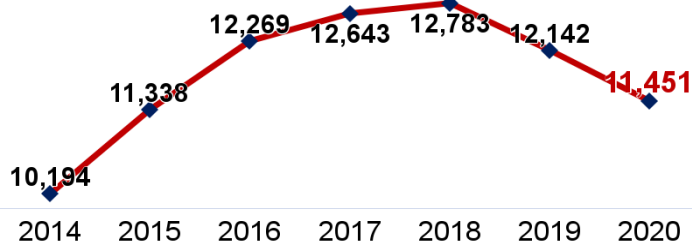


Student Mobility Facts and Figures

Iran



Iranian Students Studying in the U.S.



Source: 2020 Open Doors Report (published by IIE, funded by the U.S. Department of State)

Change in Students Studying in the U.S. from 2019 to 2020
-5.7%

Change in U.S. Study Abroad Students from 2018 to 2019
1300%

Source: 2020 Open Doors

Total Population

84,923,314

Population Aged 15-24

13.36%

Source: The World Fact Book

U.S. Study Abroad Students in Iran



Source: 2020 Open Doors Report (published by IIE, funded by the U.S. Department of State)

Top 5 Receiving States

California
 Texas
 New York
 Florida
 Massachusetts

Source: 2020 Open Doors

Change in Student Visas Issued from 2018 to 2019

F 19.90%
J 1.06%
M 100%

*Based on fiscal year Oct 1 – Sept 30
 Source: travel.state.gov

Students in U.S. by Academic Level

	%	Number	% Change (2019 to 2020)
Undergraduate	5.3%	612	-15.7%
Graduate	74.4%	8518	-5.5%
Non-Degree	0.9%	108	-16.9%
OPT	19.3%	2213	-2.5%

Students in U.S. by U.S. Institution Type

	%
Associate's (2-year) Colleges	1.47%
Baccalaureate (4-year) Colleges	0.48%
Doctorate-granting Universities	93.95%
Master's Colleges and Universities	3.10%
Special Focus Institutions	1.01%
Public Institutions	80.99%
Private Institutions	19.01%

HIGHLIGHTS

- Since 2019, the center has seen a significant increase in the number of students inquiring about undergraduate programs in the United States. Many Iranian parents are getting interested in sending their children abroad.
- The number of undergraduate students is still low because public higher education in Iran is free and high quality. Moreover, students believe that applying for U.S. undergraduate programs will decrease their chance to obtain a student visa.
- The vast majority (nearly 75%) of Iranian students still come to the United States for graduate studies.
- Iranian students often interview for their student visas in the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, or Armenia.
- The EducationUSA Iran adviser is based in Washington D.C. and works remotely. Higher education institution representatives can communicate with the Iran adviser via WhatsApp, phone, and email.
- Due to internet censorship and filtering, access to some social media platforms including Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter is limited in Iran. As a result, Iranians are more likely to use unaffected mobile applications, like Telegram and Instagram.





- **Pre-high school (# of years):** Six years at primary level from ages six to twelve years old. Primary education is divided into two three-year cycles: primary school one and primary school two. After each cycle, students receive a certificate of completion if they pass the final exam of that cycle. (Note: In 2013, Iran's national education system changed from a system of 5 years of primary school, 3 years of middle school, and 4 years of high school to 6 years of primary school and 6 years of high school.)
- **High school (# of years):** Six years from ages 12-18 years old. Secondary education is divided into two three-year cycles: high school one and high school two. After each cycle, students receive a certificate of completion if they pass the final exam of that cycle. Education until the end of high school one or grade 9 is compulsory, and in the public-school system, free. High school two or upper secondary education is not compulsory but is free at public schools. In high school two, students are segmented into three fields (or streams) of the education system: academic (Nazari), technical (Fani Herfei), and vocational/skills (Kar-danesh). A student's stream is dependent primarily on his or her examination results at the end of the lower secondary cycle (high school one), and to a lesser extent on student preference. The academic stream has traditionally been the most popular.
- **Pre-University:** The pre-university year is a preparatory year for students who plan to take Iran's standardized university entrance examinations, the Konkur (or Concours), which is required for admission into most university programs. The pre-university year originally evolved prior to 2012, and will eventually be incorporated into the new 12-year 6+3+3 system, so that graduates can sit for entrance examinations without first completing an additional year of pre-university study. For now, however, the additional year is still a requirement for anyone who wants to sit for the Konkur.
- **Academic year calendar:** September-June
- **Recommended times for U.S. institution visits:** Before planning any proposed trip, please read the U.S. Department of State's Travel Warning for Iran at: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Iran.html>. The U.S. government does not have diplomatic or consular relations with Iran and, therefore, cannot provide protection or routine consular services to U.S. citizens there. It is best to contact EducationUSA and attend a virtual fair or provide a webinar for prospective students. Take into consideration school breaks and holiday schedule as follows when programming. *Note, dates can shift due to the Islamic and Iranian calendars.
 - Anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, February 11
 - Nowruz Holiday, March 21-22
 - Birthday of Imam Ali, February 25
 - Islamic Republic Day, March 31
 - Sizdah Bedar, April 2
 - Khordad National Uprising, June 5
 - Martyrdom of Imam Ali, May 4*
 - Ramadan, April 12-May 11, 2021*
 - Eid Al Fitr, May 12, 2021*
 - Eid Al Adha, July 19, 2021*

Secondary Education (high school)

- **Language of instruction:** Persian/Farsi. English and Arabic as a second language.
- **Years of mandatory English courses:** 6 years - English language starts from high school (grade 7)
- **Grading system and interpretation:**

French System 0-20, where 10=passing grade

 - 17 –20 = A (85-100%)
 - 14 –16.9 = B (70-85%)
 - 12 –13.9 = C (60-70%)
 - 10 –11.9 = D (50-60%)
 - Below 10 = F
- **Subjects required:** Farsi, Mathematics, History, and Science





- **Name of school leaving exams:** Azmoon nahaai – Certificate of Competition of Secondary Education in Farsi from Ministry of Education, or State Exam Authority & English Translation
- **How to verify school leaving exams or diploma/certificate/degree:** Contact EducationUSA Iran Adviser for best practices at iranadviser@educationusa.org.
- **Other credentials:** Students attending Tizhooshan schools throughout Iran, affiliated with the National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET), can enter the program and university of their choice without taking the Konkour (Iran National University Entrance Examination). Some of their high school credits can also be transferred toward their undergraduate degree.
- **Military Service in Iran:** Once male students complete their secondary education, they are required to serve in the Iranian military for two years. They can defer this while studying but must pay a bond to leave Iran for their studies.
- **Standardized undergraduate admissions testing availability in-country and adviser recommendations:** TOEFL and Duolingo are offered in Iran.
- **Standardized undergraduate admissions test mean scores (as of 2019):** TOEFL iBT: 85 (Reading: 21, Listening: 22, Speaking: 21, Writing: 21, Total: 85)

Structure of University System

- **Years of study required to earn a bachelor's degree:** 4 years
- **Language of instruction in universities:** Persian/Farsi
- **Years of required English instruction in universities:** 1-2 semesters
- **Grading system and interpretation:** Same as secondary school grading system
- **Degrees offered:** Kardani/Fogh Diplom (2 years), Karshenasi (4 years), Karshenasi Arshad, Doctora, and Fogh Doctora
- **Top fields of study/majors:** Engineering, Sciences, Business, and Medical fields
- **Standardized graduate admissions testing availability / frequency offered in-country:** TOEFL, IELTS, GRE
- **Standardized graduate admissions test mean scores (as of 2019):** GRE: V 143.6, Q 157.9, W 2.9
- **Study Abroad:** The [UNESCO Institute for Statistics](#) reports that the global flow of tertiary level students from Iran go to the United States (11,802) followed by Turkey (6,418), Germany (5,656), Italy (4,535) and Canada (4,146). The United States ranks first.

Educational Authorities and International Education Resources

- **EducationUSA Iran Virtual Advising Center**
Email: iranadviser@educationusa.org
Website: www.educationusairan.com
Website: <https://educationusa.state.gov/centers/educationusa-iran-virtual-advising-center>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EdUSA.Iran>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/educationusairan/>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/EdUSAIran>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EdUSAIran>