



PRESS RELEASE

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Syrian Student Enrollment in U.S. Colleges and Universities Increased by 11.9 Percent in Academic Year 2007-2008

On the occasion of International Education Week (November 17-21, 2008), the American Embassy in Damascus is pleased to announce that during the 2007-2008 academic year, 517 Syrian students began or continued their studies at American colleges and universities. This number is an 11.9 percent increase over the number of Syrian students studying in the U.S. during academic year 2006-2007. This increase follows a four-year decline in the numbers of Syrian students studying in the United States.

The annual education survey publication “Open Doors” reports that student enrollment from the Middle East overall increased by 11 percent in the 2007-2008 academic year, largely because of increases in students from Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar.

A total of 623,805 international students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. International student enrollment in U.S. colleges and universities increased by seven percent to a record high, and new student enrollment rose by 10 percent for academic year 2007-2008. This number (40,821) represented the largest one-year increase ever in the number of foreign students enrolled in American educational institutions. The number of U.S. student participation in study overseas programs was up 8 percent in 2006-2007 from the previous year, to a new record total of 241,791.

For more on the “Open Doors” survey report, see: <http://opendoors.iienetwork.org>. “Open Doors” is an annual report on international education published by the Institute of International Education, a leading not-for-profit educational and cultural exchange organization in the United States.

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