



American University of Armenia

Changes to admissions, tuition, and tuition assistance at AUA

Presented to Faculty Senate, July 11, 2007



Changes in AUA Admissions

- 1) Application deadlines have changed for all programs and program start dates have changed for some programs.
- 2) When students apply for admission, all official test scores must be submitted by the application deadline.



Changes in AUA Admissions

- 3) Students are no longer required to take English at AUA. We still offer it and consider it to be their best alternative for improving your academic English.
- 4) No more APP! Now is optional
Intensive English Language Center (IELP)
 - Open to anyone who wants to study academic English – not just AUA students



Requirements for Admitted Students beginning May 2007

- Writing Course (5-week)
 - Prior to their first term of studies at AUA
 - Those not successfully completing will take additional English during their first quarter of studies
- Computer Skills
 - Determined by each department
 - Can test out to show proficiency
 - Will take courses at AUA if don't test out



Tuition Fees (Current Schedule)

- Tuition for citizens of Armenia (or those with 10-year visa): 960,000 AMD per year or 320,000 AMD per quarter
 - This was first increase in 3 years
- Tuition for international students:
 - 3,300,000 AMD per year or 1,100,000 AMD per quarter
 - This was first increase in 10 years
- Student contract – locks in tuition for duration of academic contract



Financial Aid & Scholarships

- Scholarships:
 - Academic Scholarships
 - Named Scholarships
- Student Loans:
 - Low interest
- Payment plans:
 - Pay in installments
- Need-based tuition assistance:
 - Armenian Citizens



New economic realities in Armenia

- A small number of students can probably pay more tuition
- A small number of students would benefit from more assistance



A New Approach

- Charged by President to develop new system
- Formed task force: Lucig Danielian, Mary Lackie, Vahan Bournazian, Artak Hambarian, Gevorg Goyunyan
- Examined financial aid programs at several similar universities & consulted with AUB financial aid officer
- Met with RA Minister of Education & local board members
- Submitted new system to Deans for review
- Made changes from Deans' suggestions
- Final program approved by President & implemented Spring Quarter 2007



A New Approach

- Need-based tuition assistance
 - The purpose is to have a system of tuition assistance based on financial need
 - More assistance will be allocated to those with more financial need
- Goal
 - Academically gifted, but economically disadvantaged students, will have a greater opportunity to attend AUA



A New Approach

- Merit scholarship system ended (for first year students only)
- That money used to give need-based assistance
- Desired effect: Overall amount given to students would remain the same
- Actual effect: We gave more money because we increased aid based on tuition increase



Need-Based TA

- How the process works:
 - Students must apply for need-based tuition assistance using a form to gather information on income, assets, family size, expenses, etc.
 - While verification of need is difficult in Armenia, it is also the case in other countries reviewed by AUA that have successful programs in place
 - Information on students is kept anonymous and confidential
 - A committee of the academic administrators makes decisions on tuition assistance applications



Need-Based TA

- How the process works continued:
 - Some information submitted is picked at random to be checked for truthfulness
 - Home visits are made to all applicants
 - Penalty for false information will be inability to get any tuition assistance
 - Loan program and deferred payment plan will continue



Need-Based TA

- About the tuition assistance awards:
 - Students who are awarded additional aid must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 and be enrolled full-time in their program of studies (i.e. be in good standing)
 - Award is for 1 calendar year (3 quarters)
 - Award begins with their first quarter of studies



Tuition Assistance Summary Spring Quarter 2007

Total number of applicants:	52
Total number of approved cases:	40
Total number of denied cases:	12
Total amount of financial aid received:	20,112,000 AMD



Tuition Assistance Summary Spring Quarter 2007

864,000 AMD reduction awarded:	5
720,000 AMD reduction awarded:	8
480,000 AMD reduction awarded:	15
400,000 AMD reduction awarded:	1
240,000 AMD reduction awarded:	8
320,000 AMD reduction awarded:	1
96,000 AMD reduction awarded:	2



Tuition Assistance Summary Spring Quarter 2007

•Verification

- We visited homes of all applicants
(Recipients & Denied)
- We made phone calls and verified information
- We compared Tuition Assistance application information to Admissions application
- We awarded money to two people who were denied due to information obtained in verification process



Help us get the word out!

Rumor: AUA is only for rich people because they don't have merit scholarships any more

Reality: The opposite is actually true!

- Students can get tuition money based on need from their first quarter
- Old system awarded money regardless of wealth or ability to pay

Tell every student who inquires with your department about need-based tuition assistance



What should students do if they are struggling financially?

- Send them to talk to us! Make an appointment to see me or our Financial Aid Coordinator in Room 19.
- If a student is qualified and interested in AUA, we want to try to help he or she find a way to come here and study.
- We want to avoid students dropping out due to financial problems.



Changes at AUA

Questions?