



UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Tertiary Education Support for Refugees in Azerbaijan

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees.

In the field of education, UNHCR Azerbaijan has been assisting primary and secondary school students, while limited support for students attending higher education is provided through UNHCR's Global DAFI Tertiary Scholarship Programme (*Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative*).

Recognizing that the DAFI Programme has certain limitations and competitive eligibility criteria and considering the socio-economic hardships experienced by most refugees in Azerbaijan, UNHCR **exceptionally** managed to mobilize limited funds to support refugee students with covering their **HEI** (Higher Education Institution)¹ and public **TVET** (Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institution)² tuition fees **for the 2024-2025 academic year**. UNHCR will cover these costs directly to the education institutions and the students will be expected to support the invoicing process. **The support extended through this Call does not constitute any future liability or responsibility for UNHCR in Azerbaijan or globally.**

The purpose of this intervention and support is aligned with UNHCR's global education priorities also embedded in the DAFI Programme:

- Promote refugee self-reliance through increased access to opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.
- Empower students to contribute knowledge, skills and leadership and to facilitate peaceful coexistence with host communities during displacement and upon return.
- Strengthen the protective impact of education by encouraging lifelong learning.
- Provide role models for refugee children and youth to demonstrate the impact of education on individuals, communities and societies.

Who can apply

Students currently attending HEI (*universitet, institut, akademiya və s.*) and **students who would like to start education at TVET institutions** (*Dövlət Peşə Təhsil Mərkəzləri*) in pursuit of an academic/professional degree in any field of study and who are not supported by the DAFI Scholarship Programme or any other scholarship programme may apply for this support.

Applicants **must be refugees** in Azerbaijan registered with UNHCR / Government of Azerbaijan and have valid refugee documents issued by UNHCR / Government of Azerbaijan.

Due to financial limitations, for those newly enrolling to educational institutions in academic year 2024-2025, UNHCR Azerbaijan will **ONLY** accept and review applications from students newly enrolling to TVET institutions – **NOT** to HEI.

Tertiary vocational and technical education (*peşə təhsili*) is an important way to learn one of the professions demanded nowadays in the local job market and upon graduation to have better chances to already start working and earning a

¹ Universitetlər, institutlar, akademiya və s.

² Dövlət Peşə Təhsil Mərkəzləri.

living. Various public TVET institutions in Azerbaijan provide this opportunity and UNHCR encourages the school graduates to strongly consider this option. Please visit [this website](#) to learn more about TVET institutions and available professions.

Students newly enrolling to HEI may still apply to the DAFI Scholarship which is administered separately under its own criteria.

Please note that the funds available for this support are limited and UNHCR will not be able to assist all applicants. The final decision will be made after a review of all applications to determine the scope of support required. The following main criteria will be used for prioritization purposes:

- Students already studying at HEI who are expected to graduate in 2025.
- Students newly enrolling to TVET institutions.
- Other students already studying at HEI. Among these students those with **higher GPA/credit scores** will be given priority, while students with **low academic performance may be rejected** – subject to availability of funds.
- In case of equal evaluation and prioritization status among certain applicants, female students will be prioritized.
- Persons with disabilities and persons from families headed by single parents will be prioritized.

Important note: During the evaluation of the applications UNHCR may use additional vulnerability criteria, that will be assessed through home visit to the applicant's place of residence. Application to this support program will be considered as the consent to the home visits.

How to apply

Applicants must submit the following documents to the **UNHCR Refugee Reception Centre** in Baku located at 41, Svetlana Mammadova str. (Nasimi metro station):

- Filled and signed Application Form (Annex 1)
- Filled and signed Statement Form (Annex 2)
- Copy of refugee document (issued by UNHCR or Government of Azerbaijan)
- Official academic transcript with GPA/credit score for the 2023-2024 academic year obtained from the education institution.
- If already available, proof of enrolment to TVET (*Dövlət Peşə Təhsil Mərkəzi*).
- If already available, official invoice from the education institution for the bank transfer of the 2024-2025 academic year tuition fee (the amount must be in AZN).

You may also send **scanned copies** of the above documents directly to the following e-mail address: azeba@unhcr.org with a subject line: Application for NON DAFI Tertiary Education Support + [Your name and surname]. In this case, no need to submit the paper copies to the Refugee Reception Centre.

Deadline is 17.00 o'clock, Friday 9th August 2024.

UNHCR reserves the right to reject applications received after the deadline. Applications without a signed copy of the Application Form (Annex 1), Statement Form (Annex 2) and without the official Academic Transcript will be disqualified and not considered.

For any questions, please contact Ms. Ayan Mukhtarli or Ms. Narmin Arshadzade at 055 749 61 14.