



AZIZ FOUNDATION
BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

AZIZ FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2024

About the Aziz Foundation

Established in 2015 by the Aziz family, inspired by Islamic values of social justice, cooperation and compassion and with a vision of a fair, inclusive society where British Muslims thrive. Overall mission: reduce equality gaps and promote social mobility among British Muslims





About the Aziz Foundation

Our work is guided by social justice, compassion, and cooperation. Muslims make invaluable contributions to this country, and we aim for a Britain where they are valued, empowered, and continue positively impacting their communities and beyond.

The programmes we currently offer are:

- **Scholarships** - enable access to higher education through masters scholarships
- **Internships** - provide pathways to professional success
- **Mentorship** - foster leadership and professional growth

Key Achievements (2019-2023)

Scholarships

Goal: To support British Muslims pursuing postgraduate degrees - our progression rate falls from 12% to 8%

Criteria for application:

- a) Effective advocacy - enhanced public perception of Muslims
- b) Community Service - raise aspirations and empower communities

Intended Results: increased representation in policy, journalism, law, arts and other fields

£8m awarded in scholarships

over **600** scholarships awarded

94% employment rate amongst Aziz graduates

65% of scholars are women

Mentoring and Networking

Our mentorship programme focuses on building leadership skills and career development. It matches scholars with professionals in their fields.

- **92 scholars** have been paired with mentors
- **66 active mentors**
- **25 industries** represented by mentors
- **24 alumni** have become mentors for a new cohort

Networking and professional opportunities have varied across the years, and include the following:

- Working with Emerald Network to produce **Emerald 100 x AF** - linking Muslim professionals
- Voluntary Opportunities such as School Governors for **STAR Academy schools** and Trustees of charities



Key Achievements (2019-2023)

Internships

Goal for programme: To strengthen the pipeline from education to employment, and to complement the scholarships programme because of barriers to entry

Target Fields: Mirrors scholarships programme, offering internships in journalism, policy, arts and more. Interns have been placed with organisations such as **The Independent, Sky News, Financial Times, Runnymede, Tara Theatre, Gate Theatre** etc.

Results:

- **60 internships** to date, ranging from 3 to 15 months
- **90% rate of full-time employment** at host organisation or similar post internship



Social Impact and Systemic Change

Collaboration with 50 UK universities through Preferred Partner Scheme; annual Aziz Inclusion Award

Launched the Muslim Friendly Universities initiative to support British Muslim students

Promoted inclusive policies (e.g. Adoption of Islamophobia definition by 11 universities)

Conversations with organisations hosting interns around better representation in sector

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Thank you for listening



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<https://www.azizfoundation.org.uk/>