



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM(ISF)

We are moving... ✈️



: [ISF Google Drive](#)



: +2348162942400 |



: [@forum\\_isf](#) |



: [@ForumISF](#)

## Transcript of Lecture [ISF Forum 1]: King Abdlah University, King Saud Saudi Arabia undergraduate and postgraduate Scholarship

Monday 10th February, 2020; 6:30pm WAT

**Lecturer: Scholar Rosheed Abdrahman**

CEO: Trust Edu. Consult

(He is an expert when it comes to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia scholarships)

**Moderator: Scholar Bello Semiu**

**Transmission Crew: Scholars Lukgaf, Oladapo Olajumoke, Olowu Maryam, Adewale Olamiposi, Raji Wasiu, Etubi**

**Admin: Researcher Bankole&ISFM Scholar Obasekore Hameed**

### Lecture Agenda

1. [Undergraduate studies and general requirements](#)
2. [General benefits](#)
3. [Postgraduate studies](#)
4. [Requirements](#)

### Now the Lecturer

Good evening great scholars in the house and very much sorry for the short notice, I know a lot of the scholars are caught unaware. So the discussion is going to be a continuous one God willing. After the lesson, anyone with a question can always post it here. We will try our best to answer it. So, today we will be discussing Saudi Arabia: undergraduate studies and postgraduate admissions.

I know of course that we all know that Saudi Arabia is a Muslim country and their official language is Arabic. Their economy is based on the same crude oil we have but things are not the same. So I will start with the undergraduate studies and general requirements.

## Undergraduate Studies and General Requirements

Most of the undergraduate programs are taught in Arabic so most of the universities preferred applicants who can understand and speak Arabic. Entry requirements vary from one university to the other but mostly:

- ✓ Age: 17-24 (officially they will say 17-25) but truly, they don't accept people who are up to 25 years at the time of application in most cases.
- ✓ International passport
- ✓ SSCE (WAEC and NECO). Some universities require that you translate it into Arabic.
- ✓ Medical report
- ✓ Passport photo
- ✓ Some universities require transcripts too: Those with Arabic school certificate called Thanaawiy can also apply with their certificate and transcripts
- ✓ Some universities require recommendation letters and police report

These requirements come with the call for applications by each university. So you apply online and upload all documents in PDFs.

The university will check applicants' documents and recommend shortlisted applicants to their ministry of education for final approval. I will say here that Nigerians usually top the list of applicants. From the time of application and final approval from the ministry of education can take up to 1-2 years. However, while some university will notify applicants of their initial acceptance, some will not notify and neither will they respond to emails for enquires.

For these universities,

- ✓ Islamic university in Madinah
- ✓ King Saud University
- ✓ King Abdulaziz University
- ✓ And I think Umm Quroh in Makkah, applicants can easily check their status
- ✓ Imam university in Riyadh too.

## General Benefits

Admission into all government universities is by scholarship for international students. There is no my father is a minister, I have sponsor.

Once admitted for both undergraduate and postgraduate:

- ✓ You will be on government scholarship and that means no tuition fee
- ✓ Free accommodation
- ✓ Free medicals (if you want to know how important this one is, ask folks in USA)
- ✓ Monthly stipend
- ✓ Welcome allowance
- ✓ Free annual return ticket till you graduate

## Postgraduate Studies

I will move to the postgraduate programs now. I want to add here that for undergraduate program, you will have the chance of choosing a program only after you have been admitted. All programs are offered to international students except medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and other medical courses. However, for every rule, there is always an exception.

For postgraduate admissions, the medium of instructions varies from the Universities. In KFUPM, KAUST, all programs are taught in English. In KSU and KAU, this depends on the program. Because of the nature of the official language, with the exception of Engineering and science courses, all other courses in KSU are offered in Arabic. Islamic studies in Nigeria is offered in English while in KSU it is in Arabic so as in KAU. But majority of courses for

international students in KAU are offered in English. Just to let us know that KAUST has its own system very much different from the other universities in Saudi Arabia. They are different from everything you can think of. So what is applicable in other universities might not be applicable there.

## Requirements

I will give major preference to KSU because their application is on now.

- a. International passport
- b. Certificate (statement of result is acceptable) and transcripts
- c. Passport photo
- d. CV
- e. TOEFL or IELTS
- f. Some programs like engineering require GRE
- g. Two academic recommendations for MSc and three for Phd
- h. Age limit: max of 30 years for MSc and 35 for Phd
- i. In KAU, you need statement of purpose in addition to the above.

Now, the most important thing for KSU and KAU are CGPA and TOEFL or IELTS score. Because they receive lots of applications, so first screening is CGPA (minimum of 3.75/5). KAU doesn't require GRE. In KFUPM, GRE and TOEFL or IELTS are required. KAUST will tell you GRE is optional. If your education is not from, USA, UK and other European Universities, I would advise that you don't waste time applying to KAUST. Sorry for taking so long. So I will stop here and if there is anything I have missed, the questions will cover it. If we have questions, we can post them now.

## Questions & Answers

<b>Q:</b> Please, how long does it take to get admission feedback from King AbdulAziz University and Doha Graduate Institute?	<b>A:</b> For King Abdulaziz University, once it is written on your application page that you have filled the conditions, it means that the university has accepted you. They will forward your application to their ministry of education and that is where the delay comes from.
<b>Q:</b> My TOEFL was done in 2016. I have GRE result done in 2019. Can it (TOEFL) be accepted sir?	<b>A:</b> TOEFL of more than two years is not acceptable.
<b>Q:</b> If I don't have TOEFL/IELTS can I still apply? I am applying for masters of Arts in islamic Studies, which school offers with English language?	<b>A:</b> For KAU, you don't need TOEFL or IELTS to apply for this course however it is offered in Arabic.
<b>Q:</b> I have submitted my application last month, and I've not gotten a reply, when should I expect a reply?	<b>A:</b> As soon as the new year starts (we resume on 13th January), I think tests will come around that time or early February.
<b>Q:</b> Is this Scholarship only for Muslims or Christians too?	<b>A:</b> They accept all.
<b>Q:</b> How do one get transcript for WAEC or NECO?	<b>A:</b> You can get transcripts from your secondary school. The termly result. For undergraduate programs, the more the distinctions, the better. Not the one that I have 5 credits. They accept people based on high school percentage mainly

	from 90% upward because of the number of applicants.
<b>Q:</b> Why is KAUST not admitting Africa?	<b>A:</b> As for KAUST, I said in my lecture that they have a different system entirely and they have choice for the types of applicants they accept. If you want to go to KAUST, do your masters degree in Europe or America and apply for PhD there. For King saud university, the portal will be closed by 26 of this month
<b>Q:</b> How is life over there in terms of racism?	<b>A:</b> There is no racism. Everyone is free.
<b>Q:</b> Is the stipend enough for the living expenses in Saudi?	<b>A:</b> I will say yes. If you are eating in the school restaurant, you will roughly spend about 10-12 riyals daily. Undergraduate are paid 840, postgraduate, 890 riyals.
<b>Q:</b> Is it possible to advance to PhD immediately after your MSc without returning to home country first?	<b>A:</b> Yes
<b>Q:</b> Are scholars allowed to work?	<b>A:</b> No. It will be written on your VISA that you are not allowed to work. However, if there is project in your department or within the university, you can work with them there and earn money.
<b>Q:</b> Is it possible that one can get the scholarship yet denied visa at the embassy?	<b>A:</b> Saudi embassy don't deny visa except if there is a mixed up in the name on the passport and Visa that the university sent to you.
<b>Q:</b> Good evening, is 2.1(second class upper) considered for postgraduate studies because I heard there are lot of competitions and first class are mostly considered?	<b>A:</b> Minimum CGPA is 3.75 out of 5. Now this depends on the number of applicants of course. As I said earlier, the first screening point is at the CGPA level. If there are more applicants than the department can accommodate, they use the CGPA to trim the number down. One very important thing also is the year of graduation. For undergraduate, most universities don't consider anyone who graduated more than 3 years ago. I think so also for postgraduate.