

American International University-Bangladesh

Sustainable Development Goals Report



SDG 1: No Poverty

Contents

Support Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Students at AIUB.....	3
Scholarships for Low-Income Students	3
Financial support for students at AIUB	3
Scholarship (tuition fee waiver only) and Financial Aid Policy	4
Academic Scholarship for Regular Student:.....	5
General Need Based Tuition Fee Waiver	6
Scholarship for Students with disability.....	7
Scholarship for Students from Underrepresented Group	7
Anwarul Abedin Scholarship for female Undergraduate Students:.....	9
Hasna Abedin Scholarship: (Proposed)	9
Scholarship for Students with disability.....	10
Scholarship for Students from Underrepresented Group	11
Internal Financial Aid and Tuition Waivers	12
General Need Based Tuition Fee Waiver	12
Freedom Fighter Waiver:	13
Alumni Tuition Fee Waiver:	14
Volunteer Scheme	15
Mentorship and Guidance Programs	15
Skill Development Workshop on Microsoft Excel.....	17
Workshop on the "Basics of Bangladeshi Stock Market Trading for Beginners"	18
Additional Support Services for Disadvantaged Students	19

Support Programs for Economically Disadvantaged Students at AIUB

American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) has publicly committed to promoting equitable access for financially disadvantaged students, including those from the lowest 20% income bracket aiub.edu. In line with this commitment, the university provides a range of **scholarships, financial aid, mentorship, and support services** to help low-income students successfully complete their studies. Below is an overview of these programs, with details on eligibility and support offered.

Scholarships for Low-Income Students

AIUB offers several scholarship opportunities that can benefit students from low-income households by reducing or fully waiving tuition costs aiub.edu aiub.edu.

Financial support for students at AIUB

Through tailored scholarship programs, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) helps students from the lowest income bracket overcome financial challenges and successfully pursue their studies.

AIUB offers various scholarships and financial aid options to support students from low-income backgrounds, helping them to overcome financial barriers and complete their studies successfully. These initiatives aim to bridge the financial gap for deserving students, especially those from the bottom 20% of the income distribution.

The support programs include merit-based scholarships for freshmen, such as academic awards based on entrance scores and grades, and need-based tuition waivers tailored for students from low-income households. Additionally, the General Need-Based Tuition Fee Waiver program is available for students with proven financial hardship, requiring a high CGPA and completion of specified academic loads.

AIUB also offers specialized scholarships for female students, students with disabilities, and those from underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities and low-income backgrounds. These include the Anwarul Abedin Scholarship for female undergraduates and the Hasna Abedin Scholarship for postgraduate students, both covering 100% of tuition fees for students who meet strict academic and character standards.

Other unique aids include the Freedom Fighter Waiver and Sibling Waiver , alongside opportunities for part-time on-campus jobs and a volunteer scheme that provides temporary employment and experience for students. These programs, managed by AIUB's Scholarship Committee, allow the university to support students in financial need, offering them a pathway to achieve academic success despite economic challenges.

Key scholarship programs include:

- **Merit-Based Scholarships for Freshmen:**

Incoming students with outstanding academic results can earn tuition waivers. For example, freshmen who achieved top grades in SSC/HSC (GPA 5.0) or O/A Levels are eligible to sit for a competitive scholarship exam; those who pass with a requisite score may receive a tuition waiver in their first semester aiub.edu. (Top performers can receive between 30% up to 100% tuition waiver for the first semester, with renewal based on maintaining high grades in subsequent terms [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/aiub).)

Scholarship (tuition fee waiver only) and Financial Aid Policy

The purpose of this policy is to help the deserving students of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) to bridge the gap between the education cost and their financial resources.

At AIUB, the categories of Scholarship (tuition fee waiver only) and Financial Aid are as followings:

Scholarship

Academic

1. Merit Based Scholarships (For Freshman students)
2. Academic Scholarship for Regular Students
3. Dr. Anwarul Abedin Scholarship for female Undergraduate Students
4. Mrs. Hasna Abedin Scholarship (Proposed)

Extra-Curricular

1. National Talents Scholarships
2. Sports Scholarships
3. Club Scholarships

Financial Aid

1. General Need Based Tuition Fee Waiver
2. Freedom Fighter Waiver
3. Alumni Tuition Fee Waiver
4. Corporate Tuition Fee Waiver
5. Sibling Waiver
6. AIUB Employee Waiver
7. AIUB Employee Dependent Waiver
8. On-campus jobs
9. Volunteer Scheme

Note: One student is entitled to receive scholarship in only one category. If in any case, a student qualifies for scholarship in more than one category; s/he would be entitled to the one of higher percentage (as and if applicable).

Details of the Scholarship (tuition fee waiver only) and Financial Aid Policy:

Merit Based (For Freshman students) Scholarships:

The Applicant must have:

- GPA 5.00 (Golden) OR GPA 5.00 in SSC and HSC
- 5 (Five) 'A' in O-Level (at a time) and 2 (two) 'A' in A-Level (at a time); no grade lower than 'B'

Application Procedure:

An applicant fulfilling all the above criterion must sit for a Scholarship Exam and must pass with Satisfactory Grade (the Acceptable Passing Grade may vary from time to time and will be decided by the Scholarship Committee) in order to be a Recipient of Academic Scholarship/Grant. The number of recipients may vary from time to time and the Award of Scholarship depends on the availability of slots.

- **Academic Scholarships for Current Students:**

High-achieving students already at AIUB can apply for tuition waivers after completing at least one year (two regular semesters). Eligibility criteria include carrying a full-course load and maintaining a strong Cumulative GPA (for undergraduates, typically ≥ 3.75 with no grade below "B") aiub.edu aiub.edu. These merit scholarships are awarded semesterly, and students must re-apply in a regular semester once they meet the criteria.

Academic Scholarship for Regular Student:

The Applicant must have:

- Complete two (2) regular semesters (Spring & Fall)
- Can apply only in a regular semester.
- Academic load for regular full-time student:

Minimum Number of Academic Load (Program and Semester wise)

PROGRAM	MINIMUM NUMBER OF CREDITS (ACADEMIC LOAD)		
	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
Undergraduate	>=15	>=15	9-10
Graduate (except EMBA)	12	12	6
EMBA	4 courses	4 courses	2 courses

Effective Fall 2023-2024

- CGPA of 3.75 or above.
- Must not have grade lower than 'B' [undergraduate program] / 'B+' [graduate program] in any academic period
- No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete (I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)
- No Disciplinary Action Taken
- **Need-Based Tuition Waivers:**

AIUB provides **General Need-Based Tuition Fee Waivers** targeted at students facing financial hardship. To qualify, a student must complete two regular semesters at AIUB and then apply in a subsequent regular semester (applications are not accepted during the short summer term) aiub.edu. Applicants should have a **minimum CGPA of 3.50**, no failing or withdrawn grades, and carry a regular full-course load aiub.edu aiub.edu. Candidates undergo an interview (viva) to assess financial need, and approved students receive a tuition fee waiver for one semester (renewable if they reapply and continue to meet requirements) aiub.edu.

General Need Based Tuition Fee Waiver

The Applicant must have:

- Complete two (2) regular semesters (Spring & Fall)
- Can apply only in a regular semester.
- Fresh application is not allowed for summer semester.
- After submission of application concern department will arrange VIVA for the deserving candidates.
- The number of recipients may vary from time to time depending on the availability of slots.
- The grant shall be for one (1) semester and shall include waiver of tuition fees only.
- Regular academic load of at least 14-15 credits (Undergraduate Degree Program), 12 credits (Graduates Degree Program), 4 Courses (EMBA Degree Program) per regular semester.
- CGPA of 3.50 or above.
- No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete(I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)

- No Disciplinary Action Taken
- Scholarship Committee has the full authority to take any decision on this matter.

- **Underrepresented Group Scholarships:**

In support of inclusivity, AIUB offers scholarships for students from **underrepresented groups**, explicitly including those from low-income backgrounds aiub.edu. Eligible students must be full-time, meet minimum academic standards, and provide documentation of their underrepresented status (e.g. proof of low household income or minority status) aiub.edu. Applications are submitted to the Registrar's Office each semester, and the Scholarship Committee determines the percentage of tuition waiver based on need and an interview assessment aiub.edu aiub.edu.

Scholarship for Students with disability

The American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to provide equal opportunity to the qualified and deserving candidates regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, underrepresented groups, and national or ethnic origin.

AIUB promotes academic freedom among students with disability as a commitment towards inclusive society.

Scholarship is awarded to students with disabilities based on the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time student of AIUB
- Must have a disability as defined by the 'Bangladesh persons with disabilities rights and protection act 2013' and must provide documentation to verify this.
- Applicants must meet the minimum standards to qualify (number of credits/semester, GPA, CGPA, continuity of studies)
- Must submit application at the Registrar's Office within the given deadline of every semester.
- Percentage of scholarship will depend on the recommendation made by the scholarship committee based on their assessment of the application and/or an interview process.
- The final decision of the scholarship is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

Scholarship for Students from Underrepresented Group

The American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to provide equal opportunity to the qualified and deserving candidates regardless of age, gender, sexual

orientation, race, disability, color, religion, underrepresented groups, and national or ethnic origin.

AIUB promotes academic freedom among students coming from the underrepresented group (i.e., ethnic minorities, low-income, non-traditional*, 3rd Gender, newly settled refugee) as a commitment towards inclusive society.

Scholarship is awarded to students coming from the underrepresented group based on the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time student of AIUB
- Must have proper documentation to verify underrepresented group status as applicable.
- Applicants must meet the minimum standards to qualify (number of credits/semester, GPA, CGPA, continuity of studies)
- Must submit application at the Registrar's Office within the given deadline of every semester.
- Percentage of scholarship will depend on the recommendation made by the scholarship committee based on their assessment of the application and/or an interview process.
- The final decision of the scholarship is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

***Non-Traditional Students (Definition):** An applicant who has completed a degree that is equivalent to the requirement but not specifically mentioned in the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s list of requirements. [But the degree that is exclusively barred in the UGC list of requirements will not be acceptable]. The equivalency of the degree must be recommended by the admission interview committee/ faculty dean/ administration based on verification of relevant documents. The final decision of the admission is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

- **Special Scholarships (Full Tuition):**

AIUB has instituted several full-tuition scholarships aimed at empowering specific groups, which can also benefit economically challenged students:

- ***Dr. Anwarul Abedin Scholarship (Female Undergraduate students):***

Covers **100% of tuition** every regular semester for one top-performing female student per faculty aiub.edu. Recipients must maintain a high CGPA (e.g. ≥ 3.8) with no disciplinary issues and meet other leadership and character criteria aiub.edu. This scholarship encourages female students – including those from low-income families – to pursue higher education without financial burden aiub.edu aiub.edu.

Anwarul Abedin Scholarship for female Undergraduate Students:

This scholarship grant is established in honor of the late Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Dr. Anwarul Abedin. His vision in providing opportunities for female students to have greater access to university education augurs well to the national and international concern of narrowing the gender gap in the university. The grant covers only the tuition fee (100%) given to qualified female student every regular semester, Fall and Spring, based on the number of slots to be declared by the Scholarship Committee. (One per faculty)

Criteria for the Selection of Recipients (For Undergraduate Female Students Only)

- CGPA OF 3.8 and above
- No grade below B+
- Regular Full Time/Full Credit, 12-15 credits with no semester gap
- Certification of No Disciplinary Action (to be issued by OSA)
- Certification of Good Moral Character (to be issued by OSA)
- Membership in any AIUB Club
- Certification of Active Participation in Department/Course Extra Curricular Activities (e.g., volunteer, organizer of seminars, workshops, competitions, etc.)
- Not a recipient of any kind of scholarship/financial assistance provided by the university or any other organization.

The renewal of the Grant every regular semester is subject to maintaining the CGPA and other criteria prescribed above.

○ *Mrs. Hasna Abedin Scholarship (Postgraduate students):*

Provides **100% tuition coverage** for one meritorious Master's student in each faculty (established in honor of a founder) aiub.edu. Eligible candidates need an exemplary academic record (CGPA ≥ 3.8 , no grade below B+) and active engagement in research or social welfare activities aiub.edu.

Hasna Abedin Scholarship: (Proposed)

This scholarship grant is established in honor of the late Founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), Mrs. Hasna Abedin. Her vision in strengthening higher education and concentration in specialization and research. The grant covers only the tuition fee (100%) given to qualified post graduate student every regular semester, Fall and Spring, based on the number of slots to be declared by the Scholarship Committee. (One per faculty)

Criteria for the Selection of Recipients (For Postgraduate Students Only)

- CGPA OF 3.8 and above

- No grade below B+
- Regular Full Time/Full Credit, 12 credits with no semester gap
- Certification of No Disciplinary Action (to be issued by OSA)
- Certification of Active Participation in Department/Course Extra Curricular/ Social Welfare/ Research Activities.
- Not a recipient of any kind of scholarship/financial assistance provided by the university or any other organization.

The renewal of the Grant every regular semester is subject to maintaining the CGPA and other criteria prescribed above.

○ ***Disability and Minority Scholarships:***

Students with disabilities and students from certain minority backgrounds can also receive tuition waivers. AIUB's policy ensures **students with disabilities** are given equal opportunity; those who provide official documentation of a disability and meet academic continuity standards may be recommended for partial tuition waivers by the committee aiub.edu aiub.edu. Likewise, students from marginalized communities (ethnic minorities, third-gender, refugees, etc.) are considered under the **underrepresented group scholarship**, as noted above, which encompasses low-income status aiub.edu.

Scholarship for Students with disability

The American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to provide equal opportunity to the qualified and deserving candidates regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, underrepresented groups, and national or ethnic origin.

AIUB promotes academic freedom among students with disability as a commitment towards inclusive society.

Scholarship is awarded to students with disabilities based on the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time student of AIUB
- Must have a disability as defined by the 'Bangladesh persons with disabilities rights and protection act 2013' and must provide documentation to verify this.
- Applicants must meet the minimum standards to qualify (number of credits/semester, GPA, CGPA, continuity of studies)
- Must submit application at the Registrar's Office within the given deadline of every semester.
- Percentage of scholarship will depend on the recommendation made by the scholarship committee based on their assessment of the application and/or an interview process.
- The final decision of the scholarship is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

Scholarship for Students from Underrepresented Group

The American International University–Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to provide equal opportunity to the qualified and deserving candidates regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race, disability, color, religion, underrepresented groups, and national or ethnic origin.

AIUB promotes academic freedom among students coming from the underrepresented group (i.e., ethnic minorities, low-income, non-traditional*, 3rd Gender, newly settled refugee) as a commitment towards inclusive society.

Scholarship is awarded to students coming from the underrepresented group based on the following criteria:

- Must be a full-time student of AIUB
- Must have proper documentation to verify underrepresented group status as applicable.
- Applicants must meet the minimum standards to qualify (number of credits/semester, GPA, CGPA, continuity of studies)
- Must submit application at the Registrar's Office within the given deadline of every semester.
- Percentage of scholarship will depend on the recommendation made by the scholarship committee based on their assessment of the application and/or an interview process.
- The final decision of the scholarship is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

***Non-Traditional Students (Definition):** An applicant who has completed a degree that is equivalent to the requirement but not specifically mentioned in the University Grants Commission (UGC)'s list of requirements. [But the degree that is exclusively barred in the UGC list of requirements will not be acceptable]. The equivalency of the degree must be recommended by the admission interview committee/ faculty dean/ administration based on verification of relevant documents. The final decision of the admission is at the discretion of the AIUB Management.

Each scholarship or waiver generally requires an application to AIUB's Scholarship Committee or Registrar's Office, and students may only receive one scholarship/discount at a time (the highest-value award for which they qualify) aiub.edu. The university abides by national guidelines that at least 6% of its students receive full scholarships, including a government-mandated quota for children of freedom fighters (3% of students) aiub.edu, ensuring that a portion of seats are reserved for financially or historically disadvantaged groups.

Internal Financial Aid and Tuition Waivers

Beyond formal scholarships, AIUB provides **internal grants and financial aid** programs to alleviate tuition costs for students in need. These include various tuition waivers and discounted fee schemes, often based on students' personal circumstances. Key financial aid mechanisms are:

- **General Need-Based Tuition Waiver:**

As described above, this is a primary aid program for financially needy students. After completing one year at AIUB, students who maintain the required academic standards can apply for a need-based tuition waiver each regular semester aiub.edu. A committee reviews financial documents and may conduct interviews to identify deserving candidates, granting tuition fee waivers (for that semester only) to help bridge the gap between educational costs and a student's resources aiub.edu. Students must re-apply and continue meeting the CGPA and credit-load requirements to renew this aid in subsequent semesters aiub.edu.

General Need Based Tuition Fee Waiver

The Applicant must have:

- Complete two (2) regular semesters (Spring & Fall)
- Can apply only in a regular semester.
- Fresh application is not allowed for summer semester.
- After submission of application concern department will arrange VIVA for the deserving candidates.
- The number of recipients may vary from time to time depending on the availability of slots.
- The grant shall be for one (1) semester and shall include waiver of tuition fees only.
- Regular academic load of at least 14-15 credits (Undergraduate Degree Program), 12 credits (Graduates Degree Program), 4 Courses (EMBA Degree Program) per regular semester.
- CGPA of 3.50 or above.
- No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete(I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)
- No Disciplinary Action Taken
- Scholarship Committee has the full authority to take any decision on this matter.

- **Freedom Fighter Waiver:**

This waiver supports the children or dependents of Bangladesh's Freedom Fighters (veterans of the Liberation War). Applicants who pass AIUB's admission test can sit for a special freedom-fighter quota exam; selection is based on verification of official Freedom Fighter certificates, exam results, and the national quota guidelines aiub.edu. Those selected receive a **tuition waiver for the semester**, with similar renewal conditions (full course load, CGPA ≥ 3.5 ,

no failing grades) as other aid categories aiub.edu aiub.edu. This program fulfills government policy and ensures access to education for families who served the nation.

Freedom Fighter Waiver:

After successfully passing in admission test exam, applicant must sit for Freedom Fighter test exam. Scholarship Committee select them on the basis of appropriate Freedom Fighter papers (as per the guideline of ministry), Freedom Fighter exam result and University Quota policy (as per the guideline of UGC).

- The grant shall be for one (1) semester and shall include waiver of tuition fees only.
- Regular academic load of at least 14-15 credits (Undergraduate Degree Program), 12 credits (Graduates Degree Program), 4 Courses (EMBA Degree Program) per regular semester.
- CGPA of 3.50 or above.
- No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete (I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)
- No Disciplinary Action Taken

- **Sibling Tuition Waiver:**

When two siblings (or spouses, in some cases) are enrolled at AIUB concurrently, the university offers a partial tuition discount. The exact percentage of the waiver is decided by the Scholarship Committee, and the benefit continues as long as both students remain registered at AIUB aiub.edu. (Typically, only one type of discount can be availed per student, so a sibling cannot combine this with another scholarship in the same semester aiub.edu.) Students usually need to inform the university and apply for this discount by providing proof of their sibling relationship each term, per official notices.

15. Sibling Waiver

Sibling of a current student will be entitled to a percentage of tuition fee waiver as decided by the Scholarship Committee. Siblings must be registered in the same semester to be eligible for the waiver. The scholarship will only continue as long as siblings are registered students.

- **Employee and Alumni Waivers:**

AIUB extends tuition fee waivers to its own community. Children or spouses of AIUB's full-time employees are eligible for tuition discounts after the employee has completed at least one year of service aiub.edu aiub.edu. The waiver percentage increases with the length of service, as determined by the Scholarship Committee aiub.edu. Additionally, alumni pursuing further studies at AIUB may receive tuition fee discounts, and corporate partnerships can entail special tuition rates for employees of certain organizations aiub.edu (these are generally not income-based but reduce financial barriers for those groups).

16. AIUB Employee Waiver

AIUB Employees are entitled to tuition fee waiver after 1 year of full-time services. Percentage of Employee Waiver depends on the number of years the employee has served AIUB as decided by the Scholarship Committee.

17. AIUB Employee Dependent Waiver

First (1st) degree affinity of AIUB Employees is entitled to tuition fee waiver after 1 year of full-time services. Percentage of the waiver depends on the number of years the employee has served AIUB as decided by the Scholarship Committee.

Alumni Tuition Fee Waiver:

The Applicant must have:

- The grant shall be for one (1) semester and shall include waiver of tuition fees only.
- Regular academic load of at least 14-15 credits (Undergraduate Degree Program), 12 credits (Graduates Degree Program), 4 Courses (EMBA Degree Program) per regular semester.
- CGPA of 3.50 or above.
- No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete (I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)
- No Disciplinary Action Taken
- Scholarship Committee has the full authority to take any decision on this matter.

- **On-Campus Part-Time Jobs:**

Students in need of income can work part-time at AIUB to support their studies. Various university departments regularly post openings for **temporary student jobs** on campus notice boards aiub.edu aiub.edu. These roles allow students to earn money (and gain work experience) alongside their studies. By accommodating work schedules on campus, AIUB helps financially strapped students fund their education without compromising academic progress aiub.edu aiub.edu.

18. On-Campus Jobs

Students may avail the opportunity of earning through part-time on campus jobs. Based on the requirement of various departments of the university, temporary part-time jobs are circulated in the university notice boards.

- **Volunteer Scheme:**

The Office of Student Affairs maintains a volunteer program where students can assist in university events and activities. Volunteers are selected through a formal process and serve in roles during specific events (orientation, conferences, etc.) aiub.edu. While much of the student volunteering is unpaid service, for certain large events a **nominal allowance** or honorarium may be provided as compensation aiub.edu. This scheme gives students opportunities for campus involvement and networking; in cases of paid engagements, it also offers a small financial support as a reward for their time.

Volunteer Scheme

Office of Student Affairs (OSA) maintain a pool of student volunteers after they are selected through a selection process. Volunteers are engaged in various university events for a specific period of time. Most of these engagements are completely voluntary. For some specific events, if required a nominal compensation can be given to the volunteering student as a daily allowance.

Renewal of Grant:

Recipient of any of the Academic Scholarship/Grant or Tuition Fee Waiver mentioned above has to comply with the underlying rules consistently. The student:

- Must be enrolled with regular academic load of at least 14-15 credits (Undergraduate Degree Program) OR 12 credits (Graduate Degree Program) per regular semester.
- Must be enrolled in all academic courses during the preceding and subsequent semesters.
- Must not have any disciplinary record.
- Must have a CGPA of 3.75 or above with No 'Fail (F)', no 'Incomplete (I)', no 'Withdrawn (W)', no 'Unofficial Withdrawn (UW)', no dropping course(s) or no Retake Course(s)
- And must have an attendance of more than 80% at all times.

Note: In case a student is eligible of more than one scholarship/discount, only one scholarship/discount will be applicable; whichever is higher.

Application Procedures:

Information and application forms for these waivers and aid programs are typically available through the Registrar's Office or AIUB's administration notices. Students must apply within announced deadlines each semester (for example, need-based and sibling waivers often require filling out a form at the start of term aiub.edu). All financial aid is managed by AIUB's Scholarship Committee, which reviews eligibility and has discretion in final approval aiub.edu. Students are advised to maintain good academic standing and conduct, as most waivers demand a clean disciplinary record and consistent attendance aiub.edu.

Mentorship and Guidance Programs

AIUB recognizes that non-financial support is crucial for student success, especially for those who may be first-generation university students or facing personal challenges. The university has established **academic advising, mentoring, and counseling services** to guide students through their studies and personal development:

- **Faculty Mentoring and Academic Advising:**

Every AIUB faculty member serves as an academic counselor/mentor in addition to their teaching duties. Professors allocate dedicated office hours (around 20 hours per week) for one-on-one consultation with students aiub.edu. Students can meet their mentors during those hours or book sessions through the **Virtual University Expert System (VUES)** online portal aiub.edu. Through these consultations, faculty mentors assist with course planning, study strategies, and career advice, helping students – regardless of background – to improve their learning and leadership skills aiub.edu. This mentorship framework ensures that low-income students, who might lack academic guidance at home, have robust support on campus to navigate university life.

Academic Consultation and Mentoring

Academic Consultation and mentoring are unique methods of supporting students to improve their learning and leadership skills, motivating them towards their future career and professional development. At AIUB faculty members are also serving as role of a mentor/counselor for students. Faculty counselling hours are posted on the office door of the faculty members, and in addition it is also available to student Virtual University Expert System (VUES) portal. The standard allocation is twenty (20) hours per week for academic counseling and mentoring. This scheme is available for all students, regardless of religion, race, color, age, disability, nationality, marital status, sexual orientation including gender identity.

- **Academic Probation & Guidance Counseling:**

AIUB has an Office of Probation and Guidance Counseling (OPGC) dedicated to students who encounter academic difficulties. This office provides **special academic counseling** to students on probation or struggling with their coursework aiub.edu. Counselors help identify the causes of poor performance (which could be financial stress, adjustment issues, or study skill deficits) and work with the student on improvement plans. By intervening early with at-risk students, OPGC helps them get back on track to successfully complete their degrees.

Student Service Offices

- | Registration Department facilitates the overall process of course registration, adding/dropping courses, scholarships/waivers, etc. for all the currently enrolled students
- | Accounts Department processes all the semester fee payments, discounts, fines, etc. for all currently enrolled students
- | Office of Student Affairs (OSA) controls, coordinates, and initiates external and internal student activities
- | Office of Probation (OP) and Guidance Counseling (OGC) provides special academic counseling to students with academic problem or deficiency
- | Office of Placement & Alumni (OPA) provides support and information to graduating students and alumni regarding internship, employment opportunities and employment networking
- | Office of Research & Publication (ORP) undertakes the publications of the AIUB Journal of Business and Economics (AJBE) and Science and Engineering (AJSE), while introduced the first nationwide online series of working papers for business and economics
- | VUES & IT Support manages the 'Virtual University Expert System (VUES)', which collaborates with the University Management System as well as the Microsoft Teams Application for all digital database management and online classes

- **Professional Psychological Counseling:**

To support students' mental and emotional well-being, AIUB has partnered with *wEvolve* – a professional mental health organization – to provide on-campus counseling services aiub.edu. Licensed counselors from wEvolve are available on weekdays for **confidential individual counseling sessions** with students (and staff) dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, or other personal challenges aiub.edu. These services are provided free of charge. In addition to one-on-one therapy, the mental health support team conducts **psychoeducation workshops** on topics such as stress management, handling exam anxiety, and building emotional resilience

aiub.edu aiub.edu. Such life-skills workshops equip students with coping strategies to balance academic pressure and personal life, which is especially beneficial for disadvantaged students who may face added stress outside school. By prioritizing mental health, AIUB helps ensure that financial hardship is not compounded by lack of emotional support.

At AIUB, wEvolve provides:

- | Professional mental health support to the students and staff.
- | Individual counselling sessions for students and staff, psychoeducation for the caregiver of the student. AIUB students, faculty members and officials can book appointments directly with the on-campus expert counsellors of wEvolve during office hours on weekdays. Online counselling sessions are also available during weekends or holidays. The counselling sessions are fully confidential, and information shared during the session is kept strictly only between the counsellor and the attendee.
- | Self-Assessment for faculty members and officials for mental wellbeing.
- | Celebrate annual mental health day with AIUB student clubs.
- | Promote mental health awareness in the AIUB community.
- | Conducts workshops and information sessions on a regular basis focusing:

- **Career Guidance and Skills Development:**

AIUB's commitment to student success extends to career counseling and skill-building activities. The Office of Placement & Alumni regularly organizes career fairs, networking events, and seminars to prepare students for the job market aiub.edu. Notably, there have been workshops specifically aimed at **financial literacy and professional skills for low-income students** – for example, training sessions on MS Excel for data analysis and seminars on basic stock trading and personal finance, which impart valuable skills for future employment and money management aiub.edu aiub.edu. These programs foster self-sufficiency, so students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds can improve their employability and plan their finances wisely, complementing their academic learning with practical life skills aiub.edu.

Skill Development Workshop on Microsoft Excel

AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES) organized a Skill Development Workshop on Microsoft Excel on February 23, 2023 (Thursday). The workshop started at 10 AM with 25 pre-registered participants in DN0209, Building D, AIUB. The purpose of this workshop was to develop skill on Microsoft Excel to be able to pre-process and analyze data in a professional or academic field. Mr. Abir Ahmed (Assistant Professor & Special Assistant, EEE, Faculty of Engineering, AIUB & Motivator, ACES) began the workshop by emphasizing the significance of acknowledging Microsoft Excel in our day-to-day activities. After that he conducted a 3-hour long hands-on practice session from basic to advance level Microsoft Excel features. The instructor took feedback from participants and end the workshop with Q/A session. Following that, Dr. Md. Saniat Rahman Zishan (Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of CoE, AIUB & Mentor, ACES.) thanked the speaker and presented a token of appreciation to the instructor. The workshop ended at 1:00 PM with a group photo.



Workshop on the "Basics of Bangladeshi Stock Market Trading for Beginners"

The Department of Economics of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) has organized a Workshop on the "Basics of Bangladeshi Stock Market Trading for Beginners." on October 16th, 2023 at the AIUB Media Studio. The workshop was designed and coordinated by Mr. Zahin Syed, Lecturer, Department of Economics, AIUB.

The esteemed speaker of the session was Mr. Saihad Shahid Rahman, Lecturer of the Faculty of Business Administration, AIUB, and a Bangladeshi Stock Market Trading expert. Mr. Rahman discussed the fundamentals of stock market trading and gave valuable insights into investment strategies and risk management. He also showed a recorded live trading session to the audience to give them the trading experience. Lastly, he emphasized making informed decisions by analyzing the performance indicators of the stocks before trading.

The program was graced by Prof. Dr. Tazul Islam, Dean, FASS. Dr. Faria Sultana, Head of the department, and faculty members of different departments along with students were present at the event.



- **Personal Development and Peer Support:**

AIUB encourages students to engage in clubs and leadership programs as a form of informal mentorship and growth. There are faculty-supervised student clubs across various faculties, and participation is open to all students. The university especially encourages female students to take part in clubs and sports, offering dedicated facilities and even scholarships for active participants aiub.edu aiub.edu. Through such engagement, low-income students can build networks, confidence, and soft skills. Senior students and alumni often serve as peer mentors during club activities or alumni talks, providing guidance and inspiration to younger students (for instance, alumni-led career talks have addressed how to achieve economic self-sufficiency after graduation aiub.edu).

7. Club Scholarships:

The club scholarship is awarded to a selected number of students who are members of the AIUB student clubs. The student must have been a regular member of the club for at least one year and contributed in the achievements of the club. Percentage of waiver will be decided by the Scholarship Committee based on the contribution of the applicant in the club activities. The student must also demonstrate financial need.

Student support at AIUB

AIUB provides essential services, such as food assistance and digital services assistance to support low-income students in completing their university education. American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) provides multifaceted support to help students, particularly from low-income backgrounds, achieve academic success and personal growth. Initiatives include mentoring and counseling programs accessible through faculty and the Virtual University Expert System (VUES), which support students' academic and leadership skills. Financial assistance is offered through various scholarships, including the Dr. Anwarul Abedin Scholarship Grant for Female Students, covering tuition for eligible female students each semester. AIUB also facilitates access to basic health services, offering free medical care, specialized maternal support, and mental health counseling on campus. Accommodation options for students, including separate housing for female students, ensure safe and accessible living spaces near the university. AIUB has signed an MoU with Super Hostel to provide accommodation for both male and female students separately. Employment and part-time work opportunities on campus allow students to gain work experience and support their finances while studying. The university encourages female student participation in clubs and sports, supporting them with dedicated facilities, leadership roles, and scholarships. Through these comprehensive programs, AIUB fosters an inclusive environment that addresses the academic, health, financial, and personal needs of low-income students, helping them thrive.

Overall, AIUB's mentorship and counseling ecosystem addresses both academic guidance and personal well-being, ensuring that students from financially challenged backgrounds have the support system necessary to thrive in a university environment.

Additional Support Services for Disadvantaged Students

In addition to financial aid and mentoring, AIUB has implemented other support services **tailored to the needs of economically disadvantaged students** to help them persist and succeed:

- **Food Assistance Program:**

To combat hunger and ensure no student studies on an empty stomach, AIUB runs food assistance initiatives. The campus has a **food pantry and low-cost cafeteria options** that benefit students and staff facing food insecurity aiub.edu aiub.edu. These programs, aligned with the university's "Zero Hunger" goal (SDG 2), provide free or subsidized meals and grocery staples to those in need, making sure that low-income students can access nutritious food on campus without added financial strain.

The university emphasizes sustainable food choices by offering healthy, affordable vegetarian and vegan options in all its food outlets. To combat hunger, AIUB provides food assistance programs such as food pantries, benefiting both students and staff experiencing food insecurity. These initiatives align with efforts to ensure access to nutritious food on campus.

- **Digital Access Support:**

Recognizing the digital divide, AIUB offers *digital services assistance* to help financially strapped students access technology needed for their studies aiub.edu. The university provides extensive free computing facilities and Wi-Fi on campus, and during remote learning periods it facilitated online access for students who lacked devices or internet at home daily-sun.com. By ensuring availability of computer labs, e-library resources, and technical support, AIUB helps low-income students fully participate in coursework and research that increasingly require digital tools.

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- **Healthcare and Wellness:**

AIUB's Medical Center provides **free healthcare services** to all students and employees on campus aiub.edu. This includes basic medical consultations, emergency first aid, diabetic monitoring, and special provisions for female health (such as maternal care) aiub.edu. By offering on-campus doctors and nurses at no cost, the university relieves students of healthcare expenses and worries. In addition, the earlier-mentioned mental health counseling (wEvolve) is part of this wellness support. These health services ensure that illness or stress does not derail a student's education simply because they cannot afford care aiub.edu.

- **Affordable Accommodation:**

For students coming from outside Dhaka or who cannot afford independent housing, AIUB facilitates **affordable accommodation** near campus. The university has partnered with private dormitories – for instance, signing an MoU with “Super Hostel” – to secure **separate hostels for male and female students** with modern amenities and supervision aiub.edu. Students can avail these housing options through the Office of Public Relations aiub.edu. This support is crucial for low-income students who might not have family in the city; it provides a safe, convenient living space at controlled cost, allowing them to focus on studies.

- **Childcare Support:**

Understanding that some students (especially older or married students) may have young children, AIUB operates an on-campus **Daycare Facility**. This daycare provides a safe environment for the children of students and staff during class or work hours aiub.edu. By taking care of student-parents' children in a convenient location, AIUB enables those students to attend classes and study without the burden of childcare expenses or distractions aiub.edu. This is an uncommon but impactful support service that particularly helps economically

disadvantaged students who might otherwise have to choose between education and parenting responsibilities.

- **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Center:**

AIUB's EDI Center serves as a resource hub and advocacy body for minority and underprivileged groups on campus. It organizes diversity-related events, offers educational workshops, and provides resources aimed at fostering an inclusive environment for all students aiub.edu. For low-income students, the EDI Center can be a place to seek guidance and find community. By raising awareness and celebrating diversity (including economic diversity), the center helps ensure that students from the bottom income quintile feel welcomed and supported rather than isolated.

- **Student Success Initiatives:**

AIUB measures and continuously works to improve student success rates, with a focus on those who need extra support. There are initiatives such as **student success seminars, tutoring services, and skills workshops** (often detailed in the university's IQAC SDG reports) that specifically target academic improvement for struggling students aiub.edu aiub.edu. For example, skill-development workshops on topics like Excel, tax preparation, and career planning have been offered *free of charge* to students from low-income backgrounds, equipping them with practical skills to improve their academic performance and employability aiub.edu aiub.edu. These additional learning opportunities level the playing field by giving disadvantaged students extra tools to succeed academically and professionally.

Skill Development Workshop on Microsoft Excel: Equipping Low-Income Students for Professional Success

The AIUB Community of Engineering Students (ACES) organized a hands-on workshop on Microsoft Excel on February 23, 2023, aimed at empowering low-income students with essential skills for data processing and analysis. Led by Mr. Abir Ahmed, Assistant Professor at AIUB, the workshop provided participants with practical Excel skills from basic to advanced levels. This initiative reflects AIUB's commitment to SDG1 by supporting students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds with valuable skills to enhance employability and financial stability.

#SDG1 #SkillDevelopment #LowIncomeSupport #AIUB #ExcelWorkshop

URL: <https://www.aiub.edu/skill-development-workshop-on-microsoft-excel>



In summary, American International University–Bangladesh has a comprehensive support system for economically disadvantaged students. **Through substantial scholarships and financial aid**, AIUB reduces the direct cost of education for low-income students aiub.edu. **Through mentorship, counseling, and skill-building programs**, the university fosters an environment where students from all income levels receive guidance and personal development aiub.edu aiub.edu. And with a suite of **support services (healthcare, food, housing, childcare, and inclusive policies)**, AIUB addresses many of the indirect challenges that poverty can pose to completing a degree aiub.edu aiub.edu. These efforts reflect AIUB's mission of equitable access and its alignment with global Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that students

from the bottom 20% income group are not only admitted but are given every opportunity to *successfully* finish their studies and become future leaders aiub.edu aiub.edu.