OUR MISSION

**ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN** seeks to graduate women who will be skilled and innovative professionals, service-oriented leaders in the businesses and communities in which they work and live, and promoters of intercultural understanding and sustainable human and economic development in Asia and throughout the world.

Opened in 2008, Asian University for Women (AUW) is a liberal arts and sciences university in Chittagong, Bangladesh. Brought into existence by a Charter passed by the Parliament of Bangladesh, the University enjoys an independent status. In addition to a three-year undergraduate program, we also offer two pre-collegiate preparatory programs, Pathways to Promise and Access Academy.

The idea for the University grew out of the World Bank/UN Task Force on Higher Education and Society. In 2000, the Task Force published its findings in a report entitled “Higher Education in Developing Countries: Peril and Promise”, which concluded that developing countries must improve the quality of their institutions of higher learning, in both governance and pedagogy, in order to compete in today’s increasingly globalized, knowledge-based economy. This inspired AUW’s co-founders, Kamal Ahmad and Jack Meyer, to create the University.

AUW recruits talented women from 15 countries in Asia and the Middle East. They come from some of the most marginalized communities in the region, including former garments factory workers, Rohingya refugees, ethnic minorities in Afghanistan, and daughters of microfinance borrowers.

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BACKGROUND

AUW provides pre-collegiate education for university entrance and an undergraduate program in the liberal arts and sciences. It seeks to educate the next generation of leaders for Asia and the Middle East and, to date, has provided nearly 550 women with a quality higher education that includes leadership training, opportunities for professional development and mentoring. Taught in English by an international faculty, education at AUW includes a liberal arts and sciences core curriculum, a series of summer internships, and on-campus leadership training seminars. Students frequently participate in international conferences, study at institutions abroad, conduct research and advocacy projects, and start their own organizations.

AUW has more than 700 students in the academic year 2017-2018. Students represent 15 countries, over 35 ethnic groups, over 25 native languages, and religious affiliations from Islam to Buddhism to Hinduism and Christianity. Almost all students at AUW receive full financial support for tuition, room, board and other expenses. By Charter, 25% of the students must come from Bangladesh at any given time; currently, there are 364 students from Bangladesh this academic year. With the intention to triple in size over the course of the next 5 years, AUW is committed to reaching the most promising young women from 15 countries and increasing diversity amongst the student body.

The majority of AUW alumnae are employed or enrolled in graduate programs within one year of graduation. Of those employed, around 85% work in their home countries. 25% of graduates are enrolled in further studies, with some completing programs as world-renowned institutions as Stanford University, Columbia University, Oxford University, Ewha Woman University, Brandeis University, and others.
In 2016, AUW implemented a new program, *Pathways for Promise*, which offers an English-language intensive curriculum that prepares students prior to enrolling into Access Academy. The Pathways program focuses primarily on recruiting remarkable young women from the ready-made garment (RMG) factories in Bangladesh. 15 former RMG factory workers began their studies through Pathways, having worked for Mohammadi Group, Youngone, Ananta Group, Pou Chen Group, Simba Fashions, Knit Concern, Model de Capital, and Sunman Group. These companies have allowed the University to recruit from their employees and administer admissions exams in their factories. All RMG workers who have enrolled at AUW are the first women in their families to attend university.

AUW Pathways for Promise program to recruit students among garment factory workers gained national (Daily Star) and international (The Guardian) coverage.
OUR PROGRAMS

3 Programs

~ Pathways for Promise
~ Access Academy
~ Undergraduate

5 Majors

~ Bioinformatics
~ Economics
~ Environmental Sciences
~ Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
~ Public Health

AUW recruits women who demonstrate remarkable potential but have little opportunity to pursue higher education. The vast majority of students are on full scholarship and many are the first woman in their family to achieve higher education. Since many students come to us without having had access to quality secondary education, the University developed two programs to prepare them for a rigorous three year undergraduate program.

Pathways for Promise is an initiative which aims to identify and educate talented daughters of microfinance borrowers, garments factory workers, women from conflict-affected areas of Afghanistan, and the Rohingya ethnic minority community. In Pathways for Promise, students develop the English-language and mathematics competencies to enter Access Academy.

Access Academy is a foundation year of preparatory courses focused on English communication skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, and strategies for life-long learning.

Undergraduate: Taught by an esteemed international faculty, the University’s undergraduate program is supplemented by a wide array of extra-curricular programs which cultivate each student’s social ethos and foments their ability to address some of the most pressing issues of the day with innovative and bold solutions. Students also are encouraged to take part in internships, including placements with our partners around the globe. Past internship placements have included: L’Oréal (France, India, Vietnam), AIA (Hong Kong), Work for a Better Bangladesh (Bangladesh), and Abbott (India, Vietnam).
Rimu Byadya
Bangladesh | Class of 2014
Public Health Studies Major
Senior Sector Specialist for the Health, Nutrition and Population Program at BRAC

Rimu comes from a Hindu village one hour away from Chittagong. She grew up in a one-bedroom home shared with four other family members. Her mother is a housewife with eight years of education; her father is a poultry farmer. Rimu remembers neighbors who would hassle her parents for investing in her education: “Why do you send your daughters to school? Educating girls is no use!” Not to be discouraged, Rimu left home at age 15 to pursue a better education than what her village could provide. She discovered AUW at an internet café, although somebody had to help her because she did not know how to use computers at the time.

Now Rimu is an international change maker. Prior to graduation, she studied at Lund University in Sweden on an exchange program. After graduation, she was recruited into the BRAC Young Professionals Program, where she came out at the top of her class. Through BRAC, she has worked with Ebola survivors in Liberia and Sierra Leone. She has also directly engaged with Bangladeshi populations to improve maternal, neonatal and child care in rural areas. Now Rimu is a Senior Sector Specialist for the Health, Nutrition and Population Program at BRAC. In Rimu’s words: “AUW prepares women to be leaders in their country, and I always wanted to be one to bring positive changes in people’s lives through my education and work.”

Alumnae Graduate Institutions:
Brandeis University
Columbia University
Oxford University
Stanford University
Trinity College
University of Guelph

Alumnae Employers:
Chevron Bangladesh
L’Oréal Vietnam
Chemists Without Borders
Democracy International
Room to Read
Office of the First Lady of Afghanistan

ALUMNAE PLACEMENTS
(as of 2016)
- Government: 26%
- Teaching/Research: 15%
- Seeking Employment: 11%
- Non-Profit: 18%
- Commercial/Private: 10%
SCHOLARSHIPS

AUW relies on the generosity of individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments to continue offering a world-class education to women with remarkable potential but limited access to quality education. Since AUW’s inception in 2008, some of our major supporters include:

- Open Society Foundations
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- IKEA Foundation
- The MacArthur Foundation
- The Goldman Sachs Foundation
- Victor and William Fung Foundation
- U.S. Department of State
- JP Morgan Chase
- UNIQLO Co., Ltd.
- Abbott Fund
- Hitachi, Ltd.
- Chevron Corporation

OTHER PARTNERS

- Grameen Bank (Bangladesh)
- BRAC Afghanistan
- The Daughters for Life Foundation (Syria & Palestine)
- Trento University (Italy)
- Sciences Po (France)
- The Japan Foundation (Japan)

AUW has three main areas of need: scholarship support, the campaign to build the permanent campus, and growing an endowment.

I. Scholarships

Over 90% of AUW’s students are on full scholarship.

AUW has demonstrated that poor, socio-economically disadvantaged groups can excel in their education and professional endeavors when their motivation and drive are complemented and nurtured through access to higher education and academic support. Scholarship support is what makes AUW’s promise a reality – the promise that any student who has the talent and potential to warrant admission will receive the full financial aid she requires.

Support for student scholarships allows the University to build a diverse community of first generation female students that are achieving beyond their socio-economic barriers. Increased representation from these groups mends national segmentations within and between countries, where previous garment factory workers sit beside daughters of microfiances lenders as well as fostering regional exchange between nationalities.
Not only does scholarship funding foster diversity for socio-emotional development among students, it also supports students from all backgrounds to enter into emerging professional fields, such as public health and environmental industry. Their unique perspectives to the issues that affect their local communities will bring a strong advantage in their contributions to the government and community efforts to alleviate the most pressing issues (i.e. building health awareness and education, sanitation and hygiene, pollution, water and sewerage infrastructure).

The vast majority of students come from families who have struggled to pay school fees throughout their daughter’s education, and many have experienced displacement, or the loss of a family member, further disrupting their financial security. A full scholarship includes: tuition, room and board, travel, health care, student activities fee, books, school supplies, and other necessary expenses.

II. Building the Permanent Campus

AUW was envisioned as a residential university for 3,000 students, with nearly the entire student community and faculty living on a purpose-built campus in Chittagong. The Government of Bangladesh had donated a plot of over 140 acres in Chittagong to this purpose. The internationally renowned architect, Moshe Safdie, was commissioned to master plan the campus and design the initial academic facilities. The project will help build the campus which will house the undergraduate liberal arts and sciences program and the Graduate School of Entrepreneurship & Management.

The Master Plan consists of campus construction of the Campus Center, Student and Faculty Housing Complex, Student Center and other services. The Campus Center will focus on learning spaces (i.e. classrooms, laboratories, seminar rooms, computer and media lab, support
spaces, multi-use spaces), along with staff offices. The Student and Faculty Housing Complex will provide on-campus housing for up to 3,000 students, 200 resident faculty members, and approximately 30 service staff.

III. Growing an Endowment
*A strong endowment is key to AUW’s goals for financial sustainability.*

The University has been in existence for ten years, so it does not enjoy the alumnae donor base that many established universities benefit from. Although the eventual goal is to both grow the student body and proportion of fee-paying students, AUW is committed to providing an accessible education regardless of a student’s ability to pay. A strong endowment is crucial to accomplishing this goal this while becoming financially sustainable.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your gift will make a difference not only to AUW’s students, but also to their families, communities, and the region.

| Room, Books, Course Supplies, and Student Activities for one student for one year | $5,000 |
| Full Scholarship for one student for one year | $15,000 |
| One Professorship for one year | $65,000 |
| Endowed Scholarship | $250,000 |
| One Endowed Chair | $2,000,000 |

For more information, or to make a donation, please visit our website at [https://donate.asian-university.org/](https://donate.asian-university.org/) or contact Ms. Katsuki Sakai at katsuki.sakai@asian-university.org.
Annex I: Leadership

The University administration is led by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor. Professor Nirmala Rao currently serves as Vice-Chancellor of AUW.

**Chancellor**
*Cherie Blair*

As Chancellor, Cherie Blair is the titular head of the University, appointed by the Board of Trustees in 2011. Cherie Blair is a leading international human rights lawyer. An active campaigner for women’s rights, Mrs Blair is the founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, established in 2008, to help women build businesses in emerging markets and enabling them to have a stronger voice in their society.

**Vice-Chancellor**
*Professor Nirmala Rao, OBE, FAcSS*

Professor Nirmala Rao is a distinguished British political scientist and an expert on governance of cities. She served as Pro Director of the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London prior to joining AUW. She was elected Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in 2003. Professor Rao also has extensive public service experience, advising a range of bodies including the UK Audit Commission and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

**Dean of Faculty and Academic Affairs**
*Dr. Rosie Bateson*

Dr. Rosie Bateson joined AUW in July 2016, with the responsibility for innovative development and day-to-day operation of all academic areas, program development and assessment, institutional accreditation and the academic support units, including the University Library; monitoring of student learning objectives and outcomes assessment; faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation; building new, and strengthening existing, partnerships with other universities; assessing admissions policies to ensure AUW’s commitment to preparing women from all strata is fully realized.
University Registrar and Chief Operations Officer  
Lt Col Md. Foyzul Islam (Retd)
Lieutenant Colonel Md. Foyzul Islam (Retired) has begun his career as the University Registrar & Chief Operating Officer in October 2016. Prior to joining AUW, Mr Foyez worked as the Registrar and Head of Administration at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh for about five years. Mr Foyez had a long twenty five years of career with Bangladesh Army where he held appointments on various command, staff and instructional capacity. As the University Registrar & Chief Operating Officer Mr Foyez is responsible for supervising the activities of academic registry, general administrative matters including maintenance and welfare, human resources management, security matters, external liaison etc. He also acts as the Secretary to the AUW Board of Trustees.

Chief Financial Officer
Bhupinder Gupta
Bhupinder Gupta was appointed as Chief Financial Officer in June 2016. He is responsible for leading and managing the University’s financial affairs. Previously Bhupinder was Head of Finance for Shiv Nadar Foundation in India and Chief Financial Officer at Aga Khan Foundation (India).
Pathways for Promise—9 Faculty

Access Academy—12 Faculty

Social Sciences—19 Faculty
*Majors*: Economics; Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
*Minors*: Asian Studies; Development Studies; Finance; Gender Studies; Psychology

Sciences and Mathematics—11 Faculty
*Majors*: Bioinformatics; Environmental Science; Public Health
*Minors*: Biological Sciences; Computer Science; Mathematics

AUW Fellows—7
Annex II:  
Board of Trustees

AUW is governed by a Board of Trustees, which is responsible for all aspects of the governance of the institution including appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. The Board of Trustees can number up to twenty-three members, including two Government of Bangladesh officials serving as *ex officio* members. Trustees serve up to a maximum of two consecutive four-year terms.

Dipu Moni, Physician and lawyer; Former Foreign Minister of Bangladesh; *Chairman of AUW Board of Trustees*

Kapil Jain, Partner, Capital Markets & International GAAP, Ernst & Young; *Treasurer of AUW Board of Trustees*

Young Joon Kim, Partner, International Law Firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP; *Secretary of AUW Board of Trustees*

Kamal Ahmad, President & CEO of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation

Sheikha Abdulla Al-Misnad, President of Qatar University

Lynne Anne Davis, President & Senior Partner, FleishmanHillard Asia Pacific

Meenakshi Gopinath, the Former Principal of Lady Shri Ram College in New Delhi; the Founder and Honorary Director of WISCOMP

*Md. Shahidul Haque*, Foreign Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Bangladesh

*Md. Sohorab Hossain*, Education Secretary, Ministry of Education, Government of Bangladesh

Rubana Huq, Managing Director, Mohammandi Group

Humayun Kabir, Former Ambassador of Bangladesh to U.S.

Lâle Kesebi, Chief Communications Officer & Head of Strategic Engagement, Li & Fung

Salehuddin Khan, Managing Director of A.K. Khan & Co., Ltd.

Laura Deal Lacey, Executive Director, Milken Institute Asia Center

Marina Mahathir, Former President, Malaysian AIDS Council, Board Member, Sisters in Islam, columnist, The Star

Shiv Shankar Mukherjee, Former Indian High Commissioner to the UK

*Nirmala Rao*, Vice Chancellor, Asian University for Women, Former Pro-Director (Learning and Teaching), SOAS, University of London
Meredith Woo, President, Sweet Briar College

*Ex officio members

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Young Joon Kim, Chairman

Kapil Jain

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Catherine Watters Sasanuma, Formerly of Washington State Health Department

Miwa Seki, Entrepreneur

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Lynne Anne Davis

Caroline Chiu Partner, Ernst & Young; Treasurer, AUWSF (HK) Ltd. Board of Directors

Mia Bourgeois, Co-Founder, Altitude22 Ltd.

Jennifer Carver, Chief Investment Officer, NEST Investments

Anne Charron, Lawyer and Counsellor

Craig Dana, SVP Supply Chain Asia, Tory Burch Hong Kong Ltd.

Abbi DeLessio, Former Chair, Hong Kong International School Board of Managers

Richard Lee Folsom, Representative Partner, Advantage Partners

Rebecca Ip, Founder, Director of Luxury Partners Ltd.

Yan-Yan Li, Managing Director & COO, SAIL Advisors Ltd.
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**Internship Committee:** Craig Dana, Yan-Yan Li, Karen Seymour, MaryAnn Voli

**Partnership Committee:** Abbi DeLessio, Kathleen Ferrier, Harold Kim

**Communications Committee:** Liane Cresswell, Lynne Anne Davis, Jennifer Kok, Laura Tyson, Disha Widge

**Audit and Finance Committee:** Caroline Chiu, Lynne Anne Davis, Lâle Kesebi

**Mentorship Committee:** Mia Bourgeois, Anne Charron, Kathleen Ferrier, Viji Underwood, Gulnar Vaswani, MaryAnn Voli

**Events Committee:** Edith Chen, Rebecca Ip, Wai Yee Lam, Katharina Reimer

**Nominations Committee:** Lynne Anne Davis, Rebecca Ip

### JAPAN SUPPORT GROUP

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<td>Kanako Miyakoshi</td>
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<td>Maggie Yamasaki</td>
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*Updated 8.2017*
COUNCIL OF PATRONS

Sheikh Hasina
Prime Minister, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Chief Patron of the Asian University for Women

Akie Abe
First Lady of Japan

Irina Bokova
Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Emma Bonino
Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic

Laura Bush
Former First Lady of the United States of America

Anson Chan
Former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong; past member of Hong Kong’s Legislative Council

Lone Dybkjaer
Former Minister of Environment, Denmark; Former Member of the European Parliament

Chandra Bandaranaike Kumaratunga
Former President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg
Annex III: The Permanent Campus

Digital renderings of the proposed AUW Campus Center
Models of the proposed AUW Campus Construction

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ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Renderings of all phases for the proposed AUW Campus Construction