

The Amala Global Secondary Diploma

APPLICANT GUIDE



Welcome to Amala

At Amala, we believe in the power of education to change the world. As co-founders of Amala, we have been on an exciting journey since 2017 to create the first Global Secondary Diploma programme that is tailored to young people who are refugees and their host communities who are out of school - the Amala Global Secondary Diploma.

We first launched the Amala Global Secondary Diploma in Jordan in 2020 to a pioneering cohort of 25 students. We are delighted to now be launching a sixth cohort in Amman this April. In this guide, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the programme, meet some of our current Global Secondary Diploma students and graduates in Jordan and Kenya and learn about their experiences and how they have developed since starting the programme.

We hope that the Amala Global Secondary Diploma will be an attractive option to you - as a way to not only finish your secondary education through a diploma programme, but to develop skills and competencies that will enable you to solve problems and make a change in your community and the world.

Polly Akhurst and Mia Eskelund

Co-founders and Co-Executive Directors
Amala



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Amala was created because we believe everyone has a right to to a high quality secondary education.

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Meet our Jordan team

Our Jordan team is ready to welcome you to Amala in Amman

We are very excited to welcome our new students to our sixth cohort of Amala Global Secondary Diploma in Amman. We are looking forward to having you with us on this exciting and fun learning journey.

As facilitators, we aspire for our classroom to be an inclusive place, where you feel comfortable to both learn and share your learning with others. Our curriculum and classes are rich in diversity and we intentionally run classes in an engaging way. As an Amala student, you have a unique opportunity to shape your own learning journey, to pursue your interests, and join a warm learning community.

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Every student has their own learning adventure and unique educational journey, often filled with challenges. As we reflect on the achievements of each cohort, I am particularly proud that Amala is a part of this transformative journey.

Lamis, Programme Manager. 2024



Lamis
Programme Manager



Hasan
Programme Coordinator,
Learning Facilitator



Vivian
Learning Facilitator



Fatima
Learning Lead

Meet our students and alumni

Hear what our current Global Secondary Diploma students & graduates have to say about the programme:



Noor

"Amala is not just an educational place, amala is a family, when I joined Amala I was expecting just a place where I go to study, but during my time in Amala, I realized that I was wrong, Amala is so much more than that."

Rana

"In my educational journey, I have been fortunate to meet people at Amala who have played an important role in boosting my confidence and encouraging me every step of the way. Their unwavering belief in my abilities instilled hope in me, driving me to strive for excellence and never give up on my dreams."



Ahmad

"Amala teaches you how to work in teams and build your social skills, in a very safe comforting environment, it's a place to learn and create friendships that last forever."



Join Amala

Do you want to...

- Study and gain a secondary education
- Become an active and responsible problem-solver and innovator
- Develop skills to make a positive impact in your community and the world
- Develop your future educational and career pathway
- Improve your English for both academic and work purposes
- Make friends with people from different countries and backgrounds...

And are you...

- Between 16 and 25 years of age
- A refugee, asylum seeker or in other ways crisis-affected (such as host community students)
- Not enrolled in or having previously completed secondary or higher education
- Able to handle subject matter at the level of upper/senior secondary education (Level 3 ISCED)
- Living in Amman, Jordan

If you answered **'yes'** to all of the questions above, then the Amala Global Secondary Diploma Programme is for you!

This brochure will help you learn more about the Amala Global Secondary Diploma Programme, what you will learn, where it can take you, and how to apply.



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Amala will be part of your life and will have a second family. In Amala, there is no fixed curriculum for learning. There you will learn from others from their ideas, experiences and skills.

Ahmad

Amala Diploma Graduate,
2023

amala



Education for



The Amala Global Secondary Diploma

The Amala Global Secondary Diploma is the first international secondary education programme specifically designed for refugee youth. The Diploma enables those out of school to complete their secondary education through flexible study, typically over a fifteen-month period. Through a combination of Amala courses, a personal interest project, and a pathways programme, the Global Secondary Diploma enables students to make a change in their community and pursue further opportunities for higher education, work, and entrepreneurship.

English is the language of instruction, so students need to have an intermediate level of English in order to join.

Learning

The Amala Global Secondary Diploma aims to give a well-rounded and rigorous education, which enables you to explore a range of areas across and beyond subject disciplines. It is designed to help you develop as an active, responsible, and compassionate problem-solver and creative innovator. The curriculum for the Diploma has been developed by Amala and people with experience of displacement, in partnership with our partner UWC South East Asia, one of the most well-regarded international schools in the world.

The Amala Global Secondary Programme

STREAM	LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION	TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE	ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETIES	SELF AND CULTURAL EXPRESSION	USING EVIDENCE TO MAKE CHANGE
COURSE 1	SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP	PEACE-BUILDING	MAKING SOCIETAL CHANGE	POWERFUL NARRATIVES	MATHS FOR CHANGE
COURSE 2	ETHICAL LEADERSHIP	LIVING PEACEFULLY	ECONOMICS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE	ARTISTIC & CULTURAL EXPRESSION	SCIENCE INFORMED ACTION
ONGOING COMPONENTS	PERSONAL INTEREST PROJECT				
	PATHWAYS PROGRAMME				

Amala Courses

Students on the Amala Global Secondary Diploma will study for ten courses within five streams. Courses range from Scientific Informed Action to Economics for Positive Change. Each course is designed to last for ten weeks and involves ten hours per week of study.

Pathways Advising

Becoming an Amala Global Secondary Diploma student will help you to develop your future educational and career pathway. One of the ways we prepare you for this is through our pathways programme which will help you to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values to identify, plan for and take action towards pathways for higher education, entrepreneurship, and employment beyond your study with Amala.

The programme involves a wide range of support, including goal-setting and support with research on opportunities, CV writing, support with application to university or higher education, or with launching your own entrepreneurship project.

Personal Interest Project

The PIP is a chance to dig deeper into something that is of great personal interest to you. It could be focusing on a certain issue affecting your community, a passion you have, centred around a career goal, or something else entirely!

Over 15 months, you will be expected to spend around 50 hours on the project and will document your work and progress as you go. At the end of the PIP, you will produce a PIP presentation and report. An important thing to mention here is that the process (how you go about doing the PIP) is just as important as the product (the outcomes and outputs of the PIP). Enjoy the ride.





Assessment

In order to complete the Amala Diploma Programme, you will need to demonstrate mastery of our foundational credits. These credits are based on competencies you develop during the programme in the areas of sustainable Innovation, resourcefulness, leading change, self-navigated learning, understanding self, other people and cultures, technical, scientific, and numerical literacy, and problem-solving and critical thinking.

Throughout the programme, you will get the opportunity to evidence your learning through completing assignments and projects. This will lead to the development of your own digital Mastery Transcript that will highlight a portfolio of your work and give you a resource to use when applying for work and further education opportunities.

How you will study

The timing of the Diploma is designed to be flexible so that you can continue other commitments, such as working or taking other classes, at the same time. The time commitment is approximately 20 hours per week.



In-person learning

Each week, you will come together with your class (of approximately 25 students) and facilitators at the Amala Learning Centre. The classes will take place on weekends. Your facilitator will guide this part of the learning, which will include exercises and in-class discussions as well as group work.

Many of the courses involve active engagement within the community, either in the form of impact projects or initiatives. The role of the facilitator is to support you in your learning, by guiding the class through activities involved in the programme, supporting you to make sense of your learning, and creating an inclusive learning community. You will study two courses for a total of 12 hours of in-person class time (6 hours per course) each week.

Online/independent learning

Each week, you will study independently online, using Amala's online platform, Toddle, which is the virtual classroom. The Toddle platform is designed for online engagement and to support interaction and peer-to-peer learning. You will also submit assignments on Toddle and will receive feedback from your facilitator. This study will be done flexibly in your own time for a total of 8 hours (4 hours per course) each week.



A typical week

Friday Class from 10am - 12 noon, and 1pm - 5pm.
Studying 'Peace-building'

Saturday Class from 10am - 12 noon, and 1pm - 5pm.
Studying 'Maths for Change'

Sunday Two hours of online and independent work,
assignments for the class on 'Peace-building'

Monday Two hours of online and independent work,
assignments for the class on 'Maths for Change'

Tuesday Two hours of online and independent work,
assignments for the class on 'Peace-building'

Wednesday Two hours of online and independent work,
assignments for the class on 'Maths for Change'.
One hour of pathways advising

Thursday Day off

**Note that the online/independent study can take place at a time chosen by you and does not need to be the same each week.*



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While access to English proficiency exams was difficult, Amala provided me with free coupons to access the Duolingo English Test, where we could take the exam from the comfort of our own homes. I received a 125, which qualified me for direct admission to many programs with no conditions.

Majd
Amala alumna
2021

After Amala

Becoming an Amala student will open up pathways for further education, work, and entrepreneurship. We are committed to preparing you for these appropriate pathways before, during, and after the Amala Global Secondary Diploma Programme.

Recognition and Accreditation

Amala is a member of the Council of International Schools (CIS), a global membership community working collaboratively to shape international education. Membership means that Amala is now pursuing CIS International Accreditation, the quality and rigour of which is recognised by Ministries, departments of education, and universities around the world. Read more about our membership with CIS [here](#).

Education and Career Paths

At the same time as pursuing accreditation, Amala is working with a growing number of pathways providers, including higher education institutions, workplaces and internship providers to raise awareness of the programme and open up pathways opportunities for students. Your facilitators will actively work with you to locate relevant and realistic opportunities and pathways following the programme.

Some pathways that you could pursue after graduating from the programme are:

- Further educational opportunities (higher education and vocational) in areas such as Business Studies and Administration, Communication, Management, Information Technology, Computer Science, and Social Work. Notably, Amala Global Secondary Diploma graduates are eligible for scholarships for the University of the People's online degree programmes.
- Professional opportunities - such as support for further development of entrepreneurial projects, internships, and volunteering.

If you are unsure whether or not the Diploma Programme aligns with your own ambitions for further study or opportunities, please email us on hello@amalaeducation.org

Mohammad (Syria)

Amala Diploma Graduate, 2021


amala
Education for change

مساحة شبابية
Liwan Youth Space

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What I love about Amala is the teamwork, the mutual respect and trust. As students from different countries, we have been brought together by Amala and we are a community full of entrepreneurs and ideas - we are a factory of change!

Since starting studying with Amala, I have learnt not to wait for hope - but to seek it, and to not give up. I learnt to be an initiator and to be a helper to others



Admissions

We are looking for a strong group of students to form our sixth cohort of the Amala Global Secondary Diploma Programme. As this is a new programme involving a rigorous course of study, we are looking for students who are committed to seeing through the programme during its fifteen-month duration, who are passionate about learning, and who want to be part of the Amala community.

Eligibility criteria

To find out whether the Amala Global Secondary Diploma is for you, take a look at our eligibility and selection criteria for our scholarships:

- Aged between 16 and 25 years old.
- Currently residing in Amman, Jordan
- Able to handle subject matter at the level of upper/senior secondary education (Level 3 ISCED)
- A refugee, internally displaced, asylum seeker, or otherwise displaced or a Jordanian national
- Not currently enrolled in or having previously completed high school or higher education.
- Able to access a smartphone, tablet, or computer for 8 hours per week.
- Intermediate (B1) level of English. (you can find out more about what a B1 level of English means [here](#))

Selection criteria

As we select students to form the pioneer cohort, we will be looking for potential in the following areas:

- Awareness of oneself, needs and goals
- Passionate about making positive impact on your community and the world
- Ability to put a plan into action, a 'can do' attitude.
- Ability to work with and communicate with others,
- Motivation to continuously improve and strive for excellence
- Ability to adapt to different situations and people

How to apply

There are two stages to the application process

- **Application:** You will fill in a short application form on Amala's website. The application form has five sections, where we will ask you about your background, your motivation to study with Amala, and your education goals.

The application form will take you between 30 - 90 minutes to complete, and all the questions are available on our website.

If you have any problems filling in the online application form, please contact us at **hasan@amalaeducation.org** and we can help you.

Apply on
<https://amalaeducation.typeform.com/to/ta6l6hTH>

- **Interview:** If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview, where two members of the Amala team will ask you some questions to get to know you better, and where you also get the opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

To apply, go to our website <https://www.amalaeducation.org/study-with-us> and fill in the application form

Key dates

We will accept applications on a rolling basis. We encourage you to apply as early as possible so that you will know soon if you have been selected.

- **1 Feb 2024:** Applications are available.
- **10 Mar 2024:** Final deadline for applications



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I used to think that I hate learning and education, but after I joined Amala I found out that I actually love learning, I just hated school

Motasim
Amala Diploma
Student
2023

About Amala

Amala was established in 2017 in response to the lack of quality education available for refugee youth around the world. Amala's mission is to inspire positive change in the lives of refugees and their communities through education. Over the last two years, over 700 youth have participated in Amala short programmes in areas such as Peace-building, Ethical Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship.

The Amala Global Secondary Diploma Programme has been developed in collaboration with our partner school, UWC South East Asia, and with the support of 150 educators globally, and was first launched in 2020 in Amman, Jordan with the first students graduating in September 2021. In Kakuma, our first cohort who started in April 2021 have graduated in July 2022.

Amala is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered as a charity in the United Kingdom.



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My interaction with Amala evolved into an educational journey that fostered awareness, self-growth, and a greater sense of confidence in my abilities and personal identity.

Aisha

Amala Graduate
2023

What should I do next?

Reflect - Do you think the the Amala Diploma Programme for you? Take time to reflect on whether you are ready to join the programme, and why you think it is a good fit for you.

Read - Read through our eligibility and selection criteria carefully to see if you qualify for one of our scholarships.

Learn more - Join one of our online information sessions to meet our team and ask questions about the programme. Go to our website www.amalaeducation.org to learn more.

Apply - send us your application here to become part of our sixth cohort of Amala Global secondary Diploma Students!



#WeAreAmala #EducationForChange

When you become an Amala student, you join a global student and alumni community. Explore the alumni who have already taken part in Amala courses on www.amalaeducation.org/meet-ouralumni



Amman, Jordan



Kakuma, Kenya



Kakuma, Kenya



Athens, greece



Education for change

Amala uses the power of education to transform the lives of refugees, their communities and the world.

