Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research Tikrit University College of Veterinary Medicine



Official Guide for International Students Enrolling in the

College of Veterinary Medicine

- Tikrit University

Second Edition / 2025

	Table contents Introduction	7	
	Chapter One: Why Study at the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University?	3	
	1. University Location	3 🕏	
	- 2. What Advantages Does the International Student Receive?	3	
	3. Benefits of Studying in Iraq for International Students	3	
	4. What Is Daily Life Like for an International Student?	3 8	A
	- 5. Unique Features of Veterinary Medicine)	
	Chapter Two: Study Channels and Admission Requirements) <u> </u>	
A A	Section One: Study Channels) 🤄	À
	- 1. Fully-Funded Scholarships	•	1
	2. Half Scholarships	€	All
) N	3. Self-Financed Study10) 🤣	L
	Section Two: Admission Requirements According to Study Channels	4	111
	Free Scholarship Channel:) 🗳	A
y R	First: Admission to Bachelor's Degree (Undergraduate Studies)		,
	1. Minimum Grade Requirement by Specialization 10	1	
	Second: Admission to Postgraduate Studies (Higher Diploma – Master – PhD)	-	
N.	1. Grade Requirement	1 👝	,
	1. Grade Requirement 1 2. Age Requirement 1	1	
	Half-Funded Scholarship Channel 1	1 🕏	A
B	First: Admission Requirements for Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor / Diploma)		
	1. Minimum Required High School Average by Specialization	1	MI
	2. Age Requirement	1 🐫	A
No.	Second: Postgraduate Admission Requirements (Higher Diploma – Master – PhD)	2 _	
	1. Grade Requirement	2	MI
))	2. Age Requirement		L
W.	- Self-Financed Study (Private Tuition)		//
	Third: Admission Regulations for Self-Financed Study	7-	MI
Y A	1. Admission to Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor / Diploma)		L
	A. Grade Requirement		111
	B. Age Requirement	\frac{1}{2}	A
N. S.	C. Freedom to Choose University and College		,
The same of the sa	2. Admission to Postgraduate Studies (Higher Diploma – Master – PhD)	`	
	A. No Grade Requirement	♂	A
N.	B. No Age Requirement		1
	D. 130 /150 Requirement	, &	MIII
		Ś	KIII

A.		T.	
	Section Three: Admission Principles and Procedures	.13	S
A C	First: General Principles of Admission		Ø.
	1. The Student Must Be Fully Non-Iraqi	. 13	
	2. Must Not Hold Iraqi Nationality	.13	SI
<i>y</i>	-3. Students Cannot Apply for Iraqi Citizenship During Study	.13	Ø 1
	4. High School Certificate Must Be Issued Outside Iraq	.13	
	5. Students Cannot Have Previously Studied Under an Iraqi Government Scholarship	.13	R
V K	- 6. Work Is Not Allowed During Study	.14	E
	7. Students Cannot Study Two Programs Simultaneously		
	8. Bachelor Studies Are Morning Only		A
V NY	9. Scholarship Students Cannot Reduce Tuition Fees	. 14	\$
	10. Students Not Selected for Scholarships May Switch to Self-Financed Study	. 14	Sell sells
	11. Scholarships Cannot Be Extended for Higher Degrees	. 15	R
	Second: Application Steps	. 15	2
All s	Step 1: Create an Account on the "Study in Iraq" Platform	. 15	All
A	Step 2: Choose the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University		EN.
	Step 3: Upload Required Documents		
	Required Documents:	. 16	SA
A A	1. High School Certificate (or Bachelor/Master Degree for postgraduate applicants)	. 16	Ø,
	2. Passport	. 16	
	3. Personal Photo	. 16	All
y K	4. Birth Certificate or Family Card (if available)	. 16	67
	5. Medical Examination	. 16	
	6. Curriculum Vitae (CV)	.16	SI
V A	-7. Written Declaration	. 16	S //
	8. Registration Procedures After Arrival	. 17	
	Step 4: Obtaining the Preliminary Acceptance Letter	.17	R
N NA	- Chapter Three: Arrival in Iraq – Study Visa and Residency	. 17	5
All s	First: Obtaining the Study Visa	. 17	FILL
A T	1. Where to Apply for the Visa?	. 17	R
	A) Through the Iraqi Embassy in Your Country	. 17	2
	B) Upon Arrival in Iraq (Baghdad International Airport or Border Entry Points)	. 17	EX
A C	Second: Steps to Obtain the Study Residency in Iraq	.18	&
W.	Step 1: Visit the Registration Unit at the College of Veterinary Medicine	.18	
M	Step 2: College Issues Official Verification Letter	. 18	All
Z Z	Step 3: Visit the Residency Directorate in Salahuddin Province		//
Alba Maria			PAIN

&

R

4		_	. •
All .	Third: Renewing the Study Residency	18	Ell.
<i>y</i>	Fourth: Important Notes and Facilities for International Students	18	SY A
	1. Contacting the University Before Travel	18	
A	2. Some Students Receive the Visa in Advance	19	P
y R	- 3. Family Accompaniment	19	S X
The same of the sa	4. Role of the University	19	
A STATE OF THE STA	Chapter Four: Cancellation of Admission, Deferral, Failure, Transfer, and Financial Regulations for Each Study Channel	19	
	Section One	19	PA
N NA	1. Cancellation of Admission	19	T. S.
	2. Deferral of Study		FALL STATE OF THE
A	3. Failure	20	R
	4. Transfer		
All I	Section Two: Financial Regulations for Each Study Channel	21	Selling
	First: Fully-Funded Scholarships	21	es -
No.	- Second: Half-Funded Scholarships		
All I	A. Undergraduate Studies (Public Universities, Private Colleges, and Universities)		S. Comments
<i>y</i>	B. Postgraduate Studies (Public Universities Only)		<i>₹</i>
	- Third: Self-Financed (Private Tuition)		
A	A. Undergraduate Studies (Public Universities, Private Colleges, and Universities)		PA
y R	B. Postgraduate Studies (Public Universities Only)		S. M
	Very Important Notes	22	
	Chapter Five: Language of Instruction and Academic Systems in Iraqi Universities	22	SII.
N. W.	Section One: Language of Instruction		T /
All s	First: Language of Instruction in Iraqi Universities		FILL
A T	Section Two: Academic Systems Used in Iraqi Universities for Undergraduate and	22	EN .
	- Postgraduate Studies, and the Academic Calendar	23	
All s	First: Study Systems for Undergraduate Programs	23	SALL
A .	1. Annual System	23	S.
	2. Semester System	23	
All I	3. Course-Based System (Credit Hour / Modular System)	24	SILL
<i>></i>	4. Integrated System	24	es a
	5. Bologna System	24	
All a	Second: Postgraduate Study System (Higher Diploma – Master – PhD)	25	A
Z)	General Principle:	25	Ø.
W.	• Coursework (taught subjects)	25	The second second
	Duration of Study:	25	All
STATE OF THE PARTY		S S	STATE OF THE PARTY

S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S		Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell	Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell
E CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY O	Third: The Academic Calendar	25	E STATE OF THE STA
SV .	- 1. First Semester	25	Ø.
	2. Examinations	26	
S	3. Spring Break		S. Committee of the com
SV SV	- 4. Second Semester		S.
No.	5. Summer Training		
A	Chapter Six: Certificate Requirements for Admission to Study in Iraq		
SV A	- Section One: Certificate Requirements for Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor's)		Ø A
	Section Two: Certificate Requirements for Postgraduate Studies (Higher Diploma Mas PhD)	27	
SIII.	PhD)	27	STILL STATE OF THE
S.	2. Age Requirement	27	Ø.
	3. Required Years and Type of Study		
P	4. Maximum Allowed Deficiency in Academic Background		ST.
SV A	5. Handling Deficiency When Applying for a PhD		Sy A
	- 6. What Subjects Are Used to Assess Deficiency?		
Sall In	7. Additional Requirements for Students with Academic Deficiency		67
Ø C	8. Re-Examination		•
	9. Informing the Applicant of the Decision	28	
SIL	Chapter Seven: Studying at the College of Veterinary Medicine – Study System and Cou	rses	Sally .
PA .	-	29	R
7	1. Study Duration		7
SALL STATES	2. What Will You Study Each Year?		
S. C.	• First Year		
	Second Year		
SALL	Third Year	30	SIL
S.	• Fourth Year	30	S.
7	- 🔸 Fifth Year	31	7
EXIL STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE	Chapter Eight: Biosafety — For International Students	31	SILVE
PA	1. What Should You Have?	31	PA .
	- 2. What Is Prohibited?	31	2
Reserved to the second	3. Required Vaccinations	31	SILVE
R	Chapter Nine: Services Provided to International Students	32	EM.
The state of the s	- 1. Housing	32	2
FILE	2. Health Services	32	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S
R	3. Activities	32	RII.
S		€X	S
KIN .		- FILE	- FILE

Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell Sell		A PARTIES
E STATE OF THE STA	4. Library	32
Ø.	Chapter Ten: Rights and Responsibilities of International Students	32
	Rights of the International Student	
S.	Responsibilities of the International Student	33
SIII.	- Chapter Eleven: Graduation and Certificate Equivalency	33
	1. Upon Completion of Study	33
8	2. Certificate Authentication	33
S R	- 3. Recognition	33
	Conclusion	34
PA .		S. T.
3		
FALL STATE OF THE		
PA .		R
7	_	
Sally .		
R		E Common of the
SALL		
S.		
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Introduction

In line with the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research's vision to internationalize higher education and open Iraqi universities to students from all over the world, the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University presents this comprehensive guide for international students applying to study at the college.

This guide serves as an essential reference for foreign students wishing to join the College of Veterinary Medicine. It provides a clear and complete overview of the academic environment, admission requirements, application procedures, study systems, and available services inside and outside the university. It has been carefully prepared to support international students throughout all academic stages—from the moment of application from abroad, through visa and residency procedures, and up to integration into university life and academic progress until graduation.

The guide clarifies the admission mechanisms for undergraduate and postgraduate studies based on the official "Study in Iraq" platform, adapted to the specific requirements of the college. It includes visa and residency instructions, academic systems applied in Iraqi universities, student rights and responsibilities, and details of academic pathways and student services. Practical guidelines are also provided to help international students understand university regulations and administrative procedures confidently.

As part of its mission to enhance international cooperation and attract students from a wide range of countries, the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University strives to ensure a supportive educational environment that meets international standards and provides a successful academic experience, both scientifically and practically.

We hope this guide will assist international students at every stage of their academic journey—from the moment of application to the day of graduation—and wish all our students continued success.

Chapter One: Why Study at the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit **University?** 1. University Location The university is located in the city of Tikrit, Salahuddin Province, Iraq, north of the capital Baghdad. The city is safe, calm, and well-suited for academic study. The university is large, well-organized, and includes up to 25 colleges covering various scientific and numanices operation. 2. What Advantages Does the International Student Receive? Practical training at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Modern, well-equipped laboratories. A learning environment focused on practical application rather than memorization. • Opportunities to participate in scientific research. • University housing located near campus. Affordable tuition fees compared to neighboring countries. 3. Benefits of Studying in Iraq for International Students Internationally recognized degree. Serious and continuously developing academic environment. • Modern laboratory facilities. • A fully functioning veterinary hospital for hands-on training. • Field training and farm visits. • Reasonable tuition fees. 4. What Is Daily Life Like for an International Student? • Classes generally run from 8:00 AM until around 2:00 PM. Your day includes: lectures – laboratory sessions – practical training – activities.

• During holidays, you may visit Baghdad, Mosul, or Samarra. The university provides cafeterias, libraries, gardens, and transportation services. 5. Unique Features of Veterinary Medicine • Highly practical and application-based study. Direct interaction with animals. • Development of surgical and diagnostic skills. • Participation in scientific research. Chapter Two: Study Channels and Admission Requirements Section One: Study Channels 1. Fully-Funded Scholarships This is a full scholarship offered by the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education to outstanding international students. It includes full coverage of: • Full tuition fees. • University housing. • Medical health insurance. • Entry visa to Iraq. • Annual study residency permit. This scholarship completely exempts the student from any financial costs throughout the study period. 2. Half Scholarships This scholarship covers 50% of tuition fees, where: The student pays only half of the tuition fees, in Iraqi dinars or US dollars. The Ministry covers half of the housing, health insurance, visa, and residency costs. The remaining amount is paid at the beginning of each academic year. This scholarship significantly reduces the financial burden while maintaining ministerial support.

3. Self-Financed Study

This is the standard route for international students who do not receive a scholarship, and includes:

- Full annual payment of tuition fees.
- Full payment of university housing.
- Health insurance costs.
- Visa and residency expenses.

This channel is the most common among international students and is open to everyone without competitive requirements.

Section Two: Admission Requirements According to Study Channels

Free Scholarship Channel:

First: Admission to Bachelor's Degree (Undergraduate Studies)

1. Minimum Grade Requirement by Specialization

The applicant must meet the required high school average for the specialization they wish to study, as follows:

-	Specialization	Minimum Required Average
	Dentistry – Pharmacy	90%
	Veterinary Medicine - Engineering - Nursing	85%
-	Sciences – Humanities – Other Specializations	65%
-	Law Political Science	60%

Notes:

- If you wish to study Veterinary Medicine, your high school average must be at least 85%.
- For medical specializations (Dentistry Pharmacy Veterinary Medicine Nursing): your age must not exceed 25 years.
- For scientific and humanities majors: your age must not exceed 30 years.

Second: Admission to Postgraduate Studies (Higher Diploma – Master **– PhD**) Your final grade in your previous degree must be: 1. Grade Requirement • At least 65% for Higher Diploma or Master's degree. • At least 70% for a PhD. 2. Age Requirement • For Master's: age must not exceed 45 years. Half-Funded Scholarship Channel • For PhD: age must not exceed **50 years**. First: Admission Requirements for Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor / Diploma) These requirements apply to international students who wish to join undergraduate programs. 1. Minimum Required High School Average by Specialization Minimum Required Average **Specialization General Medicine (Human Medicine)** 80% **Dentistry – Pharmacy** 75% **Engineering – Nursing** 60% 2. Age Requirement **Sciences – Humanities** No minimum grade required For the medical group (Medicine – Dentistry – Pharmacy – Nursing – and possibly Veterinary Medicine): The student's age must not exceed 30 years. For other fields (Engineering – Sciences – Humanities): • The student's age must not exceed **35 years**.

Second: Postgraduate Admission Requirements (Higher Diploma -

Master - PhD)

1. Grade Requirement

The student's previous academic average must be:

- \geq 60% for Higher Diploma or Master's
 - \geq 65% for PhD

2. Age Requirement

• No age requirement—the applicant may join postgraduate studies regardless of age.

This is an important exception that benefits many international students.

Self-Financed Study (Private Tuition)

Third: Admission Regulations for Self-Financed Study

This is the most common channel for international students because it offers greater flexibility in choosing the university and college, and has simpler requirements.

1. Admission to Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor / Diploma)

A. Grade Requirement

The student must obtain a suitable high school average depending on the specialization, which is lower than the fully-funded scholarship requirements:

	Specialization	Minimum Required Average	
	General Medicine	75%	
_	Dentistry – Pharmacy	70%	
	Engineering – Nursing – Scientific	No minimum required	
	Specializations		ľ
	Humanities	No minimum required	

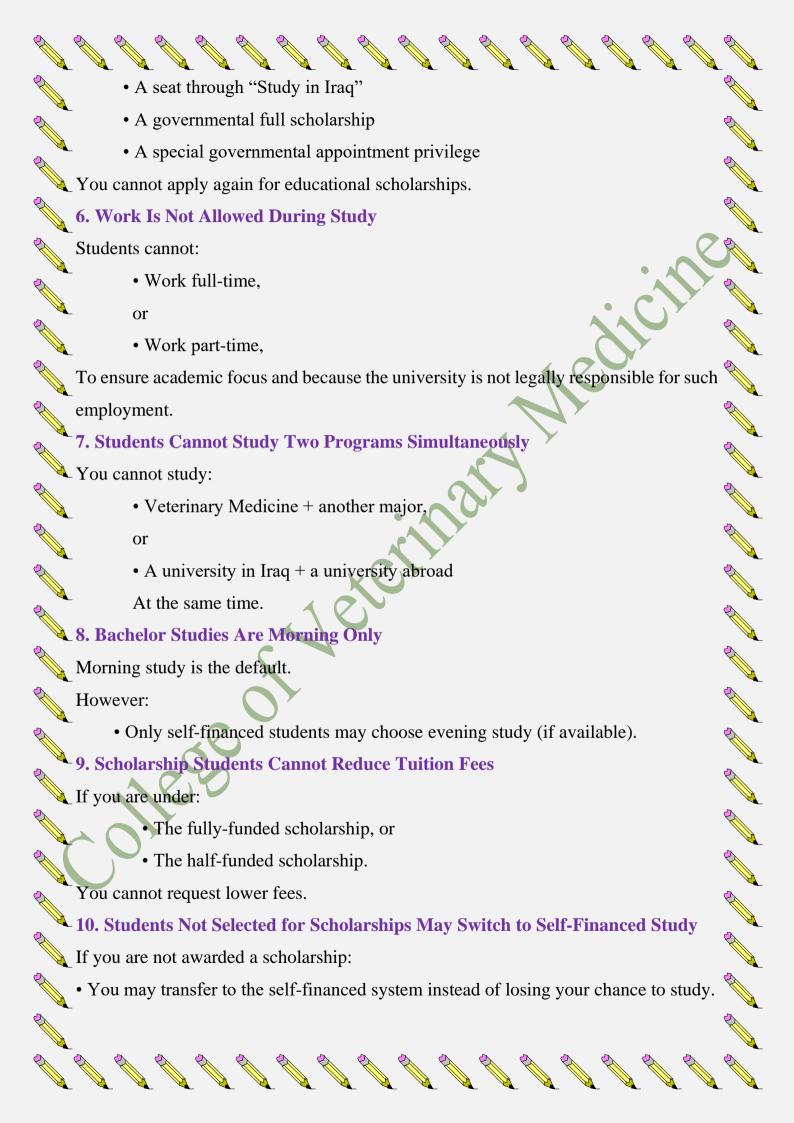
This means an international student can join Engineering, Scientific, or Humanities

majors without any specific grade requirement.

B. Age Requirement

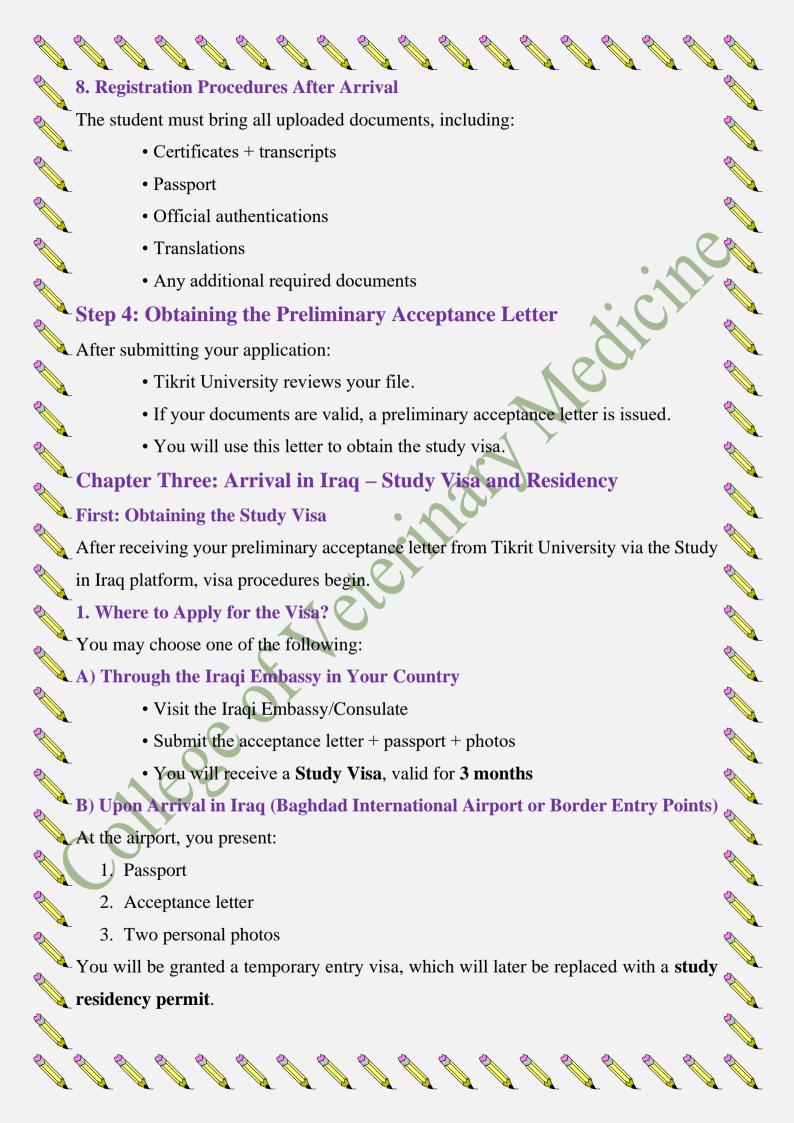
The student may apply through the self-financed channel **regardless of age**, unlike scholarships that impose age limits.











Second: Steps to Obtain the Study Residency in Iraq After entering Iraq and arriving in Tikrit: Step 1: Visit the Registration Unit at the College of Veterinary Medicine • Submit your passport and entry visa. • Your data will be verified and you will be officially registered. • The college issues an official letter to the Residency Directorate in Salahudum Frovince Step 2: College Issues Official Verification Letter a letter confirming • The college prepares a letter confirming you are an international student under the Study in Iraq program. • A staff member from the Registration or Relations Unit usually accompanies Step 3: Visit the Residency Directorate in Salahuddin Province you to help with the procedures • Submit the college letter + passport + photos. • You will be granted a **one-year study residency permit**. • It is renewable annually throughout your study period. Third: Renewing the Study Residency • Residency must be renewed **30 days before expiration**. • Late renewal results in fines from the Ministry of Interior. • The college assists with all renewal procedures. Fourth: Important Notes and Facilities for International Students 1. Contacting the University Before Travel Students should: • Inform the university of their arrival date. • Request a support letter if needed. • Contact the Iraqi Embassy (if available). This prevents delays at border checkpoints.

2. Some Students Receive the Visa in Advance Certain students may receive their entry visa electronically before travel to facilitate their journey. 3. Family Accompaniment International students may bring first-degree family members (spouse/children) if: • They applied through the scholarship program, or • They received final admission. Even if not mentioned previously in the application. 4. Role of the University Often: • A university staff member accompanies the student to the Residency Directorate. • The university helps with translation, form completion, and appointments. • Full administrative support is provided to the international student. Chapter Four: Cancellation of Admission, Deferral, Failure, Transfer, and Financial Regulations for Each Study Channel **Section One** 1. Cancellation of Admission 1. A student's admission may be cancelled by public universities or private universities and colleges if the student submits documents or information that are incorrect in issuance or content. 2. Admission may be cancelled if the student or their guardians fail to complete registration or join the university within the specified period, without a valid reason preventing enrollment. 3. Admission may be cancelled at any time if the student no longer meets any of the specific rules or conditions required for admission to the program. 4. Admission may be cancelled if the student chooses to withdraw from nomination and cancel their admission due to personal circumstances.

2. Deferral of Study

- 1. A student is permitted to defer the start of study if they are unable to join at the specified time for reasons beyond their control, provided that they submit reasons acceptable to the university.
- 2. The deferral is granted for a limited period, renewable, until the student can resume study, according to conditions and regulations determined by the University Council or the relevant council.
- 3. A student may defer the start of study (undergraduate or postgraduate) for **one** academic year only. If the conditions are not met, the admission may be cancelled.

3. Failure

- 1. For undergraduate studies, a student may not fail more than two academic **vears** during the prescribed duration of the program.
- 2. For postgraduate studies, the student's relationship with the university is terminated if they fail in more than half of the courses, or if their cumulative 4. Transfer average falls below 65% for Master's and 70% for PhD, after failing.

- A student is not allowed to transfer from one university to another after nomination and issuance of the admission order, except in cases where a genuine, documented reason exists that prevents the student from continuing their studies at the original university. In such cases, the following procedures are followed:
- The student submits a written request explaining the reasons, accompanied by all supporting documents.
 - An interview may be conducted with the student—if they have already started studying—to verify the reason for the transfer.
- The university then coordinates with the General Directorate of Scholarships and Cultural Relations to obtain approval from the relevant authorities in the student's home country and the institution to which they intend to transfer, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

• University and college councils are granted the authority to approve the transfer of international students between academic departments within the same college in which the student is admitted.

Section Two: Financial Regulations for Each Study Channel

First: Fully-Funded Scholarships

• Completely free of charge (no tuition or academic fees are paid by the student).

Second: Half-Funded Scholarships

These require paying **half of the tuition fees** that are normally specified under the selffinanced (private tuition) system, for all study levels, and according to the degrees
required for study in public and private universities and colleges. Fees are paid annually
in Iraqi dinars or the equivalent in US dollars, as shown in the table below:

A. Undergraduate Studies (Public Universities, Private Colleges, and Universities)

Specialization	Annual Fee (IQD)
General Medicine	2,750,000
Dentistry	2,250,000
Pharmacy	1,750,000
Engineering Group & Nursing	1,250,000
Other Scientific and Humanities Specializations	750,000

B. Postgraduate Studies (Public Universities Only)

Degree	Annual Tuition (IQD) – Scientific Specializations
Higher Diploma	1,250,000
Master's	1,500,000
PhD	2,000,000

Third: Self-Financed (Private Tuition)

In this channel, the full tuition fees specified under the self-financed system are paid at all study levels, according to the degrees required for study in public universities, private colleges, and universities. Fees are paid annually in Iraqi dinars, or the equivalent in US dollars, as shown below:

A. Undergraduate Studies (Public Universities, Private Colleges, and Universities)

		Specialization	Annual Fee (IQD)	
\$ A	G	eneral Medicine	5,500,000	
8		Dentistry	4,500,000	
Pharmacy		3,500,000		
	Engineering Group & Nursing		2,500,000	
	Other Scientific a	1,500,000		
B. Postgraduate Studies (Public Universities Only)				
	Degree Annual Tuition (IQD) – Scient			

Degree	Annual Tuition (IQD) – Scientific Specializations	
Higher Diploma	2,500,000	
Master's	3,000,000	
PhD	4,000,000	

Very Important Notes

- Tuition fees are paid either once per year or in two instalments, depending on each university's regulations.
 - Fee regulations are subject to change annually according to decisions issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.
 - Fees may differ slightly between public and private universities, depending on the nature of the specialization and the cost of study.

Chapter Five: Language of Instruction and Academic Systems in Iraqi

Universities

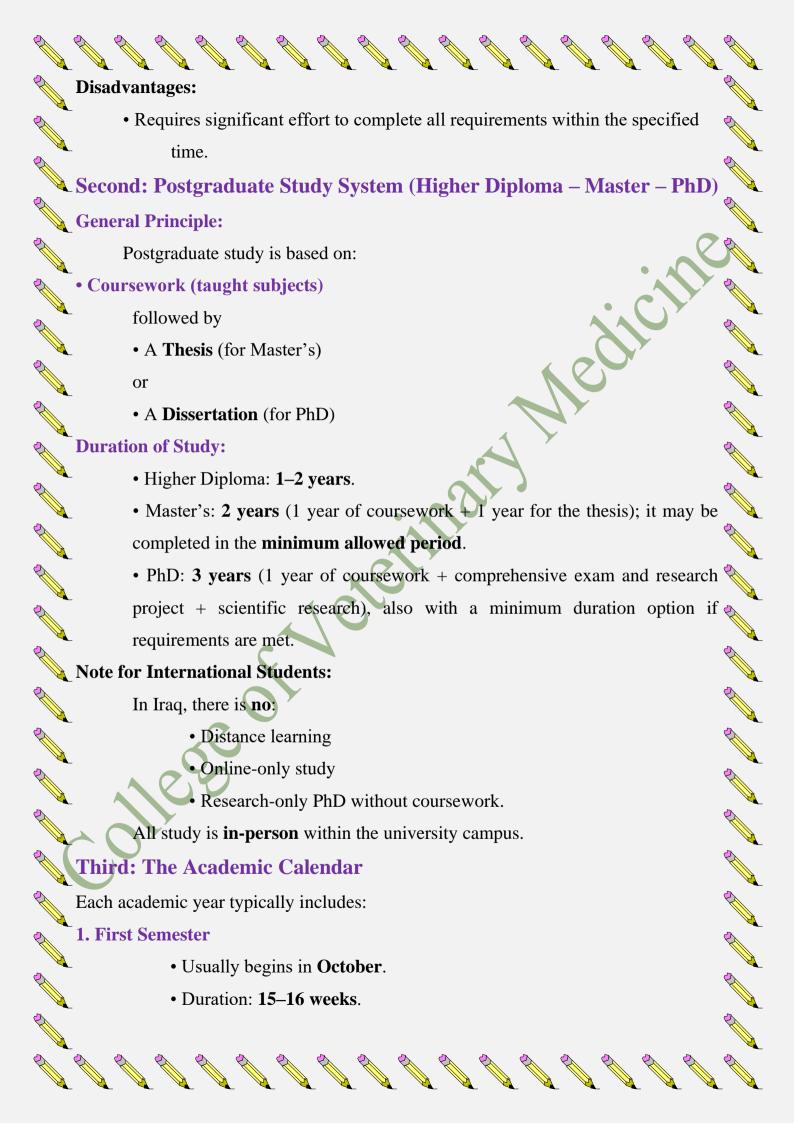
Section One: Language of Instruction

First: Language of Instruction in Iraqi Universities

- Most specializations use **Arabic** as the primary language of instruction.
- Medical specializations—including Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, **Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Nursing**—are taught primarily in **English**.
 - Some universities may use a bilingual system (Arabic + English) depending on the course.

Section Two: Academic Systems Used in Iraqi Universities for Undergraduate and Postgraduate Studies, and the Academic Calendar Iraqi universities use several different study systems, which may vary from one university to another or from one college to another. These systems help define the teaching method, exam style, and number of teaching weeks. First: Study Systems for Undergraduate Programs 1. Annual System • The academic year is divided into **two terms** (first and second). • The duration of each academic year ranges between 120–160 days. • Examinations are held at the end of each term, with a second-chance (reset) exam for failed subjects. Advantages: • Provides a long time for studying. • Suitable for students who prefer a steady pace over the whole year. Disadvantages: • Requires continuous follow-up and commitment. 2. Semester System • Final exams are comprehensive and cover large portions of the curriculum. • The academic year is divided into two semesters, each lasting about 15 weeks. • Exams are held at the end of each semester. • If a student fails a subject, they can retake it in the **following semester**. Advantages: • Allows students to re-sit failed modules quickly. • No need to wait a full academic year to repeat a course. Disadvantages: • Requires intense effort within a relatively short period. • Lecture load can be high.

3. Course-Based System (Credit Hour / Modular System) • Similar to systems used in many international universities. • Students choose the courses they wish to study according to their interests and academic plan. • Students graduate after completing a specified number of credit hours or units. **Advantages:** • High flexibility in course selection. • Helps students specialize in areas that match their interests. Disadvantages: · Requires continuous academic advising to ensure the student is on the right 4. Integrated System • Courses are integrated into **interrelated units** (for example: Anatomy + Physiology + Histology). • Emphasis is placed on **understanding** rather than memorization. Advantages: • Develops critical thinking. • Provides students with a comprehensive understanding of topics. **Disadvantages:** • Requires strong ability to link topics together. 5. Bologna System • May be challenging for some students at the beginning. • Applied in some Iraqi universities to align with European higher education standards. • The academic year consists of **two semesters**, each lasting **15 weeks**. • Students register for modules and may retake failed modules within the same academic year. Advantages: • Flexible and may shorten the total duration of study for successful students. • Encourages practical and applied activities.



2. Examinations • Held at the end of the semester. • Often scheduled in January. 3. Spring Break • Lasts from one to two weeks. 4. Second Semester • Usually starts in **February**. • Duration: 15–16 weeks. 5. Summer Training (For specific colleges such as the College of Veterinary Medicine) • Usually starts in June or July. • Duration: up to **two months**, depending on college regulations. Chapter Six: Certificate Requirements for Admission to Study in Iraq Section One: Certificate Requirements for Undergraduate Studies (Bachelor's)

Iraqi universities (public and private) base admission on:

- 1. Type of high school (secondary) certificate
- 2. Student's final average
- 3. Regulations and instructions issued by the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education

The table below shows the general eligibility of high school branches for admission to

Iraqi colleges:

No.	College / Group	Accepted High School Branches (or	
		Equivalent)	
1	General Medicine	Biology + Scientific	
2	Dentistry	Biology + Scientific	
3	Pharmacy	Biology + Scientific	
4	Nursing	Biology + Scientific + Nursing High School	7
5	Veterinary Medicine	Biology + Scientific	
	1 2 3 4	 1 General Medicine 2 Dentistry 3 Pharmacy 4 Nursing 	Equivalent) 1 General Medicine Biology + Scientific Dentistry Biology + Scientific 3 Pharmacy Biology + Scientific 4 Nursing Biology + Scientific + Nursing High School

•	1			┺_
4	6	Agriculture	Biology + Scientific + Applied + Agricultural	
•			High School	
•	7	Medical and Health	Biology + Scientific + Nursing High School	Ì,
_		Technologies		
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Section Two: Certificate Requirements for Postgraduate Studies

(Higher Diploma – Master – PhD)

General Postgraduate Admission Conditions:

1. Grade and Degree Requirements

- The applicant's Bachelor's or Master's average must meet the minimum requirement set by the academic department.
- Each university determines the minimum acceptable average annually.

• Eac.. 2. Age Requirement

- In most disciplines, the applicant's age for postgraduate studies must not exceed 40 years.
- Some applied specializations may allow applications up to 45 years.
- Exceptions may be granted according to Ministry decisions.

• Exceptions and Type of Study 3. Required Years and Type of Study applicants:

Must hold a Bachelor's degree in a suitable specialization with at least the required minimum average.

• For PhD applicants:

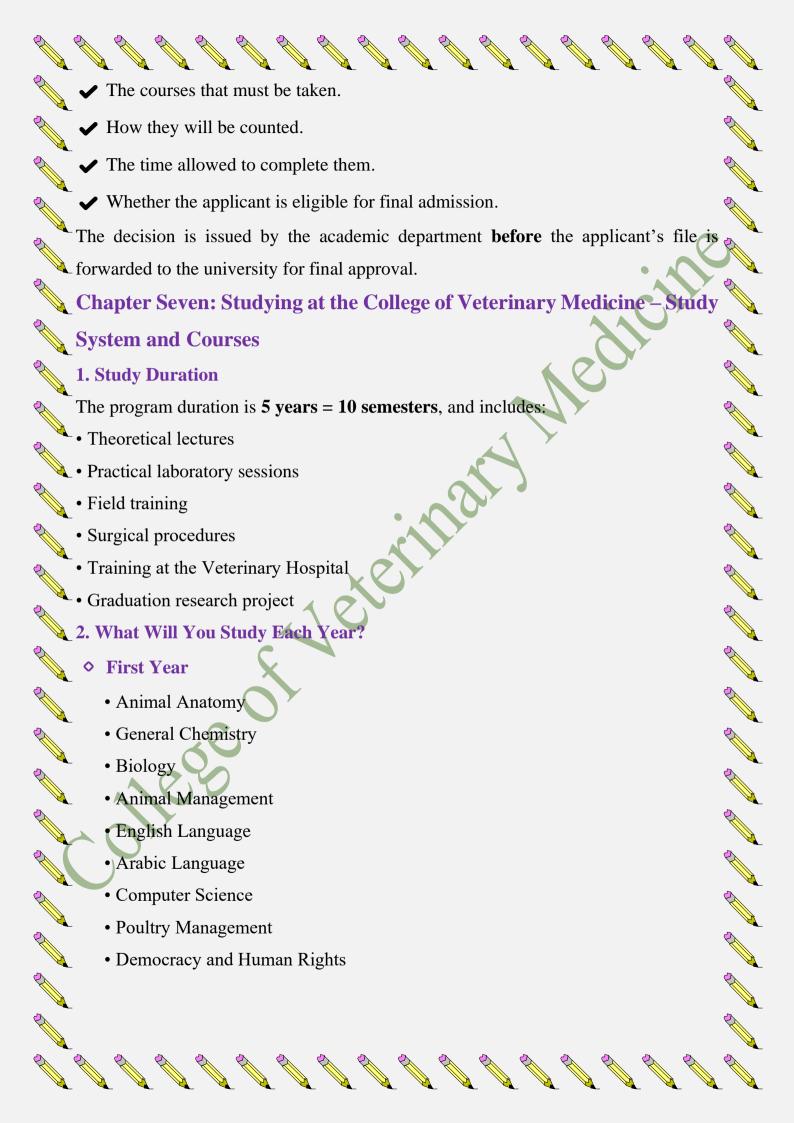
Must hold a Master's degree in the same or a very closely related specialization.

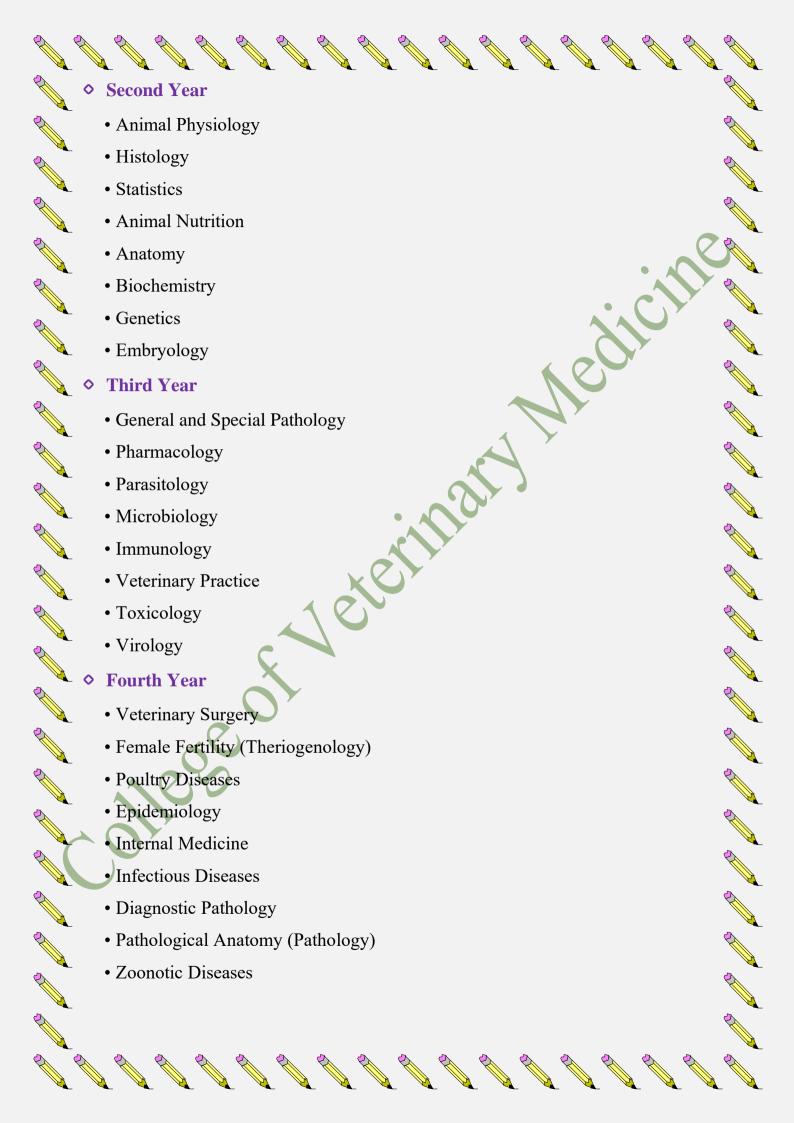
4. Maximum Allowed Deficiency in Academic Background

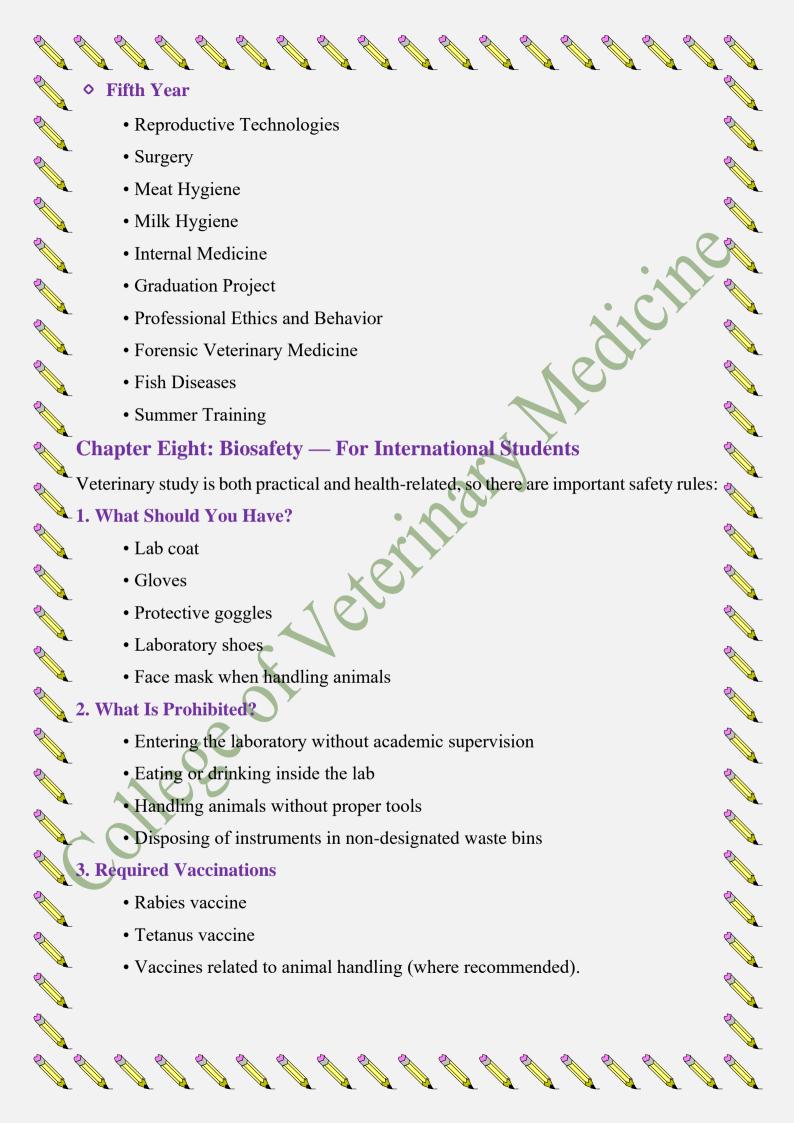
• The number of non-matching subjects in the applicant's academic background must **not exceed 40%** of the "preparatory year" subjects required in the target specialization. **Example:**

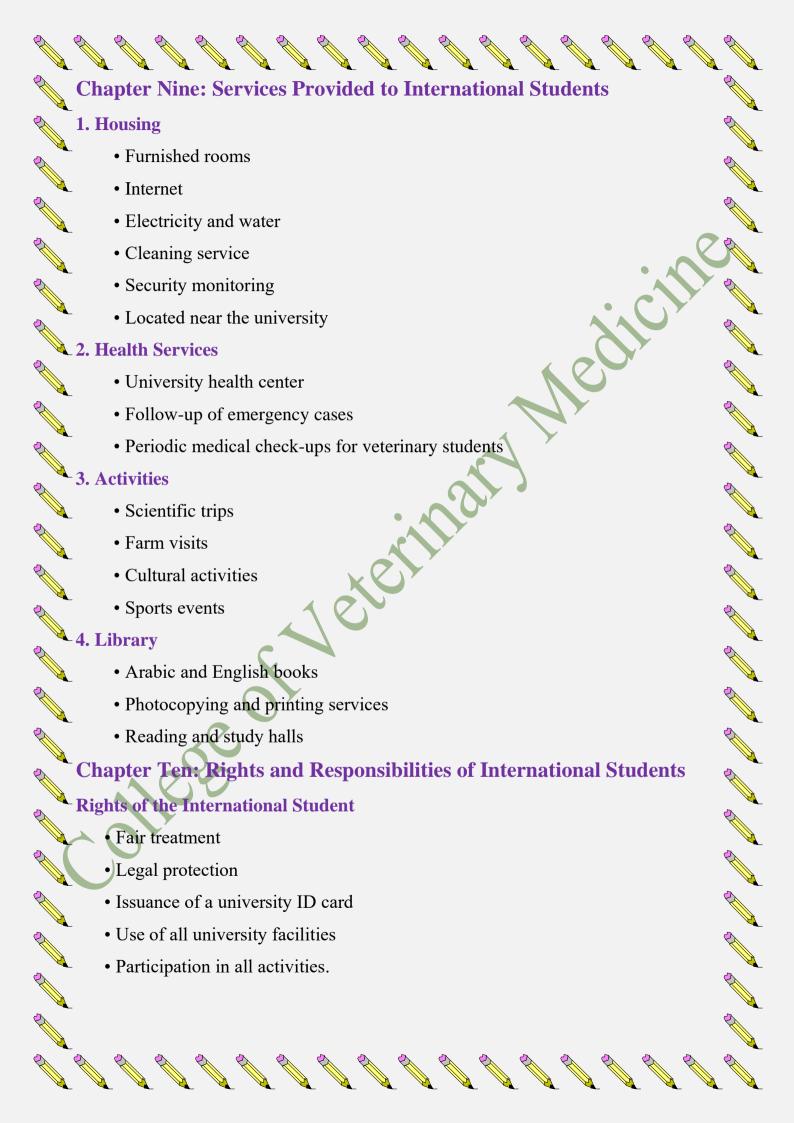
If the preparatory year includes 10 subjects, the allowable deficiency is up to 4subjects only.

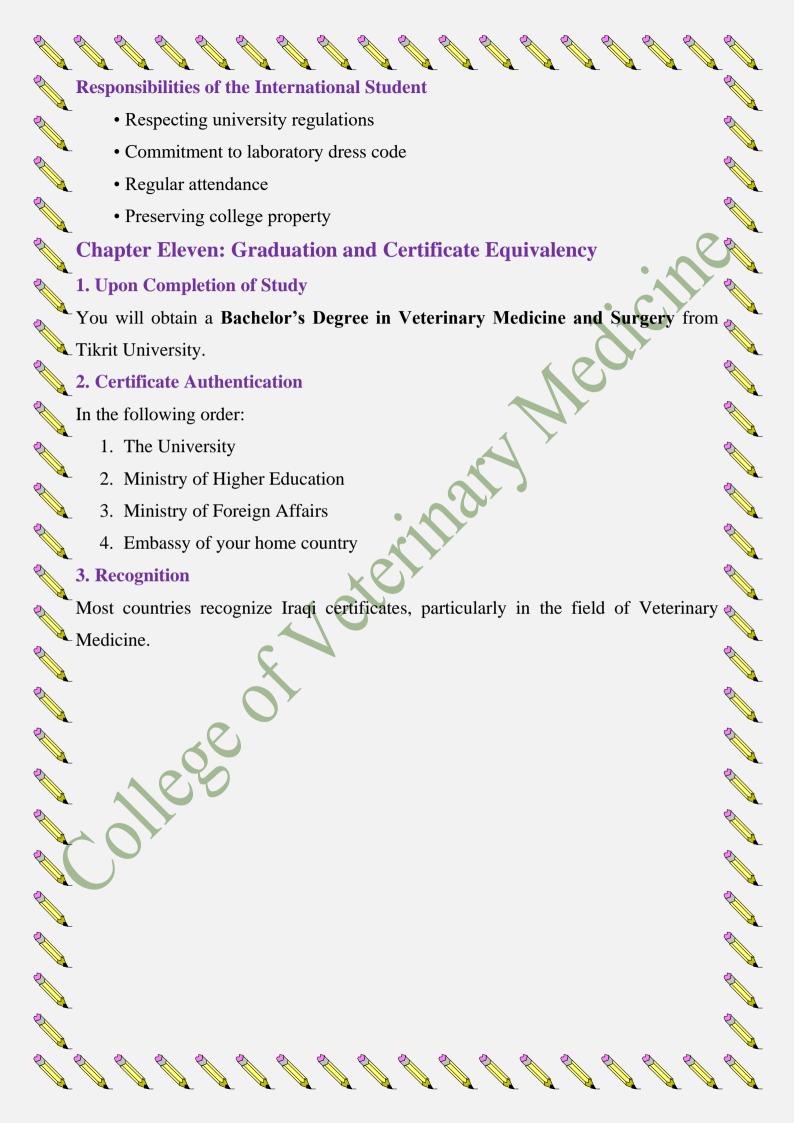
5. Handling Deficiency When Applying 101 and I a PhD applicant has a scientific deficiency that exceeds the permitted percentage: 5. Handling Deficiency When Applying for a PhD • They must first complete equivalent academic requirements at the Master's or Bachelor's level (as appropriate). • Only after completing these and meeting all requirements may they apply for the PhD. 6. What Subjects Are Used to Assess Deficiency? • Assessment is based on the core preparatory-year subjects for the specialization. • The university name is not considered. • The country or year of graduation does not affect equivalency. • Only **subject-matter matching** is considered. 7. Additional Requirements for Students with Academic Deficiency If a student has an academic deficit, they will be required to: • Complete the remedial (bridging) courses before or during their postgraduate studies. Pass these courses with at least the minimum required grade. • These courses count as **admission requirements**, but: Do **not** count toward the final postgraduate GPA. 8. Re-Examination Do **not** count as part of the required credit units. • The student is allowed to retake the remedial courses' exams **once only** (first and second attempt). • Failure in these courses means the student is considered **not meeting the** 9. Informing the Applicant of the Decision admission requirements. After the relevant committee reviews the student's file: • The applicant is officially informed of the decision. • The decision specifies:











Conclusion

This guide has been designed as a comprehensive reference for international students wishing to study at the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University. It brings together the most important systems, regulations, and procedures adopted in Iraqi universities—from application and admission steps, through visa and residency procedures, to study systems, examinations, registration requirements, rights and responsibilities, and academic pathways for both undergraduate and postgraduate studies.

The college has taken care to present this guide in a clear and simplified form, taking into account the specific needs of international students whose educational and cultural background may differ from the Iraqi system. Thus, this guide serves as a practical tool that helps students understand the university environment, integrate academically, and make use of the services available to them from admission until graduation.

Believing that the international student is a partner in the academic process and an important source of scientific and cultural diversity within the university, the College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University reaffirms its commitment to providing a safe, supportive environment that meets international academic standards, and to offering all forms of administrative, academic, health, and housing support to ensure a successful study experience.

In conclusion, we hope that this guide will be a clear and helpful resource for every international student who aspires to join the College of Veterinary Medicine, and that it will contribute to facilitating their academic journey in Iraq.

For more information or inquiries, students may contact the Registration Unit or the International Students Office at the college.

With our best wishes for success to all students.

College of Veterinary Medicine – Tikrit University