

King Abdullah Scholarship Program



As early as its foundation period, Saudi Arabia understood and emphasized the importance of education as a means to development. Today, Saudi Arabia is among the leading countries in annual expenditure on education, with an impressive 25% of its GDP going into the advancement of education. As a result of this large investment, Saudi Arabia has managed in less than eight decades to:

- Build 31,798 schools
- Build 68 technical institutions
- Build 24 universities
- Train 435,343 academic staff
- Educate 5,106,162 students
- Provide free tuition, text books, and healthcare for more than 5 million students.

In this short period of time, the literacy rate in Saudi Arabia has gone up from 10% to 83%.

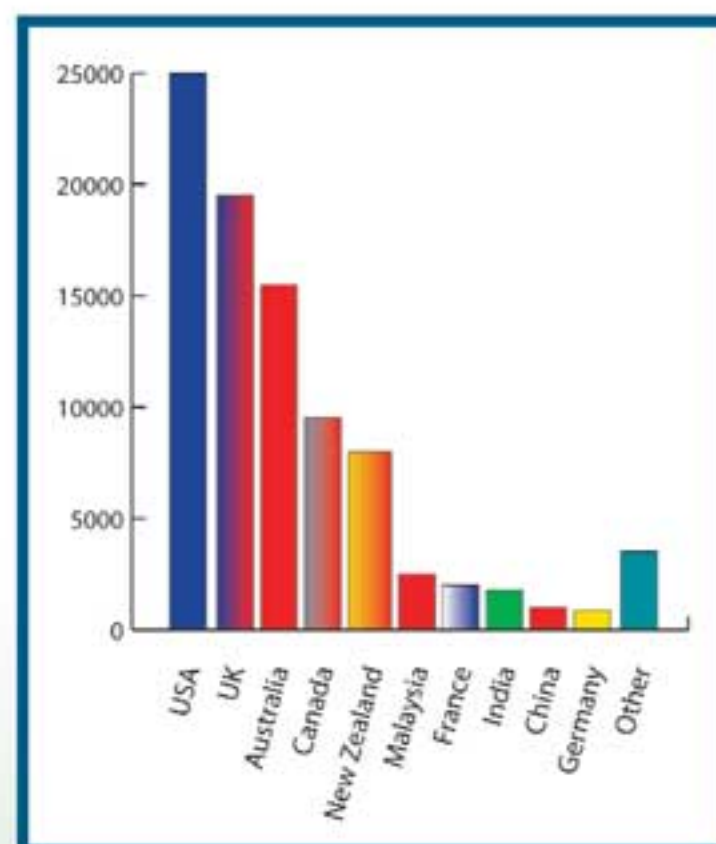
Scholarship Programs

As early as the reign of King Abdulaziz, the founding King of Saudi Arabia, students were being sponsored to study abroad. Early programs were limited to Arab countries such as Egypt and Lebanon to study Arabic and Islamic studies.

In 1960, Saudi scholarship programs expanded to the U.S. and Europe. By 1975, there were thousands of sponsored students studying abroad, mostly working on higher degrees, masters and doctorates in different fields.

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The King Abdullah Scholarship Program (KASP) started in 2005 with an agreement between King Abdullah and President George Bush to increase the number of Saudi students in the U.S. Launched in 2005, KASP is the largest scholarship program in the history of Saudi Arabia. With more than 60,000 students in over 30 countries worldwide, KASP has ambitious objectives for its graduates.



As seen in the graph above, the top ten host countries for KASP students are The United States, The United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, France, India, China, and Germany.

The U.S. has the majority of KASP students currently exceeding 23,000 students in 49 states. As for fields of study offered by the program, KASP is geared towards specialties that meet job market demands in Saudi Arabia such as medicine, engineering, business and science. KASP includes all degree levels.

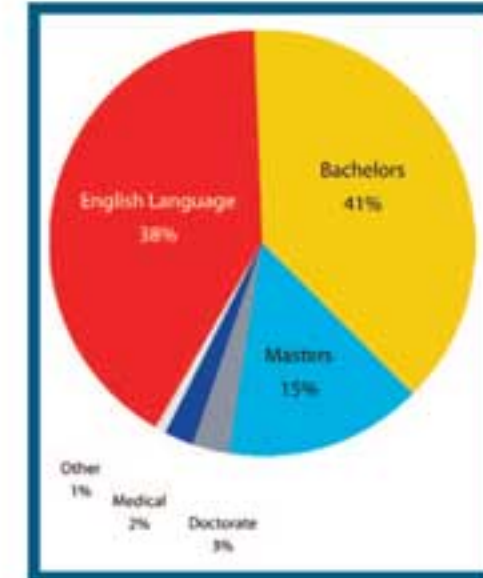
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Goals of KASP

The main objective of KASP is of course scholarly and academic; i.e. to equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to be future world leaders.

- Knowledge by Experience
- Mutual Understanding
- Patriotic Commitment
- Cultural Exchange
- Intellectual Development



PATRIOTIC COMMITMENT



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Services Provided to KASP students:

All students sponsored by KASP are provided with the following benefits during their study abroad period:

- Full tuition coverage
- Academic supervision
- Monthly stipend for living expenses
- Full medical and dental insurance
- Annual round trip tickets
- Financial incentives for high GPA
- Dependents of students also receive thesame benefits



MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The ambitious goals of KASP will definitely be seen through the achievements of the future leaders that it is creating.

"international education cannot be the work of one country. It is the responsibility and promise of all nations. It calls for free exchange and full collaboration."

Lyndon B. Johnson, message to Congress in February, 1966, on international education.