

Baghdad once reigned as the intellectual center of the world. Today, efforts are underway to preserve the academic resources vital to Iraq's future.

In response to critical need, the Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) of the Institute of International Education (IIE) made a commitment in 2007 to protect Iraqi scholars who face imminent threats to their lives and careers. With funding from both the public and private sectors, SRF launched the **Iraq Scholar Rescue Project**, which has since provided assistance to over 240 established Iraqi academics.

With SRF fellowship support, Iraqi scholars have resumed their teaching and research activities through temporary positions at more than 150 universities, colleges and other institutions of higher learning, primarily in the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. Scholars have undertaken groundbreaking research, contributed to international academic conferences, filed patents, taught thousands of students, and published in some of the world's leading academic journals during their SRF fellowships. These scholars have also contributed to the growth of their host universities by training staff and students, and by establishing new departments and laboratories.

Through its support of Iraqi scholars, the SRF Iraq Scholar Rescue Project contributes to the preservation of Iraq's intellectual capital and helps to ensure that, when conditions permit, these scholars are able to return home and rebuild their once flourishing academic communities.

How the Iraq Scholar Rescue Project Works

- ❖ Established researchers and professors in any field or discipline may apply. Preference is given to senior scholars holding a Ph.D. or terminal degree in their field.
- ❖ Applications made by candidates who meet the program's eligibility criteria are submitted to the Scholar Rescue Fund's Selection Committee, which considers the candidate's academic qualifications, the quality and potential of the candidate's scholarly work, and the urgency of threats facing the candidate.
- ❖ Scholars selected for the fellowship receive funding from the Iraq Scholar Rescue Project to cover relocation costs from Iraq to the host institution as well as a living stipend and health insurance for a one-year period. Fellowships may be renewed for a second and final year; renewals are determined by academic work carried out during the first year and by whether or not circumstances continue to prevent a safe return home.
- ❖ Scholars are expected to teach, research, or publish at host academic institutions. While pursuing their academic work, scholars are also expected to continue educating Iraqi students within and outside of Iraq, insofar as this is possible.

Additional Fellowship Benefits and Repatriation Activities

In addition to fellowship grants, SRF provides supplemental funding to Iraqi scholars for participating in academic conferences in Iraq, in scholars' host countries, and internationally. SRF fellowship holders also receive funding for English language and professional skills training, distance education projects, and publishing costs.

Returning scholars have either resumed their previous academic positions or taken new posts in Iraq. The majority of program alumni who have returned teach at the universities from which they were compelled to flee in the years of heightened insecurity since 2003.

For more information:

Visit www.scholarrescuefund.org/iraq or contact our office at (202) 326-7703 or SRFIraq@iie.org