Looking Ahead: IIE’s Scholar Rescue Centennial

2019 Highlights
Meeting a Growing Need

The IIE Scholar Rescue Fund is the only global program that arranges and funds fellowships for threatened and displaced scholars at partnering higher education institutions worldwide.

Across the globe, scientists and professors are persecuted for their research, activism, and identities. Many others face danger or displacement amidst the world’s most devastating conflicts. IIE is providing a critical lifeline for these vulnerable scholars, as it has since 1920. Over the past year, the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund assisted close to 200 scholars from 29 countries, in partnership with more than 120 higher education institutions and other partners in 23 countries. But more is needed. More higher education institutions to host threatened and displaced scholars. More partners to support their integration into new academic communities. More funding to make this work possible.

As IIE celebrates 100 years of scholar rescue, we enter this centennial year with the humble and very sobering recognition that our efforts are needed now more than ever. We need your support. Join us in saving the lives, voices, and ideas of threatened scholars.

Mark A. Angelson
Chairperson
IIE Scholar Rescue Fund

Allan E. Goodman
President & CEO, Institute of International Education

“The IIE-SRF fellowship has broadened my professional horizons. It has enabled me to carry out my research peacefully and present my work in multiple countries.”

Dr. Laura Margarita Febres
Latin American Literature & History
Country: Venezuela
Host: University of Alcalá (Spain)

“After I lost everything overnight, the IIE-SRF fellowship provided me with hope. It was the first building block towards rebuilding my life and academic career.”

Dr. Uzeyir Ogurlu
Special & Gifted Education
Country: Turkey
Host: Harvard University & University of Wisconsin-Whitewater (U.S.)

“After years of living in difficult and insecure circumstances, IIE-SRF enabled me to live safely and resume my research and connection to the scientific community.”

Dr. Hasan Maridi (cover photo)
Theoretical Physics
Country: Yemen
Host: Philadelphia University (Jordan)
IIE-SRF supported nearly 200 scholars from 29 countries, in partnership with 88 institutions in 19 countries.

Scholar Regions of Origin

- **North America**: 44%
- **Europe & Eurasia**: 38%
- **Middle East & North Africa**: 15%
- **East Asia & The Pacific**: 7%
- **Latin America & The Caribbean**: 5%
- **Sub-Saharan Africa**: 3%
- **South and Central Asia**: 2%
- **Other Regions**: 1%

Scholar Fields of Expertise

- **Social Sciences**: 36%
- **Natural Sciences**: 34%
- **Applied Sciences**: 18%
- **Humanities & the Arts**: 12%

Top Host Countries

- United States
- Canada
- Jordan
- Germany
- Finland

Hosting Regions

- North America: 44%
- Europe & Eurasia: 38%
- Middle East & North Africa: 15%
- East Asia & The Pacific: 7%
- Latin America: 1%
- Sub-Saharan Africa: 1%

21 Host Countries

- 10+ Scholars
- 5 - 9 Scholars
- 2 - 4 Scholars
- 1 Scholar

A Historic Challenge

IIE-SRF received more applications in 2019 than any year in its history.
A Lifeline for Threatened Scholars Since 1920
Protecting scholars and scholarship has always been at the core of IIE’s mission.

1920-1949
Russian Student and Scholar Fund: IIE began rescuing scholars in 1920. The Institute helped more than 600 scholars and university students caught in the crossfire of the Bolshevik Revolution and Stalinism to reach safety in Europe and the U.S.

1922-1924
Rescue of Scholars from Fascist Italy: As Mussolini’s Fascist rule threatened and displaced scholars, IIE found positions for them at U.S. universities.

1933-1941
Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars: More than 330 scholars throughout Europe who were barred from teaching, persecuted, and threatened with imprisonment by the Nazis were brought to U.S. universities under the leadership of IIE’s Edward R. Murrow.

1936-1939
Rescue of Scholars from the Spanish Civil War: IIE led a binational effort to find host campuses in the U.S. and Latin America for scholars on both sides of the conflict who were forced into exile.

1956-1958
Emergency Program to Aid Hungarian University Students and Scholars: A joint committee of IIE and the World University Service arranged placements at U.S. universities for approximately 1,000 university students and scholars displaced by the violent suppression of a popular uprising.

1979-1992
South Africa Education Program: Black South Africans denied access to higher education under apartheid were placed at nearly 200 U.S. universities and offered scholarships. Ninety-five percent of these aspiring scholars returned, helping to build the capacity of South Africa’s post-apartheid national academy.

1990-1992
Rescue of Burmese Students and Scholars: Exiled from Burma in 1988, hundreds of scholars and university students were living as refugees in Thailand. IIE helped place them at U.S. universities for education and training programs.

1998-2005
ASIA-HELP: Thanks to a private grant, IIE offered interest-free loans to 1,000 students impacted by the Asian economic crisis to continue their education in the U.S. Repayments of these loans enabled IIE to help students and scholars affected by natural disasters and civil wars.

2002-Present
IIE Scholar Rescue Fund: IIE established IIE-SRF to ensure that immediate assistance and academic support will always be available to scholars whenever and wherever they may be threatened. The launch of this unique program proved timely, as the need to support endangered scholars has grown dramatically over the past two decades. IIE-SRF remains the only global program that arranges and funds fellowships for threatened and displaced scholars at higher education institutions worldwide.

Since 2002, IIE-SRF has assisted more than 800 professors, researchers, and public intellectuals from 59 countries in partnership with over 400 host institutions in 46 countries.
Centennial Year Plans

As IIE marks the 100th anniversary of its first scholar rescue effort, it remains dedicated to saving the lives and careers of scholars from any country or field and to preserving national academies threatened by conflict. In 2020, IIE-SRF will launch several new initiatives to expand and enhance its response to the growing needs of threatened and displaced academics worldwide. These include:

- Establishing the IIE-SRF Alliance, a global network of individuals and institutions committed to working with IIE-SRF to offer practical support to threatened and displaced scholars.
- Opening a project office in Brussels, Belgium to expand IIE-SRF’s outreach and programmatic activities across Europe.
- Convening an IIE-SRF Forum in Brussels to launch IIE-SRF’s Europe office and bring together IIE-SRF fellows and alumni, program partners, and other stakeholders.
- Organizing a “100 Years of Rescue” Gala to celebrate the scholars aided by IIE since 1920 and the supporters who have made this work possible.
- Producing a centennial publication that will celebrate IIE’s century of scholar rescue and the courageous and talented scholars whom IIE has supported.

Support IIE-SRF

Growing conflicts around the world – fueled by economic injustice, political repression, and other widening divisions – are placing unprecedented numbers of scholars in jeopardy of persecution and violence. IIE is needed more than ever. Keeping threatened scholars safe and thriving academically enables them to advance their research, contribute to their host communities, and help rebuild higher education systems and restore stability in their home countries and regions. Ultimately, it creates a better future for all of us.

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IIE-SRF Would Like to Thank Our 2019 Host Partners for Their Support

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COLOMBIA University of the Andes

EGYPT Ain Shams University • Cairo University FINLAND Aalto University • University of Helsinki • University of Turku

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UNITED KINGDOM London School of Economics and Political Science • SOAS University of London • University of Aberdeen • University of Manchester • University of Reading

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Institutions that hosted multiple IIE-SRF fellows in 2019

Host an IIE-SRF Scholar on Your Campus • Learn more at www.scholarrescuefund.org • Email: srf@iie.org

Hosting IIE-SRF scholars has been an extremely rewarding and unifying endeavor for Cornell University. They are talented researchers whose expertise and perspective adds to the vibrancy of our scholarly community.

Dr. Jason Hecht
Cornell University (U.S.)