

Memorandum of Understanding
On the Establishment
Of a Strategic Academic Partnership

Between the

**Ministry of Higher Education
& Scientific Research
Of the Republic of Iraq
Baghdad
Iraq**

And the

**German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
Kennedyallee 50
53175 Bonn
Germany**

**Baghdad
February 2009**

Memorandum of Understanding between

The Ministry of Higher Education & Scientific Research (MoHE)

And

The German Academic Exchange Service

On the

Establishment of a Strategic Academic Partnership

The Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) in Iraq and DAAD in Germany, hereinafter referred to as the PARTNERS

REAFFIRMING the great respect they have for each other;

APPEALING to the long standing tradition of flourishing co-operation and scientific exchange between Iraq and Germany;

RECOGNISING academic, scientific and technological co-operation as a valuable tool for mutual understanding between both countries;

FIRMLY BELIEVE that co-operation in the academic, scientific and technical sectors contributes to the social and economic progress of both countries;

DESIRE to promote strong scientific and technological co-operation, based on the principles of equity and mutual benefit;

ARE DETERMINED to enter into a new phase of intensified co-operation in the academic field;

TAKE ADVANTAGE of acquired experiences in both organisations to fulfil their mission and

AGREE upon on the following:

Article 1: Scope and objective of the Strategic Academic Partnership

The overarching aim and ultimate goal of the Strategic Academic Partnership between the PARTNERS will be to set up a German-Iraqi University (GIU). To this end, several action lines (see Article 2) will be introduced in order to contribute to the achievement of this ambitious concept. At the beginning and at the heart of the process will be the building up and fostering of co-operation networks between existing German and Iraqi faculties. These partnerships shall form the nucleus of a future German-Iraqi University. The concept of establishing the GIU assumes that

- The PARTNERS will co-operate closely to identify those academic disciplines most needed for the academic reconstruction of Iraq. One of those faculties,

however, should be devoted to the teaching and research of Administration and Public Policy in order to make a valuable contribution to educating and training government executives on all levels;

- It is, thus, important that German and Iraqi faculties will work together closely in order to set up the German-Iraqi University. To this end it is intended that one German and one Iraqi faculty respectively are being "twinned" in order to set up one faculty of the German-Iraqi University. For security reasons, the faculties to be founded will initially be set up in Germany.
- The DAAD will be responsible to identify suitable and well-reputed partner universities on the German side, the MoHE will do the same for its universities.
- All universities involved together with the PARTNERS will form the Governing Board of the German-Iraqi University which will specify the details of the process and will monitor its progress. The chairmanship of this body will alternate between the PARTNERS, starting with the DAAD who will invite participants to Bonn.
- Wherever possible, Iraqi scholars currently living in Germany shall be made part of the project, be it in an advising capacity or as teachers and researchers of the German-Iraqi University.
- As soon as the security situation in Iraq will allow, the German-Iraqi University shall be relocated to Iraq. Both PARTNERS, in consultation with the universities involved, will decide on the right moment and modalities of the transfer.

Article 2: Action lines of the Strategic Academic Partnership

The following action lines are part of the Strategic Academic Partnership. They are designed to lead ultimately to the establishment of the German-Iraqi University. They are also, however, meaningful in themselves and are meant to make a valuable contribution to the reconstruction of the academic landscape in Iraq.

1. Fostering and support of partnerships between universities involved in setting up the German-Iraqi University by

- "Capacity Building" on Master and PhD level for Iraqi scholars
- Qualification programmes for young Iraqi researchers
- Short training courses for Iraqi executives
- Further training in Higher Education Management for Iraqi officials
- Mobility of Iraqi students, researchers and staff
- Summer schools in Germany
- Support for university libraries in Iraq

2. Implementing the co-operation agreement on a Scholarship programme for Master and PhD degree studies to be completed at German universities

The jointly financed co-operation agreement on a Scholarship programme for Master and PhD degree studies to be completed at German universities – which is currently in the process of being signed – will be considered part of the Strategic Academic Partnership. A steady growth of the annual intake of scholarship holders is desirable and will be negotiated separately between the PARTNERS.

3. Devising the Scholarship scheme “BEST STUDENTS”

Every year, up to 100 of the best school leavers of Iraqi colleges will be selected and sent to Germany for a university education. Scholarship holders will receive an intensive German language course, a specialised foundation year and – if they pass the entry examination – a three-year Bachelor course at a German university. Modalities of the selection procedure will be agreed upon by the PARTNERS.

4. Setting up of a self-learning computer centre at the University of Baghdad

In order to facilitate the acquisition of the German language and thus support the various measures and the close co-operation as described above, a self-learning computer centre at the University of Baghdad will be set up. This centre shall consist of 50 computers and appropriate facilities to support the online-learning of the German language. A specially designed online course (“DUO online”) will be made available to learners preparing for a stay in Germany. The centre shall be administered and monitored by the German Department at Baghdad University. Details and modalities will be arranged between DAAD and the Baghdad University.

Article 3: Obligation of the Partners

The PARTNERS commit themselves to provide all necessary and appropriate political and technical support in their area of responsibility. They will appoint a co-ordinator who will be the contact partner for all issues of this Memorandum of Understanding. Further details of the program and any changes and amendments shall be fixed by an exchange of letters.

Baghdad,

Baghdad,

On behalf of the

On behalf of the

Ministry for Higher Education and
Research of the Republic of Iraq

German Academic Exchange Service



Dr. Abid Thyab Al Ajeeli
Minister for Higher Education



Dr. Christian Bode
General Secretary