

## Baghdad University gets into world rankings

2nd October, 2018



For the first time ever, an Iraqi University has been listed among the best universities in the world. The University of Baghdad has made it onto the Times Higher Education World

University Rankings. This is an annual list of the world's top 1,250 universities for research and development. The University of Baghdad has been ranked in the range from 801 to a thousand on the list of best universities. Phil Baty, the editorial director of the Times, stated that the university had "distinguished" itself for having a "very strong international cooperation". He said the University of Baghdad had played an integral role in the reconstruction of Iraq after its recent conflicts and internal strife.

The University of Baghdad (also called Baghdad University) is the largest university in Iraq and the second largest in the Arab world, behind the University of Cairo. Its roots go as far back as the year 1067, when it was known as Abu Haneefa. The first of the university's modern departments was founded in 1908. It was formally established as the University of Baghdad in 1956. It managed to stay open throughout the invasions and occupations of Iraq during this century. The ranking on the Times list is seen as a prestigious accolade by many of its academics and students. One student said: "I am so proud of Baghdad University. It means the world to us to be held in such high esteem."

Sources: [timeshighereducation.com](http://timeshighereducation.com) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [wikipedia.com](http://wikipedia.com)

### Writing

Going to university guarantees a better life. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the first time / universities / Baghdad / research / development / range / cooperation / roots / modern / established / invasion / occupation / accolade / academics / esteem

### True / False

- a) Baghdad University is the second Iraqi university to get on the list. T / F
- b) Baghdad University got in the top 500 universities in the world. T / F
- c) The Times said praised the university for its international cooperation. T / F
- d) The Times said the university should have done more to rebuild Iraq. T / F
- e) Baghdad University is the largest university in Iraq. T / F
- f) The origins of Baghdad University start in 1067. T / F
- g) The University of Baghdad was established in 1956. T / F
- h) A student said the University of Baghdad was held in low esteem. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>ever</b>          | a. singled out      |
| 2. <b>annual</b>        | b. origins          |
| 3. <b>range</b>         | c. honor            |
| 4. <b>distinguished</b> | d. yearly           |
| 5. <b>integral</b>      | e. for the whole of |
| 6. <b>roots</b>         | f. respect          |
| 7. <b>founded</b>       | g. area             |
| 8. <b>throughout</b>    | h. set up           |
| 9. <b>accolade</b>      | i. in history       |
| 10. <b>esteem</b>       | j. basic            |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of universities?
- b) What do you think of Baghdad University getting into the rankings?
- c) How can universities be improved?
- d) How important is this for Baghdad University?
- e) What do you think are the best universities in the world?
- f) What do you think of having a list of best universities?
- g) Why are the best universities in the UK and USA?
- h) What part might the university have played in Iraq's reconstruction?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. For the first time                      | a. as the year 1067 |
| 2. listed among the best universities in   | b. to a thousand    |
| 3. This is an annual                       | c. to us            |
| 4. in the range from 801                   | d. strife           |
| 5. after its recent conflicts and internal | e. the world        |
| 6. the second largest in the               | f. and occupations  |
| 7. Its roots go as far back                | g. ever             |
| 8. throughout the invasions                | h. accolade         |
| 9. a prestigious                           | i. Arab world       |
| 10. It means the world                     | j. list             |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are universities like in your country?
- How important is it to go to university?
- Are universities only for the elite?
- What is your image of Baghdad University?
- What would you like to study at university?
- Why might students be proud of the university?
- What questions would you like to ask the head of Baghdad University?

## Spelling

- listed amgno the best universities
- an anulna list
- the university had iithgnndsiused itself
- played an itrlegan role
- after its recent sltinoccf
- internal stfrie
- the university's eromnd departments
- It was flaormly established
- throughout the inovansis and occupations
- a prestigious lcdecaoa
- many of its cdamcaies and students
- held in such high mseeet

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. d	3. g	4. a	5. j
6. b	7. h	8. e	9. c	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Engineering

You think engineering is the best subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): IT, business studies or English.

### Role B – Information Technology

You think IT is the best subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): engineering, business studies or English.

### Role C – Business Studies

You think business studies is the best subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): IT, engineering or English.

### Role D – English

You think English is the best subject to study at university. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their subjects. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): IT, business studies or engineering.

## Speaking – Departments

Rank these with your partner. Put the best departments to study in at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| • Engineering | • Political science |
| • Pharmacy    | • Mathematics       |
| • IT          | • Modern languages  |
| • History     | • Business studies  |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.