



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### North African Women: Science in Higher Education

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#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet

- ❖ In the following North African countries, women make up over one-third of researchers in science fields: Tunisia (47.4%), Egypt (35.2%), Sudan (40%), and Algeria (34.8%). As a comparison, in the UK women make up 37.9% of women researchers in science, and in Germany the figure is 24.9%.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ In Algeria, 60% of graduates in the science fields are women. Of the science graduates in the US, around 40% are women. This figure is lower in France, the UK, and Australia.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ Since 2010, the U.S. Department of State's annual search for the Women in Science Hall of Fame has honored women scientists throughout the Middle East and North Africa who have made outstanding accomplishments. Between 2010 and 2013, 8 out of the 37 women scientists have been from the North African states of Morocco, Tunisia, or Egypt.<sup>3</sup>
- ❖ In Tunisia in 2008, women constituted 77% of university graduates in life sciences, 51.2% in physical sciences, 49.7% in computer sciences, and 30.4% in engineering.<sup>4</sup> In the US in the same year, the corresponding numbers were 59.8%, 41.3%, 17.7%, and 18.5%, respectively.<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ In 1993 at Ain-Shams University in Cairo, Egypt, 23% of faculty in the physics department were women.<sup>6</sup>
- ❖ In Morocco, half of new students enrolled in university science programs are women. Women make up 51% of students in human sciences and 44% in experimental sciences.<sup>7</sup> Women graduates in engineering in Morocco account for 25% of the total engineering graduate population.
- ❖ The UNESCO-L'Oréal International Fellowship Programme honors female scientists across the globe with a \$20,000 scholarship for scientific research. In 2012, Aziza Hassan Kamel from Egypt and Emna Harigua from Tunisia won awards for research in virology and molecular biology, respectively.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uis.unesco.org/FactSheets/Documents/sti-women-in-science-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/GED\\_2010\\_EN.pdf](http://www.uis.unesco.org/Library/Documents/GED_2010_EN.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://egypt.usembassy.gov/wis2013.html>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst\\_2010/Cheikh-EP.9-EGM-ST.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/egm/gst_2010/Cheikh-EP.9-EGM-ST.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/2013/pdf/tab5-1.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [www.phys.ufl.edu/fpforum/EL-Sayed-ppt.ppt](http://www.phys.ufl.edu/fpforum/EL-Sayed-ppt.ppt)

<sup>7</sup> <http://scitation.aip.org/docserver/fulltext/aip/proceeding/aipcp/1517/10.1063/1.4794253/1.4794253.pdf?expires=1386287824&id=id&acname=freeContent&checksum=465C4816A05691BCB1D67B4CDC32E672>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/FWIS\\_2012\\_Fellows\\_en.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/SC/pdf/FWIS_2012_Fellows_en.pdf)