Ariana Nexus. | Academy

GUIDE · FEES AND WAIVERS

How to pay nothing to apply

Application fees, test fees, evaluation fees and deposits — what each one is, and the route around it.

د فیس معافیت لارښود · رهنمای معافیت فیس

Twelve applications should cost you nothing at all.

No legitimate scholarship charges an application fee. Not one.

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Complimentary for Ariana Nexus Academy students

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Washington, D.C. · ariananexus.com/academy

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How to pay nothing to apply

Application fees, test fees and evaluation fees are the quiet barrier that stops Afghan students before admissions ever see them. Almost all of them can be waived. This is how.

The costs, and the route around each

COST	TYPICAL RANGE	HOW IT GETS WAIVED
University application fee	Free to about USD 100 per university	Common App fee waiver, Coalition waiver, or a direct request to the admissions office. Many universities charge nothing at all — build your list with that in mind.
CSS Profile (U.S. financial aid form)	A fee per application	Automatically waived for many international applicants; several universities use the free ISFAA form instead. Ask which one they require before paying.
English test fee	Roughly USD 50 to 250 depending on the test	Provider fee-assistance programs, university-issued vouchers, and test waivers where testing is unavailable in your country.
Credential evaluation	Roughly USD 100 to 250	Ask whether the university will assess your documents itself — many will. The WES Gateway Program serves displaced applicants in Canada and the U.S.
Certified translation	Commercial rates vary	Included for Ariana Nexus Academy students. Never pay a broker for this.
Enrollment deposit	USD 100 to 1,000, after an offer	Frequently reduced or deferred on request for funded international students. Ask; do not decline an offer over it in silence.
Courier and document postage	Varies	Almost never necessary. Portals accept uploads. Refuse any request to courier originals.

> WHAT YOU SHOULD NEVER PAY FOR
>
> A scholarship application. No legitimate scholarship on our calendar charges a fee.

COST	TYPICAL RANGE	HOW IT GETS WAIVED

"Guaranteed admission", "seat reservation", "visa processing assistance" before an offer, or an agent's commission. Ariana Nexus Academy takes no commission from any university and never asks students for money.

A document you did not earn. Fabricated credentials are detected at evaluation and end applications permanently.

The Common Application fee waiver

Inside the Common App there is a fee-waiver question in the Profile section. Answering yes and selecting an indicator of economic need requests a waiver for every university on your list that charges a fee. A school counselor is normally asked to confirm it. If your school cannot confirm — because it closed, or because you are not enrolled anywhere — write to the admissions office directly with the template below. Universities are used to this and they grant it.

Template — fee waiver request to an admissions office

Subject: Application fee waiver request — [Your full name] — [Program], entry [year]

Dear Admissions Office,

I am applying to [program] for entry in [year]. I am writing to request a waiver of the application fee.

I am an Afghan student living in [city, country]. [One or two factual sentences about your circumstances: family income, no access to international payment, currency restrictions, displacement. No plea, no adjectives.] I have no means of making an international card payment from where I am.

My application is otherwise complete: [test and score], [qualification and average], and two references already submitted. I would be grateful if you could apply a waiver or advise the correct process.

Thank you for your time.

[Full name] · [Common App ID or applicant number if you have one] · [email]

Six sentences. No apology, no life story, no attachments unless they ask. Send it from your application email address, at least three weeks before the deadline.

Template — English test fee assistance

Subject: Fee assistance request — [Test name] — [Your full name]

Dear [Provider] team,

I am an Afghan student in [city, country] preparing to apply to universities for entry in [year]. I am unable to pay the test fee: [one factual sentence — no household income in foreign currency, no access to an international payment card, or similar].

I would be grateful to know whether any fee assistance, voucher or reduced-fee arrangement is available to candidates in my situation, and what evidence you would need from me.

[Full name] · [email] · [country]

Template — asking a university for a test waiver

Subject: English proficiency requirement — availability of testing in Afghanistan — [Your name]

Dear Admissions Office,

I am applying to [program] for entry in [year]. The IELTS is not administered inside Afghanistan, and [TOEFL centre access is limited to Kabul and Kandahar / I am unable to travel to a test centre].

I hold [any evidence you have: a medium-of-instruction letter, prior study in English, a Duolingo score, completed English coursework with certificates].

Could you advise whether the university accepts the Duolingo English Test, a medium-of-instruction letter, or an internal assessment in place of the standard requirement?

[Full name] · [email]

How to build a list that costs nothing

1. Start with universities that charge no application fee at all. There are hundreds, including strong public universities in Germany, Türkiye, Hungary and Canada.

2. Add the U.S. universities that are need-blind for international students and meet full demonstrated need — Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT, Amherst, Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth and Notre Dame — all of which waive fees for applicants who request it.
3. Add two or three fully funded scholarship routes with no application fee: Türkiye Bursları, DAAD, Erasmus Mundus, MEXT.
4. Add one tuition-free online option as a floor, so that no outcome leaves you with nothing.
5. Only then consider a university that charges. Twelve applications should cost you nothing at all.

A note on dignity

Asking for a waiver is not begging and it does not affect your admission decision. In the United States, the great majority of selective universities read applications without regard to financial need, and waiver requests are processed by a different office from the one that reads your essay. Write the email in the same voice you would use to ask about a deadline: short, factual and without apology.

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