



Annual Review
2020

Saïd
Foundation



Welcome



*Left: Wafic Saïd,
Chairman of Saïd
Foundation.*

*Image:
Greg Smolonski, Photovibe*

The year 2020 was a challenging year which left a profound impact on people's lives all around the world. Although it has been a year of grief and hardship, we have seen a renewed hope in the stories of people we work with every day.

The Saïd Business School succeeded in ensuring the teaching and research remained of excellent quality and above all, protected the safety of students and staff. The School's programmes are highly ranked globally, and with the Foundation's contributions to MBA and DPhil scholarships, it continues to attract talented and diverse individuals from around the globe.

The pandemic exacerbated the dire economic situation in the Levant region and I am grateful that our partners worked hard to adapt their programmes to be delivered remotely throughout the lockdowns to ensure the necessary assistance was still provided to the people most in need. Our humanitarian programmes focus on child protection and education in Lebanon, preserving Syria's cultural heritage and creating livelihoods in Jordan, and supporting refugee undergraduate studies in both countries.

Cover page: Ali Shahrour (centre right), the LebRelief focal point, delivering a Protection and Security session at one of the Safe Healing and Learning Spaces in Tripoli.

Image: Elias El Beam, IRC

We also welcomed a new cohort of bright students to the UK in 2020. Our scholars have shown resilience and are on track to successfully complete their postgraduate studies. These brilliant individuals join hundreds of our alumni who are making a positive change in the Middle East through the knowledge and skills they acquire at world-class universities in the UK. In this year's report, you will find case studies of some of our alumni who work in the healthcare sector, either providing essential healthcare services in their countries or contributing to groundbreaking medical research globally.

In 2020, we celebrated the historic partnership between the Saïd Foundation and the Rhodes Trust at the University of Oxford and held the inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum which brought together some of the most respected voices and experts to discuss the current realities of the Middle East and to propose solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing the future of the region. The Saïd Rhodes scholar community is growing with new exceptional students joining the Rhodes global community every year. The Rhodes partnership complements our scholarship programme and educational partnerships and is a continuation of the Foundation's commitment to academic excellence.

Finally, I would like to thank the Foundation's trustees, staff, and partners for their hard work and commitment, and I wish everyone a safe and healthy 2021.

Wafic Rida Saïd

**Chairman
Saïd Foundation**

Scholarships Programme



Some of our 2019-20 Saïd Foundation scholars

Image: Saïd Foundation

Since 1984 the Saïd Foundation has offered scholarships to outstanding individuals from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Our scholarships programme aims to empower people through educational opportunities and is targeted towards individuals who demonstrate the potential to become leaders and drivers of change in the region. Students who come to the UK for postgraduate studies gain skills and knowledge that they then use to contribute to lasting change in the region.

In 2019–20 the Foundation supported 30 students for postgraduate study at our partner universities in the UK. Scholars studied a wide range of subjects including artificial intelligence, genetics, immunology, built environment, sustainable energy systems and development.

Scholars faced challenges due the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in early 2020. As universities moved to online learning students had to adapt and some plans for final projects or dissertations had to be revised. Scholars experienced the difficulties of social isolation as the UK went into lockdown. In response the Foundation provided online pastoral care, including an online session with a mental health expert with experience working in the region, and stayed in close contact with scholars. Despite the challenges scholars adapted well, showed resilience and were able to successfully complete their postgraduate studies in the UK.

Scholarships Programme

In August an event was held for students to celebrate the end of the academic year. While the pandemic sadly prevented the Foundation's traditional annual dinner from being held, we were able to bring the students together to congratulate them on successfully pursuing their studies despite the challenges of the pandemic, in accordance with the COVID-19 regulations in place at the time.

The event started with a socially distanced session in which we were joined virtually by alumni from our four target countries, who shared their experiences and advice with the scholars, as they considered their plans after the scholarship. The session was followed by a visit to the London Eye and a traditional British afternoon tea at The Wolseley.

The event gave students the opportunity to come together again after a difficult time, to spend an enjoyable day in London and have a break from writing their dissertations.

2019-20 scholars at an event to celebrate the end of the year

Image: Rose Bouchard



Academic writing training for 2019-20 scholars

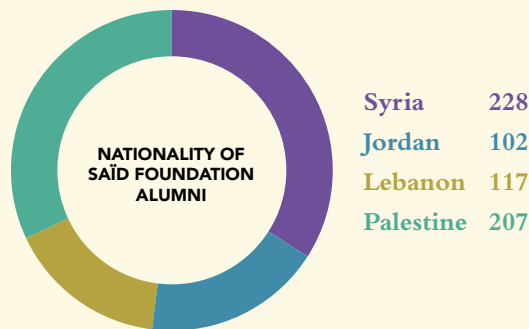
Image: Said Foundation



Scholarships Programme

Our Alumni

The Saïd Foundation has supported hundreds of the brightest young people from the Levant region to complete postgraduate studies in the UK. We pride ourselves on having one of the strongest alumni networks in the Middle East, where many of our alumni are leaders and decision makers in their fields.



Dr Maha Shuayb wins the Alumni Achievement Prize

The Saïd Foundation was delighted to award the prize in 2020 to Dr Maha Shuayb from Lebanon.

The Saïd Foundation Alumni Achievement Prize is an annual prize awarded to an individual judged by the Foundation's trustees to have contributed significantly to the development of the region and to have shown the positive impact of their studies as a Saïd Foundation scholar.

Maha was supported by the Saïd Foundation to study for an MA in Counselling at Newcastle University in 2000 and for a PhD in Education at the University of Cambridge the following year. She currently leads the Center for Lebanese Studies, an influential policy research centre focused on social cohesion and improving education policies in Lebanon. She also co-founded the Lebanese History Association. More details about Maha's work and achievements can be found on the Foundation's website.

Scholarships Programme

Spotlight on our Alumni working in the health sector

Dr Kinda Alshaikh Ahmed (Syria)

“Getting the Saïd Foundation scholarship to do a master’s degree in science enabled my goals and dreams to come true. Being a female scientist has been challenging at times, however my understanding that positive change takes time allowed me to utilise my capacities, concentrate my energy, and to determine my options to fulfil my self-actualisation and achieve a high level of accomplishment”

Kinda was awarded a Saïd Foundation scholarship in 2010 to read for an MSc in Molecular Biology of Infectious Diseases at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). Upon completion of her PhD in 2015, Kinda worked as a Postdoctoral Scientist in RNA viruses/host cell interactions at the University of Oxford. She then worked as a Research Associate in Gene Therapy at UCL’s Cancer Institute, before moving to work as a Research Fellow in Molecular Virology at LSHTM where she was awarded the Future Female Leadership Fellowship.

During her studies and career, Kinda has focused on learning the structure of viruses on a molecular level and manipulating viral genome for drug and vaccine development.



Through understanding the structure of these viruses, Kinda was able to generate a synthetic vaccine that mimics the structure of the live animal virus. This virus caused several outbreaks in the Middle East, Europe, and the USA, and caused significant economic losses to the dairy industry. Kinda has also contributed to the development of a reverse-genetics system for RNA animal viruses as an alternative approach to vaccine manufacturing.

Kinda has lectured, supervised, tutored, and mentored several students from LSHTM and the Saïd Foundation. Much of her work has been presented at international conferences and published in top-ranking scientific journals.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kinda’s proficiency in vaccine production allowed her to lead a project to develop a VLP vaccine against coronavirus using a novel insect expression system. She was recently appointed as AAV Senior Research Scientist in Chronic Respiratory Diseases at AstraZeneca, a multinational pharmaceutical and biotechnology company.

Scholarships Programme

Professor Said Ismail (Jordan)

“Winning the Saïd Foundation scholarship at Oxford was THE turning point in my life. Equipped with knowledge and confidence, I was then able to translate young aspirations into mature realities, one step after the other”

Said was supported by the Foundation in 1997 to study for a master's degree at UCL and a DPhil in Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.

He is currently the Director of the Qatar Genome Project (QGP) launched by Qatar Foundation in 2015. QGP is the largest genome project in the Middle East and one of the leading projects globally. It sheds light on the genetic makeup of over 400 million Arabs whose genomes have always been under-represented in the scientific literature. Such projects are paving the way for the implementation of precision medicine through which individuals will receive better and more effective medical care tailored around their own genomes, making ‘one-size-fits-all’ healthcare practices a thing of the past.

Said has experience extending into various fields including research, education and consultancy. He is the first president and co-founder of the International Society on Aptamers and is also an editorial board member of multiple international journals.



He was awarded the Shoman Award for Arab Researchers in Biomedical Sciences in 2013 when he was the Head of the Biochemistry Department at the University of Jordan's medical school. In 2001, he received the Saïd Foundation's alumni achievement prize for his work as a PhD student at the University of Oxford.

Said has a special interest in promoting research among young students. In 2014, he launched one of the largest efforts to enhance Arabic-language medical content on the internet: the “Bel-Arabi” or “In-Arabia” initiative (www.bel-arabi.com). This initiative involved over 9,000 medical students in five Arab countries, and tens of thousands of medical articles were translated into Arabic, making them available in simple language to Arabic-speakers around the region. He is also a Board member of the Phi Science Institute which aims to encourage young students to pursue careers in research.

Scholarships Programme

Dr David Menassa (Lebanon)



“The Saïd Foundation scholarship provided me with a transformative experience at a research-intensive university. I fell in love with medical science as a result of my year in Cambridge which shaped my future and significantly increased my academic prospects to lead research in the United Kingdom. I had the opportunity to become part of a wonderful alumni network and have kept close ties with the Saïd Foundation, to whom I am forever grateful.”

David was supported by a Saïd Foundation scholarship to read a Master of Philosophy in Bioenergetics at University of Cambridge in 2009. He was subsequently awarded a Clarendon scholarship to pursue a DPhil (PhD) degree in Clinical Neurology at the University of Oxford, which he completed in 2014.

David’s research focuses on the neurobiology of autism. After multiple impactful academic papers published in prestigious medical journals such as the Lancet and Nature and Neuron, and various postdoctoral appointments at Bristol, Oxford and Southampton universities, his interests have converged to examine a specific type of brain cell which is directly implicated in autism. He is currently based at the University of Oslo in Norway and also works as a lecturer of neurophysiology at The Queen’s College, University of Oxford. He is working towards establishing his research team to contribute to society as a leader in the field of neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, identifying how a specific brain cell type contributes to common diseases and how it can be targeted to improve people’s health.

David has had the opportunity to work with leaders in the field of neuroscience such as Professor Angela Vincent FRS (Oxford) who pioneered treatment in the field of autoimmune disease; Professor Ivica Kostovic (Zagreb), who in 1979 discovered the human subplate, an important structure in human brain development; and Professor Marianne Thoresen (Bristol/Oslo), who has pioneered neuroprotective treatments for babies diagnosed with brain injury at birth. These exceptional scientists continue to support his research, thereby contributing to building his international reputation in the field of neuroscience.

Though most of his academic training has been abroad, he participates in various platforms to recruit talented scientists from the Middle East to European research institutions where they receive rigorous training in medical science. He hopes that one day translational experimental science will prosper in Lebanon and will improve the quality of life of patients in suffering.

Scholarships Programme

Dr Nouar Qutob (Palestine)



"I was blessed to receive the Saïd Foundation scholarship. The Foundation's appreciation and support was pivotal in boosting my education at the University of Cambridge. My passion for science can all be traced back to those days at Cambridge and therefore I will forever be indebted to the Foundation for its belief in me. This is the reason that I will continue to support their efforts in encouraging the young minds of tomorrow to excel in their education and benefit their communities."

Nouar was awarded a Saïd Foundation scholarship to study for an MPhil in Biological Sciences at the University of Cambridge in 2007. She also completed her PhD at Cambridge in 2011. Her work at Cambridge involved investigating the geographic apportionment of MHC genetic diversity in relation to both demography and selection, and searching for individual geographic associations between specific alleles and single pathogens.

After completing her studies, Nouar became a postdoctoral research fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science. Her research work focused on using both genetic and functional studies to identify and functionally characterise new drivers in cancer. This work has drawn her attention to the field of cancer genetics and its strong implications for diseases.

She joined the Arab American University in 2018 as an Assistant Professor and is currently Assistant Dean for Scientific Research and Head of the Health Science Department at the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Her research focuses on the molecular genetics of cancer and diseases and she has a number of publications in this field.

Nouar is also the Vice President of the Palestinian Forum for Medical Research, a not-for-profit organization that was formed in 2010 with a main objective of supporting all those involved in basic, clinical and scientific research. The forum aims to encourage and further such research by encouraging inter-collaborative projects among Palestinian scientists, hosting workshops for Palestinian scientists and establishing a shared resources bank that can benefit medical researchers.

After the emergence of COVID-19 in Palestine, the Arab American University laboratories have been utilised for clinical COVID-19 testing and Nouar has been working alongside her colleagues to study the genomic epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 in Palestine and its antibody response in related COVID-19 studies.

Saïd Business School

In 1996, our Chairman, Wafic Saïd, agreed to help the University of Oxford create its first business school. Since then, the Foundation has gifted more than £86 million to the University to support the creation of a world-class business school embedded within a wider collegiate university.

Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

Image: Saïd Business School

The School aims at preparing business leaders for the task of making the world a better and more equitable place and has evolved to be one of the elite business schools of the world. The School offers 15 degree programmes and a wide range of online open enrolment courses, and works with a large number of companies and governments. The School's programmes continue to be highly ranked globally.

The Strategic Development Fund which the Foundation has created to support the development of the School continues to enable more talented and diverse students to join the School's world-class business community. The 2020/21 MBA class includes students of 67 nationalities, with 47% female participants and 12% of the class coming from Africa. Since 2008, the Foundation has supported over 350 MBA and DPhil scholars from around the world.



Saïd Business School



Image: Saïd Business School

In the challenging year of 2020, the School's focus has been on protecting the educational experience of students, the quality of the School's research, and most importantly the safety and health of the School's students and staff. Thanks to the Foundation's grants, the School is now providing more career support than ever to its students and alumni, which is particularly welcome during a period when jobs opportunities have narrowed.

In 2018, the Saïd Foundation agreed a gift of £15 million for the redevelopment of Osney Power Station as the Saïd Business School's Global Leadership Centre. The centre will become a unique catalyst for transformative learning and development, bringing leaders from business, government and civil society together with academics from across the University of Oxford. The redevelopment works were delayed in 2020 due to the pandemic but are to start again in 2021.

Saïd Business School

Saïd MBA Prize Winner - Carlos Blanco

The Saïd MBA prize is awarded annually to a student who has excelled academically, made an exceptional contribution to the classroom and contributed to the wider social and intellectual life of the School.



The 2020 Saïd MBA prize was awarded to Carlos Blanco from Australia.

Carlos worked for several years in different sectors to drive systems change in including at the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation, where he led an innovative program for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that helped redefine the narrative on indigenous tertiary education from deficit to excellence. He also worked at Nous Group, one of Australia's leading management consulting firms, where he redesigned service systems, developed impact strategies, designed new business and operating models, and supported organisations to develop and implement impact measurement frameworks.

At the Saïd Business School, Carlos was co-chair of the Social Impact Oxford Business Network where he helped to showcase the social impact superstars in his MBA cohort and connected his classmates to social impact careers. About his MBA experience at the Saïd Business School, Carlos said "I came to SBS wanting to explore in more detail the role the private sector can play to drive forward the Sustainable Development Goals. I have left more optimistic that purpose, impact and innovation in the private sector will play a critical role to address the complex challenges we face."

The Rhodes Trust Partnership

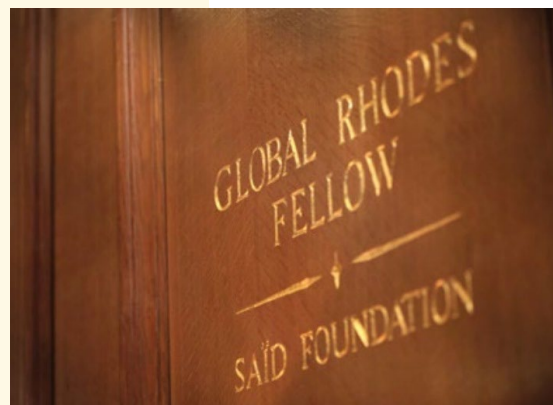


Saïd Rhodes Scholars with Saïd Foundation trustees, staff, and alumni at the Forum.

Image: Rhodes Trust and Lee Atherton

Every year, two outstanding students from the Levant region are selected as Saïd Rhodes scholars to undertake their graduate studies at the University of Oxford. This prestigious international scholarship was made available for the first time to students from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine in 2016 thanks to an endowment generously created by our Chairman.

The Rhodes Scholarship is a life-changing opportunity for exceptional young people who have the potential to make a real and positive difference in their countries and in the world. Each scholar spends two to four years at Oxford studying and researching a variety of academic subjects. There are currently nine Saïd Rhodes scholars, two of whom will graduate in 2021.



The Foundation became a Global Rhodes Fellow as recognised in this engraving in Rhodes House in Oxford.

Image: Rhodes Trust

The Inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum

*Around 30 Saïd Foundation alumni
were invited by our Chairman to
participate in the Forum.*

Image: Rhodes Trust and Lee Atherton



*Mrs Rasha Saïd Khawaja, Deputy Chair of the Saïd Foundation,
delivering welcoming remarks at the Forum.*

Image: Rhodes Trust and Lee Atherton

The inaugural Saïd Rhodes Forum was held in February 2020 to celebrate the historic partnership between the Saïd Foundation and the Rhodes Trust at the University of Oxford.

The Forum brought together some of the most respected voices and experts to discuss the current realities of the SJLP region (Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine), and to propose solutions to some of the most pressing issues facing the future of the region.

The Forum was led by Saïd Rhodes scholars, and convened more than 150 participants from the Saïd Foundation and Rhodes scholars and alumni, as well as scholars from the University of Oxford and other universities. It focused on three themes: economic development, health, and culture and education, and addressed the question of how the region can reshape its future based on those pillars.

Video recordings of the Forum panels and speeches are available to the public on the Foundation's website.



*Dr. Joseph G. Jabbra, Former President of the
Lebanese American University, delivering a
keynote speech during the Forum.*

Image: Rhodes Trust and Lee Atherton

Humanitarian Programme

‘This time last year, Lebanon was already hurtling towards what has become its worst economic and financial crisis. Now for Syrian refugees, the challenges they were already facing have become even greater. It is vital that this support continues so that those most in need - and the country as a whole - can get back on their feet.’

Matias Meier, Country Director of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Lebanon

In 2020, the war in Syria entered its 10th year. Over 6.6 million people have fled Syria since 2011, seeking refuge in Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and beyond, and 6.7 million are internally displaced within Syria.

Zaatari Camp in Jordan

Image: Saïd Foundation



When the conflict began in 2011, the Foundation provided emergency humanitarian assistance to victims. From 2014 it shifted the focus to educational programming with international NGOs. Thanks to the generous donations to the 2016 Hands up for Syria Appeal, in collaboration with the Asfari Foundation and the Hands Up Foundation, we were able to reach over 100,000 Syrians in need over the next three years.



An informal tented settlement in Northern Lebanon

Image: Saïd Foundation

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, from March 2020 all programmes were adapted by our partners and most activities were successfully delivered remotely throughout the lockdowns. Our current programme with the IRC in Lebanon focuses on protection and access to education for Syrian children and young people.

Our partnership with UNHCR's DAFI programme continues to enable Syrian refugees in Lebanon and Jordan to access university in their host country. Our work with Turquoise Mountain trains future generations in the arts and crafts of Syria, creates sustainable livelihoods and teaches children in camps about their country's cultural heritage.

Humanitarian Programme - Turquoise Mountain



Ten-year-old Ahmad from Syria in a geometry class. This class is part of the Cultural Heritage Outreach programme run by Turquoise Mountain in Jubeiha, Amman.

Image: Turquoise Mountain

The Turquoise Mountain Jordan project supports Syrian refugees in Jordan by offering education to children and young adults in cultural heritage and vocational training, by supporting Syrian master craftsmen with design and production development, and by connecting clients around the world with their workshops.

The outbreak of the pandemic was challenging as children had no access to education, young adults could no longer train for work, and for those already working within the craft-economy, their source of income was cut off. The team in Jordan adopted a remote teaching and training model to ensure that education and training could continue until it was safe to return to the classrooms again, and on the commercial side the team helped workshops realign to individual clients and larger contracts whilst waiting for their traditional clientele to return.

This year the project reached key milestones since its inception with over 1,400 children receiving cultural heritage education, nearly 400 young adults receiving vocational training and USD400,000 of sales through the showroom and webstore supporting over 40 businesses and workshops.



The Turquoise Mountain showroom in Jabal Amman.

Image: Turquoise Mountain

The team delivered over 400 heritage education kits to Zaatari and Azraq refugee camps during the pandemic's worst period and provided classes at its training centre in Amman for over 100 Syrian children from informal settlements around Amman, who often miss out on school because of farm work.

Humanitarian Programme - Turquoise Mountain

The vocational training in woodwork, stone-carving and jewellery continued despite the disruption by adapting the teaching content to online delivery. During the initial full lockdown, students enjoyed a mix of online classes via videolink using the workshops-in-a-box supplied at home, and also received online classes with guided learning on the history, context and more theoretical elements of their chosen crafts. Once the classroom-workshops could re-open, students returned to the training centre and to the supported apprenticeship placements in workshops around Amman.

Students graduating in 2020 faced a difficult employment market, nevertheless, thanks to the connections the project has made around Jordan and the network of workshops developed, around 80% went into employment or further training after graduating and the others remain in contact with the project, benefitting from the incubation spaces established to allow for self-employment.



The Turquoise Mountain showroom in Jabal Amman.

Image: Turquoise Mountain

Despite losing the regular customer base in Jordan and a general downturn in the global economy, the project has continued to connect the Syrian workshops with clients in Jordan and internationally. Thanks to the positive feedback the store had received prior to the pandemic, a new clientele emerged seeking interior design and also a number of international clients such as Jo Malone continued with orders. This has meant that the hundreds of artisans within our network have continued to work, supporting their families and many more.

Aya Momani, graduated jewellery student and Turquoise Mountain workshop manager.

Image: Nadia Bseiso

Humanitarian Programme - International Rescue Committee

In November 2018, the Asfari Foundation and the Saïd Foundation ran the Building a Better Tomorrow appeal dinner to help victims of the Syrian war. The total amount raised, including matched funding from the Chairmen, was almost £5.5 million.

With these funds, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) continues its work to create a safe and supportive environment for Syrian children and their families in Lebanon, and to transform the lives of Syrian children through education, child protection and community empowerment.

The year 2020 was particularly challenging for Lebanon which continued to suffer from numerous social and economic issues as well as the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Despite the countrywide crisis and restrictions on movement during lockdowns, the IRC continued to deliver timely and quality child protection services.

Highlights of the year included providing 192 street-connected and working children (144 boys and 48 girls) in Tripoli with case management services. As household violence increased during the lockdowns, IRC frontliners provided lifesaving support to adolescent girls. 621 cases (1,766 household members) were supported with Emergency Cash Assistance to build resilience and help to cope with multiple shocks such as health emergencies, inability to access livelihoods and accommodation eviction threats.



Joumana showing what she learned during an in-person session at one of the IRC's Safe Healing and Learning Spaces in North Lebanon.

Image: Elias El Beam, IRC

The IRC further successfully adapted the various curriculums for psychosocial support, basic literacy and numeracy classes and parenting skills sessions and was able to deliver these throughout the year.

In the last two years, over 5,500 children, young people and their families were reached directly with education and support services. A further 86,250 people were reached through community support activities.

Humanitarian Programme - UNHCR

The DAFI Programme is funded by the German government and has been enabling access to higher education for refugee students in their country of asylum since 1992. It is administered worldwide by UNHCR. The purpose of the DAFI Programme is to contribute to the self-reliance of refugees by providing them with a professional qualification for future employment. The Foundation's partnership with UNHCR and the DAFI Programme started in 2014. To date, it has enabled over 400 Syrian students to pursue undergraduate studies in their host countries of Lebanon and Jordan.

The DAFI scholarship programme shares with the Foundation the same ethos of community service and commitment to helping others. Both Saïd and DAFI scholars are selected not only because of their academic excellence and potential, but also for their passion for making a positive impact in their community and their commitment to giving back to their host communities.

Jinan Al Rawi volunteering following the catastrophic Beirut Port blast of August 4th. DAFI students from all governorates joined the relief effort to serve the local community.

Image: Jinan Al Rawi



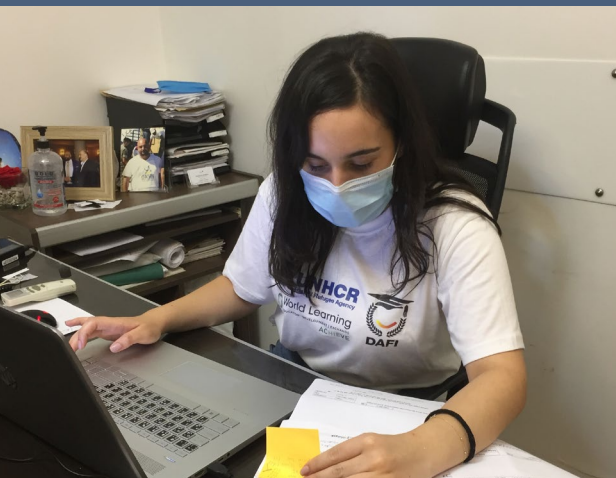
Humanitarian Programme - UNHCR DAFI Scholar Case Studies

Salam Al Hariri

Salam is a Syrian refugee, a former trainee pharmacist in Jordan, and a social media whiz. She has become a trusted source of accurate health information about COVID-19 for many fellow refugees.

A mother to a 4-month-old daughter, a hard worker and a social media influencer, Salam has proven to everyone that a refugee can do more after graduation.

Salam joined the DAFI scholarship in 2016 and graduated from the Pharmacy faculty with an excellent GPA. Salam left Jordan and went to Turkey in January 2021 to chase her dream of continuing her higher education and obtaining a master's degree in Pharmacy. She left the pharmacy where she worked in Jordan with the hope of opening her own in the future.



Dania Kabalan

Dania Kabalan is in her 4th year with DAFI, studying Civil Engineering. Following the tragic Beirut Port blast, Dania volunteered with the the Red Cross to prepare first aid kits, with the NGO Banine to conduct livelihood assessments and data collection, and with the Lebanese Army to package aid for the Beirut Port explosion victims.

I've been a DAFI student for four years now, and I have met the Saïd Foundation twice. At the meetings with the Saïd Foundation, we were able to get to know them on a personal basis and we were able to tell them about the problems we were facing, and they have been so helpful.

On the Beirut blast volunteering:
"I felt that I had to help somehow and offer useful support."

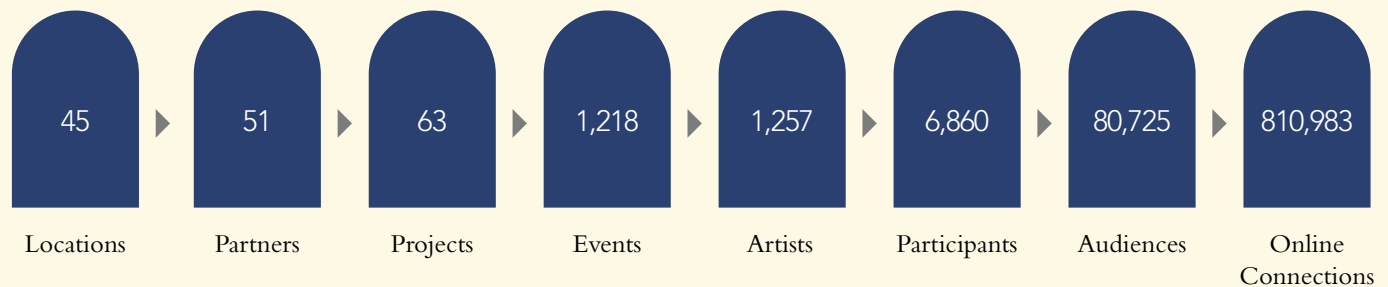
Amal Programme

For four years, the Amal Programme supported arts and cultural work in the UK to increase understanding of Britain's Muslim communities among others and to foster a stronger sense of belonging in the UK among these communities.

In those four years, the Programme built a community of partners, artists and friends, enabling it then to set up as an independent charity with the blessing and support of the Saïd Foundation. Amal began this transition in 2020.



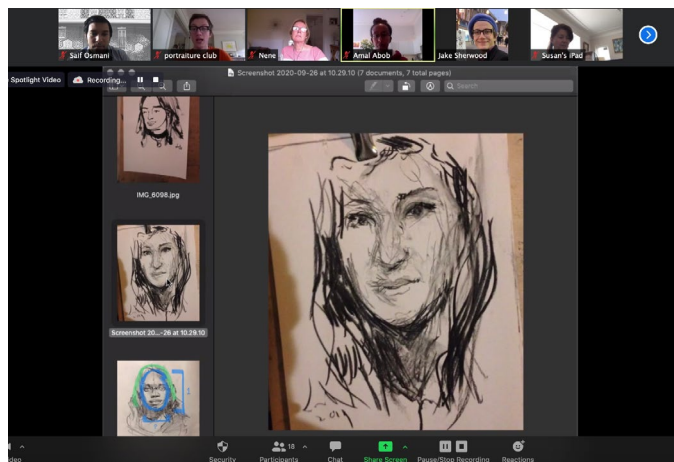
Amal in numbers: 2017 - 2020



Amal Programme

Some highlights from 2020

Digital Impact



School of Sufi Teaching, Poetry & Portraiture workshop

Image: Saif Osmani

The COVID-19 pandemic provided Amal with an opportunity to support its partners in their transition into the world of digital. During this challenging year, only a handful of projects hosted them at physical venues while the remainder were adapted to reach audiences and participants in their homes. Amal projects successfully engaged participants in poetry, design, cooking, photography and pottery activities as well as streaming theatrical and storytelling content. Through expanding the number of digital creative activities Amal projects have increased their online connections reaching hundreds of thousands of audiences and participants around the world.

Ort Gallery

Ort Gallery is situated in Balsall Heath, an area with one of the largest Muslim communities in Birmingham. Amal supported the gallery to diversify its audiences by hosting a series of participatory creative events centred around three Arts Council funded exhibitions by artists Julia Boushnak, Ragu Rage and Olivia Twist. The events were designed to appeal to and welcome the local community.



Ort Gallery, Calligraphy workshop

Image: Charlene Haylett

By working with Community Ambassadors embedded within the local communities and with links to grassroots organisations, Ort Gallery reached a wide range of audiences through activities including spoken word, cooking, pottery, calligraphy and panel discussions with the artists. During the year their project adapted digitally at times when they were not allowed to open and arrangements were made for blended activities which resulted in the delivery of activity parcels to participants and access to related online events. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

Amal Programme

Tower Hamlets School Library Service

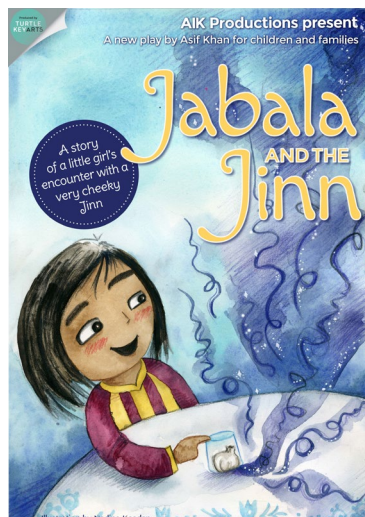
*Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service,
Arnhem Wharf School, Junior Slambassadors*

Image: Jacob Turner

THSLS rolled out and scaled the Junior Slambassadors competition, increasing the number of participating schools from seven in 2019 to eleven in 2020. The project connected Muslim poets to the Poetry Society, increasing the diversity of their pool of artists and enabling the poets to gain valuable training in working with primary school children.

For many of the young people involved, this is their first step to realising the beauty and power of their own voice and their own words. It gives them the confidence to take their writing or performing further. For some, it is the beginning of a lifelong role as 'poet'. It is also a great opportunity for the pupils to look in more detail at the community around them.

(Steve Tasane, Poet facilitator)



Stratford Circus Arts and Kala Sangam

Amal provided seed funding to three theatre makers to grow the development of on-stage content that is more representative of Muslims and their experiences. As a result, Turtle Key Arts and Bradford-born writer Asif Khan successfully produced Jabala and the Jinn, a heartfelt story about a little girl's playful and adventurous encounter with a cheeky supernatural Jinn.

Jabala and the Jinn poster, illustrated by Saïd Foundation former scholar Nadine Kaadan.

Image: Nadine Kaadan

We don't see much theatre, drama, stories about British Muslims. But particularly for this age group (5-8 years). Children who are experiencing theatre for the first time. Seeing something that they can relate to will bring them back to the theatre again. It's so important to see yourself represented.

(Asif Khan – Writer)

Rich Mix

Rich Mix's photography and philosophy workshops, In Focus, for Muslim and non-Muslim women in East London provided local participants with photography skills and the confidence to share their life experiences with one another. By enabling the project to 'go digital' participants were offered the opportunity to stay connected and creative.

Although some of us are worlds apart we have something that brings us together...It just shows us how much we have in common and how we can relate.

Rukia Begum



Rich Mix, In Focus, photography workshop

Image: Amal Team



Khayaal Theatre Company

Khayaal's Theatre Without Walls project tours performances of Muslim heritage stories and performing arts workshops around the UK. Amal's support helped them to survive the challenges of the pandemic when 80% of their performances were cancelled. They increased audience levels by over 1000% by adapting their performances to screen, reaching hundreds of thousands of additional audiences worldwide.

Throughout the year, we've literally had thousands of Muslims express their appreciation for the way in which Theatre-without-Walls shares their stories with society at a time when they alternately feel misrepresented, underrepresented and unheard.

(Partner reporting)

Khayaal Theatre Company, Eleanor Martin in The Doctor's Helper from Iraq. A psychological thriller from the short film collection of Muslim heritage stories.

Image: Greta Zabulyte

About Us

Vision

Our vision is of a world where people from all backgrounds can realise their full potential.

Mission

Our mission is to bring positive and lasting change to the lives of children, young people and the wider community through carefully selected investments in themes and geographies with which the Saïd family and the Saïd Foundation have developed strong links and expertise.



"I love your handouts, I love to study with you, I like that you teach us, I hope we stay together and study together."

9 year old Fatima fled the war in Syria with her family and now lives in the refugee camp Bar Elias in Lebanon.

Image: SAWA for Development and Aid

Guiding Principles:

- A conviction that education is a powerful tool to change lives for the better and that higher education in particular plays a valuable role in creating enlightened and effective leadership which benefits the broader community.
- An approach that is non-sectarian and non-political.
- Recognition of the need to build capacity and capability across the region we work in.
- An understanding of the importance of bridge building, communication and respect across cultures.
- A desire to enhance and learn from our thematic and regional experience and to benefit from synergy between programmes.
- The potential to promote philanthropy and to maximise the impact of specific projects through partnerships with organisations that share our objectives.

Saïd Foundation Trustees



Mr Wafic Saïd
Chairman



Mrs Rosemary Saïd



Mrs Rasha Saïd Khawaja
Deputy Chair



Mr Khaled Saïd



Reverend Jonathan
Aitken



Ms Ita Gallagher



Mrs Sirine Idilby



Sir Michael Peat
GCVO



Lord Powell of
Bayswater KCMG



Mrs Nadine Zakaria

Charitable spending

In 2019/20, the Foundation’s charitable spending was £3.8 million split across four programmes.

Charitable expenditure by programme:

£MILLIONS	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE	FIVE-YEAR AVERAGE (%)
Saïd Business School	1.4	1.2	16.1	1.3	1.35	4.3	49%
Humanitarian Programme	2.9	2.4	3.2	1.5	0.95	2.2	25%
Scholarships Programme	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.8	1.05	0.9	10%
Rhodes Trust Scholarships	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.1	13%
Amal Programme	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.45	0.4	4%
TOTAL	10.8	4.9	20.4	4.1	3.8	8.8	100%

	2019/20 £MILLIONS	%
Saïd Business School	1.35	32%
Humanitarian Programme	0.95	37%
Scholarships Programme	1.05	19%
Amal Programme	0.45	12%
TOTAL	3.80	100%

Saïd Foundation
24 Queen Anne's Gate
London SW1H 9AA
Tel: +44 (0)20 7593 5420

FOR GENERAL ENQUIRIES

admin@saidfoundation.org

FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAMME

education@saidfoundation.org

Registered Charity No:1125521
Registered Company No: 6621764

www.saidfoundation.org

If you would like to help the Saïd Foundation to achieve its goals, please consider making a donation. You can donate online through our website at

www.saidfoundation.org/donate

Alternatively, if you wish to donate using another method please contact us by writing to

admin@saidfoundation.org