Dear Candidate,

Thanks for your interest in the English Language Investment and Training for Economic Success (ELITES) Program sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and implemented by World Learning. World Learning will select 100 exceptional participants joining the program from December 19, 2021, through July 2021.

Program Audience

The ELITES program is designed for Iraqi participants ages 18-25 currently seeking job openings in the private sector through opportunities to enhance their skills for employability.

Project Goal

The ELITES program aims to strengthen young Iraqis’ key employability and professional networking skills, ability to identify viable career options, and, ultimately, gain meaningful private sector jobs.

Program Logistics

- The program will run seven months from December 2021 through July 2022.
- Selected 100 participants will work in five groups of 20.
- The program will be conducted online.
- The program will be led by specialized instructors and experts in the United States and Iraq.
Program focus areas:

- Orientation/ Introduction Session
- Basic English language training
- Business English language training
- Computer skills training. Topics include Microsoft Office; an introduction to the Internet of Things (IOT); using WordPress to design personal websites, e-commerce websites, and forum websites.
- General management skills training. Topics include business administration, marketing, human resources, and finance, as well as important soft skills such as business communications, social skills, work planning, and problem-solving. The course will include practical exercises to improve participants’ awareness of private-sector opportunities and success in the job search process.
- Job Shadowing with Professional Mentorship. Participants will engage in a regional real-work simulation event to practice applying their integrated skills and receive real-time feedback on their performance.
- Job Fair—Participants will have a chance to network with private-sector employers

Eligibility Requirements:

- Iraqi youth between 18 and 25 years old at the time the program starts on December 19, 2021
- Actively seeking employment as a student currently enrolled in university or a recent high school or university graduate
- Have at least high beginner level of English language proficiency when applying
- Iraqi citizen residing in Iraq
- Availability to commit about 10 hours of work per week on the program requirements
To begin, we’d like to ask you fill out an application form by clicking on the APPLY button.

However, please keep in mind that part of the application will include for you to answer the following essay questions. Be sure to read the questions and prepare your answer prior to filling out the application. The application needs to be filled out in one sitting, so writing your answers in a separate sheet will allow you to easily copy and paste them to the online application form.

**Essay Questions**

1. Why are you interested in this program? (100 words minimum)
2. What are some areas of professional growth you would like to achieve? (150 words minimum)
3. What makes you a great candidate for this program? (150 words minimum)
4. Have you tried to look for a job in the past? When and how was this experience?
5. List any challenges you faced while looking for a job?

*Questions you have: (if applicable)*