

TEN YEAR IMPACT EVALUATION

of the THOMAS JEFFERSON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

October 2023

The **Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program (TJSP)** supports Tunisian university students to study for an academic year in the U.S. Initiated in 2013, TJSP enables skill building in leadership, career development, and community/civic engagement during students' year abroad. The program is Implemented by IREX with funding from the U.S. Department of State. In 2023, Impact Paradigm Associates used a quasi-experimental, mixed-methods design to evaluate TJSP, generating findings about program implementation and impact.

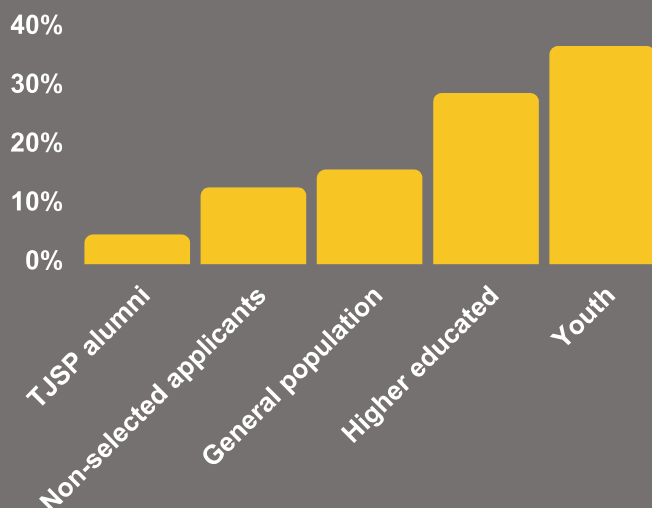
THE PROGRAM

With over 46,000 applicants since 2013, TJSP has a 1.5% acceptance rate. TJSP has achieved gender parity and equitable prioritization of applicants from underserved governorates. Among participants, 46% have been men, 54% have been women, and 41% have been from underserved governorates.

EMPLOYMENT

Unemployment, especially among higher-educated young people is high in Tunisia (see chart). A program success is that alumni are employed at a significantly higher rate than non-selected applicants – 70% compared to 48%. Employment among men and among alumni living in non-underserved governorates is higher than employment among women and alumni living in underserved governorates.

Alumni unemployment (5%) is lower than youth in the general population (37%)



“What sets him apart from the crowd, as the school's general manager, is that he has a logical matrix in his head, and more autonomy in terms of planning. He's very operational and doesn't lose any time in the cycle between reflection and action. When I knew that he had benefited from TJSP, I was able to put certain puzzles back together.”

– Employer of a TJSP alumnus



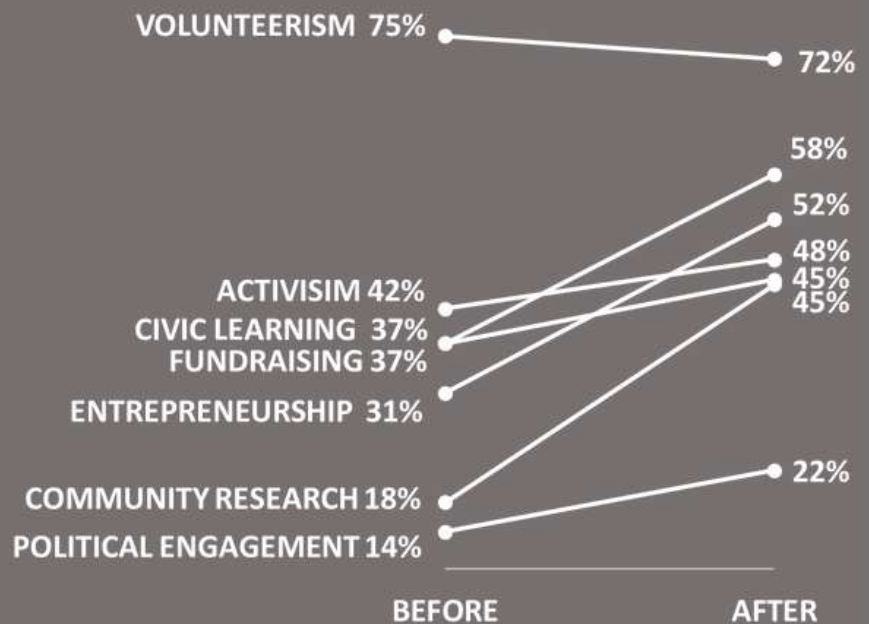
CAREER DEVELOPMENT

TJSP makes a substantive impact on alumni career development. For instance, 75% of alumni stated that TJSP helped them greatly in successfully entering the workforce. In addition, TJSP contributed to leadership knowledge, skills, and attitudes at a higher level than university did for non-accepted applicants. Teamwork/collaboration and technology skills, however, were greater areas of growth for non-selected applicants than they were for alumni.

COMMUNITY/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

TJSP increases alumni confidence in their ability to make a difference at the community, country and global levels. Further, two thirds of TJSP alumni attest that the program prepared them greatly to serve in leadership positions in Tunisia. Third, alumni participation in community research, entrepreneurship, and civic learning increased post-program, while modest declines were seen in volunteering and community service (see chart).

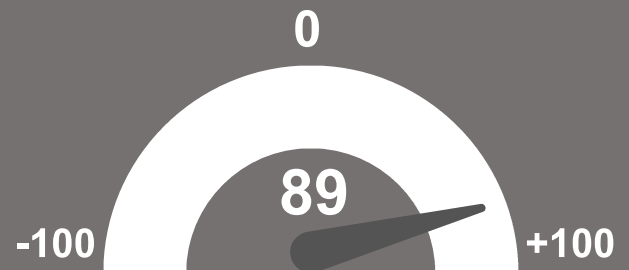
Participation in community research, entrepreneurship, and civic learning increased most post-program; volunteerism declined



PROGRAM VALUE

TJSP has a significantly above average proportion of favorable constituents than do most organizations, as indicated by its high Net Promoter Score of 89. Among the program's benefits, alumni most appreciated the opportunity for cultural exchange. Looking forward, alumni expressed a desire for 1) a more active, regionally-focused, self-sustaining network, with online engagement opportunities, and 2) facilitated linkages with Tunisian community service projects.

Net promoter score



“The Thomas Jefferson Scholarship Program has profoundly shaped my personal, academic, and professional development. It has broadened my cultural horizons, enhanced my academic prowess, instilled a sense of community service, developed my leadership skills, and provided lasting friendships. I am deeply grateful for this transformative experience.”

- TJSP alumna 2015/16

