

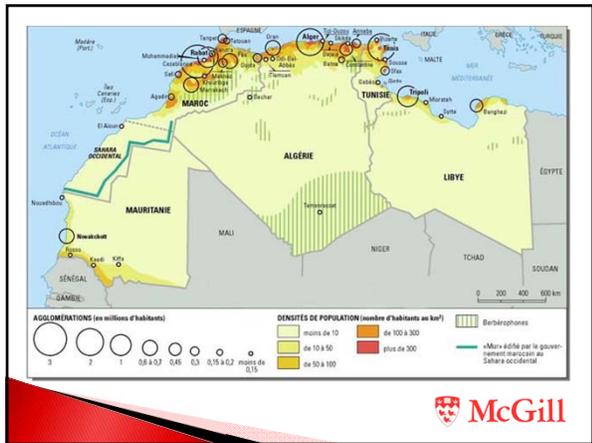
Evaluating for university admission: Applications from the Maghreb and Middle East

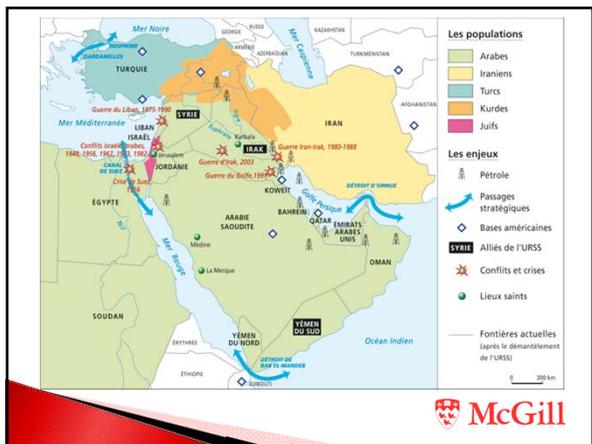


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General Information

- ▶ The Maghreb is isolated from the rest of Africa by the Sahara desert – main influences come from Middle East and Europe
- ▶ In the 19th century the Maghreb was colonized by Europeans:
 - France – Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia
 - Spain – Morocco, Spanish Sahara
 - Italy - Libya



FOREIGN STUDENTS IN CANADA: * Totals by source country (as of December 1)

Country of Citizenship	2003	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Arabie Saoudite	974	4654	8730	12935	14156	14219
Maroc	1516	2118	2304	2175	2074	2096
Tunisie	1191	1113	1322	1351	1270	1226
Algerie	118	340	416	431	469	643
Liban	656	623	713	684	635	610
Libye	444	429	549	638	468	579
Mauritanie	28	27	27	29	21	21
Total	4927	9304	14061	18243	19093	19394

* Temporary residents in Canada (Student visas issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada)
<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/resources/statistics/facts2012/temporary14.asp>



Arabic vocabulary and glossary

- ▶ Alphabet system includes 28 consonants with additional sounds formed using diacritics (i.e. an abjad)
- ▶ The language reads from right to left but, numbers always read from left to right
- ▶ Academic records issued in arabic reflect regional dialects (different uses of similar words)



Mauritania Secondary school

- ▶ Collège (age 12): 3 yrs – Brevet d'études du premier cycle

- ▶ Lycée (age 15): 3 yrs – 4 series:
 - LO – Lettres originales
 - LM – Lettres modernes
 - D – Sciences naturels
 - C – Mathématiques

- ▶ National exams – Diplôme du Baccalauréat de l'enseignement du secondaire



Algeria, Morocco Secondary school

- ▶ **Algeria**
- ▶ Lycées d'enseignement généraux (age 15): 3 yrs – national exams – Baccalauréat de l'enseignement secondaire

- ▶ **Morocco**
- ▶ Lycée (age 15): 3 yrs – Baccalauréat (academic), Baccalauréat Technique (technical) or Baccalauréat Lettres Originale (religious studies)



Tunisia Secondary school

- ▶ École de base deuxième cycle (Lower secondary school) (age 12): 3 yrs – Diplôme de fin d'études de l'enseignement de base

- ▶ École secondaire (Academic upper secondary school) (age 15): 4 yrs – Examens nationaux – Baccalauréat



Libya
Secondary school

- ▶ Écoles secondaires spécialisées (Specialised secondary school) (age 15) – 4 yrs – Certificat de l'enseignement secondaire



Lebanon
Secondary school

- ▶ Three years of secondary studies
- ▶ Baccalauréat libanais (Lebanese baccaureate): three years of study followed by national exams
- ▶ Many different grading systems: marks on 0-20 or 0-100 scales are the most common

N.B.: The Lebanese Bacculaureate is not considered to be the equivalent of the French Bacculaureate



Saudi Arabia
Secondary school

- ▶ École intermédiaire (age 12) – 3 yrs – Certificate of intermediate studies
- ▶ École secondaire – (age 15) – 3 yrs – General Secondary Education Certificate (Tawjihyah)



Other programs of study

- ▶ Other academic credentials: International baccalaureate, Baccalauréat français, US Secondary school certificate, etc.
- ▶ SABIS – International School of Choueifat: most offer students the possibility of studying in one of two particular systems (US (SAT), UK (GCSE, 'A' levels)
- ▶ Indian secondary schools



Considerations

- ▶ Are students from this region successful at Canadian schools?
- ▶ How to deal with questions of grade inflation?
- ▶ Accreditation issues: how to determine whether diplomas and attestations are legitimate?



Intermission



Admission to graduate studies



Mauritania University

- ▶ National Bodies:
 - Ministère d'État à l'Éducation Nationale, à l'Enseignement Supérieur et à la Recherche Scientifique
- ▶ One public university: University of Nouakchott; private universities permitted as of 2009 (with authorization of the ministry)



Morocco University

- ▶ National Bodies:
 - Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche scientifique et de la Formation des Cadres
 - Conférence des Présidents des Universités marocaines
- ▶ Languages of Instruction: Arabic, French
- ▶ Établissements de Formation de Cadres provide specialized training in technology, teacher training, law, administration, social sciences ...



Algeria University

- ▶ National Bodies:
 - Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique
 - Conférence régionale Centre – des universités de l'Ouest
 - Agence nationale pour le Développement de la Recherche universitaire
- ▶ Language of Instruction: Arabic
- ▶ LMD system introduced in 2004 but, until now traditional and LMD systems co-exist



Tunisia University

- ▶ National Bodies:
 - Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique
- ▶ Languages of Instruction: Arabic, French
- ▶ LMD system introduced in 2006 and has been integrated by all higher education institutions
- ▶ ECTS credit system was adopted at the same time as the LMD reform



Libya University

- ▶ National Bodies:
 - Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
 - Centre for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education Institutions
- ▶ Languages of Instruction: Arabic
- ▶ Academic Year: September to June
- ▶ Tertiary education offered in universities (general & specialized), technical and vocational colleges



Lebanon University

- ▶ National bodies:
 - Ministry of Education and Higher Education (universities and colleges)
 - Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education (technical and vocational institutes)
- ▶ Academic Year: October to June
- ▶ Languages of Instruction: Arabic, English, French
- ▶ Many options available: universities, colleges as well as technical and professional institutes



Saudi Arabia University

- ▶ National bodies:
 - Ministry of Higher Education
 - National Commission for Academic Accreditation & Assessment
- ▶ Academic Year: September to July
- ▶ Languages of Instruction: Arabic, English
- ▶ 1 and 2-year programs leading to Certificates and Diplomas are offered by higher technical and vocational institutes and colleges (terminal).



University General Information

- ▶ Bachelor:
 - 3 – 6 years leading to 1st cycle degrees
 - Usually 5 years for Engineering, Pharmacy, Architecture and veterinary medicine degrees
 - 6 -7 years for leading to MD and MBBS degrees
- ▶ Master:
 - 2 -3 years (sometimes including thesis) leading to 2nd cycle degrees
- ▶ Doctorat:
 - 3+ years (including thesis) leading to Doctorate





Credential Verification

- ▶ Be alert for unusually high grades, format or spelling errors, alignment error (crooked lines or letters), missing words or letters (white out), missing official signature ...
- ▶ Saudi schools issue documents in English
- ▶ Schools in Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco may issue documents in French
- ▶ Some knowledge of Arabic will be extremely helpful



Resources

WHED (World Higher Education Database)

<http://www.whed-online.com/> (subscription)

AACRAO Edge database

<http://edge.aacrao.org/aacrao-edge-login-page.php?url=/> (subscription)

NAFSA database

http://www.nafsa.org/Resource_Library_Assets/Publications_Library/Online_Guide_to_Educational_Systems_Around_the_World/ (free)

CIA World Factbook

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> (free)

Index of Educational Terms, International Education Research Foundation, 2012

The New Country Index, vol. 1, International Education Research Foundation, Ten Speed Press, 2004