



2012 Conference

# **After the Arab Spring: Collaboration with Maghreb higher education**

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012  
Washington DC



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# Panel Participants

- **Janine Farhat (Chair)**, Senior International Specialist, The College Board
- **Ken Carpenter**, Ph.D., Interim Director, International Programs & Studies, University of New Mexico
- **Jennifer Fondiller**, Dean of Enrollment Management, Barnard College NY
- **Ann Kuhlman**, Director, Office of International Students and Scholars, Yale University CT
- **Anne Schneller**, Coordinator of Sponsored Student Recruitment, Michigan State University

## Tunisian elections: October 2011



# ALGERIA





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**University World News reports:**

**TUNISIA**

**[Campus stalemate in niqab controversy](#)**

Eileen Byrne

The victory last October of the moderate Islamist party Ennahda ('Renaissance') in Tunisia's first election since the revolution intensified the controversy that was already brewing over women students opting to wear the *niqab*, or full face veil, on university campuses.

**ALGERIA**

**[Reforms transforming the higher education landscape](#)**

Kaci Racelma

Significant new reforms are on the horizon for Algeria's universities. Efforts are being made to ratchet up public funding and raise standards, with the government planning to spend US\$1.48 billion on higher education and science over the next five years and to double research spending to 1% of gross domestic product.



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# Student & Scholars from the Maghreb

2010-2011	Students	Scholars	OPT	Total
Algeria	158	68	12	238
Libya	1116	32	23	1171
Morocco	957	108	98	1163
Tunisia	386	110	23	519

	2009/10 Undergrad	2010/11 Undergrad	% Change	2009/10 Graduate	2010/11 Graduate	% Change	2009/10 Non-degree	2010/11 Non-degree	% Change
<b>Algeria</b>	71	65	-8.5	76	59	-22.4	19	22	15.8
<b>Libya</b>	106	221	108.5	584	895	53.3	361	355	-1.7
<b>Morocco</b>	604	635	5.1	343	322	-6.1	86	146	69.8
<b>Tunisia</b>	134	148	10.4	130	142	9.2	25	73	192.0

Source: 2011 Open Doors (IIE)

# Motivations

- Strength in STEM fields (particularly women)
- Some exposure to short term opportunities in the U.S. for high school students, e.g. YES (Youth Exchange and Study program)
- Improving English skills
- Outreach & encouragement of and US Embassies and AMIDEAST
  - Competitive College Clubs







# Challenges to Studying in the U.S.

- Language
- Funds
- Unfamiliarity with U.S. higher education
- Orientation toward France
  - 20,000 Algerians & 9000+ Tunisians
- & Canada (Quebec )  
(2000 Tunisians)
- Absence of role models in the academy
- Being Arab/Muslim in the U.S.
- Perception that is difficult to get a U.S. visa





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# Opportunities

- US government funded programs
- Corporate sponsorship (Sonatrach – Algeria oil company interest in funding masters students)
- US based faculty from the Maghreb
  - Algerian-American foundation
- Student exchange through institutional partnerships – particular eagerness in Tunisia institutions (e.g. schools of business, Université de Sfax)
- NeXXt Scholars: an int'l Women's Undergraduate STEM Education Initiative (IIE)





# USG-sponsored Programs in Tunisia

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- Fulbright Foreign Student Program for M.A. Degree or Ph.D. Study
- American Studies Grants
- International Fulbright Science and Technology Award
- Study of the U.S. Institutes for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship
- Near East & South Asia Undergraduate Program
- MEPI Study of the US Institute for Student Leaders
- Youth Exchange and Study Program
- Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program
- Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program
- International Leaders in Education Program
- Study of the U.S. Institutes for Scholars
- Leaders for Democracy Fellowships
- MEPI Civic Education & Leadership Fellowship
- Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Program
- Senior Fulbright Specialist Program
- Senior Fulbright Fellowship Program
- Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant Program (FLTA)
- Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program
- Online Global Community for Alumni





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# US Govt Funded Academic Exchanges in Algeria

- **Youth Programs**
  - [Techgirls Program 2012](#)
  - [Youth Leadership Program 2011](#)
  - [Between The Lines Writing Contest](#)
  - [Tomorrow's Leaders Scholarship Program](#)
  - [Competitive College Club \(PDF 200kB\)](#)
  
  - **Undergraduate Programs**
  - [MEPI Student Leaders Program 2012](#)
  - [NESA Undergraduate Exchange Program 2012](#)
  - [Study of the U.S. Summer Institute for Student Leaders on Social Entrepreneurship](#)
  
  - **Graduate Programs**
  - [Study of the U.S. Institutes For Scholars June-August 2012](#)
  - [Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program 2012-2013](#)
- [Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program 2012](#)
  - [Fulbright International Science and Technology Award](#)
  - [Fulbright Short-term Program in Science and Technology](#)
  
  - **Professional Programs**
  - [Inspiring and Accelerating Entrepreneurship in Middle East and North Africa \(MENA\) Youth](#)
  - [The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program](#)
  - [Civic Education and Leadership Fellowship](#)
  - [TechWomen Program 2012](#)
  
  - **Non U.S. Government Programs**
  - [School of Historical Studies Opportunities for Scholars 2012-2013](#)



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# Libyan Scholarship Program

Anne Schneller  
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Michigan State University  
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# Background

- Scholarships funded by Ministry of Higher Education. Most are graduate students, many in STEM fields.
- Students are managed by Canadian Bureau for International Education.
- Provide all costs of degree study.
- Provide English language study when necessary.
- Most students require conditional admission, as they do not have standardized test scores.





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# Background

- Students must find their own admission to universities, and they are not familiar with U.S. universities or our admission procedures.
- First U.S. universities fairs in 30 years held in Tripoli and Benghazi in October 2010.
- EducationUSA advisor in U.S. Embassy, Tripoli.

# Current Status of Libyan Students in U.S.

- About 2000 Libyan scholarship students currently in U.S., managed by CBIE
- Another 200 nominees are still in Libya in process of applying to universities.

## Projections for next 2 years

- During recent visit to Libya, CBIE senior management learned that a project is being proposed to Council of Ministers to send 5000 students worldwide – including undergraduates.

# Current issues

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- Standardized tests: TOEFL PBT in Benghazi and Tripoli – March and May 2012
- IELTS will be offered in March 2012
- No visas yet in Tripoli – all visas through Tunis or Cairo
- No bank transfers overseas yet, should improve
- Internet/email/urban phones work well
- Applications are resuming to U.S. universities, but without test scores
- Difficulty in obtaining official transcripts



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# Recruitment strategies

- Work with your current Libyan students
- Post a brief description of your university on CBIE Libyan Facebook page
- If you have any contacts from 2010, renew them (potential students, university professors, etc.)
- Linden Tours is trying to set up fall visit to Libya. An organized tour is the best way to reach students.