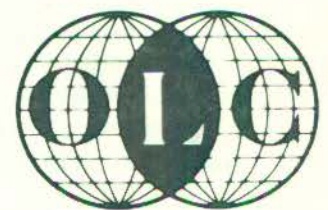


Washington, D. C. 20019

# **An Analysis of US-Iranian Cooperation in Higher Education**



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**Overseas Liaison Committee  
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Washington, D. C.**

#### SUMMARY

1. There are currently more Iranian students -- estimates vary from 15,000 to 20,000 -- in U.S. universities and colleges than from any other country. This demand for training in the U.S. is likely to expand over the next five years because of the explosive increase in the output of Iran's secondary school system. For example, the number of secondary school graduates in Iran increased by 30 percent in 1976. Although the number of university openings is expanding in Iran, a large number of Iranians will pursue their academic training in the U.S. and Europe over the coming five to ten years.
2. The Iranian demand for graduate education in the U.S. will continue to grow. The number of Iranian faculty members coming to the U.S. on sabbatical leave will likely remain on a plateau unless the incentive structure of their Iranian sabbatical leave program is revised.
3. Since 1970, there has been a rapid increase in the number and range of academic links which have been negotiated between institutions of higher education in Iran and in the U.S. -- especially during 1974 and 1975. Thirty-two U.S. universities and colleges have formal academic agreements with fifteen Iranian universities as of May, 1976 (see Table X). An additional four U.S. universities have links with degree-granting institutions of higher education in Iran, and twenty-two U.S. universities and colleges have links with Iranian government organizations in fields related to higher education.
4. There are numerous individual scholar-to-scholar links and various informal links between academic departments in the U.S. and Iran. These informal links