

November 30, 2017

## International Christian University and the Japan ICU Foundation Launch the “Syrian Scholars Initiative (SSI)” Fundraising Campaign

### **Syrian Scholars Initiative (SSI) Fundraising Campaign**

The [Japan ICU Foundation \(JICUF\)](#) is initiating a [fundraising campaign](#) for the [Syrian Scholars Initiative \(SSI\)](#), a scholarship program for Syrian refugee students at [International Christian University \(ICU\)](#). ICU and JICUF opened application for SSI on June 20th (World Refugee Day) this year. In collaboration with the [Japan Association for Refugees \(JAR\)](#), a total of six Syrian youths currently residing in Turkey will be admitted to ICU from September 2018 to September 2021 as four-year undergraduate students. The scholarship will cover tuition, housing, university fees, living expenses and travel to Japan.

\*Recipients of this scholarship will be admitted to ICU through the same screening process as other September students.

The estimated annual cost for supporting one student is approximately \$25,000. The total cost of supporting six students throughout their undergraduate studies at ICU is approximately \$600,000. With an additional \$50,000 of miscellaneous costs, the total amount required to implement the program is approximately \$650,000. While both JICUF and ICU are committed to supporting these students, donations from alumni and the general public are crucial to the success of this program.

The SSI Fundraising Campaign aims to raise \$200,000, which is roughly the cost of two full scholarships out of the six. The campaign period is from November 2017 to March 2020.

### **Background and Significance of SSI**

Since civil war erupted in Syria in 2011, it has quickly become the top source country of refugees with 5 million registered refugees as of April 2017. The crisis has created the risk of a “lost generation,” and an estimated 150,000 university-qualified Syrian youths lack access to education. As universities across the globe seek to take in Syrian students, JICUF and ICU decided to respond in kind.

ICU’s decision to launch the Syrian Scholars Initiative is motivated by the university’s deep commitment to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its unique

history. ICU was founded shortly after World War II through the generous contributions of individuals in both Japan and the United States.

### **Donation Method**

JICUF created a [webpage for the SSI Campaign](#) through which supporters can make donations. Residents of Japan can donate through [ICU's fundraising website](#).

\*Costs of SSI are based in yen and were converted to USD using the exchange rate ¥1=\$0.008941 on October 13, 2017.

---

### Contact Information:

ICU Public Relations Office (Akiko Hashimoto, Kenji Sato)

Tel: +81-422-33-3040, Fax: +81-422-33-3355, E-mail: [pro@icu.ac.jp](mailto:pro@icu.ac.jp)

JICUF - Aki Takada, Director of Communications

Tel: +1-212-870-3386, Fax: +1-212-870-2696, E-mail: [information@jicuf.org](mailto:information@jicuf.org)