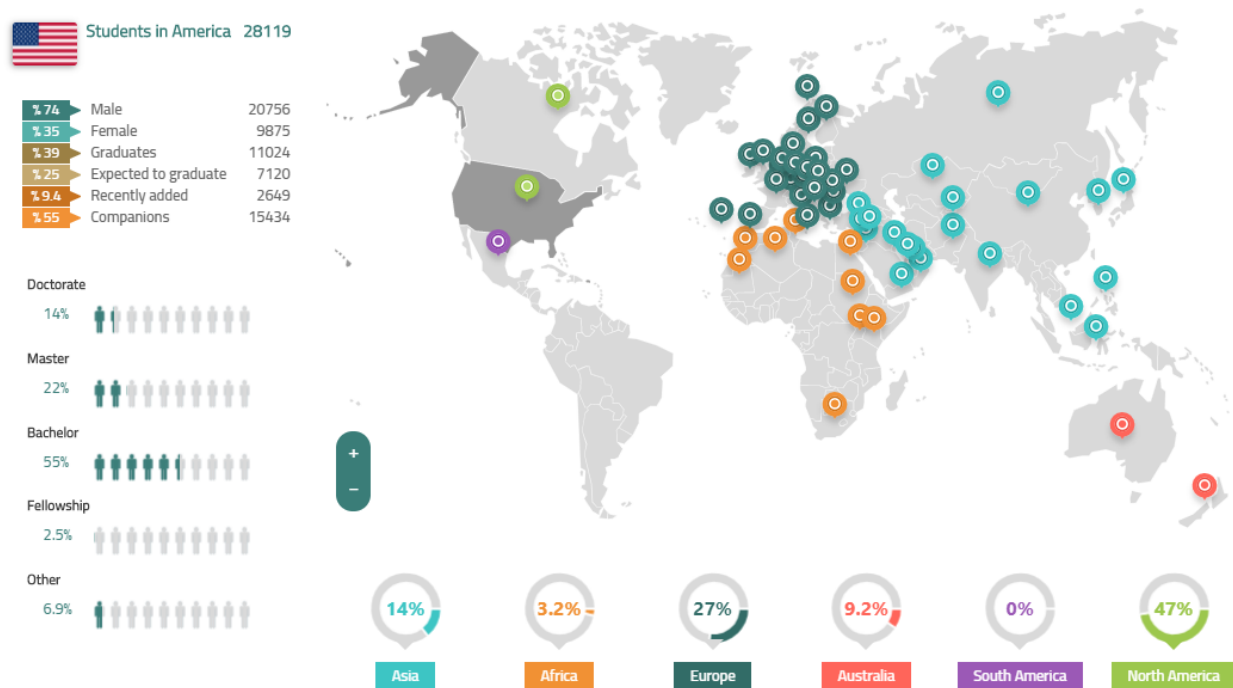


Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) Sponsorship Overview

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- **28,119 SACM sponsored students in the U.S. as of 10/2020. There are 150 SACM students at IUP – most are related – or families have more than 1 individual here at IUP.**

The Saudi Arabian Ministry of Higher Education has a **list of approved Degrees at IUP (see list at end of document)** that are recognized by their government. Students cannot easily change majors or fields of study once here. Not all degrees on the SACM approval list are paid for – the list shows degrees that are recognized in Saudi Arabia after a student returns to work at home. The Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission (SACM) is part of the embassy in D.C. that facilitates the funding and support for Saudi students while they are in the U.S.

SACM Sponsorship typically includes payment of all tuition, fees, health insurance and a monthly stipend for living costs. If family members travel with them – health insurance and a stipend is included to cover costs for their family. Scholarships are given in 1 year increments and details are listed on a Financial Guarantee. This guarantee goes to the IUP Bursar’s office for billing. Any failure to meet SACM guidelines – certain GPA, submitting transcripts, not enrolling in too many online classes (During COVID – the # of online classes is more flexible. Under normal circumstances – undergraduate students can take a maximum of 12 online credits per degree; and graduate students can take a maximum 6 online credits per degree). Not following these rules could impact the student NOT being able to get monthly stipends OR Not being sponsored anymore by SACM.

Students have their own portal account with SACM and this is how they typically submit documentation and communicate with SACM. All communication is in Arabic – so students

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cannot print an email or show you what they need in English. SACM has assigned academic advisors to work with all sponsored students – IUP works with 3-4 advisors who oversee all IUP SACM sponsorship.

TYPES OF SACM SCHOLARSHIPS

1) Annual Sponsorship from Saudi Arabian Ministry of Education: Students who get scholarship through the program before coming to USA. Students admitted to top 100 universities OR high demand fields for Saudi Economy.

- Students need a PDF or original admission letter to a program that is on the SACM Approved list. OIE scans and emails to student- email is not acceptable.
- I-20 immigration document (from OIE).
- Official Transcript shows current semester registration and GPA.
- **Graduate Students** need to get letters on letterhead explaining their study plan from their Graduate Coordinator (# of credits in program, estimated graduation date). If a SACM student asks you for a letter – ask for details and provide a PDF letter with details or information from the Graduate Catalog. SACM will NOT write to a coordinator -the Student has to provide documentation via a student portal to SACM.
- **UG Transfer students** need transfer evaluation and a letter from A-Dean that states: # of transfer credits, # of credits remaining, estimated graduation date, and if any classes will be hybrid or online. It can take some time for SACM to transfer the scholarship from one school to the next – often these students don't get a Financial Guarantee or approval for IUP Until one month or more into IUP's semester.

2) Dependents Sponsorship: Dependents can apply for scholarship while family member is studying. (Example – Husband is studying HSAD program, wife or child applies for UG or GR degree at the same time.).

3) Self-Sponsored Students seeking SACM Scholarship after 30 UG or 9 GR Credits: Students who get scholarship through applying for the *program after coming to USA. *Requirements apply. Need to finish 30 credits undergraduate programs /9 credits for graduate programs. Need documents listed under “Annual Sponsorship” above.

4) Saudi Arabian Faculty or Saudi Arabian Employee Seeking Sponsorship to Study: This is usually for graduate level studies. Must select a degree from SACM approved universities and degrees.

CONTINUING IUP STUDENTS NEED DOCUMENTATION TO UPLOAD TO SACM PORTAL:

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- **Need to provide proof they are enrolled each semester** and submit an official transcript upon completing each semester to their SACM Portal. Students should be able to request an e-transcript for this to upload to the SACM portal. Students with a hold can still have an e-transcript sent to SACM (have them contact OIE).
- **Students have to obtain a new Financial Guarantee every year** and submit it to the Bursar's Office for billing. If a financial hold is on an account – a student can still request an e-transcript to be released to their SACM advisor. We have a Step by Step handout.
- **Students who withdraw from a class typically have to pay for this themselves** – SACM does not pay for withdrawn classes or semesters. Some students with medical conditions can appeal SACM to see if they will make exceptions to pay.
- **Students should get PRE-APPROVAL** for taking online classes (available at www.iup.edu/intl/students/forms) A separate Financial Guarantee is issued for each online class taken. Failure to obtain approval prior to taking a class can sometimes mean the student will be responsible to pay for the class. UG students can only take a total of 12 online credits; GR students can only take a total of 6 online credits.
- **CHANGES TO MAJOR NAMES or PROGRAM CONTENT:** can significantly impact SACM students and sometimes cause a student to lose a scholarship. We try to let SACM know when names of majors change – but it is not always easy to do. Programs that use hybrid or online or weekend classes are typically not approved by SACM.
- **Scholarship Extension** – students typically are given 4 year or 2 year scholarships – if someone needs one or two more semesters to study they have to file more paperwork to get an extension of the scholarship approved. This can take some time – and it's not very quick. Students might need additional paperwork for this.
- **Completing a degree** – At the end of a degree students have to 'CLOSE THEIR FILE' with SACM – to make sure their bills are paid, their degree is recognized by the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education. Students typically have to submit a diploma and final transcripts which is why students are often insistent on getting diplomas quickly. They do not often realize how long it takes after graduation to obtain a diploma. Immigration regulations allow student to remain in the U.S. for up to 60 days after graduation if they are not continuing their studies at another level or institution. I believe the Registrar's office also receives some documentation to confirm the student did complete their degree, the # of credits and online classes. This is going to the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education and not SACM.

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- **Completing a second degree** - Students who complete an undergraduate degree who stay in the U.S. for a masters need to first provide proof they finished their degree (diploma, final transcripts and some additional paperwork) to CLOSE THEIR SACM FILE before they can get approval for their new degree. They then complete a new application with SACM to get approval for the new program. This can take several months – and is not always approved. Students sometimes end up paying for their own classes until they get SACM funding.

CHALLENGES:

- Many SACM bills are paid irregularly and Financial holds are put on student records preventing transcripts and registration. Students CAN have a Transcript sent to SACM only when there is a hold. Students can sometimes get holds lifted and can work with the Bursars-office@iup.edu for details. The Billing office at SACM is separate from the Academic Advisors and often can be confusing to deal with. The IUP Bursar’s Office works with the Billing Department at SACM – and the OIE gets involved with difficult cases where someone might not be able to register for classes, apply for graduation or is not sure what to provide to SACM.

COMMUNICATION TO STUDENTS AND SACM:

The Office of Int’l Education emails all SACM sponsored students every semester to remind them of how to request transcripts, how to find the Online Course approval form, how to get letters needed. Students often prefer face-to-face interactions to resolve their concerns. We also work closely with the Busrar’s office, A-Deans, Registrar’s office to help students obtain required paperwork.

The Office of International Education works with SACM’s Accreditation Department to update IUP Major name changes or to request approval for New Programs offered at IUP. We also work with SACM Academic Advisors when there are concerns or funding that is cut off or changed. The IUP Registrar’s and Bursar’s also handle a bulk of questions for these students. Please refer questions or concerns to our office and we can help facilitate. Intl-education@iup.edu.

SACM List of IUP Approved Degrees				
#	Major	BA	MA	PhD
1	Accounting	X		
2	Anthropology	X		

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3	Applied & Industrial Chemistry		X	
4	Applied Archaeology		X	
5	Applied Mathematics	X	X	
6	Applied Physics	X		
7	Art		X	
8	Art, History	X		
9	Art, Studio	X		
10	Art: Art Education	X		
11	Asian Studies	X		
12	Athletic Training	X		
13	Biochemistry	X		
14	Biology	X	X	
15	Biology: Cell and Molecular Biology	X		
16	Biology: Family Medicine	X		
17	Business Administration		X	
18	Business Administration, Finance		X	
19	Business Administration, International Business	X		
20	Business, Information Technology		X	
21	Business, Management - Energy Accounting and Finance	X		
22	Business, Management - Energy Management	X		
23	Business, Management - Entrepreneurship and Small Business	X		
24	Business, Management - General Management	X		
25	Business, Management - Professional Land and Resources Management	X		
26	Business, Management - Supply Chain Management	X		
27	Business: Management Information Systems	X		
28	Chemistry	X	X	
29	Child Development and Family Relations	X		
30	Clinical Mental Health Counseling		X	
31	Clinical Psychology			X
32	Communications Media	X		
33	Computer Information System	X		
34	Computer Science	X		
35	Criminology	X	X	X
36	Disability Services	X		
37	Earth Space Sciences	X		
38	Economics	X		
39	Education		X	
40	Education, Administration and Leadership			X
41	Education, Biological	X		
42	Education, Business Education	X		
43	Education, Chemistry	X		

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44	Education, Counseling		X	
45	Education, Curriculum and Instruction			X
46	Education, Deaf Education	X		
47	Education, Early Childhood	X	X	X
48	Education, Earth Space Science Teaching	X		
49	Education, Educational Psychology		X	
50	Education, Elementary Education	X	X	
51	Education, English	X		
52	Education, Exceptional Person	X	X	
53	Education, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Program	X		
54	Education, French Education, K 12	X		
55	Education, Health Physical Education	X	X	
56	Education, Mathematics Education			
57	Education, Physics Education	X		
58	Education, School Counseling		X	
59	Education, School Psychology			X
60	Education, Special Education		X	
61	Education, Speech Language Pathology	X		
62	Education, Student Affairs in Higher Education		X	
63	Education: Middle-Level Education 4-8- English/Language Arts	X		
64	Education: Middle-Level Education 4-8- Mathematics	X		
65	Education: Middle-Level Education 4-8- Social Studies	X		
66	Education: Social Science Education	X		
67	Education: Social Science Education- Sociology	X		
68	Education: Social Studies Education	X		
69	Education: Spanish Education K-12	X		
70	Education: Vocational-Technical Education	X		
71	Employment and Labor Relations		X	
72	English	X	X	X
73	English Composition & Literature		X	
74	English, Composition and Applied Linguistics			X
75	English, Literature and Criticism			X
76	English: Literature		X	
77	Environmental Engineering	X		
78	Environmental Health	X		
79	Family and Consumer Sciences	X		
80	Fashion Merchandising	X		
81	Finance	X		
82	Food and Nutrition		X	
83	Geography	X		
84	Geography: Economic Geographer	X		

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85	Geography: Energy Geotechnology/Energy Environmental Compliance	X		
86	Geography: General Geography	X		
87	Geography: GIS & Cartography	X		
88	Geology	X		
89	Geology: Geology, Environmental	X		
90	Health Services Administration	X	X	
91	History	X	X	
92	Hospitality Management	X		
93	Human Resource Management	X		
94	Human Resources Management	X		
95	Interior Design	X		
96	International Business	X		
97	Journalism	X		
98	Management	X		
99	Management Information Systems	X		
100	Management: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management	X		
101	Marketing	X		
102	Mathematics	X		
103	Medical Imaging: Nuclear Medicine Technology	X		
104	Natural Sciences	X		
105	Nursing	X	X	X
106	Nutrition/Dietetics	X		
107	Philosophy	X		
108	Physical Education & Sport: Sport Administration	X		
109	Physical Education and Sport	X		
110	Physics	X	X	
111	Political Science	X		
112	Political Science: International Studies	X		
113	Psychology	X		
114	Public Affairs		X	
115	Regional Planning	X		
116	Regional Planning: Environmental Planner	X		
117	Religious Studies	X		
118	Respiratory Care	X		
119	Safety Health & Environmental Applied Sciences	X		
120	Safety Sciences		X	X
121	School Psychology			X
122	Sociology	X	X	
123	Spanish	X		
124	Speech Language Pathology		X	
125	Speech Language Pathology and Audiology	X		

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126	Sport Science		X	
127	TESOL, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages		X	
128	Theatre	X		

- X Approved Major
- X Suspended