Highlights of the AUC Scholarship Fund 2018

ASF supports 31 new AUC students – The AUC Scholarship Fund was able to award scholarships to 31 incoming students in 2017-2018, across both the ASF and ASF-DAP schemes. During the same year, a total of 85 AUC students were supported by a scholarship.

Class of 2018 Graduation – In July, AUC’s annual graduation ceremony took place at Koninklijk Theater Carré. Scholarship student Paul Lodder delivered the Valedictorian speech. An ASF representative also spoke alongside the AUC Alumni Association.

ASF Selection Committee – On 24 April, the committee met to consider applications for 2018-2019. Members were impressed at the high quality and diversity of applicants, and particularly the socially responsible extracurricular activities many are involved in.

ASF-DAP student wins ECHO prize – In September, Leon Lam was announced as one of the four winners of the ECHO Award 2018, which is given to excellent students with a multicultural background in the Netherlands.

Spotlight: ASF Alumni from the first class

This year was the last year before Amsterdam University College and the AUC Scholarship Fund reach their second Lustrum in 2019. Before celebrating our ten years of existence, two alumnae from the first graduating class tell us why they valued being awarded a scholarship during their time at AUC.

Dora Tamari-Tutnjevic

Social Sciences

Currently working as a cross-cultural integrator in Japan

What did you learn at AUC that you value the most?

“There are many things I value about my time at AUC as it has really prepared me for independent work that involves creating something new from scratch. Once I left academia and got to work in a start-up business environment, I was surprised at how well-prepared I felt for the challenges of the unknown.”

How has being an ASF student influenced what you are doing now?

“[It] helped me become comfortable with public speaking and connecting diverse ideas together. It also helped build my confidence in my multicultural identity.”

How did an ASF student shape your AUC experience?

“Being an ASF student has given me an added dimension to my experience. It motivated me to keep setting higher standards for myself, and to make my stay at AUC a worthwhile investment. Also, the deep friendships made at AUC were what carried me through the college experience and way beyond.”

Do you have any advice for other ASF students?

“My advice is to not be afraid to make bold decisions in their career and always be curious. When I started AUC, my idea was to become a physician but having followed my curiosity and interests, I ended up in the field of pharmacology, which turned out to be the dream profession for me.”

Angela Arsova

Sciences

Currently working in the Danish pharmaceutical industry

How has been an ASF student influenced your current work?

“At AUC I developed a passion for drug discovery, which was thanks to the very flexible curriculum and the variety of courses being offered. I consider choosing AUC one of the most important choices in my professional development, since it gave me the freedom and space to explore my curiosities and find myself.”

How did being an ASF student shape your AUC experience?

“Being an ASF student has given me an added dimension to my experience. It [motivated] me to keep setting higher standards for myself, and to make my stay at AUC a worthwhile investment. Also, the deep friendships made at AUC were what carried me through the college experience and way beyond.”

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Highlights of the AUC Scholarship Fund 2018

Annual Review 2018

ASF student and alumni activities

Annual Review 2018

Highlights of the AUC Scholarship Fund 2018
Where are they now? Checking in with ASF alumni

The AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) has been able to support many students over the years, allowing them to complete their undergraduate studies at Amsterdam University College and setting them up for many successes after graduation. We checked in with some ASF alumni from each graduating class thus far to see what they pursued after their time at AUC and what they are doing now.

Pia Behnsen  
Class of 2012  
Social Sciences major  

After AUC, Pia completed a research master’s degree in clinical and developmental psychology at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, where she is still a researcher and PhD candidate. She also works as a children’s psychologist.

Edgar Rootalu  
Class of 2015  
Social Sciences major  

After AUC, Edgar worked as a data scientist in the Netherlands, Estonia and Germany. He currently works as a data science and machine learning consultant for Brave TECH in Berlin.

Peter Schimke  
Class of 2012  
Humanities major  

After AUC, Peter went on to write and edit for several publications in Europe and Singapore. Along with working as a freelance writer and editor, he is senior content strategist for Southeast Asia with Mutant Communications.

Nadica Denic  
Class of 2016  
Humanities major  

After AUC, Nadica completed a research master’s degree in media studies at the University of Amsterdam. She has held several positions in the world of film distribution and currently works as a programmer for IDFA.

David Lips  
Class of 2013  
Sciences major  

After AUC, David completed a master’s degree in bio-informatics and systems biology at the University of Amsterdam. He was a researcher at Harvard Medical School and since 2017 has been a researcher at Spiber Inc in Japan.

Klea Ferro  
Class of 2017  
Sciences major  

After AUC, Klea completed a master’s degree in oncology from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. She has completed research internships with Cancer Center Amsterdam and AMC, and is currently an intern at the UCL Cancer Institute.

Ana Gabriele Sabancevaite  
Class of 2014  
Social Sciences major  

After AUC, Ana completed a master’s degree in politics and sociology at New York University. She currently works as a global organiser and policy specialist with Huairou Commission and its work with the UN.

Sofija Stefanovic  
Class of 2018  
Sciences major  

After AUC, Sofija went on to pursue a master’s degree in theoretical and mathematical physics at the University of Oxford. Alongside this programme, she has also worked as an app developer for Engineers Without Borders Oxford.

AUC Alumni Association and ASF: A lasting partnership

AUC has a vibrant alumni community and an active Alumni Association. Support of the ASF is included in the statutes of the AUCAA as part of its mission and investment in its future members.

During the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2018, André O. Daab (Class of 2017; former AUCAA Vice President) and Anouk ter Linde (Class of 2016; AUCAA board member) spoke on behalf of the AUC Alumni Association with a message encouraging graduates and their family members to stay connected to AUC through the alumni community as well as to support the AUC Scholarship Fund and its work in providing access to higher education for students in need.

For more information about AUCAA, please visit www.aucaa.nl
The newest ASF students: Meet the Class of 2020

In the 2017-2018 academic year, 31 new students with a scholarship, including the ASF Diversity Award Programme (DAP), started at Amsterdam University College. This new cohort represented 13 countries. Approximately 40% of non-DAP scholarships were awarded to Dutch students and the rest were awarded to international students, the majority of which were from non-EU countries. All DAP scholarships are awarded to students that come from a non-Western migration background who reside and have attended secondary school in the Netherlands. Below, we introduce some of these new students and hear how the AUC Scholarship Fund has helped them in pursuing their studies.

Coenraad Sassen  
Netherlands  
Social Sciences major

“(The ASF) has helped me develop a drastically more globalised appreciation for my courses and has broadened my perception of both history and modern circumstances...Admission as a scholar not only made it originally possible for me to attend this university but has provided further incentive to push my learning capabilities and realise my full potential”

Dieudonné Gakire  
Rwanda  
Social Sciences major

“I can’t describe how much AUC has transformed me! From the brilliant and inspiring people I have met to the knowledge I have gained. I have [often] said that my heart stays in my home city of Kigali, however, after my first-year experience, a piece of my heart will forever stay here in Amsterdam.”

Lela Roos  
Netherlands  
Sciences major

“Without the scholarship my time at AUC would have been much more difficult. It gives me the freedom to focus on my academics and my extracurricular activities without too much of a financial worry. And it has also provided me with a deeper understanding of the privilege and value that comes along with getting a good education.”

Chaz Lenfant  
Netherlands  
Social Sciences major

“ASF and AUC have contributed significantly to the global citizen I am today. Besides, I am positive that AUC is giving me the proper tools and insights to be able to pursue the Master’s programme I desire to follow. Even though I don’t know what career to pursue, AUC prepares me for whatever is to come.”

Julée Al-Bayaty de Ridder  
Netherlands  
Sciences major

“Being able to live in the AUC dorms in an international community is a very worthwhile experience where I have met many people with fascinating stories about their lives and perspectives on society [and] being a scholarship student has given me the opportunity to study abroad in my third year.”

Kinzah Cordeiro  
Kenya  
Social Sciences major

“Thanks to the ASF Scholarship Fund, I have been exposed to a wealth of academic, international, and social opportunities. I have been pushed to work harder, and explore areas that allow me to challenge myself...all this support has given me the desire to learn more, and has sparked more curiosity in me.”

Gabriele Plukaite  
Lithuania  
Humanities major

“As a Humanities student, I have been given an opportunity to not only study different fields of knowledge but also bridge those fields in a unique way, giving me a broader perspective between disciplines and ways of thinking. ASF helps me to direct [my] energy towards my academic work and achievements.”

Nilesh Lalbahadoersing  
Netherlands  
Sciences major

“AUC has been nothing but amazing. The courses are academically challenging and greatly contribute to my educational development. Moreover, receiving a scholarship gave me the time and opportunity to invest in the AUC community by actively participating within our student association.”
Facts and figures for 2017-2018

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<tr>
<td>Students with an ASF scholarship</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average ASF scholarship amount (EUR)</td>
<td>11,110</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total amount of ASF scholarships awarded (EUR)</td>
<td>522,236</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of students with a DAP award</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average DAP scholarship amount (EUR)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total amount of DAP awards (EUR)</td>
<td>97,081</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of different nationalities of scholarship students since 2009</td>
<td>51</td>
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ASF Board

The AUC Scholarship Fund is an independent foundation under Dutch law, and is run by the ASF Board. The 2017-2018 members of the ASF Board were:

- Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam, Acting Chair (Rector Magnificus Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
- Prof. Dr. Karen Maex (Rector Magnificus University of Amsterdam)
- Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende (Dean of Graduate Studies Utrecht University and AUC Founding Dean)
- Maryam Alaoui (AUC alumna member)

About the AUC Scholarship Fund

The AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) supports excellence and diversity in the AUC student body by facilitating access to the AUC programme for talented low-income and minority students. The ASF is funded entirely by donations from a variety of sponsors and stakeholders.

MERIT AND NEED

Each year the AUC Scholarship Fund awards ASF scholarships to AUC students on the basis of their merit and financial need. The focus is on talented students (both Dutch and international) who might otherwise be prevented from accepting their place at AUC because of their financial circumstances. The ASF Board’s target is to award scholarships of on average EUR 7000 to 10% of the AUC student body. In 2016–2018, the ASF was also awarding a limited number of scholarships in the Diversity Award Programme (DAP) for students with a non-Western migration background who reside in the Netherlands. The aim of the DAP is to extend the scholarships available and awarded to diverse candidates, and boost recruitment of these students at AUC.

A Selection Committee appointed by the ASF Board considers the applications for both ASF scholarships and DAP awards, and makes a recommendation to the ASF Board. All corporate sponsors are invited to appoint a representative to the Selection Committee, which is chaired by an independent chairperson. In 2018, Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam served as acting chair. The ASF scholarships and DAP awards run for three years as AUC students are expected to graduate within three years, with renewal each year conditional on the student maintaining a good academic standard.

The Stichting AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF) is designated as an ANBI (Public Benefit Organisation). For more information about ASF’s mission, sponsors and how to apply for a scholarship, please visit www.auc.nl

The City of Amsterdam invests in AUC as it distinguishes itself by focusing on excellence and diversity, and its interdisciplinary approach and international orientation. This is in keeping with the profile and ambition of Amsterdam as both a multicultural city and an international knowledge centre.

Like none other, AUC alumni know the opportunities AUC provides. With its slogan Excellence and Diversity across the Globe, the AUC Alumni Association remains committed to providing tomorrow’s students with the opportunities today’s alumni received through the AUC Scholarship Fund.

Offering a welcoming and inclusive social environment is the AUC Student Association’s goal. AUCSA is happy to contribute to the ASF as it believes that diversity is a fundamental component of a thriving university social experience, and the ASF furthers and enriches the global nature of AUC’s community.