International Student Mobility for Females in the **MENA Region**





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Session Themes

- Student Mobility Data
- Evolving Attitudes in the MENA Region
- Unique Challenges for Female Students
- Personal Experiences and New Opportunities
- Parent involvement with the transition stage of female students studying abroad



What kind of challenges do you face working with females in your role?

preconceived perceptions responsibilities voice generational opinions directly ignorance allowed safety country (not parent ideas st pot Dectations breaking breaking vs amily control p' + res' realism (study fear VS family/society) (self family/s

location marriage sexual control physical unkown self-confidence

What factors do you think impact female student mobility?

competition family parents parent family parents religious security Safety sense unknown security Safety religion housing culture fear career location situation opportunity

Global Flow of Tertiary-Level Students

Where do students go to study? Where do they come from? UIS data on the mobility of students shed light on the shifting demand for higher education, particularly in the developing world.

To explore the data select a country from the menu, or click on the map.





https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow

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Interr	nationally	mobile s	tudents:		
0	100	1,000	5,000	10,000	50,000

Kuwait

https://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow

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2022 ARAB BAROMETER INSIGHT

Taking Arabs' Pulse: Gender Attitudes and Trends in MENA

Gender equality is far from achieved in MENA. Yet, there are signs of change.

Citizens becoming more open toward women in politics

% WHO SAY MEN ARE BETTER THAN WOMEN AT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP IN 2018 AND 2022





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Similar advances in women having more authority in decision-making inside the home

% WHO SAY A MAN SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL SAY IN FAMILY DECISIONS



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Broad backing for women's right to pass citizenship to their children

% WHO AGREE THAT A WOMAN WHO MARRIES A FOREIGNER SHOULD BE ABLE TO PASS CITIZENSHIP TO HER CHILDREN





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Overwhelming support for women's pursuit of higher education

% WHO DISAGREE THAT UNIVERSITY EDUCATION IS MORE IMPORTANT FOR MALES THAN FEMALES







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Female data over the last two years from AUS

Class of 2023

Female Preferred country of study 2023



Bahrain

4.5%



Female data over the last two years from AUS

Female majors 2023



Class of 2022 Data

Female Data	
28 Female students in the Class of 2022	
Of the 28 students, only five stayed in Kuwait	
or in the region while the other 23 female	
students studied abroad in the United	82%
Kingdom and the USA	studi

Male Data	
	52% c studie
25 male students in the Class of 2022	region
13 male students studied abroad while 12 mal or in the region	e stude

of female students ied abroad

of male students ied in Kuwait or in the on

dents stayed in Kuwait

Preferred country of study 2022



Female Major of study 2022

Psychology	•	
4.0%		
Political Science		
4.0%		
Pharmacy		
4.0%		
Medicine		
12.0%		
Marketing		
4.0%		
International Business		
4.0%		
Internaitonal Business		
4.0%		
English Literature		
8.0% Economics		-
4.0%		



2022 ARAB BAROMETER INSIGHT

Taking Arabs' Pulse: Women in the Workforce

LEBANON

LIBYA

MAURITANIA

MOROCCO

PALESTINE

SUDAN

TUNISIA

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MOST CHALLENGING BARRIER TO ENTRY INTO THE WORKPLACE FOR WOMEN

% OF RESPONDENTS

CULTURAL BARRIERS

SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE
MEN GIVEN PRIORITIES
MIXED WORK SPACES

STRUCTURAL BARRIERS

- LACK OF CHILDCARE OPTION
- LACK OF TRANSPORTATION
- 🖕 LOW WAGES





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Mitigating Factors

- Scholarship / Sponsored students
- Chaperones / Guardians
- Regionally located institution vs. campus outside the region
- Religious / cultural / family traditions
- Expectations for citizens vs. expat students
- Mixed gender vs. single gender education
- Undergraduate vs. graduate expectations
- Perceptions of safety



Q&A from current high school students - Kuwait and Qatar

- Why did you choose your major and country of study?
- How do you think higher education is encouraged for females in your country as compared to males?
- What advice would you give to females who plan to go into higher education outside of their home countries?

Thank you! Questions?



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