

CI RES Project : Establishment of Institutional Capacities for the Integration of Refugees in Higher Education

**Practical Guide - CI RES
Kasdi Merbah University, Ouargla**



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Preamble and Message from the Vice-Rector of External Relations

First of all, I would like to welcome you to the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah.

Our message is to say:

**Welcome to international students and refugees!
Algeria is a welcoming country.**

It is important to point out that the issue of refugee students is first of all an action of humanitarian will, it represents the symbol of solidarity and the union of communities, as well as the acceptance of the other for a living together.

Through this guide, I hope to present you a pleasant environment in which you will evolve throughout your university career. The University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah welcomes you and offers you a pleasant living environment that will allow you to blossom, whether it is pedagogical, scientific or societal, in order to better prepare you for the professional world and to be useful to yourself, to your family and to your country. Studying as a refugee is a difficult equation, but not impossible to solve, the key to success is perseverance and especially self-confidence.

I ask you today, to start your studies at the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah, with a lot of will and to pay attention to what is important. You, the students of today, who will have a considerable impact on our future.

In closing, I would like to give you three pieces of advice that you can follow to achieve your goals:

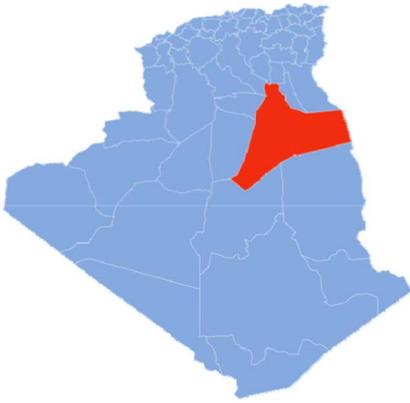
- LEARN : I cannot stress enough that learning is a lifelong process and that we should seek to increase our knowledge where and when the opportunity arises.
- VOLUNTEER : discover your environment and help those in need; you will not be disappointed with the results.
- INNOVATE : think, work and dream big, because the future of the world depends on how we develop new ideas and technologies.

To all of you, I wish the greatest success in your studies, now and in the years to come.

Mourad KORICHI
Vice-Rector for External Relations and Cooperation

Discover Ouargla

Ouargla, the Oasis Capital



Nestled 800 kilometers away from Algiers, Ouargla beckons travelers with its vast and diverse landscapes, alternating between lush oases and arid terrains. Visitors are left with an indelible imprint of the city's breathtaking and ineffable beauty, coupled with the warm religious hospitality extended by its inhabitants. In the realm of Ouargla, every gentle sand dune whispers of the nomadic and settled souls who are enamored with the boundless expanses of solitude



These men have learned the song of stones and storms. Since ancient times (around 250,000-200,000 BCE), the Erg Touareg, Gara-Krima, and Koum El Adamont have preserved the tools of a Lower Paleolithic industry (hand axes, modified pebbles, scrapers). In the Neolithic period (around 4,500-3,000 BCE), the surroundings of sebkhas occasionally reveal, when they are in a good mood, traces of burnt stones in the form of hearths.

A rich testament to an era whose echoes and voices shaped the imagination of communities that, much later, would build this great agglomeration, with its sovereign heart being the ksar (classified as a historical monument in 1996), at the crossroads of East-West and North-South journeys.

A visit to the city of Ouargla would be incomplete without exploring its remarkable and welcoming tourist destinations.

The city of Ouargla boasts significant archaeological remnants that bear witness to its millennial history. Notable sites include:

- The ksar (La Casbah)
- The sand dunes
- Souk El-Hajer
- The Saharan Museum
- Lake Hassi Ben Abdellah
- Oued Elnessa

Each of these attractions offers a unique glimpse into Ouargla's cultural heritage and invites visitors to immerse themselves in its rich historical tapestry.



The heart of the ksar (center of the Casbah)



Lake Hassi Ben Abdellah



The Saharan Museum



Oued Elnessa



**Shrimps will replace dates in Ouargla
- Hassi Ben Abdallah.**



The sand dunes

Presenting the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah

The Kasdi Merbah University of Ouargla traces its origins back to the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) established by Decree No. 65-88 on March 22, 1988. In 1997, under Decree No. 159-97 on March 10, 1997, the University Center of Ouargla was created, which now encompasses the National Institute of Higher Education in Saharan Agronomy (INAFSAS - Decree No. 337-97 on September 10, 1997) alongside the five founding institutes:

- Institute of Saharan Agronomy
- Institute of Exact Sciences
- Institute of Law and Political Science
- Institute of Letters and Languages
- Institute of Economic and Social Sciences.

The Kasdi Merbah University of Ouargla currently consists of 10 faculties and 2 institutes. Each of them comprises several departments in accordance with the applicable regulations, notably Executive Decree No. 13-100 of 2 Joumada El Oula 1434 corresponding to March 14, 2013, which amends and supplements Executive Decree No. 01-210 of 2 Joumada El Oula 1422 corresponding to July 23, 2001, establishing the University of Ouargla.

○ **The faculties are as follows:**

- Faculty of Mathematics and Material Sciences (FMSM)
- Faculty of New Information and Communication Technologies (FNTIC)
- Faculty of Applied Sciences (FSA)
- Faculty of Hydrocarbons, Renewable Energies, Earth, and Universe Sciences (FHERSTU)
- Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences (FSNV)
- Faculty of Medicine (FM)
- Faculty of Economic Sciences, Commercial Sciences, and Management Sciences (FSECSG)
- Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (FDSP)
- Faculty of Letters and Languages (FLL)
- Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FSHS)

○ **The institutes :**

- Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences (ISTAPS)
- Institute of Technology (IT)

The Kasdi Merbah University of Ouargla currently has a significant infrastructure spread across four (04) university campuses. Such distribution has the considerable advantage of enabling the rational utilization of existing infrastructure, even though it generates relatively high operating and maintenance costs.

It has now expanded into multiple campuses, where the infrastructure not only meets but exceeds the expectations of the university community. With a total of 23,816 educational seats, it provides ample capacity to accommodate its diverse stakeholders.

1. The faculties/institutes are distributed across different sites as follows:
2. CAMPUS 1 (10.261 Ha) houses the Faculty of Mathematics and Material Sciences, the Faculty of Medicine, the Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, the Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, the central library, the technological hall, and the Intensive Language Teaching Center. It is a former infrastructure of the Ministry of National Education and the former INES (National Institute of Hydraulic Studies), which were transferred in 1987 with a theoretical capacity of 4,000 seats.
3. CAMPUS 2 (12.50 Ha) is located in the new city of Ouargla. It houses the Faculty of Economic Sciences, Commercial Sciences, and Management Sciences, the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Faculty of Letters and Languages, the American corner, the career center, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 400.
4. CAMPUS 3 (18.80 Ha) is a technological hub that houses the Faculty of Applied Sciences, the Faculty of Hydrocarbons, Renewable Energies, Earth, and Universe Sciences, the Faculty of New Information and Communication Technologies, the Scientific Research Center, the Central University Restaurant, a Medical and Social Center, a media library, a regional physico-chemical center, an incubator, a career center, and several ongoing projects and facilities, including a central library and the university rectorate.
5. CAMPUS 4 (18.38 Ha) houses the University Rectorate and its services, the Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences, a 300-seat auditorium, and an agricultural facility (including 1440 date palm trees, a misting greenhouse, an aquaculture greenhouse, etc.). It is a former infrastructure of the Ministry of Agriculture that has been repurposed for the university.

Before arriving at the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah, there are a few important steps to be taken:

- Completion of admission procedures for scholarships offered by the Algerian government.
- Obtaining a study visa.

After the results of the scholarship admission are announced, selected students should approach their embassy to facilitate the process of obtaining an entry visa to Algeria.

The Directorate of Cooperation and University Exchanges of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) issues enrollment authorizations to students, specifying the host university and field of study. These authorizations serve as official documentation allowing students to enroll at their designated university.

How to get to Ouargla?

- By bus :

- The Algerian Bus Stations Operating Company (EPE SOGRAL spa) operates the bus station in Ouargla. You can find more information about their services on their website: <https://www.sogral.dz/index.php/fr/>
- Ouargla Bus Station (SOGRAL Ouargla Agency)
- Departure schedule: <https://www.sogral.dz/index.php/fr/espace-voyageur-2/planning-des-departs-2>
- Please note that the provided links are in French and you can find the relevant information about the bus station in Ouargla and the departure schedules on their website.



- By plane :

- The Algiers - Houari Boumediene Airport is an important air hub of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- The Ouargla - Ain Beida Airport is a significant air hub of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. It is located near the city of Ouargla, just 10 km away.
- The Hassi Messaoud - Krim Belkacem Airport is a significant air hub of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria. It is located near the city of Ouargla, approximately 80 km away.
- Algerian Airlines (international and domestic routes):
- Air Algérie: <https://airalgerie.dz/>
- Tassili Airlines: <https://www.tassiliairlines.dz/web/>
- Please note that the provided translations may vary depending on the context.



Once arrive at the University of Ouargla

Upon your arrival at the University of Ouargla, please make your way to the Office of International Students - Refugee Students Services, located at the Vice-Rectorate for External Relations and Cooperation.

Contact Information:

Vice Rectorate for External Relations
Phone: 00 213 29 71 19 02 ext. 157
Email: vr.relex@univ-ouargla.dz

For more information, you can visit the following website: <https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/rectorat/cooperation.html>

The Student Refugee Office and the team at the Vice-Rectorate for External Relations & Cooperation will facilitate your orientation. They will explain the administrative procedures to follow for your enrollment and provide advice for your daily life.

The refugee student will then be directed to the Vice-Rectorate for Pedagogy to proceed with their enrollment in the program mentioned in the registration authorization issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. This is done in exchange for the required registration documents.

- Original transcript of the Baccalaureate grades and/or original Baccalaureate diploma
- Birth certificate
- Two (02) recent passport-sized photos
- Copy of passport
- Receipt of payment for registration fees (200 DA)

Contact: Vice Rectorate for Pedagogy
Phone: 00 213 29 71 19 02 ext. 107
Email: vr.pedagogie@univ-ouargla.dz

You can find more information on their website:
<https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/rectorat/pedagogie.html>

Budget forecast

Food expenses (as a guideline):

- Food (for reference):
- Meal at the university restaurant: 1.20 DA
- Coffee: 25 - 35 DA
- Baguette: 15 DA
- Sandwich: 200 - 500 DA
- Pastry: 20 - 50 DA

Transportation (for reference)

- University transportation card: 135 DA/year
- Bus ticket (on-board, urban): 20 DA
- Tram ticket (on-board): 30 DA
- Monthly student subscription: 600 DA

Telephone & Internet:

- SIM Card and Internet Services: There are three mobile network operators offering high-speed internet access at very affordable prices.

Leisure activities

- Souk El Sebet amusement park
- Water park: 500 DA

Couverture Coverage

The Algerian regulations regarding social security allow refugee students to benefit from the **CHIFA card** services, similar to Algerian students.

What is the CHIFA Card?

The CHIFA Card is the health insurance card of the social security system in Algeria. It is a smart card in the format of a credit card that allows its owner and eligible dependents to access social security benefits related to healthcare expenses.



Procedure to obtain a CHIFA Card:

- In the first step, the refugee student should go to their hosting faculty to fill out an application for registration (SECU) accompanied by a certificate of enrollment.
- In the second step, the refugee student should visit the payment center at the National Social Security Fund (CNAS) at the university's rectorate to obtain the CHIFA Card, with the following documents:
- Copy of the passport;
- Passport-sized photo with a clear background;
- Copy of the blood type card.

In addition to the benefits, the **CHIFA Card** allows refugee students to receive free healthcare services provided by medical centers within university campuses, university residences, as well as public hospitals and clinics.

University Welfare Services:

Accommodation & University Residences:

After enrollment, the refugee student will be directed to the University Welfare Services (UWS) in Ouargla, according to the program to which they are assigned, in order to benefit from accommodation. The following documents are required for the accommodation application:

- Accommodation request form (provided by the administration)
- Copy of the current year's enrollment certificate
- Copy of the Baccalaureate transcript
- Birth certificate
- Copy of the passport
- Two (2) recent passport-sized photos
- Receipt of accommodation fees payment (400 DZD per year)

After submitting the above-mentioned documents, a decision regarding accommodation will be issued, specifying the assigned residence. The refugee student will then proceed to the accommodation service of the assigned residence. A residence card, a university transport card, and a support decision will be issued to the student. Afterwards, the student will proceed to the store (laundry) for their final settlement in the residence.

The accommodation for refugee students is provided in residences equipped with all the necessary facilities to study in a serene and suitable environment. These include a cafeteria, a library with a reading room, a sports hall, a stadium, a medical center, and a cyber café.

For more information on accommodation, please visit the following websites:

- Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS) website - National Office of University Works
- Official website of the National Office of University Works
- Directions of University Works (DOU) in Ouargla

University Transportation :

Similar to national students, refugee students enrolled at the University of Ouargla benefit from university transportation by paying a symbolic annual subscription fee at the Directorate of University Works in Ouargla. The required documents for university transportation are as follows:

- Sticker of 130 DZD representing the annual subscription fee (available on-site).

University restaurants :

Students can have their meals at the university restaurant, both on the university campus and at the university residence, upon presenting their student card and a meal ticket (1.20 DZD).

Granting of the university scholarship:

Once the refugee student is enrolled at the University of Ouargla, they will be entitled to a university scholarship. The refugee student must submit their application to the Directorate of University Services. The required documents for granting the university scholarship are as follows:

- Copy of the Baccalaureate diploma
- Copy of the registration authorization for the Bachelor's or Master's degree
- Copy of the Bachelor's degree diploma for Master's degree students
- Copy of the passport
- Copy of the current year's school certificate
- Copy of the birth certificate
- Two (2) passport-sized photos

The University Services :

Center for Intensive Language Teaching (CEIL): The University of Ouargla has a Center for Intensive Language Teaching (CEIL) consisting of a pedagogical and administrative team whose objective is to enhance students' language skills. The languages taught at CEIL include Arabic, French, English, Spanish, Italian, and German. These language courses are available at different proficiency levels for national and international students, teachers, and administrative staff.

For more information about the functioning of this center, please refer to the following link: <https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/ceil-accueil.html>

The university libraries

The university libraries are essential for studies. The University of Ouargla has seven (07) libraries with reading rooms and an online catalog to facilitate document research.

[Online catalog: https://biblio.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/](https://biblio.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/)

The American Corner at Kasdi Merbah University in Ouargla is one of over 400 American Corners worldwide and one of the four Corners in Algeria.

Website: <https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/pagesweb/acsite/index.html>

- **University Psychological Support Center for Psychological Listening:** Operated by a team of clinical psychology and speech therapy professors, as well as the university medical center physician. Its missions include providing psychological support and guidance to students, articulating students' needs, and supervising psychology students.

You can find more information about the center at the following link: <https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/index.php/fr/capu-home.html>

The American Corner

The American Corner at Kasdi Merbah University in Ouargla is one of over 400 American Corners worldwide and one of the four Corners in Algeria.

Website: <https://www.univ-ouargla.dz/pagesweb/acsite/index.html>

- **Cafeteria:** A cafeteria lounge is available at each university campus.
- **Post Office:** Post offices are available at the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbeh.
- **Internet Room:** Internet rooms are provided for students to meet their research needs. Additionally, Wi-Fi is available in the libraries, and there is Ethernet connection access in classrooms and tutorial rooms.
 - **Entrepreneurship Office:** In collaboration with the National Agency for the Support and Development of Entrepreneurship (ANADE), the University of Ouargla established an Entrepreneurship House in 2014. Its main mission is to raise students' awareness of entrepreneurial culture and mindset, thereby enhancing their professional integration. This initiative aims to provide training to students with project ideas in business management and support them during the initial stages of creation. The Entrepreneurship House also aims to promote awareness of various programs that facilitate and assist in business creation, allowing individuals to take full advantage of the benefits offered by national policies on employment and entrepreneurship (such as ANGEM, ANADE, CNAC, tax benefits, etc.).
 - **The Incubator:** Established in 2022, the Incubator is a facility designed to support and nurture innovative projects related to research. Its primary role is to assist project creators in refining their ideas and validating their long-term feasibility. The Incubator provides support in terms of training, guidance, financing, and also offers a space for project creators during the process of establishing their own companies.

- **Clubs, Associations, and Cultural, Sports, and Scientific Activities:** The University of Ouargla has a sub-directorate for scientific, cultural, and sports activities. This department is responsible for organizing activities for students and managing student clubs and associations. The university is home to 20 scientific clubs, 6 cultural associations, and 3 amateur sports clubs. It has several sports facilities, including an indoor sports hall and multi-disciplinary nearby fields. Students have the option to choose their preferred discipline, whether it be a team sport or an individual one. They can also register for a license through their faculty or university residence.
 - **Scientific Activities:** Scientific activities are organized by accredited scientific clubs, which aim to stimulate and promote any scientific project, action, or event presented by university students. Students have the opportunity to join a scientific club of their choice and participate in various scientific endeavors.
 - **Cultural Activities:** Cultural activities are organized by accredited cultural associations. Students have the opportunity to join an association of their choice and engage in various cultural fields such as music, theater, photography, and more. These associations provide platforms for students to express their creativity and showcase their talents in the cultural domain.
 - **Sports Activities:** University sports are organized through the Amateur University Sports Clubs (CSAU) under the supervision of the sub-directorate for scientific, cultural, and sports activities at the university. The CSAU is responsible for promoting sports participation among students. They are affiliated with the local university sports league and take part in official competitions of the national university championship, as well as local, regional, and national university games.

Useful Information:

- Payment receipts for registration fees (200 DA) can be obtained at the post office, payable to the Accountant of the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbeh.

- **Public Holidays in Algeria:**
 - International Holidays:
 - New Year's Day: January 1st.
 - Fête du Travail : 1^{er} mai

- **Fêtes nationales :**

- Yennayer : 12 janvier
- Fête de l'Indépendance : 05 juillet
- Anniversaire de la Révolution 1954 : 1^{er} novembre

National Holidays:

- Yennayer: January 12th.
- Independence Day: July 5th.
- Anniversary of the 1954 Revolution: November 1st.

Religious Holidays:

- Aoual Moharam (Islamic New Year): 1st day of the month of Muharram.
- Ashura: 10th day of the month of Muharram.
- Eid al-Mawlid an-Nabawi (Birth of the Prophet Muhammad): 12th day of the month of Rabi al-Awwal.
- Eid al-Fitr: 1st day of the month of Shawwal.
- Eid al-Adha: 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah.

▪ **Academic Calendar:**

- 1st Semester: September 15th - December 20th.
- 2nd Semester: January 5th - June 30th.
-

PROGRES Application (Android): PROGRES is a digital platform developed by the Ministry of Higher Education for the management of students' academic affairs. The application provides various functionalities including:

- Registration.
- Examination schedules.
- Continuous assessment and examination grades.
- Grade reports.
- Grades for outstanding subjects.
- Evaluation coefficients.



- The PROGRES application serves as a comprehensive tool for students to access and manage their academic information conveniently.

To download the application, please visit the website:

<https://www.mesrs.dz/index.php/fr/progres/>

- Plateforme E-Learning: <https://elearning.univ-ouargla.dz/>

- **E-Learning Platform:** You can access the E-Learning platform at <https://elearning.univ-ouargla.dz/>.
- **Institutional Emails:** Each student is assigned an email address upon registration. The email address follows the format: `firstname.lastname@univ-ouargla.dz`.
- **University Web-TV Channel:** The university's Web-TV channel was established in 2016 with the aim of promoting the image of Kasdi Merbeh University of Ouargla on a national and international scale.

Furthermore, it aims to ensure widespread dissemination of knowledge and the sharing of scientific information through thousands of online videos, including conferences, thesis defenses, documentaries, reports, and programs.

DSpace: DSpace is a digital service and a documentary database of the University of Ouargla, which includes theses, dissertations, publications, and reports produced at Ouargla. It can be accessed at <http://dspace.univ-ouargla.dz/>.

Social Media Channels of the University of Ouargla - Kasdi Merbah:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Universite.deouargla>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vr.relex.ouargla>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/solarite.universite.ouargla>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Webtv.universite.de.ouargla>