



# Refugees Country Briefing

## IRAQ

This document was developed in the framework of the EU-funded project “Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit for recognition of higher education for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation” by the ENIC-NARIC centres of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.

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This country briefing – specially developed to help with the evaluation of credentials of refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation – should give orientation on the education system in IRAQ in the light of recent political and economic developments in this country. It presents a systematised overview on its higher education system and links to the available information sources that are useful for the evaluation of qualifications of refugees coming from IRAQ, even in cases where candidates present insufficient or lack of documentation.

## Republic of Iraq



Source: CIA World Factbook

**Location:** Iraq is a country in Middle East, bordered by Turkey to the north, Iran to the east, Kuwait to the southeast, Saudi Arabia to the south, Jordan to the southwest, and Syria to the west.

**Population:** 37 million

**Ethnic Groups:** The main ethnic groups are Arabs and Kurds; others include Assyrians, Turkmen, Shabakis, Yazidis, Armenians, Mandeans, Circassians, and Kawliya.

**Languages:** The official languages of Iraq are Arabic and Kurdish.

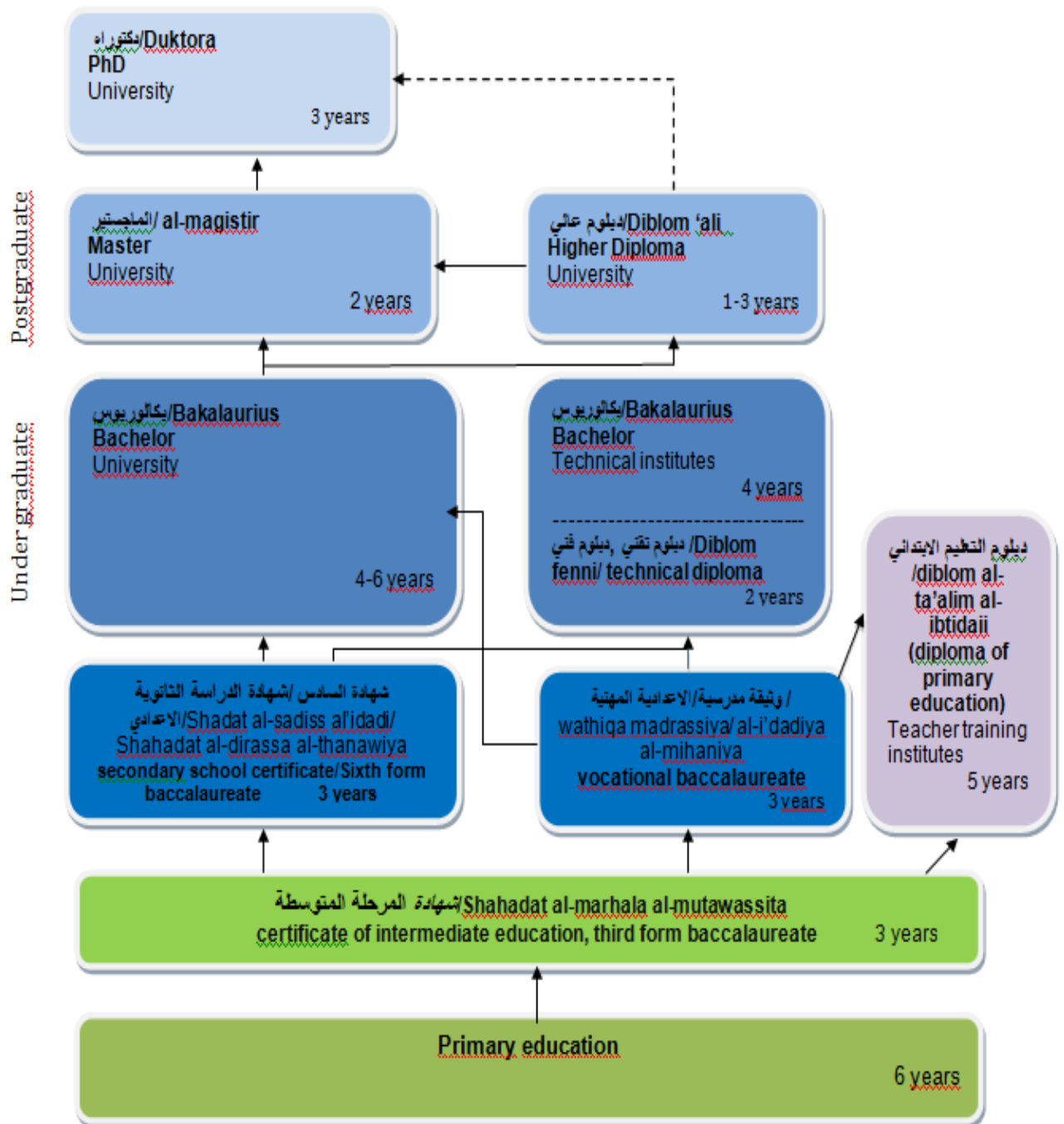
## 1. Current situation

In the period preceding the first Gulf War, Iraq had a sustainable and well-functioning educational system. The period from 1970 to 1984 was called the “golden period” due to high enrolment rates, and spending on education reached 20 per cent of the total government budget. In the Iran-Iraq War that began in 1980 and lasted eight years, Iraq lost many lives and much of its national capacity, and accumulated substantial debt. In 1990, after the end of the first Gulf War, Iraq was under an international trusteeship through the oil-for-food programme. The economic sanction weakened the country’s infrastructure and impeded the delivery of social services; leading to the education sector significantly deteriorating during the years 1990 to 2003, which are considered the years of crisis. It is notable that from 1986 to 2003, no schools were built in Iraq. Following US invasion in 2003, Iraqi universities were stripped clean of books and basic equipment. Museums and university libraries were looted and many of their cultural artifacts and documents were destroyed. Many professors were kidnapped and assassinated during this period.

In the middle of 2014, Daesh occupied three main Iraqi cities: Mosul, Alanbar and Tikrit. **8 universities** like Al Fallujah University, University of Mosul and Tikrit University were seriously affected and forced to close their original campuses. More than 113000 students had to stop their studies. In 2015, Tikrit city was liberated and Tikrit university re-opened again.

*Approaches to evaluation of the qualifications from Iraq can be different in different ENIC-NARIC countries depending on the mandate of the evaluation authorities. More information on assessment practices of documentation from Iraq can be obtained from the E-learning modules to be developed within the framework of the EU-funded project “Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit for recognition of higher education for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation” by the ENIC-NARIC centres of France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom.*

## 2. Education chart



### 3. Education system

#### Primary and Secondary Education

Primary and secondary education is overseen by the Ministry of Education (MoE) in the Centre and the Kurdistan region.

#### Primary Education

- Six years primary stage is compulsory (grades 1 to 6)
- Nine years primary stage (grades 1 to 9) is compulsory in Kurdistan region

#### Lower Secondary

- Intermediate education (grades 7 to 9)
- شهادة المرحلة المتوسطة / Certificate of intermediate education, Third form baccalaureate certificate (Kurdistan region)

#### Upper Secondary (Academic and Vocational Pathways)

- Preparatory education (grades 10 to 12)
- وثيقة مدرسية / شهادة السادس الاعدادي / شهادة الدراسة الثانوية / secondary school certificate / Sixth form baccalaureate certificate (Kurdistan region)

**Preparatory education is divided into two streams (science and arts) starting from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year:**

#### University-preparatory qualifications

- شهادة السادس الاعدادي / شهادة الدراسة الثانوية (3 years)
  - *Science*
  - *Arts*

#### Technical and vocational qualifications

- وثيقة مدرسية / الاعدادية المهنية / Vocational Baccalaureate (3 years) leads to post-secondary technical programs
  - *Agriculture*
  - *Industrial studies*
  - *Veterinary*
  - *Commercial studies*

#### Higher Vocational Education

The main providers of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector in Iraq are the **General Directorate of Vocational Education (GDVE) in the Ministry of Education, the Foundation of Technical Education, and Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSA)**. GDVE is responsible for 250 vocational schools offering training and equipment to secondary schools (grade 12). The Foundation of Technical Education of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research is in charge of technical education at higher level.

#### Types of vocational qualifications

- *دبلوم تقني / دبلوم فني (Technical Diploma)*



- Admission based on completed Grade 12 of upper secondary school
- Duration: 2 years
- **دبلوم التعليم الابتدائي (Diploma of Primary Education)**
  - Admission based on completed Grade 9 of lower secondary school or grade 12 of upper secondary school
  - Duration: 5 years after grade 9 or 2 years after grade 12
  - Qualifies for teaching in primary school

## Higher Education

Tertiary education is provided by universities, colleges and the Foundation of Technical Education. Institutions are overseen by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Iraq has state universities and private universities. Private universities exist since the 1980s; most of these have been accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Admission to higher education institutions is administered by the Central Admissions Department of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. Admission to university is on a competitive basis, so not all students fulfilling all requirements will be able to enter university. Individual institutions may set their own admissions requirements.

## Higher education institutions

- **33 Public universities** admitting both Scientific Stream Students and Literary Stream Students.
- **22 Institutes** admitting Commercial Stream Graduate Students
- **7 Institutes** admitting Agricultural Stream graduate Students with other Specialties.
- **26 Institutes** admitting Vocational Stream graduate Students with other Specialties.
- **4 Institutes** admitting Applied Art Stream Graduate Students.
- **45 private colleges and universities**

**NB : annexes of private universities and faculties are not recognised by the MoHESR**

## Types of qualifications

- **بكالوريوس في التقنيات / Bachelor of Technology**
  - Awarded at technical institutes
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration: 4 years
  - Gives access to Master degree
- **بكالوريوس علوم / بكالوريوس آداب / Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Sciences**
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration : 4 years
  - Gives access to Master degree



- **بكالوريوس علوم صيدلية / Bachelor of Pharmacy**
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration : 5 years
- **بكالوريوس علوم في الهندسة المعمارية / Bachelor of Science in Architectural Engineering**
  - Admission based on completed Grade 12 of upper secondary school
  - Duration : 5 years
  - Focus on architecture
- **بكالوريوس في الطب و جراحة الأسنان / Bachelor of Dental Surgery**
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration : 5 years
- **بكالوريوس في الطب و الجراحة البيطرية / Bachelor in Veterinary Medicine**
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration : 5 years
- **بكالوريوس في الطب و الجراحة / Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery**
  - Admission based on completed upper secondary school
  - Duration : 6 years
- **ماجستير / Master of Arts, Master of Science**
  - Admission after a Bachelor degree
  - Duration : 2 years
  - 1 year of coursework and 1 year of research
  - Gives access to PhD
- **دبلوم عالي في التقنيات / Higher diploma in Technology**
  - Admission after a Bachelor of Technology
  - Duration : 2 years
  - Awarded at technical institutes
  - Does not typically give access to PhD
- **ماجستير في التقنيات / Master of Technology**
  - Admission after a Bachelor of Technology
  - Duration : 2 years
  - Awarded at technical institutes
  - Gives access to PhD
- **دبلوم عالي / Higher Diploma**
  - Awarded in the medical field
  - Duration : 1-3 years of clinical studies
- **دكتوراه / Doctor of Philosophy, PhD**
  - Awarded after a Master degree (ماجستير)
  - Duration : minimum 3 years
  - 1 year of coursework + 2 years of dissertation research + Thesis defense



## Grading System in Higher education

<i>Scale</i>	<i>Description (Arabic)</i>	<i>Description (English)</i>
<b>90 - 100</b>	فائق / ممتاز	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>80 – 89.99</b>	جيد جدا	<b>Very good</b>
<b>70 – 79.99</b>	جيد	<b>Good</b>
<b>60 – 69.99</b>	متوسط	<b>Medium</b>
<b>50 – 59.99</b>	مقبول	<b>Pass</b>
<b>0 – 49.99</b>	راسب	<b>Fail</b>

## Quality Assurance in Higher Education

The Ministry of Education is responsible for the accreditation of primary and secondary education institutions; higher education falls under the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as does the Foundation of Technical Institutes.

In 2008, Quality Assurance and Academic Accreditation Department was established to work on:

- Ensuring the quality and relevance of academic programs being implemented in Iraqi universities.
  - Promoting Iraqi universities to be internationally qualified for academic accreditation.
- All academic staff is annually assessed.

## 4. Certification / Documentation

National format norms and composition of the file

- Degrees and diplomas are issued in portrait and landscape format in Arabic and English (A4)
- Logo of the university
- Name of the university/name of the faculty, institutes
- Photo of the holder
- Date of issue
- Enrolment year (academic year)
- Seals of the university, one on the picture of the holder
- A minimum of two signatures (always in Arabic), signatures from the registrar and dean, president and dean, president and registrar etc.
- Transcript: includes the name of the university, name of the faculty or college or institute, reference number of the transcript, name of the student, name of the qualification, grade, record, specialisation, credits, subjects
- Seals and signatures of the university and the ministry of foreign affairs in the back page of the qualification



## 5. Useful sources and links

Ministry of Education (MoEd)

<http://www.moedu.gov.iq/>

Foundation of Technical Education

<http://www.fte.edu.iq/index.php>

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MoHESR)

<http://mohesr.gov.iq/>

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Kurdistan region

<http://www.mhe-krq.org/>

The alumni affaires site of Baghdad University: <http://www.graduation.uobaghdad.edu.iq>

Online verification of graduates from Mosul University by field and by year (1967-2013)

<http://www.uomosul.edu.iq/#>

Fiche Curie Irak (country profiles)

[http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/IRAK\\_fiche\\_Curie\\_3\\_novembre\\_2014\\_cle8f24ef.pdf](http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/IMG/pdf/IRAK_fiche_Curie_3_novembre_2014_cle8f24ef.pdf)

EP-Nuffic Country profiles, Iraq

<https://www.epnuffic.nl/en/diploma-recognition/foreign-education-systems>

Iraqi research foundation for analysis and development: <http://www.irfad.org/iraq-education/>

Education system in Iraq (national agency for higher education, Sweden)

<http://norric.org/files/education-systems/Iraq%202003>

Iraq Higher education – United Nation University: archive.unu.edu/news/ili/Iraq.doc

<https://unu.edu/>

Iraq – Country report on out-of-school children

[http://www.ooscimena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/summary/150311\\_Iraq\\_Summary\\_English\\_P\\_review.pdf](http://www.ooscimena.org/uploads/1/wysiwyg/summary/150311_Iraq_Summary_English_P_review.pdf)

World Education Service

<https://www.wes.org/ca/wedb/iraq/fizedov.htm>

World data on education

<http://www.ibe.unesco.org/sites/default/files/Iraq.pdf>

Summary on higher education in Iraq (Baghdad University)

<http://www.iasj.net/iasj?func=fulltext&aid=50876>

Iraq education system – Classbase

<http://www.classbase.com/Countries/iraq/Education-System>



## 6. Evaluation tips and recommendations

**Most universities have their own online verification database for graduates by field and by year.**

In Iraq, the overall grade corresponds to marks of each subjects, don't hesitate to calculate the different marks to see if they correspond to the overall grade.

Always check the back page of the Degree Certificate. It can help you to compare signatures and seals with the front-page.

Link to good practices: *EAR HEI manual* <http://eurorecognition.eu/Manual/EAR%20HEI.pdf>

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