

# Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq (HCED)

## Scholarship Overview:

- The HCED Scholarship program started in 2009 with funding from the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office.
- Currently, there are 161 students in the United States, and the first group will graduate in 2013. HCED plans to award 1000 scholarships to Iraqi students for Master's and Doctorate studies in 2011. Selected students study at partner (consortium) universities in the United States and U.K.
- All students sign a contract that obligates them to pay back the money spent on the scholarship package if the student does not complete the program or does not return to Iraq. HCED must find a suitable job in Iraq for the student within one year of completing the degree and returning from the United States.

## Student Eligibility and Selection:

- Students must be in the top 10 % (scientific studies) or 15% (humanities studies) of their previous class to be eligible. Master's applicants must not be more than 30 years old; PhD applicants must not be more than 35. Full eligibility rules can be found at: [http://hcediraq.org/HCED\\_english\\_website/eligibility.html](http://hcediraq.org/HCED_english_website/eligibility.html)
- HCED uses a transparent selection process. Students are chosen based on the application, transcript grades and interview. Students compete for the scholarship with other students from their same province, ensuring equitable representation from all areas of Iraq. [http://www.hcediraq.org/HCED\\_english\\_website/selectmach.html](http://www.hcediraq.org/HCED_english_website/selectmach.html)

## Scholarship Benefits:

- Students receive a full scholarship for up to one year of Intensive English Language study at a U.S. university, plus two years of funding for a Master's and five years for a PhD program including tuition and fees, books, and travel to the U.S.A. Students receive a monthly stipend of \$1,750, plus 50% of that amount for a spouse. Health insurance is provided for the student and spouse. All receive J1 or J2 visas.
- Most students apply for Conditional Admission; students take the GRE test while studying ESL at the U.S. University.
- HCED finds an appropriate program for the student in a partner university with a full-time Placement Team. HCED does all the admissions work to help students get accepted.
- U.S. universities submit monthly invoices to HCED Billing Department for tuition and fees.
- HCED tracks scholarship students while they are studying in the United States through staff dedicated to monitoring student progress.

HCED currently works with 60 U.S. universities that provide Conditional Admission to students. As the number of scholarship students is increasing every year, HCED would like to expand the number of U.S. universities that can provide Conditional Admission to their students.

## Contact:

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