

## **King Abdullah Scholarship Program**

### *Introduction*

Education and higher education is one of the top priorities of the Saudi government. Saudi Arabia has a young population (50% < 25 years). Saudi Arabia is making major investments in diversifying its economy (from oil based economy to a knowledge based economy) and nationalizing its labour market. More Saudi nationals on management and middle management positions. This requires a better educated population. Within this policy King Abdullah is working slowly but carefully on the improvement of the position of women in Saudi Arabia.

### *King Abdullah Scholarship Program (KASP)*

In 2005, King Abdullah implemented a government scholarship program to send young Saudi nationals (male and female) to Western universities for undergraduate and postgraduate studies. The program offers funds for tuition and living expenses for up to four years.

The King Abdullah Foreign Scholarship Program provides the means to enroll in the best universities in the world to pursue studies that lead to degrees (bachelors, masters and doctorate) and medical fellowships. Academic disciplines and scholarships are selected on the needs of government ministries, national corporations and the private sector. This selection aims to fulfill the requirements of labour markets across the kingdom.

### *The Netherlands*

The Netherlands has also been selected as one of the countries to study (other countries are amongst others USA, UK, Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Malaysia, China). The Netherlands has a strong reputation in the field of higher education. With seven universities in the Times Top 100, the Netherlands ranks third (after USA and UK). The number of curricula in English in the Netherlands is increasing.

### *Importance*

Although the above mentioned strong reputation, of the total of 145.000 Saudi students studying abroad (of which nearly 30% is female), only 350 students from Saudi Arabia study in the Netherlands (whereas 70.000 in the US, 18.000 in the UK and 10.000 in Australia). In the light of knowledge export the Embassy in Riyadh aims to fivefold the number of Saudi students in the Netherlands. Every medicine yields EUR 250.000. In addition this also leads to a better understanding of the Netherlands in Saudi Arabia.

### *Female students*

As previously mentioned there have been improvements in the position of women in Saudi Arabia. The freedom of movement for women however is still limited. Without permission women are not allowed to travel without a male member of the family ('mohrem' = companion/guardian). For female students who want to study abroad the KASP provides means for the 'mohrem'.



No. 81/2015

By hand

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has the honor to request the Ministry's kind assistance in arranging an appointment for 10 2 e of the University of Groningen to visit His Highness 10 2 e of King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST) in the afternoon of Thursday 16 April.

10 2 e will be accompanied by:

- 10 2 e of the University Medical Center Groningen (UMCG)
- 10 2 e Advisor to the Board
- 10 2 e , Higher Education Attaché

The Embassy would like to inform that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss existing and future research cooperation between the University of Groningen and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, especially in the fields of energy, biobanking and genome research.

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riyadh, 9 April 2015



10 2 e

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

No. \*\*\*/2015

By hand

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has the honor to request the Ministry's kind assistance in arranging an appointment on Tuesday 1 or Wednesday 2 December. for the Higher Education Attaché to the Kingdom with

- 10 2 e

10 2 e will be accompanied by the following representatives of the University of Groningen:

- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e

The Embassy would like to inform that the purpose of these meetings is to discuss existing and future educational cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Over the past years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have established a fruitful cooperation in the field of higher education. A growing number of students from Saudi Arabia chose to study in the Netherlands. Furthermore a growing number of university faculties from both countries cooperate in scientific research.

The University of Groningen is an over 400 years old university that ranks in the top 100 of the main international higher education rankings. Currently there are some 150 Saudi scholarship (medical) students studying at the University of Groningen. Also, the university has established long term cooperation with, among others, King Faisal University in Hofuf (medical curriculum cooperation) and King Saud University (Memorandum of Intent).

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riyadh, 18 November 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



No. 282/2015

By hand

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has the honor to request the Ministry's kind assistance in arranging an appointment on Tuesday 1 or Wednesday 2 December. For 10 2 e , the Higher Education Attaché to the Kingdom, with

- 10 2 e

10 2 e will be accompanied by the following representatives of the University of Groningen:

- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e

The Embassy would like to inform that the purpose of these meetings is to discuss existing and future educational cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Over the past years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have established a fruitful cooperation in the field of higher education. A growing number of students from Saudi Arabia chose to study in the Netherlands. Furthermore a growing number of university faculties from both countries cooperate in scientific research.

The University of Groningen is an over 400 years old university that ranks in the top 100 of the main international higher education rankings. Currently there are some 150 Saudi scholarship (medical) students studying at the University of Groningen. Also, the university has established long term cooperation with, among others, King Faisal University in Hofuf (medical curriculum cooperation) and King Saud University (Memorandum of Intent).

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riyadh, 19 November 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

10 2 e





No. 283/215

By hand

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and has the honor to request the Ministry's kind assistance in arranging an appointment on Tuesday 1 or Wednesday 2 December.

For 10 2 e , the Higher Education Attaché to the Kingdom, with

- 10 2 e

10 2 e will be accompanied by the following representatives of the University of Groningen:

- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e
- 10 2 e

The Embassy would like to inform that the purpose of these meetings is to discuss existing and future educational cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Over the past years the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of the Netherlands have established a fruitful cooperation in the field of higher education. A growing number of students from Saudi Arabia chose to study in the Netherlands. Furthermore a growing number of university faculties from both countries cooperate in scientific research.

The University of Groningen is an over 400 years old university that ranks in the top 100 of the main international higher education rankings. Currently there are some 150 Saudi scholarship (medical) students studying at the University of Groningen. Also, the university has established long term cooperation with, among others, King Faisal University in Hofuf (medical curriculum cooperation) and King Saud University (Memorandum of Intent).

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia the assurances of its highest consideration.

Riyadh, 19 November 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**Places for Saudi scholarship students per Degree Programme University Groningen for intake 2016-17.**

**Faculty of Economics and Business**

**Total nr. 60**

BSc	Econometrics and Operations research	5
BSc	Economics and Business Economics	5
BSc	International Business (Numerus Fixus)	5
MSc	Business Administration: Change Management	3
MSc	Business Administration: Organizational & Management Control	3
MSc	Business Administration: Small Business & Entrepreneurship	3
MSc	Business Administration: Strategic Innovation Management	3
MSc	Econometrics, Operations Research and Actuarial Studies	3
MSc	Economics	3
MSc	Economics and Business (Gradschool)	3
MSc	Finance	3
MSc	Human Resource Management	3
MSc	International Business and Management	3
MSc	International Economics and Business	3
MSc	International Financial Management	3
MSc	Marketing	3
MSc	Supply Chain Management	3
MSc	Technology and Operations Management	3

**Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences**

**Total nr. 37**

BSc	Applied Mathematics	2
BSc	Artificial Intelligence	2
BSc	Astronomy	2
BSc	Chemistry	2
BSc	Chemical Engineering	2
BSc	Computing Science	2
BSc	Industrial Engineering and Management	2
BSc	Mathematics	2
BSc	Physics	2
BSc	Applied Physics	2
MSc	Applied Mathematics	2
MSc	Applied Physics	2
MSc	Artificial Intelligence	2
MSc	Biomedical Engineering	2
MSc	Chemical Engineering	2
MSc	Computing Science	2
MSc	Energy and Environmental Sciences	3
MSc	Industrial Engineering and Management	2

**Faculty of Medical Sciences****Total nr. 56**

BSc/MSc	Medicine	40
MSc	Clinical and Psychological Epidemiology (Research Master/Graduate School)	5
MSc	Medical and Pharmaceutical Drug Innovation (Research Master/Graduate School)	5
MSc	Human Movement Sciences	3
MSc	Sports Sciences	3

**Faculty of Behavioural & Social Sciences**

BSc	Psychology	5
-----	------------	---

**University College Groningen**

BA/BSc	Liberal Arts and Sciences	5
--------	---------------------------	---

**From:** 10 2 e  
**To:** 10 2 e  
**Cc:** 10 2 e  
**Subject:** overzicht onderwijsactiviteiten KSA  
**Date:** maandag 29 mei 2017 13:36:45  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.gif](#)  
[image003.gif](#)

---

Geachte 10 2 e ,

Naar aanleiding van uw inventarisatie hierbij een overzicht van de onderwijsactiviteiten in Saoedi-Arabië.

Ik ben uiteraard erg geïnteresseerd in het uiteindelijke overzicht, voor vragen kunt u mij gerust bellen.

*In 2009 is er een memorandum of cooperation getekend tussen KSA en NL waarin de mogelijkheden voor samenwerking zijn omschreven. Er is in 2013 (tot 2016) door het ministerie van OCW een onderwijsattaché geplaatst. In 2014 is er vanuit de Saoedische kant een culturele missie in Den Haag geopend.*

#### **Studenten**

- Afgelopen jaren studeerden veel Saoedische studenten studeren in Nederland met het King Abdullah Scholarship programme (sinds 2005). Onder andere aan Universiteit Twente en Wageningen + twee grotere groepen (30 tot 40 p.j.) geneeskunde in Maastricht en Groningen. Maastricht stopt met dit groepsprogramma (individuele studenten kunnen nog steeds meedoen met de selectie).
- Op dit moment studeren ongeveer 300 Saoedische studenten in Nederland.
- Het King Abdullah programme wordt onder de nieuwe koning (in iets bescheidener vorm) voortgezet als het King Salman Scholarship programme.
- Er is een groep Nederlandse studenten die in Saoedi-Arabië studeert aan de religieuze universiteiten in Medina en Mekka. De precieze omvang van deze groep kennen we niet (40?).
- In overige studierichtingen is het aantal Nederlandse studenten nihil. Er was een initiatief voor een uitwisseling van geneeskunde studenten, vanwege visaproblemen is dit beperkt gebleven tot 4 studenten. Hier zou uitbreiding gewenst zijn.
- Jaarlijks is er in Riyadh een grote onderwijsbeurs, IECHE.

Alle Nederlandse universiteiten die door het Saoedische ministerie van onderwijs (MoHe) zijn geaccrediteerd worden hiervoor uitgenodigd. Afgelopen jaar hebben Groningen, Twente en Maastricht deze uitnodiging geaccepteerd. In het verleden o.a. ook Leiden en Wageningen.

Wij zouden graag zien dat meer universiteiten de uitnodiging aannemen. Echter sommige Universiteiten geven aan dat het voor hen niet zinvol is – Wageningen en Delft zijn onder hun doelgroep voldoende bekend – Er komen wel veel studenten langs die graag met Wageningen, Delft en Rotterdam zouden spreken.

In de IECHE komen ook heel veel scholieren die in KSA wonen, maar niet de Saoedische nationaliteit hebben (Egypte, Jemen, Sudan etc). Zij komen niet in aanmerking voor de King Abdullah/Salman beurzen en zijn geïnteresseerd in Nederlandse universiteiten vanwege: de cultuur en de prijs/kwaliteitsverhouding. Wanneer zij aan een Nederlandse universiteit gaan studeren dan zijn zij niet meer 'herkenbaar' als Saoedi- of in Saoedi geworven.

#### **Docenten**

- Op diverse universiteiten wordt lesgegeven door Nederlanders: Een aantal Nederlandse vrouwen doceert psychologie aan de Prinses Noura Universiteit en combineert dit met

een promotieonderzoek.

- Samenwerkingen tussen faculteiten o.a. Groningen en Wageningen met King Saud universiteit, Delft –KACST, Erasmus King Abdullah University of Science and Technology. KIT met Jazan University, etc etc. Daarnaast ook korte programma's door Nederlandse professoren o.a. via het Utrechtse UMCexpert
- Universiteit Maastricht werkt samen en een aantal universiteiten in de ontwikkeling van curricula en in het werken met parallelle curricula.

### HBO onderwijs

- Het ministerie van Onderwijs wil meer samenwerking op het gebied van onderwijs. Onder andere is er interesse in onderwijsvernieuwing en wordt er gekeken naar mogelijkheden om onderwijzers bij te scholen.
- De Hanze hogeschool en Hogeschool Zuyd hebben enkele Saoedische studenten
- Afgelopen jaren is de onderwijsorganisatie CINOP in Saoedi-Arabie actief geweest, dit samenwerkingsverband is beëindigd.

### Te ontwikkelen

- Komende zomer willen we vanuit Riyadh een aantal Nederlandse Universiteiten bezoeken om samenwerkingsverbanden te bespreken
- Alsmede een bezoek aan Nuffic en de VSNU
- In KSA willen we een alumninetwerk initiëren voor Saoedi die in Nederland studeerden

### Promotie

Een gezamenlijke promotieaanpak is te overwegen:

- StudyinHolland is een uitstekende site – maar een link naar arabisch is te overwegen
- The Netherlandsandyou bied geen link naar onderwijs  
Opgemerkt moet worden dat socialmedia heel veel gebruikt wordt in KSA, maar dat itt NL mensen websites niet als betrouwbare informatiebron gebruiken, ze willen iemand spreken.
- Een praktische suggestie is de ontwikkeling van een eenvoudige brochure die in Engels en Arabisch het volgende samenvat: Engelstalig Onderwijs + Rankings + Prijs + Visa informatie.
- Kijken naar de mogelijkheden om Nederlandse universiteiten te promoten op Internationale scholen in KSA

10 2 e

Advisor on Educational Affairs

10 2 e

Present at Embassy: Monday & Wednesday

The Embassy is closed on Friday & Saturday



#### Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Diplomatic Quarter | P.O. Box 94307

Riyadh 11693 | Saudi Arabia

T: 10 2 e

M: 10 2 e

E: 10 2 e

[www.netherlandsandyou.nl](http://www.netherlandsandyou.nl) (EN)

[www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl](http://www.nederlandwereldwijd.nl) (NL)

