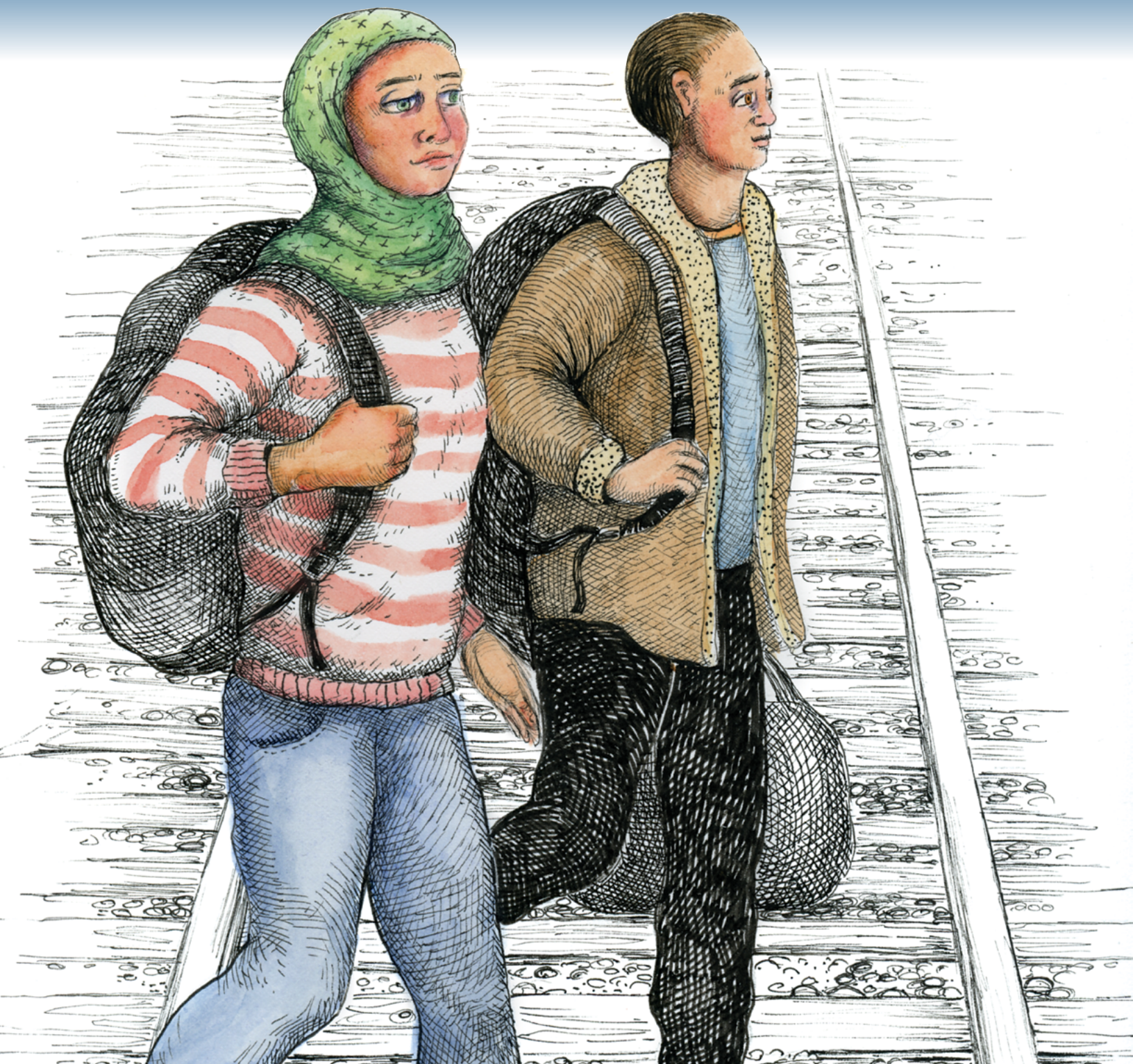


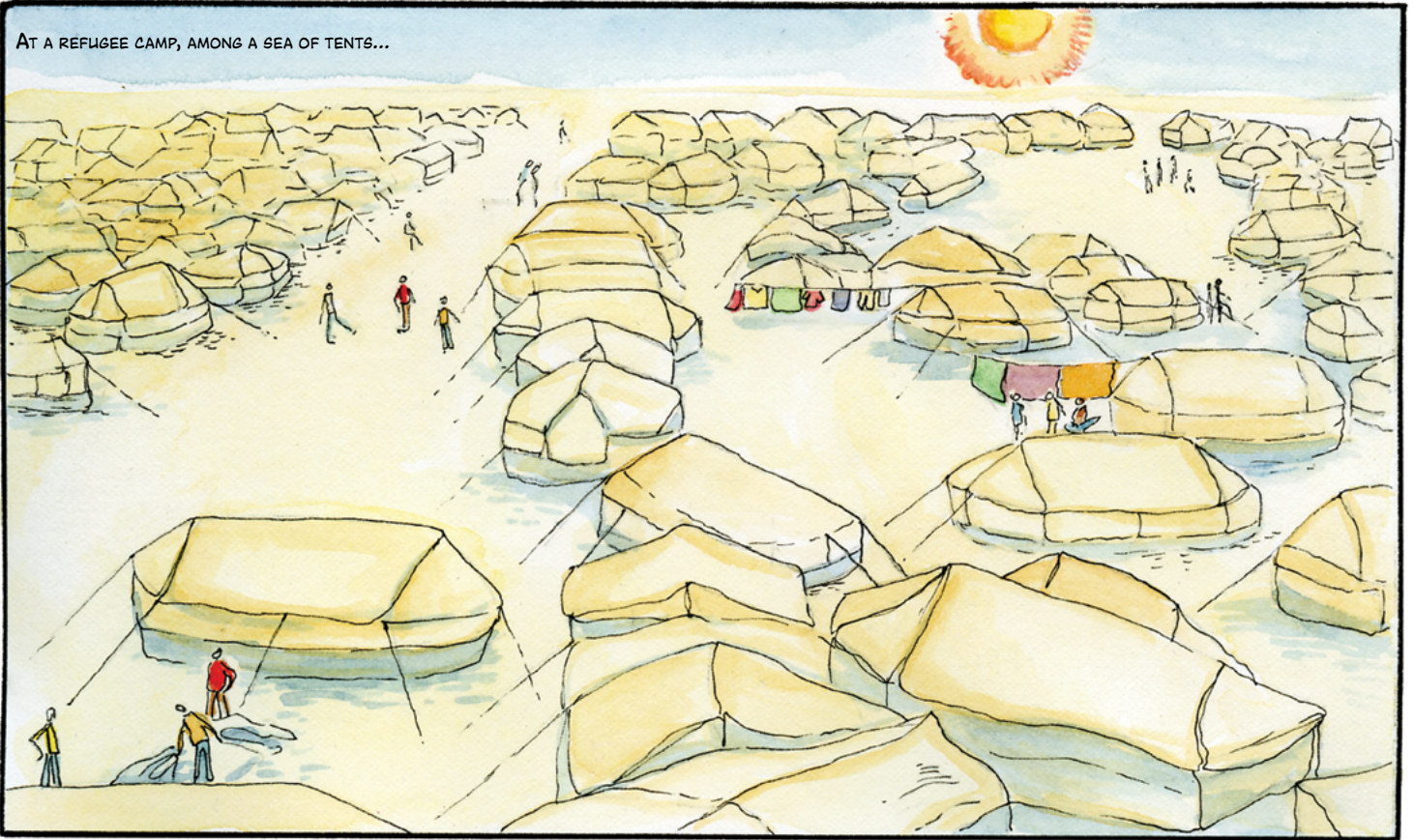
# THE ARTICLE 26 BACKPACK



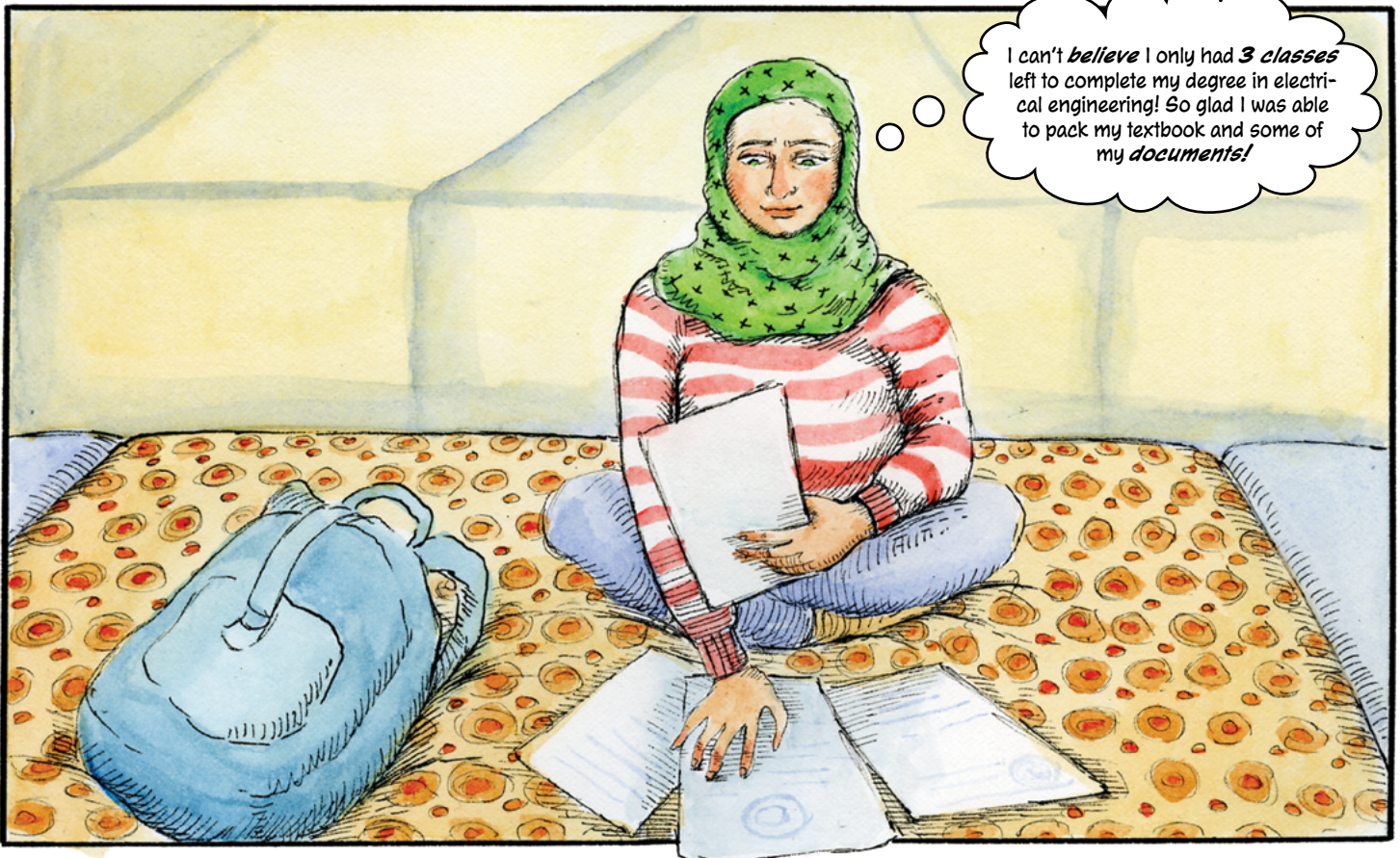
*HOPE IS GOOD; A PLAN IS BETTER!*

UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS TOOL FOR ACADEMIC MOBILITY

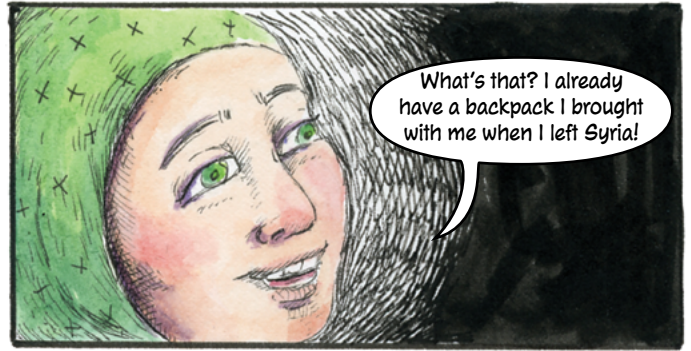
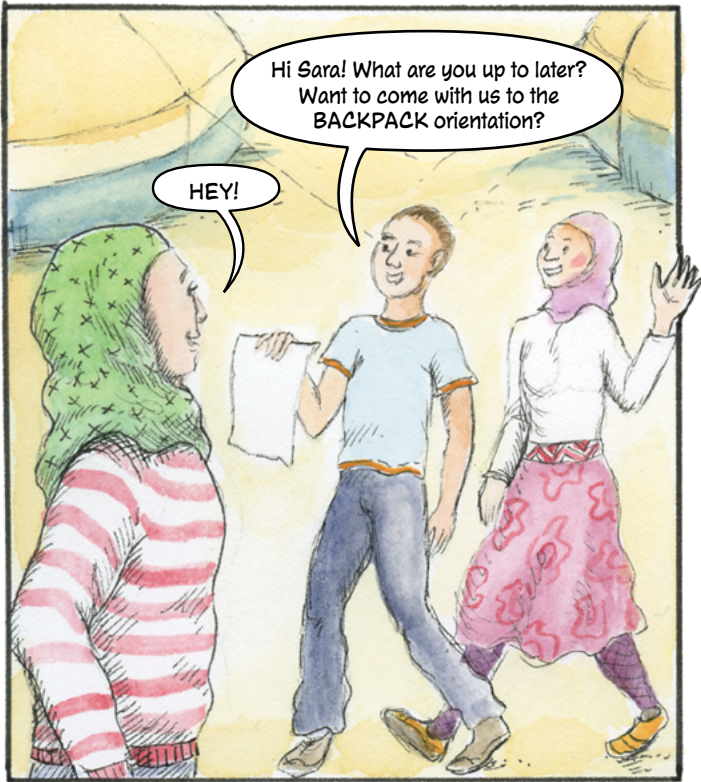
AT A REFUGEE CAMP, AMONG A SEA OF TENTS...



...20-YEAR-OLD SARA LOOKS THROUGH THE FEW THINGS SHE HAD THROWN IN HER SUITCASE WHEN HER FAMILY FLED.



I can't *believe* I only had **3 classes** left to complete my degree in electrical engineering! So glad I was able to pack my textbook and some of my *documents!*



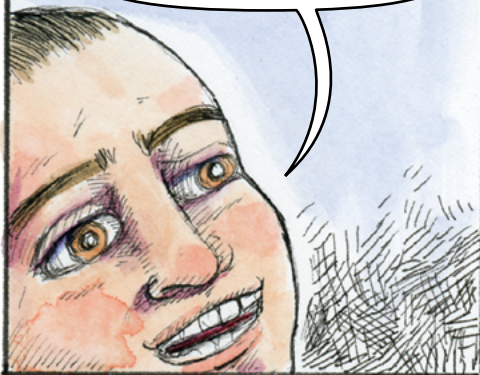
LATER THAT DAY, MARIAM AND BASSAM, TWO BACKPACK GUIDES, EXPLAIN HOW THE ARTICLE 26 BACKPACK TOOL CAN HELP SARA AND HER FRIENDS RESUME THEIR EDUCATION...



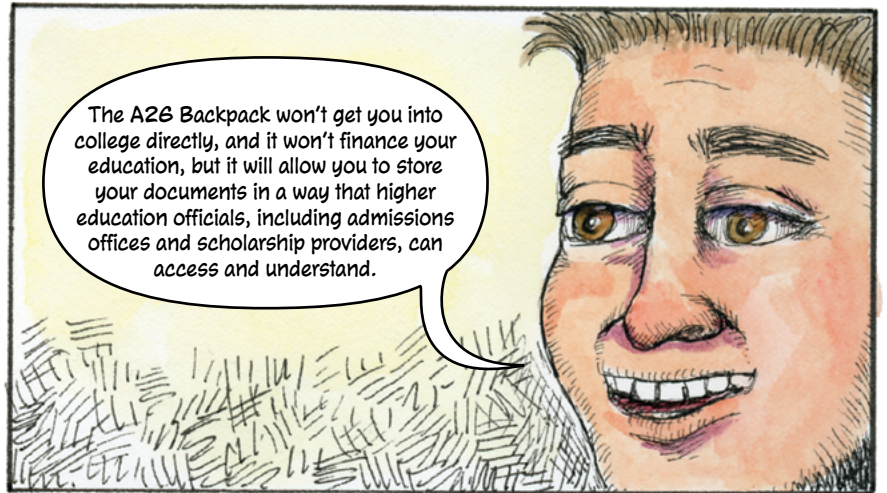
THERE IS A BUZZ AS THE CROWD OF STUDENTS ALL BEGIN TO SPEAK AT ONCE.



Is there money for me to continue college? I was studying law...



The A26 Backpack won't get you into college directly, and it won't finance your education, but it will allow you to store your documents in a way that higher education officials, including admissions offices and scholarship providers, can access and understand.



How do I get in if my English isn't strong? I was studying to be a pharmacist.



Backpack guides like me can help you discuss your strengths and goals...then you can use the Backpack to connect with universities, scholarships and employers.

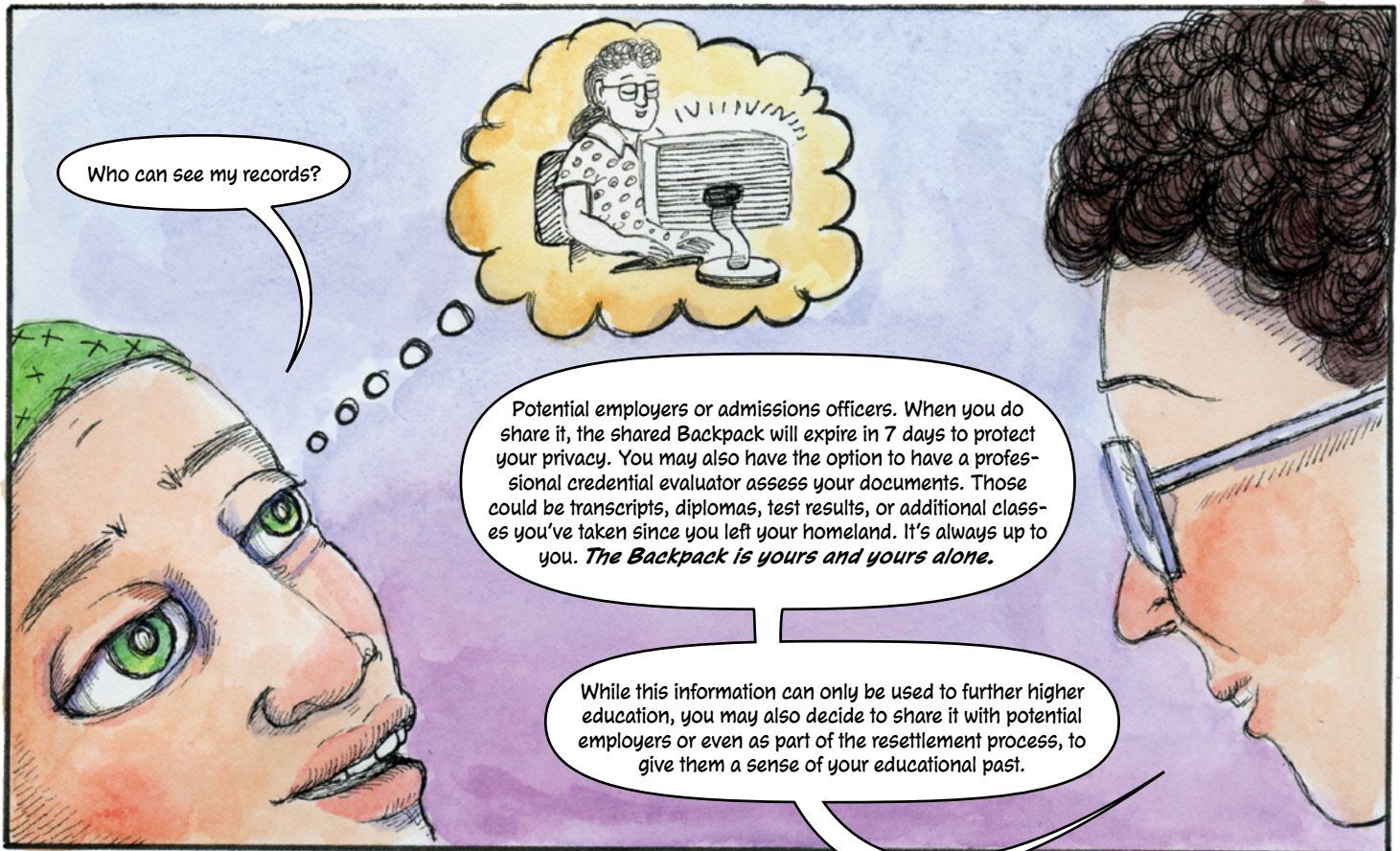
WHETHER YOU STAY HERE, OR ARE RESETTLED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, YOU CAN ALWAYS ACCESS THE BACKPACK, AND YOU CAN ADD OR REVISE THE DOCUMENTS.





How can I know my information will be safe?

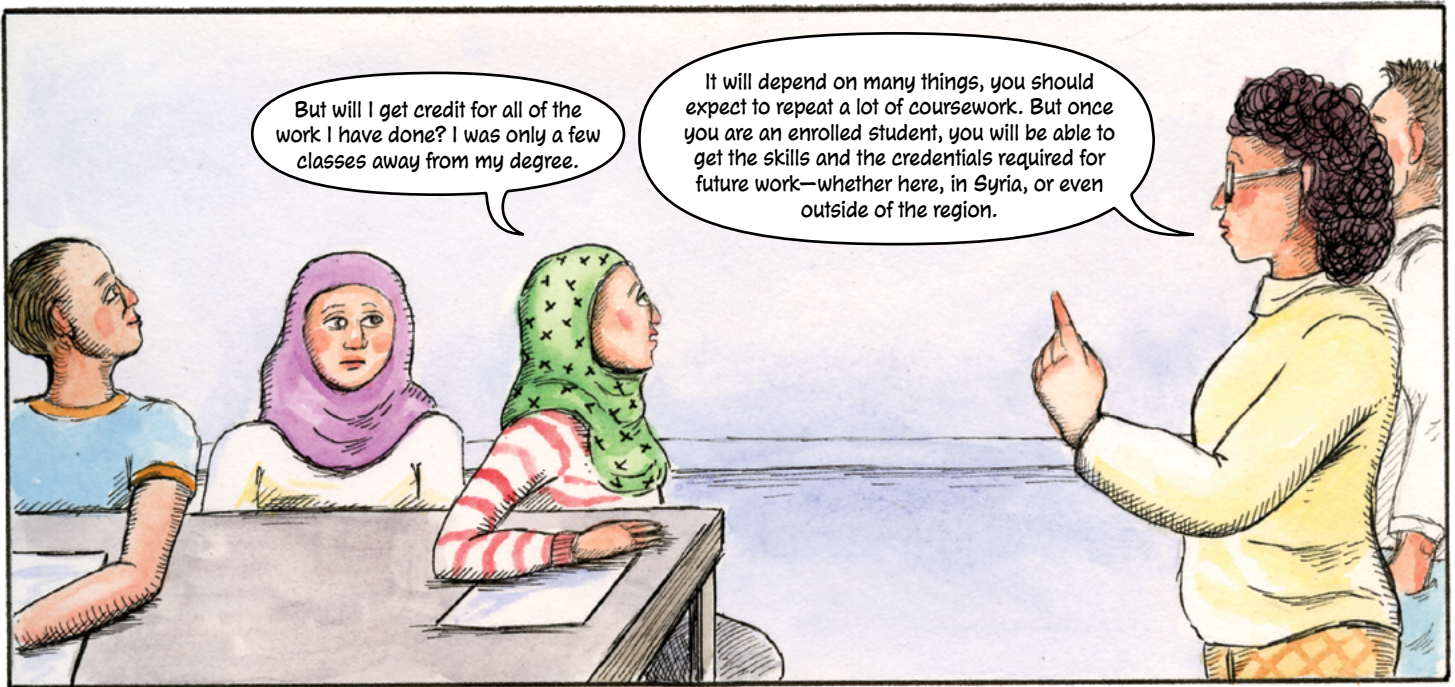
That's an important question. **Your Backpack belongs only to you**—you alone decide who has access to it. It can only be used with your permission. If you don't want anyone to see what's in it, it'll be safely stored on a secure webserver until you need it. If you want to share it, you will be given ways to provide university officials and others a "key" to have limited, controlled access to it.



Who can see my records?

Potential employers or admissions officers. When you do share it, the shared Backpack will expire in 7 days to protect your privacy. You may also have the option to have a professional credential evaluator assess your documents. Those could be transcripts, diplomas, test results, or additional classes you've taken since you left your homeland. It's always up to you. **The Backpack is yours and yours alone.**

While this information can only be used to further higher education, you may also decide to share it with potential employers or even as part of the resettlement process, to give them a sense of your educational past.



But will I get credit for all of the work I have done? I was only a few classes away from my degree.

It will depend on many things, you should expect to repeat a lot of coursework. But once you are an enrolled student, you will be able to get the skills and the credentials required for future work—whether here, in Syria, or even outside of the region.



So to reiterate, the Article 26 Backpack is a tool for people 18 or older with a high school diploma or baccalaureate to store and share your academic and professional credentials with universities and employers. It has been designed especially for people whose education has been disrupted by war, conflict, or economic conditions.

Visit [article26backpack.ucdavis.edu](http://article26backpack.ucdavis.edu) to learn more or to contact someone with any questions you might have.



How do I get my backpack?

Let's get started right away! You will need an email account and paper academic documents to photograph, or you can load electronic copies, too.



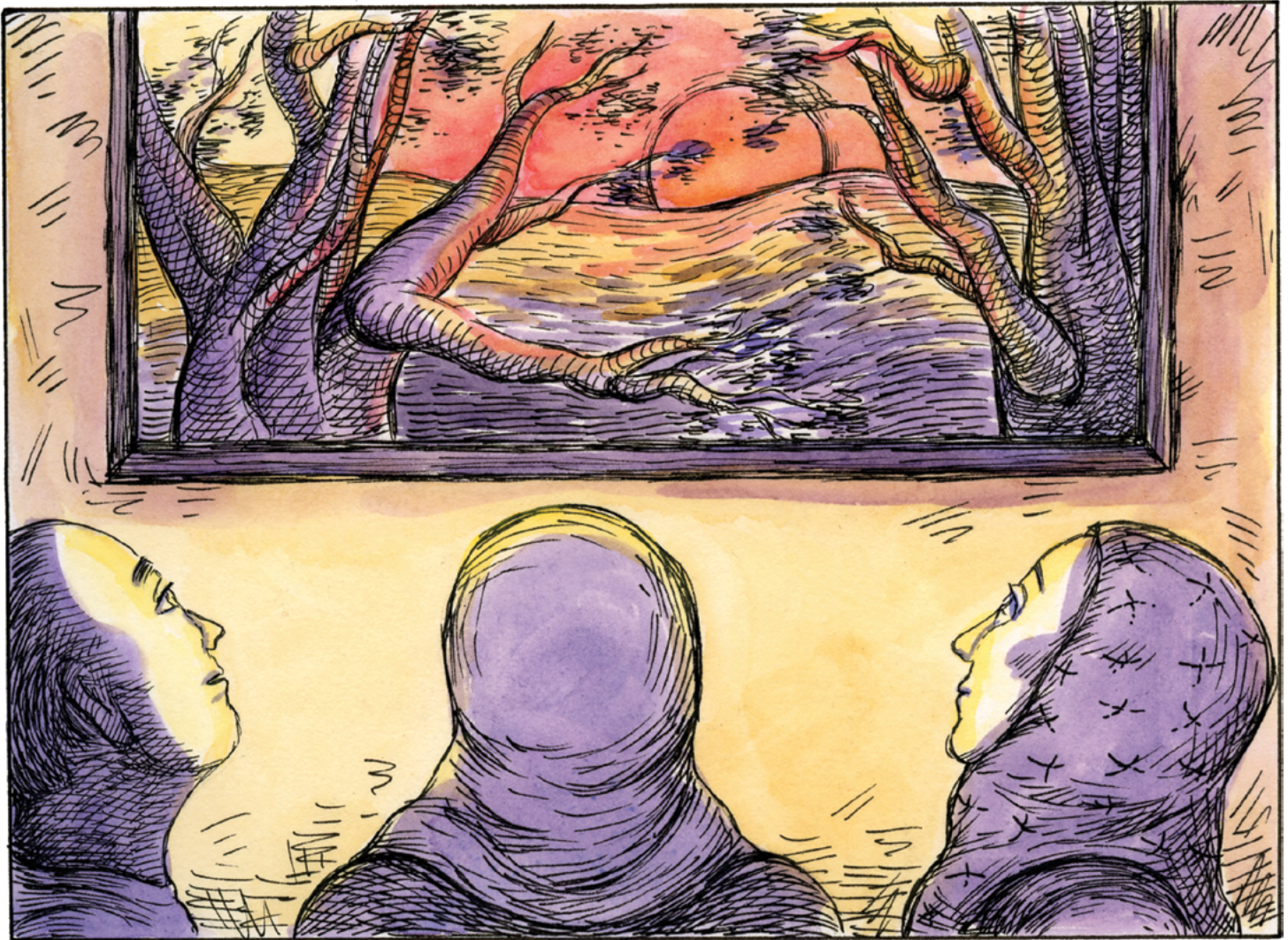
We can photograph your documents right now!

Once you've uploaded the files you have—CV, for example, certificates, diplomas, and other documents, you can also record your visual statement of purpose.



What are your goals?  
What would you like to do?  
What should we know about you?

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE STUDENTS FALL SILENT. OUTSIDE THE ORIENTATION ROOM WINDOW, THEY CAN SEE THE SUN SETTING IN THE DISTANCE, CASTING THE ROOM AND THEIR FACES IN A WARM GLOW. MANY ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT THERE IS NO EASY PATH TO CONTINUING TO STUDY. SARA LOOKS AT THE BRANCHES REACHING TOWARDS THE HORIZON. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, SHE FEELS HOPEFUL THAT SHE WILL ONE DAY FINISH HER DEGREE AND FIND WORK REBUILDING HER COUNTRY. SHE KNOWS IT WILL NOT BE EASY, BUT WITH THE BACKPACK, SHE FEELS THAT SHE CAN BE RECOGNIZED FOR HER POTENTIAL, AND NOT SIMPLY AS A REFUGEE. **HOPE IS GOOD. A PLAN IS BETTER.**



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