

Higher Ed Afghan Response and Advocacy: 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.

Opportunities for Supporting displaced Afghan STUDENTS and SCHOLARS

- [Institute of International Education](#)
 - The IIE [Scholar Rescue Fund](#) protects threatened and displaced scholars by arranging and funding fellowships at partnering higher education institutions, allowing these scholars to reach safety and continue their work. Partners interested in working with IIE-SRF to support Afghan scholars should contact IIE-SRFAlliance@iie.org.
 - 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.
 - [PEER, Platform for Education in Emergencies Response](#), is an online clearinghouse enabling displaced and refugee students to connect with scholarships, language and online learning. We encourage universities, governments and organizations to launch scholarship opportunities for Afghan students on the platform
- [New University in Exile Consortium](#)
- [Scholars at Risk Network](#) has a [full list of resources](#), including a resource on [mental health support](#)
- **Support for Admissions and Enrollment**
 - 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.
 - [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
 - UC Davis has developed a human-digital ecosystem, the [Article 26 Backpack](#), that provides a way for young people to safely curate, store, share and have evaluated academic documentation and other mobility-related materials (transcripts, diplomas, professional credentials, written and oral statements of purpose and letters of recommendation. Find the resource page in English and Dari/Farsi [here](#), and the backpack itself in [English](#) and [Dari/Farsi](#).

- **Supporting students on campus**
 - IRAP and UNHCR will be hosting a virtual Know Your Rights session for any refugee student arriving in the U.S. on an F1 visa this Fall. Please contact Rosie Hughes (hughesr@unhcr.org) for more information or if you know of any students (Afghan or otherwise) who may benefit.
 - 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 opportunities for long-term integration.
- **Advocate for Afghan students and scholars.** The Presidents' Alliance [wrote](#) to Secretaries Blinken and Mayorkas urging action to protect Afghan students, scholars, researchers, and their families seeking to come to the United States, as well as those here at U.S. higher education institutions. If you have a specific issue that you want to bring to the attention of the Department of Homeland Security or State department, this [template letter](#) may be useful. A [letter](#) was also organized by Scholars At Risk Network, and a [NAFSA letter](#) was sent in August as well.

Supporting displaced Afghans as local COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Providing 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.
- Refugee Resettlement Agencies. For an institution, a first step can be to 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
- Learn more with [CWS Welcome Week: College Edition](#) event. The event will be a week-long series of webinars that will feature college professors as well as CWS staff and other field professionals in resettlement including a focus on [Afghan SIV's and Allies](#) Thursday, September 16th 4-5pm EST

Getting Started

- Check out Resources from Colleges and Universities
 - [Columbia University's Response to the Afghanistan Crisis](#)
 - [Cornell Refugee Assistance Resource List](#)
- Who you need to enlist on your campus to support? 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.
- **Stay Connected**-Be sure to [sign up](#) for the Presidents' Alliance weekly newsletter to receive additional information, resources, and opportunities for connection and action!