Preparing Students for a Global Society
The Asian University for Women will welcome its first class of undergraduate students in August of 2009.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location:</th>
<th>Chittagong, Bangladesh</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student-to-Faculty Ratio:</td>
<td>13:1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of Students (at capacity):</td>
<td>2500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medium of Instruction:</td>
<td>English</td>
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The Asian University for Women (AUW) is an independent institution of higher learning for women. The University provides a stimulating academic and residential environment that allows students to develop self-confidence and leadership abilities while fostering internationalism, a passion for social justice, and a commitment to building diverse and inclusive communities.

AUW’s liberal arts and sciences curriculum enables young women to gain a broad and layered understanding of their societies and the world by developing critical thinking, imagination, and independence of mind. The University educates students from a broad range of Asian countries and prepares them to become highly motivated and effective professionals, leaders, and service-oriented citizens in the region.
A Unique Community

As a student at the Asian University for Women, you will quickly discover that you are living and learning in a unique community. From the University’s stimulating liberal arts and sciences curriculum to the diverse students and faculty members with whom you will form lifelong bonds, AUW is an environment full of possibility—one in which you can push intellectual boundaries, realize your aspirations, and deepen your engagement with the world.
An AUW Education: Preparing Students for a Global Society

Today’s world requires its citizens to think on a global scale. As technological and social advancements bring societies closer together, they also create challenges that extend beyond national and regional borders. Grappling with these complex issues will require the ability to think critically, creatively, and, most of all, across disciplines.

After completing AUW’s four-year undergraduate program, you will earn a bachelor’s degree—a credential that is not only highly valued by employers, but will also enable you to understand and influence the trends and movements shaping your community and the world. In addition to acquiring a world-class education, you will become part of a network of alumnae who will be leaders in the region.

Further, the University is interested in offering master’s degrees to its students. One such program is Information and Communications Technology, which is being developed in partnership with Aalborg University in Denmark.

“The notion that science is not emphasized in liberal arts education is simply incorrect,” explains Dr. Hoon Eng Khoo, whose successful academic and professional career is vivid proof that the sciences are alive and well in liberal arts curricula.

But the subjects Dr. Khoo studied outside her major provided equally important training. “My studies in English literature, anthropology, and philosophy fostered my ability to collect and organize facts and opinions—to analyze them, weigh their value, and articulate an argument,” she says. “These capacities have greatly helped my own scientific writing. Most of all, studying literature, history, languages, and music has given me personal enjoyment and the ability to learn and engage with the world in a more meaningful way.”
An AUW Education: Preparing Students for a Global Society

The Benefits of a Liberal Arts and Sciences Education

A liberal arts and sciences education provides a solid intellectual foundation that fosters independence of mind, imagination, and critical thinking. It encourages lively debate and interaction, an appreciation of new ideas, and the courage to challenge prevailing norms and assumptions—enabling you to take full ownership of your studies. Such learning is empowering, exciting, and transformative.

A liberal arts and sciences curriculum also provides a well-rounded education. Although you will focus your studies in a chosen concentration, you will be required to complete coursework in three academic divisions—the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences.

“Why should I study areas that are unrelated to my concentration?” you might ask. Because the world’s most pressing issues and challenges do not unfold in isolation; they are the result of a confluence of factors. In real-world settings, decisions and problem solving are based on knowledge acquired from multiple perspectives and fields of expertise. A liberal arts and sciences education will provide you with the capabilities and knowledge to adapt to and succeed in a variety of competitive and rapidly changing professional environments.

Dr. Hoon Eng Khoo
AUW Provost

Dr. Khoo’s experience is far from being an exception to the rule: statistics show that the percentage of graduates from liberal arts colleges who pursue a PhD in science is nearly twice as high as at other undergraduate institutions. Almost 20 percent of the scientists elected to America’s prestigious National Academy of Sciences in a recent two-year period received their undergraduate education at liberal arts institutions.

Dr. Khoo is on a leave of absence from her position as an associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Singapore, where she formerly served as vice-dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. She has published extensively in the fields of biochemistry and medicine, including three books on medical education and two books on biotechnology. She was president of the Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology for several years and has served as secretary-general of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists. She has a PhD from the University of London in England.

As AUW’s provost, Dr. Khoo is guiding the development of the University’s curriculum and the recruitment of faculty and staff from around the world.
Program Requirements
As an AUW student, you will enroll in four courses per semester, with each course earning one unit toward a degree. Thirty-two units are required to complete the four-year bachelor’s degree; the program includes core courses in the first and second years of study, required courses in a chosen concentration, and electives. At the beginning of the second year, you will declare a concentration, which requires a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 14 units. You can choose to concentrate in a single field or design a combined major.

In the first two years, you will be required to fulfill a number of core requirements. First year requirements include a year-long humanities course introducing the cultures and societies of Asia through the study of Asian history, art, religions, and literatures; one mathematics course; two courses in the natural sciences; and two elective courses. Second year requirements include a year-long gender studies course, Women Shaping Society, in addition to courses in your chosen concentration and electives.

As soon as you begin your undergraduate studies, you will be assigned an academic adviser who will help guide you through your four-year program. The University’s Office of Academic Advising is also a resource for students seeking assistance with course planning.

Small Classes, Personalized Attention
With a student-faculty ratio of 13 to 1, classes are small enough for you to receive personalized attention but large enough to foster spirited debate. Smaller classes ensure that you will have plenty of access to the University’s full-time faculty as well. As dedicated teachers and researchers, AUW faculty members are supportive mentors, passionate about their fields, and committed to helping you succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Knowledge through Real-World Experience
Applying what you have learned in a real-world setting will form an integral part of your education at the Asian University for Women. The University’s partnerships with corporations, non-governmental organizations, schools, and public agencies throughout Asia provide internship and community service opportunities. During the four-year program, you will have a chance to engage in two or three summer internships and receive career counseling.

“A liberal arts education taught me to think critically and communicate clearly and persuasively. Perhaps most important, it taught me how to learn and what questions to ask. These skills are invaluable, especially as we often have to go through various career shifts in the course of a lifetime. In my 20+ years of legal practice, I have done both transactional and litigation work; conducted investigations as a regulatory enforcement attorney; and managed a multinational corporation’s compliance with international laws.”

Charmaine Mesina, Attorney, Smith College ’73
A Diverse Community

AUW believes that bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds on a residential campus is a powerful way to ensure greater cooperation and understanding in Asia and in our global society. Diversity is valued throughout the academic program: from the humanities to the natural sciences, the University’s curriculum promotes social, religious, cultural and intellectual pluralism; building an academic community that celebrates each of its members; and teamwork. AUW’s hope is that this unique and supportive environment will help you discover that there are many ways of experiencing and perceiving the world and encourage you to advance intercultural understanding wherever you choose to pursue your future.

Student Life

The learning that occurs outside class plays a critical role in building friendships and respect across cultures. The University offers a variety of extracurricular pursuits, including student government, special-interest organizations and clubs, athletics, and the arts.

You will also find ample opportunities to assume campus leadership positions, enabling you to be an active participant in the community and to have a voice in University decision making.

Viewing Asia and the World through a Gendered Lens

AUW’s second-year course, Women Shaping Society

Imagine exploring how gender interplays with such varied themes as globalization, conflict resolution, human trafficking, and water management—all in the span of one course. In Women Shaping Society, students examine women’s roles in these and other key areas from both a regional and a global perspective.

Rangita de Silva-de Alwis, a prominent Sri Lankan human rights lawyer and senior adviser on international programs at the Wellesley Centers for Women at Wellesley College, worked closely with AUW to design a course that, she says, “engages students in the major issues of our times—especially in Asia—and gives them the tools to think critically about these areas and to address them as Asian women leaders.”

The course examines women’s issues through multiple lenses, dividing its overlapping and intersecting themes into several modules: gender inequality in the public and private spheres; violence against women; and women in relation to human rights, development, family law, education, and reproductive rights.

Each year, AUW faculty members invite a diverse and distinguished group of visiting scholars and practitioners to bring their expertise to bear on individual topics. Their collaboration results in a cross-fertilization of ideas that enriches students’ understanding of the way women have shaped and continue to shape the world in which we live.
Dedicated Leaders and Faculty Members

AUW is in the process of recruiting outstanding faculty members from around the world who support liberal learning approaches that will help you develop critical thinking, imagination, independence of mind, and the ability to lead. They will share and foster the values that the University espouses: a commitment to diversity and building inclusive communities, internationalism, and a passion for social justice.

"We spoke often of the sense of community we felt at Mount Holyoke. As my intellectual curiosity blossomed, I increasingly felt the camaraderie among classmates. In and out of the classroom, we supported and cheered for each other. We were staunch competitors with ourselves and our opponents, yet we held a steadfast belief in the team ethic. It was an educational environment in which intellectual development flourished."

Elizabeth Agnello, Associate Director for Strategic Planning, AUW Support Foundation
Mount Holyoke College ’02

Dr. Michelle Zjhra
DEAN OF NATURAL SCIENCES

Dr. Michelle Zjhra, dean of natural sciences at the Asian University for Women, believes that the greatest strengths of a liberal arts and sciences education are excellence in teaching and a student-centered approach to learning. “Students become more engaged learners when their curriculum is interactive, innovative, and relevant to current issues,” Dr. Zjhra explains. “They are motivated by professors who bring concepts to life by applying them to problems in the community and the region.”

As dean of natural sciences, Dr. Zjhra is developing a dynamic curriculum that provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to grapple with the most pressing global challenges. She is also leading the search for faculty members who are renowned for their research and value student-centered teaching philosophies.

Prior to joining the Asian University for Women, she was an associate professor of biology at Georgia Southern University in the United States, where she taught courses on general biology, plant diversity, and flora of Georgia. She also served as director of the University herbarium.

Her research interests include the ecological, evolutionary and developmental aspects of plant diversity.

Dr. Zjhra has a wealth of international experience. While at Georgia Southern University, she was named a Fulbright Scholar. With her grant, she led workshops on curriculum and faculty development, emphasizing sustainability issues at the Vietnam National University in Saigon during the 2007-2008 academic year. In addition, she has led science pedagogy workshops in Rwanda and South Africa, and conducted extensive field research in Madagascar.

She has been awarded a number of grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for her work in plant evolution and science education and innovation. Dr. Zjhra has also served as a research associate for the Center for Tropical Ecology and Conservation at the Antioch New England Institute in New Hampshire. Before her tenure at Georgia Southern University, she taught at Keene State College and conducted research at the University of Arizona as an NSF postdoctoral fellow.

Dr. Zjhra received a BA in biology from Reed College in Portland, Oregon—one of the premier liberal arts colleges in the United States—and a PhD in botany from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.
The AUW Campus, Bangladesh, and Chittagong

The University is housed in a modern complex in downtown Chittagong, complete with academic, residential, and dining facilities; a fitness center; a library; and study and recreational areas.

Students also have access to a number of technological supports, including wireless networks throughout the complex, computer and multimedia labs, and digital collections and resources in the University’s state-of-the-art library.

The government of Bangladesh has donated 100+ acres in the serene and scenic hills just outside the city for the future campus. The world-renowned architectural firm of Moshe Safdie and Associates is the master planner of the University campus.
Bangladesh

Bridging South and Southeast Asia, Bangladesh provides an ideal context for the cross-cultural ties and innovation that AUW espouses. Not only has the country become a worldwide leader in microfinance, but it also boasts a rich intellectual and creative history: Nobel Prize winners Amartya Sen (noted philosopher and economist), Muhammad Yunus (founder of Grameen Bank), and Rabindranath Tagore (renowned poet) are part of this heritage.

Women have made profound contributions to Bangladesh's intellectual and artistic legacy as well. From the early-twentieth-century poet Kamini Roy to the noted painter Farida Zaman, they have played a significant role in constructing and influencing the foundations of modern Bengali culture. The country has also been home to a number of prominent female humanitarians, including Nasreen Huq, who was known for her extensive work with national and international agencies in the area of women's health and rights.

Having produced a multitude of independent and innovative thinkers, the government of Bangladesh recognizes that AUW must have institutional autonomy and academic freedom in order to cultivate the next generation of leaders. In September of 2006, Bangladesh ratified the University's charter, establishing AUW as an independent international institution of higher education. The Honorable Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, the current head of the government of Bangladesh, is the University's chief patron under the charter.

“Higher education can be an escalator not only for personal success, but also for the capacity one needs to transform his or her own society. It is in this context that I find the Asian University for Women particularly important. It provides a much needed avenue for women to empower themselves to become enlightened leaders.”

MUHAMMAD YUNUS
FOUNDER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR, GRAMEEN BANK
2006 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER
MEMBER, AUW BANGLADESH BOARD OF ADVISERS
Chittagong

Located on the southeastern coast of Bangladesh, Chittagong is the country’s second largest city. Chittagong boasts a vibrant international community along with a number of universities and colleges, making it an ideal location for the University. Presenting a less dense urban environment than the country’s capital, Dhaka, Chittagong has a unique and still largely unspoiled landscape of rolling hills, including a lake and a recreational area within the city limits. It also has a pluralistic religious life where students can freely practice their own faiths and religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Christianity.

The city is well connected by air, road, and rail to all major centers within Bangladesh. There are also three flights a week to Bangkok and Kolkata from Chittagong’s international airport, Patenga.

To learn more about AUW, visit www.asian-university.org
Governance

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Admissions

AUW is proactively seeking young women who demonstrate exceptional potential and, in turn, deserve the promise of opportunity. In addition to excellent academic qualifications, including SAT and TOEFL scores, candidates are evaluated on leadership skills, community awareness, and social commitment. Admission to AUW is strictly merit-based.

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO APPLY, PLEASE CONTACT:
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20/A M. M. Ali Road
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Tel: (880) 31-2854980
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admissions@asian-university.org

Or visit the website http://www.asian-university.org/admission.htm