

About us



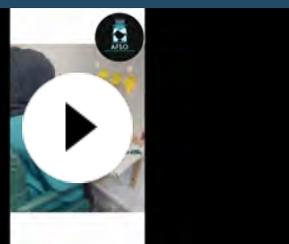
AFSO Teachers Worldwide

Excerpts from interviews with 3 of our 150 professors. Full interviews available [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).



AFSO Teaching Assistants

Excerpts from interviews with our amazing course assistants and grammar teachers.



AFSO Students

A message from one of our dedicated students, with a special announcement at the end.

From the Executive Director

This past year has been one of resilience and growth for AFSO. Despite shrinking international support and the ongoing restrictions on women's education in Afghanistan, we have strengthened our commitment to delivering high-quality learning opportunities.

Thanks to the leadership of our team and the Partnerships Committee, we established a major collaboration with Bard College, providing accredited online degree access for our most qualified students.

AFSO's academic excellence is built on the dedication of our volunteer professors, many from world-renowned universities. Working alongside the **Curriculum Development Committee** and our Academic Administrator, **Katy Masuga**, they have helped expand our programming across three major areas:



- **Managing and delivering over 38 courses each term.** Running on a unique **three-semester calendar**, AFSO delivers **more than 100 courses each year** — an ambitious pace driven by the determination of our students and the dedication of our faculty
- **Creating multicourse certificate programs** in STEM and Mathematics
- **Overseeing student enrollment** in credit-bearing university courses through OSUN

Our Student Affairs Coordinator, **Irene Burns**, ensures that nearly 800 students receive the support they need to stay connected and succeed. This includes coordinating English placement testing, ensuring reliable internet access, supporting communication with instructors, providing access to the outside world, and responding promptly to student requests.

At the heart of AFSO are our students, Afghan women who continue to rise with strength and dignity. We are not saving them. We are equipping them with tools they are using to transform their futures.

AFSO remains steady and determined. **With your support, we are moving forward.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amran Fatih'.

Amran Fatih
Executive Director

From the President of the Board



What a difference a year makes. Since Summer 2024, thanks to your support, AFSO has doubled the number of students we serve in Afghanistan. Our faculty has grown to 140 instructors from 36 universities around the world, and our team of course assistants has kept pace.

Most important, as international funding has shriveled and universities find themselves under attack, we have weathered the storm with full sails and a steady wind. As a key member of the Alliance for the Education of Women in Afghanistan (AEWA), we are at the forefront of developing

standards for educational programs that serve girls and women in Afghanistan, online and in person.

Shortly before this Annual Report was produced, AFSO signed an agreement with the **Global**

Higher Education Alliance for the 21st Century at Bard College (GHEA21). This partnership opens a thrilling new chapter in AFSO's journey. Beginning this fall, AFSO students will be able to apply to GHEA21 for provisional acceptance. Those who are accepted will enter AFSO's one-year College Preparation Certificate program. On successful completion of that program, they will matriculate into an **online, American-accredited AA/BA program.**

The structure of this alliance means that, rather than successfully passing courses and receiving best wishes for success, qualified AFSO students will have the **guarantee** of funded admission to an accredited undergraduate degree. With their two-year AA, they may decide to apply to brick-and-mortar universities, where they will need only two years of financial aid. They may apply to multinational corporations with offices in South Asia and the Middle East. Or they may complete the BA online and continue to graduate or professional school.

Our Board Committees reach out in AFSO's three essential directions. The **Partnerships Committee** is establishing working liaisons, particularly now with online programs and Anglophone universities outside the U.S. The **Curriculum Committee** focuses on our academic standards, assessments, and curricular integrity. And the **Fundraising Committee** has been instrumental not only in mounting our intensive campaigns but also in expanding our presence on social media and among foundations with global reach.

Last year at this time, we were amazed to count 74 professors teaching 500 students. Little did we imagine that a year later those numbers would have almost doubled, or that the dedication of these educators would have intensified as the situation in Afghanistan has worsened. Please open the windows above to hear from the AFSO family of volunteer professors, course assistants, and students.

With thanks for all you do,

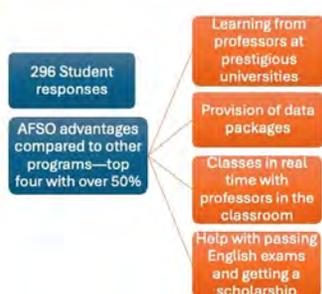


Snapshot: AFSO Students 2024 - 2025

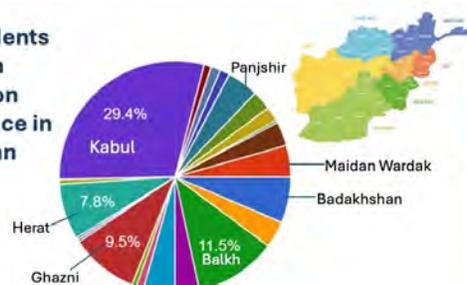
From our recent survey of AFSO students:

"AFSO is not just an organization that helps Afghan girls learn, but it's like a hope like a light in darkness. I have no words to describe what AFSO means to me and the girls like me who strive for learning and having the opportunity to keep boosting their knowledge in this situation. The attention and behavior of professors and teaching assistants are incredibly amazing, not just professional but it's also friendly and loving that makes a perfect learning environment. The other positive point that makes AFSO amazing is the fact that we can choose an advisor for us and discuss everything with them. **AFSO is a prize for Afghan girls.**"

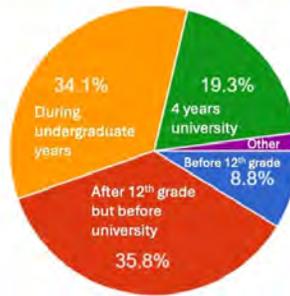
Key Results from AFSO Student Survey July 2025



AFSO Students come from every region and province in Afghanistan



Highest Level of Formal Education In Afghanistan



Main Goal for Studying with AFSO

Snapshot: AFSO Instructors 2024 - 2025

Professors and course assistants from around the world volunteered their time, expertise, and commitment this past year to teach students and guide them toward a brighter future. **Key results of our recent survey of faculty and course assistants are below.** For a full listing of courses, faculty, and course assistants for 2024 - 2025, with institutional affiliation, please see [this page of our website](#). We are immeasurably grateful to these amazing individuals.

Key Results AFSO Faculty Survey July 2025

62 responses from Faculty and TAs

Two main goals for volunteering—helping the women of Afghanistan and increasing educational access

Two main obstacles: lack of internet access and low attendance/homework completion

Greatest surprise in teaching with AFSO

- Student eagerness to learn
- Difference in Afghan academic culture
- Not being able to see students' faces

99% of faculty want to teach again

AFSO's benefit to students

- Improving their quality of life
- Helping them obtain scholarships and university admission
- Relieving depression

Word to describe students

- Determined
- Inspiring/hopeful
- Courageous
- Respectful/appreciative
- Resilient/motivated

Snapshot: AFSO Donors

We are grateful to all our supporters—from the United States, the United Kingdom, Europe, Australia, South America, the Middle East, and elsewhere—at all levels of giving, for their generosity and energy to help Afghan university women achieve their highest potential.

AFSO Donors, July 2024 – June 2025

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lois Aaron | Andrea and Jonathan | Edward Haas | J. Donald Moon ** | Stephanie Schamess |
| Sabrin Abbe | Janine Cote | Diva Haider | Jean Moore * | Linda Schofield |
| Cheryl Adkinson | Anna Crawford | Flicker Hammond | Anne Morris | Sherry Schreiber * |
| Mariana Siblesz de Alvarez | Marina Crawford | Betty Hanson | Margaret Frawley | Rabia Shahenshah |
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| Anonymous * | Ellen Croibier | Emily Haynes * | Janet Morrison | Barbara Sicherman |
| Anonymous * | Martha Cusler | Merrill Henderson | Julie Mughal * | Susan Simoncic |
| Anonymous # | Emmanuel d'Harcourt | Anast G Heropoulos * | Kara Mullins * | Gary Slack |
| Anonymous ** | Jayne and Bob Dane | Alden Jenks | Jackie Murphy | Stephen Smith |
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| Manette Ansay | Susan Dillon | Alden Jenks | Naom Okumbo | Henry Sparks |
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 Galen Workman
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 Julie Woulfe
 Thomas Wu #
 Margie Yansura
 Tam x
 Jane Zande

* = Connections Circle member

= Communicators member

** = Bridge Builders member

§ = Visionaries member

Many thanks also to generous help from our friends at [Ellii](#) and [Ding Connect](#).



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Snapshot: AFSO Volunteers

AFSO is a worldwide collective of volunteers. We salute not only our **professors, course assistants, and Board members**, but also our volunteer bookkeeper, **Kathy Lindblom**; our volunteer accountant, **Thomas Wu**; our volunteer guidance counselor, **Janel Hill**; our volunteer psychological counselor, **Rocio Chang**; and our volunteer **grantwriters, advisors, graphic designers, and interns**.

Whatever your skill set, **you can make an impact** volunteering with us. **Be the spark that ignites AFSO**. Our students thank you!



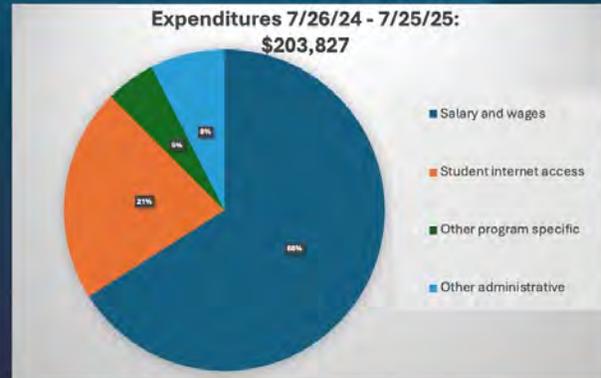
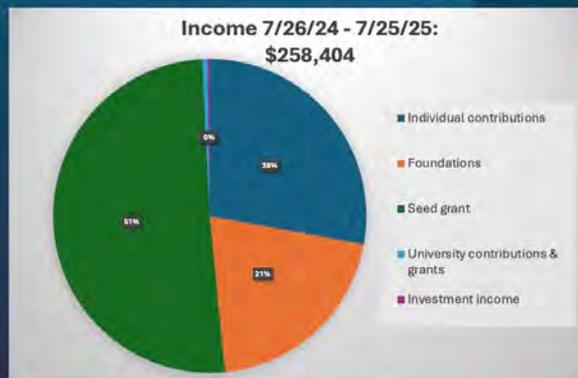
♥ Become a Volunteer

Featured Campaigns

Supporting our students throughout 2024 - 2025

We are pleased to report that through our three major fundraising campaigns this past year--Our 2024 back-to-school campaign, **Building the Bridge**; Giving Tuesday's **Give the Gift of Data**; and International Women's Day's **A Light Exists in Spring**--we raised \$52,000 toward English Placement Testing, university advising, internet connectivity, and the establishment of our College Placement Certificate. The total represents about a quarter of our total fundraising for the year, as shown here:

AFSO Financials 2024 - 2025



♥ [Donate Now](#)

For international giving, please see the links below.



[Benevity for social impact](#)



[GlobalGiving for global impact](#)



[JustGiving for international donors](#)

AFSO Memberships

Supporting our students throughout 2024 - 2025



AFSO welcomes gifts of any size, whether unrestricted or focused on one of our priority areas, like internet access for students or solidifying their pathway toward a degree. At our September 14 event, below, we will unveil our back-to-school campaign, Making It Happen, focused on realizing the futures toward which our best students have been striving, now, for two full years with AFSO.

We also have a set of memberships that prioritize connections with our students and their work. [Our website](#) features our membership tiers: **Connections Circle**, **Communicators**, **Bridge Builders**, and **Visionaries**, building relationships among the AFSO family and all of you who know the impact we are making and the importance of your part in it. As you know, AFSO provides millions of dollars' worth of education for a small fraction of the cost, due to our dedicated volunteers. We hope you will give what you can today.

Make a recurring donation

Please join us September 14



AFSO's two-year celebration, **Unafraid: Crossing the Bridge with AFSO Students**, features our students in conversation, as well as U.S. Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan **Richard Bennett** and Cannes award-winning Afghan filmmaker and activist **Sonita Alizadeh**. Please watch for the invitation to this special virtual event, coming soon!



Get in Touch

Wherever you are, however your journey intersects with AFSO's mission, we love to hear from you. As Professor Melissa Bloom notes above, quoting the poet Mary Oliver,

*Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting—
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.*

Basically, that's what this program is about.

You are part of the AFSO family. Please be in touch.



Afghan Female Student Outreach is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions are tax-deductible by law.



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