Message from the Dean

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS) develops critical, independent and creative thinkers who are ready to embrace, and make a positive impact in, the changing world. Our students study how people understand and document the human experience, the relationships between people and societies and the ways individuals and communities express themselves. Students acquire advanced research and writing skills and develop intercultural communication practices, ethical reasoning and aesthetic appreciation. Our faculty encourage students to ask difficult questions and to use their imagination to deal with theoretical and tangible world problems. HUSS faculty members are actively engaged in their own research, which informs their teaching and offers students authentic work experiences. HUSS is closely connected to the larger community; students often apply what they learn in service-learning projects and community partnerships in both Egypt and the Global South.

Zeinab Taha
School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HUSS)

The heart of the University’s liberal arts spirit

The University’s hub for the core disciplines in the humanities, social sciences and arts

Unique opportunity to learn from top scholars leading critical research in fields such as anthropology, Egyptology, community psychology and political science

Teaches fundamental skills required in every field of work, from arts to business and politics, including creative thinking, observation, reasoning and analytical skills, persuasive writing and articulate communication

An impressive record of graduates entering leading PhD programs at renowned universities such as Harvard, Columbia and Stanford

Home to the Psychological Counseling Services and Training Center – the only university-based counseling psychology training clinic in the region

A thriving Center for the Arts that promotes student expression through original exhibitions at campus galleries as well as plays and musical performances hosted at AUC’s theaters

Countless doorways to Egypt’s rich intellectual, social and cultural life through collaborative research initiatives, experiential learning platforms, artistic programs, on- and off-campus events and festivals, and extracurricular activities

“Concentrating simultaneously on music and mechanical engineering has been a dream of mine for a long time, and I’m happy I was able to pursue it at AUC.”

AbdelRahman Bahieldin ’18
Mechanical Engineering and Music Performance Double Major
A previous recipient of the HSBC Bank Egypt Public School Scholarship, Mohamed El Shafie went on to pursue a law degree at Harvard University. While at AUC, he was awarded the Dr. Ahmed and Ann M. El-Mokadem Study Abroad Scholarship to participate in an exchange program with the University of Michigan. Among his many extracurricular activities, El Shafie formed a reading society between AUC, the University of Oxford and several American universities; shone as a skilled classical pianist and created impact in his community by teaching Braille and helping increase the number of Braille translations available to visually impaired individuals.

**Alumni Spotlight**

**Mohamed El Shafie ’17**

**Philosophy**

“AUC’s liberal arts education allowed me to see a great deal more than I would have otherwise. Professors in the philosophy department were always very willing to discuss theories with me. This is an experience that I don’t think I could have found at another institution.”

Mohamed El Shafie
Pave Your Path
Choose from a diverse set of programs

Faculty Spotlight
Mona Amer ’98
Associate Professor of Psychology
As the former chair of the Department of Psychology, Mona Amer was awarded the University’s Excellence in Academic Service Award. She has received a number of additional awards, including the Excellence in Teaching Award, Best Faculty-NGO Partnership Award and the Innovative Teaching Award. Amer’s clinical, research and policy interests have focused on minority mental health. She has been recognized for her pioneering work in developing training for providers offering mental health services to Muslim and Arab Americans.

43 undergraduate programs
14 master’s programs
10 graduate diplomas

10 departments: Applied Linguistics, Arab and Islamic Civilizations, Arts, English and Comparative Literature, History, International and Comparative Education, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology
Alumni Spotlight
Dalia Abbas ’13
Political Science

After her undergraduate studies at AUC, Dalia Abbas earned her Master’s in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), where she was presented with the HGSE Intellectual Contribution Award for her positive contributions to the university’s academic life and student community.
Community Psychology

AUC’s community psychology program — the first degree of its kind in the region — explores the most up-to-date global trends in the field of community psychology, while also providing students with expert guidance on ethical and culturally appropriate practices for application in Egypt and the region. Through experiential learning and mentorship, students are equipped with the knowledge and practical tools to tackle pressing societal and systemic issues via community-based approaches. The program took the lead in organizing the first community psychology conference in the Middle East and North Africa, held at AUC New Cairo.

Psychological Counseling and Training

Housed in the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdul Aziz Alsaud Hall, AUC’s Psychological Counseling Services and Training Center carries out a twofold mission. The center trains students completing their third year in the counseling psychology program to become skilled and ethical psychologists, in addition to providing counseling services to faculty, staff, alumni, students and their respective families. The center’s counselors are supervised by doctoral level psychologists who are also members of the Department of Psychology. In addition to counseling, the clinic’s community education workshops and ongoing support groups tackle a range of themes such as nervousness, sadness, anxiety and reconciliation of differences.

Faculty Spotlight

Jaime Mendoza
Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Psychology

Jaime Mendoza is director of the University’s pioneering Psychological Counseling Services and Training Center. Prior to joining AUC, he took up positions in numerous organizations across Southern California, including a counseling clinic, social service agency, academic center and consulting firm, focusing on training others on leadership, grant development and management, public speaking and self-growth.
Our community psychology program is the first in the MENA region to offer culturally sensitive interventions to communities that are dealing with mental health issues. We are proud of what our graduates have done to improve the quality of lives of individuals and communities in the region.

Hani Henry
Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Graphic Design

AUC’s irreplicable graphic design program revolves entirely around the studio experience, which offers students the chance to creatively express themselves, seek supportive critiques from faculty and build robust portfolios to elevate their careers upon graduating. Alumni have an array of professional options available to them, with doors open to career paths in publications, branding, web and broadcast design, exhibition and type design.
Mariam Ibrahim was featured on CNN and at the Global Grad Show in Dubai for her project Hale, a collection of hospital gowns designed to improve patients’ sense of well-being. Made with antibacterial materials, the gowns use sensors to track a patient’s temperature, blood pressure, oxygen and other vital signs.

Alumni Spotlight
Mariam Ibrahim ‘19
Graphic Design

Mariam Ibrahim was featured on CNN and at the Global Grad Show in Dubai for her project Hale, a collection of hospital gowns designed to improve patients’ sense of well-being. Made with antibacterial materials, the gowns use sensors to track a patient’s temperature, blood pressure, oxygen and other vital signs.

Faculty Spotlight
Bahia Shehab (MA ’09)
Professor of Practice of Graphic Design

Professor of Practice of Graphic Design Bahia Shehab founded the graphic design program at AUC, developing an entire curriculum focused on the visual culture of the Arab world. She is the first Arab woman to receive the UNESCO-Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture in recognition of an innovative project using Arabic calligraphy in street art. Shehab was also featured on BBC’s 100 Women list in 2014 and was selected as a TED Senior Fellow. Throughout her impressive career, Shehab’s work has been featured in exhibitions and galleries around the world.
Comparative Studies

HUSS offers a variety of comparative programs, including English and comparative literature and comparative politics, helping students harness the unique ability to draw connections across linguistic, historical, geographic, cultural and disciplinary boundaries. Students pursuing comparative degrees at AUC develop an in-depth and all-encompassing understanding of their field of study. They build robust critical examination skills and high levels of expertise that equip them to work around the world and make a meaningful societal impact through academia, policy, authorship and literature review, among other paths.

Alumni Spotlight
Haifaa Al Mansour ‘97
English and Comparative Literature

Haifaa Al Mansour has paved the way for female filmmakers in Saudi Arabia as the country’s first female director. She was presented with the Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in 2019 for culturally transformative cinematic work in the Arab world. She has also been recognized among CEO Middle East’s list of the 100 most powerful women in the Arab world and named by Foreign Policy magazine among the top 100 global thinkers. Al Mansour is most known for her award-winning films Women Without Shadows (2005) and Wadjda (2012).
Helen Rizzo serves as associate professor of sociology at AUC. She has published a number of works on public opinion, citizenship rights and the democratization process in Kuwait. In Cairo, Rizzo has contributed to several women’s empowerment initiatives, volunteering for one of the Egyptian Center for Women’s Rights’ campaigns and conducting research for Harassmap, an initiative tackling sexual harassment in Egypt. At AUC, she is leading research focused on gender relations and gender-based violence in Egypt, drawing from in-depth interviews conducted with Cairo community members.
A Launchpad for Lifelong Learning

Break down classroom walls and transcend textbook learning

A vibrant campus atmosphere that encourages inquisitive thinking and discussion, with a daily schedule of public symposiums, lectures and community events covering diverse subjects such as civil society in the Arab world, the intersections between art and technology and cultural tourism, among many others.

70 student organizations with opportunities to become involved in community service, student government, on-campus conferences or other special-interest programs.

Professors dedicated to providing vast opportunities for hands-on learning and immersion in AUC’s surrounding communities through internships, experiential assignments, practicums and partnerships with citizen-sector organizations.

Community-Based Learning

Students in Associate Professor Heba Kotb’s Educational Psychology course — one of AUC’s many community-based learning (CBL) classes — visit schools and nonprofit organizations in areas of need in order to get a sense of education in practice. In CBL courses, students learn through on-ground experiences serving University partners in the larger community. They are able to test their practical skills and keep a record of their observations, forming more questions and reflections for classroom discussions. These experiences also expose students to the variety of career paths available to them, allow them to develop connections with external organizations and contribute to their individual and professional development.

“‘They learn about diversity in the classroom, disability, motivation of students, learning styles and intelligence. Then, they observe for themselves what we see in the classroom.’”

Heba Kotb ’84
Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Psychology

Faculty Spotlight
Bernard O’Kane
Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture

Bernard O’Kane is the author of several books, including The Mosques of Egypt, The Illustrated Guide to the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo, Timurid Architecture in Khurasan and The Ultimate Book of Mosques and Mosques: The 100 Most Iconic Islamic Houses of Worship. He is known for directing the creation of the Monumental Inscriptions of Cairo database, which features translated transcriptions of epigraphy on Cairo’s historic monuments. O’Kane often brings his students to the Museum of Islamic Art so they can gain a firsthand look at treasures of Cairo’s vibrant history.
AUC’s Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN) and Cairo International Model Arab League (CIMAL) both send students to yearly international conferences, including the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conference in New York City and the National University Model Arab League (NUMAL) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The two organizations attract some of AUC’s brightest minds with a knack for debating and a keen interest in international relations, helping students build the foundations of negotiation and diplomacy. Both CIMUN and CIMAL have consistently received the highest awards at global events, including the Distinguished Delegation and Outstanding Delegation.

“By putting me on a platform for change, the Cairo International Model United Nations (CIMUN) provided me with a safe environment to debate and fight for issues that I believe in, while simultaneously exposing me to new issues that I was unaware of.”

Omar Zaky ’18
Political Science
Former CIMUN Secretary-General
Cultivating Curiosity

Dive into research as an undergraduate student

Opportunities for inquisitive thinking across all levels of the University community through participation in international conferences hosted on campus, collaboration with expert faculty and access to specialized labs.

Platforms for students to engage in original research or creative work, including the Undergraduate Research Journal (URJe) and the Department of Political Science’s student-run academic journal Khamasin, specialized workshops and the Newsletter for Undergraduate Research.

Funding opportunities to support undergraduate cocurricular research activities and additional support provided by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

Student-run publications, including The Insider, The Independent and AUC Times, offering students the chance to lead campus conversations and explore their own fields of inquiry.

EURECA Conference

At AUC’s History Day, students present original research to large audiences as part of the annual conference on Excellence in Undergraduate Research, Entrepreneurship and Creative Achievement (EURECA). EURECA offers undergraduate students a space to highlight their innovative work and celebrate the value of research across all disciplines.

A Day in the Life of a HUSS Student

Yasmine Haggag ’20
Political Science and History Double Major and Theatre Minor

8:00 am
Woke up early to beat traffic and snag a prime parking spot on campus.

10:00 am
Grab a breakfast sandwich at Tabali and a vanilla latte from TBS.

11:30 am
Government and Politics of Egypt with Associate Professor Maye Kassem ’89.

1:00 pm
Assembly Hour: No courses are offered during this period, giving students a chance to gather for a quick chat in the AUC Plaza or catch up on course work.

During Assembly Hour, Yasmine might get some writing in for the AUC Times, AUC’s creative writing magazine that brings together HUSS students of all disciplines.
An AUC political science graduate, Maya Morsy now serves as the president of Egypt’s National Council for Women. Morsy has helped shape innovative policies as a champion of women’s empowerment in Egypt and created global impact through positions with leading organizations such as the United Nations Fund for Women.
Collaborate with AUCians across all disciplines to serve your community

HUSSLab: With the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, HUSS launched HUSSLab, aiming to advance humanities studies both within AUC and across Egypt and promote public-oriented research. Since its launch, the center has worked to enhance the University’s resources, encourage dialogue between students and faculty, facilitate community outreach and build partnerships with local and global institutions.

Other Centers
Social Research Center (SRC): Supporting projects at both the national and international levels, the SRC is the University’s hub for multidisciplinary exploration aimed at informing policy formation, contributing to public dialogue and advancing the social sciences.

Center for Translation Studies: By bridging AUC with both regional and international institutions working in the field of translation and interpretation, the center serves to enable cross-cultural conversation and help translation theorists, researchers and practitioners develop the expertise to contribute to cultural, intellectual and political spaces.
Center for the Arts
The center serves as AUC’s portal for student expression and contribution to Egypt’s cultural and artistic fabric. The University’s Department of the Arts includes theatre, music, film, graphic design and visual arts programs. Through concerts, exhibitions, theatrical productions and film festivals, the Center for the Arts creates countless opportunities for the campus community to showcase their creative and imaginative work and for students and faculty to engage with artists and their work outside of the University community. AUC’s New Cairo and Tahrir Square campuses are home to both modern and historical art spaces, with exhibition rooms such as the Sharjah Art Gallery and theatres such as The Gerhart Theater and Malak Gabr Arts Theater.

Faculty Spotlight
Hania Sholkamy ’85, ’89
Associate Professor at AUC’s Social Research Center (SRC)

Anthropologist and AUC graduate Hania Sholkamy has led research tracing the influence of gender issues as systemic injustices on sexual harassment. As a women’s rights activist, she has lobbied for women’s independent right to receive welfare and pensions. In addition to her research at AUC, she serves as special adviser to Egypt’s minister of social solidarity on social protection issues. She is currently working on research dealing with women working in informal settings and the sexual and physical dangers and restrictions that shape women’s economic agency.

“Our work on gender at the SRC deals with the core issues that lead to sexual violence and inequality. Sexual harassment is a symptom of structural problems in social, physical and political spheres.”

Hania Sholkamy
A Host of Possibilities: Scholarships and Fellowships

Building a community of motivated leaders

AUC prioritizes the recruitment of outstanding and ambitious students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Around 118 named scholarships

More than $100 million raised to support scholarships and fellowships since the 1970s

More than 3,000 students per semester receive a form of financial assistance

Institutional and sponsored fellowships based on both merit and need

Guidance on funding opportunities and aid for all students

“The scholarship was life-changing for me. It expanded my horizon in a way that would not have been possible if I had not graduated from AUC. It fundamentally changed my perception of how education should be and gave me confidence that I could be whatever I wanted to be.”

Amr Osman ’00
Recipient of AUC’s Egyptian Public School Scholarship; Associate Professor of History, Qatar University; PhD, Near Eastern studies, Princeton University
You should not only be teaching people how to make a living but helping them to be able to live — the arts do that.

John Baboukis
Professor of Music and Director of the Music Program
AUC: Egypt’s Global University
For more than 100 years, The American University in Cairo (AUC) has stood as Egypt’s global University, home to an international student body marked by diverse areas of academic interest and professional aspirations.

We are committed to building a culture of creative expression and leadership, as well as fostering an environment that encourages students to form deep connections with their communities and think critically and innovatively in order to tackle the world’s most pressing challenges.

Delve into a transformative experience of self-discovery, inquiry and one-of-a-kind liberal arts education. The journey starts here at AUC.

The Middle East and North Africa’s (MENA) leading English-language higher-education institution

Located in the cultural and intellectual center of the Arab world

Accredited in the USA and Egypt

9 brand new centennial labs dedicated to tackling everything from innovation and education to technology and architecture

The only higher education institution outside of North America to be featured in The Princeton Review’s Guide to Green Colleges as one of the most environmentally responsible universities for 5 years in a row

AUC welcomed its first female student, Eva Habib El Masri ‘31, more than 40 years before Princeton and other U.S. universities started admitting female students

Has hosted internationally celebrated artists and renowned figures like Helen Keller, Noam Chomsky and Hillary Clinton

70 student organizations — ranging from student government to special interest clubs and student-run publications — for AUCians to engage on campus and in their community

The Greek Campus is home to Egypt’s first Downtown technology and innovation hub

First University in the region to implement a cocurricular transcript

First University in the region to offer a blended degree, in partnership with MIT and Abdulla Al Ghurair Foundation for Education

200+ partnerships with entities like Harvard University and King’s College London

260-acre campus in New Cairo designed by an international team of architects and ranked as the top green campus in Africa

First University in the region to produce a Carbon Footprint Report, serving as a model for other institutions across the Arab world

University-based startup accelerator and incubator AUC Venture Lab has accelerated more than 170 startups and created more than 8,000 jobs

10:1 student-to-faculty ratio

100+ years serving Egypt and the world

Almost 7,000 students from more than 60 countries

55% faculty from Egypt; 45% from the United States and other counties

Largest English-language academic library in Egypt

40,000+ active alumni making their mark in 129 countries around the world as part of NGOs, multinational corporations and foundations, and academic institutions

Five schools: Business, Global Affairs and Public Policy, Humanities and Social Sciences, Sciences and Engineering, Continuing Education

Tahrir Cultural Center in AUC’s iconic Tahrir Square campus
How to Apply
www.aucegypt.edu/admissions
huss.aucegypt.edu