Get to know the AUC Scholarship Fund

Amsterdam University College (AUC) is a joint initiative of the University of Amsterdam and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, offering a selective honours programme in liberal arts and sciences. The college philosophy and the programme structure are inspired by the liberal arts and sciences model, with students living and studying together on an international campus located at Amsterdam Science Park. The programme is taught entirely in English to facilitate a global learning environment. A maximum of 300 students are admitted each year through a selection process based on their academic performance and motivation. AUC boasts a welcoming community encouraging diversity and academic excellence, which is boosted by multiple initiatives that support students in their studies, including offering scholarships through the AUC Scholarship Fund (ASF).

In an effort to realise AUC’s motto of Excellence and Diversity in a Global City, the Stichting AUC Scholarship Fund facilitates access to the AUC programme for talented students, including those from low-income backgrounds. The ASF scholarship recipients enrich AUC’s community by diversifying the student body and bringing a broad depth of knowledge, experiences, and thoughts. In a multicultural city such as Amsterdam, it is essential that outstanding students from all backgrounds are not only invited to join AUC’s selective honours programme, but are granted the means to participate. Through scholarships offered by the ASF, students are able to work toward academic success and realise their enormous potential. Donations from a variety of sponsors and stakeholders support the ASF, and together with AUC, the ASF empowers the next generation of changemakers and international leaders.
The newest ASF students: Meet some of the September 2019 incoming class

Upeka Eriksen  
Social Sciences  
Sri Lanka

Baran Iscanli  
Sciences  
Turkey

Renato Stopic  
Sciences  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Emily Vierthaler  
Social Sciences  
United States

Larisa-Elena Vieru  
Sciences  
Romania

Andrej Stankov  
Sciences  
North Macedonia

A lasting partnership: Reconnecting 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 success after graduation. We checked in with some ASF alumni to see what they pursued after their time at AUC and what they are doing now. This offers a small snapshot of the diversity of directions and fields that former ASF students have pursued.

Christina Burchia  
Class of 2016, Social Sciences

Christina continued her education in the social sciences and completed a master’s degree in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action at Sciences Po. Since then, Christina has gone on to work for the humanitarian relief organisation ACTED.

Nadica Denić  
Class of 2016, Humanities

Nadica has a double role as a lecturer at the University of Amsterdam, and a member of IFDA’s selection committee. She has been awarded an NWO PhD fellowship to explore how migrant voices in documentaries enrich the European migration debate.

Marijn Mado  
Class of 2016, Social Sciences

Marijn is currently pursuing a PhD in Communication at Stanford University. Her research focuses on the role of empathy in building peace, and how to address, communicate and educate about complex histories of violent conflicts.

Simon Fang  
Class of 2017, Sciences

Simon followed his studies at AUC with a master’s degree in Information Studies and Data Science at the University of Amsterdam. Since completing his studies, Simon has gone on to work for companies such as KLM and Cisco.

Julija Mockute  
Class of 2016, Social Sciences

Since graduating from AUC, Julija has completed a master’s degree in Museum Studies at the University of Amsterdam. Currently, Julija works as an art director at ecstase, where she combines her passion for art and humanitarianism.

Pia Rodriguez  
Class of 2019, Sciences

After AUC, Pia chose to pursue a master’s degree in International Management at ESADE Business & Law School while working as a student consultant. In addition to her business acumen, Pia is highly experienced in biomedical research.
Beyond the degrees: In depth with two ASF alumnae

What did you learn at AUC that you value the most?
Such a cliche to say but the interdisciplinary approach to education has taught me to look at things from different perspectives. AUC has also taught me to be involved and proactive in study, work and extracurricular activities. AUC can be exhausting but these days, I do miss the positive energy from fellow AUC students!

How did the ASF shape your AUC experience?
The ASF first and foremost opened the door to that experience; without the financial support I would have never made it here. Looking back at my ASF application some 7 years (?) ago: “AUC is where my inspiration could come to life, where I meet like-minded peers who live with great causes. The education from AUC will be central to becoming an advocate in my own rights: constructive knowledge and interpersonal skills, as well as a network of friends from all over the world.” This sentence has definitely resonated throughout the years and I will forever value this opportunity. The first ASF event was also where I met my best friends from AUC and made the connections that lasted.

How has your time at AUC shaped your current work?
AUC has made me a better writer and presenter; both of which are complementary in my research trajectory. The internship I did during AUC in particular was crucial in getting admission to my (research) master’s programme, and definitely has opened doors to the research world. After AUC, I made the switch from Environmental Sciences/Governance to Environmental Epidemiology, but in essence the traits I’ve acquired during my time at AUC — to be determined, confident, resourceful and sociable — definitely stay relevant to my work.

Do you have any advice for other ASF students?
I hope current ASF students will take this wonderful opportunity to experience AUC and the wider undergraduate life to its fullest, because Amsterdam is such a wondrous city! At the same time, do keep in mind that your experience at AUC is rather unique and won’t necessarily reflect the typical Dutch life - so if you decide to stay in the Netherlands, it is a good idea to occasionally break out of the bubble. Lastly, once you’ve become an alumnus and when possible, do come back to AUC and share your experience!

How did the ASF scholarship affect your AUC experience?
The ASF scholarship shaped my AUC experience as it granted me access to AUC. I literally could not have attended AUC without the scholarship. Once at AUC, my scholarship motivated me to be very involved with the community.

What impact do ASF scholarships have on the larger AUC community?
The scholarships have a huge impact on AUC’s diversity. The tuition fee presents a barrier for students who are not able to pay the fee, and by offering scholarships AUC becomes more accessible to students of different economic backgrounds. In addition to stimulating economic diversity, the diverse students contribute to richer discussions, because they offer different perspectives. These perspectives really enrich the academic quality at AUC. The impact of ASF scholarships are worth investing in, and ideally alumni would also contribute to the ASF. With what little you have to offer you can contribute to students sharing the same experiences you’ve benefited from.

Why did you decide to apply for the ASF board?
I was immediately interested in joining the board when I saw the vacancy. I’m very passionate about access to education, and it is a cause I actively want to work towards. The scholarship certainly affected my opportunity to study at AUC. As a former ASF scholar, I bring a different perspective to the board, and I’m happy to contribute to a more diverse student body at AUC. It is important to incorporate the experiences of former students in the decisions made for the ASF so that their voices and concerns are actually heard, and so that the board does not operate in a bubble.

What ambitions do you have for the ASF as a board member?
My ambition as a board member is to further the connection between ASF, students, and prospective students. I would like to improve outreach to diverse students, and give them the resources to attend AUC. Through serving on the selection committee I have seen how many talented candidates apply for an ASF scholarship, and I would like to give as many promising students as possible the opportunity to study at the Amsterdam University College.

Thao Lam
Class of 2016
Major: Sciences

Maryam Alaoui
Class of 2015
Major: Social Sciences
The AUC Scholarship Fund is an independent foundation under Dutch law and is overseen by the ASF Board. Members of the ASF Board during calendar year 2019 were:

• Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam (Rector Magnificus, VU)
• Prof. Dr. Karen Maex (Rector Magnificus, UvA)
• Dr. Nina Tellegen (Executive Director, Amsterdam Economic Board)
• Ms. Maryam Alaoui (AUC graduate member)

In 2019, Prof. Dr. Marijk van der Wende, AUC Founding Dean, stepped down as board member of the AUC Scholarship Fund. Her last board meeting was in June 2019 and ASF would like to thank her for her work and contribution as a board member since 2016.

Dr. Nina Tellegen joined the ASF Board as a new member in December 2019. Since March 2016, she has served as the director of the Amsterdam Economic Board, whose primary mission is to sustainably enhance the prosperity and well-being of the Amsterdam Metropolitan Area. In order to satisfy the ASF statute necessitating an uneven number of Board members, another external member will be added in due time.

### ASF Board 2019

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### Facts and figures for 2018-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students with an ASF scholarship</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average ASF scholarship amount (EUR)</td>
<td>9,870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount of ASF scholarships awarded (EUR)</td>
<td>552,744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students with a DAP award</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average DAP scholarship amount (EUR)</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount of DAP awards (EUR)</td>
<td>75,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of different nationalities of scholarship students since 2009</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Supporting the AUC Scholarship Fund

There are several ways to become a supporter for the AUC Scholarship Fund. Please reach out to the Alumni & External Relations Officer, Gerylaine Campos, to find out more. Email: g.campos@auc.nl or Tel: +31 (0)20 525 8780.

- **Flexible scholarship donation:** Support local and international students wishing to study at Amsterdam University College. The donation in this scheme would consist of a three-year commitment, with the amount open for discussion.

- **Establish a named scholarship:** Donors can show commitment to aiding the development of the global leaders of tomorrow and simultaneously promote their brand. The name of the fund can be decided by the donor, who may also request certain conditions for application. The minimum donation for a named scholarship is 15,000 EUR per year for a minimum of 3 years.

- **Partner scholarship:** This option is meant for foundations, grant-makers and non-profit organisations that are interested in offering a joint scholarship with the ASF. In this partnership scheme AUC will co-sponsor the scholarship. The scholarship size and conditions are negotiable and can be tailored to suit the partner’s interest, financial capacity, and terms and conditions of the donation.

- **Diversity Awards Programme:** Empower first-generation university students and Dutch students with a migration background to attend AUC. This sponsorship option entails a 3-year commitment at 5000 EUR per year.

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Photography: Maryam Alaoui, Maarten van Haaff, Thao Lam, Muzi Ndiweni, Marieke Wijnjjes