



# THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO



## **Initiative for Improving Accessibility of Refugees to Graduate Education**



# THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

**Located in Cairo - incorporated in Delaware**

**Independent, private, not-for-profit university**

**Founded in 1919**

**Accredited by the Middle States Association, with individual accreditation of different programs and schools**

**Offers 36 bachelor degrees, 44 master degrees and 2 PhD degrees**

**About 6,500 students, including 1,000 graduate students, with 5% international students, and 56% females**

**About 450 faculty members, with 45% international faculty**

**15 research centers**

**Graduate Tuition: 33 credits  $\Rightarrow$  \$20 K/\$40 K**

**Tuition coverage:**

- ~ 25% institutional fellowships**
- ~ 30% named external fellowships**
- ~ 45% covered by students**

**Mostly part-time graduate students**





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## Refugee crisis

- About 65 M refugees worldwide, with 25 M having crossed international borders
- About 4 M internationally displaced refugees in the MENA region, ~ 2 M in Europe and ~ 200 K in the US

## Refugee educational needs

- Attention given to K-12 education
- Less attention given to higher and graduate education

## Refugees in Egypt

- Officially about 250 K
- Origin: South Soudan, Syria, Yemen, Libya
- K-12 educational needs addressed but limited access to higher and graduate education







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## AUC Initiative

- Offer refugee access to graduate programs at AUC
- Recruitment from the refugee and asylum seeker population
- Institutional support: 2 Refugee Fellowships (\$70 K each) starting Fall 2017

## Requirements

- Internally record refugee status (Banner)
- Provision of additional support for needed skills – primarily language skills
- Exemption from admission application fee



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## Challenges

- **Refugee students already at AUC**
- **Needed support for language skills higher than anticipated**
- **Needed counselling and academic mentoring support**
- **Needed financial support for pre-admission test requirements**
- **Need for regularizing residency status**
- **Anticipated challenge: gaps in educational experiences and incomplete educational records**







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## Responses

- **Extension of support per fellowship (to ~ \$80 K) for additional English language programs and pre-admission tests**
- **Extension of support to 5 students through add-on support to other available fellowships**
- **Fundraising for additional fellowships**
- **Counselling support through the Office of Student Well Being**
- **Support for regularizing residency status**

## Still being addressed

- **Policy on incomplete educational records**
- **Additional academic mentoring for addressing gaps in educational experiences**
- **Extension of support to professional graduate certificates**



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