

# Inclusion and Access to Higher Education for Displaced and Vulnerable Persons

Part I

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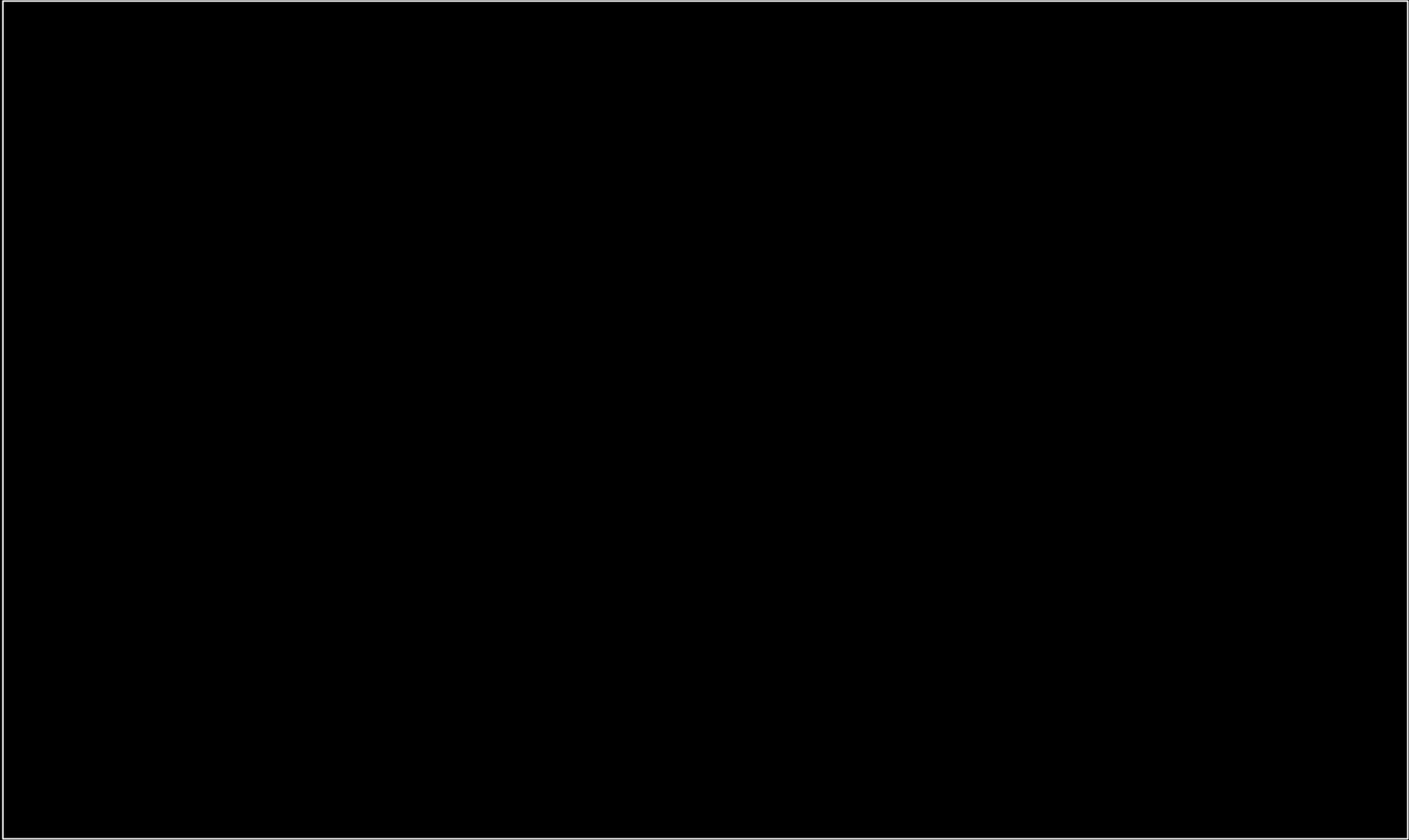
NOKUT  
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# What we will be highlighting

- Innovative Solutions
  - NOKUT EQPR
  - PEER
  - A26BP
- University Initiatives
  - FIU emergency actions
  - UARRM
- Student Initiatives
  - No Lost Generation: George Washington University
  - Newest Americans: Rutgers University Newark

# Innovative Initiatives

- ▶ NOKUT European Qualification Passport for Refugees
  - ▶ IIE PEER
- ▶ U.C. Davis Article 26 Backpack



 **iie** PEER

**NOKUT**

 **AACRAO**

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees (EQPR) The Next Phase

- ▶ Council of Europe launches Stage 2: 2018–2020
- ▶ New partners: Armenia, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands
- ▶ Interviews in Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands
- ▶ Online assessments
- ▶ Digital storage of the EQPR document

# European Qualification Passport for Refugees (EQPR)

- ▶ Alumni network of EQPR holders: Raise awareness in refugee communities and assist with applications
- ▶ Advice on the way ahead as a component of the assessment process



## About PEER

Hundreds of thousands of students have been displaced by war, and only 1% have access to higher education.

Platform for Education in Emergencies Response (PEER) is an online clearinghouse that enables displaced and refugee students to connect with hundreds of educational opportunities around the world.

<http://www.iiepeer.org/>



# About PEER

Due to the devastating impact of the Syria crisis, PEER has initially focused on the educational needs of Syrian students at the university level.

Next, the platform will expand to target displaced and refugee students in the broader Middle-East and North-Africa regions.

# PEER Timeline

- ✓ March 2017: PEER website launched
- ✓ Fall 2017: Addition of Arabic content and resources to the website
- ☐ Spring 2018: Addition of virtual student advising and mentoring services
- ☐ Spring 2018: Expansion to other displaced and refugee student pop.
- ☐ Fall 2019: First annual PEER conference
- ☐ Spring 2019: In-depth research on higher education in emergencies

“For an average person who is living in a peaceful country, being accepted in a scholarship is a life changing experience. It is an opportunity to make dreams come true. For a person like me who is living in a war torn country and whose passport is only accepted in very few countries in the world, it is not an exaggeration to say that being accepted in a scholarship is like achieving the impossible. IIE made every dream possible and achievable for me.”

--Syrian Student and  
Scholarship Recipient



# Article 26 Backpack

The universal tool for academic mobility

- Empowers academic mobility for refugee university students
- Backpackers can safely store, share, and have evaluated their academic achievements, while mapping out their future
- Employs cloud-based technology hosted by U.C. Davis
- Supported by the Ford Foundation
- In partnership with the American University of Beirut (AUB) and AACRAO



# Article 26 Backpack

- Dual English–Arabic platform
- Utilizes trained Backpack Guides from local communities in the host country
- Incorporates My Story/ My Future
- Have their educational documentation assessed by a credential professional
- Connects with educational NGOs
- Securely share contents with admissions officers, potential employers



Welcome bp Account Log out

**Backpack**  
Universal Tool for Academic Mobility

UC DAVIS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

التعليم محفظة الملف الشخصي على الظهر خريطة

## خريطة

مرحبًا بك في حقيبة الظهر!  
يمكنك استخدام حقيبة الظهر لتخزين معلوماتك التعليمية ومستنداتك لحفظها. يمكنك مشاركة معلوماتك مع أصحاب العمل والجامعات إذا كنت ترغب في ذلك.

**Finucane**  
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### المحفظة الرقمية

تقديم معلومات عن نفسك عن طريق تحميل فيديو أو مستندات إعلامية. يتيح لك تحميل عناصر مثل السيرة الذاتية والسيرة الذاتية والأصل الإبداعية وخلاصات التوصية مشاركة هذه العناصر مع المؤسسات التعليمية وأرباب العمل في حقيبة الظهر.

المعلومات التي تختار مشاركتها فقط هي التي يمكن الوصول إليها من قبل الأفراد المدعومين لعرضها. المادة 26 الظهر لا يمكن ضمان أمن الشبكات والأجهزة المستفحمة للوصول إلى النظام إذا كنت بحاجة إلى المساعدة في ملء حسابك ، فننقل إلى صفحة المساعدة للحصول على مزيد من المعلومات.

أذهب إلى المحفظة الرقمية الخاصة بك

### محفظة التعليم

إضافة المؤسسات التعليمية والرتائق ذات الصلة. يتيح لك تحميل عناصر مثل النصوص والديبلومات والشهادات وخلاصات التوصية مشاركة هذه العناصر مع المؤسسات التعليمية وأرباب العمل في حقيبة الظهر.

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أذهب إلى ملفك التعليمي

**Backpack**  
Universal Tool for Academic Mobility

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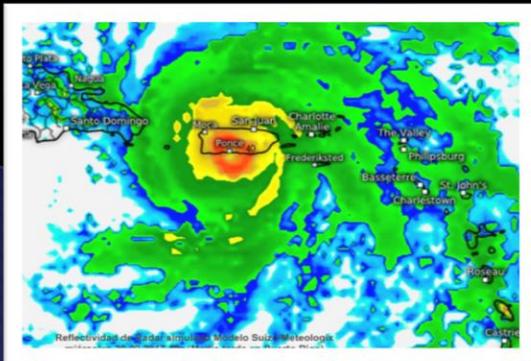


# University Initiatives

- ▶ Florida International University
- ▶ The University Alliance for Refugees and At-Risk Migrants

# Florida International University

- 54,000 + students
- Majority-minority student population (85%)
- First in nation in awarding bachelor's and master's degrees to Hispanic students
- Over 50% First Generation
- Over 50% Pell recipients
- 75% self-report working over 30 hours/week



# Hurricane Irma

- Hurricane Irma September 9, 2017 and FIU and other South Florida schools through the week of September 18, 2017
- FIU used as a special needs shelter then general population shelter for evacuees from the Florida Keys
- Establishment of **#FIUStrong**, [fiustrong@fiu.edu](mailto:fiustrong@fiu.edu) and 305-348-HELP as a dedicated hurricane help line.

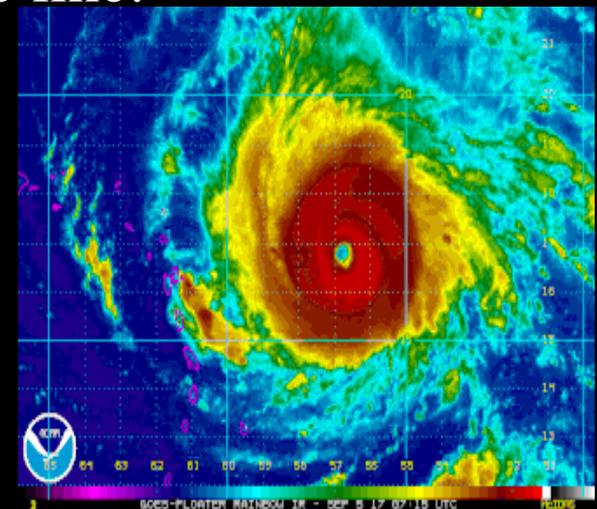
Counseling & Psychological Services

FIU Foundation

Food Pantry

Office of Employee Assistance

TLC Brigade



# Hurricane Maria

- September 20, 2018 Hurricane Maria makes landfall in Puerto Rico
- Florida Governors mandate for in-state tuition waiver
- The immediate FIU community of FIU students, faculty and staff from Puerto Rico
- FIU Strong evacuated families and college students from Puerto Rico
- Knight Foundation grant of \$350,000 for Puerto Rican students
- FIU Foundation, Inc. established the [Disaster Response and Recovery Fund](#)

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**FIU**

#FIUstrong

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# DACA

## FIU News

[Campus Life](#) [In the World](#) [Science & Health](#) [Sports](#) [Arts & Culture](#) **[BeyondPossible2020](#)**

### DACA and undocumented students have a home at FIU

*Provost and Executive Vice President Kenneth G. Furton and Vice President of Student Affairs Larry Lunsford sent the following memo to the university community on Nov. 28.*

Dear members of the university community:

Many members of the FIU family have expressed concern about how potential federal policy changes may impact FIU students who are undocumented or are temporarily protected under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

We want to reassure you that our values of diversity and inclusion remain unchanged, and we are committed to supporting all of our students – including dreamers – while we follow the law.

# DACA Waivers and Scholarships

- House Bill 851—Non-Florida Tuition Waiver
- TheDream.US—Partnership established 2015
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund—Partnership established 2015
- Immigration and Human Rights Clinic—FIU Law

# UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE FOR REFUGEES AND AT-RISK MIGRANTS UARRM



- To scope existing efforts in the US by Areas of Work
- Centralize and disseminate with stakeholders and communities
- To mobilize and take action in the Areas



# UARRM

## Areas of Work

- Offering more legal pathways to the US for study/ research/ vocational training
- Overcoming barriers to entry into higher education institutions in the U.S.
- Providing on-campus/ in-community assistance and empowerment
- Advocacy and awareness raising (student to President)
- Research
- Media and Communications

# Student Initiatives

- ▶ No Lost Generation – George Washington University
- ▶ Newest Americans – Rutgers University Newark



<https://nlgoncampus.wordpress.com/>

- Supported by the U.S. Department of State
- Virtual Student Foreign Service internship program
  - Application July 2 – July 26
- Resources and tools for both administrators and students



# NEWEST AMERICANS

- Films
- Photo Essays
- Web Series
- Written Word – Essays, Fiction and Blogs
- Podcast
- Interactive Media



How can you, your institution and your student body get involved?

Join us for Part II of this session to learn from peers and colleagues