

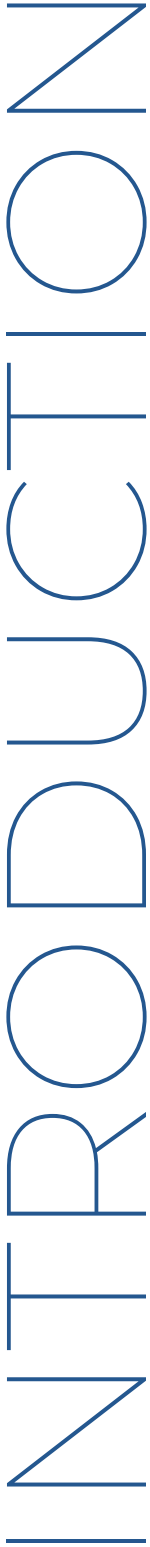
*sāya!*

South Asian Youth Action

# Scholarship Fund



2022-23



**SAYA remains dedicated to promoting educational equity, uplifting underserved communities, and shaping a brighter future.**

Through holistic, comprehensive, and expansive program offerings, South Asian Youth Action (SAYA) has met the needs of low-income, underserved youth across New York City for almost three decades. Established in 2014, the SAYA Scholarship Fund is an initiative dedicated to helping South Asian youth mitigate the high cost of attending college. Fully funded by individual donors, SAYA scholarships range from \$4,000 - \$20,000 distributed over eight semesters. Through these efforts, SAYA is working toward educational equity, supporting our college students throughout their higher education journeys.

Eligibility for these scholarships is extended to students of South Asian descent, requiring enrollment in SAYA programs for a minimum of one year, admission to a college or university, and a demonstration of financial need. Renewable based on academic performance, these scholarships have made a tangible impact, with SAYA awarding over \$1.4 million in scholarships to 144 South Asian youth since 2015.

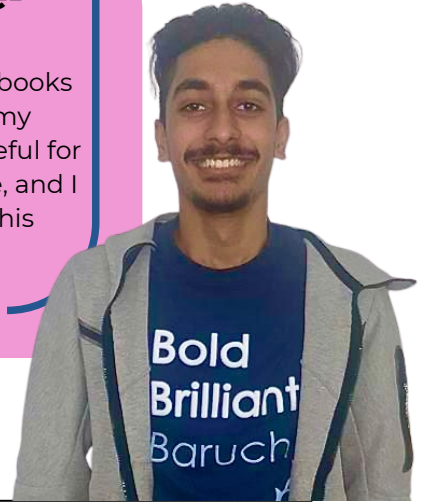
In SAYA's 28-year legacy of empowering underserved immigrant communities, our Scholarship Fund represents a testament to our commitment to educational equity. These scholarships significantly alleviate the financial burden on students, enabling them to focus on their educational aspirations. With your support, we have continued this work, generating a powerful ripple effect that extends far beyond our youth to encompass their peers, family members, and the broader community.

**Receiving this scholarship has been a life-changing experience for me.**

It has not only provided financial assistance to cover the cost of my books and daily commute to school, but it has also allowed me to pursue my academic goals with more focus and determination. I am truly grateful for the support and encouragement that this scholarship has given me, and I am more motivated than ever to work hard and make the most of this opportunity.

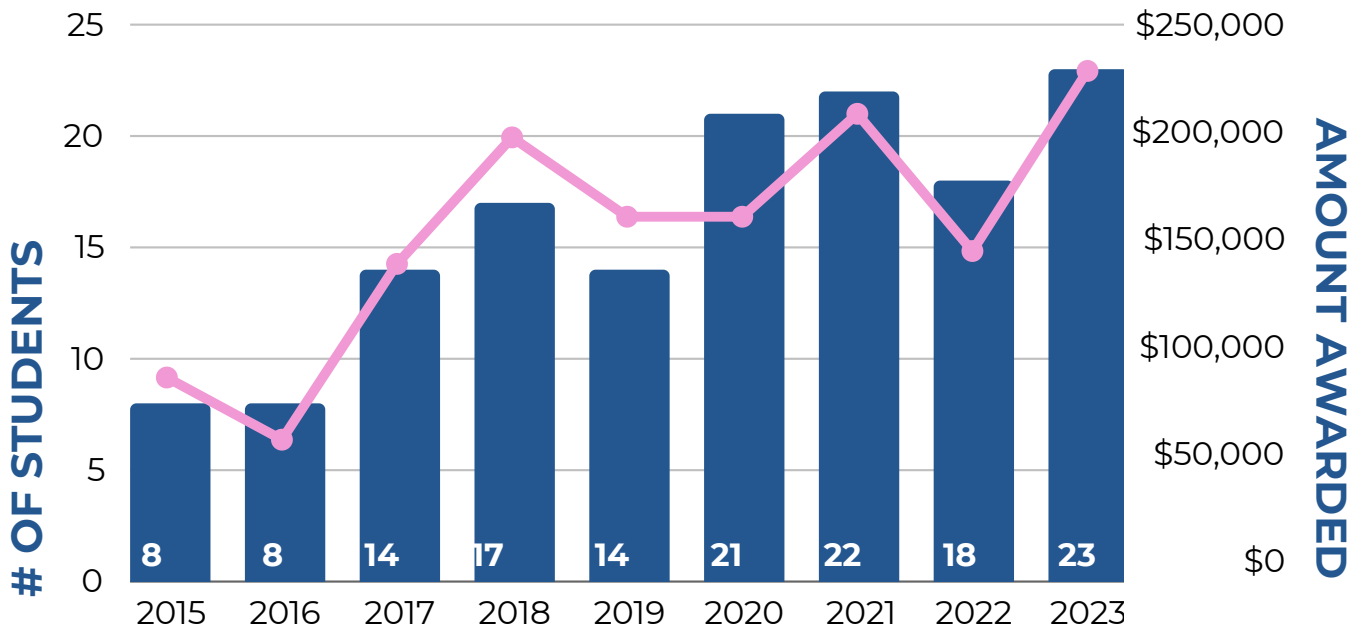
**Deepak Rattu**

BARUCH COLLEGE



## Scholarship Fund Awardees

The SAYA Scholarship Fund has continued to grow since its establishment in 2014.



**9/10**

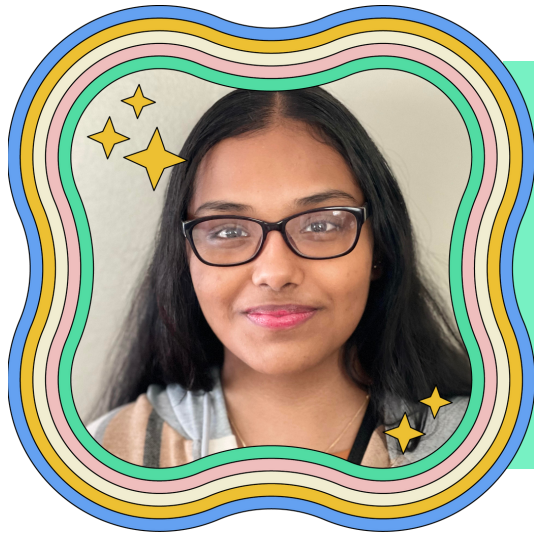


of alumni are currently employed or in graduate school

**93%**



of college students on track to graduate in 5 years or less



“ Farah Abdullah  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

**I feel very grateful and proud of myself for getting this scholarship.**

This scholarship has been very helpful in supporting me financially in college and helping me to get the supplies I need to be successful in college.



Syeda Jannat  
NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY

**The scholarship has provided more than just financial assistance.**

The recognition from SAYA has given me the opportunity to pursue my educational goals without the constraints of financial stress, allowing me to make the most of my academic journey.



Afia Faiza  
STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

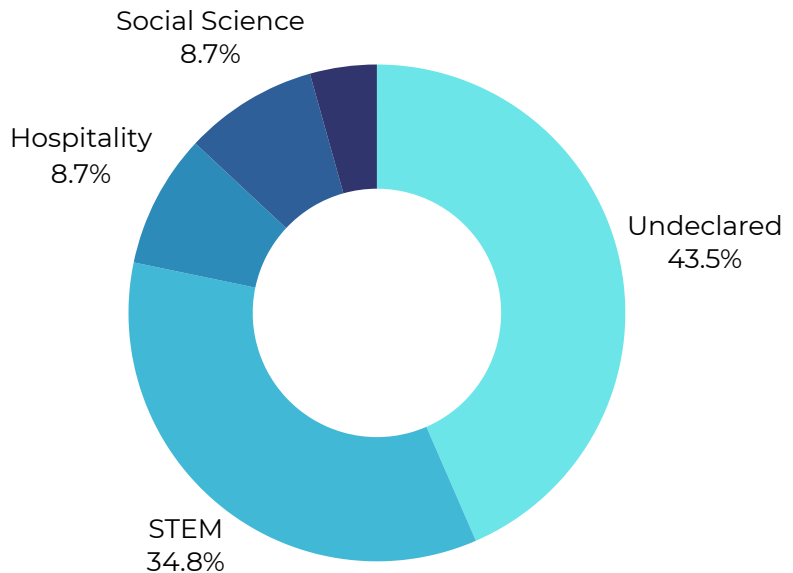
**Getting this scholarship made me feel blessed and thankful.**

It has helped me pay off part of my school tuition that I would have struggled to pay by myself.

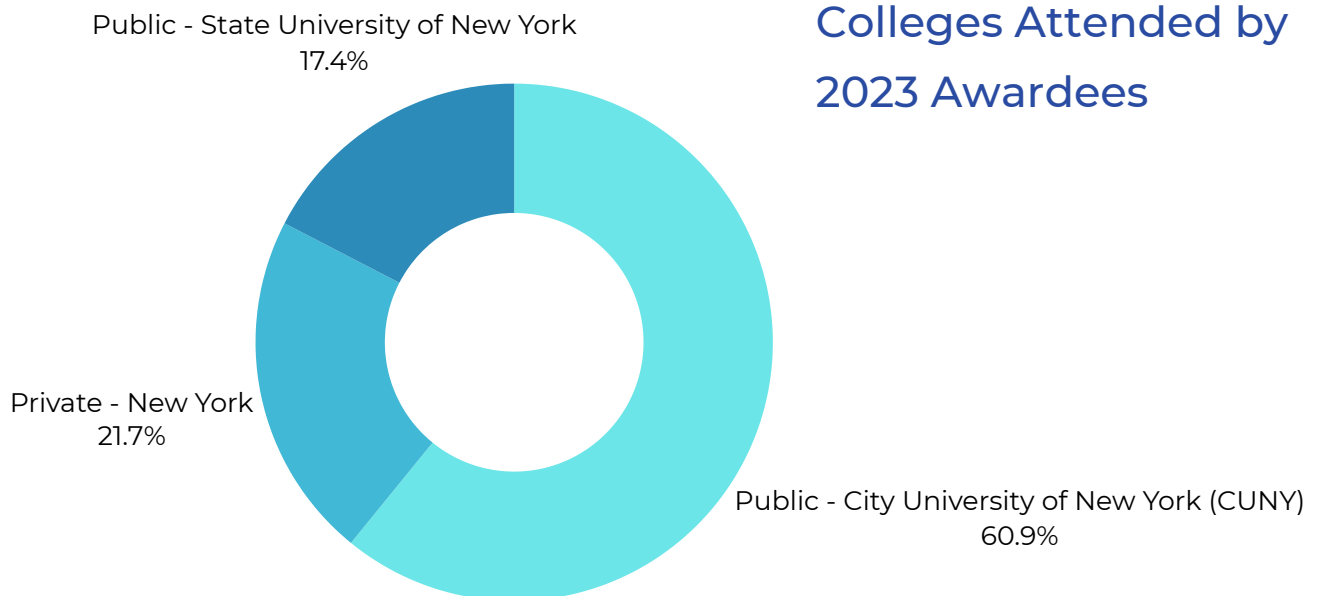




# OUR SCHOLARS



Degree Fields of 2023 Awardees



Colleges Attended by 2023 Awardees

**\$236K**

*in scholarship funds awarded to 23 youth in 2023.*

**100%**

*of our 2022 scholarship recipients returned to complete their second year of college*

# OUR ALUMNI\*

Data obtained from alumni who remained in touch with SAYA.

**95%** of our Scholarship Fund alumni are either employed or in graduate school, a **12%** increase since 2022.

Employed

86.4%

Scholarship Fund alumni are working in the following fields: non-profit/government, engineering, information technology, research/academia, and finance/accounting.

Graduate School

9.1%

Scholarship Fund recipients in graduate school are pursuing professional degrees in law and medicine.

Currently Job Searching

4.5%

Graduated Scholarship Fund awardees are applying for jobs or seeking employment in the following industries: information technology.



**Getting this scholarship was a great accomplishment for me because it gave me motivation to pursue higher education.**

It also reduced the burden of paying for things like expensive textbooks and allowed me to invest in resources that would help me throughout college.

Alisha Javed

THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK



## **I felt relieved when I received this scholarship.**

I was deciding on going to either SJNY because they wanted me to play for their volleyball team, [or] CUNY Kingsborough [which] was much more affordable and they had a Culinary major there. [But] the scholarship completely covered my remaining balance so I was happily able to attend SJNY. It felt like a weight was raised off my shoulders as I now didn't need to make a choice, it was obvious where I should go.

**Lucky Ahmed**

*ST. JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY - NEW YORK*



# 47

*Scholarship Fund Alumni have graduated since 2015*

# OVER \$1.4M

*in scholarship funds awarded to 144 youth since 2015*







## COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

Understanding the unique challenges that students encounter while pursuing their degrees, SAYA is committed to guiding and aiding them throughout their collegiate journey.

Our Scholarship Fund is part of SAYA's larger College Success Program. This program serves as a supportive bridge, facilitating a seamless transition into college life and fostering independence among our students. Our dedicated SAYA advisors provide comprehensive academic and personal guidance, ensuring sustained support throughout their college tenure. Moreover, we offer diverse professional development opportunities, ranging from resume-building workshops to networking mixers and career panels.

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## ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW AND MISSION

**South Asian Youth Action (SAYA)** has been a transformative force in the lives of underserved youth across New York City. As one of the pioneering South Asian organizations in the United States, SAYA plays a pivotal role in fostering the positive development of young individuals. Today, our impactful, no-cost programming spans nine public schools and our Elmhurst-based community center, establishing us as a cornerstone in our community with a proven and enduring legacy for over 28 years.

Through our innovative, holistic approach, we work toward educational equity by providing opportunities and resources to less privileged New York City youth, ensuring they are empowered academically, emotionally, and socially to become engaged community members.

Throughout our history, SAYA has broken down the “model minority” myth and paved the way for greater attention and investments in social services for the South Asian population. Furthermore, as the communities we serve continue to diversify, our commitment to inclusivity and belonging are exemplified through our dedication to transformative cross-racial solidarity.