

ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Access Academy





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FOR WOMEN

The Access Academy opened in March of 2008, welcoming 130 remarkable young women from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

PHOTOGRAPHY: SHAHIDUL ALAM,
AMY LAM, ANGELA SAUNDERS,
KATE MEEHAN

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

Access Academy



The Asian University for Women (AUW) recognizes that there are many young women across Asia who possess exceptional talent, potential, and intellect, but lack the financial means and foundational skills to pursue a university education. The Access Academy is a twelve-month pre-collegiate program that provides these students with the additional coursework and training needed to launch their undergraduate studies at AUW. Academy students are admitted through the University's admissions program and receive full financial support.

The Access Academy is intended only for those women who are the first in their families to enter university. Ordinarily, the Academy does not admit students whose parents have any university or equivalent education; candidates having at least one parent with a university education should apply for direct entry to AUW's undergraduate program.

The caring staff and teachers, well-organized syllabus, modern facilities, and the freedom I enjoy here are very valuable to me. The program has also helped me change my views and thoughts—I am learning to think critically and “outside the box.”



MAHILINI KAILAIYANGIRICHELVAM, ACCESS ACADEMY STUDENT

AGE 21

HOME COUNTRY Sri Lanka

Opening the Door to Opportunity

Though Access Academy students come from many different countries and backgrounds, they are united by their courage, determination, and joy of learning. They also share a renewed sense of hope for the future because the Academy has made possible what was once beyond their reach: a university education. Students are equally excited about the program's stimulating and supportive environment—one in which they can hone their skills in small, intimate classes; pursue their interests; and most important, feel valued and empowered as women.

Curriculum

The Access Academy's curriculum focuses on raising students' English, quantitative reasoning, and general academic skills to levels that will enable them to succeed in AUW's rigorous undergraduate program. A typical day consists of three hours of intensive English language instruction followed by one-hour courses in mathematics, computer training, Bangla for international students, and physical education. English courses integrate the core skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking; they are taught by native speakers of English. Students are assigned to course levels in English and mathematics based on the results of their entrance exams.

Academic Calendar

The academic year is divided into three terms. A one-week study break is scheduled during each term; international students may stay on campus to enjoy a non-academic program.

Student Life

At the Access Academy, students have the opportunity to engage in a number of extracurricular activities, including art, music, dance, and physical education. Student government, clubs, and organizations provide ample leadership opportunities. The Academy also hosts a number of guest speakers and lecturers throughout the academic year.



At the Access Academy, I am gaining confidence and building skills. Whenever I need help, teachers and staff are always available to answer my questions.

Minza Yaqoob, Access Academy Student

Age: 22

Home Country: Pakistan

The program's leaders and faculty members are dedicated to helping students realize their potential and develop the skills to succeed in university—and beyond.



DR. REGINA PAPA
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
ACCESS ACADEMY*

Dedicated Leaders and Faculty Members

REGINA PAPA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OF THE ACCESS ACADEMY

Educated at the University of Madras and Madurai Kamaraj University, Dr. Papa was the first female registrar for a general university in India. She has more than 40 years of experience in higher education and has spent much of her distinguished career as the founding director of both the first Department of Women's Studies and the Center for Women's Studies and Rural Technology at Alagappa University in India. Dr. Papa twice has been awarded the CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) Fellowship for her research and work. She also is highly regarded for the innovative field-based programs she has developed for women. Prior to her appointment as executive director of the Access Academy, Dr. Papa was AUW's executive director for admissions and recruitment.

HOON ENG KHOO

AUW PROVOST

Dr. Khoo is on a leave of absence from her position as associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the National University of Singapore, where she was formerly vice-dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. She has published extensively in the fields of biochemistry and medical education and has served as president of the Singapore Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and secretary-general of the Federation of Asian and Oceanian Biochemists and Molecular Biologists. Although Dr. Khoo has spent most of her academic career at major research institutions—including the University of London, where she received her PhD—she received her undergraduate degree from Smith College, a leading liberal arts college for women in the United States.

The Access Academy is a place where different cultures, traditions, ideas, and lifestyles meet. It provides an encouraging platform for Asian women to fulfill their dreams of becoming leaders of the world.

Neeru Ghale, Access Academy Student

Age: 23

Home Country: Nepal

DR. HOON ENG KHOO ▶
AUW PROVOST



Dedicated Leaders and Faculty Members

HELEN CLAIRE SIEVERS

DEAN OF THE ACCESS ACADEMY



Helen Claire Sievers was appointed dean of the Access Academy in May of 2008, after serving seven years as executive director of WorldTeach, a non-profit organization affiliated with Harvard University's Center for International Development. Before that, she spent 18 years in the Marshall Islands, where she served as a high school principal, a hospital administrator, and a community court judge. Dean Sievers has also taught astronomy at Wellesley and Bentley Colleges, and served as executive director of the Thyroid Foundation of America. She has a BA in astronomy from Wellesley and an MS in physics from Brigham Young University.

ANGELA SAUNDERS

ACCESS ACADEMY TEACHER



A graduate of the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, Angela Saunders teaches computer skills and intermediate-level English at the Academy. A committed educator with experience working in developing countries, Ms. Saunders honed her teaching skills in the Marshall Islands prior to joining AUW.

Watching my students develop confidence in the classroom is what truly motivates me. For instance, students in my English course who were so nervous they could not complete presentations 12 weeks ago are now acting like dragons—fearlessly and eloquently voicing their opinions.

Angela Saunders

Access Academy Teacher

My friends and teachers at the Access Academy are like my second family. At first, I missed home, but now I am stronger. I have also learned about many countries from my classmates—we come from very different cultures, but we can still live together happily.



DUTH KIMSRU, ACCESS ACADEMY STUDENT

AGE 20

HOME COUNTRY Cambodia



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Campus and Surrounding Area

Access Academy Campus

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

Students' health needs are overseen by two full-time, experienced nurses. Medical specialists and in-patient facilities are available at a local private hospital if necessary. Health and nutrition counseling is also offered to students.

Chittagong, Bangladesh

Located on Bangladesh's southeastern coast, Chittagong boasts a vibrant international community along with a number of universities and colleges. Bangladesh's second largest city, Chittagong provides a less dense

urban environment than the country's capital, Dhaka, and has a unique and 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.



The Access Academy improves our talents and makes us ready to compete in University.

Jiby Mol Mathew, Access Academy Student
Age: 17
Home Country: India

Admissions

The Access Academy seeks young women who demonstrate exceptional potential and, in turn, deserve the promise of opportunity. In addition to excellent academic qualifications, candidates are evaluated on leadership skills, community awareness, and social commitment. Admission to the Academy is strictly merit-based and students receive full financial support.

Students from Cambodia, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka may contact the following recruitment coordinators:

Cambodia

Maryann Bylander
Program Manager &
Interim Executive Director
PEPY Ride
P.O. Box 1235
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

India

Sarto Rajendran
CEO & Managing Director
Guardian Management Services Pvt. Ltd.
TNSCB Office Complex, Top Floor
South Wing
100 Feet Road, Anna Nagar
Chennai 600040, India

Nepal

Anjana Shilpakar
Secretary General, Pahal
P.O. Box 1264 Lagankhel, Lalitpur
Kathmandu, Nepal

Sri Lanka

Alagaiah Navaratnarajah
Director, Tertiary Education Program
Sewalanka Foundation
432 A, First Floor
Colombo Road
Borelesgamuwa, Sri Lanka



Students from Bangladesh and from countries that are not assigned recruitment coordinators are asked to contact:

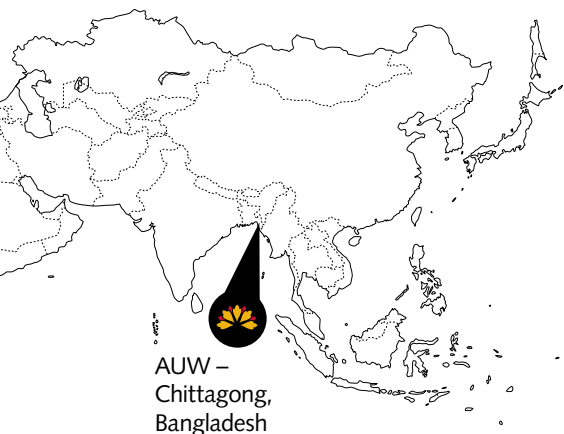
Office of Admissions

Asian University for Women
20/A M. M. Ali Road
Chittagong, Bangladesh
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Fax: (880) 31.2854988
admissions@asian-university.org

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ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN



AUV –
Chittagong,
Bangladesh

The Asian University for Women (AUW), located in Chittagong, Bangladesh, 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. The medium of instruction at AUW is English.

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