



ASIAN UNIVERSITY
FOR WOMEN

Vice-Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer

Candidate Information



WittKieffer

CONTENTS

WELCOME	3
ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN	4
THE POSITION	8
THE PERSON	10
THE LOCATION	11
ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS	12



A WARM WELCOME

Dear Candidate,

It is my great pleasure to introduce you to the Asian University for Women (AUW). Since our founding through an Act of the Parliament of Bangladesh in 2006, AUW has stood as a bold experiment — and now a proven model — in widening access to high-quality liberal arts and sciences education for women from some of the world’s most underserved and underrepresented communities.

Located in the heart of Chittagong, AUW is a fully residential, international University dedicated to educating women of exceptional promise from countries across Asia and the Middle East and beyond. Our students come from diverse national, ethnic, linguistic, and socio-economic backgrounds, bringing with them the determination to not merely improve their own circumstances, but to transform the societies they call home.

AUW’s mission has always been anchored in academic excellence and global relevance. Our interdisciplinary undergraduate programs in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics, as well as our growing graduate professional offerings, are designed to cultivate intellectual rigour alongside a deep sense of civic purpose. Through this education, our students learn to confront some of the most pressing issues of our time: poverty, human insecurity, discrimination, violence, environmental degradation, public health crises, and structural inequities that limit human flourishing.

Our students’ achievements demonstrate the transformative impact of an AUW education: in just over fifteen years, nearly 2,000 alumnae have gone on to graduate study at the world’s leading universities, launched community initiatives, and/or assumed leadership roles in fields ranging from public policy and biomedical research to education, entrepreneurship, and climate advocacy.

As we look towards the next chapter of AUW’s development, we seek to deepen our academic offering, expand our research capabilities, and strengthen our global partnerships. At the heart of this ambition lies one essential requirement: exceptional academic leadership. We are therefore searching for an individual who can combine academic stature with strategic leadership alongside personal resonance with AUW’s values of access, equity, courage, and transformation. We seek a leader who is both visionary and practical, capable of building a world-class academic enterprise while remaining closely connected to the lives and aspirations of our students and the needs of the region.

If you share our belief in the power of women’s education to change the world, and if you bring the academic excellence, integrity, and imagination to help AUW achieve its ambitions, I warmly invite you to consider joining us.



With sincere regards,

Kamal Ahmad

**Founder
Asian University for Women**



ASIAN UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Opened in 2008 following an Act of the Parliament of Bangladesh, Asian University for Women (AUW) located in Chittagong, is a residential liberal arts institution dedicated to education and empowerment of its students. AUW provides high-quality education to young women from diverse national, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds, with a focus on those demonstrating exceptional academic and leadership potential.

AUW is recognized as an international university by Bangladesh's University Grants Commission (UGC). Following extensive reviews and field visits, the New England Commission of Higher Education in the United States (NECHE) has advanced AUW to be a "candidate" for accreditation.

AUW offers rigorous interdisciplinary undergraduate programs spanning the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics, as well as graduate professional studies. Its curricular and co-curricular programs emphasize knowledge acquisition and generation, critical thinking, ethical leadership, and global engagement. An AUW education equips students to tackle pressing regional and global challenges such as poverty, economic and social development, discrimination, gender-based and other forms of violence, climate change, healthcare, underdevelopment and other inequities.

Over the last 15 years, AUW has generated and cultivated a thriving network of nearly 2000 alumnae who are driving change worldwide—pursuing graduate studies at top universities, leading initiatives in their home communities, and contributing more widely to fields ranging from public policy to biomedical research to climate change.

Asian University for Women (AUW) is the first of its kind – a fully independent, regional institute dedicated to women's education and leadership development

AUW exists to educate and empower women leaders through the transformative power of liberal arts and sciences education



PRE-UNDERGRADUATE

AUW offers preparatory programs in English, mathematics, technology uses, learning skills, leadership development, and physical and mental wellbeing designed to enhance success in AUW's undergraduate program for all those who may benefit from such additional training prior to matriculating into the university. The Pre-Undergraduate Program is flexibly organized to best cater to individual needs. Depending on needs and requirements, the program may extend up to two years.

UNDERGRADUATE

Offering students the opportunity to gain relevant, interdisciplinary knowledge across multiple fields, students have a choice of nine majors:

- Applied Math & Data Sciences
- Biological Sciences (Biochemistry, Bioinformatics, and Biotechnology)
- Chemical & Environmental Engineering (forthcoming)
- Computer Science
- Economics
- Environmental Sciences
- Humanities (Philosophy, Literature, History, and Religion)
- Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- Public Health

MASTERS

While the undergraduate programs provide a broad foundation of study, AUW's graduate programs are specifically designed to prepare students for professional careers.

- Master of Arts in Education
- Master of Science in Apparel & Fashion Business Management
- Master of Science in Therapeutic Sciences and Bioinformatics (forthcoming).





RESEARCH CENTERS

AUW recognizes research as a key function of the university's educational mission and therefore actively encourages its students and faculty to undertake research projects that result in newer understanding of issues. Where possible, faculty may establish purpose specific research or study centers. The **Center for Climate Change and Health** was established under the leadership of Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin. Under the leadership of incoming University Professor and noted biochemist Dr. Haseena Khan, AUW is planning a **Center for Research on Antimicrobial Resistance**.

SECURITY

AUW campus is in a secure gated compound which is overseen by AUW Security Chief. Most students and faculty live on campus within walking distance between places of residence and academic facilities.

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

Chittagong has a number of English medium schools in the vicinity of the AUW campus. In the meantime, AUW has also established its own Lab School which currently serves grade 6-10 but is expected to offer K-12 classes.

HEALTH CARE

AUW uses Evercare Hospital in Chittagong which is a 400-bed hospital as its preferred healthcare provider. A dedicated Health Center served by several full-time physicians and nurses provides immediate health care services to the AUW community. For ease of convenience, AUW has a fully staffed and equipped ambulance on campus.





AUW PERMANENT CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

AUW is building a permanent residential campus site that will ultimately accommodate 6000 students and greatly expand the university's portfolio of academic and extracurricular activities. The AUW Campus Centre will be completed in 2027. The next phase, designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop, will create housing for 1800 students, 90 faculty residences and an additional academic facility, is expected to be completed by 2032.

In-Kind Contribution: 137 acres of campus land contributed by the Government of Bangladesh for construction of a permanent campus.

An interview with Renzo Piano on the design of AUW's Permanent Campus can be found [here](#).





THE POSITION

Asian University for Women is a new University that aspires to be both a center for excellence in education and scholarship, and renowned for preparing women from many nations, cultures, and socioeconomic backgrounds to be thoughtful, effective and ethical leaders.

The academic programs consist of a rigorous undergraduate program, which is comprised of a liberal arts and sciences core curriculum, and in-depth study in areas such as Politics, Philosophy and Economics, Computer Science, and Biology/Public Health Studies.

The position of Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer calls for an outstanding academic leader who is interested in the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of this new University. The new Vice-Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer will work to develop the academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels, recruit and mentor deans and faculty, set standards for faculty hiring and performance, and build the University into a center for teaching and for scholarly excellence in areas that seek to address the challenges of the developing world.

The Vice-Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer is expected to lead a growing and experienced international team to create vibrant and healthy academic and residential programs for students, and design and implement systems and processes for stable governance and operations of the University. The AUW Support Foundation leads the global fundraising initiatives for the University.

The Vice-Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer will be a passionate and socially empathetic leader who has exemplary organizational and communication skills and a deep understanding of the needs of an academic community.



Specifically, the new Vice-Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer's responsibilities will include:

- Lead faculty hiring and faculty and staff development;
- Development and oversight of academic programs, policies and systems;
- Establish and oversee evaluation and external reviews of academic programs;
- Faculty and Senior Staff recruiting, hiring, mentoring, development, annual evaluations and reviews and reappointments;
- Working with admissions on the recruiting and the selection process of students;
- Academic program planning for capital projects;
- Budget planning for academic programs;
- Building new and strengthening existing partnerships with universities;
- Providing the link between academic program planning and capital planning;
- Pursuing grants to support academic initiatives;
- Maintaining, building and developing an extensive international network of contacts and colleagues in higher education to enhance the University's market position;
- Help build AUW brand as the destination of choice for the brightest and most promising young women.





THE PERSON

- PhD or equivalent and a distinguished academic background, recognised in her/his field of research and at Professorial level.
- A successful track record of strategic delivery at an institutional level.
- Track record of both enabling growth in an academic context and nurturing a high-performance culture.
- Curriculum design and development expertise, and the ability to oversee the development of new programs in relation to academic quality, policy, planning and accreditation.
- International experience with the capability to play a lead role in a global university.
- A commitment to the highest levels of governance, experience of working effectively with governing bodies and boards, and the ability to operate confidently and effectively in an externally regulated environment.
- Visionary, strategic thinker with strong awareness of cultural issues and challenges.
- Excellent leadership and interpersonal skills to influence, motivate and secure the respect of academic and professional services staff.
- Personally resilient and emotionally intelligent with the energy, ability and capacity to manage competing priorities.
- Personal integrity, openness and self-awareness with a collaborative mindset alongside the confidence to express views, listen and accept challenge.
- Highly visible, consultative and with the ability to engage with, motivate and lead staff effectively
- A well-developed network of relationships at a senior level internationally.



THE LOCATION – CHITTAGONG

Chittagong, Bangladesh is coastal city in Southeast Bangladesh that has a heritage of Muslim, Hindu, Christian and Buddhist traditions. It is the second largest city in Bangladesh with a population of approximately five and a half million. The port city has historically served as a principal centre of cultural, social, and commercial exchange between this part of South Asia and the outside world.

Chittagong is a major port city that is well-connected to other major cities via air, road, and rail. The city's Hazrat Shah Amanat International Airport is twenty kilometres from AUW, while the city's railway station is only four kilometres away, and Garibulla Shah Bus Station is less than one kilometre from AUW. In addition to linking to major centres within Bangladesh, Chittagong's international airport offers direct connections to several major cities:

- Kolkata, India (40 minutes)
- Dubai (4.5 hours)
- Sharjah (5.5 hours)
- Abu Dhabi (5.5 hours)
- Muscat (5 hours)
- Jeddah (6.5 hours)

Chittagong also has a thriving international community as well as culturally rich and diverse local population. Chittagong has a far less dense urban environment than Dhaka, which is a city of 25 million. It offers a less chaotic urban experience, a unique and still largely unspoiled landscape of rolling hills, and a large lake and recreational area—all within the city limits. Regionally, recreational areas abound with the beaches of Cox's Bazaar 152 kilometres to the south and Rangamati and Kaptai Lake to the east in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The city of Chittagong, itself, straddles the divide between the low flat coastal plain of the Bay of Bengal and the Chittagong Hill Tracts whose peaks, near the Myanmar border, reach heights of 300 meters. Within Chittagong, the average elevation is only 10 meters above sea level. The undeveloped hilly region in the northern part of the city reaches maximum elevations of 75 meters above sea level. The climate of the region is pleasant year-round with little humidity in summer (highs 85° F/29° C) and moderate temperatures in winter (lows 58-60° F/14-15° C). The city receives 2400 millimetres of rain per year. As elsewhere in Bangladesh, flooding from monsoon rains and cyclones can impact the lower lying regions of the city. The hilly parts of the city are little impacted by flooding, the exception being the potential for localized flooding when water run-off is restricted.





ENQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS

Applications or enquiries should be made with WittKieffer, the executive search firm engaged to assist with the appointment.

Applicants should submit a CV accompanied by a Cover Letter (maximum 2 pages) outlining their suitability for the position and addressing how they satisfy the person specification criteria.

The closing date for applications is **Monday 20th April 2026**.

Please submit your application to:

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