

A young girl with dark hair tied back, wearing a white school uniform with ruffled sleeves, is raising her right hand in a classroom setting. She is looking upwards and to the right with a slight smile. The background is softly blurred, showing other students and a window. A yellow decorative bar is at the top left of the page.

# Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program

**Annual Report 2018-2019**

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Email Address: [\[mail@sgsp.info\]](mailto:mail@sgsp.info)

Website: [\[https://sgsp.info/\]](https://sgsp.info/)



# SUMMARY

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# ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program (SGSP) aims to advance educational aspirations and goals of underrepresented female students from Azerbaijan. Despite progressive legal framework, Azerbaijani women face many obstacles accessing educational opportunities. According to UNDP (2007), stereotypical gender attitudes in education reveal that boys are not only given more opportunity in education, but they also receive higher and better education. When it comes to pursuing educational goals in Azerbaijan, while financial difficulties may affect both genders, girls are viewed as being more vulnerable to both physical and cultural dangers, susceptible to gender stereotypes, and subject to early marriages.

The SGSP is memorial crowdfunding project named after Dr. Shahla Garayeva (1962-2018), a renowned pedagogue, professor of English language and American literature as well as one of the most talented teachers. Dr. Garayeva lost her life to cancer in April 2018 after a hard-fought battle. Hundreds of her students have known Shahla as a strong spirit, mother figure, passionate educator and most importantly, a friend. Through this program, her students, community as well as anyone who has been touched by Shahla's story are paying tribute to her by cultivating the future generations of strong women in Azerbaijan. Therefore, the funds collected are allocated to female candidates pursuing educational opportunities through an open call for applications.



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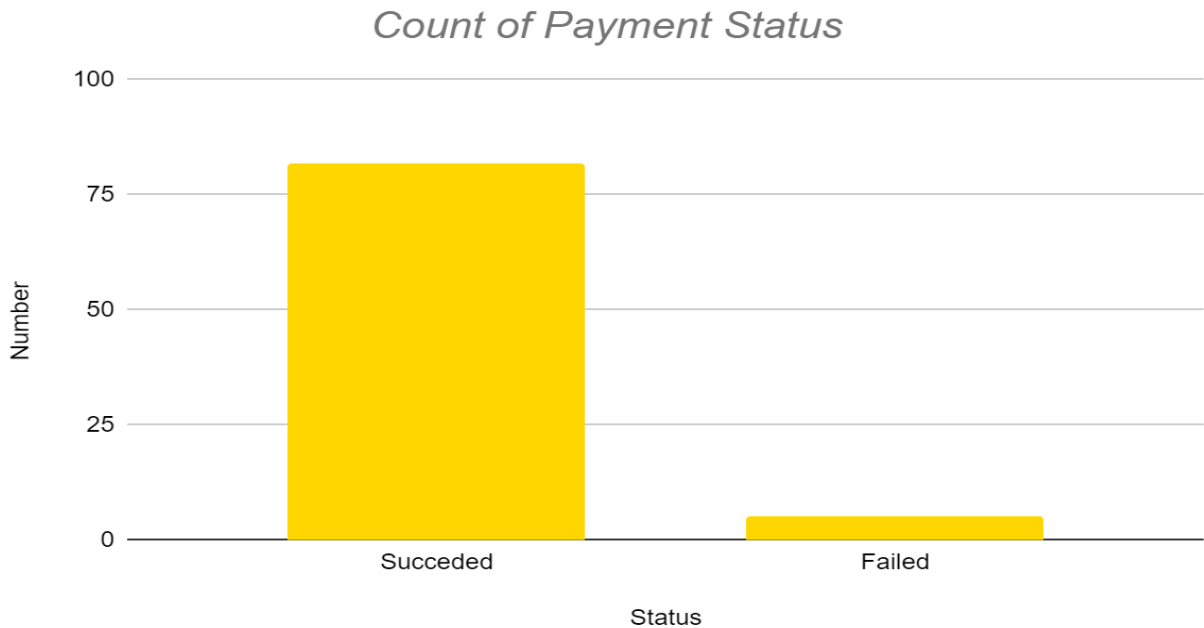


Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program

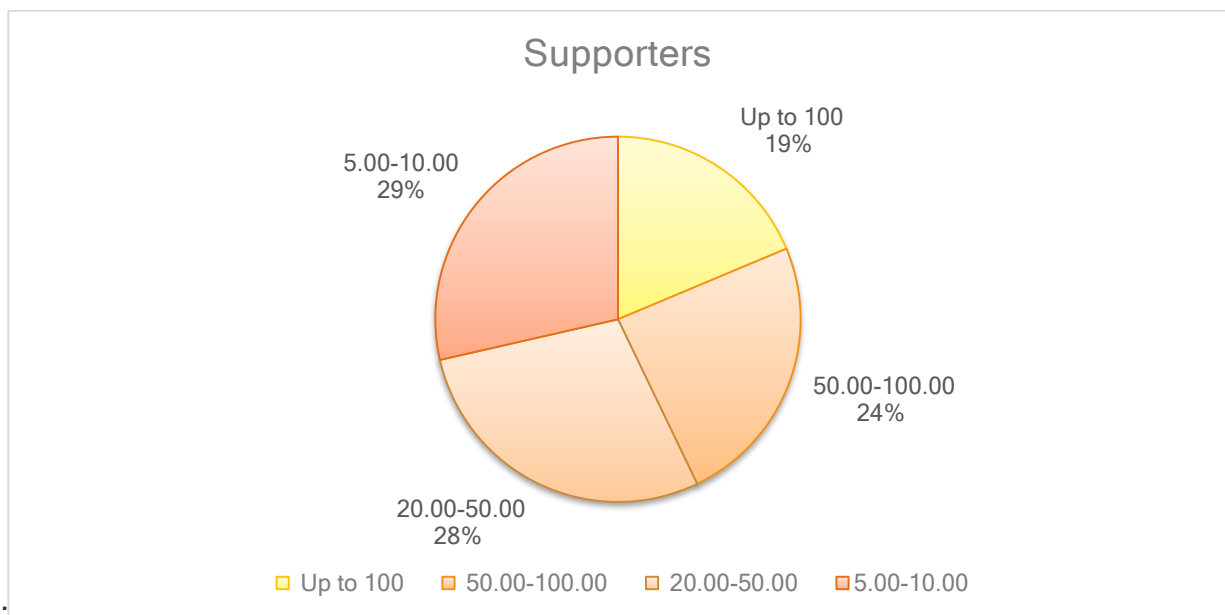
# CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

October-December 2018

Through [Crowdfunding Campaign](#), we received 87 donations; of those, 5 failed because of the transaction issues:



The two-month long campaign allowed us to collect, in total, \$3621.44 to fund the studies of young female students from Azerbaijan. The chart below indicates the distribution of donations by the amounts received by our individual supporters:

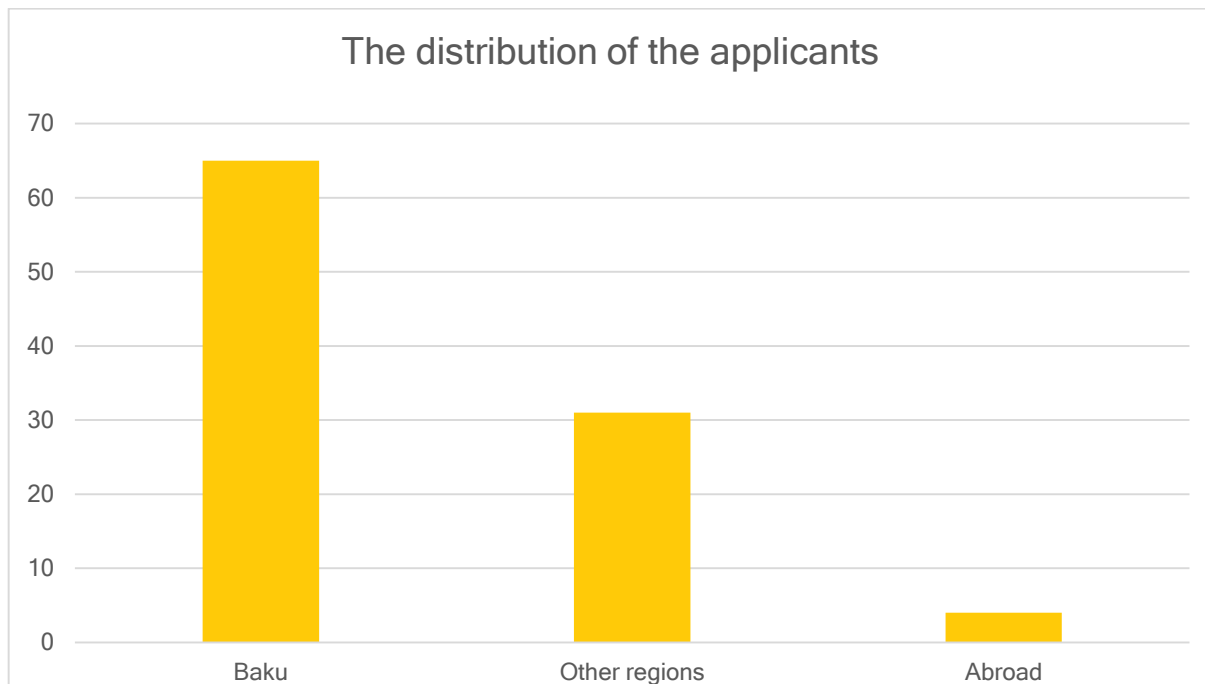
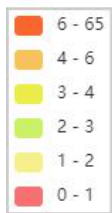
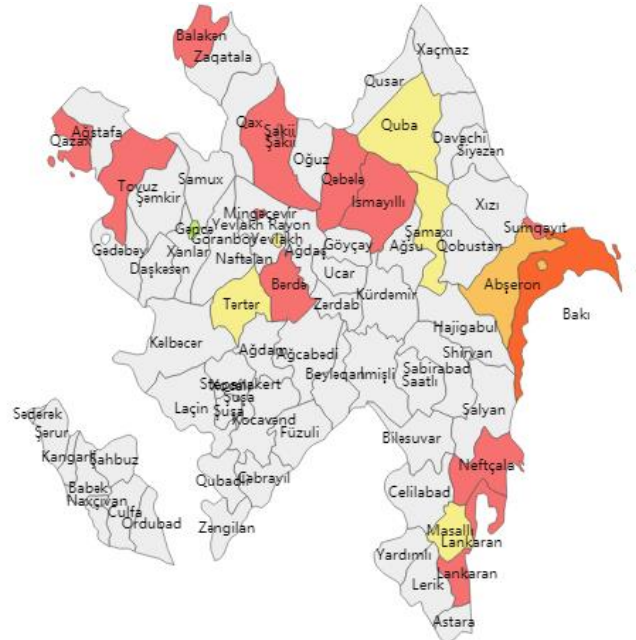


# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

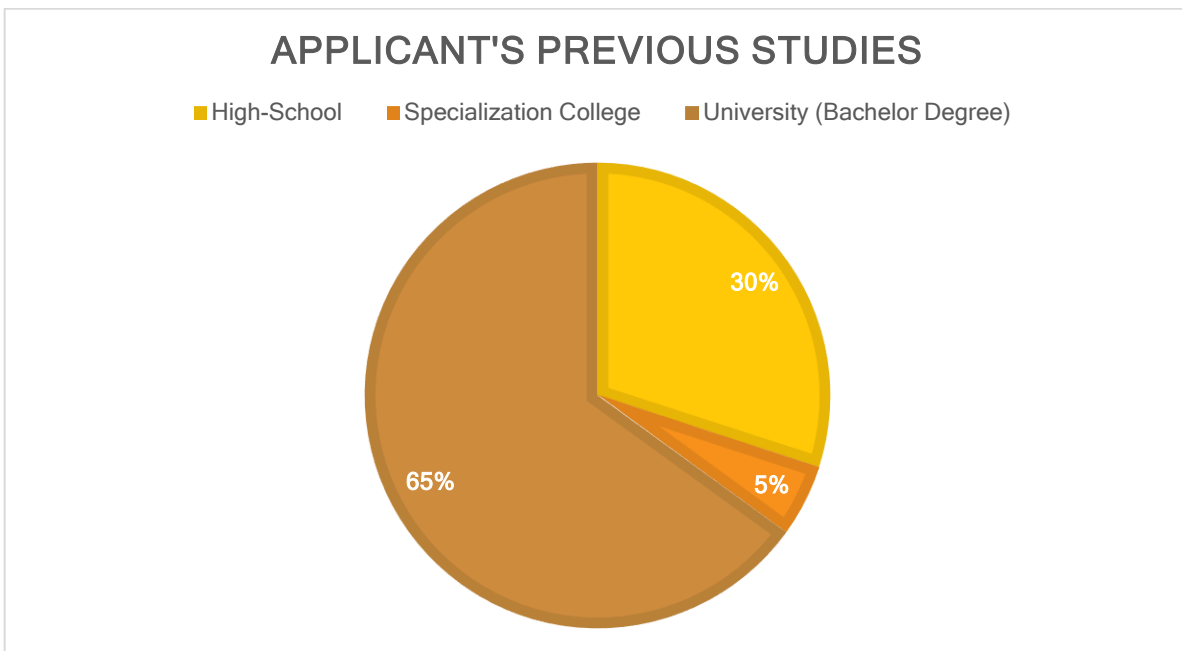
January - April 2019

We received **100 applications** from different regions of Azerbaijan and from abroad.

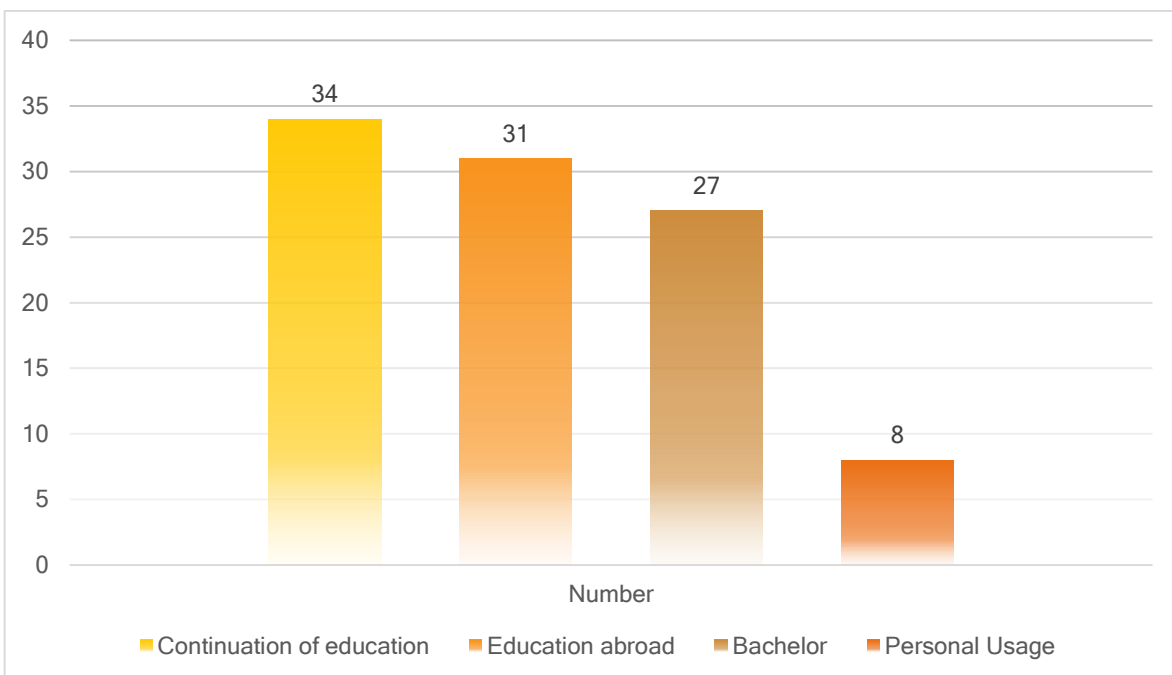
paintmaps.com



The applicants represent different academic backgrounds and educational institutions; universities, high-school and vocational schools:



The applicant's purpose in applying for the scholarship program varied based on the demonstrated need. As shown in the chart below, most of the girls applied to either further continue their studies or to study abroad for the next degree:



# SELECTION PROCESS

May - June 2019

The selection process of the scholarship recipients took place in three stages: 1) Initial review; 2) External review; 3) Interview. Each stage of the selection process is described below.

**Initial review.** During this stage, the SGSP project team reviewed the applications by assigning them into three categories: highest need, moderate need, lowest need. The criteria used for determining the level of grade were based on an applicant's social and economic indicators as demonstrated in the application. After the initial review of all applications, the SGSP project team identified *30 applicants* who advanced to the second stage.

**External review.** Two of the SGSP supporters indicated commitment to help with the selection of the scholarship recipients. At this stage, the supporters were asked to read through applicants' short answer essays and identify applicants who demonstrate: a) the highest need and b) a sense of purpose. As a result of the external review, the SGSP project team determined *13 finalists* who made it through to the final stage.



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**Interview.** At this stage, the SGSP project team scheduled a phone or a Skype interview with each finalist to get to know them better and ask questions that were not on the application form. As SGSP is a needs-based scholarship, the project team aimed to probe finalists further on how the scholarship fund is relevant to their needs. Upon careful deliberation, *6 scholarship recipients* were selected at the end of a three-day interview process.





# SUPPORTERS

VUSAL SELİMLİ  
 JEYHUN B.  
 UMMAN GULİYEV  
 FAİG ABBASOV  
 RUFAT KARİMOV  
 RAGGSANA KARİMOVA  
 MAHAMMAD MEHDİYEV  
 CHINARA AHMADOVA  
 TABRIZ ALİYEV  
 SHAHNAZ KAMALOVA  
 MAHAMMAD İBRAHİMOV  
 SHAFaq GARAYEVA  
 ZARİFA MAMMADLİ  
 HEATHER TURNER  
 AYSİMA AHMADLİ  
 ASİM AZİZLİ  
 TALAT KALAYEV  
 PARVİZ ALİYEV  
 RIKKE SLOTH BJERREGAARD  
 AZAR KARİMOV  
 LEYLA QURBANOVA  
 RASHAD HUSEYNOV  
 RICCARDO MADDALOZZO  
 FARİD CAFAROV  
 ULKAR İMAMVERDİ  
 CAVAİR AHMADOVA  
 LEYLA SEYİDZADA  
 NARGİZ QULİEVA  
 ULVİYYA MEHRALİYEVA

SHU-YI HSU  
 YUSİF HUSEYNOV  
 ARZU JAFARLI  
 BAHRUZ QULİYEV  
 SANCAR AHMADOV  
 CAVİD HUSEYNOV  
 NEMAT QULİYEV  
 ETİBAR HASANOV  
 MAQSUD M  
 ANAR KARİMLİ  
 SABİNA QULİYEV  
 CEYHUN B.  
 CAVASHİR MAMMADLİ  
 KÖNUL QULİYEVA  
 ELENA SPIRKINA  
 ARZU İMANLI  
 ZUMRUD CALİLOVA  
 ZAHRA MURAD  
 NARGİZ QULİYEVA  
 ZİYA BAĞIRZADA  
 FARİDA BUYURAN  
 REAL HACIYEV  
 CORBIN CAMPBELL  
 RASHAD PASHAZADA  
 QİYAS HUSEYN  
 YOSHITO KATANODA  
 AYNUR CAFAR  
 SHAB NACAFOV  
 SAMİRA HACIYEVA



# FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUE		
Donations	\$	3,621.44
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3621.44</b>

EXPENSE		
General administration	and	\$ 142.51
Program services	\$	3,258.56
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,401.07</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>220.37</b>



# SGSP AWARDEES<sup>1</sup>

2018/2019



**Jalala Abdullayeva**

**City/District:** Baku city, Binagadi district

**Age:** 22

**University:** Khazar University

How does SGSP help you in reaching your educational goals? I am currently enrolled in philology department as an English language and literature major at Khazar University. With the help of SGSP, I will be able to continue my education without financial difficulties. Despite being born in Nakhchivan, I have completed secondary school in Baku and plan to build a career in humanities after completing my education at Khazar University. In future, I would like to further specialize in literature because I find myself to be more talented in the humanities. After graduating with bachelor's, I plan to continue studying towards this goal as a master's student. I believe that this will prepare me for a career and help me become a language specialist in one of the educational institutions.



**Roya Abdullayeva**

**City/District:** Baku city, Qaradagh district

**Age:** 20

**University:** Baku State University

How does SGSP help you in reaching your educational goals? Currently, I have reached the midpoint mark in completing my bachelor's degree in geography at Baku State University. I plan to further specialize in this area after successfully graduating and getting admitted to master's program. I wholeheartedly believe that I can become a strong professional in this field and pass on my passion to future generations. My main goal is to get in-depth knowledge of geography, gain skills in ArcGIS, MapInfo, and other software programs in order to excel in cartography. I also believe that due to dearth of scientific literature on geography in Azerbaijani finding relevant sources is rather difficult. By being part of SGSP, I will be able to smoothly continue my education and work towards solving problems like this in my field.

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<sup>1</sup>\*Note: Even though there were chosen 6 scholarship recipients, two of the awardies had to decline the scholarship because of the personal matters.





**Jala Mammadova**

**City/District: Tovuz district, Əhmədabad village**

**Age: 18**

**University: Baku State University, Qazakh branch**

How does SGSP help you in reaching your educational goals? I have set myself a goal to get education to be able to lead an independent life of my own. This way I also want to help the kids from disadvantaged families like my own to receive proper education. Although I graduated secondary school in Ahmadabad village, due to a tragic event in my family after which my father lost his arms, I had to move in with my uncle's family in Qobustan, Baku where I continued my education. Eventually, I got admitted to the Qazakh branch of Baku State University to major in physics education. However, due to financial constraints I faced a lot of obstacles. Thanks to SGSP, I can continue studying without any difficulties.



**Laman Movlanova**

**City/District: Bakı şəhəri, Xətai rayonu**

**Age: 19**

**University: Azerbaijan University of Languages**

How does SGSP help you in reaching your educational goals? My main plan about my future is to get excellent education. My goal is not just to educate myself but also to be able to pay it forward to future generations. Being brought up in a single-parent household has made achieving this goal pretty cumbersome financially. However, presence of institutions such as SGSP in my life has given me courage and in the future, I hope to be able to help a student just the way SGSP is helping me now. My biggest dream is to teach at a university as a professor. With the help of SGSP, I feel myself one step closer to this dream



*Empowering young women for a brighter future...*

