



EducationUSA Services in Iraq

April 12, 11:30 AM

*Sandrine Goffard
Education Advisor
U.S. Embassy Baghdad*

The U.S. has how many institutions of higher learning?

- 1,500
- 2,000
- 4,500
- 6,000

From Researching University programs to gaining admission, how long is the process?

- 24 months
- 18 months
- 12 months
- 6 months

To how many graduate schools should you apply?

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-6
- 7 or more

Presentation Outline

- I. EducationUSA Services
- II. U.S. Graduate Education
- III. 10 Steps to Admission
- IV. Q & A

I. EducationUSA Globally

- EducationUSA is funded by the U.S. Department of State
- Demonstrates U.S. Government commitment to education and cultural exchange
- More than 400 Advising Centers around the world, serving students in most countries



I. EducationUSA Globally

- EducationUSA provides accurate, complete, and current information – for free – to all students who want to study in the U.S.
- Millions of students are served each year around the world.



I. EducationUSA Iraq

- Dedicated to helping Iraqi students who want to study at U.S. universities
 - from all ethnic groups, from all provinces
- Results (for the 2012-2013 school year)
 - 1074 Iraqi students studying at U.S. universities (a 32% increase over previous year)



I. Advising Activities

- Give group presentations at universities, schools, and Embassy/Consulate offices
 - Five Steps to Study in the USA
 - How to Write a Statement of Purpose
 - American Culture: Fact vs. Fiction
 - Campus Life at a U.S. University
 - ... and more!



I. Advising Activities

- Advise students by telephone and email

BaghdadEducationADV@state.gov

ErbilEducationUSA@state.gov

Baghdad: 0760-030-3730

Erbil: 0770-443-4403

I. Advising Activities

- Meet with students individually
 - U.S. Consulate General Erbil
 - U.S. Embassy Baghdad
 - HCED English Language Center
 - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
 - ...and more!



I. Advising Activities

- Conduct education advising programs on social media (website, Facebook) to reach students

The screenshot shows the website for the Embassy of the United States in Baghdad, Iraq, specifically the 'Education and Culture' section. The header includes the embassy name and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'STUDY IN THE U.S.A.' and features a large 'Education USA' logo. Below the logo, there is a list of bullet points detailing the benefits of studying in the U.S., such as quality facilities, opportunities to become skilled leaders, and the value of higher education. A 'VIDEO COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT' section highlights a PDF titled 'Why I Study in the USA'. Another section, 'EDUCATION USA UNIVERSITY FAIR', mentions a program book for an event in Erbil. A 'LIVE WEBINARS - FREE' section promotes a video titled 'Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study Step 5 - Getting Ready to Go!'. At the bottom, there are links to 'Study in the United States Fact Sheet' in English, Arabic, and Kurdish, and contact information for EducationUSA in Baghdad and Erbil.

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for StudyUSAIraq. The page header includes the Facebook logo and a navigation bar with 'Home', 'About Us', 'Visas', 'U.S. Citizen Services', 'News', 'Education and Culture', 'Resources', 'Business', 'Multimedia', 'Communities', and 'Locations'. The main content area features a large image of a group of people sitting in a room, likely at a university fair or webinar. Below the image, there is a 'StudyUSAIraq is on Facebook' banner with a 'Sign Up' button. The page also displays the number of likes (18,507) and a 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)' section. The bottom of the page shows a 'Recent Posts by Others on StudyUSAIraq' section with a post in Arabic.

I. Advising Activities

- Facilitate discussion groups for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)
 - Entrepreneurship
 - College Writing
 - Undergraduate Admissions
 - American Poetry
 - ...and more!

I. Other Online Advising Activities

- Post dates and locations of standardized tests (TOEFL, GRE) on Facebook
- Assist students sign up for eLibrary
- Promote webinars by U.S. universities
- Weekly updates from EdUSA that include financial aid from specific U.S. universities

I. Advising Activities

- Organize college fairs for U.S. universities
 - April 2014 – Erbil
 - October 2014 – Baghdad



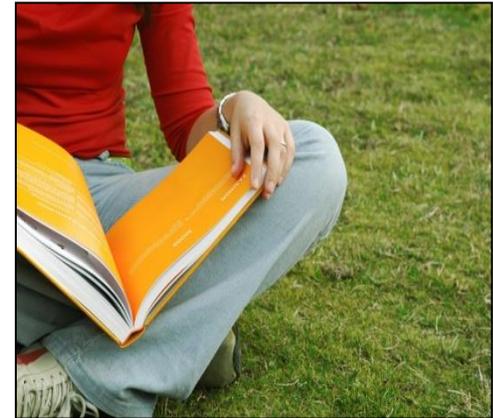
II. U.S. Graduate Education



II. U.S. Graduate Education

Why Study in the United States?

- Choice: More than 1,700 institutions offer graduate degrees
- Quality: World class faculty and facilities
- Flexibility: Design your program, work with many departments
- Global classrooms



II. U.S. Graduate Education

How to Choose?

- Research faculty -- the same type of research as you
- Research programs in your field of study -- faculty, resources, courses

II. U.S. Graduate Education

How to Choose – Cost

<u>Finances</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Tuition	\$16,000- \$40,000
Room/board	\$6,000- \$14,000
Books/supplies	\$1,000- \$2,000
Health Insurance	\$500- \$1,000
Personal Expenses	\$2,000- \$5,000
Travel to USA	\$2,000 - \$3,500
Total	\$27,500- \$65,000+

Realistic Average



II. U.S. Graduate Education

How to Choose – Financial Resources

Where to find the Funds to Study?

- Self Funding (student/family pays)
- Iraq Scholarships
- University financial aid
- Assistantships (Teaching Assistants)
- Work outside campus NOT allowed for most F1 & J1 Visas
- You are NOT eligible for Student Loans from the U.S. Government

III. 10 Steps to Admission



How To Start?

III. 10 Steps to Admission

- 12 to 18 month process
- Requires organization and commitment



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Understand the Requirements

- Must have Bachelor's or Master's Degree
- Strong English language skills
- Test Scores (TOEFL, GRE)
- Good Academic Record
- Adequate Financing (scholarship, self-funding or grant)
- Application Package Requirements

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Understand Your Personal Goals

What ...

- career do you want to pursue?
- are employment prospects in Iraq?
- degrees and qualifications are required to realize these goals?



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Research Your Options



- Teachers and employers
- Academic journals
- College fairs
- Online search engines
 - www.EducationUSA.state.gov
 - www.petersons.com
 - www.gradschools.com

Your 5 Steps to U.S. Study

Undergraduate

Graduate

English Language

Short - Term

Main Menu



Graduate

Step 1 - Research Your Options



24 months prior to U.S.study:



Get Started Today!

Deciding to attend graduate school is not a decision to take lightly. Graduate education in the United States is a major personal, intellectual, social, emotional, and financial investment.

"I would like to go to the United States for global exposure in my chosen field. In my opinion, the quality of education provided by the best universities in the United States is not found anywhere else in the world."

- Student from India



Educ

- Who is a Graduate Student?
- Define Your Priorities
- What Graduate Programs are Available in the United States?

Have you thought about what is most important to you?
To help you decide, ask yourself the questions listed within [Define Your Priorities](#)>>

Enter your search terms ...

- College
 Graduate

Se



College Information

Use Peterson's College Search, college info, and admissions advice to find the best college.

[College Center](#)



Research Grad Schools

Let Peterson's guide your grad school search to help you find the right graduate program.

[Grad School Center](#)

Other School Guides

[Distance Learning](#) | [Private High](#)

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About Peterson's

With more than 40 years of experience, guides you through the education planning process with its personalized resources, including:

- College search
- Graduate school search

[Peterson's College Tools](#)

[Rolling Admissions](#)

[Grad School](#)

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Research Your Options: Things to Consider

- Faculty and Facilities
- Program strengths & weaknesses
- University character
- Geographic location and quality of life



DEFINE YOUR PRIORITIES

SMALL vs. BIG



Geographic Location

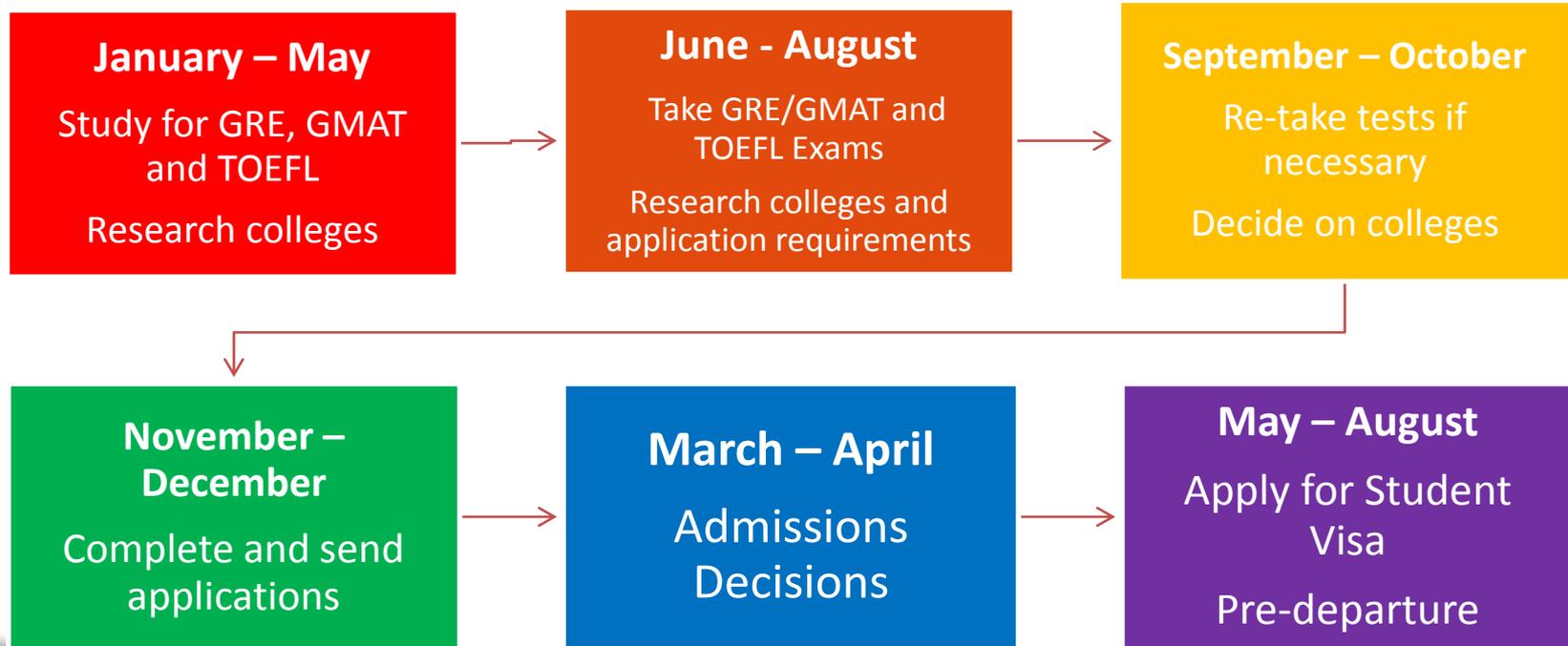


Transportation



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Application Timeline – 18 Months



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Check Accreditation

U.S. Accreditation

U.S. Department of Education

Database of Accredited

Post-Secondary Institutions

www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation

Iraqi Recognition

Government Approved Degree

Programs and Universities

www.mohe.gov.iq

www.mhe-kr.gov.iq

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Take the Tests!

TOEFL

- Assess your English language skills
- Required for all non-native speakers of English

GRE or GMAT

- Assess your aptitude
- Required by most programs

TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language

Content

Speaking (iBT)

Listening

Reading

Writing

- Format: Internet (iBT) and Paper Based (PBT)
- Cost: \$160 - \$200, subject to change
- Score Reports: 4 sent free on day of test
- PBT Score Range: 310-677; Minimums of 500 or 550
- iBT Score Range: 0-120; Minimums 61-79
- Registration: Online www.ETS.org/TOEFL; in person at Test Centers (Anbar, Babil, Baghdad, Dhi Qar, Diyala, Erbil, Sulaimaniyah)
- **FREE Prep Materials:** <http://www.ETS.org/TOEFL> , TOEFL TV on youtube

GRE – Graduate Record Examination

- Required by MOST universities
- Universities do NOT announce minimum scores
- GRE General Test – required for all students
- GRE Subject Test – Required by some programs in Sciences, Math, Computers, Psychology and English Literature
- Plan to take the test more than once to raise your score!

Find information at: <http://www.ets.org/gre>

GRE—Graduate Record Exam

Content

Verbal
Reasoning

Quantitative
Reasoning

Analytical
Writing

- Format: Paper-Based in Iraq
- Cost: \$180 + \$50 service fee (\$230 in person)
- Score Reports: 4 sent free on day of test
- Scores: Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning 200-800 each, Analytical Writing 0-6 points
- Registration: Online www.ETS.org/GRE or www.AMIDEAST.org/Iraq
- Preparation Materials: AMIDEAST, Free Online <http://www.ETS.org/GRE/general/prepare>
- Test Centers: Baghdad, Erbil

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Conditional Admission

- Not all universities
- Students with good academic record
- Low TOEFL or GRE scores
- Intensive English Program; then retake the TOEFL and GRE tests
- Acceptance into regular academic program based on TOEFL and GRE
- If new test scores are high enough, student will be admitted
- If test scores are NOT high enough, student will NOT be accepted
- Easier for Bachelors; more difficult for Master's and PhD students

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Shortlist Your Schools

DREAM

- You match lower end of successful applicants (1-2)

REALISTIC

- You match median of successful applicants (2-3)

SAFETY

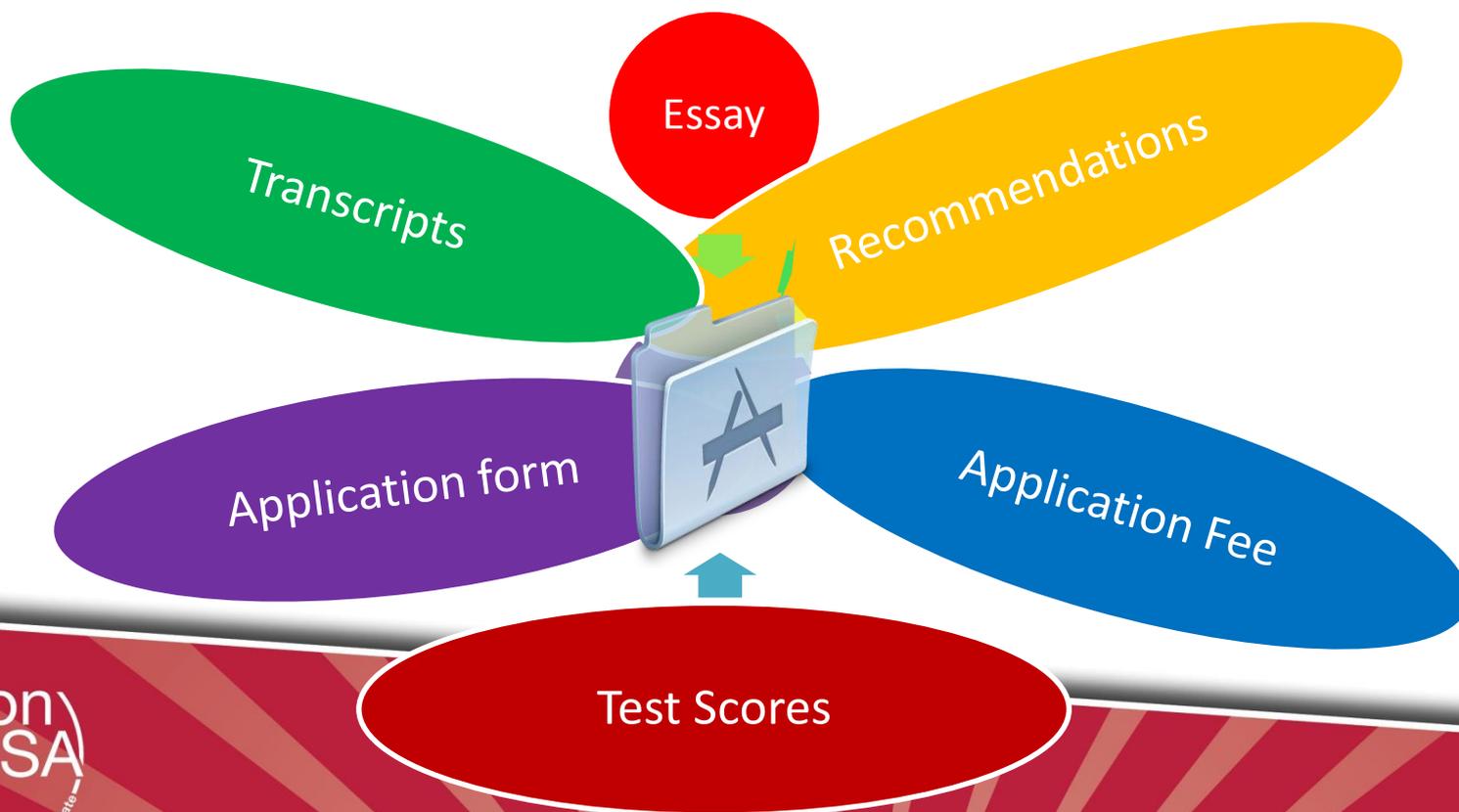
- You match upper end of successful applicants (1-2)

So how do you make a short list?

- Conditional Admission
- Programs that match your goals
- Environment that aligns with your priorities
- Admission averages that match your scores
- Include at least 1 safety and 1 realistic

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 7. Assemble Application Folder



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 7. Assemble Application: Application Form and Fee

- Usually online applications
- Each university has its own application forms and procedures
- Fees are not-refundable
 - Pay by U.S. credit card or Iraqi bank card

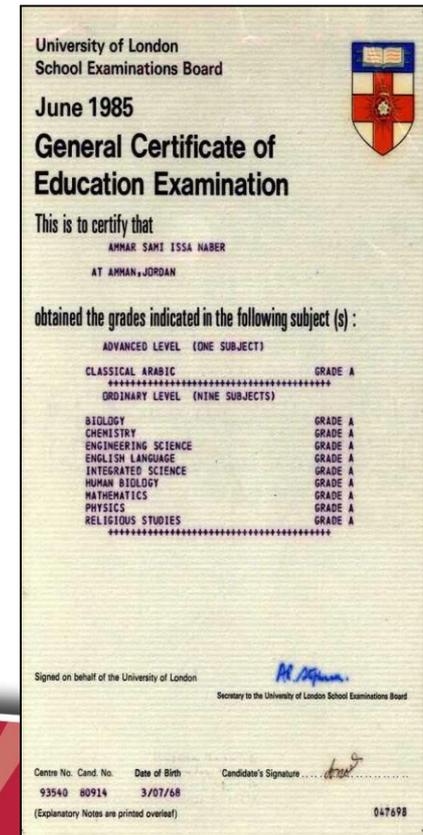


GREG FUNNELL

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 7. Assemble Application: Transcripts and Recommendations

- Official transcripts prepared by university in English and Arabic
- Recommendations
 - Teachers/Employers who know you well
 - Speak to your strengths
 - Best if sent directly by recommender



III. U.S. Graduate Education

Step 7. Assemble Application: Financial Aid

- Complete a Financial Aid Application
- Submit with your full Application Package
- International students eligible for grants and scholarships; NOT eligible for Student Loans from the U.S. Government



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 7. Assemble Application: Work and Extracurricular Activities

- Paid jobs (include CV or resumé)
- Publications
- Honors and awards
- Volunteer work
- Research projects
- Summer programs
- Additional courses



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 7. Assemble Application: Statement of Purpose

- Academic or research interests
- Reasons for wanting to pursue graduate study
- Reasons for choosing a certain institution
- Career goals
- Personal background or extracurricular activities

Your application's most **IMPORTANT** goal is to explain to the university why **YOU** deserve admission.

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 8. Complete and Mail your Application

- Make sure it is complete
- Proofread carefully
- Check Again:
 - Name in Full -- consistent
 - Birthdate -- mm/dd/year
- Send before deadline
- Send via courier service



III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 9. Acceptance!



- Accept offer with deposit by stated date
- Decline/inform other programs
- Apply for student visa

University Admissions Review

Graduate Admissions Office

- Application checklist
- Make sure you meet university requirements
- If your application is not complete, it will not go for departmental review

Department Admissions Committee

- Outstanding test scores /GPA
- Letters of Recommendation
- Convincing and memorable Statement of Purpose
- Knowledge/results in the department's fields of research
- Experience in/potential for research or teaching

III. 10 Steps to Admission

Step 10. Student F1 or J1 Visa

- I-20 or DS-2019 Form from U.S. university
- Fill in DS-160 Application Form online
<http://iraq.usembassy.gov/visas.html>
- Pay SEVIS fees online
- Make appointment online
- Pay visa fees at Bank of Baghdad
- Interview at Embassy



Next Steps If You Have a Scholarship

- Contact Education Advisors (Email, Facebook, cell phone)
- Register for TOEFL Test, study, take the test
- Obtain copies of transcripts in English
- Obtain scholarship award letter in English
- Research suitable universities – come prepared to advising sessions!
- Apply to universities
- Prepare for GRE Test
- Continue to work with the Education Advisors

Online Resources

- **Follow us on Facebook:**
<http://www.Facebook.com/StudyUSAIraq>
- **Check out our website:**
<http://IraqUSEmbassy.gov/StudyintheUSA.html>
- **Information on finding and applying to a U.S. university:**
www.EducationUSA.info

Upcoming University Fairs

- * April 11-12, 2014 in Erbil
- * Fall 2014, TBD, in Baghdad
- * Virtual university fairs (check Facebook!!!)

We are Here to Help You!

Marwan Jabbar, Sandrine Goffard

Education Advisors at

U.S. Embassy Baghdad

BaghdadEducationAdv@state.gov

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Education Advisor

U.S. Consulate General Erbil

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Baghdad Advising: 0760-030-3730

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Online and Social Media

- Facebook – StudyUSAIraq

- Email:

BaghdadEducationAdv@state.gov

ErbilEducationUSA@state.gov

- Website – English and Arabic

– <http://iraq.usembassy.gov/Studyintheusa.html>

Questions?



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