

TT report Zain Abu Taleb at the Landesspracheninstitut Ruhr Uni Bochum (LSI) during August 2015

Like all my colleagues at the GJU, I heard of “Train the Trainer” opportunity through the international office, which sent us an email encouraging us to apply to take advantage of a chance to go on a fully-funded training to Germany, if we manage to find a suitable institution in Germany that can offer us some sort of training in our field of specialization.

Without hesitation, I contacted the head of the Arabic Department at the Landesspracheninstitut an der Ruhr Uni Bochum (LSI), where I spent six months as a guest lecturer back in 2013. However, that duration was not enough for me to learn the didactic methods I needed for teaching Arabic, as a foreign language and especially Arabic Grammar.

After I got accepted to the “Train the Trainer”, and received my invitation letter from the LSI, I booked my ticket and headed to Bochum on the first of August, where I spent the rest of the month.

My training consisted of three main parts:

First, I took advantage of the LSI recording studio, and recorded the listening exercises I prepared for my students, and even asked my colleagues to send me whatever they would like to record, so that I can help them get the work done before the beginning of the semester. Worthy of mention, is that the Head of the Arabic Department, Ms. Michaela Kleinhaus, introduced me to the techniques used in their studio to create high quality recordings, and even recommended me some free programs that can be used for the same purpose.

Second, and most important is the chance I seized learning the methodology used in teaching Arabic Grammar for the intermediate level, which I am currently doing for my Arabic Language and Culture (ALC) program students.

Third, as I was at the LSI, I also enjoyed helping the LSI team in the process of preparing and editing teaching material for their advanced level book.

Moreover, having been there has indeed helped me a great deal with regard to resources in German about the Arabic Grammar which are very rare to find in the Jordanian context. The LSI team has even given me their advanced level book together with some books on the Arabic grammar as a gift.

For this fruitful experience, I feel very grateful for the DAAD for believing in me and giving me this chance that allowed me to get to know more about my own language with "fremde Augen"...

For this wonderful experience, thank you, DAAD!