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Technical Colleges in Iraq

Prior to the academic year 2001-2002 there were more than 35 technical institutes in Iraq awarding 2-year practical vocational diplomas [Technical Diploma] in different fields. The Baghdad-based Foundation of Technical Institutes, FTI, administered all these institutions. The FTI itself was under the jurisdiction of the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

The Foundation of Technical Institutes was renamed in 2002 to the Foundation of Technical Education, FTE. This organization now controls both the remaining 27 technical institutes and the 9 newly established technical colleges.

Some of the technical colleges were founded in the academic year of 2001-2002. Others used to be technical institutes that were upgraded to technical colleges (For example, the Technical College of Mosul used to be Technical Institute of Mosul prior to 2002.) These new technical colleges offer 4-year Bachelor's degree programs (BA and BSc) and 2-year Master's degree programs.

Technical Colleges in Iraq:

Technical College - Baghdad
Technical College - Mosayyab
Technical College of Electricity
Technical College for Management
Technical College - Mosul
College of Health Technology
Technical College - Basrah
Technical College - Karkuk
Technical College - Najaf

Each of these colleges has several areas of specialization. For example, the Technical College of Mosul has five engineering departments. The Dept. of Computer Techniques and Engineering at the college is one of them and it awards the Degree of Bachelor of Engineering (B. Eng) in Computer Technology.

The main difference between courses taught at traditional universities and the new technical colleges is that the former are more theoretical, whereas the latter are less theoretical and more applied. This difference is especially evident in engineering courses. Despite these differences, though, graduates from Bachelor's degree programs at technical colleges may pursue a Master's degree at any traditional Iraqi university and are – like graduates from traditional universities – entitled to join the Iraqi Engineering Union as full members. Holders of Master's degrees from technical colleges may, furthermore, pursue doctoral studies at any university. And according to information from Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research it is possible that the technical colleges will be granted the right to award PhDs in the near future.

Fields/Specializations at Technical Colleges:

Medical Specializations:

Radiology, Pharmacy, Dental Prevention (?), Nursing, Physiotherapy, Medical Laboratory Technology...

Administrative Specializations:

Statistics, Accounting, Storage Management, Banking, Insurance Management, Tourism and Hotel Management, Library Management...

Agricultural Specializations:

Agricultural Machines, Animal Production, Plant Production, Animal Health, and Soil and Land Reclamation.

Art Specializations:

Textile, Interior Design, Print Design, Architectural Decoration, Design, and tailoring...

Technological Specializations:

Surveying Engineering, Glass and Ceramic Engineering, dyes and tools, Welding, Air conditioning and refrigeration, Fuel and Energy Engineering.
Computer Engineering, Communications, Software Engineering, Electronics...
Pollution and Environment, Petrochemical Engineering, Pumping Engineering...

Some clarifications:

The new technical colleges differ from the old technical institutes, although they are both administrated by the FTE. The technical institutes still offer only 2-year degree programs, whereas the colleges offer 4-year programs leading to BA, B.Sc. and B. Eng. This means that colleges and institutes now represent two distinct types of institutions.

Diploma graduates with the highest grades from 2-year programs at the technical institutes may transfer to technical colleges and enroll in BA, B.Sc. or Bachelor of Engineering programs. Prior to 2002 these students had to transfer to a university in order to earn a Bachelor's degree.

The formal admission requirements for technical colleges and universities are the same for Iraqi students with secondary education leaving certificates (Baccalaureate). The only difference is that the students applying for Technical Colleges are those with lower grades.

/Andreas Arsalan
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