

# Yarmouk Newsletter

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## A Memorandum of Understanding with the Executive Office of Irbid, the Arab Capital of Culture for 2022



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, and the head of the Executive Office of the Irbid, the Arab Capital of Culture for 2022, Mr. Munther al-Bataineh, signed a memorandum of understanding aiming at declaring the national responsibility for celebrating Irbid as the Arab capital of culture 2022, advancing Jordanian cultural affairs, and highlighting the true cultural image of Jordan before local, Arab, and international communities. The memorandum stipulates that Yarmouk University submits to the celebration's Executive Office a plan of participation in the activities of celebrating Irbid as the Arab Capital of Culture 2022 by getting involved in several events and activities (i.e. meetings, seminars, lectures, exhibitions, workshops, and conferences). It also stipulates that Yarmouk University allows the Executive Office of the celebration to use the halls, facilities, buildings, and courtyards of the university to hold some events and activities. In addition, it stipulates that the University allows its administrators, faculty members, and students to participate in the committees emanating from the Executive Office or in the managing, organizing, and implementing the celebration's activities and events. Moreover, the memorandum stipulates that the University sets the slogan "Irbid Celebration, the Arab Capital of Culture" on the correspondence of its scientific chairs and the University's

website throughout 2022, while the Executive Office of the celebration sets the logo of Yarmouk University on all documents and advertisements associated with the celebration.

Elaborating on this, Massad pointed out the significant contribution of Yarmouk University through its various faculties, departments, and human cadres, to support the plan of celebrating Irbid as the Arab capital of culture for the year 2022. He explained that Yarmouk University, as a member of the Supreme National Committee for the activities of Irbid City, view the success of celebrating Irbid as a priority, as the university occupies a prominent cultural and academic position at the level of the governorate as well as the entire country. He also emphasized that Yarmouk University offers all its logistics and capabilities, including halls, auditoriums, theaters, and cadres to serve conducting the celebration activities and organizing the related events.

For his part, al-Bataineh valued the role of Yarmouk University in serving the higher education sector at the level of Irbid Governorate and the Kingdom in general, acknowledging its distinguished outputs, competencies, and leaders in various fields, sciences and knowledge. He further pointed out that the City of Irbid has always been mutually associated with Yarmouk University, which always results in successful cultural, intellectual, and societal achievements and developments.



## Cooperation between Yarmouk and the US Embassy in Amman



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met with a delegation from the American Embassy in Amman, which included the Deputy Cultural Attaché, Benjamin Rudy, and the Academic Cooperation Adviser, Irene Petro, to discuss ways to enhance academic and research

cooperation between Yarmouk and various American universities. Massad stressed that Yarmouk does have a diverse educational environment, which includes medical, scientific, literary, and humanitarian disciplines, and is therefore seeking to consolidate its academic and research cooperation with various

prestigious international universities. He then pointed out the importance of strengthening cooperation between Yarmouk and American universities by increasing students exchange programs that provide an opportunity for Jordanian students to spend a semester in American universities, which should contribute to students' scientific and cultural identity.

In return, the delegation stressed the embassy's endeavor to build bridges of cooperation between various American universities and Yarmouk University through the exchange programs of students and faculty members, emphasizing the need to provide a number of grants for Yarmouk students to complete their graduate studies in American universities. They also declared that some orientation sessions will be held for Yarmouk students to discuss ways of filling applications to complete studies in American universities for various scientific degrees, admission requirements, and types of scholarships, etc.

## Abu al-Asal as Director of Public Relations and Media at Yarmouk University



The President of the University, Professor Islam Massad, recently declared Dr. Nawzat Abu al-Asal as the Director

of Public Relations and Media Department at the university, starting on Sunday, 2 / 1/ 2022. Interestingly, Abul-Asal is a faculty member in the Department of Public Relations and Advertising in the Faculty of Mass Communication at Yarmouk University since 2015. She holds a PhD degree in media and communication science, specializing in Digital Public Relations from Manouba Press and Information Sciences Institute in Tunisia, a Master's degree in Media from Yarmouk University, and a Bachelor Degree in Journalism and Media, majoring in Public Relations and Advertising, from Yarmouk University, with a minor in English Language and Literature. Moreover, Abul-Asal has been the Director of Public Relations and Media at the Hospital of the University of Jordan for ten years. She has also worked in the Department of Cultural and Public Relations at the Hashemite University for six years and served as a press editor in a number of newspapers and electronic journals.



## The French Cultural Attaché Visits Yarmouk

The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, met with the attaché of cultural, scientific and university cooperation at the French Embassy in Amman, Annabelle Ostyn, discussing ways to enhance academic cooperation between Yarmouk University and the French Embassy as well as various French educational institutions.

Massad pointed to the history of the academic and cultural cooperation relations between Yarmouk University and the French Embassy in Amman and several prestigious French universities, stressing the university's keenness to enhance such cooperation. He then encouraged the French embassy to consider sending more professors of the French language to teach in the Department of Modern Languages in the Faculty of Arts. Massad also called on the French embassy to work on finding opportunities of cooperation between Yarmouk and French universities concerning the Postgraduate programs in medical law, ethics, and Middle Eastern studies.

For her part, Ostyn praised the depth of relations linking Yarmouk with the French Embassy and universities, especially in the field of teaching the French language, archeology, and cultural history. She pointed to the



possibility of creating opportunities of exchanging students and faculty members between Yarmouk and various French universities as well as conducting some joint scientific projects in cooperation between Yarmouk, French universities, and universities of the European Union.

## Massad Confirms the University Presidency's Support for Public Relations and Media



The President of the University, Professor Islam Massad, affirmed the university presidency's support for the department of Public Relations and Media to continue its pioneering and advanced role in serving the university's mission and futuristic plans. During his visit to the Department of Public Relations and Media, Massad met with the director of the Department, Dr.

Nawzat Abu al-Asal, and the department's employees, stating that such a department contributes to maximizing the university's achievements, documenting and introducing them to the local community, organizing conferences, hosting delegations, and holding different activities and programs. He then pointed to the role of the university's printing press in saving some expenses by securing the university's requirements of papers and publication, acknowledging that it is the only university press in the northern region of the Kingdom. For her part, Abul-Asal valued the visit of the President, noting that it represents the invaluable support endowed by the university presidency to the department of Public Relations and Media. She then promised to keep working to maintain and develop the mission of the department in a manner that carries a spirit of creativity and innovation in the various fields. After that, Massad toured the various facilities of the Department and listened to an explanation from the employees of the department about the nature of their work and responsibilities.

## Cooperation between Yarmouk and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

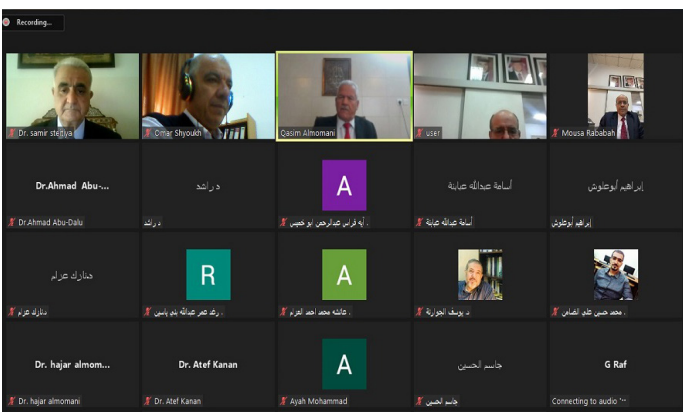


The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, discussed with the first official in the Protection Department of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Daniela Florida, possible ways of cooperation between Yarmouk represented by the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center and the UNHCR in areas of common interest. The meeting was attended by the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Professor Riad AlMomani, the Director of the Center for Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center, Dr. Reem al-Kharouf, and Mr. Tariq Al-Naser, Miss. Zina Jadaan, and Mr. Kamal Al-Mashreqi from the center.

At the beginning of the meeting, Massad stressed that the refugee crisis is not new to Jordan, as the Kingdom has always welcomed several waves of refugees, which provided Jordanians with the extensive experience of how to deal with asylum issues, pointing out that the establishment of the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center in Yarmouk was to achieve several goals like conducting research and studies related to issues of asylum and displacement and developing awareness of asylum and displacement issues among university students and community members. Massad also stressed the importance of cooperation with the UNHCR to establish a network with organizations and institutions working in the field of asylum.

In return, Florida affirmed the Commissioner's constant endeavor to cooperate with institutions and organizations concerned with issues of asylum and displacement, which positively influences the refugees residing in the territory of the host country at the economic, educational and health levels. She further stressed the importance of institutional, organized, and sustainable work in terms of refugees' education, health and economics. She then acknowledged that the Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration Studies Center in Yarmouk University is one of the most distinguished units that emphasize asylum issues and that it is well-known member of the Civil Society Network for Conflicts.

## The Faculty of Arts Organizes a Symposium on the International Day of the Arabic Language



The Department of Arabic Language and Literature at the Faculty of Arts organized a symposium via visual communication celebrating the International Day of the Arabic Language, with the participation of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor Mousa Rabab'a, Dr. Samir Estitia, Dr. Abd Alqader al-Rabai' and Dr. Qasem al-Momani, and Dr. Mustafa al-Hayadra.

The participants shed light on the potential of the Arabic language and its position among world languages, emphasizing the ways to advance Arabic to keep pace with current developments. However, the symposium closed with a poem delivered by Estitia celebrating some aesthetics of Arabic.



## The Canadian Ambassador to Amman Visits Deir Alla Archaeological Research Station



The Canadian Ambassador to Amman Donica Pottie visited Deir Alla Archaeological Research Station of Yarmouk's Faculty of Archeology and Anthropology, as part of her tour in the Jordan Valley, where she visited the solar cell system project implemented by the embassy at the station as part of the sustainable energy and economic development project supported

by the Canadian government.

The Dean of the Faculty of Archaeology, Dr. Lamia al-Khoury, gave a brief introduction about the station, the objectives of its establishment, and the contents of its museum. She then acknowledged the Canadian government's support and contribution to implementing the solar cell project at the station.

Accompanied by the Vice Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Ahmed Abu Bakr, the station supervisor, and the engineers who supervised the implementation of the project, the ambassador then toured the station and enjoyed spending some time in the Archaeological Museum.

## Research Cooperation between Yarmouk's Faculty of Tourism and Hotels and the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism at the Romanian Banat University

The Dean of the Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Dr. Atef Al-Sheyab, discussed with the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Rural Tourism at the Romanian University of Banat, Dr. Brad Iwan, ways to enhance cooperation between the two universities. During their ZOOM meeting, both deans discussed the possibility of signing a scientific-academic cooperation agreement between the two universities, emphasizing the significance of exchanging faculty members, students, and researchers as well as establishing joint academic programs for master and doctoral degrees.

Interestingly, the head of the Department of Tourism and Travel, Dr. Bashar Maayah, participated in the meeting, as he reviewed certain information about the Faculty's



programs, study plans, and the possibility of opening new joint programs in cooperation with the University of Banat.

## Yarmouk's Faculty of Arts Participates in the Arabic and International Language Conference in Lebanon

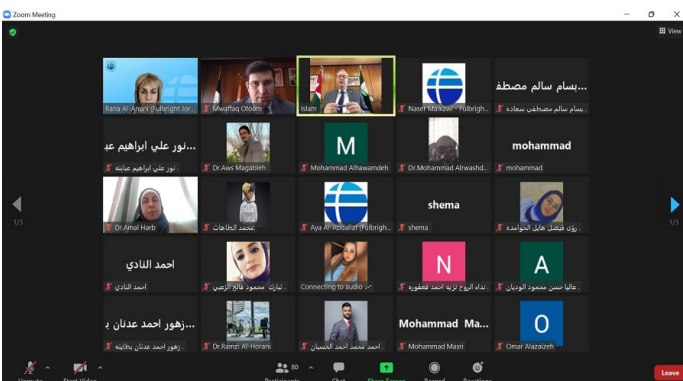


Represented by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts – The Secretary General of the Association of Faculties of Arts in the Arab World, Professor Mousa al-Rababah, Yarmouk University participated in the “Arabic and International Language Conference”, which was organized online during the past two days by the Lebanese University of Jinan, with the participation

of many academics and researchers from various Arab and European countries.

In his speech, al-Rababah confirmed that talking about Arabic as a global language implies multiple dimensions considering that the premises of any language's universality stem from the essence of the language itself. He added that the Arabic language had always been able during its long history to contribute to the production of knowledge, as it was the language of science, literature, and feelings. Moreover, al-Rababah pointed out that if the Arab person is to preserve his own language, then he must transcend the romantic and emotional theory of language into initiatives, thus contributing to the prosperity and essence of Arabic, promoting it to universality, and preserving it as a representation of Arabs' identity and belonging. He further stressed that it is important to celebrate the Arabic Language Day on the eighteenth of December every year, as such activity may help in preserving Arabic.

## An Introductory Workshop on "Fulbright" Grants for Educational Exchange



The International Relations and Projects department organized in cooperation with the Jordanian-American Committee for Educational Exchange "Fulbright" an introductory workshop via remote-video-communication technology on the various grants offered by the program to Jordanians for the academic year 2023/2024. In his welcoming speech, the university President, Professor Islam Massad, stressed the importance of cultural exchange programs at the educational as well as national level.



## An Introductory Workshop on "Fulbright" Grants for Educational Exchange Cont.

He then explained that Yarmouk University has exchanged several researchers and students through the program, which has been adopted by Jordan universities for more than a quarter of a century.

Mrs. Rana Anani and Mr. Nasr Malkawi, grants officers at the Jordan-US Committee for Educational Exchange, talked about post-

doctoral research and the FLTA program, which is a program for teachers who want to teach their mother tongue in the United States of America. They also emphasized the conditions and dates of application and how to increase the chances of getting accepted. At the end of the workshop, the organizers answered the questions of the attendants (students and researchers).

## Honoring the Distinguished Students of the Faculty of Mass Communication



During his meeting with the students of the Faculty of Mass Communication who received distinguished awards during their participation in the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the scientific research award for the students of Jordanian Universities organized by the University of Jordan and in the second edition of Media Students Creativity Festival at Zarqa University, the President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, praised the distinguished level of the students of the Faculty of Mass Communication, as evident in their merit and excellence in the various scientific forums in which they participated either inside or outside Jordan. Emphasizing that youth represents the country's future, hope, and nucleus of development,

Massad stated that Yarmouk is proud of its Faculty of Mass Communication for its uniqueness and great heritage represented by the Independence Medal of the first rank granted by His Majesty King Abdullah II to the Faculty in appreciation of its distinguished contributions to the development of the media education sector and the preparation of qualified graduates who are able to keep pace with practical and scientific developments in the field of journalism, media, and communication.

In return, the Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Tahseen Mansour, said that the Faculty students have always proven their worth and excellence in various media competitions and festivals, stressing that the Faculty always seeks to achieve excellence and leadership by preparing students to deliver the message of the lofty profession of journalism and media and to deepen the national vision by maximizing achievements and building on them.

At the end of the meeting, Massad honored awards-winning students (Sohaib Al-Badour, Aisha Omar, Ehab Ibrahim, Wiam Al-Omari, Nabil Gharaibeh, Zahraa Omar, Muhammad Al-Nawatir, Majd Al-Smadi, Rula Bani Fawaz, Ibtehal Thikr Allah, and Hala Naqrash) and supervising faculty members (Dr. Mohammad Habis, Mr. Muhammad Mahroum, and Mr. Ali Al-Zeinat).

## YU Hosts Introductory Day Activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the Erasmus + Program for the Development of Higher Education



The President of Yarmouk University, Professor Islam Massad, patronized the activities of the introductory day of the second phase of the Erasmus Plus program (2021- 2027) for the northern region, which was organized by the Erasmus Plus National Office in cooperation with the Department of International Relations and Projects at the university in the presence of the head of the Higher Education Accreditation Commission, Dr. Dhafer Al-Sarayrah, and the former Minister of Health, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Sheyab.

During his opening speech, Massad said that Yarmouk University has always been viewing the international dimension of education as a priority in terms of attracting distinguished faculty members and students from all over the world and cooperating with the most prestigious international academic institutions. He then added that Yarmouk University's strategic plan for the years 2021 to 2025 seeks to enhance such an international vision by engaging with several international institutions in various cooperative activities concerning the global changes and challenges, such as sustainable development, climate change, and digital transformation. For this purpose, as Massad explained, the university decided to establish and develop an administrative department concerned with international relations and projects and another unit concerned with the quality of education in terms of academic programs and teaching methods.

In return, the Director of the Erasmus Plus National Office, Dr. Ahmed Abu al-Haijaa, reviewed the significance of the program in its first phase (2014 - 2020) and the value of

the European-Jordanian cooperation in the field of higher education. He explained that the program is to enable Jordanian educational institutions to cooperate with their counterpart institutions in 30 European countries through more than 5,700 exchange grants made available to staff and students. He then acknowledged the achievements made by the Erasmus Plus National Office during the first phase, which contributed to the quality of education through the exchange of experiences between Jordanian universities and European partners in terms of the recommendations of the Higher Education Accreditation and Quality Assurance Commission. Furthermore, Abu al-Haijaa pointed out that the Erasmus Plus program 2021 - 2027 will include new opportunities for the various institutes concerned with educating and training the Jordanian youth.

Noteworthy is that the activities of the induction day included two work sessions: the first was chaired by Dr. Mahmoud al-Shayyab, where Dr. Ahmed Abu Al-Haijaa talked about cooperation between organizations and institutions as well as capacity-building in the field of higher education, while Dr. Ammar al-Maaytah talked about educational exchange programs for students, education and training opportunities for youth, and exchange programs for students and faculty members in the field of vocational education and training. These talks as well as other activities were attended by the Vice President of the University, Professor Muwaffaq Omoush, and a number of deans of faculties, faculty members, researchers, and interested individuals from various Jordanian ministries, authorities, and universities.

