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 ⇒ $20 K/$40 K

Tuition coverage: ~ 25% institutional fellowships
~ 30% named external fellowships
~ 45% covered by students

Mostly part-time graduate students
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
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
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
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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