EducationUSA and Foreign Government Sponsored Students

Education USA
Supported by the U.S. Department of State
Who We Are

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Session Format

• Overview of EducationUSA and foreign government scholarships (FGS).
• Opportunities and challenges in working with sponsored students.
• EducationUSA’s work with foreign governments and with sponsored students.
Introduction to EducationUSA

• For international students - **accurate, comprehensive, and current information** on the full range of study opportunities available at accredited U.S. institutions of higher education.

• For U.S. institutions of higher education – assistance in developing and executing international student recruitment and retention plans.
FGS and U.S. Foreign Policy

• Higher education exchanges and collaborations are a prominent aspect of U.S. bilateral relationships.
• Higher education is a focus of strategic dialogues.
• Why is the United States government interested?
  • Economic impacts.
  • Educational impacts.
  • Security impacts.
FGS and Foreign Government Sponsors

• Many countries sponsor students to study abroad for a variety of reasons.
  • Skills development.
  • Cultural ambassadors.
  • Expanding awareness.
Where are FGS Available?

• In every region of the world, countries invest in sending their students abroad to study.
Africa

- Angola
- Botswana
- Ghana
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
East Asia and the Pacific

- Australia
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Malaysia
- South Korea
- Vietnam
Europe and Eurasia

- Governments in 18 European and Eurasian countries offer scholarship programs for their citizens to study abroad: Austria, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine.

- For a complete list of European and Eurasian countries’ government and private-funded scholarship programs, visit the REAC Europe portals on the EducationUSA website: www.educationusa.info/highered-reacs.php
Middle East and North Africa

- Bahrain
- Egypt
- Iraq
- Kuwait
- Libya
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates
South and Central Asia

• Kazakhstan
• Pakistan
Western Hemisphere

- Barbados
- Brazil
- Chile
- Colombia
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- Panama
- Peru
Challenges for FGS Programs

• Investment in next generation of leaders.
• Political/economic goals.
• Fields of Study, focus of program.
• Selection process, support, monitoring; contracts.
• Budget realities.
• Lack of infrastructure, English language facilities, standardized testing.
• Role of trusted advisors.
• Unfamiliar with U.S. higher education system.
Challenges for International Students

- Lack English language skills to participate fully in research/selection, application, and admission process.
- Time pressure.
- Lack of understanding of U.S. higher education system.
- Conditional Admission.
- Bureaucracy in USA and at home.
Challenges for U.S. Universities

- Long-term institutional commitment – at all levels.
- Specialized staff for FGS programs and support resources.
- Unfamiliar with systems in sending countries.
- Conditional Admission.
- Building relationships with program POC here and abroad.
- Managing expectations of FGS program officials.
Conditional Admission

- Undergraduate and Graduate
  - Definition: Admitting the student to an academic program on the condition that the student completes English language instruction and demonstrates adequate proficiency to meet admission requirements.

- Centralized vs decentralized admissions.

- Buy-in of key administrators and departments.

- Convince key players of value of sponsored students.
  - Usually top students in their country.
  - Increase campus diversity.
  - Often pay full fees.
  - Provides opportunity for collaboration and partnerships with universities in sending country.

- Complete EducationUSA surveys.
Lessons Learned

• Designated POC at your campus.
• Network on your campus with target departments.
• Prepare your campus to receive students.
• Build Relationships - visit POC here and abroad; take faculty with you.
• Think creatively; embrace flexibility; go above and beyond; commit long-term.
Lessons Learned – Communication with Faculty

• Goal: Prepare your faculty and various departments to most effectively communicate with sponsored students.

• Getting faculty on board is key.
  ▪ Communication with graduate students (program and application).
  ▪ Help them understand application package.
  ▪ Transcripts, standardized tests, research proposals.
  ▪ Follow up with department.
  ▪ Admission Letter(s).
Lessons Learned – Outreach Strategies

• Adjust recruiting strategies for each program.
• EducationUSA, face-to-face, social media, alumni, current students, FGS program, IP.
• Outreach to students in native language (website page, application instructions, materials).
  - University of Missouri-Columbia [http://international.missouri.edu/come-to-mu/students/sponsored-students/iraqi-scholarship-students.php](http://international.missouri.edu/come-to-mu/students/sponsored-students/iraqi-scholarship-students.php)
Instructions for Iraqi scholarship students

Congratulations on your scholarship and thank you for your interest in the University of Missouri!

The University of Missouri, also known as Mizzou, is considered one of the top-tier universities in the United States. It enrolls almost 35,000 students in 20 academic colleges, including Engineering, Journalism, Education, Health Professions, and Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources.

MU is located in the heart of the United States, in the city of Columbia (population 100,000). Columbia frequently wins national recognition for its affordability and high quality of life, and has a diverse and safe community that welcomes international students. Currently, MU hosts more than 2,500 international students, including approximately 250 sponsored students and more than 50 students from Iraq.
تهنئنا على حصولك المنحة الدراسية وشكرًا لك على اهتمامك في جامعة ميزوري.

يعتبر جامعة ولاية ميزوري المعروفة أيضا باسم (ميزور) واحدة من جامعات الدرجة الأولى في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية. تستقبل الجامعة ما يقارب 3,000 طالب في 201كلية أكاديمية بما في ذلك الهندسة, الصحافة, التعليم, المهن الصحية, الزراعة, الغذاء, والموارد الطبيعية.

تتقع جامعة ميزوري في قلب الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية في مدينة كولومبيا (التي يبلغ عدد سكانها 100,000). تحظى مدينة كولومبيا في كثير من الأحيان بجائزة التقدير الوطني وذلك لتتميز في توفير مستوى معيتيوني علي ببسطة, ولكونها تحتوي على مجتمع متنوع ومن يرغب بالطلاب الدوليين. تصنف جامعة ميزوري جاليا أكثر من 400 طالب دولي بما في ذلك أكثر من 200 طالب وطلاب متميز وآكثر من 50 طالب من العراق.

تم جامعة ميزوري 91 برنامج في درجة البكالوريوس و 71 برنامج لدرجة الدكتوراه. وللتحصيل على حفل معين للدراسة يرجى الالتزام بأي لائحة الشهادات العليا.

طلبات القبول

دائم على برنامج الدراسات العليا في جامعة ميزوري يمر بمرحلتين. يتم استعراض المستندات أولًا بواسطة برنامج الدرجة المتخصصة ومن ثم من قبل كلية الدراسات العليا.

يرجى الاطلاع على الموقع الخاص برامج التخصص المطلوب للحصول على المعايير المحددة للقبول, مواعيد التقديم, مطالب المطلوبة, عملية التقديم للقبول على قسم معين أو صفحات الطلب الخاصة للدرجة العلمية المطلوبة للرجوع إلى لائحة الشهادات العليا.
Foreign Government Scholarships

- For a complete, updated list of foreign government and privately-funded scholarship programs in each world region, contact the Regional EducationUSA Director/Coordinator for each region. Contact information for each REAC is available on the EducationUSA website: [www.educationusa.info](http://www.educationusa.info)
EducationUSA and FGS Programs

• English language and standardized testing.
• Explaining the U.S. higher education system.
• Dissemination of accurate information.
• Trusted source of information on U.S Higher Education and first contact.
EducationUSA Assistance to FGS Students

• Advisers assist students to understand:
  ▪ the U.S. higher education system.
  ▪ the admissions process: selection criteria, application, supporting documents.
  ▪ the common application for undergraduate students.
  ▪ Conditional Admission.
  ▪ Standardized test information and preparation guidance.
EducationUSA Assistance to FGS Students (cont.)

- They also assist graduate students to understand:
  - How to communicate with a graduate program faculty.
  - Importance of a personal statement.
  - How to understand Admission Letters.
- Provide Pre-departure orientation.
EducationUSA and U.S. Higher Education Institutions

- Provide information about educational system in the host country.
- Guidance to students about conditional admission.
- Facilitating contact with FGS programs.
- Facilitating contact with universities in the sending countries.
What more can U.S. institutions do? BUILD VISIBILITY

With Government Programs

• Become knowledgeable about what each government program provides.
• Know who is heading the program and how to contact them.
• Be prepared to present your institution’s strengths and advocate for inclusion.
• Visit in person, if possible.
• Become a partner.
• Build relationships with local public universities or public research institutes.
• Know who the REACs and key EducationUSA advisers are.
What more can U.S. institutions do? BUILD VISIBILITY

With Prospective Funding Recipients

• Visit and recruit in person, if possible.
  ▪ On your own.
  ▪ With an appropriate recruiting fair.

• Organize a webinar with EducationUSA centers.
  ▪ Target individual countries or the whole region.
  ▪ Provide information on the specific fields of interest to the scholarship programs that are strong offerings in your institution.
  ▪ www.EducationUSA.info
Connect with EducationUSA

• Sign up for a higher education log-in at:

http://www.educationusa.state.gov