



# SABIS®

## Success Story



**Hashim Abdelkarim Al-Kattan**

SABIS® is a global education network that operates Pre-K and K-12 schools in 16 countries on four continents. Around the world, in both the private and public sectors, SABIS® Network schools provide over 70,000 students with a high-quality education that prepares them to achieve success.

Founded in September 2006, the **International School of Choueifat – Erbil** (ISC-Erbil) is a member of the global SABIS® Network and was the first SABIS® Network school opened in Kurdistan. Today, ISC-Erbil serves close to 2,000 students and is recognized as a provider of top-quality education to highly diverse student body.

**This is the story of a young man who is determined to use his education to shape the future of his country.**

Hashim Abdulkarim Al-Kattan joined ISC-Erbil at the age of 8 as a Grade 3 student. Having previously resided in Southern Iraq, Hashim’s family was considering settling in Erbil in 2007, drawn by the newfound stability in the region. The opportunity to send their children to attend a top-quality, international school in Erbil ultimately helped them decide to make the move.

Coming from a household that did not speak English, Hashim struggled when he first joined ISC-Erbil. He was placed in intensive English classes at school, where he could be immersed in the language. After developing his skills in English, he joined regular English classes and never looked back. He distinguished himself as a strong student, deepening his own knowledge by helping others as an SLO® peer tutor and study buddy. Being a mentor for his peers also kept him humble about his own abilities and helped him build meaningful friendships. He pursued a challenging course of study including AP® classes, buoyed by the excellent results – 5 A\*s and 1 A on his IGCSEs and outstanding SAT I and SAT II scores – he received along the way.

With an excellent record of academic performance behind him and with the support of his teachers and the school’s university advisor, in his senior year Hashim applied to a number of top U.S. colleges and universities with the intent to study biology and then medicine. He was accepted at Brown University, the University of Chicago, and Harvard University, which also offered him a full, four-year scholarship. Today, he is Harvard bound.

Hashim attributes his success to the SABIS® Educational System. *“The system challenges you to such great standards that even if you have achieved a high score, you always want to do better. I might have succeeded in another place, but the SABIS® Educational System at ISC-Erbil has cleared the way to achieve this success,”* he said.

After completing university, Hashim plans to return to Kurdistan, a place that he feels bound by national pride to support. *“With the education and opportunities we have been given,”* he said in his speech at graduation, *“we have to drive the wheels of our region forward, and this will not happen without effort. We need to pursue excellence on every level and strive for perfection.”* And if his past accomplishments are any indication, it appears as if Hashim will certainly be up to the task.

ISC-Erbil

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