

We, Abdullah II Ben AL-Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, in accordance with Article (31) of the Constitution and in pursuance of the Decision of the Senate and House of Representatives, do hereby endorse the following Law and order for release as well as addition to the laws of the State: -

Law No. (17) for the Year 2018

Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research

Article 1 - This Law shall be cited as (the Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research for the year 2018) and shall be effective as of the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Article 2 - The following terms and expressions, wherever mentioned in this Law shall have the meaning assigned therefore here under-unless the context states otherwise:

The Ministry: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Minister: The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Higher Education: Education where a student completes at least one full academic year of study after getting the General Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent.

The Council: The Higher Education Council formed by virtue of the provisions of this Law.

Chairman: The Chairman of the Council.

Institutions of Higher Education: Institutions which take on the responsibility of the higher education whether Universities, Community Colleges, or others.

Field of specialization: A set of educational subjects and training skills that require at least one full academic year of study at any of the institutions of higher education, where the successful completion of studies leads to receiving a scientific degree or certificate in that field.

The Fund: The Scientific Research Support Fund and Innovation established under the provisions of this Act.

Article 3 - Higher education aims to achieve the following:

A. Preparation of qualified human resources who are specialized in various fields of knowledge to meet the needs of the community and are in line with the overall development goals and plans.

- B.** Deepening the Islamic faith, its ethics and spiritual values, and enhancing the sense of the national belonging and patriotism.
- C.** Patronizing the democratic approach and enhancing it to ensure academic freedom, the right of expression, and respect of other opinions, teamwork, and accountability. In addition to following critical scientific thinking.
- D.** Providing an academic, research, psychological and social environment that supports creativity and excellence and enhances skills and innovation.
- E.** Increasing interest in national heritage, national culture, and world cultures.
- F.** Accrediting the Arabic language as the scientific and educational language in all stages of higher education, and encouraging the use of Arabic in scientific writing and in translation from and into Arabic, and considering any international language as a supporting language to Arabic.
- G.** Contributing to the development of knowledge in the areas of science, literature, arts and others. Building a national and technical scientific hub that connects research realms. Directing scientific research and enhancing it towards generating knowledge and industrial and technological production.
- H.** Developing the capabilities of students who study at least one foreign language in their majors and enabling them to gain suitable information technology skills needed in their fields of study.
- I.** Encouraging, supporting, and upgrading scientific research and innovation, especially applied scientific research aimed at serving and developing society.
- J.** Developing the performance level of Higher Education institutions and their output quality. Increasing their competitive capabilities at an international level through enhancing academic and administrative staff skills by keeping up with the latest technological information and communications and therefore incorporating them in the teaching and research and receiving international accreditation for institutions and programs.
- K.** Encouraging diversity and excellence among higher education institutions to enable them to focus on scientific research and recruiting scientifically competent individuals and on the other hand teaching in order to graduate necessary human resources to meet the job market needs.
- L.** Creating a coherent institutional link between the public and private sectors on one hand, and on the other hand the institutions of higher education in order to take advantage of the qualified human resources in these institutions and thus develop these two sectors through consultation and applied scientific research.
- M.** Enhancing scientific, cultural, artistic and technical cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research with other countries, international organizations, Arab, Islamic and foreign organizations, and thus widening its fields to follow modern and developed directions.

Article 4 - The Ministry shall assume the following duties and powers: -

A. Implementation of the public policy of higher education in the fields of education, culture, science and research among the institutions of higher education.

B. Coordination between institutions of higher education and the consultation centers in the Kingdom, both public and private to optimally take advantage of educational, research and advisory resources available at these institutions and centers.

C. Forming scientific and cultural agreements related to higher education and scientific research with concerned institutions in Arab, Islamic, and foreign countries, in addition to regional and international commissions.

D. Representing the country at conferences and seminars related to higher education, both locally and abroad.

E. Recognition of the non-Jordanian institutions of higher education and equivalency of certificates issued by these institutions according to the principles and criteria that are determined by virtue of a regulation issued for this purpose.

F. Formulating the principles of educational scholarships for the Ministry's employees who are granted scholarships to study at institutions of higher education in the Kingdom and abroad, in addition to the management of scholarships and supervision thereon.

G. Following-up on Jordanian student affairs abroad.

H. Managing the affairs of foreign students in the Kingdom and the Jordanian students studying abroad, and the affairs of the scientific delegations in cooperation and coordination with relevant parties.

I. Preparing and providing the Council with qualified administrative and technical staff capable to carry out its functions and following-up affairs thereto.

J. Providing the Council with any studies, information and available data related to higher education and scientific research.

K. Managing the offices that provide services to students of higher education such as: Liaison offices and foreign university branches that are not affiliated to the higher education institutions. Setting license fees and violation costs according to a regulation issued for this purpose.

L. Granting scholarships and student loans at official universities according to a regulation issued for this purpose.

M. Execution of academic exchange programs through forming agreements between the Kingdom and other countries and institutions according to a regulation issued for this purpose.

Article 5 – a) A council is formed and is called (The Higher Education Council), headed by the Minister and following members:

1. Secretary General of the Ministry.
2. Secretary General of the Ministry of Education appointed by the Minister of Education.
3. Chairman of the Higher Education Accreditation Commission.
4. Three academics with ample experience and expertise and are full academic professors.
5. Two experienced and professional individuals from the private sector.
6. Director of the Education, Military and Culture Directorate at the Jordanian Armed Forces.

b) 1- Appointment of the members stated in items (4) and (5) of paragraph (a) of this Article, where membership of any of them shall be terminated by virtue of a resolution by the Ministers Council, upon a recommendation from the Minister, provided that the appointment decision is issued by a Royal Decree.

2- The membership period of each member mentioned in the provisions of item (1) of this paragraph is three years and is subject to a one-time renewal.

3- In accordance with the provisions of item (1) of this paragraph, any of the members appointed should not be a minister, a member of the House of Parliament, president or vice president or an employee of an academic institute, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of an academic institute or a member or partner of it, or an owner of a private or virtual academic institute thereof.

c) The council selects a Vice-Chairman from among its members.

d) The council forms specialized permanent committees headed by one of its members and thus should include the academic, administrative and financial committees.

e) The council shall form any temporary committees to study topics referred to it, and thus offer recommendations regarding them to the council according to the specialization of each committee.

Article 6 – a) The Council shall assume the following duties and powers:

1. Establishing the policy of higher education in the Kingdom and referring it to the Council of Ministers to make the necessary decision thereon.
2. Setting regulatory controls that guarantee the independence of higher education institutions and work on improving them. These institutions will therefore coordinate among each other to achieve their goals within a framework of participatory, accountability and transparency that will ensure their freedom, sanctity, reputation, and safeguard their properties.
3. Approving the establishment of institutions of higher education within the Kingdom as well as the fields of specialization and programs at the various levels of study, or modifying or eliminating any of them in accordance with the requirements

and variables that don't refute with the Higher Education Accreditation Commission law while ensuring its applicable quality.

4. Distributing government subsidies and additional fees on public universities according to the principles accredited by the Council for this purpose.
5. Encouraging the higher education institutes to find attractive and smart academic investment environments, and follow the e-learning method of teaching.
6. Formulating the general principles pertaining to students' admission into institutions of higher education, and identifying the numbers of students admitted every year in the various fields of specialization, in accordance with the accreditation criteria while supervising their execution.
7. Recommending the Prime Minister's appointment of the boards of trustees of official Jordanian universities and their members.
8. Recommending the appointment of the presidents of official Jordanian Universities in accordance with the current Jordanian Universities Law.
9. Appointing the presidents and members of the boards of trustees of private universities in accordance with the current Jordanian Universities Law.
10. Appointing the presidents of private universities based on the recommendation of the board of trustees and in accordance with the current Jordanian Universities Law.
11. Approving conducting scientific, academic, technical memorandums of understanding with Jordanian and non-Jordanian higher education institutes that generate mutual programs and lead to achieving scientific degrees given that if they are higher education institutes accredited by the ministry.
12. Issuing the necessary financial and administrative instructions required for the operation of the council, its committees, the committees created from it, and the units related to the ministry and linked to the council's work.
13. Discussing the draft regulations proposed by the institutions of higher education and turning them to the Ministers Council to complete the constitutional procedures thereon.
14. Approving the annual budgets and end of year financial statements of the higher education institutes, and discussing their annual reports and issuing the necessary decisions concerning them.
15. Approving the annual certified accountant's report at private higher education institutes, the annual report prepared by the regulatory unit responsible for internal supervision and auditing at official universities.
16. Reviewing the annual audit bureau report concerning official universities and taking suitable procedures regarding it.

b) Upon the recommendation of the Higher Education Accreditation Commission and in accordance with the provisions of its law, the Council shall assume the following duties and powers:

1. Canceling the license of one specialization or more.
2. Suspending admission to higher education institutes permanently or temporary.
3. Closing down a Higher Education institution temporarily, or permanently.
4. Establishing a committee to directly supervise the Higher Education institutions.

Article 7-a- The Council shall hold its meetings at the invitation of the chairman or his deputy during his absence. The meeting shall be legal if attended by eight members at least, provided that the chairman or the vice-chairman is among the attendees. The decisions of the council shall be made by the majority vote of members who are present. With the presence of equal votes, the side voted by the president gets chosen.

b- The Minister shall nominate a secretary for the Council from among the staff of the Ministry, in order to organize the agenda of meetings, take minutes of its meetings, keep records and files, and follow up on the implementation of its decisions or to perform any other functions assigned by the Minister.

c- The Council shall set up the necessary instructions for scheduling meetings.

Article 8- The following units shall be formed within the Council:

a- The Policy Analysis and Planning Unit undertakes the following functions:

- 1- Collecting data on various aspects of higher education sector, and analyzing to measure primary performance indicators for higher education institutes.
- 2- Conducting research studies necessary for the development of the higher education sector.
- 3- Identifying the financial and administrative needs of the higher education sector.
- 4- Any other duties assigned by the Council.

b- The Unified Admission Coordination Unit: This Unit shall handle the process of coordinating students' admission into the Jordanian public universities according to the principles that are formulated by the Council; this is in addition to any other duties assigned by the council.

Article 9-

a- A fund called (the Scientific Research & Innovation Support Fund) is established at the Ministry aiming at encouraging and supporting the scientific research & innovation in the Kingdom.

b- Organizing all the affairs related to the fund including the financial and administrative ones in accordance with the provisions issued for this purpose.

Article 10- a- The Funds' financial resources consist of the following:

- 1- Allocations from the General Budget of the State.
- 2- Surplus allocations of the scientific research, training and publication, conferences, and scholarships that are not disbursed by the Jordanian universities during the last four years.
- 3- Financial revenues derived from patents, intellectual property rights and technology investments supported by the Fund.
- 4- All grants, donations or subsidies received shall be subject to approval by the

council if the source is Jordanian and if such money came from a non-Jordanian source then it should be approved by the Council of Ministers.

- b-** The Fund's money and accounts therein shall be subject to the supervision of the Jordan Audit Bureau.

Article 11- This Fund is regarded as the legal and factual successor of the Scientific Research Support Fund, which was established under the provisions of the Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research No. (23), for the year 2009. All movable and immovable assets, rights and liabilities shall be transferred to this Fund, and shall incur all obligations linked to it.

Article 12- a- The Ministry shall collect fees for the institutional accreditation of the private institutions of higher education which are deposited into the Treasury's account. Amounts and conditions of collection of such fees and other related issues shall be determined by virtue of a special regulation issued for this purpose.

b- The Ministry shall collect service fees for certificates equivalency and authentication, for authenticating certificates of courses, and recommendation letters for academic staff members issued by institutions of higher education. The amount of fees, herein, shall be determined in accordance with instructions issued by the Minister for this purpose.

Article 13- The Council of Ministers shall issue the necessary regulations to put the provisions of this Law into practice.

Article 14- The Law of Higher Education and Scientific Research No. (23), for the year 2009 and its amendments shall be cancelled provided that the regulations issued pursuant thereto stay effective until amended, cancelled or replaced by others in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Article 15- The Prime Minister and Ministers shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Law.