



***Embassy of the Republic of Iraq
Cultural Office***

**Building Bridges of
Knowledge**

**Academic Initiatives
in Iraq**



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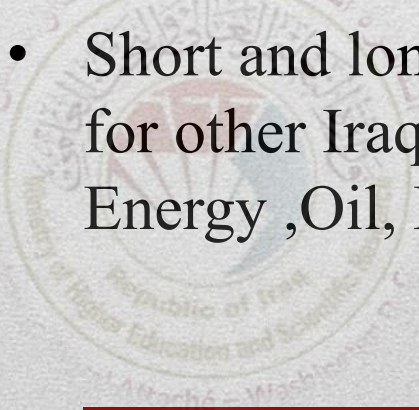
The vision of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is Advancing Iraq's global academic standing and research visibility through strategic partnerships

- Thousands of Iraqis study abroad yearly, sponsored by HCED & MOHESR programs
- Partnerships with universities abroad
- Exchange programs for students and researchers.
- Strengthens research collaboration and innovation.



Programs and initiatives.

- HCED scholarship program - sponsored by the Iraqi Government.
- Study in Iraq initiative.
- Study leave program.
- Short and long-term training programs for the MOHESR.
- Short and long-term training programs for other Iraqi Ministries. (Ministry of Energy ,Oil, Health, Agriculture, etc.).

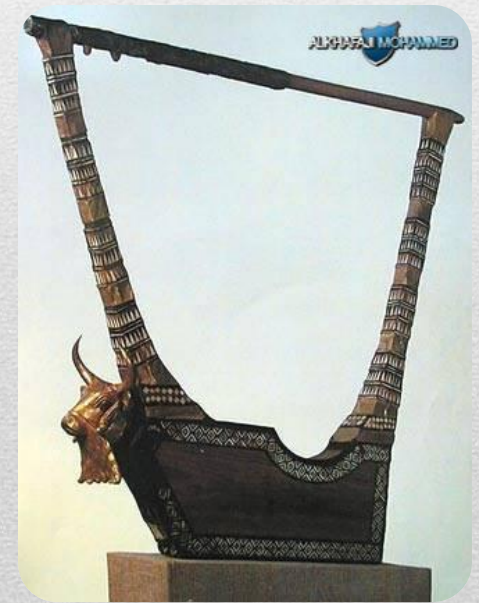


After 2003, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research resumed Scholarship Programs in 2007

Fully funded scholarships for Iraqi students to study abroad (Master & PhD) in 2007 & 2013

- Covers tuition, stipends, travel, and health insurance.
- Students return to contribute on Iraq development.

Stopped in 2015



The Higher Committee For Education Development in Iraq (HCED)



- In July 2023, the Iraqi government launched an important scholarship program offering **5,000 scholarships** for **master's and doctoral degrees** at prestigious international universities.
- **3000 scholarships** have been allocated for students wishing to **study in the USA**.



Selection & Eligibility



Highly competitive process.

- Selection is based on academic excellence & research potential
- Requires English proficiency with a minimum average of 5.5 IELTS score
- Students' transcripts are authentic and verified as part of the acceptance process (Transcripts are official and verified)



Selection & Eligibility

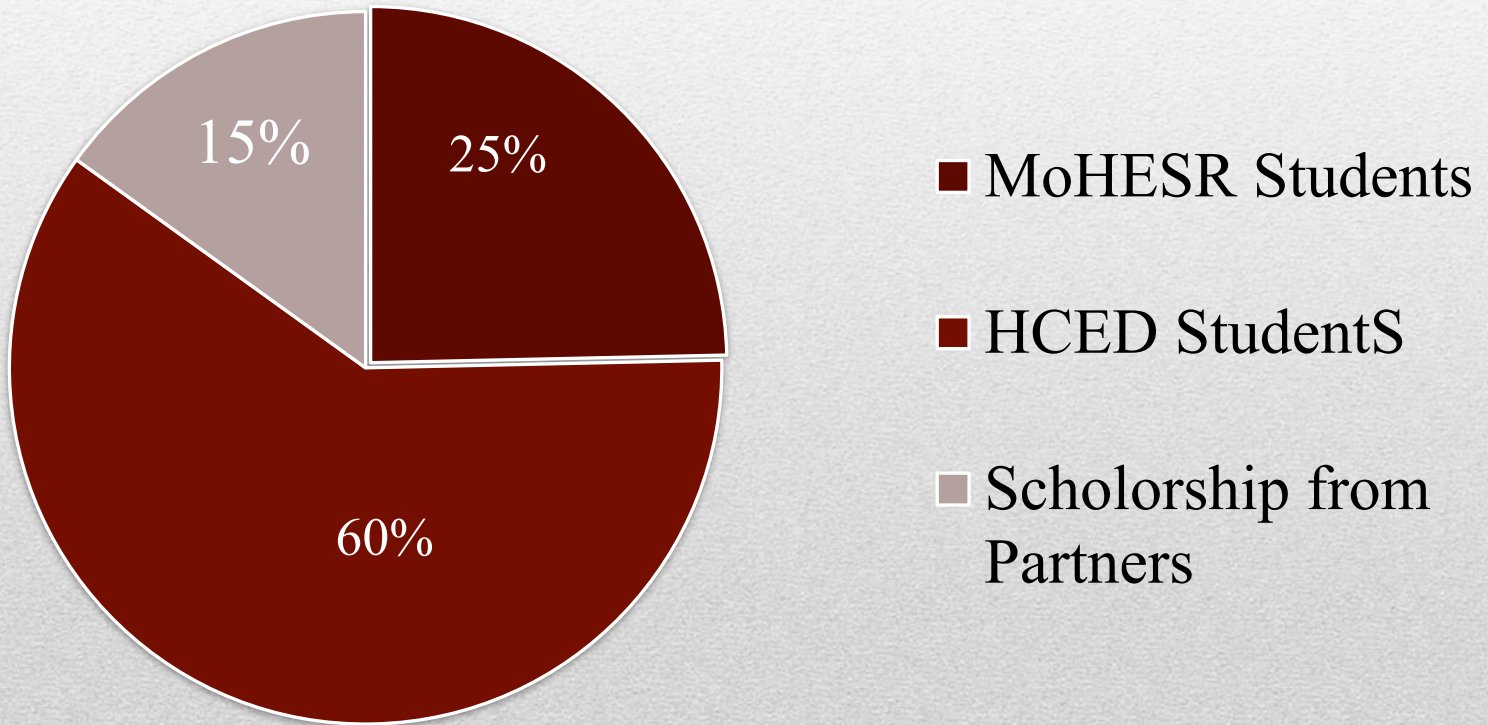
Iraqi students possess a high level of knowledge and diligence, and have proven their worth in previous scholarship programs

- By demonstrating high academic achievement.
- Registered patents in the USA.
- They were offered jobs in American companies and academic institutions



Program based Students Distribution 2026

Students Distribution





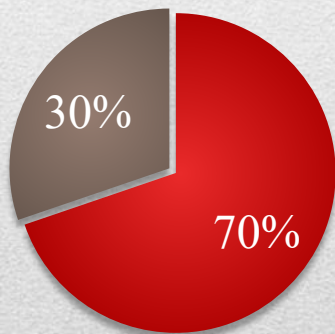
Iraqi Students in the United States



78 AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

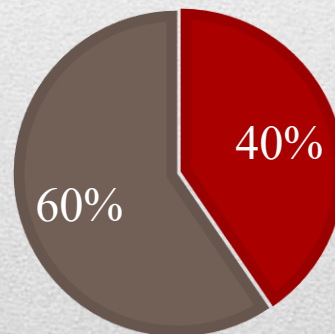
HCED Statistics enrolled in U.S. 2026

HCED Student Gender Distribution



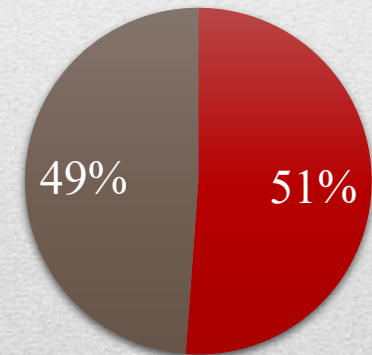
■ Male ■ Female

HCED Students Enrolment Degree



■ MSc ■ PhD

HCED Student Married Status



■ Single ■ Married

Obstacles and Limitations.

- *Visa issue.*

- Process Time:

Previously, it could take more than six months. Now takes less than a month.

We express our appreciation for the assistance provided by the US Department of State and the US Embassy in Baghdad in resolving this issue.

- Visa validity (one year).

Students will not jeopardize their studies by visiting Iraq, as this requires a new visa.

- *Universities' admission process:* Takes time



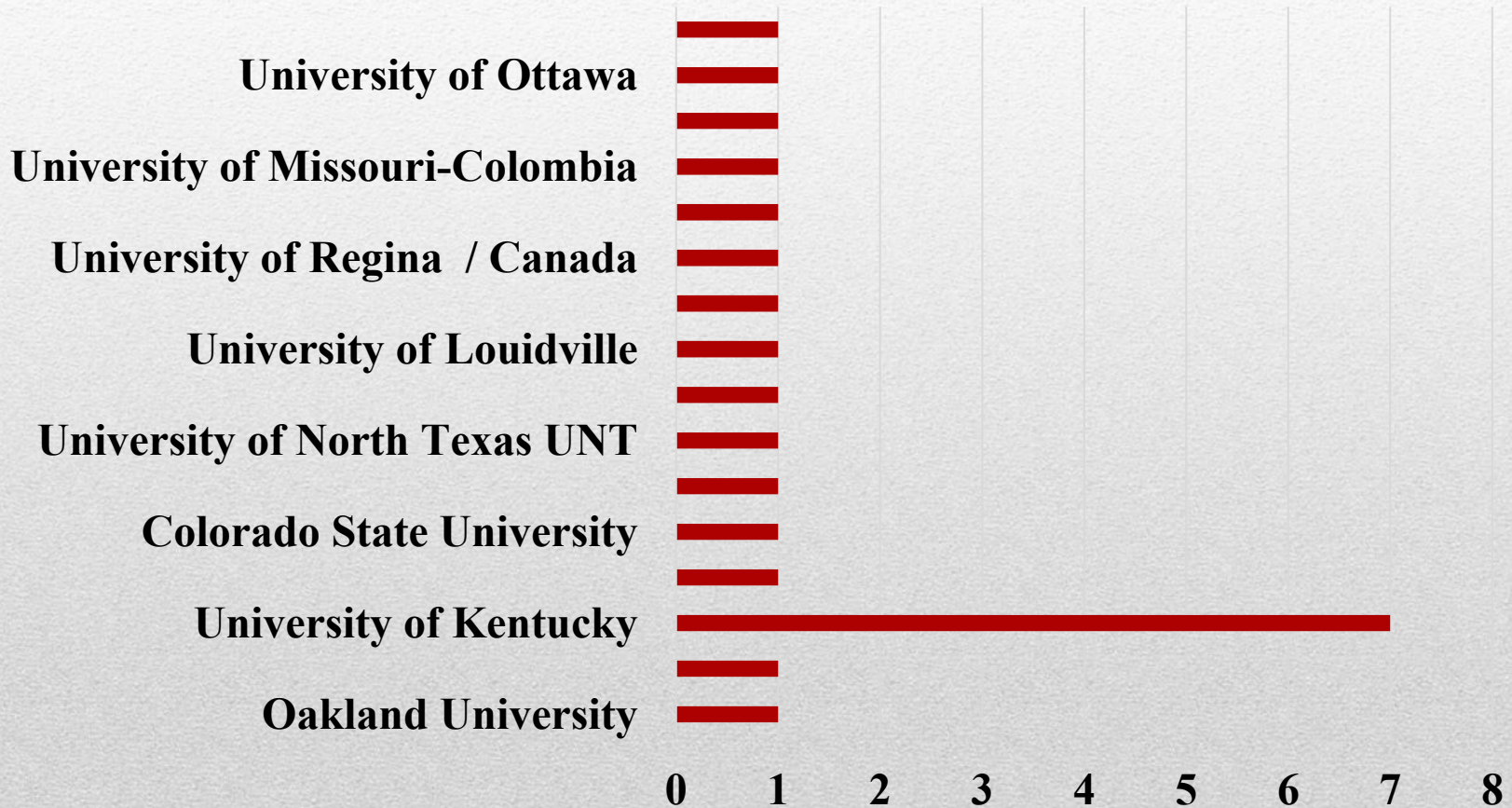
TALENTED STUDENTS



- MOHESR program for talented high school graduates.
- The plan is to secure admission for 70 students to medical programs (MD) in the USA.



Visiting Researchers Program



We seek to establish long-term partnerships

In an effort to elevate Iraq's academic standards in Iraqi universities and enhance academic quality, we are keen to establish effective partnerships with global institutions, such as (but not limited to):

Dual degree for undergraduate and graduate levels:
Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate.

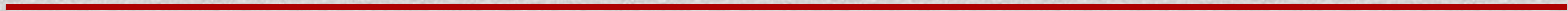
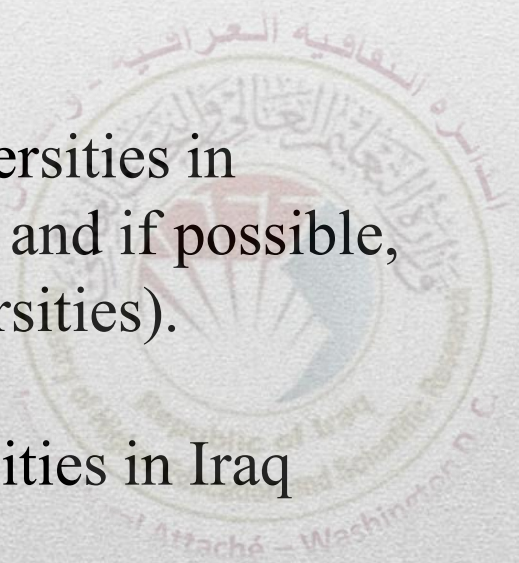
Academic degrees obtained through collaboration between US and Iraqi universities.



We seek to establish long-term partnerships

We are interested in:

- Establishing programs in Iraqi universities under the management and supervision of American universities (at undergraduate and graduate levels).
- Establishing research centers in Iraqi universities in collaboration with American universities (and if possible, under the management of American universities).
- Establishing branches of American universities in Iraq

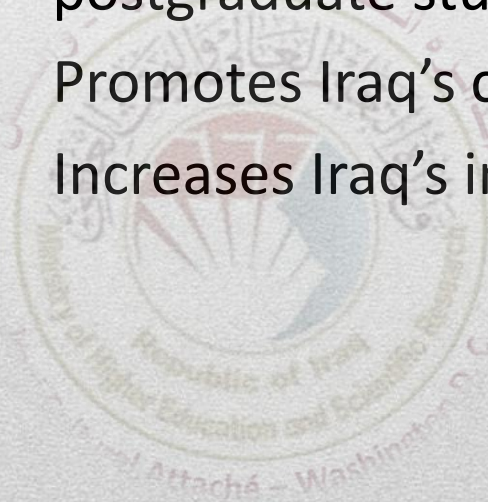


Study in Iraq



The MOHESR launched the "Study in Iraq" Initiative in 2023 to attract international students to Iraqi universities.

- Provides study opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students.
- Promotes Iraq's cultural and academic heritage
- Increases Iraq's international visibility



Study in Iraq

Third Edition 2025-2026



April 2025, the MOHESR announced the third edition of the "Study in Iraq" initiative for the 2025–2026 academic year, which is open to all nationalities, ethnicities, and religions for both genders.

- The initiative offers more than **16,000 study places** in **67 universities** and academic institutions across Iraq.
- Free Arabic language training and integration programs.
- Includes an opportunity for researchers to carry out research at Iraqi academic institutions.
- Short and long training courses.



Study in Iraq

Third Edition 2025-2026



- **Fully-funded:** Covers tuition fee, accommodation, residency permits and health insurance.



- **Partially-funded:** 50% of tuition fees covered.
- **Self-funded:** Students cover full tuition fees.



MAJORS DISTRIBUTION

6000 international student



The MOHESR strategic plan is based on these initiatives and programs to achieve;

- Building stronger global partnerships through education and culture exchange.
- Enhancing Iraq's **academic ranking** on the international stage.
- Increasing the **visibility** of scientific research conducted in Iraqi institutions.

We invite you to join us in achieving goals that serve our mutual interests



Thank you for your attention

Q&A

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