

2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

 **Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program**

[www.sgsp.info](http://www.sgsp.info)



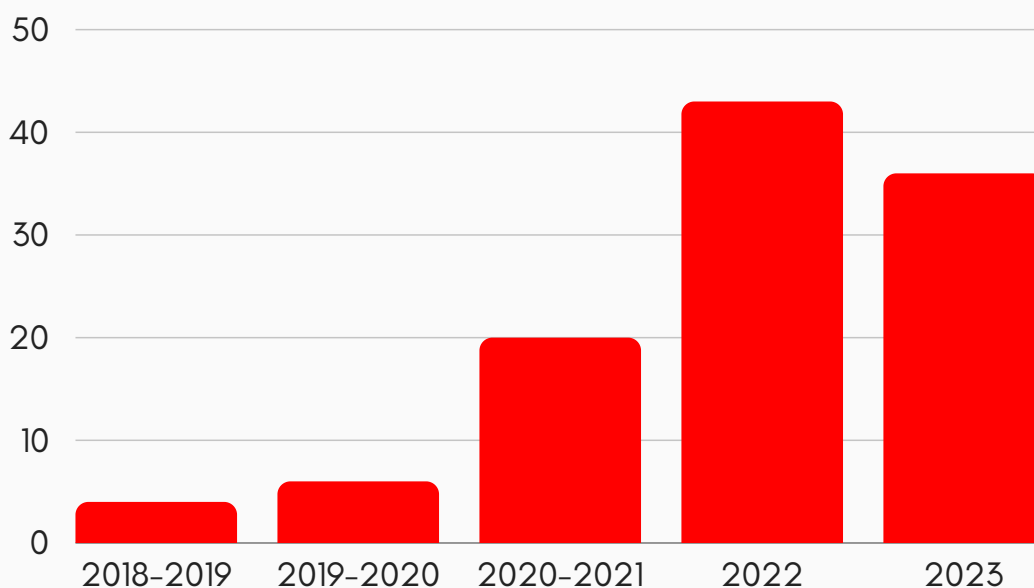
Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program

# INTRODUCTION

35 SCHOLARSHIPS

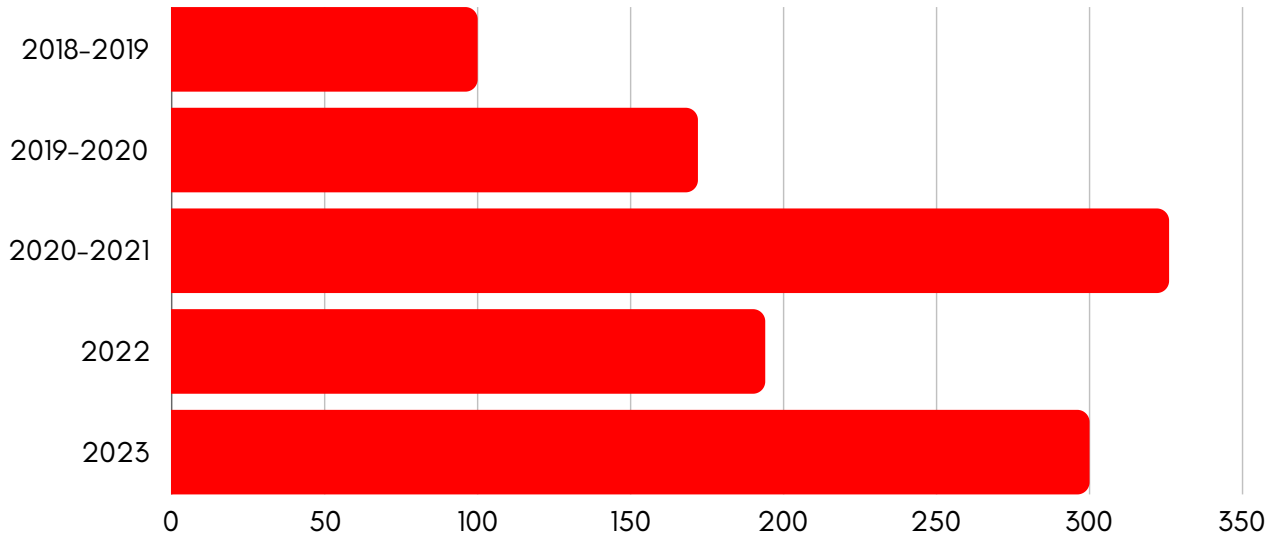
Shahla Garayeva Scholarship Program, founded in 2018, is dedicated to fostering the educational aspirations and objectives of underrepresented young girls in Azerbaijan. Annually, for a period of two to three months, we open a call for applications, allowing interested young girls to benefit from the scholarship program in the form of financial aid and the mentorship program. Since the establishment of SGSP, there has been consistent growth in the number of scholarships awarded each year. Commencing with 4 scholarships in the 2018/2019 academic year, we progressively increased the count to 6 in 2019/2020 and an impressive 20 in 2020/2021.

Building on the momentum from the significant milestone achieved last year, this year remains noteworthy as we proudly announce the allocation of **35 scholarships**. Notably, the decision to raise the scholarship amount to **800 USA Dollars** reflects a substantial stride in the ongoing growth and impact of SGSP



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# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS



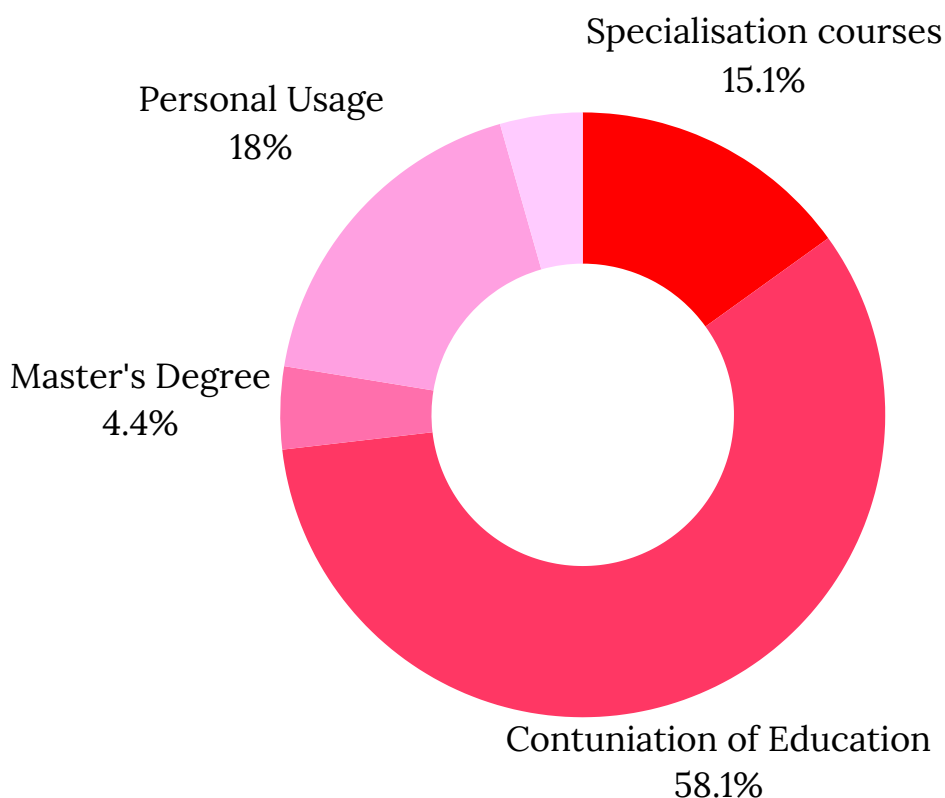
The Call for Applications 2023 was open for a two-month period of time. During this period, we received a total of 300 applications. However, during the initial stage of the selection process, 28 applicants (male candidates, not completed application forms) were disqualified at the very first stage of the selection process (one of the eligibility requirements to apply to SGSP is to be a young girl from Azerbaijan).

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# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

In total, we have reviewed **272 applications**. Applicants' motivations for applying to the scholarship program varied according to demonstrated needs. Illustrated in the chart below, a predominant number of applicants expressed their intention to utilise the scholarship funds either for the continuation of their studies or to cover various personal expenses.



# SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process for scholarship recipients unfolded in three distinct stages:

## 1) Initial review

During this phase, the SGSP project team meticulously evaluated the **272 applications**, categorizing them into three groups based on need levels – highest, moderate, and lowest. The determination of need was grounded in social and economic indicators demonstrated in the applications. Following the initial review, 150 applicants progressed to the next stage.

## 2) External review

Two dedicated supporters of SGSP volunteered to contribute to the selection process. They were tasked with evaluating anonymised short answer essays, identifying applicants showcasing a) the highest need and b) the highest motivation – a sense of purpose. The external review resulted in **63 finalists** who advanced to the final stage.

## 3) Interview

At this stage, the SGSP project team arranged phone or Zoom interviews with each finalist to gain a deeper understanding and pose questions beyond those in the application form. Given that SGSP is a needs-based scholarship, the team sought to explore how the scholarship fund aligned with the finalists' needs. After a six-day interview process, **35 scholarship recipients** were ultimately selected.

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# THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The SGSP team is wholeheartedly dedicated to fostering the growth and advancement of our awardees. The Mentorship Program stands as a testament to its efficacy, consistently yielding remarkable results. Each passing year unfolds a tapestry of success stories, wherein young girls find empowerment through transformative mentoring relationships. These connections not only cultivate a profound sense of self-assurance but also serve as a source of positive experiences that significantly shape their future decision-making processes.

Beyond individual growth, the Mentorship Program plays a pivotal role in maintaining the active engagement of awardees within the tight-knit community forming around the SGSP Program. It acts as a catalyst for the establishment and nurturing of meaningful networks that extend far beyond the duration of the program itself. The commitment of highly professional mentors, generously offering insights gleaned from their own journeys, adds a rich layer to the program's fabric.

In the current year, the Mentorship Program has embraced up to **15 awardees**, embarking on a transformative journey lasting six months. This signifies not only our dedication to individualised mentorship but also our commitment to providing a robust and enduring support system for the talented individuals within the SGSP community.

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# PARTNERSHIPS



This year we continued our partnership with the **Azerbaijan Cultural Society (Northern California)** and **For Azerbaijan Fund** to increase the impact of our work. Both non-profits provided us with organisational and fundraising support helping us raise a higher amount of funds for scholarships and implement better programming for our recipients. We would like to express our gratitude to our partners for their time and efforts in making 2023 another successful year!

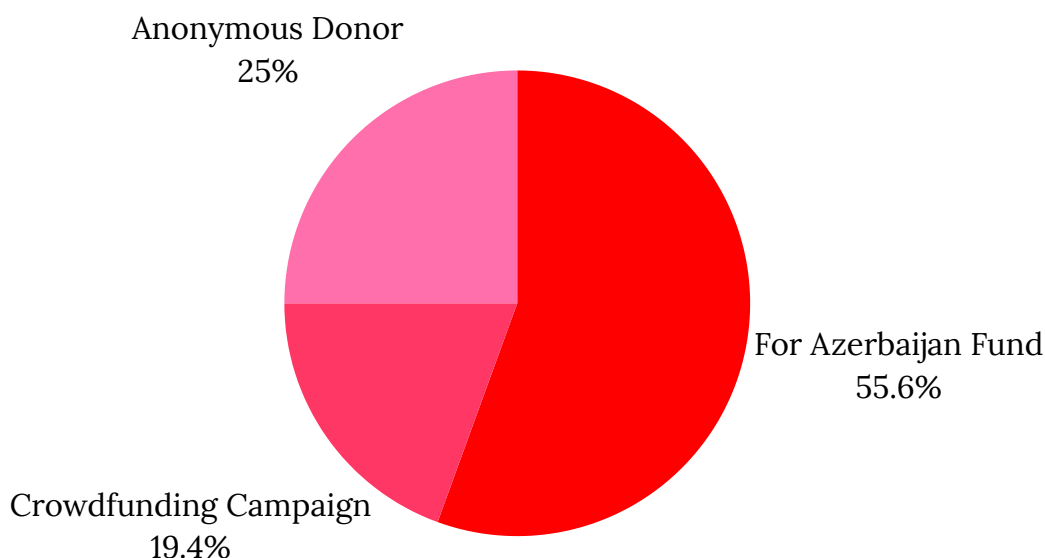


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# CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGN

The SGSP Crowdfunding Campaign 2023 was successful in raising a total of \$ 16,972 to support the studies of young girls from Azerbaijan. This success was made possible through a strategic partnership with **ACSNC (Azerbaijan Cultural Society Northern California)**, resulting in a remarkable **59 online donations** during the crowdfunding campaign. This year, we received generous support once again from an Anonymous Donor, amounting to \$ 11,764. This significant contribution boosted our total budget for 2023 to **\$28,736.60**, enabling us to award **16 scholarships**.

Our collaborative endeavours extended well beyond the confines of this campaign, evident in our sustained and fruitful partnerships throughout the year. With the support of **For Azerbaijan Fund's Crowdfunding Campaign**, we could provide **an additional 19 scholarships**, bringing the **total number of scholarships awarded to 35**. The distribution of donations across various campaigns and partnerships is illustrated in the chart below.





# FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

Revenue	
Crowdfunding Campaign Donations (Website)	\$ 16,972.00
Donation - Anonymous Donor	\$ 11,764.60
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 28,736.60</b>
Expenses	
Administrative Expenses *	\$ 1,004.02
Program Expenses *	\$ 12,470.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,474.02</b>
<b>Net Surplus (Deficit)* 2023</b>	<b>\$ 15,262.58</b>
<b>Administrative expenses/Total Revenue</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Program Expenses/Total Revenue</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Net Surplus 2023/Total Revenue</b>	<b>53%</b>

**\*Administrative Expenses** encompass platform payments (Stripe, Hosting, G-Suite, and transfer fees). It's important to note that all work undertaken by the team is on a voluntary basis; no monetary compensation is provided.

**\*Program Expenses** include Scholarship Disbursement.

**\*Net Surplus (Deficit)** will be allocated to fund scholarships for the awardees in the upcoming years.

**\*Revenue and expenses are calculated till December 30, 2023**

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*All this would be impossible without  
Your support!*

*Thank you!*

