

1. Noha Ibraheem:

"I am currently an Assistant Lecturer at the Department of English Language and Literature, the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University, Egypt. Back when I applied for the AFWG proposal writing workshop, I had no particular research project to develop as I was already working on my M.A. thesis, but I have to say that I came out with a totally different perspective on proposal writing after the workshop ended. Writing an *international* proposal requires a whole different process than how I was trained at Cairo University. I am planning to attain my PhD degree from Germany and surely what I have learned from the workshop will come in handy when I come to present my PhD research proposal. Additionally, it was such an exciting and an enriching experience to engage in various scholarly discussions with various scholars in various fields from all over the world".

2. Ibrahim Fouda

"I have finished my dissertation and I currently hold a Masters degree in Political Science from Cairo University. This academic achievement has been done in part by virtue of the knowledge and skills I learned during the AFWG workshop. It helped me a lot to prepare my thesis proposal so that I could follow concrete steps to obtain my degree with an excellent grade.

The AFWG workshop did not only help me achieve my academic objectives, it also helped in my career. The skills I learned during this workshop enabled me to do my work at higher levels of professionalism and competence. During the workshop, I learned some research methods and skills that allowed me to work on research projects. The AFWG workshop gave me the chance to acquire the knowledge and skills I needed to work as a research assistant at the Egyptian Center for Public Opinion Research (Baseera) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). I am currently working as an eligibility officer at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – Regional Office in Cairo. My work at the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) unit requires conducting research on country of origin information (COI) and other issues related to RSD.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Prof. Suad Joseph and the AFWG team for their great efforts. The AFWG workshop helped me

improve my research skills that I need to achieve my academic and professional goals."

3. Gehane El Sharkawy

"I used the AFWG proposal to apply for a Doctor of Social Sciences at Royal Roads University (Victoria, Canada). Not only did it help me get accepted, but it was also very useful in shaping my proposal early on.

The AFWG workshop trained me - among other skills - to formulate the research question, make a case for the research, highlight the main points in the proposal, write effectively and clearly...all skills that I used time and again for my assignments. Based on the knowledge I gained in the workshops, I was able to advise my colleagues on how to improve their proposals. A heartfelt thank you to all those who made these workshops possible. They were definitely worth attending".

4. Nashwa Ghoneim

"I'm personally currently enrolled in the business administration PhD program at Alexandria University. I'm an assistant lecturer at the business administration department as well. I didn't have the chance to complete my PhD abroad yet. I've applied for funding from Emerald African Management Research Fund Award and awaiting their reply. The total requested fund was \$ 3,500. I can judge the usefulness of the training once I receive the funding agency decision by November. You are all pretty much appreciated for your efforts."

5. Areen Kiresh

"After participating in the Proposal Writing and Research Design training workshop in December 2012, I continued working on my Master's thesis and I completed writing and discussing it and graduated with a Master's degree in Gender and Development Studies in June 2013.

The workshop with AFWG helped me a lot in developing my research project and paying attention to details related to my research question, hypothesis and methodology. Moreover, the three months one-to-one follow up and mentorship helped me a lot in staying in the right track during the writing process. I think this program provides young scholars with a

valuable opportunity to meet and learn from distinguished scholars and professors.

Thank you very much Dr. Suad and AFWG for the time and effort you are dedicating for young Arab scholars"

6. Tasneem Sharkawi

"The AFWG program completely changed my academic life as well as my entire outlook onto PhD research. There are things I learned in the workshop back in 2012 that became the bible informing my academic career choices. This led to getting admitted to the linguistics PhD program of Lancaster University (ranked 9th in the 2014 QS World University Rankings by subject), from where I also managed to receive a studentship. The rich multi-disciplinary environment of the program mirrors that of international education in today's globalized world of interdisciplinary production and dissemination of research. I'm grateful in many ways to the opportunity I was offered by the AFWG." -Tas Sharkawi, AFWG Alumna, PhD student in Lancaster University.

6. Engi Gamal EL Din

As I believe in what Stephen Covey said: "The best way you can predict your future is to create it". Before applying for AFWG training, my research paper was funded by SSRC's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Program from the Ford Foundation – Cairo in the Model Mentorship Training Program between U.S and Egypt, Social Science Research Council "SSRC" in New York.

Later on, the research paper was enlarged to be my master thesis topic. I was not able to paint my own picture without having the empirical and science experience during my AFWG training as well. I am heavily indebted to have such a challenging training, especially in being specific in my research topic and how to design the research questions related to the variables measured.

I was able last year, after AFWG training programme, to gain a KOICA scholarship from the Korean Government to study a master degree in Development Policy from KDI School of Public Policy and Management in South Korea, and now I am a graduate of the school. My thesis topic was a part of the project I introduced during the AFWG training programme.

Admittedly, the training programme was very helpful and informative in terms of identifying the variables enriching my research experience in research design and implementation.

After obtaining my master degree, I am in charge of currently in Egypt's Think Thank to develop sectoral development policies on the governorates' level in Egypt in order to maintain the sustainable development goals coincided with integrating the population considerations.

I am now seeking a broader experience to study my Phd in development economics, as I commit myself to restructure public finance in Egypt.