



# Access Microscholarship Program In Morocco

## Introduction

In 2003, the U.S. State Department launched the English Access Microscholarship Program in Morocco. It was the first program of its kind in the world. Today, Access is active in 55 countries, and more than 44,000 students have benefited from it. Now in its fifth year in Morocco, over \$3 million has permitted more than 3000 young people from 43 cities to participate. Morocco is also piloting the first Access alumni program in the world.

## Access Program Goals

The English Access Microscholarship Program gives non-elite, 14- to 18-year-old students the opportunity to study English, gain an appreciation for American culture and democratic values, and increase their ability to participate successfully in the socio-economic development of their countries.

## Short History of Access in Morocco

**2003** The program was conceived in Morocco after the May 2003 bombings in Casablanca. Seventeen boys were selected for the pilot program with the help of Réseau Maillage, in Sidi Moumen.

**2004 – 2005** AMIDEAST began providing instruction to 50 students in Rabat. Then 50 more students started in Sidi Moumen and Bernoussi when AMIDEAST opened in Casablanca.

**2005 – 2006** A total of 196 students at AMIDEAST were joined by 25 in Oujda taught by AGEF Oriental, and 355 students enrolled in American Language Centers in Agadir, Casablanca, Fez, Kenitra, Marrakech, Meknes, Mohamedia, Rabat, Tangier, and Tetouan. Access Morocco now had 596 students.

*Also in 2005, Access became an official Department of State program and Moroccan students met Secretary of State Colin Powell, and other high ranking officials who visited.*

**2006 – 2008** The same partners enrolled 586 new students in the same 11 cities.

**2007 – 2009** AMIDEAST in Washington, DC began helping RELO administer Morocco's program and partners were selected based on proposals. The Moroccan Association of Teachers of English became a partner, allowing Access to reach more remote places. Access was in 20 cities, with 950 students, and the total grant amount for Morocco was \$1 million.

*In January 2008, there were over 32,000 students in 50 countries.*

**2008 – 2010** 23 new locations made a total of 43 cities with Access and 781 new students. The grant amount was again \$1 million.

