

Higher Ed Afghan Response: Action & Information

Understanding the legal status of Afghan arrivals. Each legal status entitles Afghans to different benefits and requires different next steps in terms of immigration. Please see this [Legal Pathways and Resources for Afghan Students and Scholars](#) for more information on Humanitarian Parolees, SIVs, refugees, F1 & J1 Visa holders.

SCHOLARS: Opportunities for Supporting displaced Afghan Scholars

- [Institute of International Education](#) and the [Scholar Rescue Fund](#) protects threatened and displaced scholars by arranging and funding fellowships at partnering higher education institutions.
- [New University in Exile Consortium](#) nurtures academics who have been persecuted and uprooted by creating a sense of intellectual community among exiled scholars.
- [Scholars at Risk Network](#) has a [resources for at-risk Afghan](#) scholars, including a resource on [mental health support](#)

STUDENTS: Opportunities for Supporting displaced Afghan Students

- **To Support Admissions and Enrollment**
 - Getting Started:
 - Provide "American Higher Ed 101" info sessions for Afghan newcomers who are likely to be very unfamiliar with the vast range of programs institutions have to offer, as well as the wide range of grants, loans, and other mechanisms that Americans use to pay for postsecondary education.
 - Read the AACRAO Guide to [Inclusive Admissions Policies for Displaced/Vulnerable Students](#) to see how your campus can adjust policies to include Afghan newcomers.
 - The [University Alliance for Refugee & At-Risk Migrants \(UARRM\)](#) has a resource, [Guide for Universities](#), for institutions that want to expand higher education opportunities for students from a refugee background and [a guide for student advocates](#) to help promote refugee student accessibility to higher education, create a welcoming campus, and promote long-term integration.
 - Consider these [Eight Tips for Offering Scholarships to Refugee Students Overseas](#)
 - Use the [Resource Kit: Hosting Afghan Students and Scholars \(ACE, APLU, IIE & AAU\)](#) to determine what action is best for your campus.
 - Build a cross-departmental task force to draw on existing expertise, especially from International Student Program and Veteran Services. Prepare financial aid advisors, student advisors, and others to understand key ways in which Afghan students face challenges that are *similar or different* to other students.

- Assessing and Evaluating Credentials:
 - [World Education Services \(WES\)](#) offers support for assessing credentials, including students from Afghanistan.
 - [Duolingo](#) will waive fees for English language tests for Afghan refugees seeking to enter post-secondary institutions. To request fee waivers or get involved, visit go.duolingo.com/AfghanStudents
- Understanding Financial Aid Eligibility:
 - [NASFAA Tip Sheet on Refugee & Asylee Students](#) and [Department of Education Eligibility of Non-U.S. citizens](#)- Afghans will qualify for federal financial aid with an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from USCIS showing: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” or “Parolee”
 - Determine if your state offers [in-state tuition](#) for refugees, asylees, SIVs, or parolees.
- **To support students on campus**
 - IIE’s [Emergency Student Fund](#) has launched a call for U.S. universities to nominate Afghan students enrolled at U.S. universities who now face financial hardship
 - Connect with [Afghan Girls Financial Assistance Fund](#) about wrap-around support funding for Afghan students.
 - Use resources for [CORE](#) and [SettleIn](#) App to provide cultural orientation.
 - Eligibility for benefits and services may be complicated when enrolled as full time students. Consult with your local refugee service provider in addition to these resources: [Factsheet & FAQ](#), [ORR Benefits](#), [SNAP Benefits](#)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Opportunities to support Afghan newcomers on-campus and as your new neighbors.

- Partner with a local refugee resettlement agency to provide direct support for Afghan refugees and SIV families with immediate needs, which could include offering employment opportunities to new arrivals or volunteer activities for your campus community. To find the resettlement agency closest to you, check out Refugee Council USA (RCUSA) [Contact List](#) and [Interactive Map](#) by zip code.
- Provide temporary housing and holistic integration support by signing up with [Every Campus a Refuge](#). Review the [Best Practices Manual](#) that walks you through the major steps of becoming an ECAR campus and check out the [Partnerships for Establishing Resettlement Campuses \(PERC\) Map](#).
- Offer ESL, vocational training or other workforce development support. States often use federal funding to fund programs that provide ESL, VESL, and career pathways programming for newcomers, contact your state office of new Americans to see what is available.
- Hire an Afghan newcomer on campus with the [US Employers Guide to Hiring Afghan Refugees](#) or register with as an employer with [AfghanTalent](#)

Stay Connected-Be sure to [sign up](#) for the Presidents’ Alliance weekly newsletter to receive additional information, resources, and opportunities for connection and action!