

The **Asian University for Women (AUW)** prepares young women of high ability and potential to become thoughtful, ethical leaders ready to meet society's challenges and effect positive change in the region and the wider world.

Our Students

For the 2010-2011 academic year, AUW's exceptional students will represent 13 countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The continuing diversity of our student body enhances the international learning experience promised by our University. At the same time, despite their varied backgrounds, these young women are united by their abilities, talents, potential, and commitment to investing in their own education.



Many of our students have already made significant achievements. For example, two first-year undergraduates have published investigative articles in *Dispatches International*, a publication focused on important yet underreported global issues. Several of our students were also selected to attend the 2009 Information Communication Technologies for Development (ICT4D) Conference in Qatar. Three of our students were finalists in a World Bank-sponsored essay competition about climate change. Another student was invited to speak in the UK about the effect of media in development. The pace of our students' learning and critical insights continues to inspire us.

Current samples of student work are on the AUW website: <http://www.asian-university.org/admission/studentwork.htm>

AUW Charter

On September 25, 2006, the Parliament of Bangladesh ratified the AUW Charter, the first document of its kind in the region. This groundbreaking charter guarantees our institution's academic freedom, institutional autonomy, policies of non-discrimination, and independence from political interference, as well as exemption from a host of bureaucratic and regulatory procedural requirement that often impede development progress.

Admissions

Admission to AUW is strictly merit-based. The AUW Admissions Office relies on designated Country Coordinators in each individual target country, who are drawn from AUW's partner organizations, including universities and colleges, high performing schools, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), local ministries of education, and other public and private education networks. For instance, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) helps us recruit in India, and BRAC assists us in Afghanistan.



Academic Programs

AUW aims to produce graduates who are equipped with critical thinking abilities that enable them to keep pace with the speed of knowledge change and transfer, as well as the competitive landscape of the professional world. The AUW curriculum is based upon the pillars of liberal learning, critical thinking, imagination and independence of mind. Our University offers a unique (1+) 3+2 model that includes:

- The Access Academy, a one-year, pre-collegiate bridge program for young women who are first in their families to ever pursue higher education, and who require stronger foundational skills to pursue a university education directly;
- Three years of undergraduate liberal arts training focused on the humanities, quantitative reasoning, natural and social sciences, with an emphasis on fostering critical thinking, entrepreneurship, communication and problem solving abilities;
- Two years of graduate professional training in one of AUW's masters degree programs, designed to meet the fast growing demands of the region; and
- Three sets of 12-week mandatory professional internship experience to expose students to fields of interest and begin to develop the networks so critical in today's job market.

All of AUW's academic programs are designed to provide a personalized, student centered approach to learning that allows students to develop their full personal and intellectual potential, and empowers them to respond to the needs of a rapidly changing world.

Extracurricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities expose students to creative pursuits such as art, music, and dance and enriching student's overall academic and social experience. Students join groups such as the Computer Club, Running Club, Independent Publishing Club, Yoga Club, Art and Photography Club, Community Service Club, Nature Lover's (Sustainability) Club, Volunteer Club, AUW Blogshop, and many others. Students also established their own Student Government. Physical activities such as karate and basketball enjoy great popularity among our students. Special events and field trips are regularly planned to enhance the academic curriculum.



Facilities

AUW leases facilities in downtown Chittagong for academic spaces, administrative offices, and student residences. All AUW buildings serve specific functions: we have buildings for student dorms, another for all administrative offices, and others for academic spaces—containing the library, classrooms, computer laboratories, study rooms, and faculty offices. Buildings in a residential area near downtown are for faculty and staff housing, making them close at hand whenever students

require additional tutoring. All our buildings are secure and patrolled 24 hours per day by trained security guards.

The A UW Library contains nearly 10,000 books, as well as a number of DVD movies, hundreds of music and learning CDs, and access to thousands of online journals. The computer laboratories contain almost 200 desktop computers. Students also have a gym, a dining hall, medical rooms, and counseling spaces.

Permanent Campus

The Parliament of Bangladesh donated 130 acres of land to A UW for our permanent campus. The A UW Support Foundation in Massachusetts, USA, commissioned renowned architect Moshe Safdie to design the campus master plan. The first phase of the master plan, called the Campus Centre, has been designed to act as a “mini-campus” by containing all core spaces while the rest of the campus is being constructed. The Campus Centre is scheduled to begin construction in September 2010.



Fellowships

Fellowships are an avenue through which A UW partners with a friend of the project to mobilize scholarship support. For example, ten Cherie Blair Fellowships, created through a partnership with the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women, were awarded to students who exhibit outstanding leadership abilities. The University is also working to launch the Allan Rosenfield Fellowships, created in memoriam of our strong advocate, Dr. Rosenfield, the legendary former dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. These fellowships are intended to honor the late champion of women’s health by supporting a select group of A UW student who wish to pursue a career in public health or medicine. We also aim to launch the Muhammad Yunus Fellowships for students demonstrating entrepreneurial skills and a dedication to community service.



Partners/Associations

The Asian University for Women has forged several institutional partnerships in order to provide top-quality academic programs to its students. We have partnered with Imperial College in the UK for the M.S. in Environmental Engineering and Sustainable Development. Stanford University provides two postdoctoral fellows to teach the undergraduate program, and will also host a summer exchange program for selected students. The University of Toronto runs a cyber-mentoring program for our Access Academy students. We are planning out the details for collaboration with Politecnico di Torino in Italy. Finally, Grameen Bank helps with student recruitment in rural Bangladesh.