



For Immediate Release  
2010/35

## U.S. EMBASSY – BAGHDAD News Release



June 9, 2010

[BaghdadPressOffice@state.gov](mailto:BaghdadPressOffice@state.gov)

### **American Ambassador Announces U.S. Master's Degree Program For Iraqi Students**

Ambassador Christopher R. Hill announced June 7 a new U.S. government scholarship program for Iraqi students to study one-year of English language training followed by a two-year Master's degree program in agribusiness and agricultural economics at selected U.S. universities. The announcement was made at the opening of the U.S.-Iraq Agriculture Trade Mission on Monday, June 7, and demonstrates the United States' commitment to the Strategic Framework Agreement and its long term interest in enhancing agricultural, educational and economic ties between the two countries.

This new program will be coordinated between the Office of Agricultural Affairs of the U.S. Embassy Baghdad in conjunction with the Prime Minister's Higher Committee for Education Development in Iraq (HCED). Evaluation criteria include the following:

- Age requirement of between the ages of 22 and 35. (Not older than 35 at the time of application);
- Undergraduate degree from an Iraqi University;
- Minimum 4-year accumulative point average of 65 and above;
- Must be in good health and provide medical certificate to that effect;
- Proficiency in oral and written usage of the English language with a minimum TOEFL score of 450 prior to being approved for departure to the U.S. Note: Different U.S. universities have different TOEFL requirements for admission to study for a master's degree which must be met before M.S. course work begins.

The competitive selection process will nominate approximately ten individuals to receive a Master's Degree Scholarship. Applications for this scholarship will be accepted from June 13 to July 11 through the HCED site, [www.hcediraq.org](http://www.hcediraq.org). Interviews to select participants are planned for August/September 2010 and successful applicants can plan to begin English language studies in the U.S. in January 2011 with the formal Master's degree program study beginning thereafter. During English language studies, participants must apply and be accepted into a formal Master's Degree program at selected U.S. universities within one year. This educational initiative is made possible by funding provided by the U.S. Department of State to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

###