

# Armenia's Workforce Development Starts *at* AUA

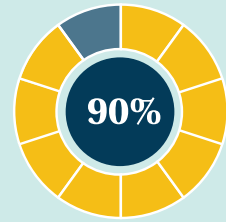


**Investing in AUA means developing Armenia's workforce. Around the country, AUA graduates are excelling across leading organizations and strategic sectors, driving economic growth and strengthening society.**

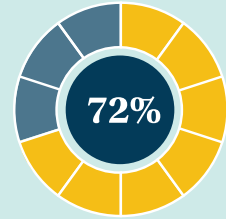
# AUA Alumni Thriving in Armenia's Strategic Sectors

Investing in workforce development is a powerful lever for economic growth and job creation. According to the World Bank\*, effective skill development programs reduce underemployment, enhance productivity, and elevate living standards. This global evidence is reflected at AUA, where we equip students with a strong academic foundation and critical skills to succeed as they build careers and become responsible citizens of Armenia. In addition, the University creates opportunities for students to acquire practical skills and learn from international experts and Armenian industry leaders through various workshops, internships, and the Student-Alumni mentorship program. These efforts empower AUA students to step confidently into Armenia's workforce and shape the country's future.

Today, many AUA alumni are excelling across Armenia's leading organizations and strategic sectors. These alumni are living proof that investments in education unlock human capital and build a competitive workforce that can meaningfully contribute to the economy and the society.



Over 90% of AUA alumni are currently employed



72% of AUA alumni work in jobs related to their field of study at the University

**Gayane Melkonyan (MBA '16)**  
Head of Marketing, Spark.work,  
a VOLO company



Besides my classes, aspiring professors, and hands-on knowledge that contributed to my professional growth, it is the ability to adapt that I took away from AUA.

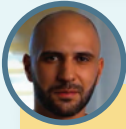


**Jaqlin Mardirossian (BSCS '25)**  
Business Application  
Support Engineer, VOLO



AUA helped me build a strong foundation in computer science, while Volo allowed me to apply that knowledge in real-life projects. Both experiences have shaped my confidence and opened up many doors to exciting tech opportunities.

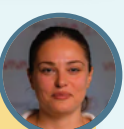
**Karen Hovhannisyan (MBA '18)**  
Customer Value Management  
Section Officer, Viva Armenia



MBA program was a great addition to my engineering background. I gained business knowledge, communication, and public speaking skills.

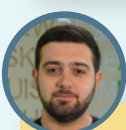


**Syuzanna Movsisyan (MSCIS '08)**  
Leading Reporting Engineer,  
Viva Armenia



AUA gave me a strong foundation of different programming languages. It also shaped me into a more disciplined and result-oriented team player.

**Yuri Baroyan (BAB '22)**  
Security Broker,  
Ameriabank



AUA courses and groups gave me the essential skills to build strong professional relationships. It also equipped me with practical skills which I use on a daily basis.



**Sona Khloyan (MEIESM '23)**  
Senior Data Analyst,  
Ameriabank



AUA was a turning point for me. It gave me the tools and mindset to thrive in the data-driven world. The professors, supportive community, and collaborative learning environment played a major role in my career development.

## Legal Expertise and Vision are Shaping Armenia's Wine Tourism

Mary Badalyan's (LL.M. '08) journey from law to entrepreneurship began at AUA, where her Master of Laws degree provided the business and legal knowledge she needed to succeed. After graduation, she met her future business partner Nune Manukyan. This collaboration resulted in the creation of **Yerevan Wine Days**, a celebratory event that quickly became a hit attraction for tourists from around the globe. Soon after, Mary and Nune co-founded EventToura, a company specializing in festivals and events.

Today, EventToura's portfolio also includes events like Beer Days and Yerevan Music Night aimed at promoting local producers and tourism. Their efforts have earned them the "Event of the Year" award and established EventToura as a socially responsible company dedicated to supporting Armenia's cultural and economic growth. Mary also is an active AUA alumna as a student mentor in the Bachelor of Arts in Business program and a supporter of the University.



Mentoring through the AUA program reminded me how deeply human and fulfilling it is to pass on the knowledge and insights I have gained throughout my life. There is a unique satisfaction in supporting someone's growth, knowing that your experience can help light the path for their journey, while also being inspired by their fresh energy and vision.

\* World Bank, [www.worldbank.org/en/topic/skillsdevelopment](http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/skillsdevelopment), 2025

# AUA's Student Landscape Grows Across Regions, Disciplines, and Diaspora

At AUA, achieving equity means ensuring education access for students across all social, economic, geographic, and gender backgrounds. AUA students bring new perspectives, build healthy learning environments, and strengthen cultural ties. They represent various regions of Armenia and Diaspora and vulnerable populations who often face barriers to higher education. This educational equity boosts innovation, strengthens the labor force, and enhances national productivity, thereby supporting sustainable development and benefiting Armenian society as a whole.

## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY TO EVERY CORNER OF ARMENIA

# 1 in 4

### AUA Students Represent Armenia's Regions

Today, more than one in four students come to AUA from Armenia's regions, compared to about one in five just six years ago. The number of AUA students from Armenia's regions increased by 97%.



### Milena Kroyan (BAPG '28) Gegharkunik region

With an interest in history and sociology, it was natural for Milena to enroll in the Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Governance program.

Milena actively participates in various non-formal educational projects, including leading initiatives in Gavar Youth House, a center for teenagers aiming to develop soft skills and encourage personal development. She also participated in the summer school organized by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, which influenced her career path.

Milena appreciates having access to project-based learning experiences at AUA and hopes to be able to further contribute to the betterment of her hometown Sarukhan village after graduating from AUA.



### Narek Ohanyan (BSCS '26) Ararat region

Jack Munushian Charitable Trust  
CSE Scholarship

Narek Ohanyan is from a region acutely affected by climate change. This influenced Narek's passion for environmental science to major in computer science at AUA with a minor in environmental studies.

In addition to his studies, Narek is a junior researcher at the **AUA Acopian Center for the Environment**. He has also worked on environmental projects with organizations such as the United Nations, U.S. Agency for International Development, and UNICEF.

Narek hopes to see the youth of Ararat region get actively engaged in various initiatives to ensure their voices are heard and their suggestions addressed.

## ADVANCING WOMEN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



### Rebeka Mesropyan (BSESS '27) Intern, Coca-Cola HBC Harmon William Hubbard Endowed Scholarship

Rebeka Mesropyan initially planned a career in finance but her path changed when she discovered AUA's new environmental science program. With encouragement from her family, she chose to major in the program, turning her innate passion for the environment into a professional pursuit.

Today, Rebeka works with the **AUA Acopian Center for the Environment**, where she helped create a Citizen Science Toolkit to help Armenian teachers educate students on water quality. She also served as an intern at Coca-Cola in Armenia and is currently involved in the "From Data to Change" project, teaching students how to map unregistered areas using GIS technology.

# 153%

Female enrollment in  
STEM programs at AUA  
increased by 153%  
between 2018 and 2024



## PAVING ACADEMIC PATHWAYS FOR ARMENIAN DIASPORA

**Anasheh Haghverdian (MBA '17)**  
Program Manager, Impact Hub



# 73%

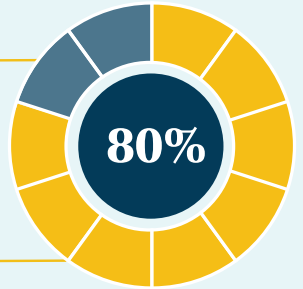
of AUA alumni reside in Armenia, while 27% live in 80 countries

Anasheh Haghverdian (MBA '17) was born and raised in Iran. At the age of 19, she moved to Armenia for higher education. From the moment she arrived, she felt an immediate connection to Armenia. The decision to pursue an MBA at AUA marked a turning point for Anasheh. Her journey has come full circle - from a diasporan facing the challenges of moving to Armenia to a mentor helping others build and transform their dreams. She now considers Armenia her homeland, a place where she truly belongs. A program manager at Impact Hub Yerevan, Anasheh helps startups and entrepreneurs bring their ideas to life.



## SERVING BEYOND SERVICE: INVESTING IN OUR VETERANS' HIGHER EDUCATION

100% of alumni, who received scholarships for veterans, live in Armenia, and over 80% are employed.



**Areg Karapetyan (BSES '23, MEIESM '25)**  
Paul and Primrose Demirdjian Scholarship  
AUA Academic Scholarship



Areg applied to AUA while still serving in the military. After receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, he now works as an electronics engineer at VGate and as an adjunct lecturer at AUA, where he teaches courses in ControlSystems and Circuits Lab. He is grateful for the opportunity to study at AUA and today, he is giving back to his alma mater by sharing his knowledge with the next generation of bright minds at the University.

**Garik Ayrapetyan (BAPG '28)**  
Megerdich and Azniv Dersookian Memorial Endowed Scholarship



Garik Ayrapetyan is pursuing his undergraduate degree in Politics and Governance at AUA with an objective to build a career in diplomacy and politics. Garik has always followed a path shaped by discipline, resilience, and vision. A former champion athlete and graduate of the Monte Melkonian Military-Sports Lyceum, he became the first Armenian accepted to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Garik is deeply grateful for the scholarship support and the chance to study at AUA, which is helping him move steadily toward his dream of becoming the leader he aspires to be.

*All my life I've built my character with the core value to help others and to live a life that will lead humankind to a better future.*

**Together, let us prepare the next generation of professionals Armenia needs for a better and brighter future!**

AUA Office of Development

500 N Brand Boulevard, Suite 840  
Glendale, CA 91203  
+1 (510) 925-4282

development@aua.am  
philanthropy.aua.am

@auaphilanthropy  
AUA Office of Development



giving.aua.am