

1.3.3 Low-income student support

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) is committed to facilitating the academic pursuits of its economically disadvantaged students through a comprehensive range of integrated programs and services. This ensures their continuous educational progress without financial barriers, in line with the principles of educational equity and equal learning opportunities.

The Dean of Student Affairs oversees the administration of these support mechanisms in coordination with the Housing, Catering, and Social Services Departments within the Academy.

Areas of support include the following:

Housing:

Allocation of residential units within university housing complexes at nominal fees for students facing financial difficulties, with the possibility of full exemption in exceptional social circumstances following evaluation by a specialized committee. <u>Accommodation Services</u>

Food and Nutrition Support:

Provision of subsidized or free meals for students residing in university housing who come from low-income backgrounds, thereby ensuring access to essential nutrition throughout their academic studies.

<u>Catering Services</u> Students Nutrition

Financial Assistance:

Granting exceptional financial aid to students who are unable to meet their academic obligations, subject to review and approval by the Student Affairs Administration in coordination with the Financial Department. *Financial Aid Form*

Transportation Services:

Providing subsidized public transportation options for students residing in areas distant from the main academic campus located in Alexandria Governorate.

Legal and Social Services:

Offering legal and social counseling to students through the Student Investigation Department to ensure their protection and support in overcoming personal or academic challenges that may hinder their educational goals.

<u>Students Support and Expatriates Affairs</u> <u>Student Investigation Department</u>

Financial support from charitable organizations and scientific institutions

During the academic year 2023/2024, the Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) continued to strengthen its partnerships with various philanthropic and private sector organizations and scientific institutions to enhance



educational accessibility and support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through these collaborations, a total of 188 students received fully or partially funded scholarships. Among these are 22 students sponsored by the Abu El-Enein Foundation, 14 students supported by the Eastern Triangle Consulting Company, 31 students funded through the Sawiris Foundation, and 22 students sponsored by the Misr El-Kheir Foundation in addition to a good number of other students who received scholarships from scientific institutions. These partnerships reflect AASTMT's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty) by promoting social equity, reducing financial barriers to higher education, and empowering youth through inclusive educational opportunities.

Protocols & Partnerships with Charities Institutions

Within the framework of the social responsibility undertaken by the Arab Academy, not only for its male and female students, but also towards the local, regional and Arab community, the Academy always plays a supportive role for the parents of the students who are financially distressed and unable to fulfill their full academic dues.

Specifically, for this purpose, the President of the Academy gave directions for the establishment of the Student Support Department in the Deanery of Student Affairs to receive, study, and decide on such cases through social support and case study committees, so that it is possible for all students to regularly study and register courses, and to fully concentrate on the educational process and academic and scholastic achievement.

Providing support for low-income families (food, housing, transportation, etc.) can be free or subsidized according to their financial aid agreement.

Student social support

During 2023/ 2024, the Academy has strengthened and streamlined its Social Support procedures to better assist students facing financial hardship. Requests for support are submitted through the following channels:

- The Department of Student Support for Social Cases at the Deanery of Student Affairs, which receives students and parents, verifies required documents, evaluates cases against established criteria, and prepares files for review by the Social Support Committees before submitting recommendations to the President of the Academy for final approval.
- Requests forwarded by the Deanery of Admission and Registration for critical academic cases that require exceptional support due to severe financial constraints.
- Delegated agencies and partner organizations that sponsor students with special social conditions.

Target group

Social support is directed toward students whose financial circumstances, or those of their families, do not adequately cover:

- Tuition fees
- Transportation



- Housing
- Nutrition

This year, the Academy aims to increase financial support coverage to 10% –15% of new students each semester, provided that all supporting documents are submitted and verified.

Responsibilities

The Academy has enhanced its mechanisms to identify and support students whose resources are insufficient to cover tuition fees and related costs. Responsibility for identifying eligible students lies with the following departments:

- Financial Affairs
- Admission
- Student Affairs

Students may receive full or partial support based on the case study, in addition to moral and academic guidance provided by college deans, department heads, college support teams, the Deanery of Admission and Registration, and the Deanery of Student Affairs.

Conditions for Applying for and Maintaining Student Support

- The student must maintain a minimum semester or cumulative GPA of 2.4 when applying for exceptional support. If a supported student's GPA falls below 2.4, support is suspended until the GPA is raised to the required level.
- The student must not have received disciplinary penalties for violating the Academy's conduct regulations.
- The student must submit verified supporting documents proving eligibility, such as death certificates, certified medical reports, parental separation documents, or a social research report confirming financial need.
- Original documents must be presented for verification, with copies attached to the support application form.
- Discounts apply only to the credit hours of courses registered for the first time, and do not include administrative fees.
- Discounts do not apply to repeated, improved, or failed courses, nor to outstanding debts, unless explicitly approved by His Excellency the President of the Academy.
- The Social Support Committee (each semester), with the meeting scheduled in advance by His Excellency the President of the Academy to ensure timely decisions.
 This enables parents to settle fees, complete course registration, and make necessary family arrangements.

Please refer to the Admissions webpage for

AASTMT Financial Aid

Conditions for Applying for and Continuity of Student Support



Additional Links for student support on Admissions webpage:

<u>Students Support and Expatriates Affairs</u> <u>Student Support Funds</u> <u>Students Nutrition</u>

Financial support rates

- During 2023/ 2024, the Academy has strengthened its regulations to better support financially distressed students. Full or partial assistance has been allocated each semester based on individual case assessments or donor contributions, with every application reviewed thoroughly once the required documents are submitted.
- Support for Arab students has also improved this year, as eligible Arab nationals
 continue to benefit from tuition fees calculated at the same rate as Egyptian students,
 reducing financial pressure and enhancing access to education.
- The Academy has expanded its scholarship offerings for Arab students, with support levels ranging from 30% to 70%. This reflects an increased commitment to helping more students pursue their academic goals.
- Tuition fee discounts for Arab graduates have been enhanced as well, thus ranging from 25% to 30% each semester. All cases are reviewed by the Financial Support Committees, and the approved discount rates are then validated by His Excellency the President of the Academy before being applied.
- Additionally, the Academy has increased the number of full scholarships available to students from developing countries, both at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, provided they maintain strong academic performance. This expansion highlights the Academy's ongoing efforts to promote excellence and broaden educational opportunities.