Annual Review 2021

Highlights from 2021

**Talent Fellowship at AUC announced** — At the end of 2021, the AUC Scholarship Fund announced a new programme to empower the next generation of talented Dutch students. Starting in 2022, students who have completed their secondary education in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and come from a community that is underrepresented will be able to apply for the Talent Fellowship at AUC.

**AUC joins Amsterdam Divers & Inclusief** — In the first half of 2021, AUC became part of this network as an education institution member. Together with other large companies in Amsterdam, AUC has made a commitment to learn, advocate for, and innovate in the field of diversity. AUC representatives were in attendance at various events in 2021, including diversity talks hosted by the Rijksmuseum.

**ASF supports 59 AUC students** — The AUC Scholarship Fund awarded scholarships to 19 new students for the 2020-2021 academic year. During the same year, a total of 59 AUC students were supported by a scholarship, representing 33 different nationalities, including five Dutch students. Full scholarships were awarded to 50 students and partial scholarships were awarded to 10.

**Jan Lintsen joins ASF Board** — The AUC Scholarship Fund Board welcomed Jan Lintsen to the Board in June 2021 as the new representative of the UvA Executive Board. He succeeds Prof. Karen Maex, who stepped down from the ASF Board in 2020. Jan Lintsen is the Vice President of the UvA Executive Board, managing the portfolio for finances and operations.

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 underrepresented students. 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. ASF is funded entirely by donations from a variety of sponsors and stakeholders and 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. The AUC Alumni Association (AUCAA) is committed to supporting the ASF as part of its core values. In August, the AUCAA and AUC welcomed back 80 alumni for a Homecoming Event, with special focus on the Class of 2020 who did not have an in-person graduation ceremony. During the Homecoming Event, the AUCAA set up activities to aid student connection and stimulate financial support by alumni. Alumni generously contributed to the ASF through individual donations and buying merchandise items.
Meet some of the 2021 ASF incoming class

1. **ALANA SCHÖNBECK**
   TUNISIA
   SCIENCES MAJOR
   "As my last year of high school started and we had to start choosing where we wanted to study, a key limiting factor for me was finance. I was forced to erase multiple universities off my list of potential higher education options, and feared that I wouldn’t be able to fulfill my goal of studying. The ASF scholarship lifted a tremendous weight off my shoulders and I can fully concentrate my energy into learning and working towards my academic goals. Studying at AUC is challenging, but the ASF scholarship provides positive motivation, and inspires me to make the most out of the AUC experience, making full use of its opportunities."

2. **DEMIR VIDJEN**
   BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
   SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR
   "It is easy to conclude that studying abroad is not an option for everyone. I have been lucky enough to receive ASF scholarship that has made my Amsterdam experience much easier since I left my home country. I have been able to direct my focus to the goal I have set to myself, which is acquiring more knowledge and experience in a new city and new surroundings, and create a new and more prosperous life."

3. **DIEDON ELSHANI**
   KOSOVO
   SOCIAL SCIENCES MAJOR
   "Coming from a post-war society I was raised in a barely flourishing environment and I would never think I would be able to fulfill my dreams and study in Europe. My family always supported my decisions, and always wanted to give me proper education. However, I would have not been able to study at AUC without the scholarship, so I will be forever thankful to the ASF."

4. **LINKA MITOME**
   JAPAN
   SCIENCES MAJOR
   "The ASF scholarship has significantly reduced my financial and emotional burden in affording education in another country. Because of the financial support that the ASF gives, I feel that I am truly able to focus on and cherish my education."

Facts and figures for 2020-2021

- **Students with an ASF scholarship**: 60
- **Average ASF scholarship amount (EUR)**: 9,345
- **Full Scholarships**: 50
- **Partial Scholarships**: 10
- **Total amount of ASF scholarships awarded (EUR)**: 560,715
- **Number of different nationalities**: 33

**NATIONALITIES OF ASF STUDENTS 2020-2021**

- Other non-EEA: 29.1%
- Other EEA: 18.2%
- Dual nationality: 10.9%
- China: 7.3%
- Hungary: 7.3%
- Turkey: 7.3%
- UK: 7.3%
- Netherlands: 7.3%
- Bosnia Herz.: 7.3%
- Spain: 7.3%
- Other: 5.5%
- EEA: 3.6%
- Other: 3.6%

ASF Board 2021

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 2021 were:

- Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam (Rector Magnificus, VU)*
- Jan Lintsen (Vice President of the Executive Board, UvA)
- Dr. Nina Tellegen (Executive Director, Amsterdam Economic Board)
- Maryam Alaoui (AUC graduate member)

*Prof. Dr. Vinod Subramaniam left his position as Rector Magnificus of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in September 2021 and therefore also left his position as member of the ASF Board. The new Rector Magnificus of the VU will join the Board when installed in January 2022.

Supporting the AUC Scholarship Fund

The AUC Scholarship Fund thanks its success to its supporters over the years and is always open to forming new support relationships. There are several ways to contribute including flexible donations, named scholarships and sponsoring the new Talent Fellowship at AUC for students from the Netherlands that come from communities that are underrepresented in higher education. Please reach out to the Alumni & External Relations Officer, Gerylaine Campos, to find out more.

Email: g.campos@auc.nl

PHOTOGRAPHY
Amsterdam Divers & Inclusief, Muzi Ndiweni, Sander Nieuwenhuys, UvA