pair it with a Pearson application to U of T.

futurestudents.yorku.ca · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Germany

Public universities that charge little or no tuition, and the only scholarship in the world built specifically for students denied education at home.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open

How admission works

Admission is by program, based on your previous qualification and grades. Afghan school certificates usually do not give direct entry to a German bachelor's program: expect a foundation year (Studienkolleg) with an entrance examination, or proof of successful university study in Afghanistan — check the anabin database and uni-assist. Many master's programs are taught in English; most bachelor's programs require German.

Money

Most states charge no tuition, only a semester contribution of a few hundred euros that often includes a transit pass. Baden-Württemberg charges non-EU students €1,500 a semester and the Technical University of Munich charges international fees; exemptions exist. The DAAD funds master's and doctoral study, and its Hilde Domin Programme supports students at risk of being denied education.

Visa and entry

National student visa from a German mission — for Afghan nationals usually a mission in a neighbouring country such as Islamabad. You need the admission letter, health insurance and proof of funds through a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025; the amount is reset annually). Appointments take months: book the day you are admitted.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans already living in Germany with protection status can usually enroll with a residence permit that allows study, may qualify for BAföG student finance, and can join preparatory courses for refugees at many universities (funded by the DAAD's Integra program).

Calendar

Winter semester: most applications close July 15 (earlier through uni-assist) · Summer semester: January 15 · Hilde Domin: nominations in spring and autumn

> ARIANA NEXUS ACADEMY
>
> Mentees of Ariana Nexus Academy have been admitted to Saarland University.

In this chapter

Saarland University · Technical University of Munich · Heidelberg University · Humboldt University of Berlin · RWTH Aachen University

Saarland

GERMANY

GERMANY · SAARBRÜCKEN, SAARLAND

Saarland University

Public research university · Founded 1948

- Ariana Nexus Academy mentees have been admitted here

ADMISSION

No single rate — admission by program and grades

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

No tuition; a semester contribution of a few hundred euros

TESTS

No SAT; English (for English-taught master's) or German certificate

KEY DATES

Winter semester: master's deadlines typically spring to mid-summer — by program

LANGUAGE

German and English

Home of the Saarland Informatics Campus, one of Europe's strongest computer science clusters, alongside Max Planck Institutes for Informatics and Software Systems, the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

— DAAD scholarships, including the Hilde Domin Programme (nomination through the university)

— Research assistant positions for master's and PhD students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

— Apply to the program directly or through uni-assist, as the program specifies

— Recognized bachelor's degree for master's programs; English-taught master's in computer science, data science and AI

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

— Afghan computer science graduates are strong candidates for the English-taught master's programs

— Ask the international office about their Hilde Domin nomination window

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a German mission, usually in Islamabad for Afghan nationals, with a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025, reset annually). Book the appointment the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

World-class computer science without tuition. Our mentees have been admitted here — ask us about the programs.

uni-saarland.de · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

TUM

GERMANY

GERMANY · MUNICH, BAVARIA

Technical University of Munich

Public technical university · Founded 1868

ADMISSION

No single rate — aptitude assessment by program

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Tuition for non-EU students since winter 2024/25 (roughly €2,000–3,000 a semester for bachelor's, €4,000–6,000 for master's); exemptions and scholarships exist

TESTS

Program-specific; English or German certificate

KEY DATES

Winter semester: typically January–May by program

LANGUAGE

German and English

Germany's leading technical university — engineering, computer science, natural sciences, medicine — in a city with a strong technology industry.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- TUM scholarships and fee exemptions for strong international students
- Hilde Domin nominations through TUM's internal window (August for the following winter semester)

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- TUMonline application
- Aptitude assessment (Eignungsverfahren) by program — documents first, sometimes an interview

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- TUM runs a published internal nomination round for Hilde Domin — apply to TUM and request nomination in the same window
- Munich is expensive; budget beyond the blocked-account minimum

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a German mission, usually in Islamabad for Afghan nationals, with a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025, reset annually). Book the appointment the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

Check whether you qualify for a fee exemption before you rule TUM out on cost.

tum.de · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Heidelberg
GERMANY

GERMANY · HEIDELBERG, BADEN-WÜRTTEMBERG

Heidelberg University

Public research university · Founded 1386

ADMISSION

No single rate — admission by program and grades

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

€1,500 a semester for non-EU students in Baden-Württemberg; exemptions for some groups, including recognized refugees — check

TESTS

German for most bachelor's programs; English for some master's

KEY DATES

Winter semester: typically by July 15

LANGUAGE

German and English

Germany's oldest university, with outstanding medicine, life sciences, physics and humanities.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- DAAD scholarships
- State and university scholarships; fee exemptions in defined cases

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Direct application or uni-assist by program
- Studienkolleg route for most bachelor's applicants with Afghan certificates

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- If you have recognized protection status in Germany, ask the university whether the non-EU fee applies to you

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a German mission, usually in Islamabad for Afghan nationals, with a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025, reset annually). Book the appointment the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

Strong for research-minded students in the sciences and medicine — plan German early.

uni-heidelberg.de · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Humboldt
GERMANY

GERMANY · BERLIN

Humboldt University of Berlin

Public research university · Founded 1810

ADMISSION
No single rate — admission by program and grades

LEVELS
Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
No tuition; a semester contribution that includes a Berlin transit pass

TESTS
German for most programs

KEY DATES
Winter semester: typically by July 15 (earlier via uni-assist)

LANGUAGE
German (some English master's)

A model for the modern research university, strong in the humanities and social sciences, in Germany's capital with a large Afghan community.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- DAAD scholarships
- Berlin universities' programs for refugee students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Mostly via uni-assist for international applicants
- German C1 for German-taught programs

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Berlin's Afghan community and support networks are among the largest in Europe
- Cost of living is higher than in smaller university towns

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a German mission, usually in Islamabad for Afghan nationals, with a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025, reset annually). Book the appointment the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

Choose Humboldt for the humanities and social sciences, and start German a year ahead.

hu-berlin.de · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

RWTH

GERMANY

GERMANY · AACHEN, NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA

RWTH Aachen University

Public technical university · Founded 1870

ADMISSION

No single rate — admission by program and grades

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

No tuition; a semester contribution

TESTS

English for many engineering master's; German for most bachelor's

KEY DATES

Winter semester: master's deadlines typically March 1 for international applicants

LANGUAGE

German and English

One of Europe's leading engineering universities, with many English-taught master's programs and strong industry links.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- DAAD scholarships
- Student assistant positions in research institutes

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- RWTHonline application; some programs via uni-assist
- Recognized bachelor's degree in a matching field for master's programs

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Engineering graduates from Kabul Polytechnic and other Afghan universities have a clear path into RWTH's English-taught master's programs

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a German mission, usually in Islamabad for Afghan nationals, with a blocked account (€11,904 a year in 2025, reset annually). Book the appointment the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

Aachen is far cheaper than Munich for comparable engineering quality.

rwth-aachen.de · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Türkiye

One of the most realistic fully funded routes from inside Afghanistan, with placement at a university included in the scholarship.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open

How admission works

International undergraduates apply directly to each university with the SAT, ACT, IB, A-levels or a university's own international exam, plus an English or Turkish certificate. Türkiye Bursları runs its own application and places scholars at a university and program chosen from their preferences.

Money

Public university tuition for international students is modest and set each year. Türkiye Bursları covers tuition, a monthly stipend, accommodation, health insurance, a flight and a year of Turkish; private foundation universities such as Bilkent offer their own merit scholarships.

Visa and entry

Student visa from a Turkish consulate with your admission letter, then a student residence permit through e-İkamet after arrival. Türkiye Bursları scholars are guided through both steps.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans already in Türkiye under international or temporary protection should check with each university how their status is treated for admission and fees; rules differ between institutions.

Calendar

Türkiye Bursları: January 10 – February 20 · University international admissions: roughly March–July

In this chapter

Middle East Technical University · Boğaziçi University · Bilkent University · Hacettepe University

METU

TÜRKIYE

TÜRKIYE · ANKARA

Middle East Technical University

Public technical university · Founded 1956

ADMISSION

Admission by international exam scores; no single rate

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Modest international tuition set yearly; Türkiye Bursları placements possible

TESTS

SAT, ACT, IB or equivalent; METU English test, TOEFL or IELTS

KEY DATES

International admissions typically spring to early summer

LANGUAGE

English

Türkiye's best-known technical university, fully English-medium, with strong engineering, architecture and the sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Türkiye Bursları
- University fee waivers for high-performing students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- METU international student application
- SAT or another accepted international score; transcripts; English proficiency or METU's preparatory year

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- An English-medium alternative to Western universities, at a fraction of the cost

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a Turkish consulate, then a residence permit through e-İkamet after arrival.

ACADEMY TIP

A strong SAT score is the fastest route into METU without Türkiye Bursları.

metu.edu.tr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Boğaziçi

TÜRKIYE

TÜRKIYE · ISTANBUL

Boğaziçi University

Public research university · Founded 1863 (as Robert College); university since 1971

ADMISSION

Highly competitive; admission by international exam scores

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Modest international tuition set yearly

TESTS

SAT, ACT, IB or equivalent; English proficiency

KEY DATES

International admissions typically spring

LANGUAGE

English

An English-medium university on the Bosphorus with a long American heritage and strong programs in economics, engineering and the social sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Türkiye Bursları
- Limited university scholarships

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Boğaziçi international application with accepted exam scores

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Istanbul's cost of living is high; plan housing early

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a Turkish consulate, then a residence permit through e-İkamet after arrival.

ACADEMY TIP

One of the most competitive universities in Türkiye — pair it with METU and Bilkent.

bogazici.edu.tr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Bilkent

TÜRKIYE

TÜRKIYE · ANKARA

Bilkent University

Private non-profit (foundation) university · Founded 1984

ADMISSION

Admission by international exam scores; no single rate

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Merit scholarships for international students, from partial tuition to full tuition with a stipend

TESTS

SAT, ACT, IB or equivalent; English proficiency

KEY DATES

International admissions typically spring to summer

LANGUAGE

English

Türkiye's first private non-profit university, English-medium, strong in engineering, economics and the sciences.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Bilkent international scholarships awarded on exam scores
- Graduate assistantships with stipends

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Bilkent international application with scores

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Bilkent's own scholarships make it a second fully funded option in Türkiye alongside Türkiye Bursları

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a Turkish consulate, then a residence permit through e-İkamet after arrival.

ACADEMY TIP

Your SAT or equivalent decides the scholarship level. Retake it if a higher tier is within reach.

bilkent.edu.tr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Hacettepe

TÜRKIYE

TÜRKIYE · ANKARA

Hacettepe University

Public research university · Founded 1967

ADMISSION

Admission by international exam scores; no single rate

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Modest international tuition set yearly

TESTS

Accepted international exams; Turkish or English proficiency

KEY DATES

International admissions typically spring to summer

LANGUAGE

Turkish (some English programs)

One of Türkiye's leading universities for medicine, health sciences and public health, including a respected institute of population studies.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

— Türkiye Bursları placements

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

— Hacettepe international application

— Turkish proficiency for Turkish-taught programs

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

— Strong for Afghan students in public health and medicine; learn Turkish early

VISA AND ENTRY

Student visa from a Turkish consulate, then a residence permit through e-İkamet after arrival.

ACADEMY TIP

For health sciences in Türkiye, apply through Türkiye Bursları with Hacettepe as a top preference.

hacettepe.edu.tr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Japan

Excellent research universities and a government scholarship that still accepts Afghan applicants through the embassy every year.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open through scholarships

How admission works

Graduate study usually begins as a research student attached to a professor, then moves into a master's or doctoral program. English-taught degrees exist at both undergraduate and graduate level at the leading universities.

Money

The MEXT scholarship covers tuition, a monthly stipend and a return flight. For Afghans, the embassy track is open for research students (graduate level) only; applications are collected in Kabul with support from the Aga Khan Foundation, followed by a written examination and an interview.

Visa and entry

Student visa issued on a Certificate of Eligibility that the university obtains for you. MEXT scholars are guided through the process by the embassy and the university.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans already outside Afghanistan may also apply through the MEXT embassy track of their country of residence where eligible, or through a university-recommendation track.

Calendar

MEXT embassy track (Afghanistan): late May application · June written exam in Kabul · July interviews · study from the following April or October

In this chapter

The University of Tokyo · Kyoto University

UTokyo

JAPAN

JAPAN · TOKYO

The University of Tokyo

National research university · Founded 1877

ADMISSION

Highly competitive; scholarship selection is separate

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

MEXT covers tuition and a monthly stipend; university scholarships for English-taught programs

TESTS

Program-specific

KEY DATES

MEXT (Afghanistan): late May for the following year

LANGUAGE

Japanese and English

Japan's leading university, with English-taught undergraduate programs (PEAK) and many English-taught graduate programs in science and engineering.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- MEXT scholarship (embassy or university recommendation)
- University scholarships for PEAK students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- For MEXT research students: a research plan and contact with a prospective supervisor
- PEAK: direct application with international credentials

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- The Afghanistan embassy track is for graduate research students — prepare a research plan and contact a professor before you apply

VISA AND ENTRY

Visa on a Certificate of Eligibility obtained by the university; MEXT scholars are guided through it.

ACADEMY TIP

A professor who knows your plan is the strongest asset in a MEXT interview.

u-tokyo.ac.jp · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Kyoto

JAPAN

JAPAN · KYOTO

Kyoto University

National research university · Founded 1897

ADMISSION

Highly competitive; scholarship selection is separate

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

MEXT; the Kyoto iUP international undergraduate program includes scholarships and Japanese preparation

TESTS

Program-specific

KEY DATES

MEXT (Afghanistan): late May · Kyoto iUP: autumn application

LANGUAGE

Japanese and English

Known for independent research and Nobel-winning science, in Japan's historic capital.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- MEXT scholarship
- Kyoto iUP scholarships for international undergraduates

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Kyoto iUP: application with international credentials; a six-month Japanese preparatory course before the degree
- Graduate: MEXT research student route

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Kyoto iUP is one of the few Japanese undergraduate routes that builds in language preparation

VISA AND ENTRY

Visa on a Certificate of Eligibility obtained by the university; MEXT scholars are guided through it.

ACADEMY TIP

Pick the lab before the university. In Japan the supervisor decides more than the ranking.

kyoto-u.ac.jp · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

South Korea

A fully funded government scholarship with places reserved for Afghan applicants, and technical universities that fund their international students.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open through scholarships

How admission works

Degree programs begin after a year of Korean language study for Global Korea Scholarship recipients. Many science and engineering programs at the leading universities are taught largely in English.

Money

The Global Korea Scholarship covers airfare, tuition, living expenses, medical insurance and the language year. In the 2026 cycle the embassy track reserved two undergraduate places for Afghan applicants; a university track also exists. Leading universities add their own awards.

Visa and entry

D-2 student visa sponsored by the university. GKS scholars are processed with support from NIIED and the Korean embassy.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans outside Afghanistan apply through the embassy track of the country whose citizenship they hold, or through the university track directly.

Calendar

GKS undergraduate: September–October · GKS graduate: February–March

In this chapter

Seoul National University · Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

SNU

SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA · SEOUL

Seoul National University

National research university · Founded 1946

ADMISSION

Highly competitive

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID

Global Korea Scholarship; SNU scholarships for international students from developing countries

TESTS

Program-specific; Korean or English proficiency

KEY DATES

GKS undergraduate Sept–Oct · graduate Feb–Mar

LANGUAGE

Korean and English

Korea's leading university across the sciences, engineering, economics and public administration.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- GKS (embassy or university track)
- SNU scholarships for international students

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Through GKS, or SNU's international admission with transcripts and language certificates

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- In the 2026 cycle the embassy track reserved two undergraduate GKS places for Afghan applicants — competition is intense; use the university track as well

VISA AND ENTRY

D-2 student visa sponsored by the university.

ACADEMY TIP

A clear study plan that connects your field to Korea's strengths reads well to GKS reviewers.

snu.ac.kr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

KAIST

SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA · DAEJEON

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology

Public research university · Founded 1971

ADMISSION
Highly competitive

LEVELS
Bachelor's · Master's · PhD

COST AND AID
Full-tuition scholarships for admitted international students, with a monthly allowance for many

TESTS
Mathematics and science strength; English proficiency

KEY DATES
International admissions typically autumn to winter for spring and fall entry

LANGUAGE
English (largely)

Korea's leading science and engineering university, teaching largely in English.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- KAIST scholarships for international students
- GKS

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- KAIST international application with transcripts, recommendations and English certificate

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Strong mathematics and physics records matter more here than essays

VISA AND ENTRY

D-2 student visa sponsored by the university.

ACADEMY TIP

For engineering and computer science in Asia, KAIST is one of the best-funded options available to international students.

kaist.ac.kr · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

The Gulf: UAE and Qatar

American degrees — NYU, Georgetown, Cornell, Carnegie Mellon, Northwestern, Texas A&M — earned without a U.S. visa.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open · entry rules vary

How admission works

NYU Abu Dhabi admits through the Common App and awards NYU degrees. Education City in Doha hosts branch campuses of six American universities, each with its own admission process, plus Hamad Bin Khalifa University for graduate study.

Money

NYU Abu Dhabi meets full demonstrated need for all admitted students regardless of nationality. Education City campuses offer need-based support administered locally; ask each campus how it applies to international students.

Visa and entry

A student residence permit sponsored by your university in Qatar. Confirm eligibility for Afghan nationals with the admissions office early, before you commit to one offer over another.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans who were evacuated through Qatar in 2021 and now live elsewhere should say so in their applications only where it is relevant to their story; it is not a status that affects admission.

Calendar

NYU Abu Dhabi: Early Decision November 1 · Regular January 5 · Education City: most campuses December–February

In this chapter

NYU Abu Dhabi · Education City, Doha — six American universities and HBKU

NYU AD

UAE · QATAR

THE GULF: UAE AND QATAR · ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NYU Abu Dhabi

NYU degree-granting campus · Founded 2010

ADMISSION
Under 5% admitted

LEVELS
Undergraduate · some graduate

COST AND AID
Meets full demonstrated need for all admitted students, regardless of nationality

TESTS
Test optional

KEY DATES
Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular Jan 5

LANGUAGE
English

An NYU education with an NYU degree, in a small, intensely international community — and generous aid for every admitted student in the world.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Need-based aid meeting full demonstrated need for every admitted student
- Finalists are typically invited to a Candidate Weekend

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Common App — select NYU Abu Dhabi
- Teacher and counselor letters; English test if applicable
- Financial aid application

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- An American degree without a U.S. visa
- Raise UAE entry rules for Afghan passport holders with admissions as soon as you are admitted

VISA AND ENTRY

NYU Abu Dhabi sponsors a student residence visa for admitted students. UAE entry rules for Afghan passport holders are restrictive and change often — raise it with the admissions office the day you are admitted.

ACADEMY TIP

If you are applying to NYU, apply to NYU Abu Dhabi in the same application. The aid is not comparable.

nyuad.nyu.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

Education City
UAE · QATAR

THE GULF: UAE AND QATAR · DOHA, QATAR

Education City, Doha — six American universities and HBKU

Branch campuses and a national graduate university (Qatar Foundation) · Founded 1995 (Qatar Foundation)

ADMISSION
Selective; each campus admits separately

LEVELS
Undergraduate · Master's · PhD · Medicine (MD)

COST AND AID
Need-based support administered by each campus; many HBKU graduate students receive tuition and a stipend

TESTS
Set by each university

KEY DATES
Most campuses December–February

LANGUAGE
English

Georgetown (foreign service), Carnegie Mellon (computer science, business), Texas A&M (engineering), Northwestern (journalism), Weill Cornell Medicine (a six-year Cornell MD) and VCUarts — with the same degrees as their home campuses — plus Hamad Bin Khalifa University for graduate study.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Qatar Foundation and campus need-based aid for eligible students
- HBKU graduate scholarships

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- Apply to each university's Qatar campus through its own process
- Weill Cornell Medicine–Qatar: an integrated pre-medical and medical program

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- American degrees earned in Doha are not affected by U.S. entry restrictions
- Qatar was a partner in QSAP and hosted Afghan students

VISA AND ENTRY

A student residence permit sponsored by your university in Qatar. Confirm eligibility for Afghan nationals with the admissions office early, before you commit to one offer over another.

ACADEMY TIP

For medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine–Qatar is one of the very few routes to an American MD open to Afghan students today.

qf.org.qa · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Central and South Asia

Universities built for students like you: an American-accredited liberal arts university in Bishkek, and a women's university in Bangladesh where Afghan women are the largest international group.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open

How admission works

Admission combines the university's own entrance examination or assessment with an interview. Both universities run a preparatory year for students who need it.

Money

Most Afghan students at both universities study on scholarship. The Asian University for Women covers room, board, tuition, health care and books for the large majority of its students.

Visa and entry

Kyrgyzstan and Bangladesh each require a student visa supported by the university — see each profile.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Afghans in Pakistan should also look at the HEC Allama Iqbal scholarships (see Routes), and Afghans registered as refugees in Pakistan, Iran or Tajikistan at the UNHCR DAFI scholarship.

Calendar

AUCA Afghan scholarships: historically announced March–April · AUW: intakes in August and January

In this chapter

American University of Central Asia · Asian University for Women

AUCA

CENTRAL · SOUTH ASIA

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA · BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

American University of Central Asia

Private non-profit liberal arts university · Founded 1993

ADMISSION

Admission by AUCA entrance examination

LEVELS

Bachelor's · Master's

COST AND AID

Donor-funded merit scholarships for Afghan students; Bard College and AUCA provided $500,000 in aid to Afghan students in 2025

TESTS

AUCA entrance examination

KEY DATES

Afghan scholarships historically announced March 1 – April 30

LANGUAGE

English (with Russian)

An American-style liberal arts university with a dual degree from Bard College. Afghan students have long been AUCA's largest international group.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Afghan scholarships funded by donors, historically covering tuition, travel, housing and living costs
- Master's scholarships have been offered to Afghan alumni

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY

- AUCA entrance examination
- Most Afghan scholars complete the New Generation Academy preparatory year first

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS

- Up to 40 new Afghan students have been admitted in a typical year
- Scholarship recipients live in the international dormitory in their first year

VISA AND ENTRY

Kyrgyz student visa, supported by a letter from AUCA. Start at least 30 days before arrival; procedures vary by citizenship and change, so confirm with AUCA's admissions office.

ACADEMY TIP

An AUCA–Bard degree is an American-accredited degree earned three hours' flight from Kabul.

auca.kg · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

AUW

CENTRAL · SOUTH ASIA

CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA · CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Asian University for Women

Independent international university for women · Founded 2008

ADMISSION
Selective; assessment and interview

LEVELS
Bachelor's · selected graduate programs

COST AND AID
More than 85% of students study on full scholarship covering room, board, tuition, health care and books

TESTS
AUW assessment; no prior English requirement to apply

KEY DATES
Intakes in August and January

LANGUAGE
English

Founded to educate women from conflict-affected and disadvantaged communities. About 550 Afghan women were enrolled in 2024, and 500 enrolled between 2021 and 2024.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS
- Full scholarships including travel for many students
- A pre-university bridge program in English and academic skills

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY
- AUW application; admissions materials have been published in Dari and Pashto
- Assessment and interview

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS
- Built for Afghan women who cannot study at home; English is taught, not required on entry
- Places have been reserved for women from all provinces and backgrounds, including the Kuchi community

VISA AND ENTRY
Bangladesh student visa, supported by AUW. The university guides admitted students through the process.

ACADEMY TIP
For Afghan women, AUW is often the most direct route from a closed school to a university degree.

asian-university.org · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

United Kingdom

Closed to Afghan students applying from abroad since March 2026. Read this page before you spend anything on a UK application.

Status for Afghan applicants: Closed to new student visas

How admission works

From 26 March 2026 the United Kingdom refuses Student visa applications made from outside the UK by Afghan nationals — even where a university has already issued a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies. The government has said the measure will be reviewed after 18 months.

Money

Chevening has closed its Afghanistan scholarship as a result. Two Chevening fellowships remain open to Afghan citizens because fellowship visa routes are not affected: the South Asia Journalism Fellowship and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Fellowship.

Visa and entry

Not affected by the brake: Afghans already in the UK with valid permission, applications made from inside the UK, the Graduate visa after completing a UK degree, visitor and short-term study visas, and dual nationals applying on another nationality's passport.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

If you are already in the UK as a refugee or asylum seeker, many UK universities offer Sanctuary Scholarships covering fees and sometimes living costs; the charity Student Action for Refugees (STAR) keeps the list. Refugee status usually means home fees and access to student finance.

Calendar

Review of the visa brake: expected around September 2027

COUNTRY CHAPTER

Online

Accredited degrees you can finish from home — the right answer when every border is closed, and a bridge to campus study later.

Status for Afghan applicants: Open all year

How admission works

Online universities admit most qualified secondary-school graduates and teach asynchronously, so a course can be followed on a phone, in the evening, around family responsibilities.

Money

University of the People charges no tuition — only a small application fee and a per-course assessment fee — and its Afghan Women's Scholarship Fund covers those fees for Afghan women. Arizona State University offers full degrees online at its own tuition.

Visa and entry

No visa. You need a device, a reliable connection and a few quiet hours a week; study is asynchronous, so time zones and power cuts are survivable.

If you are already outside Afghanistan

Online credit can transfer: finish a year online, then apply as a transfer student to a campus university when a route opens.

Calendar

University of the People: five terms a year · rolling admission

In this chapter

University of the People

UoPeople
ONLINE

ONLINE · ONLINE (PASADENA, CALIFORNIA)

University of the People

Non-profit, tuition-free online university (accredited 2014) · Founded 2009

ADMISSION
Open to qualified secondary-school graduates

LEVELS
Associate · Bachelor's · Master's

COST AND AID
No tuition; a $60 application fee and a per-course assessment fee ($160 per undergraduate course) — waived for recipients of the Afghan Women's Scholarship Fund

TESTS
English proficiency required

KEY DATES
Five terms a year; rolling admission

LANGUAGE
English

An accredited American university that runs entirely online and asynchronously, with degrees in business administration, computer science and health science, an MBA and a Master of Education.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS
- Afghan Women's Scholarship Fund — no separate application; tell admissions you are an Afghan woman applying
- Other scholarships toward assessment fees

WHAT YOU NEED TO APPLY
- Online application
- Secondary-school diploma (Shahadatnama) with translation; English proficiency

FOR AFGHAN APPLICANTS
- Study at home, on your own schedule, without anyone publishing your name
- Credit can later count toward a campus degree

VISA AND ENTRY
No visa. You need a device, a reliable connection and a few quiet hours a week; study is asynchronous, so time zones and power cuts are survivable.

ACADEMY TIP
Start now. A year of completed university courses is the strongest evidence you can bring to any future application.

uopeople.edu · Verify every date and figure on the official site for the 2027 cycle.

All universities at a glance

Every profiled university on one table. Select a name to jump to its page.

UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	LEVELS	COST AND AID	KEY DATES
Harvard	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for every applicant, including international; meets full need with grants, no loans	Restrictive Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1
Yale	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need, no loans	Single-Choice Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 2
Princeton	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need with grants	Single-Choice Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1
MIT	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for international applicants; meets full need; families earning under $200,000 typically pay no tuition	Early Action Nov 1 · Regular early January
Dartmouth	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for international applicants since 2022; meets full need, no loans	Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January
Brown	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for international applicants from Fall 2025 entry; meets full need, no loans	Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January
Cornell	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-aware for international applicants; meets full demonstrated need for those admitted	Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular Jan 2
UChicago	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-aware for international applicants; need-based aid for admitted students — confirm the current international aid statement	Early Action / Early Decision Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular early January
Johns Hopkins	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-aware for international applicants; meets full need for those admitted	Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular early January
Duke	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-aware for international applicants; meets full demonstrated need for those admitted	Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January
NYU	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-aware; aid for international students is limited and competitive	Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular Jan 5
Amherst	United States	UG only	Need-blind for international applicants (one of the first to be so); meets full need, no loans	Early Decision Nov 1 · Regular early January
Bowdoin	United States	UG only	Need-blind for international applicants from the class of 2028; meets full need without loans	Early Decision I Nov 15 · Early Decision II and Regular early January

UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	LEVELS	COST AND AID	KEY DATES
Notre Dame	United States	UG · M · PhD	Need-blind for all applicants, including international; meets full need	Restrictive Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1
Bard	United States	UG · M	Need-aware; substantial need-based aid	Early Action Nov 1 · Regular Jan 1
ASU	United States	UG · M · PhD · Online	Automatic merit scholarships for international students at admission; full degrees online	Rolling admission, with priority dates in the spring
Utah Tech	United States	UG · M	International merit scholarships tiered by grades; comparatively low cost of attendance	Rolling admission, with priority dates in the spring
U of T	Canada	UG · M · PhD	High international tuition; the Pearson Scholarship covers everything for about 37 students a year	Pearson: school nomination Oct 9, 2026 · OUAC application Oct 16 · scholarship application Nov 6
UBC	Canada	UG · M · PhD	High international tuition; International Scholars awards cover tuition and living costs in proportion to need	International Scholars application Nov 15 · UBC application Dec 1
McGill	Canada	UG · M · PhD	High international tuition; limited need-based support; merit entrance scholarships	International undergraduate deadline Jan 15
York	Canada	UG · M · PhD	Entrance scholarships for international students, including the Global Leader of Tomorrow Award	Most international undergraduate deadlines in February
Saarland	Germany	UG · M · PhD	No tuition; a semester contribution of a few hundred euros	Winter semester: master's deadlines typically spring to mid-summer — by program
TUM	Germany	UG · M · PhD	Tuition for non-EU students since winter 2024/25 (roughly €2,000–3,000 a semester for bachelor's, €4,000–6,000 for master's); exemptions and scholarships exist	Winter semester: typically January–May by program
Heidelberg	Germany	UG · M · PhD	€1,500 a semester for non-EU students in Baden-Württemberg; exemptions for some groups, including recognized refugees — check	Winter semester: typically by July 15
Humboldt	Germany	UG · M · PhD	No tuition; a semester contribution that includes a Berlin transit pass	Winter semester: typically by July 15 (earlier via uni-assist)
RWTH	Germany	UG · M · PhD	No tuition; a semester contribution	Winter semester: master's deadlines typically March 1 for international applicants
METU	Türkiye	UG · M · PhD	Modest international tuition set yearly; Türkiye Bursları placements possible	International admissions typically spring to early summer
Boğaziçi	Türkiye	UG · M · PhD	Modest international tuition set yearly	International admissions typically spring

UNIVERSITY	COUNTRY	LEVELS	COST AND AID	KEY DATES
Bilkent	Türkiye	UG · M · PhD	Merit scholarships for international students, from partial tuition to full tuition with a stipend	International admissions typically spring to summer
Hacettepe	Türkiye	UG · M · PhD	Modest international tuition set yearly	International admissions typically spring to summer
UTokyo	Japan	UG · M · PhD	MEXT covers tuition and a monthly stipend; university scholarships for English-taught programs	MEXT (Afghanistan): late May for the following year
Kyoto	Japan	UG · M · PhD	MEXT; the Kyoto iUP international undergraduate program includes scholarships and Japanese preparation	MEXT (Afghanistan): late May · Kyoto iUP: autumn application
SNU	South Korea	UG · M · PhD	Global Korea Scholarship; SNU scholarships for international students from developing countries	GKS undergraduate Sept–Oct · graduate Feb–Mar
KAIST	South Korea	UG · M · PhD	Full-tuition scholarships for admitted international students, with a monthly allowance for many	International admissions typically autumn to winter for spring and fall entry
NYU AD	UAE · Qatar	UG · some grad	Meets full demonstrated need for all admitted students, regardless of nationality	Early Decision I Nov 1 · Early Decision II and Regular Jan 5
Education City	UAE · Qatar	UG · M · PhD · Medicine (MD)	Need-based support administered by each campus; many HBKU graduate students receive tuition and a stipend	Most campuses December–February
AUCA	Central · South Asia	UG · M	Donor-funded merit scholarships for Afghan students; Bard College and AUCA provided $500,000 in aid to Afghan students in 2025	Afghan scholarships historically announced March 1 – April 30
AUW	Central · South Asia	UG · selected graduate programs	More than 85% of students study on full scholarship covering room, board, tuition, health care and books	Intakes in August and January
UoPeople	Online	UG · M	No tuition; a $60 application fee and a per-course assessment fee ($160 per undergraduate course) — waived for recipients of the Afghan Women's Scholarship Fund	Five terms a year; rolling admission

How Ariana Nexus Academy helps

Everything below is included for Ariana Nexus Academy students — in Pashto, Dari or English, and online.

LAAR — د لار برنامه

One mentor, one student, the whole application: the list, the essays, the documents, the interviews, and an alumnus or current student at each target university. Seats are limited and selection is required.

TOLANA — ټولنه

Our network of Afghan alumni, scholars and current students, matched to the university and field you are aiming for. Selected students also join our Telegram and Microsoft Teams groups.

TASDIQ — CERTIFICATION AND TRANSLATION

Review of your Afghan documents and certified translation from Pashto or Dari into English, with guidance through credential evaluation where a university requires it.

NISHAST — MEETINGS

Sessions where alumni and current students of leading universities tell how they got in, plus application workshops and deadline briefings.

PEARSON NOMINATION

Ariana Nexus Academy is approved to nominate one student each year for the University of Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship.

> ### PROTECT YOURSELF
>
> No legitimate university or scholarship in this directory charges a fee to hold a place, "guarantee" admission or process a visa. Ariana Nexus Academy never asks for money, bank details or passwords. If anyone does, in our name or any other, it is a scam — send it to us and we will tell you within a day.
>
> Apply only through official university and scholarship portals. Check the web address letter by letter.

Apply to the Academy and read the other documents in this series at ariananexus.com/academy.

Sources and verification

Status, dates and program rules were checked in September 2026 against official and primary sources, including: U.S. Presidential Proclamation 10998 and analyses by NAFSA, the Congressional Research Service and university international offices; UK visa-brake guidance published by the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow and the University of Warwick; the Chevening Afghanistan page; the Embassy of Japan in Afghanistan (MEXT 2027); the Korean embassy notice for the 2026 Global Korea Scholarship; the DAAD and German university guidance on the Hilde Domin Programme; the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan; UNHCR; WUSC; the Institute of International Education and Education Above All (QSAP); the Aga Khan Foundation; the University of Toronto (Pearson 2027); The University of British Columbia (International Scholars); the Asian University for Women; the American University of Central Asia; University of the People; Türkiye Bursları; and the websites of each profiled university.

Admission rates are shown as bands based on recently published classes and may differ from a university's current figure. Where a university's aid policy for international students could not be confirmed precisely, the profile says so and asks you to verify.

Found something out of date? Tell us. This directory is revised each admissions cycle.

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