



# ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid Newsletter

A charitable initiative developed to provide free evaluation reports for vulnerable and displaced populations.

## Highlights

New ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid  
Recipient Stories

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Quarterly Updates



## SUMMER 2024

The first half of 2024 has been quite busy for us at ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid. As you will see in the quarterly updates, we've already exceeded the amount of completed ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid evaluations of years past, and we still have four months to go! Free evaluation reports continue to be distributed through participating ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid organizations and institutions. What do you think the final count of fee waivers will be for 2024?

As summer winds down and the school year begins, we've dedicated the majority of this newsletter to sharing inspiring new stories from ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid recipients. Throughout this issue you will read about the journeys, hopes, aspirations, and dreams of folks with diverse educational backgrounds from Nigeria, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, and Jamaica. ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid stories like these are a great reminder of the dedication and perseverance of so many folks seeking education and career opportunities who may not have many financial resources available to them.

We also celebrated eight years of ECE<sup>®</sup> Aid in August! Eight years of over 1,200 fee waivers for displaced people and others who need financial assistance and support in their educational and career paths!

## Ugochukwu (Nigeria)

Ugochukwu Igweagu chose to apply to U.S. universities to “pursue my dream career in computer science.” He felt that in his home country of Nigeria he “didn’t have the good resources...needed to aid my goal.”

To achieve his goals Ugochukwu began working with the [New Seasons Youth Program](#) in Atlanta, GA, to access scholarships and other higher education opportunities in the U.S. After receiving a free credential evaluation through ECE® Aid, Ugochukwu was granted admission to Grambling State University in Louisiana!

Reflecting on his studies and goals, Ugochukwu says, “I hope to get a good education from the U.S. in IT. After that, I hope to return to my home country and give back to both my family who helped me get here and my community at large.”



## Ahmad (Afghanistan)

“I was living in Kabul, Afghanistan, serving the U.S. and the allied mission for 15 years. Our life had always been threatened by the Taliban and other groups. I applied for the U.S. Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program designed for Afghans who have worked on behalf of or for the U.S. government in Afghanistan.

I have a bachelor’s degree in architecture from the well-recognized Kabul Polytechnic University (KPU). Academically, I am interested in architecture, management, and project management. I want to have some further academic achievements both in architecture and management.

I am intending to be a licensed architect in at least one or several states in the U.S., as well as some certificates and a master’s degree in project management. However, prior to all of that, I need to have a job to be able to financially support my family, pay my bills, and achieve my goals.”

*You can read more ECE® Aid stories about people from around the world who have made their way to the U.S. to pursue further education, employment, and immigration at our [ECE® Aid Stories page](#).*



## Ignatius (Sierra Leone)

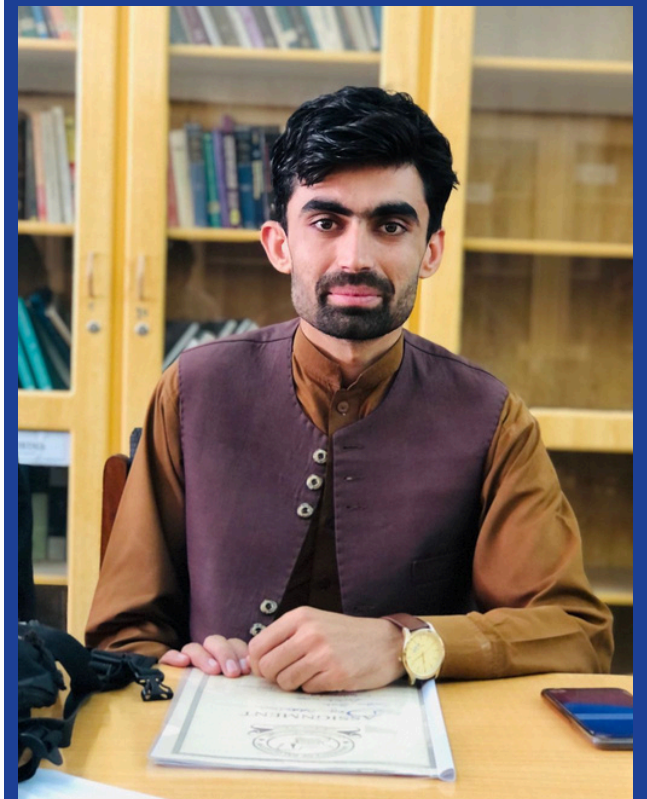
Ignatius came to the U.S. from Sierra Leone in West Africa to pursue PhD studies. With a background in education and philosophy, Ignatius hopes to be of service to children and other young people in Sierra Leone after graduation.

Ignatius says, “ECE helped me get an evaluation report and also gave me the opportunity to complete my [university] application. ECE staff and especially the manager of ECE® Aid were prompt and supportive throughout my evaluation process. Services were administered professionally and quickly.”

## Naqib Ullah (Afghanistan)

### Naqib’s Passion for Social Justice: A Background

Naqib Ullah is a dedicated social worker with a bachelor’s degree in social work. His academic journey is fueled by a passion for social justice and community well-being. Despite facing significant challenges as an Afghan refugee in Pakistan, Naqib's commitment to advocating for marginalized populations and implementing effective interventions has never wavered. Naqib is deeply interested in exploring social policies, researching innovative approaches to societal challenges, and contributing to the advancement of evidence-based practices in social work.



### Overcoming Adversity: A Refugee’s Struggle for Recognition

Growing up as a refugee in Pakistan since the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, Naqib faced numerous obstacles. Over the years, his life has been shaped by the tumultuous events that forced him to leave his homeland. The journey from Afghanistan to Pakistan was marked by challenges and uncertainties. One of the significant challenges was the lack of recognition for his academic credentials, which hindered his ability to advance his education and career. Without proper recognition of his qualifications, Naqib found it difficult to pursue further studies or gain meaningful employment, which are crucial for his professional and personal aspirations.

*Naqib’s story continued on page 4.*

## How ECE® Transformed Naqib's Future

Naqib's journey with ECE® began when he needed to validate his academic achievements to pursue further education in the United States. The [credential evaluation service](#) provided by ECE proved to be a game-changer for him. The comprehensive evaluation report equated his foreign qualifications to the U.S. education system, enabling him to pursue further education and career opportunities in social work. ECE is renowned for its rigorous standards and expertise in credential evaluation, providing accurate and reliable reports that are widely recognized by educational institutions and employers in the U.S.

## Achieving Dreams: Naqib's Life Today and Aspirations for the Future

Today, Naqib is thriving in the United States, leveraging his ECE® evaluation report to further his education and career in social work. His passion for effecting positive change in society drives him to empower marginalized communities, advocate for equitable policies, and contribute to research that addresses societal challenges. "Whether through direct intervention, policy advocacy, or research, I aim to be a change agent for social transformation, striving to create inclusive spaces where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. My ultimate goal is to contribute meaningfully to the betterment of society, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of those in need and fostering a more compassionate and equitable world for future generations," Naqib explains.

## Reflecting on Success: The Impact of ECE®

Reflecting on his journey, Naqib acknowledges the pivotal role that ECE played in his success. "I am profoundly grateful to ECE® Aid for providing me with an evaluation report, which I have utilized for furthering my education in the United States. The thorough assessment and recognition of my academic credentials have been instrumental in facilitating my transition into the American educational system," Naqib reflects. [ECE® Aid](#) is an initiative by ECE that offers financial assistance to vulnerable and displaced populations, including refugees like Naqib, to help them obtain their credential evaluations. This program aims to support individuals who face financial barriers in accessing their educational and professional goals by providing fee waivers and other resources.

## A Journey Transformed by ECE®

Naqib Ullah's story is a [testament](#) to the transformative power of the credential evaluation services provided by ECE. If you are an international student seeking to have your credentials recognized, ECE® is here to help you every step of the way. [Contact us today!](#)

## Remone (Jamaica)

Sadly, Remone is no stranger to experiencing “intense homophobia and domestic violence” both in his home country of Jamaica as well as the United States. Yet, his strong desire to pursue graduate education and his “vast educational interests” in literature, poetry, linguistics, psychology, special education, and speech-language pathology have propelled Remone towards studying in the U.S.

With a Bachelor’s of Education in Exceptional Education, Remone hopes to continue working within his field of expertise and interest.

About credential evaluations Remone says, “[evaluations] perform an important role in ensuring accurate assessment of international higher educational programs across the world. I have been fortunate to have had my overseas programs evaluated through your services, and it provided valuable feedback to admissions teams about my qualifications, credibility, personal strengths, and potential needs to be addressed in post-graduate work.”



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## Esther (Nigeria)

Leaving Nigeria for safety reasons, Esther embarked on her journey to the United States to pursue a bachelor’s degree in marketing. One of her goals is to complete a master’s degree in public health to “advocate for underserved minorities.” We wish Esther all the best on her educational journey!



## Quarterly Updates

**222** completed ECE® Aid evaluation reports in the first half of 2024. We’ve already had the best year for completed ECE® Aid evaluations. Let’s keep the momentum going!

## Recent ECE® Aid activities & outreach:

- Presented to Montgomery College:
  - “Adult Students - You Belong Here Series: What Can I Do with My Previous Education”
- WAIE participation:
  - “Refugees and Displaced Persons: Their Journey to our Campuses and How Can We Help”
- Switchboard Community of Practice participation
- SHERR Community of Practice participation

**Sincerely,**

**Zachary Holochwost** *(he/him)*

*ECE® Aid and Market Research Manager*



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