In response to the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad’s commitment to youth economic development in Iraq, World Learning has developed the **English Language Investment and Training for Economic Success (ELITES)** program. World Learning ELITES is a virtual program designed for unemployed Iraqi youth ages 18-25 who are currently enrolled in university or are recent high school or university graduates seeking job opportunities in the private sector. ELITES brings together 100 Iraqi students for an innovative, one-year mentoring program focused on private sector employment training and entrepreneurship. The ELITES program aims to strengthen young Iraqis’ key employability and professional networking skills and develop their ability to identify viable career options so they can ultimately, gain meaningful private sector jobs.

**What Participants Gain from ELITES**

- English language Proficiency
- Business Communications Competence
- Private Sector Work Experience
- Leadership Skills
- Business Software Proficiency
- Management Skills
- Networking Opportunities

**We encourage you to apply if:**

- You are looking for an opportunity to develop marketable business skills for private sector employment opportunities in Iraq;
- You are interested in building connections with private sector employers in Iraq; and
- You are seeking to participate in an active network of young Iraqi professionals.

**PROGRAM DATES**

December 19, 2021–July 31, 2022

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

November 20, 2021

Learn more about ELITES here
email us: elites.program@worldlearning.org
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This program is open to participants who:

- Are Iraqi citizens and reside in Iraq;
- Will be between 18 and 25 years old at the time the program starts on December 19, 2020;
- Are actively seeking employment;
- Have at least high beginner level of English language proficiency when applying.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

Stage 1
(October 2021 - November 2021)
Outreach and recruitment, program orientation, and networking.

Stage 2
(December 2021 - July 2022)
Online course delivery, including a regional real-world work simulation event. Job shadowing and professional mentorship opportunities.

Stage 3
(August 2022)
Virtual job fair and final reflection presentations.

PROGRAM DETAILS

World Learning’s ELITES program features state-of-the-art online learning solutions, which will allow participants to access these unique training and mentoring opportunities during the pandemic.

World Learning has operated in Iraq for 13 years, implementing programs focused on youth leadership, intercultural communication, and entrepreneurial skills, empowering thousands of Iraqi youth to contribute to their communities in meaningful and constructive ways.