



SAGE

**SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN
GIRLS' EDUCATION**

NEWSLETTER - May 2026

SAGE Grads Enroll in University

On April 8, 2026, eight more SAGE students enrolled in a US four-year online university. They join four earlier SAGE GED graduates who enrolled in the University of the People in November.

One of our “first four” had this to say about their new university:

“I am one of the four students who started at University of the People in November. I think this university is very good and the lessons are well organized. My major is computer science. I like my courses and I think they are important for my future. The teachers and the system of the university are supportive and easy to follow.”



**UNIVERSITY
OF THE PEOPLE**

University of the People is a new and rapidly expanding world-wide online university operating in collaboration with McGill, NYU and University of Edinburgh. Last year alone, the school welcomed a record-breaking 170,000+ students from 213 countries & territories. Backed by global partners like UNESCO, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF, UoPeople continues to grow as the world's leader in accessible, high-quality higher education. UoPeople, as it is called, has a special commitment to educating Afghan women.

It is a good match for us. UoPeople has partnered with SAGE to admit all of our college ready students with **full scholarships** in one of three majors—computer science, business administration and health sciences.

Asaf Wolff, Senior Vice President for Enrollment at the University of the People, recently emailed us:

“Thank you for the important work that you do! We would love to support the students with financial aid at UoPeople and open the doors to higher education together.”

But even though UoPeople is 100% free to our students, there are still expenses SAGE must cover.



Each student needs a computer and data package to connect to the UoPeople education platform for the 4-6 years required to complete their degree.

The cost of the data package per student for 6 years is \$1200.

NEWS of our 2nd GED CLASS

In addition to the twelve SAGE students now enrolled at UoPeople, SAGE is now working with our second class of 23 students as they study to pass the four tests that constitute the US General Educational Development diploma (GED).



Students being briefed on their first GED test



The girls believe earning a GED diploma is worth the effort and risk. Receiving a diploma signed by the Superintendent of Education in Washington, D.C. represents far more than an academic credential — it is a gateway to opportunity.

This diploma qualifies students to enroll in any U.S. community college, most four-year universities in the United States, and many universities abroad. With their GED diploma in hand, our students can also immediately enroll at University of the People with 100% of their university costs waived.

A major barrier is transportation to the GED testing site which is over an hour away. Females are not allowed to travel without an approved male escort and the security condition in Kabul continues to deteriorate.

Thankfully, SAGE and the testing center have worked out a system to pick up, escort and return each girl home safely.

Cost of completing GED tests per student:

- \$100 per test X 4 = \$400
- \$50 for transportation x 4 = \$200
- \$200 data package per student
- \$100 for teaching platform

**Total for the next class of 23 students:
\$20,700 in direct US based costs**

Covering the Costs

SAGE is committed to covering the essential educational expenses for both our GED and University students. We rely on the generosity of our donors to make these opportunities possible and are deeply grateful for all contributions.

One of our most generous donors has committed to funding that multi-year data package for every SAGE student.

This very generous benefactor also looks forward to helping with the cost of SAGE students who secure admission to universities outside of Afghanistan.

Here's how you can help:

\$250 will buy one computer

\$200 will buy a year's data package for one student

\$100 will buy one GED test for one student

\$50 will buy transportation for one student to one GED test

Click Here to Donate to SAGE

In our fall newsletter we will continue to follow the progress of our GED students getting ready to attend UoPeople, introduce our 3rd university preparation class, highlight the contributions of other partners, and tell of new initiatives.

Thank you for your interest in and support of SAGE.

Jan Shapin, Acting President

Carol Czaja, Board Member

Anne Sliney, Secretary-Treasurer

Susan Dillon, Board Member

SAGE www.sageafghanistan.org

