# Evaluating for university admission: Applications from the Maghreb and Middle East MCGIL Lim Bartlett. Director of Admissions Laurens Verkade, Graduate Admissions Specialist ARICC 15 juin 2014





### **General Information**

- The Maghreb is isolated from the rest of Africa by the Sahara desert – main influences come from Middle East and Europe
- ▶ In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Maghreb was colonized by Europeans:
  - France Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia
  - Spain Morocco, Spanish Sahara
- Italy Libya



FOREIGN STUDENTS IN CANADA: \*
Totals by source country (as of December 1)

Country of Citizenship	2003	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Arabie Saoudite	974	4654	8730	12935	14156	14219
Maroc	1516	2118	2304	2175	2074	2096
Tunisie	1191	1113	1322	1351	1270	1226
Algerie	118	340	416	431	469	643
Liban	656	623	713	684	635	610
Libye	444	429	549	638	468	579
Mauritanie	28	27	27	29	21	21
Total	4927	9304	14061	18243	19093	19394

\*Temporary residents in Canada (Student visas issued by Citizenship and Immigration Canada)



# Arabic vocabulary and glossary

- Alphabet system includes 28 consonants with additional sounds formed using diacritics (i.e. an abjad)
- The language reads from right to left but, numbers always read from left to right
- Academic records issued in arabic reflect regional dialects (different uses of similar words)



### NUMBERS

It is important to note that while Arabic is written from right to left, numbers are written from left to right. For example, the number 18 would be written,  $^{\lambda}$   $^{\lambda}$ . However, when given a range of numbers, like 18-25, the range will be written from right to left. For example, 18-25 would be written  $^{\lambda}$   $^{\lambda}$   $^{\lambda}$   $^{\lambda}$ 

Arabic	Numeral in Arabic English		Numeral in English	Arabic	English
مقر		Zero	0		
واحد	١	One	1	او ل	First
الثنان	۲	Two	2	ثاني	Second
מכנג	۲	Three	3	ثالث	Third
اربعة	٤	Four	4	ر ایسع	Fourth
خسة	٥	Five	5	خا میں	Fifth
مىلة	٦	Six	6	مادس	Sixth
سبعة	v	Seven	7	سابع	Seventh
ثما نبة	٨	Eight	8	ثا من	Eight
تسعة	٩	Nine	9	تا سع	Ninth
عشرة	١.	Ten	10	عا شر	Tenth
احدعشر	11	Eleven	11	حادي عشر	Eleventh
اثنا عشر	17	Twelve	12	ثانی عشر	Twelfth



### **General Information**

- ▶ Three to four years of secondary studies
- Baccalauréat: in 2 parts with national exams at the end of the 11th or 12th year
- Grading systems: 1-20 1-100% (Saudi Arabia)

N.B.: It can be challenging to obtain transcripts from secondary schools





### Mauritania Secondary school

- Collège (age 12): 3 yrs Brevet d'études du premier cycle
- Lycée (age 15): 3 yrs 4 series:
- LO Lettres originales
- LM Lettres modernes
- D Sciences naturels
- C Mathématiques
- National exams Diplôme du Baccalauréat de l'enseignement du secondaire





### Algeria, Morocco Secondary school

- Algeria
- Lycées d'enseignement générals (age 15): 3 yrs
   national exams Baccalauréat de l'enseignement secondaire
- Morocco
- Lycée (age 15): 3 yrs Baccalauréat (academic), Baccalauréat Technique (technical) or Baccalauréat Lettres Originale (religious studies)





### Tunisia Secondary school

- École de base deuxième cycle (Lower secondary school) (age 12): 3 yrs - Diplôme de fin d'études de l'enseignement de base
- École secondaire (Academic upper secondary school) (age 15): 4 yrs – Examens nationaux – Baccalauréat





### **Libya** Secondary school

 Écoles secondaires spécialisées (Specialised secondary school) (age 15) – 4 yrs - Certificat de l'enseignement secondaire





# Lebanon

Secondary school

- Three years of secondary studies
- Baccalauréat libanais (Lebanese baccaureate): three years of study followed by national exams
- Many different grading systems: marks on 0-20 or 0-100 scales are the most common
- N.B.: The Lebanese Baccalaureate is not considered to be the equivalent of the French Baccalaureate



### Saudi Arabia Secondary school

- École intermédiaire (age 12) 3 yrs Certificate of intermediate studies
- École secondaire (age 15) 3 yrs -General Secondary Education Certificate (Tawjihiyah)





# Other programs of study

- Other academic credentials: International baccalaureate, Baccalauréat français, US Secondary school certificate, etc.
- SABIS International School of Choueifat: most offer students the possibility of studying in one of two particular systems (US (SAT), UK (GCSE, 'A' levels)
- ▶ Indian secondary schools





## Considerations

- Are students from this region successful at Canadian schools?
- How to deal with questions of grade inflation?
- Accreditation issues: how to determine whether diplomas and attestations are legitimate?





# Intermission



### Mauritania University

- National Bodies:
  - Ministère d'État à l'Éducation Nationale, à l'Enseignement Supérieur et à la Recherche Scientifique
- One public university: University of Nouakchott; private universities permitted as of 2009 (with authorization of the ministry)





### Morocco University

- National Bodies:
- Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur, de la Recherche scientifique et de la Formation des Cadres
- Conférence des Présidents des Universités marocaines
- Languages of Instruction: Arabic, French
- Établissements de Formation de Cadres provide specialized training in technology, teacher training, law, administration, social sciences ...





### Algeria University

- National Bodies:
  - Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique
- Conférence régionale Centre des universites de l'Ouest
- Agence nationale pour le Développement de la Recherche universitaire
- Language of Instruction: Arabic
- LMD system introduced in 2004 but, until now traditional and LMD systems co-exist





### Tunisia University

- National Bodies:
  - Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche scientifique
- Languages of Instruction: Arabic, French
- LMD system introduced in 2006 and has been integrated by all higher education institutions
- ECTS credit system was adopted at the same time as the LMD reform





### **Libya** University

- National Bodies:
- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Centre for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education Institutions
- Languages of Instruction: Arabic
- Academic Year: September to June
- Tertiary education offered in universities (general & specialized), technical and vocational colleges



# **Lebanon**University

- National bodies:
  - Ministry of Education and Higher Education (universities and colleges)
  - Directorate General of Technical and Vocational Education (technical and vocational institutes)
- Academic Year: October to June
- Languages of Instruction: Arabic, English, French
- Many options available: universities, colleges as well as technical and professional institutes





# Saudi Arabia

University

- National bodies:
  - Ministry of Higher Education
  - National Commission for Academic Accreditation & Assessment
- Academic Year: September to July
- Languages of Instruction: Arabic, English
- 1 and 2-year programs leading to Certificates and Diplomas are offered by higher technical and vocational institutes and colleges (terminal).





# University General Information

- Bachelor:
- $\circ$  3 6 years leading to 1st cycle degrees
- Usually 5 years for Engineering, Pharmacy, Architecture and veterinary medicine degrees
- 6 -7 years for leading to MD and MBBS degrees
- Master:
- 2 -3 years (sometimes including thesis) leading to 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle degrees
- Doctorat:
  - 3+ years (including thesis) leading to Doctorate



	Sachelor's						Master's		Ph.D.
	2 years	3 years	4 years	Syears	6 years	7 years	1 year	2 years	3 years
Mauritania suditional	BTS, DUT, DEUG		Maltrise	Diplôme de l'école rationale d'administration					
Mauritania LMD		Licence, Licence Pro.						Master (first conferred in 2013)	Doctorer (expected in 2016
Morecco (LMD since 2004)	BTS, DTS, CPGE, DEUG, DEUT	Licence d'études fondamentales	Sachelor	Diplôme de grande école Diplôme d'ingénieur		М	Master Master Spécialisée		Doctore
Algeria traditional		DEUA (terninal)	Licence	Diplôme (Engineering, Pharmacy)	DES	МО		Diplôme de Magister	Doctorer dista
Algeria LMD		Licence				М		Master	Doctore
Tunicia (LMD since 2006/7)	BTS, DUT, DTS (2-3 team)	Licence				мо		Massire or Massire Pto	Doctorer
Libya			Bachelor (Science, Arts)	Bachelor (Engineering, Dentistry)	MERS			Master	Doctorer (3-4 years)
Lebanon	professional qualifications (2-3 years)	Licence, Bachelor or Diplôme (3-5 years) (MD + 4 yes after Bachelor)					Malvise, Master, Magister, DES, DEA (1-2 years)		Doctorat(e) (3+ years)
Saud Arabia			Bachelor general)	Sachelor (Engineering)	MD, MBBG, B Phann (+ internship)			Master	Doctorate (3+ years)



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### Credential verification

- Verify the existence and status of the school with the national body in that country
- Verify that the school offers the program indicated on the transcript
- Require that documents are sent to you directly by the issuing institution



### Credential Verification

- Be alert for unusually high grades, format or spelling errors, alignment error (crooked lines or letters), missing words or letters (white out), missing official signature ...
- Saudi schools issue documents in English
- Schools in Lebanon, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco may issue documents in French
- Some knowledge of Arabic will be extremely helpful



### Resources

WHED (World Higher Education Database) <a href="http://www.whed-online.com/">http://www.whed-online.com/</a> (subscription)



### AACRAO Edge database

http://edge.aacrao.org/aacrao-edge-login-page.php?uri=/ (subscription)

### NAFSA database

http://www.nafsa.org/Resource\_Library\_Assets/Publications\_Library/Online\_ Guide\_to\_Educational\_Systems\_Around\_the\_World/ (free)

### CIA World Factbook

https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/ (free)

Index of Educational Terms, International Education Research Foundation, 2012

The New Country Index, vol. 1, International Education Research Foundation, Ten Speed Press, 2004

