



# Yarmouk Newsletter

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## U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Visits Yarmouk University



The President of Yarmouk University, Dr. Islam Massad, met with the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Henry T. Wooster, during his visit to the university to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between Yarmouk and various American higher education institutions.

At the beginning of the meeting, Massad affirmed Yarmouk's keenness to strengthen the prospects for joint cooperation between Yarmouk and the U.S. Embassy in Amman, which would create opportunities for scientific, research and academic cooperation with American universities and educational institutes in various fields, pointing to the deep interest of the university administration in consolidating ways of cooperation

with the American educational authorities, given the university students' interest to complete their academic studies in prestigious American universities, noting that a large percentage of the university's faculty members are graduates of the United States of America.

He pointed out that Yarmouk is ready to receive students from the United States of America who wish to learn Arabic for non-native speakers, through a program dedicated to that offered by the Language Center at the university, which includes competencies capable of teaching Arabic using modern methods that ensure students'

mastery of the basic skills of the Arabic language.

The U.S. Ambassador Wooster stressed the Embassy's keenness to strengthen the ties of American-Jordanian cooperation in many fields, the most important of which are scientific, academic, and cultural, pointing out that cooperation and communication with Yarmouk University would provide opportunities for students and faculty members at the university to obtain scholarships to complete their academic studies or make scientific visits to various American universities and institutes, in addition to the possibility of cooperation between the embassy and Yarmouk in implementing a range of cultural and linguistic activities inside the university campus.

## Financial Agreement for the TEPD between Yarmouk and the USAID



Office in Amman, Massad stated that Yarmouk University is proud of such a partnership due to the significance of the "Professional Diploma" for developing teachers' knowledge and skills and for enhancing the level of the educational and pedagogical process in the various schools of the Kingdom. Massad then explained that the University has already allocated classrooms and private offices for the program in the Faculty of Education and provided the necessary requirements for the teaching process.

For his part, Mirza praised the status of Yarmouk University and its cooperation to conduct such a program, stressing that the University's collaboration is manifested through the joint technical committees that have examined all the minute details related to the program. He then pointed out that the program is very promising, as it inspires future collaboration with Yarmouk University in a way that achieves common aspirations and serves the educational sciences and students in general.

The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, confirmed the university's readiness, through the Faculty of Education, to launch the Teacher Education Professional Diploma (TEPD). The Diploma supported by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) aims at preparing and qualifying teachers, and it begins in the first semester of the academic year 2021- 2022, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

During his meeting to sign the material and financial resources agreement with the Director of the USAID Program for the Pre-Service Teacher Education in Jordan, Cameron Mirza, at Yarmouk University's Liaison

## "YU Geography" Organizes the Fifth GIS Scientific Day

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Mousa al-Rababah, patronized the fifth scientific day of the GIS, which was organized by the Department of Geography at Yarmouk University in celebration of the GIS Day, a global event celebrated in many countries across the world that aims at promoting the GIS and acknowledging its importance for sustainable development in environmental, urban, and agricultural applications.





## "YU Geography" Organizes the Fifth GIS Scientific Day - Cont.

The activities of this scientific day included a series of scientific lectures presented by specialized, promising, constructive and pioneering Jordanian companies, short talks presented by a number of faculty members in the department, and a competition among students. Towards the end of the day, memorial shields were awarded to the supporting companies participating in this event.

## Yarmouk Accomplishes Solar Project at Deir-Ala Archaeological Station with Canadian Support



As part of its plan to strengthen resources and develop capacity, Yarmouk University supported by the Canadian Government recently accomplished a project to install a solar cell power generation system at Deir-Ala Archaeological Research Station. Thus, in the presence of the Canadian Ambassador to Amman Donica Pottie, the University represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dr. Lamia Khoury, signed the agreement of receiving the project from the Canadian sponsor, the Sustainable Energy and Economic Development Project in Jordan, represented by Engineer Mohammed Ramadan.

Khoury stressed the importance of the project for the Archaeological station of Deir-Ala concerning the teaching process and scientific research in the Faculty, as the archaeological teams concerned with archaeological monuments work in the surrounding archaeological sites for days and weeks. She added that the size of the system installed in the station is five kilowatts, which can provide the station with the electricity needed for various loads, especially air conditioning. This, as she explained, contributes to reducing the high cost of electricity charge on the university budget, especially in summer, as the station is located in Deir-Ala Central Valleys, an area known for high temperatures in summer.



## Cooperation between Yarmouk and the Bahraini Cultural Attaché



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met with the Bahraini Cultural Attaché in Amman, Dr. Nada al-Harban, discussing ways to enhance cooperation between the two sides and a number of issues related to Bahraini students studying at the university.

During the meeting, Massad affirmed Yarmouk's keenness to address any potential obstacles faced by Bahraini students studying in the various academic majors of Yarmouk, and he expressed the university's readiness to receive more Bahraini students wishing to

study in the university at undergraduate and postgraduate programs. He then referred to the role played by the Deanship of students' affairs in terms of taking care of international students by organizing various extracurricular activities that aim at refining students' personalities and developing their skills. Massad further pointed that the university is fully prepared to nominate a liaison officer from the university for the Bahraini attaché to follow up on correspondence and various common issues between the two sides.

In return, al-Harban praised the academic and scientific level of Yarmouk University, the distinguished reputation it enjoys in the State of Bahrain, and the inclination of a great number of Bahraini students to study in Jordan and join Yarmouk University. She then acknowledged the considerable attention paid by Yarmouk university to Bahraini students studying in the university, wishing such cooperation to continue and prosper.

Noteworthy here is that the number of the Bahraini students studying at the university is 190 students: (186 studying BA, and 4 studying the MA).

## Yarmouk's Distinguished Scientific Research on the Corona Pandemic

In cooperation with researchers from local and international institutes, a research team from Yarmouk University published a scientific research on the behavioral and demographic factors associated with the Corona pandemic in Jordan. The research was conducted on a sample of 7700 participants, under the supervision of Dr. Muawiya Khatatba from the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Samir Al-Balas from the Department of Medical Services, a number of students of the Faculty of Medicine, and MA students in Health Services Administration at the University.

The study concluded that about 30% of the participants in the study sample is not committed to wearing the mask, about 18% of the participants believes that wearing the mask is not important to prevent



## Yarmouk's Distinguished Scientific Research on the Corona Pandemic - Cont.



infection, and that 35% of the participants is not fully committed to washing their hands. Such results explain the significant increase in the number of infections during the Corona pandemic in Jordan, after the remarkable success achieved by Jordan at the beginning of the pandemic.

Considering that the research was recently published in "Frontiers in Public Health", the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Khaldoun Bashaira, said that the Faculty pays a great attention to scientific research due to its active role in formulating the public policies in various fields, especially medical ones, to curb various diseases.

## The German Day in Yarmouk University

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Yarmouk University, Professor Mousa Rababah, patronized the opening of the “Deutscher Tag” activities, which was organized by the Department of Modern Languages in cooperation with the German Embassy in Amman, the (DAAD), the Deanship of Students' Affairs, and the Department of Networking and International Relations.

The celebration included a variety of cultural activities presented by a group of students from the department of Modern Languages, and it focused on acknowledging the cultural cooperation between Jordan and Germany, especially in the field of education. Thus, the event included displaying a set of photographs, pamphlets, and cultural books about Germany and its universities, institutes, and educational as well as cultural bodies. The event also included a meeting between the cultural attaché at the German Embassy in Amman, Ms. Leonie Lorenz, and a representative of the DAAD, Dr. Abd al-Nasser Al-Hindawi, with the students of the department. During the meeting, Lorenz and Al-Hindawi answered students'



questions and inquiries about studying in Germany and the scholarships provided by the German authorities for Jordanian students. Furthermore, Lorenz and Al-Hindawi valued the role of the Department of Modern Languages in spreading the German language and culture, which reflected positively on strengthening the cultural and academic cooperation between the two countries.

## Yarmouk Celebrates the International White Cane Awareness Day



Represented by the Deanship of Students' Affairs, Yarmouk University received a student delegation representing the "Evangelical Arab Episcopal School for the Integration of Visual Disabilities" to celebrate the International White Awareness Cane Day. This gathering, which comes as part of the deanship's activities and permanent communication with the local community, introduces students with visual disabilities to the university and the many services it provides for such a community. Thus, the Dean of the Deanship of Students' Affairs, Dr. Muhammad Khalaf Thiabat, expressed

Yarmouk University's happiness for having this gathering and its pride in the pioneering role played by the Evangelical School concerning encouraging students with visual disabilities and enhancing their self-confidence. He added that Yarmouk University, through the Department of Welfare of Students with Disabilities in the Deanship of Students' Affairs, is working hard to provide all the services needed by students with visual impairments studying in the university and those who will join the university in the future.

In her turn, Sabah Zureikat, the school principal, thanked Yarmouk University for the nice reception and considerable attention paid to such students, stressing that Yarmouk has always been the permanent supporter of students with visual disabilities. She then pointed out that celebrating the International Day of the White Cane aims at informing the society about the importance of the white cane as an aid to its visually impaired holders.

However, during their tour of the university campus, the delegation members visited the Deanship of Students' Affairs and were briefed on the services it provides to students with visual disabilities through the assistive technology lab, which includes special computers for the use of those students.

## The Dean of Students' Affairs Inspects the Readiness of "That al-Nataqain" Dorm

The Dean of Students' Affairs at Yarmouk University, Dr. Muhammad Khalaf Thiabat, visited "That al-Nataqatin" dorm of female students and ensured its readiness to host female students coming from outside Irbid governorate and those coming from outside Jordan. This visit is significant since this dorm is the only female students' residence affiliated with Yarmouk university, thus it is fully protected by the University Security Service. However, during the tour, Thiabat expressed Yarmouk's pride in having such a place and being able to provide such a service for its female students, which contributes to the university's great reputation and successful administration.





## Yarmouk University and Sciences Po Universtiy Sign a Partnership Agreement



A Student exchange Agreement has been signed with the French University of Sciences Po as part of the collaborative endeavors of both parties, noting that this agreement builds on existing relationships between both universities. The agreement puts in place an exchange program of students of both institutions

in the humanities, social sciences with emphasis on linguistic, artistic, and digital education, aiming at strengthening mutual understanding and cooperation between both universities. It also seeks to enhance the exchange of faculty members, develop intensive language programs, and conduct joint research programs as well as organize joint conferences.

In this context, Yarmouk University participated in “Choose France Jordan 2021” event which was organized at the French Institute in Jordan in collaboration with Campus France and the French Embassy in Amman. The event included Institutional Meetings between representatives from Jordanian Universities and a number of higher education institutions in France to discuss possible collaboration in terms of student and staff exchange, summer courses, internship opportunities and to boost new partnerships. A Student fair for French higher education institutions was also organized where presentations and meetings were conducted for interested students.

## Yarmouk's Excavations in the Archaeological Site of Ba'ja in Petra



A specialized technical team from the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology at Yarmouk University, under the supervision of Dr. Hussein Al-Sabbaha and Mr. Mousa Sarbel, participated in the excavations at the archaeological site of Ba'ja in Petra, as part of the project of the German mission of the Free University of Berlin. The mission of Yarmouk University's team was to rebuild a Neolithic tomb of a girl who is 8- 9 years old and is named Jamila, as her corpse is found with a necklace consisting of 2,600 stones and shells around the neck. The tomb was found during the excavations of 2018 and was then moved to Petra Museum in 2019. Later, it was reconstructed in a designated space inside the new Petra Museum.

## Canadian Ambassador Discusses Cooperation with Yarmouk University



In the presence of the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Professor Riad Almomani, the Vice President of Yarmouk University for Academic Affairs, Professor Muwaffaq Alomoush met with the Canadian Ambassador to Amman Donica Pottie and the accompanying delegation, discussing ways to enhance cooperation between Yarmouk University on the one hand and the Canadian Embassy as well as Canadian universities on the other.

During the meeting, Alomoush praised the Canadian government's support for a number of scientific and research projects implemented by Yarmouk University, stressing that the university is keen to strengthen cooperation with international sponsors in a way that supports the process of developing the scientific research at the university. He then talked about the development of Yarmouk University and its scientific, medical and humanities faculties, pointing out that 8% of its students comes from 45 different nationalities, which reflects Yarmouk University's international reputation and its ability to meet the requirements of the labor market. Alomoush also referred to the university's aspiration to start new academic

programs that meet the aspirations of Jordanian youth. For her part, Pottie praised the scientific reputation of Yarmouk University, expressing the embassy's readiness to provide more support and assistance in terms of cooperation agreements between Yarmouk and Canadian universities. She also said that the embassy, through its academic and scientific exchange team, will work to strengthen such bridges of cooperation to facilitate implementing the agreements and memoranda of understanding between Yarmouk and Canadian universities, pointing to the possibility of benefiting from the Expo 2022 program for universities in this field.

As she completed her talk, the Canadian ambassador met with those in charge of the project: "Increasing the participation of the female academics at Yarmouk University in leading international research projects through capacity building", which is funded by the Canadian Embassy. She then met with the organizers of the Economic Development and Sustainable Energy Project in Jordan through which photovoltaic cells will be installed at Deir Alla Station for Archaeological Studies of the Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology at the university. During the two meetings, the ambassador praised Yarmouk University's excellence in implementing scientific projects supported by Canadian donors, acknowledging the university's keenness to provide full logistical and technical support to achieve the maximum benefit from such projects.

Noteworthy is that the meeting was attended by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Mousa Rababaa, the Dean of al-Hijjawi Faculty of Engineering Technology and the Director of the Department of Networking and International Relations, Professor Mowaffaq Al-Atoom, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, Professor Ayman Hammouda, the Political Relations Officer at the Canadian Embassy, Nancy al-Otoom, the Counselor at the Embassy, Manon Bakir, and the Coordinator of the Canadian Fund in the embassy, Mona Darwaza.