



CONFERENCE

18TH – 19TH JUNE 2019

BERLIN



DAFI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME **DAFI**

Supporting Refugees in Higher Education since 1992

AT A GLANCE

- The DAFI programme (**Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative**) provides higher education scholarships to refugees, with main financial support coming from the German Government, and Saïd, Asfari and Hands Up Foundations among others
- DAFI candidates must have completed secondary school with high academic marks, have been granted refugee status in their host country or deemed to be persons in need of international protection by UNHCR, are not older than 28 years of age at the start of their undergraduate studies. The programme aims to support an equal number of young women and men.
- A **scholarship covers a range of costs**, including tuition fees, study materials, food, transport, and accommodation, and aims to ensure refugee students can live and study in safe and appropriate conditions.
- **Academic performance and student well-being** are monitored to determine needs for additional support such as preparatory courses to academic tutoring, language classes and counselling.
- DAFI students and recent graduates may participate in skills training, internships, mentoring, volunteer and networking opportunities to support **readiness for transition to employment**, entrepreneurship or further studies.
- The DAFI programme prioritizes **inclusion in national education systems** and enrolment in accredited public higher education institutions.

CORE OBJECTIVES

1. **Promote self-reliance and pathways to solutions** resulting from completion of an undergraduate qualification.
2. **Empower young women and men equally** to contribute knowledge, skills and leadership to their communities, and to participate fully in peaceful coexistence, social cohesion and the development of the communities where they live.
3. **Strengthen the protective impact of education** by encouraging lifelong learning for refugees.
4. **Provide role models for refugee children and youth**, demonstrate the positive impact of education on individuals, communities and societies.
5. **Contribute to post-conflict peace-building** and reconstruction in the event that refugees return to their home countries.
6. **Promote social, economic and gender equality.**

ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

- Has enabled **more than 15,500 young refugees in 51 countries to obtain an undergraduate degree** in their first country of asylum, thereby contributing to self-reliance, development and peace-building.
- The number of students with a DAFI scholarship **increased from 2,321 students in 2015 to 6,866 in 2018.**
- This rapid growth was partly due to the Syrian crisis. In 2018, Syria was the largest country of origin of DAFI students (2,438), the majority of whom are studying in the Middle East and North Africa region. The largest programme is being implemented in Turkey with 834 students. In Ethiopia, 830 students are being supported, in Jordan 728, in Uganda 469 and Kenya 436.
- Of the 6,866 students supported in 2018, **41% are women.**
- Continued dialogue with higher education institutions and government entities in numerous countries has **improved refugee access and integration.**

FURTHER INFO

Website: <https://www.unhcr.org/dafi-scholarships.html>

Twitter: @UNHCR_Education

Contact Person: **Maren Kröger**, Tertiary Education Officer: kroeger@unhcr.org

