

# APAIE 2024



PERTH, AUSTRALIA 4-8 MARCH 2024

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*Collaborating for sustainable impact: partnerships across the Asia Pacific*

APAIE Perth 4 - 8 March 2024



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Session 9D: Weds 6<sup>th</sup> March, 14:00 – 15:00

**Best Practices for Broadening Refugee Access to Higher Education**

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**Chair**

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Institute of International Education, Thailand

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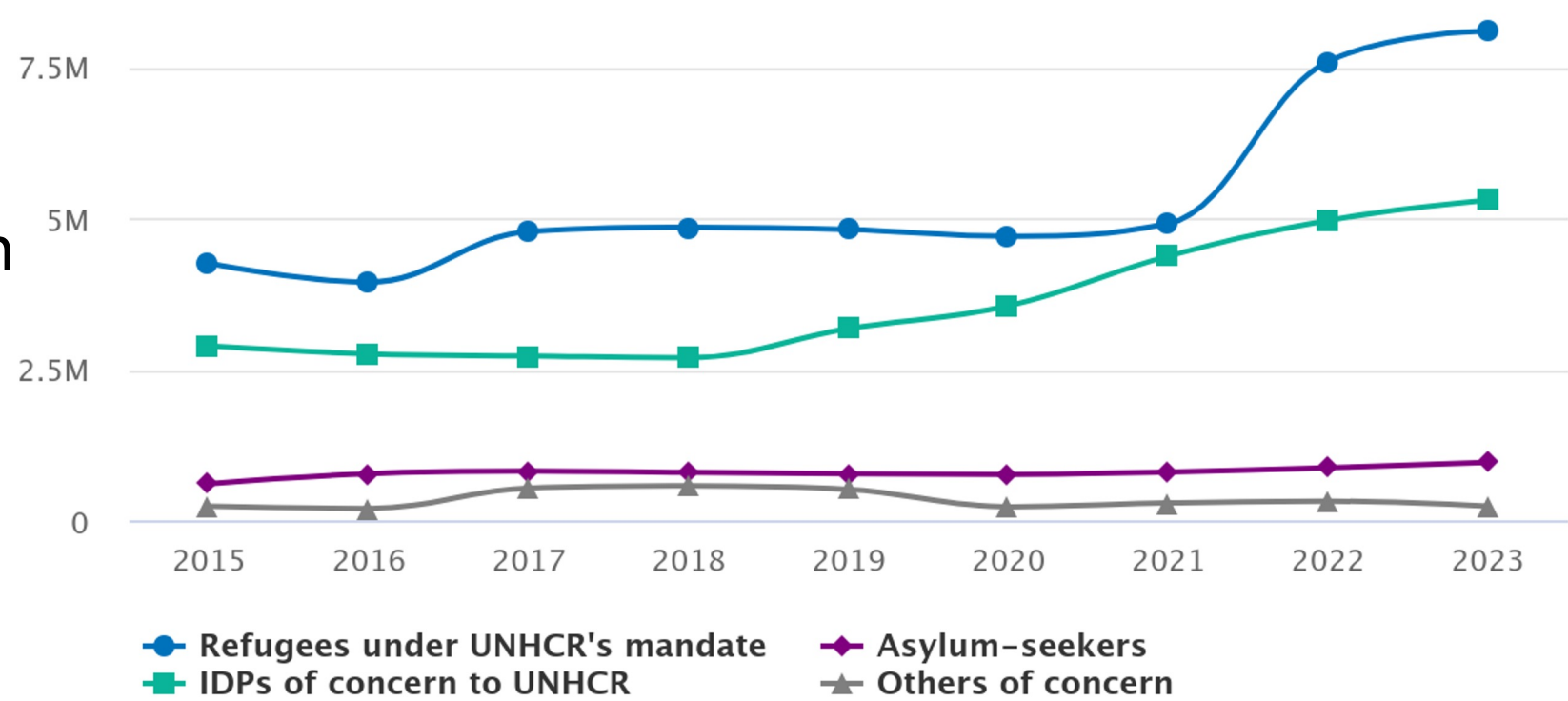


# Best Practices for Broadening Refugee Access to Higher Education

Presenters: James Holden, Rebecca Granato, Sally Baker, Hameed Ibrahim  
Chair: Jonathan Lembright

# Asia Pacific Context

- 15.6 million forcibly displaced and stateless
- Key drivers: Afghanistan and Myanmar
- Data reflects those registered with UNHCR



Source: UNHCR (2024)

*Towards a sustainable future for international education in the Asia Pacific*

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# What can be done? Topics to consider...



- Continue providing university scholarships



- Support flexible, recognized pathways of education:

- ▶ Online Courses    ▶ Micro-credentials
- ▶ Certified Tests    ▶ Hybrid Models



- Provide needed tech and IT infrastructure



- Address the documentation gap

Source: Tyrosvoutis, G. (2019)

# About Duolingo

**Duolingo's** mission is to develop the best education in the world and make it universally available.

## Education Apps



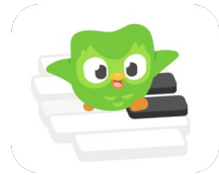
Languages



Literacy



Numeracy



Music

## High-Stakes Digital Language Test



**duolingo** english test



Professor Luis von Ahn, Duolingo's co-founder and CEO

## Duolingo Access Program

The Access Program is the DET's social enterprise, lowering barriers for low-income students across the world. It is Duolingo's most tangible example of how we can reduce economic inequality via education.

It includes:

- A comprehensive fee waiver program
- Duolingo x UNHCR Access Scholars Program
- Advocacy and thought leadership programs on issues facing low-income students, especially refugees



# Our mission in action



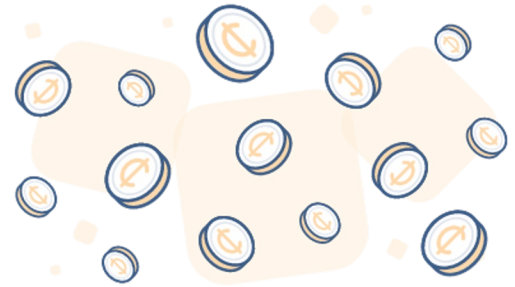
**40,000+**

Over 40,000 fee waivers for the Duolingo English Test were redeemed in 2023



**200+**

Students from over 200 countries and territories have benefitted.



**\$0**

Eligible students can take the test with absolutely no cost to them.



# Duolingo x UNHCR

## Scholars receive:

- Individualized, one-on-one university and financial aid advising support
- On-the-ground university readiness enrichment programming
- Study visas and travel documents support from UNHCR for transition to new host countries
- Gap funding from Duolingo

[englishtest.duolingo.com/access](https://englishtest.duolingo.com/access)



**Laura Kaub**

Program Director

# 15by30: A Global Commitment

## Why?

- Social Impact
- Rankings
- Internationalization

## How?

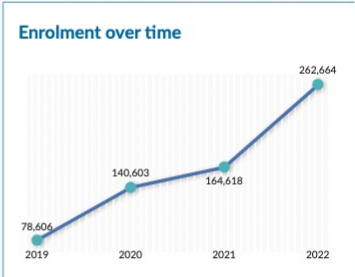
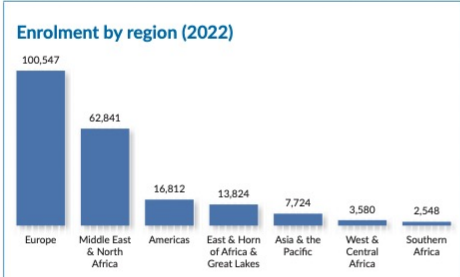
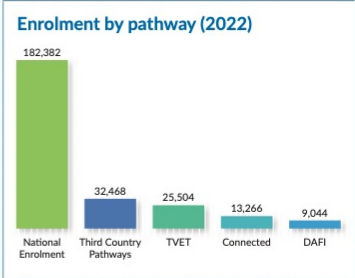
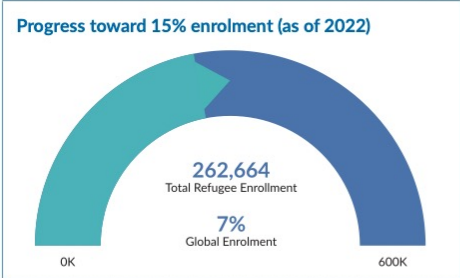
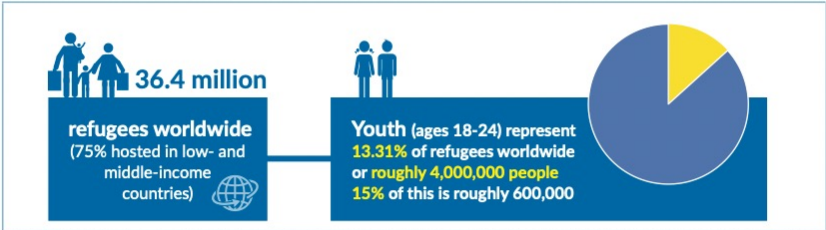
Online, in countries of first asylum, complementary pathways

## Who?

- Global Task Forces
- University networks
- Resettlement agencies

## THE CONTEXT: ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE 15BY30 GOAL

### GLOBAL DATA SNAPSHOT<sup>13</sup>



<sup>13</sup> Population data on forced displacement can change rapidly. The total number of refugee youth worldwide, as well as the number of refugee youth known to be enrolled in higher education, and related ratios are presented as accurately as possible. Global figures on refugees and refugee youth worldwide are sourced from UNHCR's 2023 Mid-Year trends report (UNHCR 2023a) and figures reflecting progress toward the 15by30 target as well as enrolment by pathway, region and over time were gathered in UNHCR's annual data collection exercise (2022).

Pre-Bridge Year Skills Building Programs

Formal secondary school curricula

Informal refugee-led education (home-based centres)

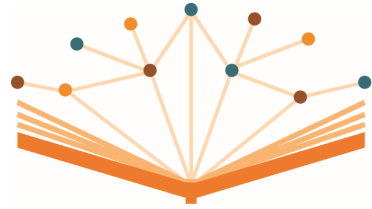
Language Testing  
Qualifications Equalization

Preparatory Programs  
Refugee facilitators trained in pedagogy for in-person support.  
Tech/internet equipped Learning Centres.

Peer & Professional Pathways Advising  
Employment Placement (including targeted skills workshops)

- Face-to-face degrees in countries of first asylum
- High-touch connected learning degrees
- High-touch connected learning certificates tied to employment opportunities
- Complementary Education Pathways
- MOOC-based connected learning degrees
- TVET Opportunities
- Labour mobility pathways
- Labour opportunities online and/or country of first asylum





**Refugee Education**  
Special Interest Group

# **Building refugee education pathways and opportunities: The case of Australia**

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# Refugees in higher education in Australia



## Refugee Education Special Interest Group

- Refugees are invisible in higher education equity policy and practice (although this looks set to change).
- Refugees get captured under ‘Non-English Speaking Background’ – although this cohort has not been targeted for funding or practice since the mid-1990s.
- Refugees with permanent protection status are classified as domestic students but often have international/ cross-border student needs (language and literacy development, cultural unfamiliarity, ruptured networks) + trauma.
- Refugees who don’t have permanent protection (e.g., bridging visas) are classified as international students.
- Refugees are therefore invisible and easily fall between ‘the cracks’ – Tebeje Molla’s work estimates that between 2001-2017, 83% of African refugee students paused or withdrew from their studies.

# Domestic opportunity: Welcoming Universities standard

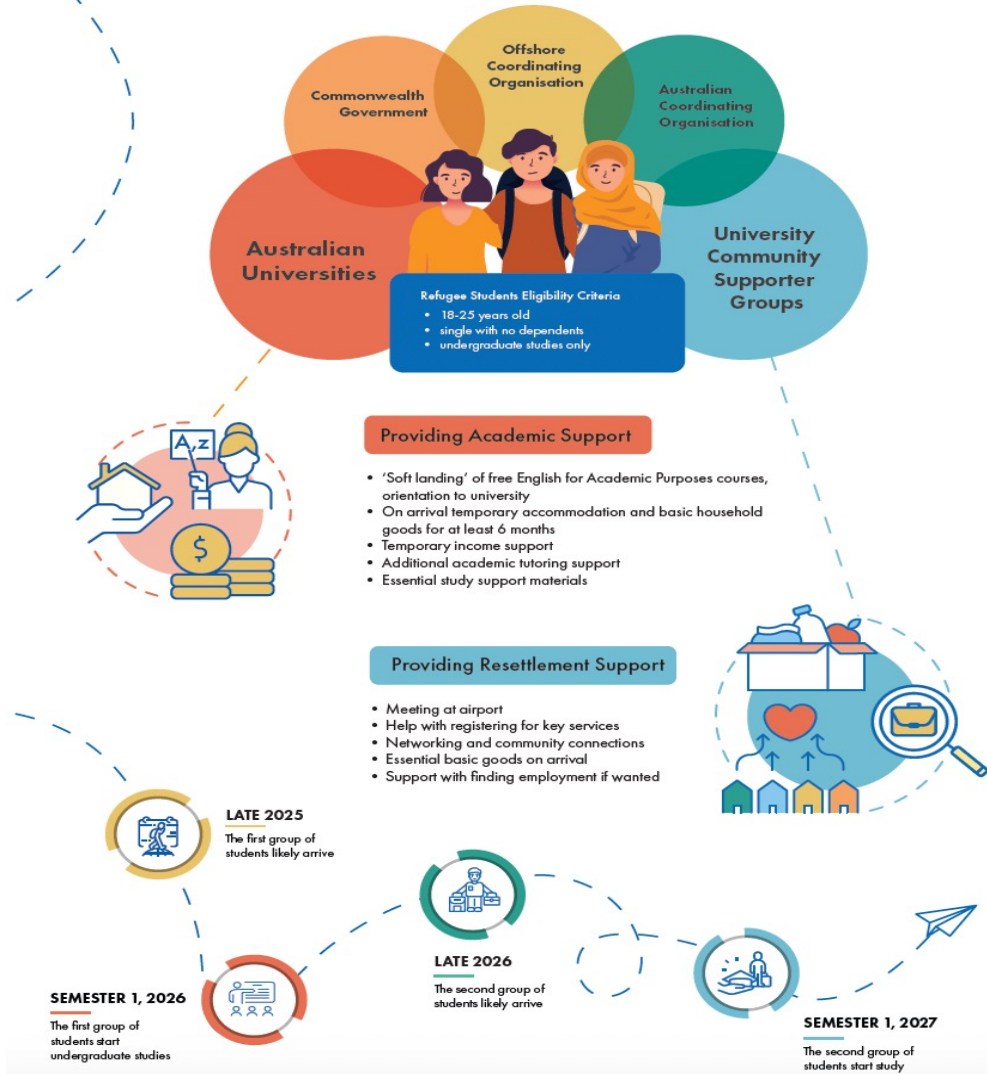
## Welcoming Universities



This initiative from Welcoming Australia offers a standard and framework to both support and incentivise Australian universities to identify, resource, and amplify the welcoming activities/ activities that constitute welcome provided for students from ‘diverse’ backgrounds.

# Global opportunity: A blueprint for the Refugee Student Settlement Pathway

## Refugee Student Settlement Pathway



## Life as a Refugee

- **Hardships and change of culture**
- **Starting life from ground**
- **Lack of opportunities**
- **hopelessness**

## Life as a Duolingo Scholar

- **An opportunity**
- **Hope for a better future**
- **Working toward your dream with like-minded people**
- **Feeling of support and motivation**
- **Experiencing the possibilities**



# Why Enrol Refugees?

- Cultural Diversity
- Real-World Problems
- Talent Pool
- Long term socio-economic benefit
- Aligns with the mission and values of educational institutions

# Panel Discussion / Audience Q&A

## Get in touch

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