# MESOPOTAMIA HIGHER EDUCATION BULLETIN

From the Cradle of Civilization to the Frontiers of Knowledge

The Mesopotamia Higher Education Bulletin is a biannual publication proudly issued by the Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Kuala Lumpur. This magazine is dedicated to highlighting the most significant events, news, and academic conferences organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq and the Iraqi universities.

Our mission is to keep the academic community, policymakers, and the general public informed about the remarkable progress and achievements within Iraq's higher education sector. We feature the latest updates on educational initiatives, scientific advancements, research collaborations, and educational reforms that reflect the commitment of Iraq's universities to modern academic standards.

Named after the cradle of civilization, Mesopotamia, this publication honors the rich history of Iraq while underscoring the nation's unwavering determination to advance in the fields of science, technology, and education. The name "Mesopotamia" serves as a reminder of Iraq's pivotal role in shaping the world's intellectual and cultural legacy, while symbolizing our relentless drive towards a future defined by innovation and excellence in higher education.

Through this bulletin, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of Iraq's academic vision and to showcase the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research's strategic goals in shaping the future of education in Iraq. Our journey is one that celebrates the past, embraces the present, and works tirelessly towards a brighter, knowledge-driven future for Iraq and its academic institutions.







## Iraq Launches Third Edition of "Study in Iraq" Program, Offering Over 16,000 Scholarships to International Students



In a step towards strengthening Iraq's global academic engagement, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Naeem Al-Aboudi, officially announced the launch of the third edition of the "Study in Iraq" program. The ceremony, held at the Ministry's headquarters in Baghdad, was attended by representatives from UNESCO and various diplomatic missions, highlighting the international significance of this initiative.

Through this ambitious program, Iraq is offering more than 16,000 scholarships to international students wishing to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate studies at over 35 leading Iraqi universities. These scholarships cover a wide range of disciplines, from engineering and medicine to arts and humanities, reflecting Iraq's commitment to academic diversity and excellence.

Dr. Al-Aboudi emphasized that "Study in Iraq" is not just an educational opportunity—it is an invitation to explore a country that has been a cradle of civilization, a birthplace of science, and a hub of cultural innovation. He stated, "Through this initiative, we open Iraq's academic gates to the world, reaffirming our ancient legacy while building a future rooted in knowledge and international cooperation."

The UNESCO representative commended Iraq's efforts to internationalize its higher education system and stressed the importance of creating academic bridges between nations to promote mutual understanding and peace.

Applications for the program are accessible through a dedicated online portal, ensuring a seamless application process for students around the world who aspire to join Iraq's vibrant academic community.

The "Study in Iraq" program stands as a testament to Iraq's strategic vision: reviving its historic role as a global center for education, culture, and innovation, while actively shaping a future grounded in scientific advancement and global academic partnerships.

Website: https://studyiniraq.scrd-gate.gov.iq/home



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## **STUDY IN IRAQ**



## + Explore Your Academic Future in the Cradle of Civilization

The Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is pleased to announce the launch of the "Study in Iraq" program for the academic year 2025–2026. This initiative offers international students from around the world a unique opportunity to pursue their higher education in leading Iraqi universities renowned for their academic excellence, cultural heritage, and advanced research programs.

## Program Highlights

- Fully funded and partially funded scholarships
- Undergraduate, Master's, and Ph.D. programs
- Courses offered in English and Arabic

- Opportunities in Medical, Engineering, Humanities, Sciences, and more

## Application Deadlines

- Undergraduate: 01-09-2025
- Postgraduate: 01-07-2025
- Eligibility criteria and required documents are detailed on the portal.

## Application Portal

Apply now through the official portal: https://studyiniraq.scrd-gate.gov.iq/home

Guide for International Students Guide to accepting international students into Iraqi universities within the (Study in Iraq) program for the academic year 2025–2026: Attps://studyiniraq.scrdgate.gov.iq/Information?id=guide

### 述 Contact

For inquiries regarding technical issues, application procedures, and other information, please contact:

info.studyiniraq@scrd-gate.gov.iq

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## Minister of Higher Education Launches the "Talented Students Scholarship Program" for 2025-2026 in Top Global Universities



The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Naeem Al-Aboudi, has announced the launch of the "Talented Students Scholarship Program" for the academic year 2025-2026.

The program aims to send Iraq's top-performing students to prestigious international universities, enhancing their academic and professional capacities in critical fields such as engineering, technology, medical sciences, and strategic studies.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research has consistently worked to provide strategic opportunities for studying abroad, in line with the developmental objectives outlined in the Government Program and the National Strategy for Education in Iraq. This initiative is designed to empower Iraqi students to engage deeply in vital disciplines within renowned academic institutions across the world.

Dr. Al-Aboudi emphasized that the scholarship program reflects Iraq's commitment to investing in its brightest talents, preparing a new generation of leaders and innovators capable of contributing to national and global progress.

Applications will be processed through a competitive and transparent selection system, ensuring that exceptional students represent Iraq proudly on the international academic stage.

برعاية معالى وزير التعليم العالى والبحث العلمي الدكتور نعيم العبودي المحترم وتحـت شـعـار **"نـحــو آفــاق علميــة واعــدة بأيــد عراقيــة موهوبــة**\*

#### - تطلق دائرة البعثات والعلاقات الثقافية

– برنامج ابتعاث طلبة مدارس الموهوبين في العراق للعام الدراسي 2026-2026



ر التعليم العالي والبحث العلمي الدكتور نعيم العبودي المحترم 'نحـــو أفـــاق علميــة واعــدة بأيــدٍ عراقيــة موهوبــة" Dr. Naeem Al-Aboudi Announces Iraq's Official Accession to the International NSSC Network for Nuclear Security



We are pleased to announce that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has approved Iraq's membership in the International Network for Nuclear Security Training and Support Centres (NSSC Network).

We are confident that Iraq's accession to the NSSC Network will have a positive impact in the areas of training, human resource development, the provision of technical and scientific support, and the achievement of safety and quality standards in the field of nuclear energy. This milestone supports Iraq's goals for sustainable development and strengthens the Zero Power Research Reactor project, which is dedicated to advancing scientific research for university students. Furthermore, it paves the way for the establishment of the National Center for Nuclear Security.

> Dr. Naeem Al-Aboudi Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research

## Iraq and China Discuss Establishing Joint University for Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Technologies



**Baghdad-Iraq** -The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Dr. Naeem Al-Aboudi, received the Ambassador of the Republic of China in Baghdad, Mr. Cui Wei. They discussed ways to enhance scientific and educational partnerships between the universities of both countries.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized the importance of expanding areas of joint academic cooperation and called for the establishment of an Iraqi-Chinese university specialized in artificial intelligence and advanced digital technologies. He also pointed out that the Ministry is proceeding with the implementation of its strategy based on diversifying sources of knowledge and opening up to leading global experiences in the fields of artificial intelligence and technological innovation. For his part, the Chinese Ambassador expressed his country's keenness to strengthen academic cooperation in the fields of education and technology. He also welcomed the initiative to establish an academic institution specialized in artificial intelligence that contributes to developing the knowledge infrastructure and serves the goals of sustainable development.

## Iraqi Universities Achieve Prominent Positions in QS 2025 Subject Rankings



The QS World University Rankings by Subject for 2025 has been released, featuring 1,730 institutions from across the globe. The new rankings assess 55 subjects across five broad academic areas:

• Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology , Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences & Management

The evaluation is based on several key indicators: academic reputation, employer reputation, research citations, Hirsch Index, and international research network.

Iraqi Universities' Performance in QS 2025 Rankings

Six Iraqi universities have secured competitive positions in the rankings for various academic programs:

#### • Petroleum Engineering:

- University of Baghdad (51-100)
- University of Basrah/University of Technology (101-150)
- Northern Technical University/University of Mosul (151-175)
- Chemical Engineering:
- University of Baghdad (401-450)
- Electrical & Electronic Engineering:
- University of Baghdad (451-500)
- Mechanical Engineering:
- University of Baghdad (351-400)
- Engineering & Technology:
- University of Baghdad (302)
- Computer Science & Information Systems:
- University of Baghdad (451-500)
- • University of Basrah/University of Kufa (751-800)
- Languages:
- University of Baghdad (251-300)
- Agriculture & Forestry:
- University of Baghdad (351-400)
- Medicine:
- University of Baghdad (551-600)
- Chemistry:
- University of Baghdad (601-700)

Times Higher Education Announces Results of Its 2025 Asia University Rankings



The Times Higher Education (THE) has released the results of its 2025 Asia University Rankings, featuring 853 universities from 35 countries around the world.

The University of Technology – Iraq ranked in the 401–500 band globally, alongside nineteen other Iraqi universities, including:

Sulaymaniyah University, Al-Furat Al-Awsat Technical University, Al-Muthanna University, Al-Nahrain University, Middle Technical University, Al-Mustansiriyah University, Northern Technical University, Salahaddin University, Tikrit University, Al-Qadisiyah University, Anbar University, Babylon University, University of Baghdad, University of Basrah, Diyala University, Karbala University, University of Mosul, Dhi Qar University, and Wasit University.

The evaluation of competing universities is based on key indicators:

Teaching Environment (24.5%) Research Environment (28%) Research Quality (30%) International Outlook (7.5%) Industry Income (10%)

## Iraqi Cultural Attaché in Kuala Lumpur Organized the Second Forum for Iraqi and Malaysian Universities



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia- Iraqi Cultural Attaché in Kuala Lumpur organized the second forum for Iraqi and Malaysian universities under the title "Connecting Minds II: A Collaboration Between IJSU and Malaysian Universities 2025" on January 22, 2025, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with Imam Ja'afar Al-Sadiq University (IJSU), Iraq as min sponsor.

The forum was attended by representatives of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq, along with a broad participation of Malaysian universities. Invitations were extended to several academic institutions, and more than 16 Malaysian universities and academic organizations participated, as listed in the attached document.

During the event, discussions focused on potential avenues for scientific and academic collaboration between Imam Ja'afar Al-Sadiq University and Malaysian universities. The Deputy of president for Scientific Affairs of IJSU university presented for proposals research grants to support international cooperation in various fields, along with initial discussions for specialized Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to enhance academic partnerships.

This forum is part of the ongoing efforts of the Iraqi Cultural Attaché in Kuala Lumpur to strengthen academic collaboration between Iraq and Malaysia, expanding opportunities for joint research and development between universities in both countries









#### Innovation Iraq Summit: Fusion of Innovation and AI to Shape Iraq's Digital Future



**Alanbar, Iraq –** The Innovation Iraq Summit, held from April 16th to 17th, 2025, brought together top leaders, innovators, and experts in artificial intelligence (AI) and technology to explore and shape Iraq's digital future. The summit, focusing on the fusion of innovation and AI, aimed at driving digital transformation across the country, addressing challenges, and harnessing opportunities for growth and development.

Organized by Al-Maarif University in Iraq, the summit served as a platform for global thought leaders and local innovators to share insights and collaborate on shaping Iraq's technological landscape.

Among the distinguished guests were Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris, Pro-Chancellor of the International Medical University (IMU) and former Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), and Prof. Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir, Vice-Chancellor of UCSI University. Their participation emphasized the growing importance of international collaboration in advancing technological and academic achievements in Iraq.

The summit featured discussions on the integration of AI into various sectors, including education, healthcare, and industry, and highlighted innovative strategies to enhance Iraq's position in the global digital landscape. Keynotes, panel discussions, and workshops provided valuable insights into the potential of AI to transform Iraq's economy and infrastructure.

Dato' Dr. Aini Ideris shared her expertise on how AI and innovation can enhance higher education and healthcare, drawing on her vast experience in leadership and scientific innovation. Prof. Siti Hamisah Binti Tapsir emphasized the role of academic institutions in fostering creativity and collaboration to create a thriving digital ecosystem in Iraq.

The summit concluded with strong commitments to strengthening partnerships between Iraq and leading global institutions, aiming to accelerate the digital transformation of Iraq and contribute to its future success in the global knowledge economy.

Let me know if you would like further adjustments!



Northern Technical University Announces Strategic Collaboration with UPM at the 3rd International Conference on Renewable Energy (ICRE 2025)



#### Sulaymaniyah, Iraq - April 16-17, 2025

The Northern Technical University (NTU) proudly announces the organization of its 3rd International Conference on Renewable Energy (ICRE 2025), highlighting a significant international partnership with Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), one of Malaysia's leading research universities renowned for its excellence in engineering and renewable energy innovation.

Set to take place in the Sulaymaniyah Governorate, the conference will gather academics, researchers, and industry experts from Iraq and around the world to explore advancements across all fields related to renewable energy technologies and sustainability.

A key highlight of this edition is the robust collaboration with UPM, emphasizing NTU's commitment to international academic cooperation. Through this partnership, the conference aims to exchange cutting-edge research, foster joint projects, and open new opportunities for scientific and technological development between Iraq and Malaysia. The event is also held in collaboration with several Iraqi and international universities, including Sulaimani Technical University, and is supported by Al-Bayan University, Al-Noor University, Al-Hadbaa University, and Al-Mustaqbal University.



## Wasit University Hosted 3rd International Conference on Arts, Digitalization, and Cyberspace



#### Wasit, Iraq - April 16-17, 2025

Wasit University successfully hosted the 3rd International Scientific Conference on Arts, Digitalization, and Cyberspace on April 15–16, 2025, at the College of Fine Arts campus in Kut, Wasit Province. The event brought together artists, academics, researchers, and digital technology specialists to explore the growing intersection between the arts and emerging digital technologies.

The conference focused on the dynamic interaction between artistic expression and digital innovation, addressing key topics such as digital art, virtual reality, creative coding, AI-generated media, and the role of cyberspace in shaping contemporary artistic practices. Participants presented research papers, interactive exhibits, and workshops that examined how digital tools are transforming both the creation and experience of art.

Organized by the College of Fine Arts at Wasit University, the conference provided a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue, fostering collaboration between the fields of art, media studies, and computer science. It also underscored the importance of integrating digital culture into academic and creative frameworks to keep pace with global technological shifts.

The 3rd International Conference on Arts, Digitalization, and Cyberspace affirmed Wasit University's position as a leader in promoting forward-thinking, cross-disciplinary research in Iraq and the broader region.

## University of Diyala Hosts ICPAS 2025 to Promote Scientific Innovation and Collaboration



#### Diyala, Iraq - April 16-17, 2025

The University of Diyala, located north of Baghdad, hosted the International Conference for Pure and Applied Science (ICPAS 2025) on April 16–17, 2025. This prestigious academic event brought together researchers, scholars, and professionals from various scientific and technological fields to exchange ideas and share the latest advancements in both pure and applied sciences.

One of the highlights of ICPAS 2025 was the keynote address delivered by Dr. Nur Intan Raihana Ruhaiyem, titled "The Art and Science of Data Visualization." Dr. Ruhaiyem is a senior lecturer at the School of Computer Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia. Her main research interests and publications focus on medical image processing and analysis, computer vision, and data visualization and analytics. She is also a certified trainer with the Human Resources Development Corporation (HRD Corp).

The conference served as a vital platform for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, encouraging collaboration, and showcasing innovative research from Iraq and beyond. Through its sessions and keynote presentations, ICPAS 2025 highlighted the critical role of scientific research in addressing contemporary challenges and shaping the future of technology and innovation.

By facilitating knowledge exchange and promoting a culture of research, ICPAS 2025 contributed to strengthening Iraq's position in the global scientific community and reaffirmed the University of Diyala's commitment to academic excellence and international cooperation.

Al-Noor University Successfully Hosted the 3rd International Conference on Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Nineveh



#### Nineveh, Iraq – April 29–30, 2025

Al-Noor University Successfully Hosted the 3rd International Conference on Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Nineveh

Al-Noor University, located in Nineveh, Iraq, successfully hosted the 3rd International Conference on Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences (3rd ICMPS) on April 29–30, 2025. The event took place on the university's main campus on Al Shalalat Road and brought together a distinguished group of researchers, physicians, pharmacists, and academics from Iraq and several other countries.

Organized by the College of Pharmacy, College of Dentistry, and College of Health Sciences, the conference aimed to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and highlight the latest scientific developments in the medical and pharmaceutical fields. The event was held under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Yassin Taha Alhajar, President of Al-Noor University, and reflected the university's commitment to promoting academic excellence and advancing health-related research.

One of the key highlights of the conference was the keynote speech delivered by Prof. Dr. Mohd Baidi bin Bahari, a renowned scholar in pharmaceutical sciences. His presentation offered deep insights into recent advancements and emerging trends in the field, and was highly appreciated by participants and fellow researchers.

The two-day conference featured a series of keynote addresses, scientific sessions, and workshops that facilitated the exchange of ideas and research findings. Participants had the opportunity to present their latest work and engage in productive discussions aimed at addressing current challenges in healthcare and pharmaceutical research.



## Northern Technical University Hosts International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals



2<sup>nd</sup> ICSDT 2025 CONFERENCE

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Sustainable Development Techniques (ICSDT2025)

#### JOIN US

#### ntu.edu.iq/icsdt2025

Date: April 30 – May 1, 2025 Location: Alanya, Turkey

The Northern Technical University (NTU), in collaboration with several prestigious Iraqi and international universities, successfully organized an international conference focused on advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Participating universities included:

- University of Al-Qadisiyah
- Southern Technical University
- University of Mosul
- University of Kirkuk
- University of Basrah
- University of Tikrit
- along with other global academic institutions.

The conference served as a vital platform for scholars, researchers, and industry leaders to exchange ideas and present innovative solutions addressing environmental and sustainability challenges.

One of the key accomplishments was the acceptance and publication of selected research papers in the renowned Springer Proceedings in Earth and Environmental Sciences, significantly enhancing the academic profile of participating researchers.

This event marked an important milestone in promoting international academic cooperation and reinforcing Iraq's role in the global dialogue on sustainable development.



## University of Anbar Signs Strategic MoU with University of Malaya





#### Date: 28,May, 2025 Location: Kuala Lumpur

The President of the University of Anbar, Prof. Dr. Mushtaq Talib Salih Al-Neda, signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Malaya—Malaysia's top university, ranked 60th globally. The signing ceremony was held at the University of Malaya campus in Kuala Lumpur, in the presence of representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq and the Iraqi Cultural Attaché.

The agreement aims to strengthen cooperation in research, academic development, and student exchange, supporting the University of Anbar's strategic vision for international collaboration, digital transformation, and the advancement toward next-generation universities. The MoU includes provisions for joint research, academic program development, faculty and student exchanges, as well as collaborative conferences, training, and postgraduate supervision.

## اتقافية العراقية

## Iraqi Cultural Attaché – Kuala Lumpur Connecting Knowledge, Cultures, and Futures

The Iraqi Cultural Attaché in Kuala Lumpur proudly represents Iraq's academic and cultural interests in Malaysia and the broader Southeast Asian region. Operating under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Iraq, the Attaché is dedicated to:

Supporting and guiding Iraqi students throughout their educational journey in Malaysia.

Strengthening academic and research partnerships between Iraqi and Malaysian universities.

Promoting Iraqi culture, heritage, and innovation on the international stage.

With a vision focused on academic excellence, global collaboration, and cultural diplomacy, the Cultural Attaché serves as a vital bridge between Iraq and Malaysia.

For more information, resources, and updates, please visit our official website: https://iraqiculturalattache.org.my/

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