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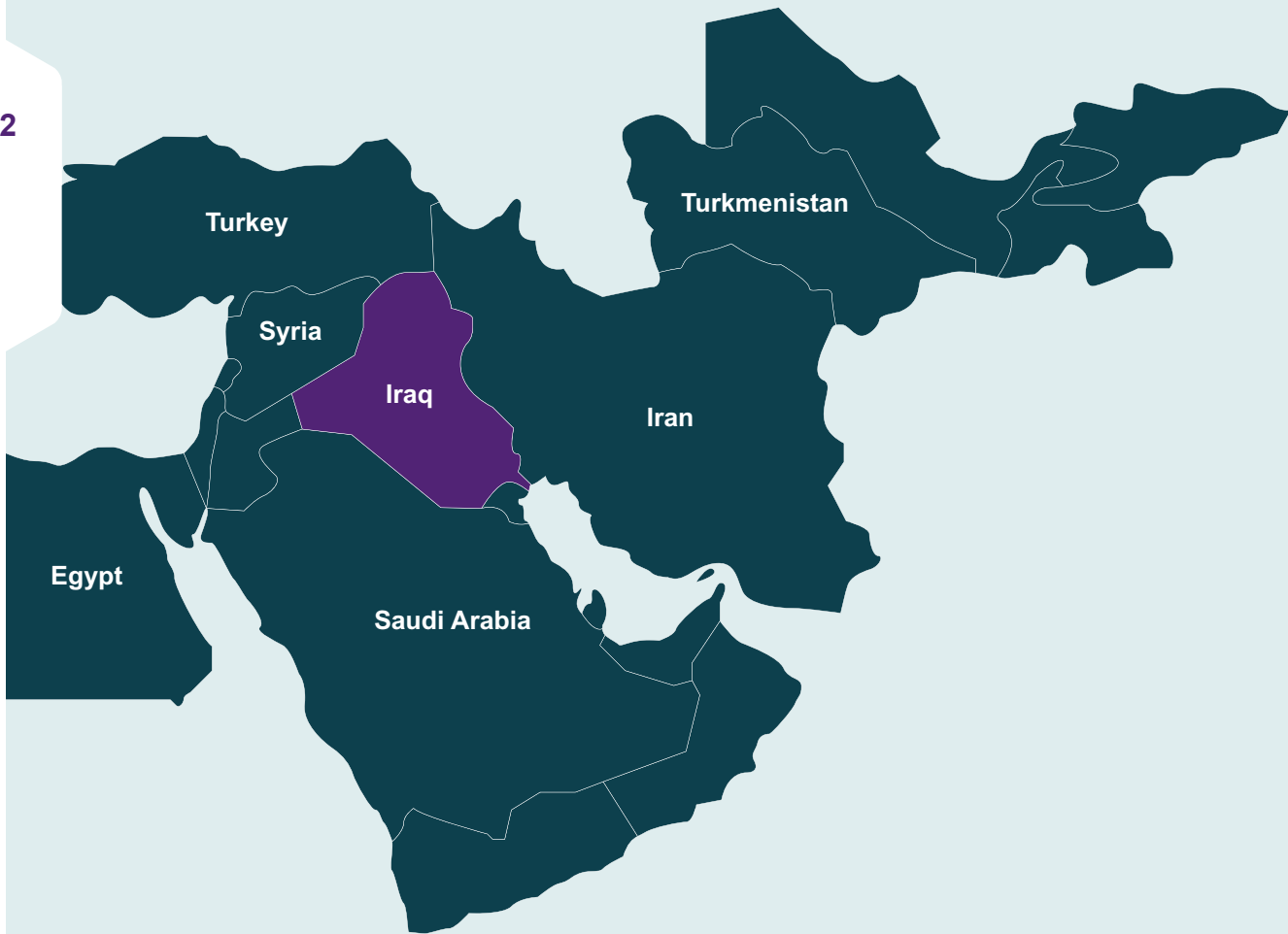
Iraq

Refugees Country Briefing

Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit aims to promote the implementation of effective recognition procedures for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation.

Iraq

Official name: Republic of Iraq

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.

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.

Source: CIA World Factbook

Photo coverpage:
Copy of Ishtar gates in Babylon ruins
Photo: Getty Images

History and 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.
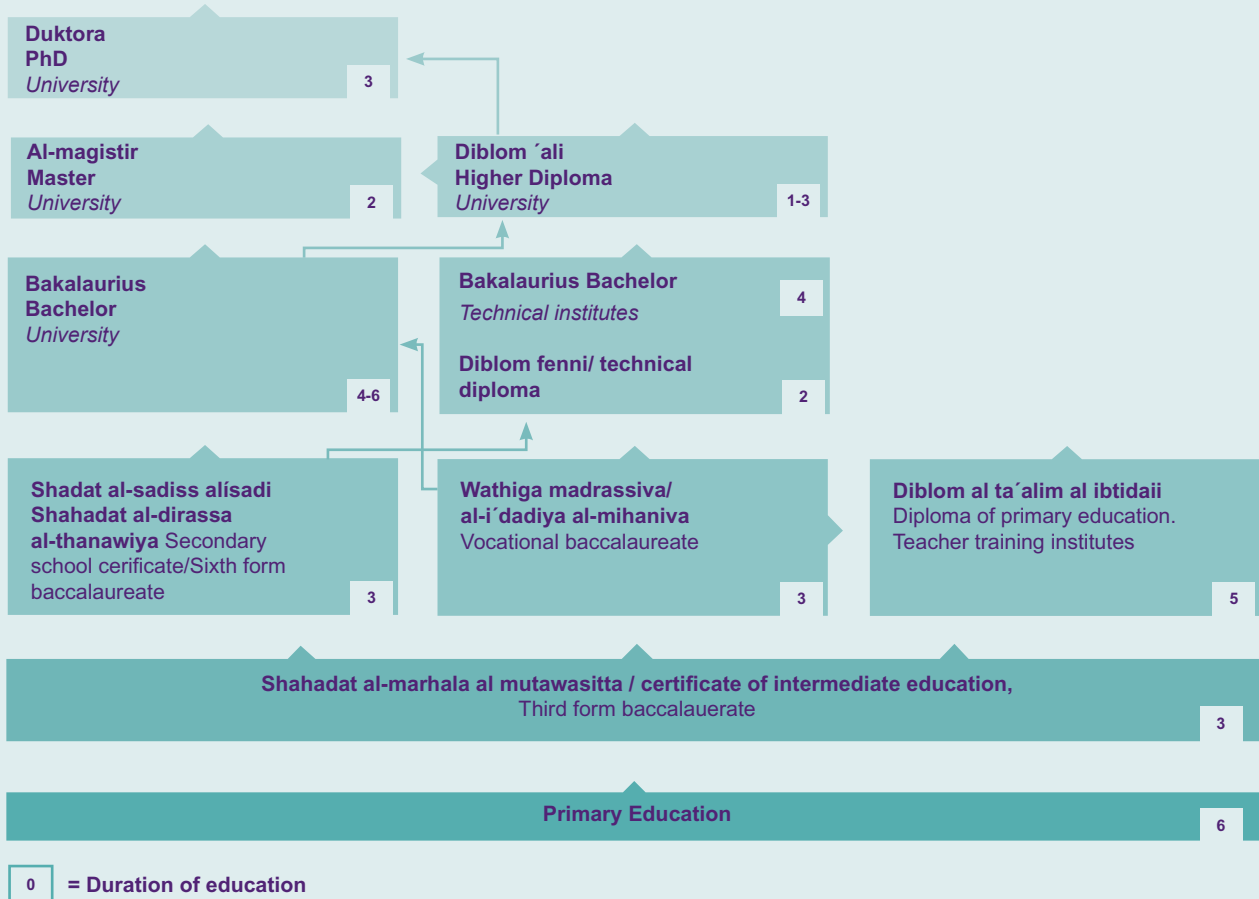
It is notable that from 1986 to 2003, no schools were built in Iraq. Following US invasion in 2003, Iraqi universities were stripped clean of books and basic equipment. Museums and university libraries were looted and many of their cultural artifacts and documents were destroyed. Many professors were 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 113 000 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.

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This refugees country briefing was last updated in 2017.

Education chart

Level	Duration
Duktora / **PhD** *University*	3
Al-magistir / **Master** *University*	2
Diblom ´ali / **Higher Diploma** *University*	1-3
Bakalaurius / **Bachelor** *University*	4-6
Bakalaurius Bachelor *Technical institutes*	4
Diblom fenni/ technical diploma	2
Shadat al-sadiss alísadi Shahadat al-dirassa al-thanawiya Secondary school cerificate/Sixth form baccalaureate	3
Wathiga madrassiva/ al-i´dadiya al-mihaniva Vocational baccalaureate	3
Diblom al ta´alim al ibtidaii Diploma of primary education. Teacher training institutes	5
Shahadat al-marhala al mutawasitta / certificate of intermediate education, Third form baccalauerate	3
Primary Education	6

| 0 | = Duration of education |

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)
- شهادة الدراسة الثانوية/شهادة السادس الاعدادي/ وثيقة مدرسة/secondary school certificate/Sixth form baccalaureate certificate (Kurdistan region)

Preparatory education is divided into two streams (science and arts) starting from the 2nd year:

University-preparatory qualifications
- شهادة الدراسة الثانوية/شهادة السادس الاعدادي, (3 years)
- Science
- Arts

Technical and vocational qualifications
- Vocational المهنية/ وثيقة مدرسية 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 فني/ دبلوم تقني
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.

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 آداب / بكالوريوس علوم
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 الاسنان
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

دكتراه
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

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

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.

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

Certification / Documentation

NATIONAL FORMAT NORMS AND COMPOSITION OF THE FILE

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

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-krg.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

- 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%20 2003

- 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_Preview.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

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

What is Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit?

Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit is a finalised Erasmus+ supported project taking place between 2016 and 2018, with the aim to promote the implementation of effective recognition procedures for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation.

Goal

Central to the project is the development of a Toolkit for Recognition of Refugees Qualifications. The follow up project entitled Refugees and Recognition – Toolkit 2 (REACT), taking place between 2018 and 2020, builds on the results achieved as part of the Toolkit project.

Main project activities

- Development of five refugees country briefings
- Development of Toolkit for Recognition of Refugees Qualifications
- Testing of the developed Toolkit
- Development of e-learning modules

Outcomes

The project addressed the need for the identification of common principles and best practice tools for the recognition of refugees' qualifications, with the development of a Toolkit for Recognition of Refugees' Qualifications.

In addition to the development of the Toolkit, the project developed five refugee country briefings to help with the evaluation of credentials of refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation. The country briefings presents a systematised overview of the educational systems in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq, Libya and Syria. In the second-cycle REACT project, the overall goal is to enhance the mobility, employability and access to further studies for refugees, displaced persons and persons in a refugee-like situation – including those without official documentation of their educational background.

The participating NARICs in the REACT project developed similar briefings on Iran, Ethiopia, Venezuela, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

TIMELINE

2016

Kick-off seminar

Consortium meeting

5 refugee country briefings

Development of Toolkit

2017

Consortium meeting

Testing of the developed toolkit

Development of e-learning modules

Final dialogue seminar

2018

Publishing and reporting on results

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

This refugees country briefing is part of a collection of five briefings, developed within the Erasmus+ supported Toolkit project. Moreover, five additional briefings have recently been developed in the second-cycle Erasmus+ Toolkit 2 (REACT) project. For further information, please visit the websites of the projects:

Websites:
Toolkit: https://www.nokut.no/en/about-nokut/international-cooperation/erasmus-projects/refugees-and-recognition/
Toolkit 2 (REACT): https://www.nokut.no/en/about-nokut/international-cooperation/erasmus-projects/react--refugees-and-recognition/

Email:
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