1.3.3 Low-income student support

2024/2025

1. Institutional Commitment and Administration

The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AASTMT) provides a range of financial, social and subsidised support services to help students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds continue their university education. These measures are intended to reduce financial barriers to access and progression and to promote educational equity and equal learning opportunities. In 2024/2025, 10,498 low-income students (34.7% of the 30,269 enrolled students) received financial aid.

The Deanery of Student Affairs oversees the administration of student support in coordination with the Housing, Catering and Social Services Departments. The Student Support Department for Social Cases receives applications, verifies supporting documents, evaluates cases and submits recommendations to the relevant Social Support Committees and the President of the Academy for final approval.

2. Subsidised and Essential Student Services

Support is provided free of charge where the assessed case requires it (free accommodation, free meals, and tuition waivers of up to 100%), and otherwise at subsidised rates, according to the individual case study and the support decision.

2.1 Housing

Students facing financial difficulties are allocated residential units in university housing complexes at nominal fees. In exceptional social circumstances, a specialised committee grants full exemption, providing accommodation free of charge.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Student Accommodation Services

2.2 Food and Nutrition

Students from low-income backgrounds who live in the on-campus residences receive subsidized or free meal plans, which take a regular cost out of their monthly budget. The admissions and financial-aid framework also includes need-based waivers and tuition support for low-income families and for families whose circumstances have been disrupted, securing access to essential nutrition throughout their studies.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Catering Services

AASTMT Student Nutrition Services

2.3 Transportation

Subsidised public transportation options are available to students residing in areas distant from the main academic campus in Alexandria Governorate.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Student Transportation Services

2.4 Legal and Social Support

Students may access legal and social counselling through the Student Investigation Department and relevant student-support services. These services are intended to help students address personal or academic challenges that may affect their educational progress.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Student Support and Expatriates Affairs
AASTMT Student Investigation Department

2.5 Exceptional Financial Assistance

Exceptional financial assistance is granted to students who are unable to meet their academic financial obligations. Applications are reviewed by Student Affairs in coordination with the Financial Department. Approved support is full (up to 100%) or partial and covers tuition fees and related costs, according to the individual case assessment.

3. Student Social Support: Application, Assessment and Eligibility

During the 2024/2025 academic year, applications for support from students experiencing financial hardship were received through:

- The Department of Student Support for Social Cases at the Deanery of Student Affairs, which receives students and parents, verifies documents, assesses cases against established criteria and prepares files for the Social Support Committees.
- The Deanery of Admission and Registration, which may refer critical academic cases requiring exceptional support because of severe financial constraints.
- Delegated agencies and partner organisations sponsoring students with special social circumstances.

The target group comprises students whose own or family resources are insufficient to cover one or more of the following:

- Tuition fees
- Transportation
- Housing
- Nutrition

Under Strategy 1 of the Prosperous Life Policy, AASTMT targets financial support for 10% to 15% of new students each semester, equivalent to 921 to 1,382 of the 9,213 students who started a degree in 2024/2025, subject to verification of the required supporting documents. Prosperous Life Policy

The identification and review process involves the Financial Affairs, Admission and Student Affairs departments. Support may be full or partial, based on an individual case study. Academic and moral guidance may also be provided by college deans, department heads, college support teams, the Deanery of Admission and Registration and the Deanery of Student Affairs.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Financial Aid Application Form
AASTMT Financial Support for Students: Tuition Fees Unit

3.1 Conditions for Applying for and Maintaining Support

- The student must maintain a minimum semester or cumulative GPA of 2.4 when applying for exceptional support. If the GPA of a supported student falls below 2.4, support is suspended until the required level is restored.
- The student must not have received disciplinary penalties for violating the Academy's conduct regulations.
- The student must submit verified supporting documents demonstrating 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 credit hours for courses registered for the first time and do not include administrative fees.
- Discounts do not apply to repeated, improved or failed courses, or to outstanding debts, unless explicitly approved by the President of the Academy.
- The Social Support Committee meets each semester to review cases and support timely decisions, enabling students and their families to complete registration and make the necessary arrangements.

Supporting evidence: Conditions for Applying for and Maintaining Student Support
AASTMT Student Support Funds

4. Financial Support through Charitable Organisations and Scientific Institutions

During 2024/2025, AASTMT continued its partnerships with philanthropic organisations, private-sector entities and scientific institutions, including Misr El-Kheir Foundation, Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, Abu El-Enein Foundation for Social Activity and the Agricultural Bank of Egypt, to co-fund full and partial scholarships for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Supporting evidence: AASTMT Partnerships with Charitable Institutions

5. Additional Tuition Concessions and Related Scholarship Support

In 2024/2025, AASTMT also applied the following tuition concessions and scholarship arrangements:

- Eligible Arab students benefit from tuition fees calculated at the same rate as Egyptian students.
- Scholarships for Arab students range from 30% to 70%.
- Tuition-fee discounts for Arab graduates are 25% to 30% per semester, subject to review by the Financial Support Committees and approval by the President of the Academy.

- Full undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships are awarded to students from developing countries, subject to strong academic performance.