Afghanistan Research Initiative

The University of Central Asia’s Afghanistan Research Initiative (ARI) aims to help sustain the research and capacity gains made over the last decade and continue producing knowledge critical to the country’s present and future. ARI, a programme of the University’s Graduate School of Development, is supported by a three-year grant from Canada’s International Development Research Centre and the Aga Khan Foundation of Canada. ARI is based at the University’s main office in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

This issue highlights scholarship opportunities.

Scholarships for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

- Fulbright Scholarship 2023 (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- AAUW Fellowship Programme (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Harvard University Scholarship (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Stanford University Scholarships (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Boston University Scholarship (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- ACI Foundation Scholarship (Undergraduate / Masters / PhD / Postdoctoral). Learn more
- Helen Hay Whitney Fellowships (Postdoctoral). Learn more
- Yale University Scholarship (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Bill Gates Scholarships (Bachelor’s degree). Learn more
- Google Scholarships (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Programme (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- KnightHennessy Scholars Programme at Stanford University (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Yale University Scholarships (Undergraduate / Masters / PhD). Learn more
- The HAAA Scholarship (Undergraduate). Learn more
- University of New Haven Scholarship (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- Georgia University Scholarship (Masters / PhD). Learn more
- University of Memphis Scholarships (Undergraduate / Masters). Learn more
- Onsi Sawiris Scholarship (Undergraduate / Masters). Learn more
- University of Minnesota Fellowship (Masters). Learn more

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Dr. Reza Khavari

Dr. Reza Khavari is currently working as a post-doctoral researcher at the Department of Clinical Psychology at the University of Konstanz in Germany since June 2022 which the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation supports. He received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2018 and a Master of Clinical Psychology in 2008 from the University of Kerala, India. He worked as a faculty member in the Department of Psychology at Kabul University and was a lecturer at various other universities. His research focuses on post-traumatic stress disorder, and he has published several articles in this field. He also delivered applied training courses in various therapeutic techniques for treating patients at Kabul University’s Psychiatric Clinic.

Dr. Tabasum Wolayat Niroo

Dr. Tabasum Wolayat Niroo is a post-doctoral fellow and a research associate at Old Dominion University Virginia Modeling, Analysis, & Simulation Centre, where she does social network analysis using Gephi software. Specializing in higher education, Mrs. Niroo focused on the refugee crisis, higher education, and comparative equity studies across gender, race and ethnicity with a keen interest in different cultures, particularly the role of women. He has five years of experience in government administration and consultancies that advance opportunities for women. She authored the first nationally implemented gender policy in Afghanistan that expanded social services to women. A feminist scholar-activist who established a secret school for girls under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, she speaks about issues facing women and girls through media engagements and public speaking events. Spent four years reporting current affairs and producing and presenting the award-winning Afghan Women’s Hour for the BBC.

Dr. Farkhondeh Akbari

Dr Farkhondeh Akbari is a postdoctoral research fellow at the Gender, Peace, and Security Centre, at Monash University. She focuses on diplomatic negotiations with extreme non-state armed actors, peace processes and women, and the peace and security agenda in Afghanistan. She obtained her Ph.D. in diplomatic studies from the Australian National University. Her thesis examined the characteristics required for non-state armed actors to engage meaningfully in diplomacy for peace settlements and looked at the cases of the Taliban in Afghanistan and the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia. Farkhondeh has work experience at the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and Afghanistan’s Independent Directorate of Local Governance in Kabul. Farkhondeh is also an activist, using her research to advocate for human rights – especially the rights of women and girls and the plight of the Hazara people in Afghanistan.
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