

Student life in Jordan

My name is Philipp Mutter. I am 24 and student of Mechanical Engineering and Mechatronics at Furtwangen University in the south of Germany. During my studies I decided that the life can give you more than staying the whole time in Germany. All over the world are huge experiences waiting for me. After my decision I started to apply for an internship abroad and wanted to connect it with a semester at a foreign university. There, the story starts!

I received an acceptance letter from EADS (European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company) and they sent me to Saudi Arabia. Before I started the journey to KSA, I wanted to abide to the Arabic world and so I applied for a semester at the German Jordanian University (GJU) in Amman. Everything went through and now I am here!

Now, after three month experience in Jordan and especially in Amman, I would like to report a little bit about the real life of a foreign student.

During the first week we exchange students got introduced to Jordan life style, behaviors and cultures by the GJU International Office. It was a very interesting and enlightening week. When I read something about Jordan before, I got the impression of a very traditional and close-minded way of life. Now I am sure: it is not! I started to think about the media-piloted German society and I am sure just a small part of citizens are informed about the real life in Jordan and other Arabic countries.

The very helpful and open-minded behavior of the Jordanians is really awesome. With a funny mixture of Arabic and English word pieces, delicious conversations develop and you get the feeling of a part of local society. Of course, as foreigner - I cannot hide it – you always have to be aware of selling tricks, but some guys are definitely interested in your origin. The most common question is: “What are you doing in Jordan and why are you here?” About the answers, they are always surprised.

But I am not only here for conversations and studying. Jordan delivers a huge plate of cultural attractions. Petra, Wadi Rum, Dead Sea and the old roman city of Jerash are worth to visit Jordan. These are just some examples, but I don't want to miss these impressions anymore.

It is very interesting to do such a trip by bus or taxi. Actually, it is impressive, that this unstructured system really works. Without any schedule and fixed prices it would not be possible in Germany. And by the time, you get used to this kind of “inshallah-mentality”, how I kindly like to call it.

Unfortunately my time in Jordan will end in the very close future and I definitely will miss the time with my new friends. Hopefully the contact won't break down and we will meet in Jordan, Germany or anywhere around the globe again. I just can recommend such an exchange program as it is provided by the GJU. I am really impressed how advanced the spoken German is, even from students in the third year. It makes me nearly jealous, when I think about my language skills.

I am absolutely sure, when I think about my time in Jordan in future, I definitely won't regret these experiences and impressions!