Over a decade ago, Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award (SSESA) was instituted to help AMU students and alumni with their aspiration of achieving higher education (PhD/MS programs) in the USA. Sir Syed Education Society of North America administers two annual scholarship programs: (i) the Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award (SSESA), which helps AMU students and alumni with their graduate school admissions, and (ii) the International Summer Research Award (ISRA), which is focused on providing AMU students with short-term summer internship opportunities in the US.

As part of the SSESA program, scholars are provided with personalized mentorship and financial assistance towards GRE/GMAT/TOEFL tests, GRE/GMAT preparation program, and application fees paid for up to five schools. SSESA team helps students with their standardized tests preparation, resumes and graduate school essays, as well as selection of universities. SSESA is open to all AMU students and alumni irrespective of their area of study; scholars are selected after a rigorous selection process: (i) US based evaluators first screen applications based upon their merit, akin to US graduate program selection process and about top 20% applicants are invited for GRE-styled test and personalized interview at AMU; (ii) Finally, 18-19 students are selected for the SSESA award, strictly based upon their overall performance. SSESA program is a volunteer-driven program; subject experts from different areas of specialization mentor and guide scholars, in getting admit(s) in different prestigious graduate programs. So far, SSESA team has successfully placed over 70 AMU students at various prestigious universities around the world, including the United States.

In 2013, Sir Syed Education Society of North America and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide summer research opportunities for AMU students in the US. Under the MoU, a new program was instituted, the "International Summer Research Award (ISRA; www.ssesa.us/isra.php)", under which AMU students will work at major US research universities for fully funded 2-3 months internship. ISRA program serves as a feeder program to the SSESA program. Students come to US for summer research internship and get firsthand research exposure at US schools as well as opportunities to make useful contacts with the US academicians. Such experiences help AMU students not only in getting research experience but also with their graduate school applications for MS/Ph.D programs. In last two summers, SSESA team has selected 3 AMU students for summer internships in the US schools and they were fully funded.

Sir Syed Education Society of North America is thankful to the Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University Lt. Gen.Zameeruddin Shah (Retd) for extending much-needed help in conducting SSESA/ISRA program screenings at AMU.

On behalf of SSESA team, I would also like to thank our supporters who have provided funding and mentorship to students.

-Mohsin Raza Khan
Baltimore, MD
The Sir Syed Education Society of North America, a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization, annually administers the Sir Syed Emerging Scholar Award (SSESA) and the International Summer Research Award (ISRA). SSESA is offered to students and alumni of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) from all faculties, including sciences, life sciences, medicine, arts, business, commerce, law, social sciences, and education. ISRA program, in collaboration with the United States Universities, offers fully funded summer research opportunities to AMU students from science and life science faculties.

“I feel that SSESA is a wonderful program and very successful for last few years. I think it is running very well and most of the students who have been benefitted by SSESA say that they are getting everything out of it. It is unique in the sense that most of the students who have been selected through SSESA are really encouraged to do good research”

-Dr. Suhail Sabir, Chairman, Alumni Affairs Committee, AMU

Selection of Scholars
SSESA Scholars are selected based on academic excellence and performance in GRE-styled test and personal interview

Mentoring
A committed team of volunteers mentor students and work with them for upto 2 years till they are successful in getting admission in a prestigious Masters/PhD program

Paying application fees
SSESA covers the registration fees for GRE, GMAT, TOEFL and application fees for upto five universities.

And the network grows...
Upon arrival in US, the students in turn become mentor to other incoming students
Mr. Hasan Kamal, Ex-President (FAAA) and SSESA supporter, shedding light on SSESA’s contributions in helping AMU students with their goals of achieving higher education at North American Universities during an educational session at the XIIIth Annual Convention of FAAA (Chicago, IL). The panelists include (L-R): Dr. Shaheer Khan (AEEF Executive), Mr. Mohsin Khan (SSESA chair), Ms. Beenish Zia (SSESA scholar 2009), and Prof. Syed Hashsham (Professor, Michigan State University) (June 2014, Chicago, IL)

Hon. Vice Chancellor Lt. General Zameeruddin Shah signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SSESA, to facilitate summer internship opportunities for AMU students in USA (June 23rd, 2013, Houston, TX)

Recent Successfully Placed Students

- Mr. Quamar Niyaz (2013), Ph.D Program Computer Sciences, University of Toledo, OH, USA.
- Mr. Mohammad Anas Anis (2013), MS Program, University of Cincinnati, OH, USA.
- Mr. Mohammad Sarim (2013), Ph.D Program, University of Toledo, OH, USA.
- Mr. M. Sameer Khan (2013), MS Power Electronics at North Carolina State University, NC, USA
- Mr. Mohd. Tabish Siddiqui (2014), MS Electrical and Computer Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, USA.
- Mr. Ali Muzaffar (2014), MS Engineering Management at the University of California Irvine, CA and MS Electrical Engg at University of Minnesota, Duluth, MN, USA.
- Mr. Haris Shamsi (2014), MS program at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Karlsruhe, Germany and the University of Edinburg, Edinburgh, UK.
- Mr. Atif Zafar (2014), Ph.D program at the Georgetown University, Washington DC, USA
- Mr. Farid Haq (2014), Ph.D Computer Science program at the State University of New York (SUNY), NY, USA and the University of Toledo, OH, USA.
- Mr. Kushagra Kumar (2014), MS Industrial Engineering, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, USA
- Mr. Salman Bin Kashif (2014), MSc (Chemical Engineering) program at Universiti Teknologi Petronas, Malaysia.
- Mr. Qambar Hasan Rizvi (2014), Ph.D program at the Satellite Stem Cell Research Lab of School of Biotechnology, Yeungnam University, South Korea.
- Mr. Mohsin Jahan Qazi (2015), Ph.D program at the Tampere University of Technology, Finland and the University of Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- Ms. Safia Rahmat (2015), MS program at the University of Toledo, OH, USA and University of Maryland (Baltimore County), MD, USA
- Mr. Mudassir Yatoo (2015), Ph.D program at the Imperial College, London, UK
- Mr. Shujaut H. Badr (2015), MS Mechanical Engineering program at The University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA
- Mr. M. Zulqaranain (2015), Ph.D program, Boise State University, ID, USA.
- Mr. Mohd Zubair (2015), Ph.D program in Biological Sciences, the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR, USA and the Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, USA.
- Mr. Wasikul Islam (2015), Ph.D program in Physics, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, AL, USA and University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, MD, USA and Oklahoma State University, OK, USA.
- Ms. Farhat Parveen (2015), MS program in Electronics, offered by the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), Baltimore, MD, USA, University of Toledo, OH, USA, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), NJ, USA, and University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), TX, USA.
- Mr. Prakhar Gupta (2015), MS program in Civil and Environmental Engineering, the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (UIUC), IL, USA.
- Ms. Mariam Siddiqui (2015), MS program in Electrical Engineering, the New York University, New York, NY, USA.
- Ms. Sabiha Khatoon (2015), Newton-Bhabha Ph.D program, the Aberystwyth University, Ceredigion, UK.
ISRA is an excellent initiative from non-profit organisation, Sir Syed Education Society of North America. Being the first recipient of International Summer Research Award (ISRA), I feel privileged to write about my research experience at Loyola University Medical School, Maywood, USA and my stay in USA. ISRA is an excellent opportunity for young graduates, who wish to work for two-three months in the academic environment of prestigious universities of United States of America (USA).

I worked in research group, led by Prof. Mashkoor A. Choudhry (an AMU Alumnus); his group works on analysis of the GUT immunity post burn and Alcohol exposure, with primary focus on the GUT region.

I found Chicago a good place to explore. I spent ‘independence eve’ at Downtown of Chicago, near Navy Piers. Fireworks on the lake side were colourful and pleasant, especially on July 4th. I found that the members of SSESA family and other AMU alumnus living in USA are very cooperative.

-Sabahuddin Ahmad (ISRA Scholar-2014, Loyola Medical School, Chicago, IL, USA)

Being a SSESA awardee and a proud member of the family, I feel very much privileged. SSESA not only made me dream big but also helped me to attain success. I am really amazed to observe the working style of this family and the extent to which they cooperate with the students.

The struggles of these seniors from the Aligarh fraternity were a great source of inspiration to me and as a result of this motivation, I was able to make a successful attempt in securing an internship at European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), Geneva, Switzerland which, I believe, is the best thing to have happened to me so far. CERN is not only the world’s largest Physics laboratory but also one of the most prestigious research institutes of the world.

Had I not got the SSESA award, I probably wouldn’t have got the motivation to apply there (in CERN) too. So, all credit goes to SSESA, which changed my perceptions, dreams and motivations of life.

-Wasikul Islam (SSESA Scholar-2014, Ph.D program at Oklahoma State University, OK, USA)

Mr. Sabahuddin Ahmad did his summer internship at Loyola University Medical School, Maywood, USA (June, 2014)
SSESA scholars have been on the rolls of prominent universities which include...

Mr. S.K. Abdus Sayeed completed his summer internship at University of Houston (Main Campus), Houston, USA (Summer '15)

Mr. M.R. Wani completed his summer internship at University of Alabama, USA (Summer '15)

Dr. Saif Sheikh interacted with the students of AMU and apprised them with the opportunities of higher education in USA.
(University Administrative Block, October 2014)

Mr. Mudasir Ahmad Yatoo delivered a talk on the opportunities abroad, required test scores and application process.
(Department of Chemistry, September 2015)

Annual Newsletter
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I have been associated with SSESA for the past few years, primarily as a volunteer to help them (students) prepare their GRE and TOEFL examinations and also serve in the interview committee in Aligarh. I find SSESA to be very unusual program and also a very successful program with many graduate students successfully placed in good graduate programs in US. My view of this is that they are so successful because they choose students entirely on the merit. In the many years that I have been associated with SSESSA, I cannot think of one instance where any member of SSESA executive ever approached us to push for any candidate. The program is run entirely on merit and it is very transparent as far as the selection goes. And this shows in the quality of the students they put forward, they provide them mentorship and get them placed in good graduate schools.

SSESA is also a program, which I think runs a little differently because every two years, I believe, or may be every three years new people are brought in to run the program. This is also important because it keeps the program young, it brings new blood, new ideas, new thinking, and it provides the intellectual driving force that any good program needs.

At the end of the day, it’s really your dollars that will help some of your young Alig friends to achieve their dreams just like you and I did when we were young”.

-Dr. Shahid Jameel (CEO at The Wellcome Trust / DBT India Alliance)

“The SSESA program has helped me immensely. I was coming from India to US and did not know anything about US but I was not alone. They (SSESA members) helped me out over the phone, through email and fortunately they were living close by, about 100 miles, and therefore paid me a visit. So it’s a brilliant program and beneficial for students. Thank you so much”

-Abdul Haleem Kidwai (SSESA Scholar-2012, MA Program, UMA, Massachusetts)

“I was awarded SSESA during the third year of the undergraduate program and I had applied to eight universities of which I got admits from four. They (SSESA members) helped me to write my resume, to edit my SOP apart from helping financially. Most importantly, they kept me motivated throughout the application process”.

-Ali Muzaffar (SSESA Scholar-2013, Consultant at Deloitte, California, USA)
Meet SSES A Team

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(Chairman)

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Boston, Massachusetts

Mr. Ali Rizvi
Boston, Massachusetts

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