AHFAD UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

ENGAGING STUDENTS IN CULTURAL LIFE

TALENTS DEVELOPMENT: AN INTEGRAL PART OF UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS
Enhancing Students’ Civic Engagement through Talents Development Program

Ahfad University for Women (AUW), is a non-governmental, non-profit making, non-sectarian university in Omdurman, established in 1966 and dedicated to promoting improvements in the status and living conditions for Sudanese women and their families. AUW provides several academic undergraduate programs all in English language provided by Six Academic Schools. The University encourages all students to discover and develop their talents and skills and therefore it offers as parts of the university prescribed program the Talents Development Program which aims to give students the opportunity to develop their talents and enhance their skills in Music, Drama, Journalism, Art and Physical Education.

The University offers these subjects for theoretical and practical study in the first year of study all the Schools of the University. Also AUW provides music, drama, sports and other facilities as well as qualified staff (both full time and part time) who train, coach or guide students in different fields. The University choral, orchestra, drama groups and sports teams are very active and quite visible both within and outside the University and have won several National Trophies.

Music: The course in music began in 1986 as a student music society which offered evening courses in music to interested students. In 1989, well organized coral music activities were offered during the days. The result was the formation of the Ahfad Coral Music Group. From 1992 onward, Music has been offered as an elective course for first year students.

Drama: A drama society was established in 1993 by 35 students, but grew more to include sub-Schools societies that compete annually in the AUW Annual Celebration of International Women’s Day. The shows of these societies are presented at all university occasions.

Mass-Media: (Radio, T.V. broad casting service and Journalism) was also introduced as an optional course for first year students at the university starting from 1992. Groups of 10 students are required to edit and publish the AUW Students’ magazine Al Nisf Al Waied – Promising Half as partial fulfillment of the practical course. The university magazine of is prepared and edited by students enrolled in this course who then opt to join the Promising Half Forum for the remaining of their years of study at AUW.

Physical Education: These include basket ball, volley ball, foot ball (introduced four years ago), chess, pin pong and other athletic activities. AUW students have Schools and a University team in each sport and they compete nationally amongst other universities. Many trophies were won by AUW students.

Art: This is the most recent addition of the talents program and it provides skills development for students in art and painting. Students hold regular exhibitions under different themes using their art talents.

Students are also organized into “Student league” and in “students associations”. About 60% of the students are fully participating in these bodies as executors, members or supporters. These provide students with the opportunity to reflect the different thematic activities that AUW carries out to educate the students, staff and the community in different issues related to women and community development such as violence against women, environment, girls' education, poverty, health and others. During these celebration, and especially during the Women' Week, the students as compete and a governing body formulated from national media professionals (such as journalist, theater specialist, singers, actors and actresses) judge each performance and assign grades are for each school/individual students work. At the end, Prizes are distributed including the special prize in form of annual cup “El Sara Musa” cup for best school performances, and Yousif Badri shell for first winner in sports competition.

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