

### Anika Benkhardt, 25, German

Studies Design (B.A.) at Mainz University of Applied Sciences  
Exchange Semester 2014/2015

#### My Exchange Semester at GJU – No Fear, Just Curiosity

The semester in Amman was a great experience - it taught me a lot about the culture and the habits of people in the Middle East.

Travelling both with and without my new friends, seeing landmarks and visiting factory sites were easy. I made a lot of friends, whom I will miss back in cold Germany. I found the community at School of Architecture and Built Environment to be open, honest and outgoing. They are people, who like to explore and to create new things around them. The lectures were nice, although not as demanding as in Germany. However, I learned how different teaching methods for Design subjects could be. There was no problem to follow the lectures without knowing Arabic, since I was fine using English.

#### Amazing Hospitality

As a foreigner, it was easy to get in touch with the people of Amman. They are very

welcoming to visitors and people from other countries. People were always willing to help, for example with finding the right way to a restaurant. I sometimes got invited to families' houses for lunch- at those occasions there always was a lot of homemade food to eat. Tasting Maftoul and Mansaf at Christmas last year was one of the most memorable meals for me. After this I could understand the pride of the people when it comes to their traditional dishes. But not only the food was amazing, but also their hospitality towards visitors. I often had long talks with family members with more than five appetizers before the actual meal, which was sometimes quite exhausting. But I liked the concept of being together, talking and spending a lot of time with my study buddy Lena and her friends.

#### The Different Faces of Amman

I also took a lot of trips with my friends: to Madaba, Petra, Aqaba and we went to many restaurants in Jordan. I was never alone, always in company and on the way to new places. I have also seen a lot of different and unique faces of Amman, ranging from Jabal Amman with its Rainbow Street to West Amman and its CityMall. These are completely different worlds and yet they are coexisting in quite a strange way, bearing rich and poor



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möchte  
Gut oder  
Zahm sein

people with different attitudes.  
For me it was a great semester, experiencing  
the differences between Germany and Jordan  
as well as understanding the reasons behind  
special traditions and public opinions. There  
was no fear, just curiosity.