Sustainability Report 2023



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Sustainability Office Accreditation and Quality Assurance center Yarmouk University

SUSTAINABILITY IS NOT AN OPTION: IT IS THE WAY!!!!!

https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/index.php/en/



Introduction

Through universities, people have sustained access to educational services that can transform their lives and advance their economic and social status. The mission of building awareness is regarded as one of the most important responsibilities of universities. As it facilitates the establishment of partnerships and the development of a culture of participatory action that can address the major challenges of our time and help form a force for good.

In 2022, the world gradually reopened its borders after two years of closure. Geopolitical instability, wars, energy shortages, climate disasters, inflation, and economic stagnation plagued the world, and extreme poverty rates increased for the first time in a generation. Thus, decades of progress and construction had to be erased, and new strategies had to be adopted globally to emphasize sustainability and everyone's responsibilities toward it.

As a region with few resources and high volatility, Jordan has been adversely affected by conflicts around it as well as asylum and displacement. It is Yarmouk University's mission to bring up positive changes for the public good as one of the most important universities in Jordan, committed to its educational, research, and societal missions. In our first sustainability report, "Sustainability is not an option: It is the way," we detail not only our success in global impact rankings but also our ongoing work across curriculum, operations, research, and engagement. Reviving our universities, connecting them together, and building relationships with local, national, and international stakeholders.

Nevertheless, this work does not end with rankings. Our efforts to enhance our students' impact in the post-university world continue with the implementation of a new set of graduate qualifications. To achieve holistic sustainability, we are committed to researching priority areas, and we have begun a complete transformation. Our university is moving toward using solar energy to become carbon-neutral, and we will continue to work using the applied scientific approach to ensure a healthy, sustainable future. With our combined efforts, we can unleash potential and make a difference for a healthy, educated future that is characterized by justice, equality, and equality of opportunity for all.

Sustainability Office Dr. laad I. Mustafa Sartawi



THE SDGs IN NUMBERS OUR DASHBOARD

SDGs			AIM OF THE GOALS
1 1904eety Ř¥ŘŘ#Ť	SDG 1	Financial aid and full scholarships are awarded to more than 30% of students	Providing the possibility for equal access of educational opportunities and ensuring that poverty is not an obstacle to educational services.
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	SDG 3	There has been an increase of 13.59% in the number of health sector graduates (medicine and pharmacy), and of these, 42.7% receive financial aid, and the nursing specialization has been introduced recently.	Providing a healthy life and promoting well-being for all.
4 QUALITY EDUCATION	SDG 4	Over 39,000 students are enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate, vocational, and training courses at the university.	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning for all
5 EQUALITY	SDG 5	The university's chairperson of the Board of Trustees is female, many of its leaders are female, and more than 55% of its students and graduates are female.	Achieving gender equality and empowering women
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	SDG 8	Adopting a system that guarantees job security and rewards teaching, research, and administration roles at the university.	Achieving comprehensive and productive justice and providing decent work for all.
10 REDUCED REQUALITIES	SDG 10	Establish a system and policies that guarantee equality among everyone, students, employees, and gender	Reducing inequality for everyone.
13 ACTION	SDG 13	A total of 100% of the electricity consumed on campus was generated by renewable sources (solar energy).	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its effects.
16 PEACE JUSTICE ANDISTROMS INSTITUTIONS	SDG 16	The university has a law school that graduates hundreds of students each year, as well as a refugee center.	
17 PARTINERSHEPS FOR THE BOALS	SDG 17	Concluding agreements and cooperation in various fields calling for development.	Strengtheningpartnershipsaimed at achieving sustainabilitylocally and globally.





SDG1: NO POVERTY

Yarmouk University is located in a country with a lack of natural resources, in a region suffering from conflicts, wars, displacement, and asylum. The concept of poverty goes beyond the presence of an intermittent source of income. It encompasses a wide range of manifestations, including hunger, health, education, discrimination, justice, and exclusion, as well as the lack of participation in decision-making.

In accordance with its social and moral responsibility and as part of the national educational system, Yarmouk University has established assistance mechanisms for students with limited income and no income by implementing clear policies at the national and regional levels and allocating part of its budget to reducing poverty and its impact on students.

- Financial aid and full scholarships are awarded to about 30% of students.
- Acceptance rate exceeding 25% for (12,712) students from the lowest 20% of family incomes.
- Through education or related resources, assist the local community in establishing financially and socially sustainable businesses.
- Many students studying at Yarmouk University, especially those from remote areas, receive grants and aid, or scholarships, to work for national institutions after graduation.
- At local, regional, national, and global levels, the university participates in policymaking activities aimed at eliminating poverty in all forms.

For More Information visit: https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/index.php/en/sdgs/sdg-development





http://dsa.yu.edu.jo/index.php/admissionar/2023-02-14-09-23-35





SDG2:ZERO HUNGER

Yarmouk university recognizes that education is the key to eradicating poverty and its repercussions in hunger, health, equality, as well as other issues that, if not addressed, will lead to fragile and vulnerable societies. Communities without a good basic education are more likely to suffer from poverty, hunger, and poor health. It is for this reason that the university focuses on educating and equipping its students in the College of Education, which recently received a rating of (401-500) in the Times Specializations ranking 2024. Generations need to be educated so that they can assume societal responsibility and build their capabilities.

- The university provides food, housing, transportation, and legal services to low-income students.
- (12,712) students in the lowest 20% of the total family income were accepted at a rate exceeding 25%.
- For the purpose of improving sustainable agricultural practices, the university provides access to university facilities (such as laboratories, technology, and plant stocks) to local farmers and food producers.
- It is the university's policy to purchase products from local, sustainable suppliers.
- The university strives to reduce food waste through its policies.
- A number of student initiatives are supported by the university, such as the exchange and collection of university books, making Ramadan "EFTAR," and collecting clothing and donations for the needy.
- A large number of university employees donate money each month to help needy students.

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Image: State Stat



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SDG3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Yarmouk University (YU) strives to support and preserve the health of its students and employees. A comprehensive health center has been established within the university campus that includes emergency clinics, laboratories for medical analysis, dental clinics, general medicine clinics, maternity and childhood centers, and a pharmacy for students and employees. Moreover, the university has made several agreements with a wide network of medical institutions, including both public and private, to ensure that students and employees have access to medical care whenever they need it.

Additionally, the university has specialized health offices for students and employees who need mental and psychological assistance. In addition to the faculties of medicine and pharmacy, the university has recently established a nursing faculty. Furthermore, the university's budget of more than four million dinars is dedicated to this purpose (good health and well-being).

There has been an increase of 14% in the number of graduates in the health professions (medicine and pharmacy), of whom 43% receive financial aid, and a new nursing specialty has been introduced recently.

Sport facilities are shared by the university with the local community, in particular local schools and the general public.



For More Information visit : https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/index.php/en/sdgs/sdg-development





5DG4: QUALITY EDUCATION

It is the goal of Yarmouk University to achieve its main objectives, which include education, scientific research, and community partnership, by making optimal use of its human and material resources. In a region plagued by war, asylum, and a lack of resources, it strives to achieve satisfactory results in quality education and advance comprehensive development.

Yarmouk University supports education programs by offering a wide range of disciplines and programs that contribute to the sustainability of education. https://education.yu.edu.jo/

- For the year 2023, 32% of graduates earned qualifications in education or teaching.
- Learning Resources for the Public (Lifelong Learning).
- A variety of free educational events are held on the University's campus for the public.
- Events that are open to the public are hosted by the university.
- Access to activities at the University is non-discriminatory regardless of race, religion, disability, immigration status, or gender.
- The development of diverse teaching courses and the creation of a variety of sustainability-focused courses across departments. Integrating sustainability into university education at all levels, from professional programs to specialized academic programs.





SDG5: GENDER EQUALITY

At Yarmouk University, we draw from the cultural and social constants of Jordanian society and the Arab nation, as well as from international conventions. As a result of its historical traditions and high ethical standards, it is in a unique position to help its societies achieve sustainable development goals, especially in regard to gender equality and reducing inequalities.

These two axes are highlighted by the following points:

- Admission to Jordanian universities is based on secondary school results for a bachelor's degree, without any bias based on gender, race, religion, or any other manifestation of discrimination or inequality. This policy also applies to postgraduate programs, since admission is based on academic competitiveness.
- Recently, the university approved numerous sustainable development policies on equality, non-discrimination, combating corruption and bribery, grievances, and many others. These were developed by the Accreditation and Quality Assurance Center, with input from stakeholders, and are currently being uploaded to the university's official website.
- Students with special needs are cared for and followed up by a special department.
- All appointments at the university are based on competency-based competition, and are conducted according to the highest standards of ensuring equality and promoting inclusion.
- Scholarships, grants, and other supports are awarded based on competitive merit.
- A woman chairs the Yarmouk University Board of Trustees, the university's highest governance council. Prior to joining Jordan's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ruwayda Al-Maaytah served as president of a public university.
- The university fills senior positions based on ability and skill, without racial, ethnic, or religious discrimination.
- A specialized center for women's studies was established at the university, focused on empowering women and facilitating their leadership development.





SDG6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

Yarmouk University relies mainly on the local water supply. Water is collected in two main wells, each with a capacity of 1,500 cubic meters. The university raises the water with special pumps to two upper tanks, each with a capacity of 300 cubic meters. The university is currently working on preparing studies related to water harvesting.

- In accordance with agreements signed with the University of Science and Technology, the university's crops are watered with rainwater stored in Al-Hosn and Al-Naimah wells.
- A study is being prepared to determine how to collect rainwater from building roofs. A study aims to use collected water for flushing toilets and watering plants inside the building.
- Due to the proximity of the university and its location within the city center, it was difficult to establish programs and projects for water recycling on campus. Due to its commitment to protecting the environment, the university's sewage system was connected to the local government's sewage system, which, in turn, purifies, refines, and treats water, and thus the university participates indirectly through its agreements to produce arable water and treat water.
- Water is being reused at the university in the following ways:
- For the campus land cleaning and sprinkling systems for gardens, water was reused from the swimming pools.
- Replace tap water with Ablution water for irrigating crops and plants on campus.







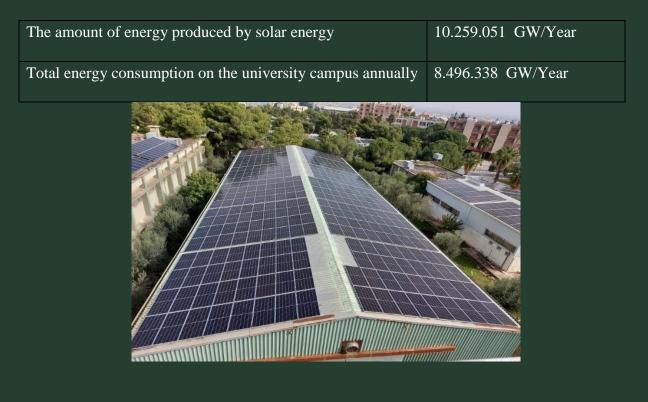


SDG7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

University officials know that Jordan, as part of the Arab region and Middle East, faces two major challenges: high energy bills and a limited supply of water.

Yarmouk University has a moral responsibility, which includes the responsibility of taking initiative and creating mechanisms for finding solutions based on its resources, especially its human resources. With its creative thinking approach, and by implementing mechanisms for achieving sustainability, preserving the environment, and reducing carbon emissions.

- Following a plan aimed at gradually converting to alternative energy, the university reached, at the beginning of 2022, the complete adoption of solar power for its operational activities, while exporting excess energy to the electricity company. In the following table, the amounts of production and consumption are shown:







The university is committed to paying the living wage to all employees and faculty members, on time, as approved by the government system - in monthly wages - and within a scale of salaries, bonuses, and rewards determined by the unjust system, as well as reducing the gender wage gap.

https://law.yu.edu.jo

The university recognizes unions and labor rights. In the College of Engineering, for instance, all faculty and staff are members of the Engineers Syndicate. It is the same for Pharmacists, Doctors, and the Model School of the Teachers Syndicate, without discrimination against gender, race, or nationality.

-Religion, sex, gender, age, race, and any other manifestation of discrimination are not tolerated at the university. The university law is derived from the Jordanian constitution, which states, "Jordanians are equal before the law." In the year 2022, and within the framework of its vision to modernize its system, it developed a policy in this regard, based on the text of the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates a commitment to non-discrimination.

https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/index.php/en/home-en/sustainability-policy/anti-discriminationpolicy

- The existence of regulations and legislation governing the provision of a decent work environment for its employees. This includes salaries and bonuses, health insurance, and many related matters.
- The creation of specializations that will be required by the local, regional, and global labor markets.
- Stopping stagnant labor market specializations.
- Establishing a career guidance office for university students.
- Organization of career fairs for university students and students from specialized colleges.





SDG9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Yarmouk University recognizes the importance of investments in industry, infrastructure, and innovation, as factors that are a priority due to their importance in economic growth and development. It has been estimated by development organizations and the United Nations that over half of the world's population lives in cities today. For this reason, mass transportation, renewable energy, information and communication technologies, as well as the growth of new industries, have become increasingly important.

- As an educational institution, the university also strives to engage with global concerns and technological progress, which is increasingly important as a means of finding lasting solutions to economic and environmental challenges, such as creating new job opportunities and improving energy efficiency. Sustainability is promoted through the development of sustainable industries and the investment in scientific research and innovation.
- The university has worked on the following projects:
 - Utilizing solar energy exclusively in its comprehensive operational activities
 - Converting a variety of student systems into electronic systems, starting with application and acceptance to graduation.
 - Transforming the official correspondence system between university departments into an electronic one.
 - Enhancing scientific research, with the university allocating a substantial budget to research, scientific publishing, and rewards.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG10: **REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

Yarmouk University is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. It is derived from the Jordanian Constitution, which stipulates in Article 6/i that "Jordanians shall be equal before the law. Race, language, or religion shall not be a basis for discrimination between them in regards to their rights and duties. Jordanian laws and legislation, as well as international covenants, are applied at the University to preserve human dignity, the right to a decent life, equality, justice, equal opportunities, diversity, and inclusion, as well as to protect the rights of University stakeholders.

Furthermore, Yarmouk University has special committees to handle complaints regarding equality, diversity, inclusiveness, sexual harassment, bullying, and other issues. In addition, a special email address is designated for receiving complaints. Please check the following link

https://law.yu.edu.jo/

https://forms.office.com/r/axJzQxRe1H

Yarmouk University has developed a special policy for equality, diversity, and inclusion in 2022. The policy is derived from the Jordanian Constitution, and is in accordance with Jordanian laws and legislation, as well as international covenants.

Yarmouk University has special departments that provide assistance and support to persons with disabilities, including scholarships, access, laboratories, translation, wheelchairs, etc.

Jordanian law clearly states the rights of persons with disabilities in articles 20, 21, and 22 of the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law No. 20 of 2017". It is binding on all Jordanian

sectors.https://hcd.gov.jo/AR/List/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D9%86



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SDG11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The Yarmouk University is located in Irbid, a city in the north of the Kingdom, where it is regarded as the most prominent and important institution and the largest open space. Since the university has a close relationship with the local community, it has many social responsibilities and supports the community in many ways, such as:

Utilizing its infrastructure (halls, museums, galleries, amphitheaters, playgrounds, swimming pools, etc.) for the benefit of the local community. Heritage buildings, monuments, and landscapes of cultural significance are accessible to the public.

There is the largest library in the Kingdom at the university, which is accessible to locals and visitors who seek information from books, publications, and references. Additionally, it displays cinematic films that are open to the public.

- The College of Fine Arts at Yarmouk University presents musical, theatrical, and folkloric performances that the public and local community can attend.
- Public and civil society are welcome to visit the university's museum of Jordanian heritage, coin exhibition, and natural history museum.
- Walking and other sports are practiced at the university, which is considered an outlet for the local community.
- Cultural chairs at the university are responsible for collecting heritage, conducting cultural studies, and compiling papers, such as the Arar Chair for Cultural and Literary Studies. In addition, there is a Center for Studies of Refugees, Displaced People, and Forced Migration.
- Students and employees at the university have access to affordable housing.
- Due to the close proximity of the buildings, students move around the university by foot, and free transportation is provided to places where buses are needed.

 https://dsa.yu.edu.jo/index.php/2022-12-20-10-39-44/2022-12-20-10-43-15/2022-12-20-10-56-41 -https://dsa.yu.edu.jo/index.php/2022-12-20-10-39-44/2022-12-20-10-43-15/2022-12-20-10-56-46

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SDG12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Approximately 1080 tons of organic waste are generated on our campus each year. Ordinary organic waste is disposed of by our campus in cooperation with the Municipality according to a contract and in accordance with the Ministry of Environment guidelines.

Although many promising strategies are being employed to reduce waste, such as:

- Special contracts are in place to collect tree leaves for use in fertilizer manufacturing.
- According to statistical studies, the cafeterias within campus produce a sufficient quantity of pastries, so no excess food is produced.
- The location of a campus in the middle of the city makes it difficult for organic chemicals to be safely treated. This is even though they are disposed of through official processes and the ministry of environment.
- Reducing paper consumption by printing on both sides and computerizing correspondence.
- The waste from the animal house is used for fertilizer and for planting trees.
- The university is planning to sign new agreements and run environmental awareness campaigns so that it can better manage waste such as waste sorting, recycling, and reusing.
- For all official transactions on campus, faculty uses paper envelopes rather than plastic folders in order to reduce plastic usage.
- Additionally, the university promotes the reuse of plastic bottles and reduces the use of plastic bags by replacing them with bags made from environmentally friendly materials.









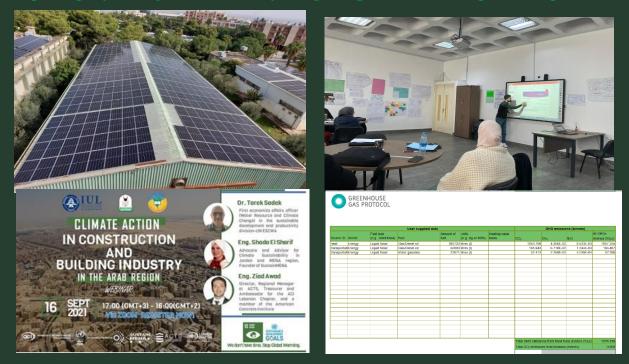
13 CLIMATE ACTION

SDG13: CLIMATE ACTION



In order to address the world's most serious challenges (i.e. climate change and global warming) and reduce carbon emissions and reach zero carbon emissions, Yarmouk University has taken different scientific and behavioral actions based on its social, scientific, and ethical responsibility. For sustainable development, Yarmouk University recognizes the importance of investing in energy, infrastructure, and ICTs. Through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns, comprehensive development plans can be achieved, costs reduced for economic, environmental, and social reasons can be reduced, and competitiveness will be strengthened. Furthermore, Yarmouk University believes it is necessary to shift toward modern systems of energy production to decrease carbon dioxide emissions. In this way, environmental goals could be achieved and challenges related to air, water, and soil pollution could be addressed. Yarmouk University has taken several actions to conserve the environment. The following procedures are explained in detail in Appendix (1).

The report at the following link explains the procedures in detail: https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/images/reports2022/co2report2024.pdf



https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/Sustainability/images/reports2022/co2report2024.pdf





SDG14: LIFE BELOW WATER

Except for the Gulf of Aqaba, Jordan lacks water resources, as it is not surrounded by seas or rivers.

Yarmouk University has been committed to establishing a marine sciences station in Jordan's only seaport since its founding. Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan established the Marine Sciences Station in the mid-seventies. Among the main goals of the marine station was to establish a marine research facility for scientists and graduate students, so they could conduct their research at the station with its various laboratories and facilities. Various research projects and monitoring programs are implemented by the Science Station to determine the basic environmental characteristics of the Jordanian coast of the Gulf of Aqaba. This will enable its laboratories to meet international quality standards.

The Marine Science Station's laboratories recently obtained the ISO 17025 certificate of credibility, making the station's laboratories the first and only in Jordan accredited to measure seawater quality. It was approved to change the name of the station to become the Center for Marine Science Research (CMSR) after obtaining the necessary approvals, in order to express its activities as a research center specialized in marine sciences, embracing the distinguished competencies of researchers in this field, and equipped with modern research laboratories. It includes the only marine sciences exhibition in Jordan, which opens its doors to researchers and visitors from the local community and tourists, pointing out that the station opens its arms to all researchers and faculty members from various Jordanian universities to benefit from its facilities to carry out research activities and measurements, and attract international projects. The science station cooperates with Many international research centers and signed memorandums of understanding with a number of international research centers, such as the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen/Germany, Mott Laboratories in Florida/USA, and the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt/Germany.





SDG15: LIFE ON LAND

Yarmouk University works to pay great attention to preserving various aspects of wildlife care, through research published by faculty members, which addresses pivotal issues in this field, projects implemented by academics, and student projects directed towards the axis of sustainability in preserving wildlife.

The university's Public Services Department has dedicated a section to caring for wildlife on campus, as well as offering specialized courses in the field of environmental preservation. In addition, the university has the Jordanian Natural Museum, which houses a distinguished collection of natural exhibits that serve as an important archive of natural life in Jordan. Yarmouk University established the Jordan Natural History Museum in 1981. The museum is the largest and most comprehensive in Jordan. Among its services are educational, cultural, and recreational activities for the community, the university, and all segments of the local community. The facility also serves to conduct research focused on wildlife and biodiversity protection in Jordan. The area is a popular tourist destination in Jordan.

https://science.yu.edu.jo/index.php/ar/home-ar/2022-09-05-22-21-21/museum-about

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eNmzJIfULSo

In order to educate students about the environment and spread the culture of environmental protection, the following measures were taken:

The applicable procedure	Evidence
Allocating specialized teaching courses in the field of	https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/index.php/2023-
the environment and its preservation in general	<u>05-29-07-12-19/2023-06-05-11-28-25</u>
Establishing a center for sustainable development studies	It offers ongoing courses in the field of sustainable development and environmental awareness.
Activities of specialized academic	https://science.yu.edu.jo/IMAGES/8.pdf
departments	https://science.yu.edu.jo/IMAGES/2.pdf

https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/index.php/2023-05-29-07-12-19/2023-06-05-11-28-25





SDG16: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The university applies the Jordanian Universities Law with regard to disclosing its annual financial report, including key aspects such as income, expenses, borrowing, and surplus. This commitment to regular and transparent reporting highlights the university's commitment to financial responsibility and accountability. The financial report is discussed and approved by the following parties:

The university council, which includes representatives from the following stakeholders: Academic staff, Admin. Staff, Students, employers, and the Local Community.

University Board of Trustees, which includes experts from the public sector, different business sectors, Academia, and the local community.

The Higher Education Council, which includes experts from the Academia, and private sector.

The Audit Bureau.

Additionally, the financial report is disclosed to the public through the university's website.

The university enhances the role and independence of its students and is keen to hold elections and prepare for them at the highest level, to form an independent student union, two members of which are represented in the university council. According to the law.

https://dsa.yu.edu.jo/index.php/admissionar/2022-10-12-06-17-21

The number of graduates in the College of Law in 2022 was (505) students, by (0.07%).

The university participates in many government committees, and among the members of the Jordanian government are workers at Yarmouk University.

Yarmouk University is keen to support academic freedom and the freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach openly about their field of research.

The university is keen to work in the spirit of transparency and accountability, and to combat and combat manifestations of corruption and bribery. It has designated a policy for this purpose .<u>https://aqac.yu.edu.jo/index.php/2023-05-29-07-12-19/2023-06-05-11-26-06/2023-07-17-11-17-14</u>





SDG17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Sustainable Development Goals address general issues, not a population or geographical area. They are considered a responsibility of society. It is impossible to achieve comprehensive development without linking goals, since institutions complement each other. The responsibility of universities as educational, research, and service institutions lies in supporting and achieving development goals through collaboration with local and international institutions. SDGs cannot be achieved unless all partners work together.

Since its establishment, Yarmouk University has been keen on networking, building relations, and signing cooperation agreements with various institutions. In 2016, it established a special department for international cooperation, "International Relations and Projects"

https://dirp.yu.edu.jo/

Yarmouk University has many agreements with regional and international bodies, especially through four centers specialized in sustainability issues, namely:

Center for Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Forced Migration Studies

https://rdfmsc.yu.edu.jo/

Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Women's Studies: *https://pbc.yu.edu.jo/* Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center

https://eic.yu.edu.jo/index.php/projects-and-partnerships/partners

The Center for Sustainable Development Studies, which was recently established in 2022 at the university: https://csds.yu.edu.jo/

These centers, through their partnerships with local and international organizations, collect and analyze data, each according to its specialization. The following table shows some of their projects:

-Launch of the research network of the Center for the Study of Refugees, Displaced Persons and Forced Migration:

https://www.yu.edu.jo/index.php/newarcat/3547-2022-08-25-11-19-03



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