MSCA4Ukraine awards 124 fellowships

The MSCA4Ukraine project partners are pleased to share the results of the scheme’s evaluation and selection process. The results were officially announced by the EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, Mariya Gabriel, on February 23rd. More than 450 external experts from over 45 countries were recruited to conduct the evaluation process. The scheme will support 111 post-doctoral and 13 doctoral researchers from Ukraine to continue their research in 21 host countries. The top five host countries are: Germany, Czech Republic, France, Spain, and Belgium.

The research projects selected span all scientific disciplines. Fellowships were awarded across eight research areas – see a full list of selected research projects here.

All applicants have been notified of the results and researchers will take up their positions from March 1, 2023 onwards. The selected fellows will receive career development opportunities and participate in training activities and networking sessions. They will also be encouraged to maintain their connections to research and innovation communities in Ukraine to help mitigate brain drain and strengthen the Ukrainian research and university sector. SAR Europe will support applicants not selected for MSCA4Ukraine with with referrals to other schemes or direct placement assistance, as capacity allows.

Read more »
Academic Freedom Index - Update 2023

On March 2nd, the Academic Freedom Index (AFI) project released its Update 2023 report, which analyzes the state of academic freedom in 179 countries. This year's report identifies 22 countries where academic freedom has declined over the last 10 years, noting, "academic freedom is in retreat for over 50% of the world’s population – 4 billion people."

The report is accompanied by the launch of a new website which allows users to compare data from different countries and view developments over time. Learn more and share with colleagues and partners across your networks.

Read more »

Scholars seeking hosts

SAR scholars are at-risk higher education professionals who exemplify the pursuit of academic freedom, freedom of expression, and university values. If your institution is interested in hosting a SAR scholar, please email HostingatSAR@nyu.edu.

A Scholar of Physics

This physics professor has nearly two decades of teaching and research experience in Afghanistan. She has published her research in numerous university journals and several textbooks, including a recent article on fibroscopy. Her current research interests include the study of x-ray pulses. This scholar was dismissed from her university position after the fall of the
government and she reports receiving threats due to her advocacy for women and girls. She is seeking a research or teaching position in a safe location. (Afghanistan-1815)

A Scholar of International Law
This scholar of international law has almost two decades of teaching and research experience in Ethiopia and Europe, and most recently as a researcher at a US academic institution. His research focuses on human rights, international law, and regional integration and international courts in Africa. He reports risk of arrest, criminal investigation, censorship, and loss of position due to his critical research on law and international human rights in the context of the ongoing civil war in the Tigray region. He is seeking a research or teaching position at a US institution beginning Fall 2023. (Ethiopia-704)

A Scholar of Law
This scholar of law specializes in Ukrainian legal history, sanitation and health law, and epidemiology. She has five years of academic teaching and research experience at a university in Ukraine and has published several articles in international and university journals, including a recent article on the history of international sanitary conventions. This scholar reports general risk and loss of position due to the ongoing war in Ukraine. She is currently in Hungary and is seeking a research or teaching position in Europe beginning immediately. (Ukraine-592)

Ten scholars awarded SAR Ukraine Fellowships
Ten scholars from Ukraine have been selected for the SAR Ukraine Fellowship to undertake research projects across eight universities in Canada (6) and the United States (2). The scholars’ specializations represent a range of disciplines across political science, chemistry, linguistics, philosophy and sociology, international relations, art and history, and law. Their proposed projects topics include:

- Russia's invasion of Ukraine and reorganized politics in the Baltic states
- Decentralization reform in Ukraine
- Consumerism and wastefulness in socialist economies
- Applications of artificially grown inorganic particles
- Language reclamation and the language policies of Indigenous languages in Ukraine
- Ukrainian scholarship on Canada
- Wartime dynamics of Ukrainian society
- Ukrainian embroidery and folk dress
- Post-Cold War Ukrainian immigration to Canada pre-2022
- The formation and development of anti-corruption mechanisms in Ukraine

We are still accepting applications for SAR-Ukraine fellowship funding, as available funding allows. Read more and apply here. Read more »

Help imprisoned scholars in Iran
On February 5, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei ordered the amnesty or reduction of sentences for tens of thousands of detainees in Iran. In the weeks that followed, hundreds in prisons across the country were indeed released. While SAR welcomes this amnesty, we are deeply concerned about the scholars and students who remain in prison and urge the Supreme Leader to extend amnesty to them.

We remain particularly concerned for the continued detention of scholars Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali and Ms. Niloufar Bayani, among hundreds of other scholars and students.

Support Ms. Bayani by signing this letter and Dr. Djalali by signing this letter.

You can also take part in Amnesty International's annual campaign for Nowruz, the Iranian New Year. Participants may send greetings, solidarity messages and letters to prisoners and their families. Learn more about how to send your greetings here.

Network Reflection: SAR Greece and the “special responsibility to support academic freedom”
"Reflecting on more than two years of SAR Greece actions, it is clear that HEIs in Greece have become much more aware of their special responsibility to support academic freedom in a world where restrictions on basic human rights are increasing. However, much remains to be done. Toward that end, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is working on an MoU with the Ministry of Migration to enhance visa pathways for at-risk researchers interested in joining Greek HEIs, while the SAR Greece steering committee is working with the Ministry of Education and the State Scholarships Foundation to develop a national initiative."

Image: Updating H.E. The President of the Hellenic Republic Katerina Sakellaropoulou on SAR. (SAR Greece Chair Prof. Alexandros Triantafyllidis (right) and SAR European Advocacy Committee member Assist. Prof. Andreas Takis (left)).

Read the full piece »

Listen to the latest on SAR’s Free to Think podcast

Listen now: Free to Think Podcast

Episode 30: “The ‘forgotten crisis’ of attacks on higher education in Venezuela” with Mayda Hočevar & David Gomez Gamboa
In SAR’s “Free to Think” podcast, SAR Executive Director Rob Quinn speaks with guests who inspire us with their courage to seek and speak truth — often at great risk — as well as those who work to defend them. Tune in now to our latest episodes, available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and all major platforms. Listen here »

Support SAR’s work. Make your gift today!

March is women’s history month and what better way to celebrate women scholars, past, present, and future than to make a contribution in their honor? Your gift helps support at-risk scholars around the world, allowing them to continue their vital work in safety. Give today »

Student Advocacy Seminars in Washington D.C.

SAR’s annual Student Advocacy Days will take place later this month, from March 29 - 30. Students and faculty from the United States and Canada will convene in Washington, DC, to advocate on behalf of wrongfully imprisoned scholars. Participants will receive training and meet with government officials and NGO partners. Thank you to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a SAR network member, for hosting Student Advocacy Days!

Interested in starting a Student Advocacy Seminar on your campus? Learn more about the
program [here](#) or contact Student Advocacy Seminar Coordinator Adam Braver at [adam.braver@nyu.edu](mailto:adam.braver@nyu.edu) for more information.

Image: Students from Drexel University at 2022 Student Advocacy Day

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News and events

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**Free Online Course on Academic Freedom | Rolling enrollment**

Are some questions too dangerous to ask? What happens to scholars and students who ask those questions? These are among the questions we will discuss in “Dangerous Questions: Why Academic Freedom Matters,” a free online course created by the Academic Refuge project. This course run begins on March 6, 2023 and is free and available to anyone with internet access. The material is divided into 3 weeks with an expected workload of 3 hours per week. Once registered, participants will have access to the course for five weeks.

[Register today »](#)

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**"Scholars at Risk Seminar Gives Students the Chance to Fight Erosion of Academic Freedom," Muhlenberg College | February 13, 2023**

Read about student & faculty experiences participating in SAR Student Advocacy Seminars at Muhlenberg College, Pennsylvania, United States. “This class was a great opportunity to learn more about how we can advocate for human rights and these scholars,” William Moody ’24.

[Read more »](#)

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**Daily Pilot**

“UC campuses rallied to host at-risk Afghan scholars fleeing the Taliban in 2021 — but can they keep them?” The Daily Pilot | February 17, 2023

Read how the University of California (UC) system is coordinating efforts across institutions to support at-risk scholars. “Members of a UC systemwide steering committee of the international network Scholars at Risk, under the lead of UC Irvine literature Prof. Jane O. Newman, quickly raised funds to broker the safe passage of scholars and activists at risk of being persecuted.”
"Tufts Offers Haven for Scholars at Risk," Tufts University | March 1, 2023
"Tufts has hosted international academics in peril before. But the university had never supported four such scholars at once—until this year. [...] That didn't mean solely funding more fellows. It meant formally establishing Tufts' own Scholars at Risk program, affiliated with the umbrella organization but administered on campus."

SAR Network “drop-in” sessions | February 16th - June 15th, 2023
Last month, SAR began offering a new opportunity for connection and discussion within the network: Information-sharing drop-in sessions (“drop-ins”) for network members. We had the opportunity to connect with representatives from member institutions in Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Switzerland, Venezuela, and the United States on topics ranging from reflections on hosting, garnering more support for at-risk scholars on campus, funding structures, advocacy initiatives and more.

SAR staff will convene the sessions roughly every other week for 30-60 minute sessions. We hope to create an informal, informative, and practical space for network members and partners to ask questions and to share information, experience, good practices, and resources. We look forward to continuing these conversations over the next few months. Join us for our next session on Thursday, March 16th.

Lecture: Women and Public Diplomacy: How a small country had a large impact on an international humanitarian crisis | March 29 2023
In August 2021, Albania took in over 3,000 Afghan evacuees, seeking safety from the new Taliban regime. This decision demonstrated that small countries can mitigate humanitarian crises and that they can build new solidarities and partnerships in the process. In this Luce Lecture, Dr Odeta Barbullushi, Advisor to the Prime Minister of Albania, explains the interplay between foreign policy decision-making, humanitarian crisis, and state identities. Drawing from her own
experience, Dr Barbullushi reflects on women's contributions to international mediation as well as the role of education in shaping decision making in foreign policy. Attend the event from 5:00 - 6:30 pm at Kimball Hall Lobby 246 Greene St., New York, NY 10003.

Philosophers at Risk Visiting Scholar I Deadline: May 15, 2023
The Program on Ethics and Public Life at Cornell University invites applications to the Philosophers at Risk Visiting Scholar Fellowship for the academic year of 2023-24. The visiting position is for a duration of 2-4 months, anytime during the academic year at Cornell. The fellowship provides air-travel expenses; a stipend of $7,000–$9,000 (depending on duration of stay); assistance with US visa application; full access to library and other scholarly resources at Cornell; and other, informal, academic assistance as may be needed.

Free to Think Conversation at Carleton University | March 23, 2023
Join a 'Free to Think' conversation on academic freedom at Carleton University on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 1:00-3:00 p.m EST. This interactive panel discussion will take place in-person (MacOdrum Library, Rm 252) or virtually on Zoom. Students, faculty, and the public-at-large are welcome!

Red alert from Brazil: Toward a comprehensive, intersectional and context-based framework for the guarantee of academic freedom | March 23, 2023
Join a 'Free to Think' conversation on academic freedom at Carleton University on Thursday, March 23, 2023, 1:00-3:00 p.m EST. This interactive panel discussion will take place in-person (MacOdrum Library, Rm 252) or virtually on Zoom. Students, faculty, and the public-at-large are welcome!
Student Advocacy Days, Washington DC, United States | March 29-30, 2023
Scholars at Risk’s annual US Student Advocacy Days convene faculty and students in Washington, DC, to receive training and seek meetings with government representatives to raise awareness about wrongfully detained scholars and students.

Call for applications: MSCA COFUND Systems and Engineering Doctorate (SEED) programme, LUT University, Finland | Deadline: April 30, 2023
LUT University has opened the call for the MSCA COFUND Systems and Engineering Doctorate (SEED) programme. The programme offers 13 funded doctoral positions, each for a duration of 4 years, in the fields of software engineering, chemical engineering, industrial engineering & management (IEM), computational engineering, applied mathematics and technical physics.

SCHOLARS AT RISK is an independent not-for-profit corporation, hosted at New York University. Our international network of institutions and individuals shares a mission to protect threatened scholars, promote academic freedom, and prevent attacks on higher education communities around the world.

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