

The Best of Both Worlds!!



الجامعة الألمانية الأردنية
German Jordanian University

10 YEARS GJU

The German Dimension

Edited by
Dorothea Jecht



German Jordanian University
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10 YEARS GJU

The German Dimension

EDITOR:
DOROTHEA JECHT

“Dear Chancellor Merkel, I can say that I’m very satisfied with our cooperation on a bilateral level. Above all, with such successful projects **as the German Jordanian University, this is certainly one of the most successful projects I’ve seen in my country in the past ten years.** We hope that we can move forward on this basis even further”.

HM King Abdullah II, 2012



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Welcome Notes

Dear friends of GJU,

This year comes at an important juncture, which is the tenth anniversary of our beloved university and while we are accomplishing a significant milestone in GJU's journey. I feel very lucky and proud to witness this great event in my capacity as president of this great university. In its first decade, GJU has managed to establish an acclaimed status amongst the various universities operating in Jordan. Great efforts have been made by all GJU previous and present staff and leaderships, in order to achieve this great reputation of a successful and unique example of Jordan's higher education.

Over the past decade, GJU has been investing in its partnerships with German institutions of higher education and industry by applying a double and parallel strategic approach. First, by adopting a new methodology of curricula and instruction whereby the model of applied science universities adopted in Germany is implemented alongside the theoretical aspect of the programs. Secondly, by promoting knowledge transfer. In that, the University has managed to forge links with a consortium comprising more than 90 German universities, with Magdeburg University of Applied Sciences as head of this consortium. Hundreds of our students go to join our partner universities in Germany during their fourth year of study, in addition to hundreds

of them joining German companies. Gladly speaking, our students have proven capable of beating the challenge and coping well with the demands of a new and challenging education.

Another major achievement of GJU is the fact that it is working closely and effectively with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to establish the distinguished partnership that we are currently enjoying. Such relation goes back to the early years of GJU inception. Since then, the University has been enjoying generous support from DAAD, as well as from all its German partners, namely the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research; the state of Saxony-Anhalt; Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences; and the German Embassy in Amman. Truly, their support has rendered students' mission easier and made it possible. Once again, I would like to congratulate our GJU family and our friends for 10 years of success and prosperity!



Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu-Obeid
President of GJU

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends of GJU,

GJU has one of the most impressive concepts, promoting the cooperation between Jordan and Germany in the field of Higher Education, as well as bridging intercultural exchange between diverse cultures and societies.

The German dimension is anchored within the fundament of the university, and in daily life on campus. Its unique feature is the mandatory German Year, consisting of a study semester at a German partner university, and an internship in a German company. Furthermore, it is manifested in the intensive German language courses offered to the student body, in order to be well prepared for the German Year. With a total number of 73 lecturers, the German Language Center of the GJU is now the largest of its kind in the world.

The German experience is not limited to students only. Local academic and administrative staff are encouraged to take part in exchange programs to get to know our German partner universities and our industrial counterparts.

Our GJU networks, consisting of GJU and German professors as well as German industry partners, have laid the fundament for continuously evolving the GJU study concept, such as curricula development,

and for supporting collaborations within multinational research projects.

The German dimension is visible also at GJU Campus: not only by German staff, but also by many professors and exchange students from Germany who wish to spend a semester or teaching period at GJU.

The unique study concept based on the German model of Universities of Applied Sciences paves the way for its students to be innovative, creative, and competent in the labor market and in the world of national and international industry. Ten years after its foundation, the GJU has gained an outstanding reputation in Jordan and the region. Its graduates are very unique: being trilingual –Arabic, English, German – , and having received a practice-oriented education; they have excellent career opportunities; and they are amongst the best paid in Jordan. The German dimension certainly contributed to this success.

This booklet presents the uniqueness of GJU - the German dimension - in all its facets. We invite you to explore one of the leading universities in the Kingdom which represents the best of both worlds.



Prof. Dr. Anton Mangstl
Vice President for International Affairs at GJU since 2011
Former Director at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Building bridges through education: the founding of the German Jordanian University (GJU) ten years ago has strengthened the ties between our two countries by all means, especially with regard to academic relations. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is convinced that it was the right decision to support and fund such a successful project since its very beginning in 2005. The so-called “German dimension” of the university is outstanding: the GJU is based on the model of German universities of applied sciences and is considered a milestone and a unique example of a successful higher education project in the Middle East established in cooperation with the DAAD. The GJU is one of our largest and most renowned transnational education projects, which are financed by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The establishment of such an exceptional binational university was certainly due to the dedication and commitment of both the Jordanian and German partners by merging innovative higher education approaches, promoting academic and industrial links between Jordan and Germany as well as fostering intercultural understanding.

The German applied sciences model is aiming at putting knowledge into practice and at promoting knowledge transfer by taking advantage of best practice in higher education from both partner countries, Germany and Jordan. GJU's high potential in industrial partnerships enables the university to offer innovative study programmes that are characterized by highest academic

standards and a strong practical orientation, always focusing on the regional needs of the labour market and the objective to serve the region's socio-economic development concerning industrialization and technological progress. At the same time, the GJU counts on excellence in all fields of academic management, applied research and instruction: GJU's dedication to quality research as well as a combination of research-based teaching and student-centered learning do underline the institution's ambitions to be a leading university in the whole region. The special focus on practical academic training and German expertise becomes especially apparent by the facts that all GJU-students have to study German and furthermore pass one semester at one of the more than 90 partner universities and one semester with an internship in an industrial undertaking in Germany during the fourth study year. No other transnational education project has ever realized so fully the connection to Germany and to the applied sciences model “made in Germany”. Without the personal commitment of the leading German partner, the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences and its former Rector Prof. Dr. Andreas Geiger, the GJU could never have developed such strong ties with other German universities and industry. Indeed, the GJU itself could never have been realized without the dedication of the GJU founding President Prof. Dr. Labib Khadra and his successor Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu Obeid, the whole GJU staff as well as Jordanian politicians and partners from Jordanian industry, who have adopted the German

system and so turned the whole project into a successful example of a unique transnational and international cooperation in terms of academic exchange, science, research and friendship. The German side has contributed to its success and thriving development through the BMBF-funding for the project, scholarship offers and the posting of DAAD lecturers financed by the Federal Foreign Office (AA) as well as the advising, mentoring and quality assurance offered by our competent DAAD staff.

I am personally very proud that the DAAD has been part of this excellent and inspiring higher education project since the beginning. We do work together in perfect harmony and with great efficiency and I feel therefore honoured that in 2015 the GJU's 10th and the DAAD's 90th anniversary coincide.

The GJU has been building bridges between our two countries, academia and individuals ever since its foundation. I am sure that in the years to come it will retain its outstanding reputation, strengthen and enhance academic standards and contribute further to German-Jordanian friendship and to better intercultural understanding.

The road to success was long and sometimes difficult, and in order to continue the success story we must all strive to increase our commitment to support and encourage the various GJU projects and visions. Together we can do it!

Prof. Dr. Margret Wintermantel
President, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)



by
Thilo Vogel

The first steps towards founding the German Jordanian University were taken in 2002, more specifically during the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah II to Germany. During this visit, the Jordanian delegation made it clear that they were very interested in establishing a university following the applied sciences model of the German “Fachhochschulen”. The reason for this request was the lack of “workplace-ready” university graduates, which many Jordanian industry representatives complained about. Thus, from the beginning, the German “Fachhochschul“-model was the inspiration for the establishment of this university.

It took another three years until the GJU actually started and enrolled the first students. Even though the model of a university of applied sciences is brand new to the region, and it certainly still requires some adjustments, it is without a doubt a huge success that is seen as a role model by a lot of countries especially in the Arab world.

But it is not only the applied sciences approach that makes this project so successful.

This project is so wonderful, because it brings together young people from different cultures, because it builds bridges between Europe, especially Germany, and the Arab world,

because it enables young Arabs to get to know Germany for a year with all its different aspects, because it motivates young Germans to get to know the Arab world in a special, academic context and because, and I would like to emphasize this: it connects people who never knew each other before, but who share ideas and work together and make this idea a reality. It is people from very different cultures who follow this idea, who turn it into reality and who have become friends over time.

I want to emphasize especially this last point because I am deeply convinced that good ideas and the certainly necessary financial backing alone are not sufficient to realize these ideas. Especially in an intercultural context, it is the personal relations between the partners that guarantee success. This was the case with the GJU-Project. And this is why it is such a successful project. I want to personally thank my many partners in this project. It is and has been a fantastic experience and I am proud and happy to be part of this process.



Prof. Dr. Andreas Geiger
Project Director for GJU in Germany
Former Rector of Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences (1998-2014)

On behalf of the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, I would like to extend our warm congratulations on the tenth anniversary of the German-Jordanian University. It is with great joy and pride that we look back at the development of GJU, whose practical and application-oriented teaching is based on the model of German universities of applied sciences. This results in long-term relationships between the two countries which help further knowledge transfer and future-oriented cooperation.

The Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences has been responsible for the German-Jordanian University project for more than ten years. It is the most important and successful project of "German Study Programmes Abroad" which is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The project office for this major educational project can be found on our campus in Magdeburg in the heart of Germany.

Under the lead of Prof. Andreas Geiger, it coordinates and manages the expansion of the GJU and supports the Jordanian students during their semester in Germany as they prepare applications for internships in German companies and by providing practical assistance during their stay. At the same time, our university is always happy to welcome new Jordanian students, teachers and researchers to our campus every semester. Shared study and work help foster intensive exchange of knowledge and better cultural understanding.

We look forward to continuing this successful cooperation and wish you all the best and every success in celebrating the anniversary of the German-Jordanian University.



Prof. Dr. Anne Lequy
Rector of Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

by
Harald Krieg

H.E. Prof. Labib AL-Khadra
Minister of Higher Education and Scientific
Research in Jordan
Founding President of GJU (2005-2013)

The German-Jordanian University can well serve as a story of real success; a story of will, perseverance and determination; and a story of real and effective partnership.

The University was established with the objective of fulfilling the vision, hopes and aspirations of His Majesty King Abdullah II for a high caliber university that offers quality programs with emphasis on technical skills, combined with theoretical knowledge. The ultimate objective is to set an example for other universities in the region, and to present a concrete evidence that public universities in Jordan are capable of breaking traditional boundaries of education and adopting a new methodology of curricula and instruction.

The University has well succeeded, over the past 10 years, to set a pioneering example of quality education that has enriched and contributed meaningfully to the overall march of higher education in Jordan. This is evident in its unique study plans which emphasize technical skills combined with theoretical knowledge. This is also evident

in the links that the University has forged with local and German industries that go hand-in-hand with students' teaching/ learning process. Indeed, the University has aptly constructed new cultural and academic bridges with international scopes and dimensions that paved the way for its students to be innovative, creative, and competent in the labor market and the world of national and international industries.

To attain success is easy but to maintain it is difficult. Thus, the University academic and administrative staff are indeed encountering a hard challenge, it is the challenge to do their utmost with a view to building on this past success, to keeping the momentum, and to proceeding with this blessed march. Indeed the GJU faithful family under the innovative leadership of Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu Obeid are facing this challenge with courage and enthusiasm.

Statements about GJU





The German Dimension as a unique feature

Dr. Dorothea Jecht, Director International Office of GJU

The Best of Both Worlds!!

“Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world” Nelson Mandela.

I believe after 10 years it clearly shows that the German Jordanian University has changed both worlds – Germany and Jordan, Europe and the Middle East, conceptual thinking and practical application. Many students, staff members, entrepreneurs and partners are our testimonials – and you will find many of them in this book. By dealing deeply with both countries GJU has been building bridges, connecting cultures and serving societies.

If we talk about the German Dimension of GJU we should not limit ourselves to the academic collaboration with German Universities: it is the way of life and the way of thinking that matter. The main impact of GJU is educating open-minded, practice-oriented and truly international young people.

Inter-Governmental Agreements

If we look at the history of GJU it started off with a top down approach: Both Governments were convinced that such a university is beneficial for the region and the countries. Accordingly two agreements were signed in 2004 and 2008 securing the legal and financial background of the University. Both governments committed themselves to supply funds for this extraordinary project (mainly from the Ministries of Higher Education and Research in Jordan and Germany, but in addition from the Federal Foreign Office Germany and again from both Governments through a debt swap procedure). The funds from the German Ministries are allocated to the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), then to the GJU Project Office at University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal which is the leading partner university of GJU in Germany before reaching GJU students, staff, and projects.

Governance of GJU

It was GJU's good luck that it had a wise and mindful Founding President right from the beginning: Prof. Dr. Labib Khadra. Being a graduate from RWTH Aachen he knows the German university system very well and did a great job applying it in Jordan. The actual President Prof. Dr. Natheer Abu-Obeid is not

only keeping up with his tradition but also focusing even more on the German aspects of the university. Immediately after taking over his position, he decided to dedicate GJU's Master and PhD scholarships exclusively to programs done in Germany. To further secure the German dimension, the Vice President for International Affairs of GJU has to be German according to GJU's by-laws. In addition, a certain number of representatives in the highest committee of GJU, the Board of Trustees, have to be nominees of German Partners.

Curricula Design and Network in Germany

It was one of the first important milestones for GJU that all curricula of the Undergraduate Programs were designed according to German Universities of Applied Sciences (so-called Fachhochschulen). To date, the GJU has gathered a network of more than 90 German Partner Universities working closely together with our academic staff here. For each major GJU has nominated a German network head to look after the study program and to enhance the German dimension. The 14 Network Heads are mirrored by 15 Exchange Coordinators at GJU, often graduates from a University in Germany, being the main contact persons to initiate new partnerships, maintaining partnerships, and looking after the academic exchange.



The “German Year” for GJU Students

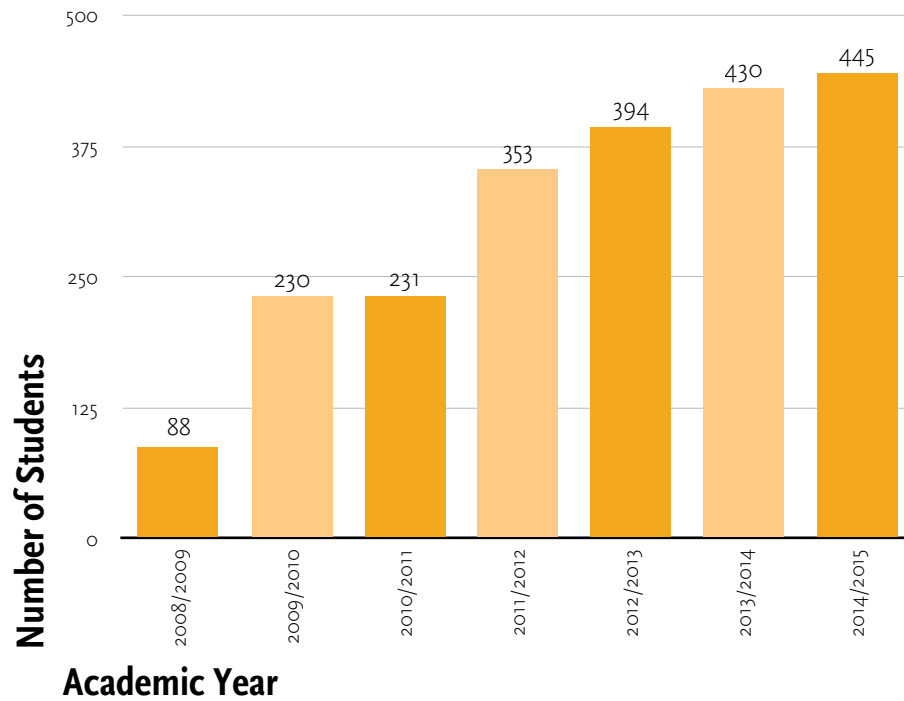
One other very important milestone was the implementation of the so-called German Year for all GJU undergraduate students. All students, at the Bachelor level, must spend one year in Germany; studying for one semester at a partner university and fulfilling a 20 week internship in the German industries as a compulsory requirement of graduation. To facilitate the German Year, the students are supported by the staff of International Office (for visa and the study semester), by the team of Office for Industrial Links (for the internship semester), and by their Exchange Coordinators, who supervise the study semester academically and work with the students on their individual Learning Agreement. In addition, the GJU Project Office in Magdeburg helps to tackle all student affairs while GJU students are in Germany. Since the German Year is a unique feature of GJU, there are scholarships from the German Government available for the best GJU students to cover the expenses for this year. Up to date more than 2200 GJU students have been sent to Germany to complete the German Year.

Industrial Links

Another milestone of GJU is the university's strong cooperation with the industry. GJU's professors usually have industrial experience and industrial partners from Jordan and Germany who are contributing to the curriculum. Applied and hands-on teaching methods, practical trainings, and professional career services are provided. The Office for Industrial Links, together with the GJU Project Office at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, built up an extended network of industrial partners in Germany and in Jordan.

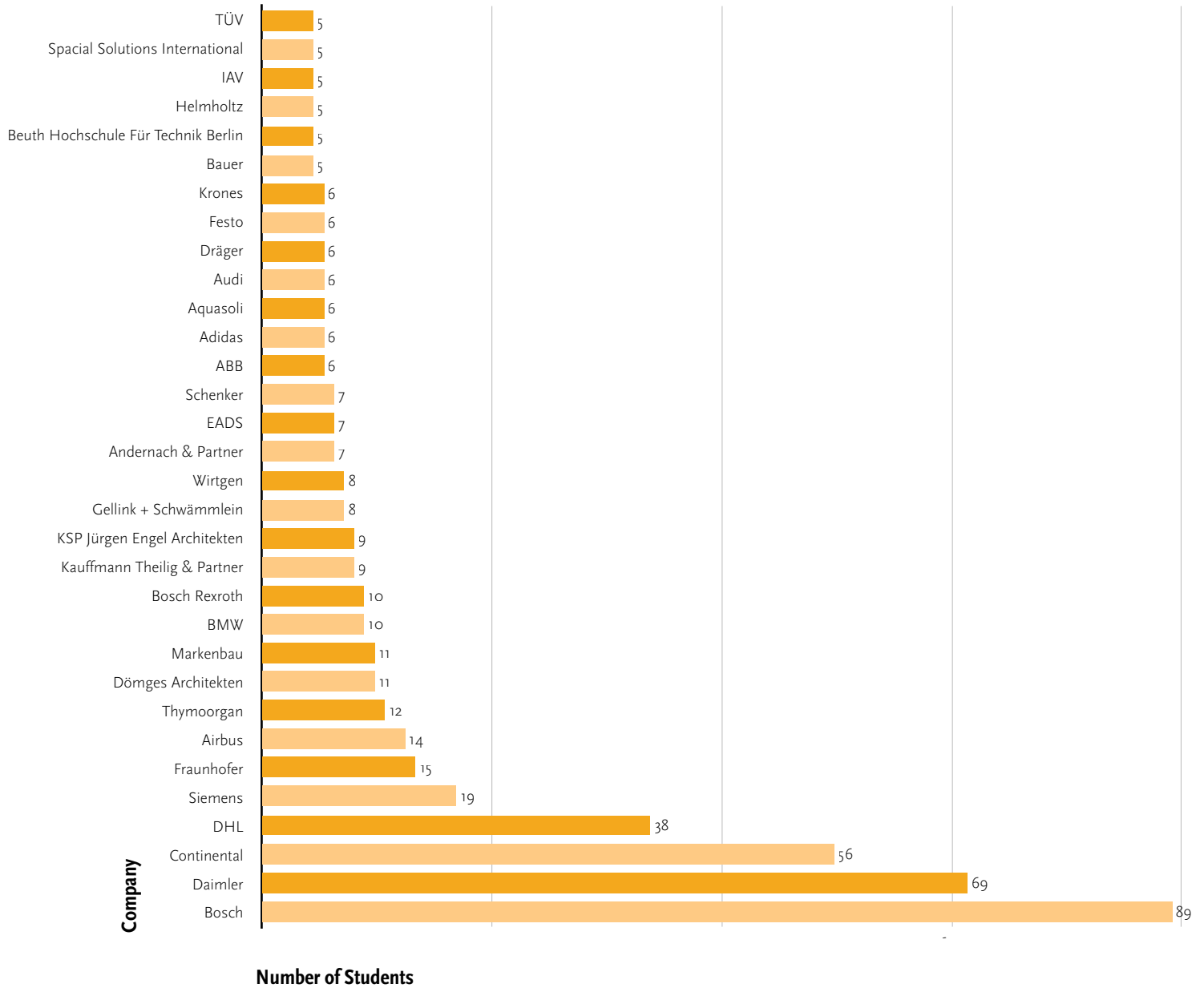
Learning German at GJU

Although there are many English-taught classes available at German Universities, GJU has decided since the beginning to put a clear focus on the German Language. A unique German Language Center has been established at GJU, and all students have been obliged to achieve a minimum level of B1 in German Language before going to Germany. Today the GJU German Language Center (GLC) is the largest university-based Language Center world-wide with currently 73 teachers from 21 countries. To maintain such a Center is still an incredible challenge. But it is the right strategy: There is no real access to a foreign culture (including the labour market) without knowing the language.



GJU Outgoing Students by Academic Year

Overview about the German Dimension



Internships of GJU Students in Germany

German-Related Study Programs

The German Language Center is working closely together with the School of Applied Humanities and Languages. Students who want to get indulged into the German Language can select one of three majors in the above mentioned School: The Bachelor German and English for Business and Communication, the major Translation Arabic English German or the Master of German as a Foreign Language. In all programs, students learn understanding the German and European culture, and discuss intercultural topics to be prepared for a career in both worlds.

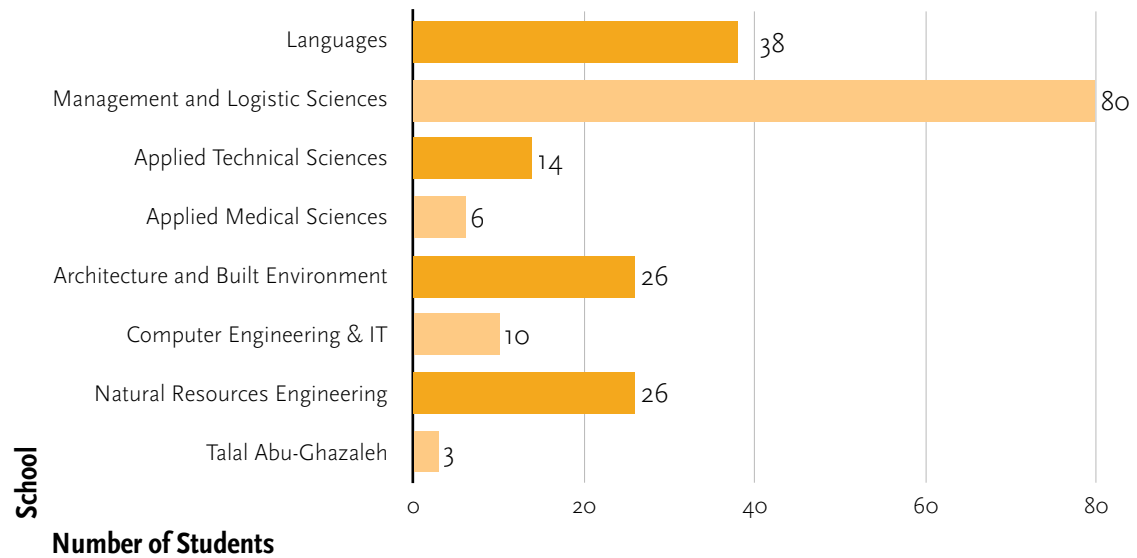
Staff Exchange

Every year about 20-30 German lecturers come and visit GJU to teach and interact with the students. Some lecturers are given in German to prepare the students for their German Year. Since 2009, 94 German professors have taught at GJU under the umbrella of the Flying Faculty Program. Vice versa, 20-30 GJU lecturers visit Germany every year to teach at German Universities, to study the environment of a Fachhochschule, and to work with companies to improve their professional skills. In addition, administrative staff from

GJU can enjoy training opportunities at German universities. Up to date, about 44 GJU colleagues have gone to Germany for teaching and training under the umbrella of the Train the Trainer Program. Both programs are jointly funded by GJU and GJU Project Office Magdeburg.

German Exchange Students at GJU

Ever since GJU students started to go to Germany there have been some interested German students visiting GJU for an exchange semester. Although the political situation in the region is becoming more and more critical, GJU could attract a good number of 75 students from Germany in 2014. Most of the German students are interested in majors from the School of Management and Logistics, but also Architecture, Design and some Engineering students are coming. In addition, GJU has been offering an Arabic Language Program including scholarships provided by DAAD since winter 2014. It also helps to attract learners from Germany and to develop GJU as a regional education hub.



Incoming Exchange Students at GJU by School

Joint Study and Research Projects

GJU is a public University and right from the beginning the Schools have been fostering research projects and making sure to set up high technology laboratories. Today you will find high standard equipment at GJU in all Engineering majors, some of these labs funded by the DAAD. It is again the spirit of international collaboration that makes the research approach at GJU unique. The German feature is added up by many European programs like Tempus and Erasmus Plus. In a complex world like ours where many problems have become global, leading scientists believe that successful research work needs multinational groups. This is what GJU staff is up to every day.

Thank you – and enjoy!

We hope that this book will give you interesting, surprising and joyful insights to the unique German-Jordanian collaboration of this university. We want to thank all our partners in Germany, Jordan and world-wide – without them GJU would not be what it is today: a place where people from all over the world can grow and learn how to contribute to a better future.



Team of the International Office of GJU



Team of the Office for Industrial Links of GJU

Prof. Dr. Manar Fayyad

Vice President of GJU

Ever since I did my PhD in Germany as a chemist at University of Bonn, I was fascinated by the German model of Higher Education. The close collaboration of the two concepts of research-oriented universities and practical-oriented universities of applied sciences in Germany shapes a unique landscape of Higher Education world-wide. Since I became a member of the Board of Trustees from 2010-2013 and being the Vice President of GJU since 2013 I became aware of the benefits of the German system one more time, but now enriched by the out-standing knowledge and talent of our Jordanian students and staff and the color of the Jordanian community.

Statements about GIU





Studying and Living in Germany

In winter semester 2008/09, the first 45 GJU students left for their 'German Year'. Since then, the number of students spending one year in Germany has been steadily growing. Now, in spring semester 2015, there are more than 450 students simultaneously in Germany, the highest number so far. In total, almost 2200 GJU students have been in Germany for their so-called "German Year" so far. Finding their way in a mostly entirely new culture, using a new language in academia and in a work environment, far from home and family, is certainly a big challenge for our students. The experience gained by mastering this challenge and which a vast majority of GJU-students call 'life changing', 'eye-opening', and also 'the best year in my life' is what you will read in detail within the following reports.

In total, almost 2200 GJU students have been to Germany.



Hala Alkhateeb, 22, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of Water and Environmental Engineering (B.Sc.)
Studied at Westphalian University of Applied Sciences (Gelsenkirchen)
(First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at NIVUS GmbH, Eppingen
(Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Character Building Days

Someone came to me in the early beginning of my journey in Germany and asked me: “Hala, what did you get from Germany so far?” This question kept running through my mind for almost 6 months.

“You Need to Speak the Language First”

How was it possible that during these months I did not get anything useful out of my stay? I kept analyzing this problem and I found out that spending my time surrounded by Arabs would never make me learn anything, not the German language and not even the new culture. I found it very important that someone who was away from home, especially in a new community and new way of living, needed to contribute to the new life. And I did that! I stopped hanging out with my Arab friends and even international students. I started making friends with Germans and finally lived with a

real German family. The best decision I made during my stay in Germany was leaving to South Germany to do my internship in a small family company. One of my new friends told me: “If you want to get to know the culture, you need to speak the language first”.

“German Culture is about Achievements and Competitions”

Accordingly, I chose to live with a German family instead of living amongst international students. It was a small area where I lived; we were roughly 200 people living in that area. Everything in the beginning was hard but day after day it became easier for me: I started to communicate with the family, talking with them in German and finally getting to know the new culture. My German knowledge improved very quickly as I became more self-confident by accepting to make mistakes and to be corrected by others. What also helped me in improving my language was that during my internship I couldn't find anyone that could talk to me in English. This was motivating me to learn German in order to understand my colleagues at work. During this period of time, I learned about the German kitchen and about some of their traditional ways of living. German culture is more about achievements and competitions; they are more into working

day in and day out to have a pleasant life in the future.

A Marvellous Opportunity

To summarize, this year is almost done and what we have learned from this amazing year will stay with us. If they asked me now “What did you learn during your stay?”, I would say I learned more than you could imagine: Ranging from Germany’s beautiful scenery overground to Germany’s underground. I collected so many experiences during this year, especially in my technical work when I travelled all over Germany with a company for measuring certain technical issues related to my major, and also by contributing in international exhibitions such as the IFAT exhibition for water and environmental technologies and treatments. The German Jordanian University gave us this marvellous opportunity so that we could investigate this new culture.

I’m proud that each one of us could have this incredible chance so we could start our career path with international background. This year has affected me in a good way and it has given me a perspective for my future as to what I want to become in my life.



Samer Alhasan, 23, Iraqi

Fifth-Year student of Architecture (B.Sc.)
Studied at Saarland University of Applied
Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Aliseo GmbH, Wolfach Offenburg
(Second/Summer Semester 2014)

A Year Equals a Century

Since my first day as a student in the German Jordanian University, I kept thinking about my year in Germany and how it would be, but I never expected it was going to be the way it was.



New Friends

My first days in Germany were very confusing to me, since I had to get used to a new country and culture. I spent my first semester in Saarbrücken, which was a small but very pleasant city. I lived in a flat with 3 roommates who all were students from Jordan. I had never met anyone of them before and to be honest I did not like any of them at the beginning. But, as time passed by, I gradually started to discover how cooperative and friendly they were and we eventually became best friends. I met a lot of new people during my first days, mostly students. They were from different countries: Germany, France Mexico, Spain and many other. What really strengthened my relationship with my new friends was a trip made by the university to a magical place called Saarschleife, where we spent a great time hiking through the woods talking to each other and having a great time.

Studying in Saarbrücken

I had a superb time at the university; my German colleagues were very friendly and helpful as well as my professors. It did not take me much time to get used to the new city and to how things worked. My friends and I were able to arrange more than one trip during the weekends. One of the most unforgettable trips was a ski trip to France: I was not able to ski, I fell a lot but it was a lovely experience. During

my time in Saarbrücken, I was busy making interviews for my internship which I was supposed to do after finishing my semester at the university. Finally, I got accepted in a company called ALISEO. Their location was in a small city called Offenburg. I started working with them by the middle of March. I moved to the new city with sorrow since I had to say goodbye to all my friends in Saarbrücken.

Exhausting, Exciting, and Challenging

I was nervous on my first working day, but thanks to my supervisors and colleagues who were always at my side when I needed help, I was able to adjust quickly to my new way of life. I spent nine hours working every day. The

work was a bit exhausting but very exciting and challenging, and I was able to learn a lot about architecture as well as to develop my social skills. Each weekend I tried to make another trip with my friends so as to make the most of my time in Europe. I went to Budapest, Prague, Amsterdam and many other cities; each new trip was more fun than the one before.

It was difficult for me to leave Germany at the end of the year, since I had spent an extraordinary time there. It is true that I left it now and might not go back for a long time, but the memories will remain forever.



Mira Mondo, 23, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of Industrial Engineering
(B.Sc.)

Studied at Cologne University of Applied
Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)

Internship at Airbus, Hamburg
(Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Out of my Comfort Zone

I left Jordan on the 11th of September 2013 to start my new adventure: The exchange year in Germany, which I had been waiting for since the first day I registered at the German Jordanian University.

“Travelling alone to a new country for the first time”

My start in Cologne, where I attended university for my studying semester, was of course tough. Nothing is supposed to be easy when you're travelling alone to a new country for the first time. But as soon as all paper work was sorted out, everything became much easier. The good thing was that the language was not a barrier. I just had to practice what I had learned during the past 3 years. Moreover, the city hall of Cologne had organized an introductory cocktail party, where we got introduced to many types of events that we could attend during our exchange semester.

I especially remember a sentence which the mayor told us: “You chose the best city in Germany for your exchange semester because Cologne has lots of activities for students”. It turned out that she was completely right. Later, I got introduced intensively to the German culture by living among German people, through carnival and cultural activities.

“Joining International Program Communities”

During my studying semester, I got to know the education system in Germany which was somehow different from the one in Jordan, and this played a major role in broadening my education. I have also experienced the life of athletes by joining a basketball team in Cologne, as basketball has been my main hobby since I was a kid. In addition to sports, I really like to travel. I have visited a number of cities around Germany and other European countries. One of the unforgettable trips was when our university organized a trip with other exchange students to the capital of Germany, Berlin. Joining international program communities was a very enriching experience. Through these communities, lots of activities were organized and one could meet other exchange students.

“The Second Half of my Adventure”

The second half of my adventure took place in Hamburg, which is one of the most amazing cities in Germany to live in. I started my internship at Airbus after submitting many applications to different companies in different cities in Germany. It was very hectic but as they say “no pain, no gain”. No one can deny that this internship was beneficial, since it met all my expectations. One should be very open-minded because he/she interacts with many people from different nationalities. I have improved my intercultural communication and gained an amazing experience in the aviation industry. I was lucky to work for Airbus and to meet lots of inspiring people. I have also made many friends from different nationalities who were doing their internship at Airbus. We have socialized, travelled and made lots of activities together. Other than learning about the German culture, many people were asking me about Jordan. Most of them had never been to Jordan or met anyone from there, and they were very excited to hear about our culture, our food and our way of living.

All in all, it was an amazing experience on both the personal and academic level. It is not only about meeting new people but also about getting to know yourself. It was an exercise in adaptation, open-mindedness, social skills and independence. This is, by far, the best thing I could have ever done during my university years.





Serina Dabbah, 23, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of Design & Visual Communication (B.A.)
Studied at RheinMain University of Applied Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Grey GmbH, Düsseldorf (Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Exciting stories to share with my grandchildren

Doing an exchange year in Germany has been one of the best times of my life. Staying in a foreign country for a long period of time does not only improve your language skills, but also provides you with the possibility to understand and experience a new culture.

“Getting exposed to different cultures”

During the first six months I was an exchange student in the beautiful city of Wiesbaden, where I met many international and local students, I can truly say I lived the best of both worlds, fun times and an education which has increased my knowledge and exposed me to new ideas and ways of thinking. During the last six months I moved to Düsseldorf; the city's exciting and vibrant nature allowed me to enjoy and reach my full potential during the internship I spent there. The experience was priceless, it was beyond what I had expected.



The few months that I spent there allowed me to grow as an individual in so many different levels. I can honestly say it was a life changing experience and I consider myself very lucky to have had this opportunity. Getting exposed to different cultures, lifestyles and new ways of thinking has really taught me a lot. To put it in the simplest way, I can say that I have really grown as a designer; and for that I am proud and grateful.

Broadening one's mind

Personally speaking, I must say that studying abroad is a choice that everybody should pursue at least once in a lifetime; it broadens your mind, enabling you to adjust your perspective to see the real-profound beauty of the world. I miss studying abroad, all the memories I had with the great people I met along the way, the moments I captured along my journey would always stay with me, especially traveling around Germany and Europe. It was amazing. With this being said, getting to know the German way of life was an interesting experience that I will dearly cherish for many years to come. Overall, my experience in Germany has been a once in a lifetime opportunity and one of the best and most rewarding experiences of my life.

If you have any desire to go abroad, broaden your horizons, explore new things, go on adventures, try new foods, go out of your comfort zone, make new friends and embrace diversity, GJU is the answer. It has opened doors to a whole new world for me and I am incredibly grateful for this experience!



Moh'd Ghaith AlHalawani, 22, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of Communication Engineering (B.Sc.)
Studied at Saarland University of Applied Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Bosch Rexroth AG, Lohr am Main (Second/Summer Semester 2014)

A Life-changing Program

The German Jordanian University has always been distinguished by what is known in the GJU community as the “German Year”. Luckily, I had the opportunity to be part of this program: an experience that lasted for a whole year, and the least that can be said about it is: “Life-Changing”.

The German Year

It did not only give us opportunity for academic improvement, but also exposed us to a whole new world, where we were able to view the world we were living in from a different angle. The German year is mainly divided into two main parts; a semester in a German partner university and an internship semester in a German company. We faced many challenges in both parts that we had to overcome. The first challenge that we faced as soon as we arrived Germany was the

language. We noticed the difference between knowing the language and actually being able to use it to communicate with the natives. Germans were strict, and they refused to offer any help if we used a language other than German to ask for it.

International Experience

In the partner university, I took four different courses that were mainly in German. Apart from the knowledge I gained, they improved my technical German language, which was very useful when I had to pursue an internship in a German company. The International Office of the partner university held many events where we were introduced to the German culture and enjoyed many fun activities. We also met the ERASMUS exchange students in our city and became friends with many of them, which enhanced our international experience even more. We took advantage of being in Germany. Every weekend I used to travel to a different city, and with each new city I would learn something new about Germany and Europe. I used to meet up with old friends most of the time. I also made a lot of new friends during these trips. It was extremely interesting to see how people were living in different cities, especially Arabs and Muslims.

First Steps Toward my Future Career

Maybe the most stressful part of this experience was finding the internship. As I was inexperienced in applying for a job, I had made a lot of mistakes at the beginning, but with every new application things were getting better. When I was finally accepted for an internship, I had already gained enough experience in dealing with the job market, which I am sure will be a great help in the future.

I consider the five months that I have spent in the internship as the first steps that my future career will be built upon. I have gained an enormous amount of experience, not only in the field that I have worked in, but also concerning the whole working environment. I have learned about the German working system, which is a fair and efficient system. It has also helped me improve my concentration and organization skills.

After all, there is no doubt that the German year did not only help us improve academically and socially, but also changed the way we saw the world around us. It was an experience that I would repeat at any given time.



Leen Hina, 23, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering (B.Sc.)
Studied at Albstadt-Sigmaringen University (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Drägerwerk AG & Co. KGaA, Lübeck (Second/Summer Semester 2014)

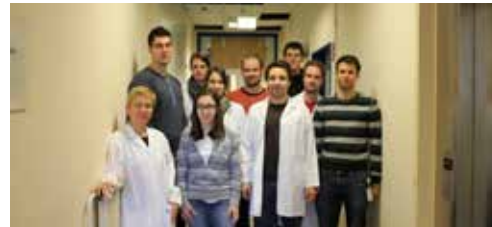
Hit the Road, Jack!

I am one of the fortunate students of the German Jordanian University, who were given the valuable opportunity to study and intern in Germany. This opportunity was a gate to a new cultural exchange, a new exciting adventure and a new perspective on life.

“An Eye-opener to the German Culture”

Studying at a German university allowed me to strengthen my knowledge of the German language and was an eye-opener to the German culture through the eyes of the young generation. This might have been hard to experience through any language course taught by a professor. In addition to that, it was a great honor for me to be able to represent my country, traditions and culture through multiple occasions and presentations. It sure did give me a sense of pride and responsibility, since having been surrounded by German and Erasmus students helped

in overcoming cultural differences and in breaking common false stereotypes about the Middle East and many other countries around the world. This has led to forming friendships with students worldwide.



“In the Heart of Europe”

Being in the heart of Europe gave me the chance to travel around conveniently. Throughout my stay, I traveled to several European countries. Hence, I collected experiences, adventures and memories, which exceeded the German borders. As for the academic part, this year has shed light on many other teaching and learning techniques and methods. Being among the hard working, punctual, and knowledgeable fellow German colleagues gave me a different perspective about studying. I did my internship at the renowned company Dräger. This opportunity made me form a clearer sense of responsibility towards my field of study and the role I could play in any working space, as I was given the chance to get a hands on experience

by contributing in several ongoing projects, in addition to working independently on the project I was assigned for.

I am sure that other students of the German Jordanian University who spent a year or even more abroad have acquired a vast amount of experience, culture and knowledge as well. This wouldn't have been possible without the university's belief in graduating not only well-educated students, but also independent, experienced and leading individuals.



Abdallah Shananier, 23, Jordanian

Fifth-Year student of International Accounting (B.A.)

Studied at Saarland University of Applied Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)

Internship at Daimler AG, Stuttgart (Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Exceeding All Expectations

Like all other students in GJU I had my expectations for the year in Germany. However, the experiences that I made exceeded all my expectations in many different ways.

New Mentalities...

Starting with the exchange semester in Saarbrücken where I was with 14 other students whom I barely knew then, and whom now I consider to be my brothers after all that we've been through together. Then came the hard part of finding an internship, which made us able to withstand the pressure of multiple rejections and helped us improve our German language as we were constantly modifying our CV's and cover letters, which paid off in the end as most of us got to work in well-known companies. I myself was lucky enough to be able to work at Daimler AG in Stuttgart. The work experience on its own is something that has definitely affected us because it took us out of the student and into the employee

mentality, and made us appreciate the precious weekend. Working extra hours gave us the time to take some days off and to go on various three or four-day-adventures to neighboring countries and some further ones in the EU. I can talk and talk about those trips for a long time!

... and challenges

Not to only mention the fun of it, there were also all the challenges: Ranging from the language barrier (where conversations sometimes ended up with sign language), to navigating your way with a piece of paper, and of course experiencing the thrill of driving over 200km/h on the Autobahn. This whole year feels like a dream now that it's over, because one can never imagine how different a person will be after returning home. All those experiences shape a new person. In the end, you find out who you really are when you're left alone, having to make your own decisions and bearing all the consequences.

Making new friends, learning about new cultures wherever you go, comparing differences and finding similarities, learning how to manage your finances, improving your third language, and being able to look for a job, an apartment and work using that third language – all of those things and many more made it a truly life-changing experience.



Mariana Qumsiyeh 23, Palestinian

Fifth-Year student of Pharmaceutical
and Chemical Engineering (B.Sc.)
Studied at Anhalt University of Applied Sciences
(First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma Co.
& KG, Biberach/Riß
(Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Join in for a Lifetime-Experience

I didn't expect that joining Boehringer Ingelheim Pharma Co. & KG as a pharmaceutical intern would become the lifetime-experience it has been in every way. Though the period was relatively short (23 weeks), it had an impact on my personality, knowledge and career-path.

“A Great Environment to be Part of”

The company was originally a family owned business, which grew into an international one. I saw it as a great environment to be part of, and the company policy included a lot of respect and care for the employees and for the interns. My internship took place within the company's Department for Research & Development, which was located in a city called Biberach (Riß). It is considered a small city in Germany where not many adventures can be found, but still I managed to find some.

“A Privilege to be Thankful for”

In the first month of my internship, I got to meet many pharmacists doing their internship in the division as well, which helped me with getting to know mates nearly my age to do some activities with. In the second month, the company had arranged a week for the pharmaceutical interns to travel to Ingelheim to get to know the various divisions of the company, since the head quarters and production site were there. It was actually a great experience loaded with knowledge and also social interaction. It was a great and interesting event for me because of the people from different backgrounds I got to know. This was a privilege for which I will always be thankful to the company.

Of course, no path is without its difficulties. For me, among these was facing some employees who were not open for different cultures or people from different backgrounds such as I was to them. But in the end, these difficulties also added up to our personality and experience, and we learned to deal with them. I became really good friends with my co-supervisor, who was always helpful and welcoming.

I believe that things really happen in an unexpected way, but hopefully they will be as great for you as they were for me.

Aseel Nasser, 24, Jordanian

Graduate in Biomedical Engineering (B.Sc.)
Studied at Lübeck University of Applied Sciences
(First Semester 2012/2013)
Internship at Helmholtz Institute of RWTH
Aachen (MediTEC)
(Second/Summer Semester 2013)

Germany: An Experience of a Lifetime

Two and a half years ago, I boarded the plane heading from Amman to Hamburg, overwhelmed and trying to manage the mixture of emotions that suddenly hit me. On one hand, I was so excited to embark on a new journey that I have heard a lot of stories about from former students, but on the other hand I felt stressed out and afraid about the new lifestyle that I would have to create for myself abroad.

A Not-So-Easy Task

I spent the first semester in Lübeck; the beautiful city that is located in the upper most northern part of Germany and the one that is famous for Marzipan. It is definitely one of the most magnificent cities in Germany; full of breathtaking nature scenery and wonderful architecture. The main reason that made me chose this city was the possibility to study in English by getting enrolled in the English-taught Master's program for Biomedical

Engineering at FH Lübeck. Before living in Germany, I thought that studying in English would be an easier task for me, and would save me a lot of pressure for not having to spend a lot of time on learning German scientific language. However, this was not exactly the case, as most German Universities follow a system in which students have one exam at the end of the semester to pass their course. This meant that I had to study on a daily basis and needed to put a lot of effort into understanding everything so as not to leave anything for the last minute and not to accumulate the material. In addition to that, choosing the English taught program meant studying in a higher level program, as the courses were on a Master's level and hence meant an added challenge.

Breaking the Ice

Whenever Lübeck comes to my mind, I think of it as the ice-breaking part of the German experience, as this semester was the learning phase and the hardest part of the whole experience. From getting acquainted to doing daily chores like cleaning and grocery shopping on my own, to learning skills like time and money management, as well as taking responsibility of myself and my studies, everything was new and stressful at the beginning. Furthermore, in that semester I had to apply for an internship, which was

an added pressure on me as it was on other students, given that it was not an easy task and required some time. I was lucky to secure myself a position three months after arriving in Germany, but that was only because I had started to apply as soon as I had moved to Lübeck. Shortly after doing a Skype interview with a research group in Aachen, I got the offer to do my internship at their institute. I immediately sent them my acceptance without waiting to receive any other offers. I wanted to secure myself the position and to get done with the task. I was also very interested in the research that the Institute was carrying out, and wanted to go into that field rather than to go into industry.

Valuable Experiences

By the beginning of the second semester, I moved to Aachen to start my internship at the Chair of Medical Engineering at the Helmholtz Institute of RWTH Aachen (MediTEC). I was so enthusiastic about that next chapter, and eager to get to work in a German workplace and to handle the tasks. During the five months that I worked as a Student Research Assistant at MediTEC, I learnt a lot about the vast field of Biomedical Engineering, especially that which was related to the Biomechanics of the Knee joint. I was given different tasks, all of which were based on the usage of softwares to conduct the needed research. At first it


was really hard for me to work with softwares that I was unfamiliar with. However, I learned over time that the main purpose of doing research was to learn, and I learned to value the importance of knowing different softwares, and how such skills helped in qualifying students both technically and practically.

Applying the Learnt Knowledge

All in all, all this experience has helped in improving my German, and has taught me how to work independently on a certain task, and how to work at my own pace and yet still to be able to meet deadlines. After this first hands on experience, I was able to extend my stay in Germany, and to do my graduation project at Philips Research in Aachen. Getting that opportunity was a challenge in itself, as I struggled for months to find an offer for a Bachelor thesis. This was not easy at all, since it was like a job hunt for an internship all over again. In that semester, I was able to work at an international company and to conduct a whole project from A to Z on my own with limited assistance from my supervisor. This required me to implement all of the skills that I had learnt during the internship.

The Rollercoaster Ride

Living in Germany has improved my professional and personal skills, and it was the main milestone that has contributed



to my growth and maturity. Apart from the theoretical and practical experience that GJU aims for when sending us to Germany, this experience has changed me a lot and made me have a different outlook and perspective on the world. I always used to think that I was a person who did not feel comfortable with the wind of change, one who wanted to do things always the same way just because I was not courageous enough to move out of my comfort zone and to go the extra mile. Germany has enabled me to become independent, more of a hard-worker, responsible; and made me able to take and tackle the challenges of daily life. It has made me realize the amount of growth that I have undergone, and sent me back home carrying lovely memories from this unique chapter that has taught me many life lessons that are deemed for self-betterment. It is indeed the best year as everyone says, not because everything works out perfectly, but rather because of the amount of knowledge and the life skills that we gain from the hardships and the dares, from the ups and the downs that perfectly form the most enjoyable rollercoaster ride!

Many thanks to GJU for integrating the German Year as a part of the curriculum; you do not only offer us the best of both worlds, but also a valuable and distinctive experience that distinguishes us from other graduates of Jordanian Universities.

Yasmine Jaljouli, 23, Jordanian

Graduated in Logistic Sciences (B.Sc.)
Studied at Koblenz University of Applied
Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at Volkswagen AG
(Second/Summer Semester 2014)

Auf Geht's, Deutschland! (Let's go, Germany!)

The past year that I spent in Germany was an absolute adventure. The days I spent there are definitely unforgettable. Moments that were created will be carved in my memory till the end of time. I can honestly say it was one of the best times of my life until now. It was a tough year but also a great one. One that helped me grow in many ways, one that opened my eyes to a different world, one that taught me a lot about all sorts of things. The experience that I have gained is extraordinary. Ranging from the intercultural diversities that I have faced, to learning a new language, to the beautiful places I have visited, and to the random people I have met everywhere, not to mention, working in Germany which was another experience by itself.

“People Definitely Make a Place”

The best thing that I gained during this year were the people I met. People definitely make a place, as they say. Meeting people

from all around the world and from different backgrounds has taught me a whole lot. I learned about their culture, tradition, and I even learned a couple of words of each of their languages. I know at least one sentence in ten languages now, something I'm proud of, thanks to my fellow international friends. We used to have constant discussions and debates about various topics, explaining our different cultures, rituals, and habits and thus sharing knowledge and changing our perspective. It was pretty amazing to sit at a table with more than seven differently cultured people eating ethnically diverse food, exchanging stories, ideas and opinions, and realizing that at the end of the day that we are all the same. Each person I have met has taught me something new and has definitely changed my perspective towards many issues; their company has opened my eyes to countless new understandings.

“Our Common Factor”

Besides gaining international friends, it was even greater to have become closer and better friends with the other fellow GJU students: Even if we had stayed at university for three more years, we might have never even spoken to each other – instead, we met in this foreign country. It was our common factor. We were all foreigners; we were all on the same journey, with its ups and downs. It is what brought us together. So I came back home

not only with more stories and experiences, but also with more friends to share these stories and experiences with. The new friends I have made, and my work colleagues whom I practically lived with for six months, all played a great part of my life in the past year. My life has become richer because of them all, even in the simplest of ways.

Interning at Volkswagen

Luckily, I have interned at Volkswagen, the top automobile manufacturer in Europe and one of the pioneers in the world. It has been a great opportunity for me, in which I have learned a lot, not just in the logistics field but also about working in a foreign environment. To get out of my comfort zone and work double as hard to prove myself and present the best of my ability was a challenge by itself. In addition, trying to understand my work tasks and cope with colleagues and employees in German language, which was another tough challenge, has helped my German improve significantly. It has been a definite privilege, to wake up in the morning, and head towards this company to put my efforts and contribute in its outstanding operations, even in a comparatively small contribution.

The Simple Things

Looking back, I realize it's the simple things that I miss most in Germany; like walking by the Rhein River on a Sunday morning, breathing in the fresh air while listening to sound of waves, or the smell of freshly baked bread in the train station on my way to work, the warm atmosphere of Christmas markets in every German town during the cold winter, and just sitting on a quiet comfy train looking out the window on the way to an adventure of a new day. The easiness of being able to just hop on a train and be in a different country within hours is something I truly miss. I have travelled to many places I had never thought I'd see in my whole life. The experience of just wandering around in an exotic city and just discovering its fascinating streets, tasting its delightful food and learning more about its history, is something I'll always long for. I loved the enthusiasm of travelling to a new country, eager to visit every corner and curious to witness more about a new place, leaving me with memories and moments to reflect on.

Being a Foreigner

Being a foreigner is something I strangely enjoyed. Germans would find you interesting and would want to come up to you and start up a conversation just to feed on their own curiosity. They always wonder what your life is like and ask all kinds of questions. Random strangers almost everywhere would approach me and initiate a conversation, and it was my joy to talk to them about absolutely anything. It was definitely an effective way to encounter new people. Seconds, minutes, hours and days have passed by, each with its own unique adventure which has played a part in each of our own memories of this journey, and that is the beauty of this experience, the beauty of this year. The chances, coincidences, opportunities, friendships, hardships, and challenges... everything about it. I absolutely cherished everything about it.

To wrap up I would say: Make sure you enjoy every single moment, regardless of any obstacles or difficulties you might or will face. This time comes once in a lifetime, so make sure you reap the most out of it. Settle around with your surroundings and embrace them, that's the way to find the beautiful hidden treasures that Germany beholds. Germany is part of my life now, it is part of my memories and experiences that I will hold on to forever. Hopefully one day, I will visit Germany again and will relive these moments once more.









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by
Yasser Rajjal

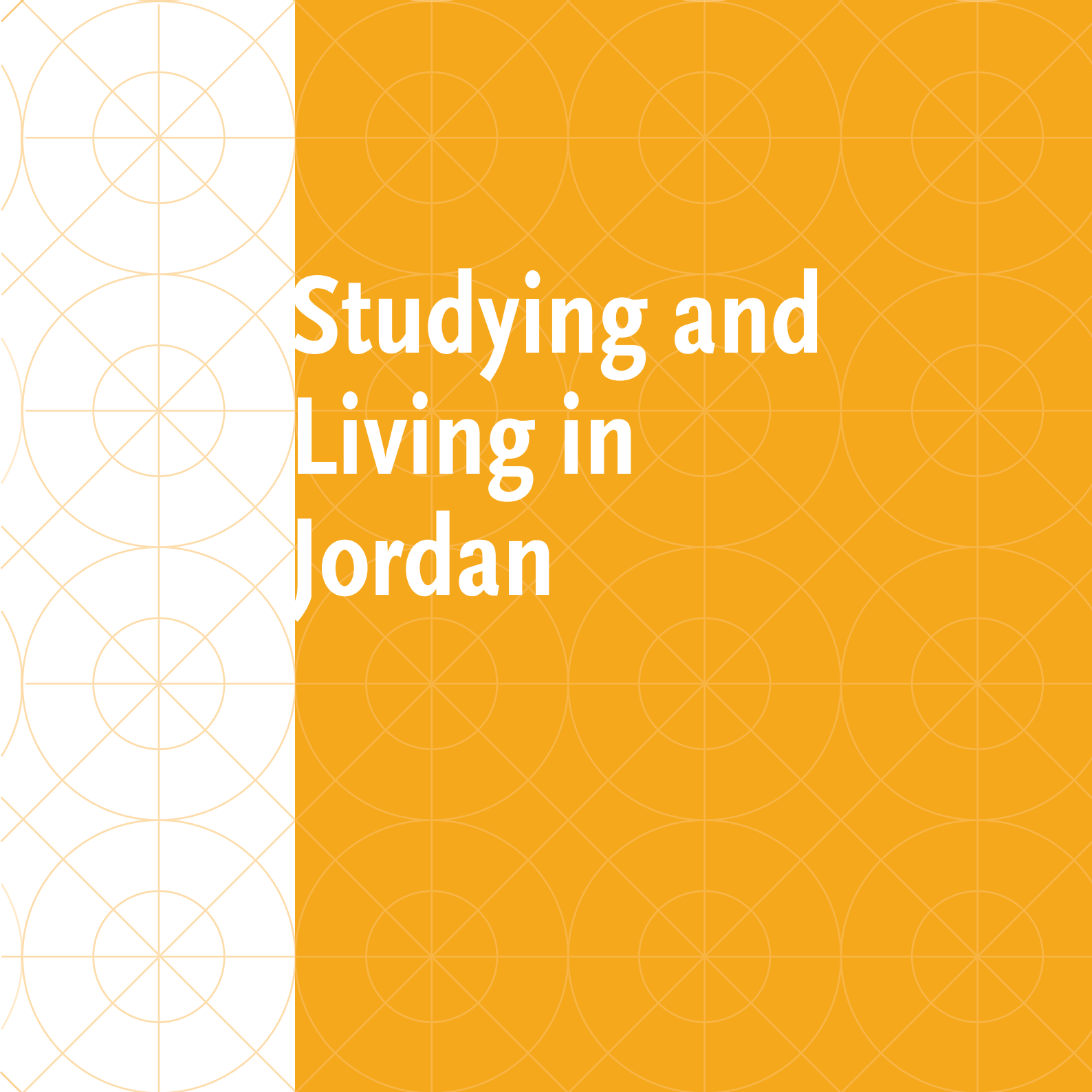
Prof. Dr. Kristian Bosselmann-Cyran

**President, Koblenz University of Applied
Sciences and Founding Dean of the School
of Languages at GJU**

“Since I first met GJU students in 2008, I was convinced that the German Jordanian University is by far the most challenging and most promising bilateral university project with a German educational background.”

Statements about GJU





Studying and Living in Jordan

Ever since the first undergraduate study programs at GJU had been fully established, 203 students from 36 different German universities came to study at GJU. The International Office assists these students in finding accommodations, assigns study buddies, helps with the registration process and organizes welcome events and outings. The incoming students are free in the selection and combination of courses across schools and departments. In addition, most of the students also enroll in Arabic classes that are especially offered for them. Several of the incoming students stay on for an internship in Jordan after their study semester, using the contacts of GJU's Office for Industrial Links.

203 students from 36 different German universities came to study at GJU.

Mieke Czwalinna, 24, German

Studied International Human Resource Management (M.A.) at University of Applied Sciences Ludwigshafen on the Rhine
Exchange semester at the School of Management and Logistics Sciences (First Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at DHL Express Jordan (Second/Summer Semester 2014)

14 Amazing Months in Jordan

When I packed my luggage for Jordan, I had no idea what to expect. I had no idea that in the end I would not only stay for 4 or 5 months, but for more than a year. And I had no idea how hard it would be to say goodbye.

Samaha and the Arabic language in my ears and the taste of sweet tea in my mouth. I had to see this country!

“Why Jordan?”

“Why Jordan?” was a question I heard frequently; from my friends and family in Germany as well as from many Jordanians during my stay. It all began when I met a group of Jordanian exchange students at my home university in Ludwigshafen: a vivid crowd; different and interesting due to their cultural background and yet so similar to myself in their dreams, hopes and aspirations. We became good friends and already in Germany I spent many evenings with the smell of Shisha in my nose, the sound of Fairouz, Carole Samaha and the Arabic language in my ears and the taste of sweet tea in my mouth. I had to see this country!



A Student's Life at the GJU

At the end of August 2013 I moved to Amman. The heat, the beautiful but confusing Arabic signs everywhere, the taxis, and a lot of staring were my first impressions. Arriving one whole month before the start of my classes, I used the time for some first discovery trips within the country. In October, the student's life at the GJU began. At first sight, dealing with the administration was extremely chaotic and exhausting; after a while however you'd recognize that everything worked out in the end nevertheless. In addition to my classes, I also had the opportunity to support the International Office as a student assistant, which gave me quite a good overview of the huge bi-national project the GJU was representing. A big surprise was the harsh Jordanian winter. With no isolation or heating systems at all, it was as cold in my room as it was outside; some days I could even see my breath in the air! More than once my exam preparation took place under a huge pile of blankets...

Interning at DHL Express Jordan

During the semester it became clear that I could stay another 6 months in Amman to write my Master Thesis in cooperation with DHL Express Jordan. This is a rather unknown concept for Jordanian companies; however the strong partnership between the GJU and DHL Express Jordan made it possible. From the first day all my colleagues were helpful and supportive: Even though I was the only non-Arabic speaker, I never felt left outside. The professional environment was a lot less formal than in Europe. After finishing my thesis, I was even offered a temporary job in the HR department to replace a colleague in maternity leave. Looking back, it was an unbelievable valuable and instructive time for both my personal and professional life.

My recommendation for future incomings: Don't stick too much to the German group; try to spend as much time as possible with Jordanian friends, and enjoy your time in this amazing country!



Lorena Lang (23)
Majid Panah (29)
Juliane Reumschuessel (30)

Studied International Business & Intercultural
Studies at Heilbronn University
Exchange Semester at GJU
(Second Semester 2013/2014)

Using the Car Horn as Brake: Our Experience
in the Holy Land

“A Muslim Country on the Paths of Biblical History”

“You want to study a semester abroad in Jordan? Where is Jordan?” These were the first reactions from our parents when we told them about our plans to travel to a Muslim country on the paths of biblical history. However, our decision was firm and we had a great time! At first Amman seems seamless, but after a few times of getting lost you start to navigate confidently around town. A must see is the Roman theater and the citadel. The use of taxis and busses is essential (moreover at a very low price in comparison to Germany!), and they take you wherever you want. The chaos is thus quickly under control and after a few weeks it is easy to manage. `

Studying between Palm Trees and Flowers

In both Jordan and in Germany, the German Jordanian University enjoys a good reputation. In our year, over 65 German language teachers enhanced the students' language and culture skills. A “German Year” is required of every student. In addition, highly qualified national and international professors as well as lecturers teach at the university. On our first day at the huge campus near Madaba we enjoyed a mini tour around the buildings surrounded by palm trees and watered flowers. Equipped with four cafeterias, book shops, IT facilities and a library, GJU offers a solid base for student life. The International Office did a great job in supporting us throughout the semester. Moreover, we as incoming students appreciated the “Study Buddy” program. This was the best idea ever! A shout-out to all participants! `



Jordanian Hospitality

We really enjoyed life in Jordan. People are very friendly and helpful. In general, Jordanian hospitality dictates social interaction. Whenever we could, we spent time with our friends' families and collected real-life experiences in an Arabic country, especially when it came to the awareness of time and space. If you are in Jordan, never miss the chance of trying the homemade national delicacy Mansaf! In addition to Mansaf, Jordan offers an enormous variety in dishes inspired by neighboring countries and international cuisine. We were lucky to celebrate the World Cup together with our Jordanian friends in a very united spirit cheering for Germany of course. Also, attending the German Weeks became a highlight of our stay.

Not only Amman is worth a visit: Whether it was floating in the Dead Sea, camel tours in Wadi Rum, traveling back in time in Ajloun, Jerash and Petra, hiking in Wadi Mujib, or scuba diving in the colorful Red Sea – Jordan became home to us. We look forward to welcoming you in Heilbronn. Yallah!





Oliver Gaul, 25, German

Studies Pharmaceutical & Chemical Engineering (B.Sc.) at Beuth University of Applied Sciences, Berlin

Exchange Semester Fall 2014/2015 at the School of Applied Medical Sciences

Experiencing GJU and Jordan's Great Outdoors

My stay in Jordan began as I crossed the border from Palestine into Jordan on the 28th of September. I had already organized an apartment and my future roommate, Eric, was supposed to be there when I arrived in Amman, but sadly he wasn't home. This meant I couldn't enter the apartment, because I had no key and I couldn't call him because I did not have a Jordanian SIM card yet. Luckily I met other exchange students who also lived in the building, and I stayed in their apartment until Eric came back. The next day we all went to the GJU campus for the first time to register for our courses. It worked out very well.

Sports, Sports, Sports!

In the beginning of our stay here we played soccer a few times, until the weather got too cold. I realized that there isn't much else to do in terms of exercising, except to join a sports studio, which I really don't like. My roommate advised us not to ride a bicycle

in Jordan, so soccer was the only option to do some sports. In the beginning our group of exchange students organized some trips around Jordan, to Ajloun, Wadi Rum and Madaba, and a hiking tour through "Wadi Hemara", by the Dead Sea. Hiking is a great way to get to know the countryside of Jordan, and to meet Jordanians and tourists from all over the world. On these hikes I saw some of the amazing nature Jordan has to offer, which is not just desert! These outdoor adventures were a very nice contrast to the life in Amman.

Learning – Here and There

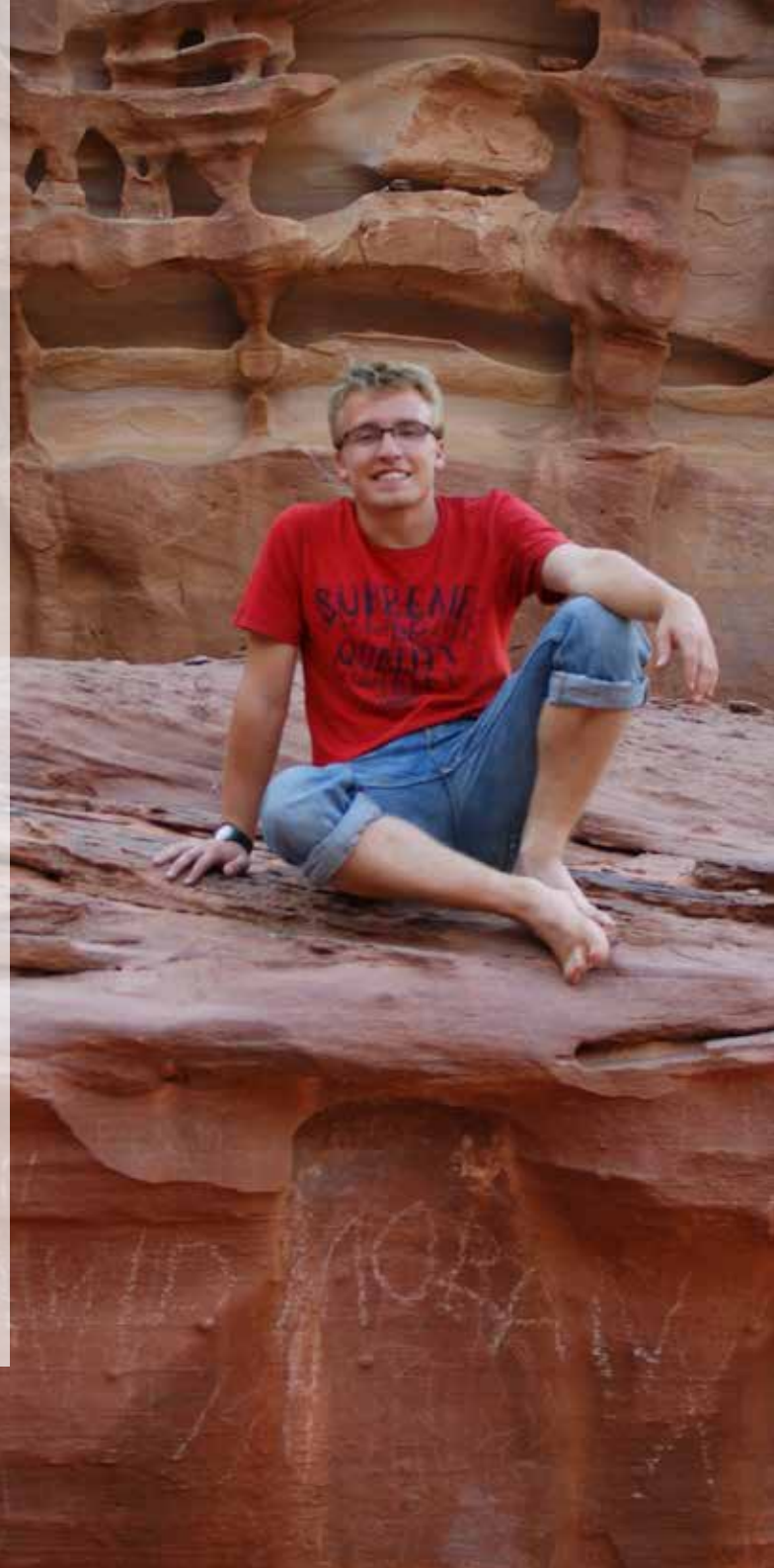
It felt strange in the beginning that the work week here begins on a Sunday, since in Germany this is a holiday. In total I had 4 Lectures and 3 Labs. In the beginning I thought it wasn't much, but during the semester I realized that it actually was quite a lot. The learning system here in Jordan was different from what I was used to in Germany. Here it was mostly memorizing. I visited the subjects "Anatomy and Physiology" and "Biomaterial", which I will get complete credit for in Germany. "Biomaterial" is not offered at Beuth, which was the main reason I was really interested in this subject; it is very valuable for my further studies. Furthermore I attended "Signal and Systems" and "Medical Signal

Processing” to improve my knowledge in math and physics. The learning system in these subjects was also memorization. During my years in school I had always been told to never ever try to memorize an equation: it is too risky because making a small mistake could have very serious consequences. I think that this semester here will help my further studies in Germany a lot.

See you Again in Germany!

At the university I met someone who was playing in the “National Jordanian Orchestra” and I had the opportunity to visit one of the concerts, sadly just once, I really enjoyed it. I met some really interesting people at GJU and I hope I will see them again in Germany. There also were some differences in behavior, probably because of the different cultures we grew up in, for example especially female students were distant and rarely initiated a conversation.

In the end I can say it was worth coming to Jordan. It was a great experience. I met some really nice and interesting people who have very different roots. I saw some great nature, much different from Germany's. I really enjoyed my stay here in Jordan a lot.



Pia Schwarz, 23, German

Studies International Relations and Management
(B.A.) at OTH Regensburg
Exchange Semester 2014/2015

Jordan – Experiencing the Middle East from the Perspective of an Exchange Student

My arrival in Jordan was quite chaotic: The airline lost my luggage and had no clue where it was until it appeared in London after five days. After calling the airport staff many times I finally received it a week later – quite an experience with the bureaucracy in this country. It could only get better.

Welcome to Jordan

Thanks to the other exchange students in my apartment building I had everything I needed for the first days. In general, I felt very welcome from the very beginning. After a week the semester at GJU began and although not all the courses I picked were satisfying I enjoyed every single day there. I found many Jordanian friends – beginning with Yasmin, my study buddy. Despite our different cultural backgrounds, I could identify with many Jordanians of my generation. I had learned Arabic from the beginning of my studies and had an interest in this region in general and I always wanted to visit an Arab country.

In love with the City

The cooperation between my university in Regensburg and GJU is quite strong and many German students that had been to Jordan told me of their experiences, and so I decided to spend my fifth semester here. Every day since I arrived I wished the semester would be longer. Even though some things in Amman, like traffic or garbage problems, non-existing bus schedules or the cold in our flat during winter time, I fell in love with the city. Its hidden cafés, the view from the citadel, crowded downtown, Friday's silence and especially the friends I got to know here have made this semester unforgettable. With time we discovered the country step by step, visiting different places each weekend. The first trip almost immediately after arriving was to Wadi Rum, which was breathtaking. Barbecuing on the rooftop or simple get-togethers with friends were always a pleasure and visits to families of friends and even once attending the Friday prayer allowed me a deeper insight into the local customs.



Christmas in Jordan

Celebrating Christmas in this country was also a different experience. It is nice to see how different religions live here side by side. My personal highlight during Advent was a choir and orchestra concert of a friend in a church nearby. A good impression of how young Jordanians think about their country I gained from a course I took at GJU. Changing the attitude from passive to active and moving them to be the generation that makes the difference in the Arabic world was the topic of the lecture. I enjoyed it so much that I think about writing my Bachelor's thesis about a related field.

I am thankful that I had the opportunity to spend five months here. The experience is now part of me and will probably shape me even long after my return.

Katharina Eisen, 22, German

Studies International Relations and Management
(B.A.) at OTH Regensburg
Study Semester at the School of Management
and Logistic Sciences
(Second Semester 2013/2014)
Internship at the Office for Industrial Links at
GJU (First Semester 2014/2015)

My Experiences in Jordan

Looking back, I find it quite hard to believe that it has already been one year since I first got to Jordan. At that point, I had only left my comfort zone to a very limited extent, all I had seen so far was the Western World, Europe and North America, and I never would have thought I would spend more than a vacation in the Middle East.

“A Rush of Events”

My degree program requires two semesters abroad; people who asked me a few months before my departure got to hear about my perfect plan for those two semesters. But everybody knows life does not always go as planned, so through a bunch of coincidences I ended up at the German-Jordanian University. My first few weeks here I only remember as a rush of events. One thing I was extremely grateful for during this time was my study buddy, Abdallah. Not only did he pick me up

from the airport in the middle of the night, but he also helped me get settled in a country I was utterly unfamiliar with. Thanks again for everything, Abdallah

“A Plethora of Rules and Regulations”

University here is a very different experience compared to Germany. The whole atmosphere exudes much more of a high school flair than the university life I am used to in my home university, thanks to a plethora of rules and regulations as well as proofs of academic achievements such as quizzes, exams and presentations. This to some extent makes life easier for the students but also leaves them with much less independence that I sometimes missed during my studies here. The upside to the high school feel is small class sizes and much more personal relationships with some of the lecturers, which I have come to appreciate very much.

Welcome to the Office for Industrial Links

My time in university virtually flew by, after the first half of the semester it seemed impossible for me to believe that my time here would be over so soon. At that point I started considering staying for a second semester, for an internship this time. Jumping to the end of



my personal decision-making process, after a brief intermezzo of working back in Germany over the summer, I returned to Jordan at the end of September with a contract with the Office for Industrial Links at the GJU. From my first week on I felt at home at the office, surrounded by warm-hearted and welcoming coworkers and the greatest boss I could have asked for. I can say with all honesty that my first full-on work experience really has not disappointed me. Ever since I got back, I pretty much been reliving my experience from my first semester, with the singular difference of having a 40-hour work week. Time has been flying by again and I could not be any happier with my decision of having come back here.

I love Jordan most for its people and I got to make some more amazing friends during my second semester here, at work as well as in my private life. I am incredibly grateful for my Jordanian adventure; every experience I have made, all the places I have seen, every friend I have made and all I have learned has left a lasting impression and I will always remember Jordan as the place where I spent some of the happiest moments of my life.

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



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.

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Ilona Koeble, 28, German

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

My Exchange Semester in Jordan - an Intercultural Experience

My exchange semester in Jordan has been an incredible experience. After registering my courses, I was very curious about how the semester would be. When the lectures started, I knew that I had to adapt to a new style of teaching and studying.

Differences of the Jordanian System

At the beginning I had some difficulties, since the distribution of the workload was different from what I was used to from back home. All the quizzes, homework, term papers, midterms and of course the final exams needed extra effort, because I had taken eight courses. After some weeks, however, I got used to the Jordanian teaching system. I also was very comfortable with the way the marks were distributed, as the weight was not only on the grade for the final exams. During the whole semester, I always felt I was in good hands. The students were very helpful. I could address the professors with every single question I had. And the support of the International Office was great. Thank you all for that!



by
Roswitha Koeble

Getting Comfortable in Jordan

When I arrived in Jordan, I immediately felt at home. During the first three weeks in Amman, I stayed with a family I already knew from before. Going abroad is always very exciting for me, but at the same time leaving my family and friends behind was hard. Thanks to that family I had an amazing start here in Jordan. At the beginning of the semester, I moved to an apartment building where most of the GJU exchange students were living. I shared an apartment with two other students, whom I had a lot of fun with. We spent most of our leisure time with students from GJU, and got to know people from different national backgrounds living in Amman. For instance, we organized several gatherings, parties and dinners with Jordanian food in our building. We went on trips to the Dead Sea, Petra, Wadi Rum, Aqaba, Jerash and to a lot of other historical and fun places. I traveled once to the South Sinai Egypt, and twice to Palestine during my stay in Amman.

Experiencing Different Cultures

One of the best parts of my stay in Jordan was the intercultural experience. It was amazing to experience a new culture, to learn new things and to broaden my horizon. Since I am studying International Business

– Intercultural Studies referring to the Arab World, this semester was an important step for my studies. Due to the current situation in the Middle East, it was not always easy to convince my family and friends that Jordan is secure, but I always felt safe.

After all, I wish this semester would never have ended. I really enjoyed every single minute of it and learned a lot for my life. Thank you all who made my stay in Jordan at GJU possible.

Dr. Jochen Pleines

Dean, School of Applied Humanities and Languages

Former Director of the Institute of Intensive Language Training (LSI) in Bochum, Germany

Arabic Language and Culture: A New Program at GJU

Jordan has become one of the centres of attraction when it comes to teaching Arabic to non-native speakers. GJU in particular has been approached by numerous German universities and other institutions asking for intensive programs in Arabic language and culture (ALC).

In 2014, a group of 24 students of Oriental and Islamic studies from 10 different German universities came to GJU attending a five month program of Arabic on an advanced level. Most of these students held scholarships from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The central learning objective of ALC's programs is to develop communication skills and to initiate a well-founded approach to Jordanian society and culture. Classroom activities are therefore systematically combined with real life situations, for which the students were paired with native speakers as tutors. ALC also offers Arabic competence training in the fields of politics and media for German, French and British diplomats, as well as Arabic courses for GJU international students and staff.

In this regard, GJU is glad to cooperate with the LSI of Bochum University. Both universities have cooperated since the year 2009, when a first memorandum of understanding was signed by both presidents.

With the ALC program, GJU responds to a growing need for linguistic and cultural understanding, thereby fulfilling its ambitious international and intercultural vocation.



Anna Leßlich, 29, German

Studies Oriental Studies with focus on Arabic
Language at Marburg University
Participated in the DAAD program
“Arabic Language and Culture“
(First Semester 2014/2015)

Sharing German traditions

We came together as a colorful mixture of people from different universities in Germany and Austria to attend the new program “Arabic Language and Culture“, at the German Jordanian University (GJU) from September 2014 to February 2015.

From the beginning, students and staff had to deal with a lot of challenges: our course was the pilot event in the project between DAAD, GJU and LSI Bochum and so there was little experience yet in running the program. And then there were some suboptimal conditions, like a building still under construction. But all this was eventually overcome!

The 23 students in the course were divided into two groups and taught by a dynamic and motivated team who gave us lessons in Media Arabic, Conversation, Translation and Grammar. Other components of the curriculum consisted of the weekly tutorial as a platform for the German-speaking students working

with Arabic-speaking students to improve their language skills. We had weekly themes that structured the course, and activities outside the campus that allowed us insights into the work of organizations such as Caritas, the Deutscher Volkshochschulverband and GJU's Vision Training Center. We also went to a concert, a poetry slam, a “dabke” dance class, and the Calligraphy and Mosaic Center. And we saw the making of Falafel and “Knafe”! These activities presented a completely new insight into Jordanian society and put us in contact with different kinds of people. Through their stories, we learned much of what might otherwise have remained hidden for us.

Also, we travelled together with Arabic-speaking students from GJU to explore Jordan. We went to Petra, Wadi Rum, and Aqaba, and to the cities of Salt, Jerash and Ajloun. And of course we drifted on the Dead Sea. Life in Amman also offered a lot: movies, political events and lectures, exhibitions and concerts. Nearly every night one or sometimes more of these cultural or civil society events could be attended.

I was in the special situation to live in a house with several other German exchange students. The neighborhood was really pleasant and in a central location. The great community in

the house lead to many joint meals and the celebration of German traditions like creating an Advent Calendar and preparing special meals during the Christmas season. We had a constantly changing constellation of people living in our apartment, which was fun, and we often sat together studying and working at our huge dining table.

I am very grateful for the last four month, in which I was able to live and study here in Amman and experience the support and patience of the people.



Klaus Olbricht

**Vice-President of the German Chamber of
Commerce and Industry (DIHK)**

**President of the Chamber of Commerce
and Industry (IHK), Magdeburg, Germany**

Member of the Board of Trustees GJU

“I consider Jordan to be the ideal partner for our enterprises in this region, as it is a hub for the Middle East and South Asia. In return, companies from Saxony-Anhalt and the IHK Magdeburg see themselves as partners in furthering Jordanian interests in Europe. Due to our close cooperation with GJU, it is possible for us to bring Jordanian students and local companies together. Therefore, the GJU represents the ideal foundation for sustainable cooperation between our two countries today and in the future”

Statements about GJU







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BMZ
Bismarck-Tor





KARSTADT

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Attracting the Best

The Federal Foreign Office of Germany provides scholarships to reward, support, and encourage the best students of GJU. These scholarships include so-called Surplace Scholarships to cover tuition fees at GJU, as well as living allowance (Third Country) scholarships for Non-Jordanian students. Furthermore, scholarships for the obligatory German Year and for Summer Courses in Germany are awarded. The scholarships are supported by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and administered by both the Project Office of GJU in Magdeburg and the International Office at GJU.

Through the German Government GJU can reward its best students.

Raghida Sinjlawi, 21, Jordanian

Third-year student of Translation:
German/English/Arabic (B.A.)
Received a Surplace Scholarship for her
Translation Studies

My name is Raghida Sinjlawi. My father is Jordanian, my mother is Palestinian and I was born in Amman. I'm a third-year student majoring in Translation (Arabic, German, and English).

Why did you choose GJU?
Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

GJU was one of my first options, as it was such a young institution with great and professional reputation. Travelling and seeing the world were my goals, and I saw that GJU was going to be my ladder to achieve my dreams. On the other hand, I was so excited about learning German as I have a passion for languages. I love languages. They are boundless, for that reason it is nearly impossible to claim to have fully mastered a language as there will always be something you have yet to learn. That is what I love about languages: You can never stop learning. Furthermore, I believe acquiring languages can assist me in learning about and from other cultures.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for you?

The day I heard about the results and that I got a full scholarship in my major was indeed a wonderful event. Being a scholar put such a huge responsibility upon my shoulder and a great fruitful future up ahead as it gave me the power to believe in myself and to work even harder on both the personal level with extra-curricular activities, as well as on the academic level, so to prove that I do deserve this duty and trust.

What are your plans for the future?

I am looking forward to continuing my studies; starting with my Master's degree majoring in either Political Science or International Relations, hoping to work hard to be able to continue my studies in Germany. My PhD degree will be next on the list, as I am having my hopes up to the sky in terms of trying different sectors starting with development cooperation, the United Nations, UNHCR, teaching and even media. I am really open and ready to do whatever it takes to be that productive and successful citizen of the world I have always dreamt to be

I expect from my time in Germany a once in a life-time experience.



Abdulrahman Lafi, 27, Palestinian

Second-year Student of German and English for
Business and Communication (B.A.)
Received a Surplace Scholarship in 2014/2015

My name is Abdulrahman Lafi, I am from Jordan and originally from Palestine. I am 27 years old and study German and English for Business and Communication in my second year.

Why did you choose GJU?
Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

I chose to study at GJU, because I lived in Germany for 6 and a half years. I think I have a big chance to be one of GJU's staff members in the near future. The reason behind this is my dream to spread the German language in the Jordanian school system.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for you?

It is very important to me that I got a scholarship, for this would give me more motivation for studying harder and to be one of the best in the field.

What are your plans for the future?

I plan to get my PhD in this major and after that I want to write my habilitation dissertation.

Germany means everything to me. I will never forget the time I spent there nor my friends there, with whom I still have contact until now.

Mousa Munther Lutfi, 21, Jordanian

Graduated in Water and Environmental Engineering (B.Sc.)
Received a German Year Scholarship in 2012/2013

My name is Mousa Munther Lutfi, I am a Teaching and Research Assistant as well as an Exchange Officer at the Department of Water and Environmental Engineering.

Why did you choose GJU?

Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

Jordan's resources have almost come to an end. People are now more environmentally concerned and aware that there are many "dirty" industries in this world and how they do harm to our three main life elements air, water and soil. I have always been passionate about everything that is innovative and revolutionary and I do believe that Water and Environmental Engineering is the key towards a better future for our coming generations.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for you?

It is always nice to feel special. Being supported, not only financially, made me feel more committed towards my goal as I have promised myself that I should never let myself

or people who believed in me down. I have proven to be an outstanding student at the FH Aachen to be certified by the professors as the only international student who was able to pass all his courses in German. Now I am looking forward to pursuing my studies in Germany.

What are your plans for the future?

The dream that I want to pursue is to get my Master's degree, to gain more experience in my field in Germany and to maintain the outstanding German language that I do enjoy to speak. Furthermore, I never want to lose contact with the great German and European culture.

I learned in Germany to interact with professionals, acquire new skills and discover my abilities under pressure. I am now confident, independent, proud of my connections and ready for any challenge!



Layan Shabani, 21, Jordanian

Fourth-year student of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering (B.Sc.)
Received a German Year scholarship in 2014/2015

My name is Layan Shabani. I was born in Amman, Jordan in June of 1994. I am a student in the Chemical Pharmaceutical Engineering field and currently doing my fourth year in Germany.

Why did you choose GJU?

Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

What was specifically attractive about my major is that it wasn't a typical one, for it is composed of two different majors in one. The GJU is the only university in Jordan offering that special opportunity for graduating within two majors and working in any one of them. Another reason to choose GJU particularly was the special exchange program, which is obligatory to all students. Personally, I believe that this is very beneficial not only academically but also to our personalities as students who are still in the maturation phase.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for you?

As a student looking for an internship in Germany, receiving a DAAD scholarship added

a big plus to my resume and made companies consider my application more carefully. It will also add my name to the best representatives of my major as well as of GJU in Jordan and abroad.

What are your plans for the future?

Loving my major, I will continue my education further by completing my Master's degree in Germany. After that, I plan to return to Jordan to apply the knowledge I gained in our successful pharmaceutical companies.

Germany means to me gaining new experiences as well as getting to know not only one culture, but many different ones. Moreover, it means lots of sightseeing and definitely lots of fun, not to forget the professional experience we gained and the new ways and techniques of the German industry we got to know.



Saja Jarrar, 20, Jordanian

Third-year student of Industrial Engineering
(B.Sc.)

Received a Surplace scholarship in 2014/2015

My name is Saja Jarrar, a 20 year old Jordanian student at the German Jordanian University. I am currently finishing my third year in Industrial Engineering.

Why did you choose GJU?

Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

I have always loved travelling and experiencing new cultures. Therefore, GJU was my first choice: The fact that all students must complete an exchange year in Germany would give me a chance to follow this passion. The reason behind choosing my major is based on my fondness for engineered systems and how they are managed. Industrial Engineering is the perfect match between the technical and managerial aspects of engineering.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for you?

The generous scholarship for my third year has been a great motivation to continue the hard work, since it's shown me that our efforts are well appreciated. In addition to that, the scholarship has made me aware of the attention and support given to students in Germany. Therefore, my future plans have been affected as well: I decided to pursue my studies in Germany, perhaps for a Master's program.

I expect from Germany to give me an exceptional year, and to improve my skills personally and professionally.



Haya Haha, 19, Jordanian

Second-year student of Industrial Engineering (B.Sc.)
Received a German Summer Course scholarship in 2014

My name is Haya Haha. I am a 19 years old Jordanian. I am currently a second year student and study Industrial Engineering. As a scholarship holder, I got the priority to choose the city in which I wanted to take the summer course. I chose Dresden and did my summer course there.

Why did you choose GJU?
Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

I wanted to study both Engineering and Management. However, I was not able to decide between them. I then found that the best major which combines both of my interests is the Industrial Engineering major. I chose to study at GJU for the following reasons: Firstly, is the good reputation that the university holds, for the university is known to be one of the best in engineering in the country; secondly, I was interested in the fact that I would be learning a new language alongside my major, so I would not only be graduating with a Bachelor's degree in engineering, but also as a trilingual student; and finally, I was attracted by the idea of

studying a year abroad in Germany and knew it would offer me many opportunities.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for the Summer Course?

At the beginning of our second semester at university, we were informed that a scholarship would be awarded to those with the highest grades in the German courses. Thus, I was motivated to do well in German in order to receive it. This scholarship gave me the opportunity to travel to Germany and to take a summer course there, which helped me improve my language to very high levels. The benefits of the summer course were far more than just academic. I was able to meet people from different nationalities and got introduced to their cultures, which widened my cultural knowledge. Moreover, I was able to visit many cities and even went to the Czech Republic. Such visits allowed me to get introduced to important landmarks. This was also my first experience of living alone and thus got me introduced to the pure meaning of independence.

What are your plans for the future?

After obtaining my Bachelor's degree, I aim to continue my studies and acquire an MBA. My current aim is to go to Germany and to continue my studies there.

The participation in the summer course benefited me in many ways. I got to improve my language, meet new people and got introduced to a new culture. It was an experience I will always remember!



Chaith Aljallad, 19, Palestinian

Second-year student of Mechatronics Engineering
Received a German Summer Course scholarship in 2014

My name is Ghaith Aljallad. I am Palestinian, but I have lived in Jordan my whole life. I'm 19 years old and I am now in my second year of studying Mechatronics Engineering at GJU. My summer course was in the amazing city of Aachen.

Why did you choose GJU?

Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

GJU was the first choice on my mind because GJU is not like other local university. The second reason is that GJU offers a whole year of studying and internship in Germany, which really improves your chances in getting a job and being good at it. I chose Mechatronics Engineering, because since I was a kid I have developed an interest in how things work.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for the Summer Course?

The scholarship for the summer course gave me a great experience about a student's life in Germany. I learned how to talk to people from different countries and benefit from their cultures. The biggest improvement was

in my German language: In addition to the course, I was able to practice my German with other people, whether in the city or with my colleagues. Also, it was my first experience of traveling abroad to European countries alone, which has improved my self-confidence and gave me more motivation to go to Germany in my fourth year.

What are your plans for the future?

I will try to pursue my Master's and PhD degrees after finishing my Bachelor's degree and want to search for a proper internship in Germany.

The participation in the summer course was a great opportunity to learn from, a great chance to get to know the city of Aachen and to travel abroad to many countries in Europe. I was able to discover Germany, to meet new people and to learn the language with them.



Zainab Is'haqat, 19, Jordanian

Second-year student of Architecture (B. Sc.)
Received a German Summer Course scholarship
in 2014

I am Zainab Is'haqat, a 19 year old Circassian living in Jordan. I'm a second year Architecture student and took my summer course in Berlin.

Why did you choose GJU?
Why did you choose a Germany-related major?

I chose GJU because of its good reputation and teaching methods, and because it offers a year to study in Germany. I chose my major because I have always been interested in Architecture.

What's the benefit of your scholarship for the Summer Course?

The summer scholarship was a great experience. It has helped me to advance in German at the university, and introduced me to the German culture. It has given me the chance to experience Germany and live in it before hand, and taught me to be independent while abroad. Travelling and living alone has definitely sharpened and strengthened my personality.

What are your plans for the future?

Hopefully, I will continue exploring the field of architecture in further studies while discovering the world and its cities.

I learned in Germany that time is most precious and that it's very important to always respect it. I also learned to be open and to accept all kinds of people. Germany means discipline, order, modernity and culture for me. The best thing about Germany is the order by which everything goes and its cool transportation system.





Dr. Yasser Rajjal

**Assistant to the President for
Communication and Public Relations**

I have witnessed the establishment of GJU since its early beginnings; as the founding Dean of School of Architecture and Built Environment; the first Director of the Engineering Department who observed the laydown of the foundations of the first building and structures in the Permanent Campus; the founder of Darat Othman Bdeir, and the Assistant to the President who is responsible of disseminating the message of the University in Jordan and abroad.

I have worked closely with my fellow colleagues in Jordan and Germany to promote the binational concept of the University. This concept has been reflected in choosing the slogan of the 10th anniversary, “The Best of Both Worlds”: Germany and Jordan, culture and technology, academia and practice, art and science, discipline and freedom, etc.

I am proud of being a GJUer, and of being among those who have contributed to the establishment of this center of tremendous creativity and diversity.

Statements about GJU





**Starting a
great career**

The first group of GJU students graduated in 2010 with a total number of 71 graduates. Their live after graduation and their career paths are as wide as the possibilities. Most of our alumni use the knowledge they gained to apply it in Jordan, within international companies, family business, or at GJU. Some graduates return to Germany for either working there or continuing their education and reaching a master's degree or PHD, and others start an international career. Due to their international and practical experience they gained during their studies, GJU graduates are highly demanded in the local and regional job market. In the following section, you may read what became of certain of our meanwhile 1629 alumni!

Today there are 1629 GJU graduates following an international career.

Hanan Abu Shaikh, 25, Jordanian

Graduated in Biomedical Engineering (B.Sc.) in 2013. Will start her M.Sc in Biomedical Engineering at Furtwangen University of Applied Sciences in Winter 2015/2016

professor in my major, I have to learn from the best. Furthermore, I am looking forward to the chance of meeting new people and gaining new experiences by living in a new place.

How did you learn about GJU?

I used the internet to research universities that offered a Biomedical Engineering Bachelor's program in Jordan. GJU was the obvious choice, as it focused on application more than other universities.

In which major did you graduate?

Biomedical Engineering.

How was your overall study experience at GJU?

Like all experiences, it had its ups and downs. But in retrospect it was a wonderful experience. If I was given the choice to do it again, I wouldn't have it any other way.

What are you hoping to achieve by doing your Master's in Germany?

Germany is the world leader in Biomedical Device Industry. As I plan to become a



Abdullah Nsair, 27, Jordanian

Graduated in Energy Engineering (B.Sc.) in 2010

My name is Abdullah Nsair. I'm a PhD student at the Institute for Environmental Technology and Energy Economics at Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH). I was the first student to graduate from the School of Applied Natural Sciences (School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management) in 2010. I hold a B.Sc. in Energy Engineering/Renewable Energy Engineering from GJU and an M.Sc. in Global Energy Engineering/Solar from TU Berlin.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

Actually, I learned about GJU on the radio. It was really a great chance for me to study there, within small classes (normally containing less than 20 students). We were like a family.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study-semester?

My year in Germany was a great chance to improve my skills. I was the only student from GJU going to Munich (and the only one from GJU going to Bayern). This gave me the chance to contact students from different

countries including Germany, which helped me to understand the German culture more and to improve my language. At the end of my first semester, I had finished the needed courses. Some of them were very difficult, while others were easy to follow.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?


I did my internship at Ebert Ingenieure in Munich, an engineering office. The atmosphere at work was really good, and the employees were helping me all the time.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

After graduating from GJU in July 2010, I worked at GJU as a lab and teaching assistant until the end of September 2011. Then I received a scholarship from GJU to finish my Master and PhD studies, so I did my Master's studies at TU Berlin in the field of Solar Energy (Global Production Engineering - Solar) from October 2011 till September 2013.

What do you do now?

In November 2013, I started my PhD studies in Hamburg in the field of optimization of Biogas plants. The main project I am working



on is in Hamburg, while another project which will take place at GJU started in January 2015. The project is a joint project between GJU and TUHH. Its main aim is to generate biogas for kitchen uses from hybrid systems.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

My studies at GJU gave me the chance to learn the German language, which helped me a lot during my Master's and PhD studies. Not to forget the knowledge I earned in the field of renewable energies, which helped me a lot to follow the courses in my Master's studies.

Ala' Mansour, 27, Jordanian

Graduated in Logistic Sciences (B.Sc.) in 2012

My name is Ala' Mansour. I am a GJU alumnus who graduated in 2012 in Logistic Sciences. I also hold a BSc in Accounting and Finance from the London School of Economics (LSE), from which I graduated in 2013, and which I pursued and self-tutored in Amman alongside that from GJU.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

I heard about GJU from my colleagues after my high school graduation, and I was advised to transfer from my former university where I studied between 2006 and 2008 to GJU. It was a great choice; I had an amazing academic, social and cultural education during those 4 years.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study-semester?

I had an incredible year in Germany. Having maintained a top ranking among my class at GJU, I was able to choose Nuremberg as my home city for my study semester. Georg Simon Ohm Hochschule was a challenging University; a couple of its classes had a major influence in my life.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?


I did my internship at Faurecia Exteriors GmbH situated in Ingolstadt close by its major partner AUDI. I was hired as a logistics intern involved mainly in an import-export analysis between the recently established production plants in Argentina and Brazil and those in Europe.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

After graduation, I decided to work before getting my Master's degree and had to make a choice between applying and working with international companies or going back to my family business in which I had been working in every summer vacation since as far as I could remember. I decided to stick with the family, and I undertook many short courses to further develop my skills needed for my job, including a certification as a Lean SIX Sigma Green Belt.

What do you do now?

I work in the Mansour Industrial Complex for Glass & Mirrors as an Operations Manager, but that is just a title as I try to be involved in everything. My main responsibility is developing the company's operations through activities such as establishing performance measures and improvements, business process re-engineering and layout analysis and



reorganization. My main accomplishments in the past years were turning an old warehouse into a break-bulk facility for installation teams dispatch and management, measuring and improving manufacturing efficiency at the production plant through setting KPI's and layout changes, as well as establishing a partnership with GJU for the provision of internships and graduation projects.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

Without the logistics and supply chain education I had at GJU and the financial education I had through my other degree I wouldn't have had the knowledge necessary to analyze, measure, and improve the processes in all the various operations whether be it purchasing, manufacturing, sales and customer service. The German's highly developed working culture, products, and systems have opened my eyes and directed me to what a company needs to provide high-quality products and services. And working with SAP during my internship proved to me how valuable a fully integrated Information System is in the success of controlling and coordinating information in an enterprise. The German language has been useful in my industry since many of our suppliers are German and that we attend the GlassTec International Trade Fair in Düsseldorf every 2 years.

Abdallah Aburouss, 25, Jordanian

Graduated in Mechatronics Engineering
(B.Sc.) in 2014

My name is Abdallah Aburouss. I'm 25 and I was born and raised in Amman. I graduated from GJU in 2014 with a degree in Mechatronics.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

I mainly got my information about GJU by word of mouth and relatives who studied there. My experience at GJU was a great one. It was full of challenges at times that have improved and changed me positively.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study-semester?

My year in Germany was THE best year of my life. I discovered a lot about myself and learned to change and adapt. I traveled around to many beautiful cities and I've done many activities. This year abroad has resulted in lifelong friendships and memories.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?

I did my internship in a small company


in Bayreuth called Preccon Robotics that specializes in high accuracy robotics applications. I have been exposed to many exciting projects and high-tech applications. I've been to exhibitions and huge factories with them. The work environment was very relaxed and family-like due to the small size of the company.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

After graduating from GJU, I worked at Dar Al Handasah for 5 months in the field of mechanical design for buildings. Working there has given me a good idea about the field as well as the work environment in Jordan. It was a nice experience which gave me a clearer view of what my interests are and what I'm passionate about.

What do you do now?

At the moment, I am part of a graduate development program at Nestlé in Dubai. It's a two year program with several rotations in different countries. At the moment I am based in the KitKat factory in Dubai for one year, after which I will be moving to the factory in Iran for nine months, and then to a Nestlé R&D Center for 3 months. The tasks and rotations give a wide overview of the factory operations and the details of production management. The main focus of the job is Packaging

A man with a beard and short dark hair is smiling and standing in front of a large industrial building. He is wearing a dark blue polo shirt with a yellow and black shield logo on the left chest, dark blue jeans, and a red lanyard with an ID badge. His hands are in his pockets. The building behind him has a large, stylized red and white logo that reads "Nestlé". The building has a red corrugated metal roof and white walls. The ground is paved with grey stones.

Development and Production and all the issues related to it including materials and food safety. The experience so far has been really exciting and overwhelming at times. Working in a multinational corporation and a relatively new factory has introduced me to a high level of organization and standards. The high level of teamwork and compliance with quality requirements and standardized operations is just amazing and can be seen in the results and achievements of the team in tackling both, the day today and long-term challenges.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

My technical background has given me an edge in understanding and applying myself on the job. The practical experience I gained in Germany as well as the skills I acquired in dealing with people are very valuable in such a diverse and challenging work environment. Working in the industry is very different from what we learn in books, so working in a company as an intern while having real responsibilities has been a great introduction to work life. Learning German has also been of great benefit considering the wide range of chances and options it has opened and might open in the future.

Saed Abu-Ghazaleh, 28, Jordanian

Graduated in International Accounting
(B.A.) in 2012

My name is Saed Abu-Ghazaleh. I graduated from the German Jordanian University (GJU) back in 2012 and I hold a Bachelor's degree in International Accounting.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

I remember seeing an advertisement in the newspaper back in 2006, where I was immediately interested about the University and its program which mandated the student to spend a year in Germany as an exchange student. My life at GJU was simply amazing; I consider it as an unforgettable journey which I would not hesitate to choose again if I was asked to.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study semester?

The year I spent in Germany was simply outstanding! I definitely enjoyed every second of it. It was an eye-opening experience which gave me the opportunity to understand another culture and broaden my horizons. The study semester was a bit tough. We took a lot of German courses, but to deal with the

German language in a German university for the first time as well as with the complex terminology of the business school was challenging. Nevertheless, I benefitted a lot by attending lectures and by being exposed to the German method of teaching, and managed to follow up with lecturers.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?

I started my internship in Frankfurt in September 2010, in a public market-listed global provider for card management solutions for banks, service providers, and financial organizations. There I had the opportunity to work with a group of wonderful people as a team and I was given a range of tasks and projects. When we met with clients, we analyzed their business needs and accounting structure, and tried to modify the card transactions and process accordingly. Moreover, I was asked to extend my internship for another 6 months. This gave me the opportunity to enhance my German language skills, to make use of the skills we had acquired at GJU, as well as to gain new ones.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

After graduating from GJU, I started my career at Hikma Pharmaceuticals as an accountant where I gained some amazing experiences.



What do you do now?

I am now working at Ernst & Young as an external auditor, where I am utilizing my acquired skills and studies in an outstanding company while gaining a lot of experience.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the “German dimension” in it, help you with this?

Of course, it did! Studying at GJU is different from studying at any other university in Jordan for many reasons. An important one in my perspective is GJU’s strong emphasis on presentations and soft skills, which makes you confident to talk freely in any situation. It is worth mentioning that the exchange year helped me shape up some important skills needed in the workplace such as being professional, independent, and punctual. Moreover, another important benefit of studying at GJU is mastering the German language. This helps when contacting other branches or businesses in Germany and gives you an edge amongst colleagues.

Rabee Al-Gharableh, 28, Jordanian

Graduated in Mechatronics Engineering
(B.Sc.) in 2010

I am Rabee and I was born on the 6th of Feb 1987. I graduated in 2010 top of my class from the German Jordanian University with a Bachelor of Science in Mechatronics Engineering.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

Immediately after the last exam at high school, I attended intensive German courses at Goethe Institute since I was planning to study Medicine in Germany. At that time, my brother advised me to enroll at the GJU since it had very attractive programs which were not offered by the typical Jordanian universities and could form a new sort of universities in Jordan. In addition, the idea of spending one year in Germany was so perfect and attractive since it might enable me to get introduced to the German industry, high-technologies and know-how.

Being a first-generation student at any university is a big challenge, and studying at the GJU was a great one. Starting a new life after high school, spending an exchange year in a new language and ending up with a great graduation project was a really interesting and an awesome life experience.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study semester?

The exchange year in Germany was very good and important to me. For me, it was a good chance to see the world around me: What were people doing and what could we do? How did they reach this level of expertise? How should I start? What could I learn from them and what shouldn't I? Studying in German was one of the biggest challenges. Even if your German is very good, the engineering terms were very tough and only working hard, studying regularly and studying in groups – especially with German students – made my success possible. Furthermore, this year enabled me to discover and visit many places in Europe, which improved my thoughts and visions.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?

I did my internship at a small company in Bavaria. This company was the world leader in their section and products. The internship was great and it gave me the chance to improve my engineering and soft skills.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

Immediately after finishing my studies, I started working as a Teaching Assistant at university. I was working there for a year and

was evaluating job and Master's offers. Exactly after the first year, I moved to work for German Railway (Deutsche Bahn, DB) in the Middle East and North Africa.

What do you do now?

Currently, I am a Control and Safety Systems Engineer for the high-speed rail at Deutsche Bahn in Germany. I have been working for more than 3 years in railways sector and have acquired intensive knowledge and experience of rail systems engineering with a strong technical base, in addition to a wide experience of working in the rail sector in Europe as well as in the Middle East by working together with companies such as Metro Mecca, Haramain High-Speed Rail (KSA), and the High-Speed Rail Project Karlsruhe - Basel (Germany & Switzerland). At the same time, I am currently doing my Master of Science in Production and Operations Management (MBA) at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

Of Course! You cannot understand and realize anything until you really live it. GJU offered us the exchange year in Germany, which was long enough to open new gates toward the future and to establish first connections for my professional life.

Ru'a Al-Abweh, 25, Jordanian

Graduated in Architecture (B.Sc.) in 2013

My name is Ru'a Al-Abweh and I completed a B.Sc. in Architecture at GJU in 2013.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

My parents were the ones who told me about GJU. The year I applied, there was a lot of buzz going around in Amman about GJU and its strong programs, especially its Architecture program. Although I hadn't heard about GJU before, the university was already gaining a great reputation. After attending an event organised to introduce high school graduates to the programs at GJU, I decided to apply and was really happy to be accepted.

My life at GJU was always busy! As most Architecture or Design students will say, the School of Architecture and Built Environment is a challenging department and there are many sleepless nights that I can remember, staying up working on design submissions. Despite the stress, it was also the place I gained some of the best friends and mentors. I was lucky to take courses with some of the best professors, who often shaped my view on Architecture and my role as an architect in the future. As for my friends, they were there during the crazy studio sessions, in

between classes over coffee breaks, and with me traveling across Europe during my year abroad. At university, I was also involved in the GJU Band as a choir member and volunteering at Basmetak Hataalem, an initiative for a Gaza refugee camp.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study semester?

Amazing; the year abroad really taught me a lot about myself and about independence, although things were not easy all the time. When I think back about Germany, I mostly remember the good times. I spent my first semester at the HS Rhein Main in Wiesbaden. It was difficult to take Architecture courses in German at first, as I was not accustomed to the "Fachsprache" (technical terminology). However, with time it got easier. The most challenging courses were an advanced architectural design course and a theoretical course about town planning. Thankfully, the professors were very supportive and that helped me to enjoy the course more and to gain more from it.

Where did you do the internship?

How was it?

I did my internship at KSP Juergen Engel Architekten in Frankfurt am Main. Moving to a bigger city needed some adjustment but the second half of the year was just as memorable as the first. I worked on ornamentation and interior architecture for the Grand Mosque of Algiers, which was a large mosque complex in Algeria with a museum, Quran School, auditorium, and other services in addition to the main prayer areas. My supervisor was very friendly and encouraged me to critique not only my design concepts but also his. He gave me the freedom to experiment with ideas and then we would discuss my sketches together and develop the work further.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

After graduating from GJU, I immediately started an internship at UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency) in the Shelter and Site Planning Unit. Three months later, I was hired to work as Senior Shelter Assistant in the same department. I worked on the Transitional Shelter Design for Azraq Refugee Camp and was also involved in the site planning. I have also been involved with the inter-agency Shelter Working Group, which is a collective of humanitarian organizations

(UN agencies and NGOs) working on shelter projects in camps and outside of camps in Jordan for the Syria Refugee Response. I have worked on developing strategies, guidelines, and assessment tools and also work on coordination with other agencies.

In addition to work, I have taken two online courses on Coursera - Designing Cities (University of Pennsylvania) and The Age of Sustainable Development (Columbia University). I also participated in the Global Politics Seasonal Schools -Migration and Urbanization in a Globalised World (which is organized jointly by the Freie Universitaet Berlin and GJU and funded by DAAD).

Furthermore, I joined the Cultural Innovators Network (CIN), which is a network of young individuals in the Euro-MENA region who want to create social impact through diversity, innovation, interdisciplinarity, experimentation, and exchange. The members of CIN come from various academic and professional backgrounds, such as: arts, politics, social work, management, engineering, urban planning, and so on. I attended the third CIN Forum in Thessaloniki, Greece in June 2014 and participated in coming up with project ideas for the year 2014/2015.

What do you do now?

I am still working at UNHCR and I am starting to look into doing a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Design.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

My studies at GJU have definitely played a big role in my career path and what I see myself doing in the future. Spending a year in Germany is not only pleasing for potential employers to see on your CV (who are happy to know that a GJU graduate already has good work experience before graduating), but also helpful in making me learn what professional life is like ahead of time. In addition to the effect it has had on my career, the year in Germany changed my personality and is part of the reason I feel strongly about constantly improving myself and being independent, both in my personal and professional life.



Marwa Al-Dabooni, 29, Iraqi

Graduated in Architecture (B.Sc.) in 2011

My name is Marwa Al-Dabooni. I'm from Baghdad, Iraq. I completed a Bachelor of Science degree (B.Sc.) in the field of Architectural Engineering at the German Jordanian University early 2011.

How did you learn about GJU?

How was your life at GJU?

In mid 2006, due to the war circumstances in Iraq, I moved to Jordan where I first heard about the German Jordanian University from a friend. I was one of three students who had been admitted within the first class of the Architectural Faculty. I started as a second year student since I had already studied two years at Al-Nahrian University (Formally Saddam University) in Baghdad, Iraq. My experience at the German Jordanian University was a mixture of getting myself introduced to a new society on the one hand, and a new accent of Jordan on the other. I was luckily able to enter the German culture through not only its language, but also the rich background of German art, music and architecture.

How was your year in Germany?

How was your study semester?

My exchange year gave me the good and deep insight into the German culture. I started the year as a student at the Hochschule für Technik, Wirtschaft, Kunst (HTWK) in Leipzig and completed it as an intern at one of the most famous architectural offices in Berlin, Germany. What I gained throughout this year meant the biggest step into my career life towards professionalism. I am convinced that I have perfectly complemented and deepened my knowledge and skills in building construction in Germany.

What did you do after graduating from GJU?

Directly after I graduated from the German Jordanian University, I started my Master's studies at the University of Siegen in Germany, specializing in "Design and Construction of Existing Structures." In February 2013, I completed my Master's Program (M.Sc.) successfully with a grade point average of 1.6. I have always pursued academic excellence to make the most out of my education because education has always been a very important aspect in my life. I was very encouraged by the support of my family, for which I am very grateful.

What do you do now?

Currently, I'm pursuing my Doctorate studies at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, specializing in the post-war architecture of Baghdad.

Does the background of your studies at GJU, especially the 'German dimension' in it, help you with this?

The German Jordanian University was my keystone to Germany. I have been working on various researches of architecture in Baghdad, with the aim of raising the architectural quality in Iraq by implementing the knowledge that I have gained in Germany; to increase my understanding further and to enhance skills; and to stay active in an intercultural environment of European-Arab exchange. Specifically, I want to use the knowledge I gained in Germany for the reconstruction of Iraq in order to improve the living standards of my people after the severe phase of the war.



Dieter Michell-Auli

Management Board of DB International

“The successful cooperation between GJU and DB international enter its 2nd year. With GJU graduates we gained valuable employees for our Company with great future potential to contribute to DBI's success in the region. ” **2012**

Statements about GJU









Teaching and Training in Germany

The Train the Trainer Program (TT) aims to provide GJU academic and administrative staff with first hand working experiences at one of the German partner universities as well as within industries related to GJU's programs of studies. The program supports a stay of up to four months in Germany.

Academic staff members of GJU can involve in teaching and research methods, and administrative staff can enjoy a hands-on training in professional activities related to their working profile at GJU. Since 2009 altogether 44 colleagues of GJU have participated in the TT Program.

44 colleagues of GJU have participated in the TT Program.

Ms. Nada Jaffal, 30, Jordanian

Lecturer at the School of Architecture and Built Environment at GJU

Participated in the Train the Trainer Program between October and December 2014

Went to the International School of Design (KISD) at Cologne University of Applied Sciences

On the Road to the German Approach

Me As a lecturer in the Design and Visual Communication Department, I was mainly interested in getting familiar with the education system of design schools in Germany given that my students attend our partner universities for a semester or more while I don't have a good knowledge yet of how the German approach and mechanism of design pedagogy is like. And as a designer, I was interested in a first-hand experience that would connect me to the German school of thought in design.

As a start, I looked up all the partner universities of our School of Architecture and Built Environment and was intrigued by the design program at Köln International School of Design (KISD) which graciously agreed on hosting me as a visiting lecturer. I contacted them pointing out the courses I teach at the Design and Visual Communication

Department at GJU and the related courses they have at their school.

Prior to my arrival to Cologne, I was in contact with Lisa Janßen, the International Relations Officer at KISD, as well as Professor Philipp Heidkamp, Interface / Interaction Design Professor and Head of the Integrated Design MA program at KISD, who both provided me with information about the system of the school and the modes of teaching.

The Teaching Experience

The seminar then started on the 17th of October with a total of 32 students from Germany and other countries such as Mexico, France, Italy, Taiwan, Brazil, Iran, and the USA. I had a certain approach in mind for the two-month Information Design Seminar, a more project and studio class oriented approach, but meeting with Professor Heidkamp after my first class made me realize how I should be taking a different approach that's more appropriate with the system of scientific seminars at KISD, backed up with more theories and references which he kindly suggested to add to the ones I already had on my list.

It was suggested by Professor Heidkamp to focus on the phenomenon of information in comparison to data, knowledge, wisdom, and action through the whole seminar which was a suggestion that I highly welcomed and

appreciated since it would be interesting to see what the students would end up with in terms of understanding and absorbing this phenomenon and relating it to design and their roles as designers, and see how they could contribute to this new field of design by trying to define it from their own point of view as a start, and later on backing it up with references.

During my first week at KISD, I organized a short term project under the title of 'Real-Life Context-Based Infographics'. The project lasted for one week only. The outcome was a collection of posters and one tangible and interactive infographic. They were all presented in an exhibition that the students organized themselves at the School.

Lesson Learned

The opportunity of conducting the seminar and the short-term project at KISD – both in Information Design – added significantly to the curriculum of the project based course that I had been teaching at GJU. Accordingly, I will be adding more theoretical references to the content, and the subject of 'Real-Life Context-Based Infographics' will definitely be added to the course.

A Successful Example to Acknowledge

My stay as a visiting lecturer at KISD was a tremendous experience and my impression of the school and their system was very inspiring: Everything from the facilities at the labs to the activities that varied from conferences, weekly talks, local design awards, weekly public presentations of students' work, to the exhibitions, and most importantly the sense of community and full involvement from everyone taking part in the school from the students to the staff and to the professors. Design is changing, and design pedagogy should change accordingly in order to provide designers able to work and adapt to the changes occurring in the design market and the design field. KISD is doing an impressive job in achieving that, making it a great example for us to follow as one of the best design schools in the country. KISD successfully achieved that by creating their own system basing their mode of teaching on projects, scientific seminars, lectures, technical seminars, workshops, and additional courses. They managed to separate themselves from the main system of the School, and created their own way where students don't get graded and registrations are based on a certain amount of modules that they need to accomplish each semester. And yet, the main registration system of the university is in accord with this separate system that KISD follows. It was great to see this system

work, since as a new design school trying to cope with the changes occurring in our field, we suffer from having to stick to one rigid system that in certain cases prevents us from progressing and from creating a more integrated and more interdisciplinary approach.

A large number of the students and staff I met at KISD, as well as a few designers I met in Cologne, were interested in visiting Jordan and getting more familiar with our school and our culture in general, which I think is a great opportunity for our school and our university to open the door for more exchange programs whether in collaborative projects between the two schools or short term projects and workshops that we could discuss more officially as a Department later on.

On a Personal Level

Teaching under the supervision of Professor Heidkamp was beneficial and valuable for me in terms of building a more reflective curriculum for the Information Design Course I teach with a more philosophical basis, which quite started shaping the path I'm interested to follow in pursuing my PhD.

Not only did I benefit professionally from the Train the Trainer program, but also, during my stay in

Cologne, I was able to make friends for life and meet wonderful people who actually managed

to break some stereotypes we have in our subconscious of German people and German culture.

Reflecting Upon

The Train the Trainer program is by far the most valuable experience I've ever had since I started teaching at GJU. I highly recommend seizing this opportunity to the entire academic and administrative staff to get more familiar with the German culture and understand how our partner universities function and learn from their experiences.

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Dr. Aziz Madi, 32, Jordanian

Lecturer/Assistant Professor at the School of Management and Logistic Sciences at GJU

Participated in the Train the Trainer Program between March and July 2014

Went to Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Campus Gummersbach

The Interview was conducted by Werner Grosch and translated by Dr Sarah Markiewicz. It was first published in “Inside out”, the magazine of Cologne University of Applied Sciences, 3/2014.

Dr. Madi, you have been in Gummersbach for four months – which experience has made a lasting impression?

So many! It was my first time in Germany and I was received very warmly. The atmosphere was open and there were a lot of international influences, similar to in Amman. The culture shock was therefore not too great.

You teach Marketing – which differences could you observe between the approaches taken in Jordan and in Germany?

The biggest difference is the character of the consumers. There are two important aspects: Firstly, the German clients are more concerned about quality, whereas the people in Jordan are more concerned with the price. Secondly, German society is very individualistic. My home country still operates on the model of

the extended family. Peer pressure is much stronger, even when it comes to purchasing decisions.

You gave courses for Bachelor and Master Degrees. Are the German students also different?

Definitely; they are more interested in discussions, and in exchanging opinions. They also have a lot more freedom in their degrees than the students in Jordan. Here in Germany, I also taught engineering students who naturally had a different focus from that of the business students in Amman. It was an unusual challenge, and an interesting experience from which I learnt a lot. In that last semester we had around 150 German students – I now understand much better which expectations they have.

What other positive impact will your experience in Germany have upon your teaching in the future?

In Amman, our approach certainly has a very practical dimension. However, here in Germany practice plays a much stronger role. Part of my work here was to improve my knowledge of the simulation software. In the future, I want to integrate its practical aspects into a seminar about Corporate Strategy.

You mentioned that the culture shock wasn't too great. Did you experience any exchange of cultures during your time here? Yes, that was very interesting. One example was when the students organised a festival with a lot of music which I participated in. I play the Oud, which is a traditional instrument, similar to a lute.

Part of the exchange programme which you participated in was learning the German language. How useful was your stay here in facilitating this?

Well I can manage daily interactions... however I still want to continue learning German in order to improve the communication with the 50 German-speaking colleagues in Amman. I have definitely learnt a lot of very nice German words: "genau" ("exactly"), "richtig" (correct), or also "glücklich" (happy): A strange word.

Strange?

It doesn't sound like a word which expresses this state of being. But it is good to practice on, if one wants to learn German pronunciation.



Dr. Qasem Abdelal

PhD, PE lecturer at the Department of Water and Environmental Engineering in the School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management at GJU

He was one of the first participants of GJU's Train the Trainer program and went to the Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZ Jülich) in 2014. The following interview was conducted by the International Office (IO).

Dr. Qasem, may I ask you to introduce yourself shortly?

My name is Qasem Abdelal. Back in 1999, I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Jordan. Then I pursued my Master's Degree in Ohio and continued with my PhD in the United States as well. After that, I worked for 5 years in the States in a consulting firm. I joined GJU in January 2012. I am at the Faculty of Natural Resources in the Water and Environmental Engineering and their Management Department.



You got the possibility to go to FZ Jülich close to Aachen. In which field of work were you involved in these 6 weeks in Germany?

Before that trip and during a round table discussion here at GJU, there was a high rank official from FZ Jülich and I got the chance to talk to that lady that later sent my CV and research interest to several people of different departments at FZ Jülich. I ended up in a center over there called IBG3 – a geophysics center that basically deals with soil, physical property, moisture, ground water, and other fields. It is not a perfect match with our water resources department but it is the closest that FZ Jülich has. They do a lot of fundamental research and have a lot of facilities under their disposal. One of them is the super computer which they utilize to develop new medical models for ground water. That was what I was interested in. So I went over there to meet with a certain professor and we had a fruitful discussion about our fields of work and where a linkage could be established. Throughout the process I also had the possibility to talk to other researchers and PhD holders, each one of them heading a small research group dealing with a certain topic at that center, IBG3. Besides that, I had up to 15 meetings with different people and expressed my field of interest, talked a bit about GJU, and heard about their work. From those 15 there

were two potential collaborations with two different programs. One of them is called „The Terenum-Med“, which is looking into climate/water/environment observatories in different places around the Mediterranean Sea. They were looking for different countries that might be willing to host that observatory and they were willing to fund it, I believe, up to a million Euros, so I expressed our interest at GJU. We agreed to communicate about that further in order to get it moving forward.

The other collaboration was with a professor who had a project in Turkey which was very successful. He wanted to expand his work to other regions around the Mediterranean and Jordan had a very good potential.

How was the work environment at FZ Jülich?

It was really nice. The people were so friendly. I mean there were so many different ethnicities at the institute over there. In terms of dialog it was pretty easy to communicate in English. They were all supportive and the meetings that I had were very good. Of course everybody had his own research interest and so not everybody was interested in that kind of collaboration but in general, those who did some work relatively similar to what we did or who had some sort of relation to what we did, showed a really strong interest in a cooperation. The culture of

work in Germany was amazing. They take their job really seriously and they are good in what they do. In general it is a very friendly, good and professional work environment.

Did you have time to travel a bit during your stay in Germany?

Yeah, I did. I have an uncle up north in a city called Kiel. I spent a couple of days with him. I used the DB travel system. It was a wonderful experience. The travel system in the States is not like that. They are pretty much reliant on private cars but people in Germany are reliant on the public transportation more than on their own cars. I kind of learned the hard way how to buy a ticket, how to travel, what needed to be done. I had a couple of incidents there and it was not very appealing, but that was the learning experience. Outside of the work environment you would not find a lot of people who communicated in English.

Do you think more colleagues should have such an experience abroad through that program?

Yes, I mean that was a great experience and I would encourage everybody to apply.

Looking back, for me it was a very enriching experience but there were a few confusing moments, especially the first few days when I went over there. Well, I was there to be trained in the relevant field and still they would ask me what I was interested in. After that, we arranged our priorities, we talked with each other and it was fruitful. Guidelines would be wonderful for that program. With regard to FZ Jülich, they were so kind to get me a driver

who picked me up from the airport, arranged the accommodation issue, and gave me a bicycle to ride to work every day. That was really kind of them. So I would like to stress that communication with the counterpart in Germany is the key to successful work over there! The application process was really smooth and easy and the International Office was really useful for the visa application and helped with the invitation letters.





Eng. Mohammad Ennab

Network Engineer at the Information Systems and Technology Center

Omar AL-Sawaee,

Teaching and Research Assistant at the School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology

Participated in the Train the Trainer Program in summer 2014 at Trier University of Applied Sciences

Having a Chance to Go to Germany

We would like to express our gratitude for being given the opportunity to participate in the “Train the Trainer” program. It was a very interesting and great experience, especially since it brought us into contact with Germany. We joined the IT-Center of the “Hochschule Trier” from 28th August to 30th September, 2014. During this time we exchanged IT experience with staff members of the IT-center through collaboration on a few Projects, during several meetings, and at social events. They also offered us a fully equipped accommodation, as well as a Mensa card for the lunch break with a staff discount.

Install, Configure, Present, and share

In the first project we installed a Moodle platform as well as a stud.IP platform on a virtual Linux-Server, compared these two E-Learning platforms, and shared our

experiences with an IT- staff and E-Learning support member (Mrs. Anneke Wolf). In the second project we installed and configured a Knowledge Base Tool called d3Web on a Windows System, and presented some basic functions of the tool to an interested team in the Department of Energy and Solar Systems (led by Mr. Matthias Gebauer). Mr Gebauer wanted to create a local knowledge database of Wiki definitions to be shared and accessed by the whole team.

We were involved in several meetings with IT-Center members where they presented the open source helpdesk system (OTRS) used for Customer Support, a self-developed GUI for network management as well as a self-developed RIS/IM (Resource Information System / Identity Management), which is a tool for information and identity management at the university. We presented the network typology and security systems which were implemented in our campus and we visited their data center to assess how they configured and implemented the network and security, as well as the technologies that were used by their campus. Furthermore, we participated in the event “City Campus Illuminale” on 26th September 2014, which lighted up the Trier city center for a special event.

Ambassadors of your University and Country

The Train the Trainer program aims to give GJU staff members the opportunity to experience and compare the cultures between Germany and Jordan. We are very pleased

to have participated in this program, where we were acting as representatives of our university, the GJU. We were representatives of Jordan and were there to provide a good impression of our country and our university.



Dr. Reem Rabadi

Assistant Professor for Linguistics (English) at the School of Applied Humanities and Languages at GJU

Participated in the Train the Trainer Program in the Winter Semester 2013/14

Went to Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

Winter in Magdeburg

I participated in the GJU Train-the-Trainer (TtT) Programme in the Winter Semester 2013/2014. The International Offices at the GJU and at Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal were the affiliated offices for my participation.

I worked as a visiting lecturer during the Winter Semester 2013/2014 at the “Fachbereich Kommunikation und Medien (Department of Communication and Media)” of the Magdeburg University of Applied Sciences. My responsibilities included courses in Linguistics and English Competence for the postgraduate students of the Master Degree programme Arabic/German/English.

Generate an Exchange of Experience and Good Practice

The purpose of my participation was to generate an exchange of experience and good practice between the host university (Magdeburg University of Applied Sciences) and the GJU (School of Languages). This

exchange was reflected in the Accreditation Committee meeting of the MA Translation programme in which I participated.

Additionally, I took part in the International Day by presenting the undergraduate and postgraduate programs of the School of Languages.

My aim is to engage students in the courses by encouraging the maximum participation possible. In addition, teaching them that there is a direct link between studying linguistics and everyday life. I implemented these points with a direct and decisive teaching style that I applied when I was at the host university.

An Unforgettable Experience

As for the working conditions, I was offered an office equipped with everything needed. The staff members were very cooperative and really nice. The Department of Communication and Media assigned a translation student to meet me at the train station and to help me in every aspect. Also, I had a warm welcome from the staff of the International Office at the Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal in addition to finding me accommodation and joining me with their scheduled trips to different places.

My personal experience in Germany is an unforgettable one because of the teaching experience I had at a reputable university and the cultural experience I gained from this participation.

Ajnadeen Sharabati, 24, Jordanian

Former Mobility Coordinator for Outgoings at the International Office at GJU
Currently studying “German as a Foreign Language” (M.A.) at GJU since 2014
Participated in the Train the Trainer Program in spring 2014
Went to Technical University of Nuernberg Georg Simon Ohm

Working for an Active Global Player

Through the Train the Trainer program, I have gotten a chance to train and exchange my experience for four weeks at the International Office of one of our partner universities, namely at the Georg Simon Ohm University Nürnberg in Germany. This university is an internationally recognized State University and an active global player.

As I went there, I was amazed when I knew that the international office there had more than 150 partnerships with other Institutions of Higher Education worldwide, an above-average rate of foreign students (1000 from more than 100 nations), and a broad range of international study programs. All these make the “Nuremberg Tech” an internationally attractive place with all-round services for students. International projects of scientific co-operation as well as a multitude of guest lecturers from Europe and overseas countries add to the university’s international ambience.



Observing, Learning, and Gaining New Knowledge

In addition, a German research study among foreign students has found out that their satisfaction with life and study in Nuremberg is pretty high: Nuremberg Tech now ranks a second place among 28 universities in Germany. Besides, it is a member of the “National Code of Conduct on Foreign Students at German Universities” that ensures high-quality advising and support services to international students prior to and during their studies. Therefore, the enormous projects and programs of the international office worldwide made my main task there only to observe how they organize students’ applications and activities despite the huge number of exchange students coming from many countries. For instance, there were international students from Asia, South Africa,

Australia, USA, Canada, South America, Ukraine, and Russian Federation. Thus, I have fulfilled my aims and learned what I wanted to learn from getting into this program. That's because I have learned to deal with students with different cultural backgrounds and how to brainstorm the students' plans in a professional and suitable way. Furthermore, I got a chance to practice my German language with my German colleagues which made me very happy.

“Experiences and programs can change a person's perspective on how to view life. Small events might affect a person's personality, ideas, principles and his way to give back to his beloved society.”

In conclusion, taking part of “The train Trainer” program has given me an opportunity to learn about the lives of the GJU students and their studies in Nuremberg and what problems they face. Clearly, this program has affected me in a very positive way and given me a once in a life time experience; as the social life there, the environment, nature of Nuremberg, and the university itself are magnificent.





Henning Endruscheit

**Business Development & Strategic
Accounts for “protected networks”
Germany; formerly CIO DHL Express
Germany**

“The positive results of this project (GIU) are very convincing. After an intensive training period at DHL Express Bonn, all students have become important elements in their teams as well as a precious support; this is definitely a win-win situation for all parties involved.”

Statements about GIU









Teaching in Jordan

The Flying Faculty program was established to enhance the exchange of expertise between GJU and its German partner universities. The program is co-financed by GJU and DAAD and supports lecturers and professors especially from our partner universities to teach courses that add value and expertise to the regular curriculum offered by the Schools at GJU. The FF program is also open for potential lecturers from industry partners to strengthen the linkages of GJU's applied sciences teaching and its practical relevance, as well as to further the cooperation between the Schools and industry partners. To be eligible for funding, the invited lecturer needs to teach a minimum of 20 hours. Teaching in German, especially where older semesters of students are involved, is strongly encouraged.

20-30 German partners teach at GJU every year.

Prof. Dr. Ing. Jan Mugele

Professor for “Regenerative Building Energy Technologies” at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

Welcome to Jordan –More than Just a Phrase My Five Months Teaching at GJU

Me As a lecturer in the Design and Visual About the author: Professor Jan Mugele, a professor for “Regenerative Building Energy Technologies” at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences, spent a sabbatical semester teaching at GJU in the first semester of 2014/15. He taught “Basics of Renewable Energy” (in German!), “Efficient Energy Use” at the School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management, and “Utility Planning & Design II” in the School of Architecture and Built Environment.

“Welcome to Jordan” – That is not just a phrase; people here - taxi drivers as well as my academic colleagues - really mean it. Foreigners, Germans in particular, are welcome in a country that is not very old yet and still seems to be searching for its identity between Bedouin culture and a modern lifestyle.

Germany enjoys an excellent reputation in Jordan, and I mean not because of its history! I often heard “you are good people,

not arrogant, reliable, you work hard for your standard of living, you produce high quality goods, and, of course, you have the best soccer team in the world”.

The mentality of people here is different from that in Western Europe – I discovered the IBM principle: inshallah (God willing, hopefully), bukra (tomorrow, later), malesh (it’s OK) – and as a forward planning German engineer, it took me a while to get used to it. I had to learn that problems are dealt with when they occur, not when they are anticipated. In Jordan, planning ahead means “we should maybe do it this way, inshallah.” It was a good experience for me to learn that flexibility and readiness to change plans can lead to new opportunities. Once, I found myself on the way to the Dead Sea when moments earlier I had planned to shop for groceries.

I am very proud of the students I taught at GJU! Especially in the lecture I held in German, and with the method of teaching being German as well, the students got really involved – even though they had to learn such long and difficult words like ‘Sonnenhöhendigramm’ and Schwimmbadwassererwärmung”. Considering the constant exam pressure the students are under here at GJU – there are tests, quizzes and homework submissions almost every week which make studying in the classical sense of examining and reflecting

very difficult – I experienced that the students coped very well with the system that I applied in my courses, with more freedom to study. I noticed the significant difference in students before and after their German year: students in their 5th year who had just come back from Germany were a lot more independent and motivated, which is testament of the good work of the network partners, and shows the benefits of spending a year in another culture.

The people I met in Jordan have all been very kind and helpful, and generous with their time. Whenever I had a problem, the reaction was always: “Dr Jan, I can help, I will come with you to assist”, or “I know someone who can fix that”, or “You have to go from Madaba to Amman, me too, I will give you a lift”. Offering money for such help was seen as an offence. I was deeply impressed by their openness and friendliness, given that people here are much more affected by hardship and even war than we are in Western Europe. A “malesh” attitude helps here.

This more relaxed attitude of allowing things to play out, and not over-planning, is something I take home from my experience here. I wish this immensely important project of the GJU will continue to be successful, and serve as a model to other projects of this kind. “Inshallah”.



Dipl.-Inform. Wolfgang Pein

Academic Staff at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of
Applied Sciences
Flying Faculty Lecturer in November 2014

In November 2014, I was invited to give a lecture at GJU on “VMware Certified Professional”, a special qualification for IT system administrators, through the Flying Faculty program. I thought I had planned my arrival perfectly: Arrival on a Thursday, prepare the details on Friday, and start teaching on Saturday. What I did not know was that Friday was like our Sunday, and the campus was closed. So I started with a sightseeing tour in Madaba instead. On Saturday I took a taxi to the new GJU campus, which was less than 10 min away from Madaba. The Computer Engineering Department was in building C, where I also found a cafeteria. Yet, unfortunately, all the meals were announced in Arabic only.

The first day was dominated by getting to know the students and by sorting out the right adapters for my laptop and the beamer, connecting to the wireless internet, and organizing my ride back to my hotel. Dr Christina Class was a great help, and after 2 days I was independent. I even braved the public transport system and took a bus home, which was quite an adventure: They were

unmarked, crowded, but inexpensive and reliable!

The students were very motivated, which impressed me even more when considering that this was a voluntary course and 2 of the days were Saturdays that otherwise would have had no lectures. Most of the students in my course had already completed their German Year, three others were about to depart for the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne, and Deggendorf, respectively.

The students were at different levels with regard to their background knowledge and practical experiences regarding the subject matter, but through the exercises that were part of the course, it was possible to mitigate these differences. Connecting all students to the course server at the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg campus was a little tricky, also because the internet speed at GJU was slower than what I was used to at our campus at home.

At the end of the course, the students received certificates of participation, and there was time for me to introduce my university to encourage students to consider it for their German Year, although I learned that the majority of students prefer to go to large cities.

During my ten days, I experienced quite a range of weather: from warm and sunny to cold and rainy, which turned the streets into creeks because of the poor drainage system. All in all I had a very positive stay: I had a warm welcome, nice students, lots of

interesting conversations with other lecturers and staff at GJU, and I learned a lot about Jordan. And I was lucky enough to be invited to GJU's graduation ceremony – a very festive event where the national anthems of Jordan and Germany were played.



Servet Golbol

DAAD Lecturer for Film at the German Jordanian University

Nils Keber

Director of Photography and Immo Truempelmann, Sound Engineer and Sound Designer

Mr. Truempelmann

contributed to the German TV mini-series “Generation War” (“Unsere Mütter, Unsere Väter”) as an important part of the sound design team, which was awarded an international EMMY Award in 2014.

Director of Photography Mr. Nils Keber and Sound Engineer and Sound Designer Mr. Immo Truempelmann gave a 2 week workshop as Flying Faculty from Germany at the GJU. They offer numerous answers to the above question and have a lot of hands-on instructions for about 40 students of the School of Architecture and Built Environment.

The workshop was organized and guided by DAAD-Lecturer Prof. Servet Ahmet Golbol. Since 2013/14, he has been responsible for the Filmstream at the Department for Design and Visual Communication at SABE. “It was a unique experience for me to run a hands-on workshop with so many students who had no previous knowledge about filmmaking. The

first week was filled with theory on sound and camerawork. The students were sort of bored and we thought this would never become a success story. But in the second week, when it was the turn for the practice part, everything learned before started to make sense. The students were boosted and fascinated by the means of filmmaking. In less than 6 days, they managed to realize professional sound recordings, make meaningful interviews, and handle a professional camera; they learned how to act, run a film production, and direct a film shooting. The outcome was extraordinarily remarkable.”

It was the first time that such a workshop was held at the GJU covering so many aspects of filmmaking. It was the contribution of the two flying professors with their highly professional attitude that made the workshop so successful. They shared their experience with unlimited patience and an incomparable talent to instil the art of filmmaking to the students.

Truempelmann: “How many ideas, perspectives, light sources, sounds, and words are actually parts of a movie? Why does my cell phone video sound so much worse than the sound in a movie theater? And how do I get it right? What does Amman sound like, what things are typical for this city? In the camera and sound workshop at GJU, it was mainly about teaching the knowledge that

a film on location does not just “happen” in front of a camera and microphone, but is created through deliberate use of all design elements such as subtle sounds and atmospheres. I am very pleased that many students felt that after the workshop they were much more aware and analytical in watching a movie - their “look and ears were sharpened”. For example, the students created a collage entitled “Amman - a working city”. Falafel sizzling in hot oil, the buzz of the bazaar and the melodious singing of muezzins form the soundscape of this lively city and are just a few examples of recordings that fascinated me as well as the students. This was my first time in Jordan and in Amman - an amazing city full of history and cultures of different people and destinies. I hope the workshop encouraged students and enabled them to implement their own ideas and stories with a lot of creativity and professionalism beyond the usual “Youtube Selfies”.

Keber: “Being in Amman for the first time I felt at home immediately. Everyone gave us Flying Faculty teachers a very warm welcome and my students were extremely passionate and interested in learning about the practical side of filmmaking. The first part of our program was a theoretical approach. By showing my students scenes from movies and directors of photography that I admire and that influenced me in my work, I tried to show the audience,

that every single frame in a feature film is meant the way it is composed, lit, and staged. By examining scenes we tried to find the deeper meaning behind a usually very fast and short living industry. The second part of our seminar had a more practical approach: By learning how to set up our own little scenes we worked out a lot of the “do’s and don’ts” of a movie production and even the team eating our most needed food props couldn’t keep us from completing two wonderful and funny examples of a short movie scene. I had a great time teaching at GJU and I am looking forward to my next time in Amman. “

Some quotations of the participating students (taken out of their reports on the workshop):

“Those two weeks that we spent with them were more than fascinating and beneficial! We learnt so many different and new things about sound equipment and camera use! And not only that, I was surprised by the way they treated us, they gave us so much respect and I hope we gave it back to them as well. They have a great skill in approaching students and teaching them. Mr. Immo and Mr. Nils were so patient with us, they tried to give us all the best within this short period of time and they succeeded in doing that.” Milena Al-Hennawi

“What I liked the most about it was the practical side, like the exercises and

assignments they gave us, and how we lived in a real film environment. I tried to point out one disadvantage at least, but I could not find any. Maybe the only thing is that two weeks was a short period, and I think it would be a good idea to have them for a longer time.”
Duha Edwan

“In the end I only regret that we didn’t have more time. Also, I am really grateful for everything you have taught me and one more thing, I never thought about majoring in film making but this workshop opened up a new possibility.” Jamil Matloub

“I would love to recommend this workshop to other people who are still wondering how this beautiful world of film making works.” Amal Khaled Jaber



Prof. Dr. Karin Kleppin

Director, Seminar for Language Teaching
Research at Ruhr University Bochum

Prof. Dr. Jörg Roche

Professor, Institute of German as a Foreign
Language at Ludwig-Maximilians-University
Munich

Both taught frequently at GJU in the field of
German as a foreign language since 2007 in
course of the Flying Faculty program.

In various ways, the Universities of Bochum (RUB) and Munich (LMU) have been involved in the development of GJU's academic and language programs from the very beginning: First, as consultants on matters concerning language teaching and assessment, then as developers of the B.A. program Deutsch als Fremdsprache (DaF, German as a Foreign Language) at LMU and its M.A. counterpart; furthermore, as co-organizers of internships of highly qualified students from Munich and Bochum in GJU summer courses, as well as, more recently, as members of the DAAD Advisory Board "Deutsch als Fremdsprache für Studienangebote deutscher Hochschulen im Ausland" (German as a Foreign Language in Study Programs of German Universities Abroad) and as authors of a "Practical Guide to Developing Language Programmes in Trans-National Programmes" (Praxisleitfaden

zur Entwicklung von Sprachenkonzepten für deutsche Hochschulprojekte im Ausland, 2014), together with Dr. Achim Althaus as Head of the renowned TestDaF-Institute.

In 2007, after several years of preparation, the universities signed an agreement on the cooperation in running the M.A. program in "Deutsch als Fremdsprache" (German as a Foreign Language). The roles of the German partner universities in Bochum and Munich include the academic directorship of the M.A. program as well as hosting GJU students for their 3rd term of studies and supporting the program with various resources, including access to their vast library resources. The major aim of the M.A. program has been the education and training of qualified instructors of German for the Language Centre at GJU as well as for other key language centers in the whole region. Teaching future instructors to teach German as a foreign language means developing high quality communicative competencies in various academic and professional contexts and in all skill areas. After all, the main task of language instructors at GJU is to prepare students of all faculties for their study and internship semesters at a multitude of German partner institutions and companies. To be sure, GJU has been one of the very first and few universities in the region to develop and offer studies of practical relevance for outgoing students.



Building up a program such as the B.A. and the M.A. from scratch – in a region with little or no German academic language teaching presence – has been anything but easy. Various layers and cultures of bureaucracy are often difficult to handle by ordinary academics whose primary goal is to conduct sound research and apply it to efficient teaching strategies and skills. Also, making German academic cultures accessible to students from an array of different learning and studying backgrounds (including Jordan, Palestine, Yemen, Saudi-Arabia, Algeria, Morocco, Mali, Tunisia, and Egypt) has been a continuous challenge. In the meantime, word has spread that the M.A. may “challenge and mix-up students’ thinking” with respect to their

preconceived ideas of language learning and teaching. For the sake of academic reasoning as well as more efficient learning and teaching strategies, this might be a good description of what the program aims to achieve.

Graduates from the previous eight cohorts have been very successful in securing jobs. Some even went on to qualify for Ph.D. work at LMU and RUB. Quite a few of the graduates continue to work at the German Language Center of GJU, being praised for their high professionalism. It is our hope that the program can be secured, expanded and diversified in the near future. Already, it is a vital part of the acclaimed success story of GJU.

Professor Dr. Christoph Zöpel

Honorary Professor Technical University of
Dortmund, Professor at GJU
Regularly teaching the course Spatial
Socio-Economic Development Planning
at GJU since 2010

My first contact with the German Jordanian University was in November 2009, the occasion was a workshop as part of the project “Spatial Planning Through Intercultural Dialogue- Integrated Urban regeneration and revitalization of Historic Town Centers” which GJU carried out in collaboration with the Technical University Dortmund, Birzeit University in Palestine and the University of Dohuk in Iraq. This visit had consequences. I returned in March 2010 when the Department of Spatial Planning in SABE started the Master program of Science in Spatial Planning, to teach “Spatial Socio-Economic Development Planning”. The course was an adventure – students and lecturers could not use their mother-tongue, but perhaps this actually contributed to the subject matter understanding. The request to interrupt the course when it was prayer time came as a surprise to the German teacher, but the demand could be easily met.

This first year of Master’s students expressed the desire to go to Germany. Even though

this was originally not planned, we were able to arrange such a visit. If the scientific subject of spatial development and global urbanization in the Arab region and in Germany are to be linked and taught at GJU, such a stay in Germany is perfectly suitable. During the stay of “my” Jordanian students at the TU Dortmund in the winter of 2010/11, I taught the elective courses “Planning in Cities and Metropolitan Areas” and “Post-Crisis Development and Conflict Resolution”. The students gained first hand experiences visiting the metropolitan areas of Ruhr and Berlin. Berlin is the vivid example of efforts to overcome the division of Germany, the reconstruction and integration of six million displaced people after the World War II, and hence it is quite suitable for comparing it with conflicts in the Arab region. The second part of the two courses then took place in Amman, the Goethe Institute invited the students to a presentation of their comparative experiences; such invitations should generally be included in the local Jordanian-German cultural relations. Meanwhile, the four ‘pioneer students’ earned their Master of Science and are employed. I still enjoy meeting with them twice a year.

I have been teaching in Amman every semester since, and I look forward to doing it for at least another three years. My courses

have contributed to an academic exchange on the subject of spatial development and global urbanization. Experiences from Germany and Jordan continue to shape the content and new scientific findings: based on Master's theses in Spatial Planning, and in the future hopefully also through PhD studies on the same subject pursued by these MSC candidates at the TU Dortmund.

Today the number of participants in the Masters classes is significantly higher than in the pioneering semester - a result of impressive progress that began under the most difficult conditions. The location of SABE changed several times during the years, the School moved from its temporary quarters on the premises of the Royal Scientific Society behind the University of Jordan, to the new GJU campus near Madaba. From the spatial planning perspective to decentralize Jordan, this location is the right decision. It is questionable, however due to lack of spatial integration and transport infrastructure. The successful architectural design cannot mask that. SABE, which is teaching the appropriate spatial planning methodology, could not be consulted because these decisions were taken years earlier.

With the Othman Bdeir house in Jabal Amman, SABE now has an almost ideal

location that corresponds with the goals and aspirations of urban development in Amman. It is centrally located, easily accessible – I walk to my classes – and it contributes to the stated objective of integrated urban regeneration and revitalization of the historic center of Amman. SABE has reached a scientific level of development in which the role of research can now be successfully increased – provided that funding is available to do so. The strong commitment of the UN institutions and Europe for socio-economic development of Jordan could be meaningfully supported by scientific knowledge and evaluation.

Science cannot resolve or even avoid conflicts but scientific communication knows no territorial boundaries, and joint unbiased scientific research can overcome cultural biases. To me this is something that can be learned at GJU. Whatever else is needed for a fulfilled, conflict-free coexistence of Arabs and Europeans, these scientific efforts have to be a part of it.



Wolfgang Friedrich Heine

KSP Juergen Engel Architekten GmbH

“The trainees of the German Jordanian University enrich our international team around the “Great Mosque of Algiers”. This participation of ambitious students who understand the cultural and religious implications of the project is very fruitful to consolidate the success of this key project. The integration into the team was easily done and in some cases we were also happy to extend the trainee-program above the originally agreed time.

We would be pleased to continue the exchange and to welcome further students from the German Jordanian University.”

Statements about GIU





Fostering the Exchange

From the beginning, the curricula of GJU were designed according to the study programs of the German “Fachhochschulmodell” (universities of applied sciences). For each major a network head from one of the German partner universities was nominated to develop suitable curricula jointly with GJU colleagues and to teach GJU students in the program. Every year the network head is calling for a network meeting bringing GJU colleagues and German partners together and discussing current issues and topics of academic exchange and research. Today there are 14 network heads working closely with GJU, some of them right from the beginning, others joined later. All of them are supporting GJU voluntarily, and the university is extremely lucky and privileged to have such strong support from Germany. The natural counterparts of the network heads at GJU are the Exchange Coordinators (“Austauschbeauftragte”) within the Schools of GJU.

Today there are 14 network heads working closely with GJU.

Prof. Dr. Manfred Kiesel

German Network Head for Management Sciences at University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt

Since when have you been the network Head for Management Sciences for GJU?

I organized my first meeting of the network in 2012 in Würzburg.

How did you become a network head?

After an excursion with students to Jordan and after my lectures at GJU, I felt an obligation to do something for this project. Mr. Mühlberg [Director of the GJU Project Office at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences] then asked me to take over as Head of the Management Sciences network.

What are your main tasks as network head?

The main tasks are to organize the network meetings, and to keep the colleagues in charge together. It is not easy to motivate the people involved to spend additional time to discuss matters of academic structures, and to find solutions for the daily challenges in this field.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

I'm admiring GJU for the organizational efforts required for sending all students for a theoretical and practical semester to Germany. For our university, the challenge is to integrate students with lower language level in our courses. Therefore we often face many positive surprises regarding their progress and their input.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

The GJU is a huge ambitious project, which is only possible with the support of highly motivated people in both countries. Besides of the language and the intercultural challenges, we appreciate the variety of the students and their contribution for the internationalization of our university in Franconia.



Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Anne Beer

German Network Head for Architecture and
Interior Architecture at Ostbayerische
Technische Hochschule Regensburg

I incidentally knew about the GJU, during a private trip to Jordan I went on, back in 2007. Fascinated by the vision of a German-Arab education project based on the model of our German “Fachhochschulen”, I decided immediately to establish a partnership with the GJU. The reason behind it lies in the fact that studying at the GJU provides a wonderful chance for our students to actively develop intercultural exchange in our increasingly globalized world.

In cooperation with the School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE) at the GJU, I worked in 2008 on the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that allowed the exchange of students of both universities.

The first group of exchange students arrived from Amman in 2009. It was followed during the next year by an even larger group of young Jordanians that came to Regensburg. These students took part in one of our European MA-Workshops. It was fantastic to witness the dynamics of this educational

project, the enthusiasm of the students in these teams bringing together students from 4 or more different countries, and also the excellent results in this international workshop environment.

An invitation for a teaching position in Amman followed: During 2011 I was able to teach for the first time as a participant in the Flying Faculty program at the GJU, and introduce our major field of study “Architecture and Context” through several lectures. I was even given the chance to promote our location in Regensburg with its historic medieval center that is considered as one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites. Furthermore, I was able to present Regensburg’s methods in dealing with urban planning of historical urban structures and buildings.

The exchange with colleagues from the GJU was exciting. We exchanged and discussed different approaches in the fields of curriculum and course content, yet we also looked for a “common ground”, as well as the individual cultural approaches.

We even exchanged first thoughts to enable common research approaches, where I would like to especially mention in this context, Prof. Ali Maher, who was very dedicating and fun to be around, especially if you are an international guest. He has been a wonderful

mediator between cultures and had a strong local network.

In 2012 and together with my colleague Prof. Yasser Rajjal, we held the first bilateral workshop on “Sustainable Urban Renewal of the Historic Old Town”, which included a week- trip for 10 students from our university to Amman, and then in a second week, the Jordanian students came for a field trip and workshop to Regensburg.

Since the GJU as a whole, and especially its architecture faculty kept growing dynamically, with which establishing new MoUs with German partners universities could barely cope, we, in Regensburg, expressed right from the beginning our readiness to receive more exchange students from the GJU than the original number agreed upon in the MoU.

With our presence in this exchange project, the GJU, we would like to take further steps towards developing and expanding our cooperation: Through Train-The-Trainer program it is expected to have a Jordanian colleague from Amman to teach this year for the first time in our faculty.

Furthermore, a joint research project could arise in the context of urban planning and architecture / requalification of infrastructure

and Energy Conservation Measure, possibly complemented by the “Air-Conditioning Technology” program at our Faculty in cooperation with the GJU’s School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management (SNREM).

During the last years, and as part of the GJU network I was able to witness, how sustainable this cooperation project is as a supporter of understanding, tolerance, trust and continuous intercultural dialogue.

Therefore, and on the occasion of the 10-year anniversary of the German Jordanian University in Amman, I wish it all the best for a continuing successful future as a bridge between cultures!



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Stephan Klein

German Network Head for Biomedical Sciences
at Lübeck University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network head for Biomedical Engineering for GJU?

The first Project Director of GJU in Germany, Prof. Dr. Mönch, contacted our President, because Lübeck University of Applied Sciences was well-known in the field of Biomedical Engineering in Germany. We started to develop the curriculum for GJU in 2005/2006 to support the Biomedical Engineering program in Amman. In the beginning, two colleagues of mine from Luebeck, Prof. Dr. Bodo Nestler and Prof. Dr. Martin Ryschka, were part of our team.

How did you become a network head?

When we had to organize the first exchange for GJU students, this slowly became my job. I was a member of a group consisting of several German Universities of Applied Sciences with activities in the field of Biomedical Engineering, so I had quite a few contacts.

What are your main tasks as network head?

In the beginning, information was the main issue. What is GJU? How does the network work? What can I expect from the students?

What can be my contribution? Many more questions had to be answered. And of course, finding placements for GJU's students was of great importance. Today, there is a lot of experience and the network is working quite well. In addition, I think that the students returning to Jordan after their "German Year" transfer their experiences to their followers. I should invest more time into our GJU students in Luebeck.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

Continuity; it is a constant challenge to organize exchange programs. Moreover, it is a constant challenge to keep the balance between education and understanding young people.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

Being part of the GJU project is a great experience. I have been to Jordan three times so far. The atmosphere is so different from Germany. Our work helps young people who are from a region which is in a difficult situation to develop their abilities

I would like to thank all people from GJU for their work and congratulate them for what they have reached so far!



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Uwe Brettschneider

German Network Head for Water Engineering Sciences at Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network Head for Water Engineering Sciences for GJU?

I have been the network Head for Water Engineering Sciences for GJU Since 2005, the very beginning of the GJU Project.

How did you become a network head?

I'm from the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences and there we have a department "Water and Waste Management". The German GJU Project Office is also in Magdeburg. So it was obvious.

What are your main tasks as network head?

My main tasks include keeping in touch with GJU's Project Office, and exchanging information.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

The challenges include increasing the East-West-Internationality and the inter-cultural living of the universities, the cities, and the countries.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

Drinking Water is one of the big problems in Middle East. I want to contribute in my own small way by educating young motivated people in this subject.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ralf Holzhauer
Prof. Dr. Winfried Schmidt

German Network Heads for Environmental
Engineering at Westphalian University of
Applied Sciences Gelsenkirchen

**Since when have you been the network head
for Environmental Engineering for GJU?**

We have been accompanying GJU from the
beginning.

How did you become a network head?

The former GJU Project Director in Germany,
Prof. Dr. Mönch, looked for specialists
in Waste Management and Disposal
Engineering. We both reflected upon this idea
briefly and started with the development of a
study plan straightaway.

What are your main tasks as network head?

We have two main tasks. The first is helping
those young people to have a good start in
Germany at our university, even in their final
projects. Secondly, we support them in finding
placements for their necessary internship at
German companies.

**What are the challenges for GJU and the
German Partner Universities?**

The challenges are: Helping our German
students to be good hosts, and giving
companies support for international projects
and options for international research projects.

**Some personal words about your
cooperation with GJU**

We both believe that we made a lot of good
experiences with the GJU students we hosted
in the last ten years. We would like to continue
this good relationship.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rolf Biesenbach

German Network Head for Mechatronics
Engineering and Dean of Faculty of Electrical
Engineering and Computer Science
at Bochum University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network head for Mechatronics Engineering for GJU?

I've been the network head for Mechatronics
Engineering since GJU's beginning in 2005.

How did you become a network head?

I was asked to become a network head for
Mechatronics by the former Project Director
of GJU, Prof. Dr. Roland Mönch, during a visit
in Bochum in May 2005. At the same time,
I was asked to develop the first draft of the
Mechatronics Engineering (B.Sc.) Curriculum
for GJU.

What are your main tasks as network head?

I keep and develop the contacts between the
Exchange Coordinators of GJU's Mechatronics
Engineering Department, the German network
participants, and the GJU Project Office at
Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied
Sciences. I am finding new potential network
partners through the "Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Mechatronik e.V. - Mechatronics

Association Germany" (DGM). Moreover, I
invite GJU representatives like former Dean
Dr. Hazem Kaylani and the Head of the
Department for Mechatronics Engineering, Dr.
Nathir Rawashdeh, to the network meeting of
the DGM as well as to the "Fachbereichstag
Mechatronik". Furthermore, I am the contact
person for German colleagues who are
interested in visiting professorships at the
GJU. And, of course, I supervise my own
exchange students from GJU at Hochschule
Bochum.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

The concept of GJU and the German networks
is an outstanding project between Jordan and
Germany as well as between the Middle East
and Europe. The networks in the different
scientific fields are our most valuable asset.
The maintenance and further development of
these networks are our greatest challenges.
This hopefully can be done through the best
possible support for all network partners by
the authorities in Jordan and Germany.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

Since my very first visit at GJU in November
2005, a deep friendly relationship has been
established in course of several visits. The

mechatronics network was developed starting with two universities (Wismar, Bochum) in 2008 to currently almost 20 universities in Germany and Austria. I would like to thank all partners in the network for being so committed to this big idea. I also would like to thank the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Mechatronik for supporting the network and GJU. With our common Tempus project JIM2L, we developed a Master's program in Mechatronics Engineering (together with Philadelphia University) with a double degree option from Germany and Jordan. We also implemented a new mechatronics laboratory for the mechatronics students and for the lifelong learning center at GJU; published the course book "Mechatronics Engineering Workshops" together and organized training for trainers of young GJU engineers and professors in Bochum.

Special thanks are also to my colleague and friend Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh, who organized the Tempus project on the GJU side. Since the opening of the GJU in 2005, all participants on both the Jordanian and the German side have developed this great idea further and into a successful model. It's a pleasure and an honor that I have had the chance to give my contribution to this big idea.



Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Felsch

German Network Head for Logistics Sciences
at Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network Head for Logistics Sciences for GJU?

I have been the network Head for Logistics Sciences since 2005.

How did you become a network head?

It was by request of the president of Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences.

What are your main tasks as network head?

The main tasks include coordination of study offers in Germany, organization of network meetings, support of Flying Faculty program, and fostering stays of German students in Jordan.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

The challenges are: To provide an interesting study offer for GJU students at GJU and in Germany, and to foster the intercultural exchange between the Arab and the European world.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

GJU is a very interesting and important project to promote education in the Middle Eastern region. In my opinion, it should be further developed. I like to contribute to this project and I am proud to be part of it.

Prof. Dr. Kurt-Ulrich Witt

German Network Head for Computer
Engineering and Sciences at Bonn-Rhein-Sieg
University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network head for Computer Engineering and Sciences for GJU?

I became head of GJU's IT network in 2008 after Ralf Denzer from Saarland University of Applied Sciences had resigned. Ralf Denzer had been the head of the network from the beginning in 2006. Ralf Denzer and Salem Al-Agtash from GJU's School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology have been the prime drivers of the development of GJU's study programs in Computer Science, accompanied by Volkmar Richter (Anhalt University of Applied Sciences), Harald Loose (Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences), Georg Schneider (Trier University of Applied Sciences) Rainer Herpers, and me (both from Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences).

How did you become a network head?

After Ralf Denzer had resigned, the responsibility for the IT Network was passed over from Saarland University of Applied Sciences to Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University

(BRSU). The president of BRSU asked me to assume the position as head of the network. This was a great honour for me, and I agreed with great pleasure, because the cooperation with the colleagues had been very close and fruitful and I was very interested in extending the network.

What are your main tasks as network head?

For example: Convoking and heading the annual meetings of the network; staying in contact with network members and GJU's School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology; as well as acquiring new members. However, I have to say that this is not hard work, since all partners on both the German side as well as within the faculties at GJU have been doing enthusiastic work.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

Within academic institutions it is normal that people are coming and going. Thus, the challenge is to win new colleagues and partners to join the network and take part in a valuable international cooperation.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

As I already mentioned, I am happy to be a member of this network, because it gives me the chance to work with many colleagues in Jordan, Germany, and other countries in a fruitful cooperation. I think that encouraging young people's education and working with colleagues in an international well-working cooperation contributes to a more peaceful world.



Prof. Dr. Christine Bernhardt

German Network Head for Design and Visual Communication at RheinMain University of Applied Sciences

Since when have you been the network Head for Design and Visual Communication for GJU?

In 2007, I was asked to plan and establish the study program “Design and Visual Communication” in collaboration with Jordanian architects and designers of the »School of Architecture and Built Environment«. In 2008, I travelled with a group of German design students to Amman to present and discuss the new corporate design of the German Jordanian University. It was a great experience for the whole group.

How did you become a network head?

As the “godmother” of the study program, I became the network head as soon as the first design students were ready to move to Germany.

What are your main tasks as network head?

Wherever I meet German design professors, I try to promote our GJU project and invite them to join the design network as a partner university. Besides arranging academic



network meetings, I also use the alumni network of my home university to arrange contacts with professionals in the area and support the Jordanian students in finding internships in design studios, advertising agencies, and film companies. Last year we hosted the first young GJU lecturer for “Design” in our faculty, who taught and assisted us for four months in course of the “Train the Trainer” program.

What are the challenges for GJU and the German Partner Universities?

I personally believe in the intercultural concept of the German Jordanian University and the idea to exchange students and young academics. Thankfully, the German universities are finally well on the way of encouraging internationalization. It is a great opportunity for German and foreign students to study in an international atmosphere and surrounding and to train their language skills and intercultural experience – same for the professors and staff members. I have great respect for GJU’s administration for organizing the transfer of hundreds of students every year to various places and study programs all over Germany. It will be a great challenge for both sides to extend all these activities with the constant growth of the university. But I am full of confidence that – especially in these politically difficult times – more and

more German universities will recognize the relevance of this outstanding intercultural project and will join the GJU networks in various disciplines.

Some personal words about your cooperation with GJU

It is fascinating to watch the German Jordanian University growing and developing and it is a pleasure to be part of this success story. I enjoy the collaboration and exchange with my Jordanian colleagues and the workshops as “Flying Faculty” in Jordan, because it provides a personal insight and understanding of the culture and situation in the Middle Eastern area. For the future I hope to encourage even more German students to use the opportunity of exchange with the German Jordanian University.

Prof. Dr. Rainer Senz

German Network Head for Chemical and
Pharmaceutical Engineering at Beuth University
of Applied Sciences Berlin

Since when have you been the network Head
for Chemical & Pharmaceutical Engineering
for GJU?

I became the network head for Chemical &
Pharmaceutical Engineering in 2008.

How did you become a network head?

In 2008, I had been invited by our partners
from Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied
Sciences to visit GJU. It was thereafter that I
was asked to take over as Head of the network.

What are your main tasks as network head?

I am mainly coordinating the study plans for
the incoming students from GJU, as well as
taking care of them here at Beuth University.

What are the challenges for GJU and German
Partner Universities?

We need to work together to establish contacts
for the future of the Arab world.

Some personal words about your
cooperation with GJU

It is always a pleasure to work with people
from different countries and to give them an
impression about life and culture in Germany,
as well as to learn from other cultures.

**Note: Prof. Dr. Betram Wolf (Anhalt University
of Applied Sciences) is also a network head for
Pharmaceutical & Chemical Engineering.**



Helena Kremer

**Institut für Internationale Kommunikation
Berlin**

**German summer school language training
partners in Germany**

“We found the GJU students to be very open minded, friendly and sociable young people, who quickly integrated themselves into the international group of participants. We heard from our teachers that the GJU students were hard working, and also contributed to the good atmosphere in the classes. We enjoyed having them in our institute and would love to receive such students again.”

Statements about GJU





Approaching Germany

73 Lecturers of German as a Foreign Language
from **21 countries**
speaking **9 different languages**
communicating, working, chatting, and discussing in **German**
no matter what **nationality, cultural or religious background** they have!

The German Jordanian University is a unique place. The biggest German Department worldwide is located here. Currently 73 German lecturers from various countries and different religious and cultural backgrounds are coming together and teaching German as a Foreign Language. Around twenty of them have studied German studies and German as a Foreign Language at GJU and have turned from students to teachers. The following interviews introduce some of our lecturers and give an inside of their daily working routine at the German Department.



Dr. Michael de Jong
Director, German Language Center

After working at universities in countries like Malaysia, Thailand and Brazil, I arrived in Jordan in March 2011 to take over the position as Head of the German Department. In the beginning, I faced serious challenges, but with time and the support of the German Vice-President Prof. Dr. Mangstl as well as the director of our project office in Magdeburg, Mr. Mühlberg, I was able to shape the Department to become a Language Center in summer 2012. Many things have changed, and nowadays the German Language Center is the biggest university-based German Center in the world. With currently 73 full-term teachers from 21 countries and growing, we have managed to overcome barriers of culture, nationality and religion to deliver highest quality language teaching. At our Amman Branch, the Othman Bdeir House or DARA, we have a team of 12 permanent teachers alone; a number which would form the whole department at other universities. For us, it is just one segment of the whole center.

Our program is highly diversified: We offer – besides the regular German language teaching – modules for internship application trainings, intercultural trainings, German for Academic purposes, phonetics, and socio-political issues. Moreover, we offer preparatory courses for the Goethe exams, which give the students the opportunity to receive a certified document about their proficiency in the German language. A key factor, however, is our “Language for Specific Purposes” program, the so-called “technical language“. We offer this in a tailor-made way for all faculties to prepare the students in the best way possible for their stay in Germany.

Is it always smooth and easy? No way. But all the discussions and different suggestions only show the passion of the team to achieve our goals. This team, as international and diverse as it is, is the best I have ever had the opportunity to lead. It is something that makes me proud, because this team makes the center what it really is: an oasis of German language!

Mohammed Al Bashir Bentría

Lecturer for German as a Foreign Language.

Please introduce yourself, briefly.

My name is Mohammad Al Bashir Bentría and I am from Algeria. I am 25 years old and I studied German Studies / German as a Foreign Language in Algeria and in Jordan. Currently, I am in my second semester as a German lecturer at the GJU.

How did you start your work day today?

This is the last week of the semester. That is why I had breakfast with my students to celebrate the time we had together during the last months. At the moment, I am calculating their marks.

What do you like about working with 73 German Lecturers from different countries and different religious backgrounds?

It is nice that my colleagues come from many different countries. From an intercultural point of view, this is really interesting. I wrote my Master's Thesis about intercultural competence concerning the teaching of German as a foreign language and the theoretical knowledge has turned into a practical and real experience. Even though I

am an Arab, I still experience new things with my colleagues from other Arab countries. There is always something new to learn.

Do you speak German with your colleagues?

Yes, I usually speak German, even with my Arab colleagues. Some of them were already my friends when I was still a student. I graduated from University in Algeria, but I also studied here for two semesters, so I changed from being a student to teaching German. That was and still is a great experience. It is a completely different feeling.



Jacqueline Rogler

Project Manager and Lecturer.

Who are you?

My name is Jacqueline Rogler and I have been here at GJU for two and a half years now. I studied teaching and I graduated in Business and Project Management. Before moving to Jordan, I worked as a project manager to build up a training school in Ghana, West Africa, for 3 years. Before that I also worked as an Event Manager in Austria after I had come back from India, where I had had a job at a German school. Truly a nomadic life.

What was your reason for coming to Jordan?

I was interested in the Arab world and wanted to get to know the way of life there. Jordan, located between Israel and Arab countries, seemed to be a peaceful and an appropriate country to fulfill this wish. This idea turned into reality. After the time I have spent in Jordan I can confirm that it is a really interesting and safe country.

What are your main tasks at the German Department at the GJU?

At the beginning, I taught German and I was responsible for the quality management of the lectures. By now I am managing projects. At the moment, we are planning to be a partner of “Erasmus Plus” to optimize our curriculum concerning technical language. Today, for example, I have been working on budgeting for the Erasmus application.

By now, we are 73 German teachers at the German Department. What do you like about the teaching staff?

I like especially that we have colleagues from so many different countries. This really is an asset for our Department because everybody contributes with his or her personal ideas, qualifications, and special knowledge. That is why the atmosphere is very energetic and vital. I truly enjoy this diversity.

You have been here for more than two years. What kind of changes have you experienced since your arrival?

Of course there has been a big infrastructural change. When I arrived, the university was located in Amman with too little space. Now, we have this huge campus with big beautiful buildings, which is of course a really positive change. Further, there has been a progress in our teaching syllabus. Talking about the German Department, we are constantly working on optimizing the quality of our teaching, such as finding a way to improve the language skills of our students, considering pedagogical aspects or the employment of qualified lecturers.



Chadeer Alsghyer

Secretary.

Who are you?

I am Ghadeer Alsghyer and I am working as a secretary at the German Language Center at the German Jordanian University. I am 25 years old and I have been working here for 4 years. I studied German and English at the University of Jordan and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree.

What are your tasks here at the German Department?

I have so many tasks to do. Every month there is something new to do, but usually I work with the German lecturers and directly with the Director of the German Language Center. Of course I also work with the students, helping them with their daily issues. Further, I attend meetings with the lecturers and other departments, for example the Administration Department, the Department for Human Resources or the President's Office.

What has changed since you came here?

At the university, so many things have changed. First of all we are now in the main campus near Madaba, we used to be in

Jubaiha before. The university is bigger now, there are more departments, new schools, new employees and our German Language Center has grown; we used to be a German Department and now we are a Center. When I started my work we were about 40 German lecturers, now we are 73. I have also changed personally, I have gained both confidence in myself and new friends.

What do you like about working with 73 German Lecturers from different countries and different religious backgrounds?

At the beginning it was hard but now I am used to it. Every single person has his own mind and personality. I love working with them. Sometimes it's hard to manage all the tasks at the same time, but I grow with them and that is why I like my job.





by
Dr. Janset Shawash



Connecting the Worlds

During the past ten years, GJU has participated in and organized a number of joint activities with its German partner universities. Their aim was to strengthen GJU's bilateral relationships at the academic and practical level, to provide the means for intercultural interaction of our students and staff members, to help create high ethical standards, and to foster personalities showing integrity, responsibility, honesty and respect for others.

These activities included joint project-oriented workshops, also under the umbrella of EU programs; joint supervision of graduation projects and Master's Theses, as well as competitions and excursions, where students and staff members proved their ability to work closely with people from different backgrounds, orientations, and interests.

School of Applied Humanities and Languages
Prof. Jochen Pleines, Dean

German/English for Business and Communication (B.A.),
Translation and Interpretation: German - English – Arabic (B.A.)

Ms Judith Labs, Exchange Coordinator

German as a Foreign Language (DaF) (M.A.)
Dr. Nicola Huson, DAAD Lecturer and Exchange Coordinator

The German Dimension of SAHL: The Bridge between Germany and the Arab World

Founded as the School of Languages in 2008, today's School of Applied Humanities and Languages (SAHL) has further developed its study programs, project work and partnerships with German universities to a great extent. With this new affiliation, the School is setting about its vocation as a close follower of the model of German universities of applied sciences (Fachhochschulen). The study programs of the new Humanities Department at the School are planned to comprise courses in the fields of social work and forced migration. Starting from 2015, SAHL will offer Arabic language courses for scholars and other guests at the newly founded Centre for Arabic as a Foreign Language.

In general, the B.A. and M.A. study programs of SAHL enable students, after their successful graduation, to choose between various fields of employment in the public or private sector, for example as translators or teachers of German. Based on a practical and creative learning approach, the students achieve skills that empower them to act as cultural mediators in their future careers.

At GJU, the School of Applied Humanities and Languages acts as a driving force to consolidate the partnership between Germany and Jordan. The exchange and study programs, seminars, workshops, and the academic network promote the dialogue between cultures. Without languages and (inter) cultural expertise, this dialogue could not take place. SAHL provides the tools to improve mutual understanding, and to start a professional career as a mediator in a challenging world.

Joint Projects

To bring this cultural dialogue to life, SAHL has established various exchange programs and cooperations out of which two should be highlighted here:

- Master's Program "German as a Foreign Language" (Deutsch als Fremdsprache, DaF)

The M.A. DaF program at GJU started off as a specialised department in 2006 and became the first of its kind in the MENA region. Since 2006, 41 students from 8 countries have successfully graduated from the program.

All of the students completed their third semester at one of our partner universities in Munich (Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich, LMU), and Bochum (Ruhr University Bochum, RUB). In Munich, the students were welcomed at LMU's Institut für Deutsch als Fremdsprache, to which the Deutsch-Uni Online (DUO) is attached. In Bochum, students were given the chance to study at the Seminar für Sprachlehrforschung and its Zentrum für Fremdsprachenausbildung. These two partner universities are represented by Prof. Dr. Jörg Roche (LMU) and Prof. Dr. Karin Kleppin (RUB), two internationally respected scholars in the field of German as a Foreign Language and Linguistics, who actively support the program and its development through regular lectures within the program, through guidance with respect to quality

assurance and compatibility to German university standards, and as supervisors for the M.A. thesis of the M.A. DaF program.

- Cooperation with the Georg-August University of Göttingen

The cooperation with the Intercultural German Studies program at the Georg-August University of Göttingen was established in 2010. At first, the cooperation aimed at offering a partner university for the German semester of the GJU students in the B.A. programs "German as a Foreign Language" and "German and English for Applied Studies and Communication." Since then, GJU students have studied in Göttingen mainly with German students, who highly appreciate the intercultural experience of the Jordanian fellow students during discussions and presentations. On the initiative of the German Language Center at the GJU, Dr. Annegret Middeke, the coordinator of the exchange program at Göttingen University, visited the campus in March 2014 offering several workshops on technical language and the perspectives and goals of international cooperation.

Partner Universities in Germany

University of Augsburg:	German and English for Business and Communication
Ruhr-University Bochum	
with LSI North-Rhine-Westfalia:	Master DaF
	Arabic Language and Culture
University of Bonn:	Translation Arabic English German
University of Bayreuth:	German and English for Business and Communication
University of Applied Sciences Bremen:	Arabic Language and Culture
University of Göttingen:	German and English for Business and Communication
University of Leipzig:	Translation Arabic English German
University of Applied Sciences Magdeburg-Stendal:	German and English for Business and Communication
University of Marburg:	Arabic Language and Culture
Ludwig-Maximilian University of Munich:	Master DaF
University of Siegen:	German and English for Business and Communication

School of Applied Technical Sciences
Prof. Ziyad Masoud, Dean

Department of Mechatronics Engineering
Exchange Coordinator, **Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh**

Department of Industrial Engineering
Exchange Coordinator, **Dr. Iyas Khader**

Department of Mechanical and Maintenance Engineering
Exchange Coordinator, **Dr. Alaaldeen Al-Halhoul**

The German Dimension of SATS

As of May 2015, over 280 students of the School of Applied Technical Sciences (SATS) will have studied and trained in Germany. They were bachelor students of Industrial Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering, and Mechanical & Maintenance Engineering. The effect the German exchange year has on students of the GJU cannot be overstated; they grow as individuals and gain an extraordinary insight into technology and the German way of living, working, and studying.

Our school is fortunate to have many German partner universities. Some students from Germany have also studied at SATS for a semester, though they are few compared to the number of SATS students that study in Germany each year. The cooperation between SATS faculty members

and German partner universities included TEMPUS capacity building projects, joint research, joint bachelor projects, study plan and laboratory development, as well as Flying Faculty exchanges. The network heads of our partner universities are Prof. Rolf Biesenbach (Bochum University of Applied Sciences) for Mechatronics Engineering and, formerly, Prof. Klaus Rüdiger (Aalen University of Applied Sciences) for Industrial Engineering. The Mechanical and Maintenance Engineering study program is new and is currently building a specific network of its own.

Joint Projects

- TEMPUS Project for Mechatronics Engineering

The conclusion of the 3-year TEMPUS mechatronics project took place in November 2014. This time also saw the delivery of laboratory equipment with a value of 50,000+ JD to GJU's School of Applied Technical Sciences. This equipment included an industrial robotic arm from KUKA, industrial process control equipment from Festo as well as embedded system solutions and data acquisition from National Instruments. The title of the project was "51668-TEMPUS: Development of International MS Degree and Life Long Learning Framework in

Mechatronics (JIM2L)” with the grant holder being Bochum University of Applied Sciences, which is the head of GJU’s Partner Network in the field of mechatronics. The TEMPUS project consortium included partners in Jordan, Germany, Egypt, Poland, and the UK. At GJU, the project was coordinated by Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh.



- TEMPUS Networking at Mechatronics Specialist Meeting at Hochschule Bochum

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the German Mechatronics Specialists (Fachbereichstag Mechatronik) met at Bochum University of Applied Sciences on November 14th/15th, 2013. Forty academic representatives of mechatronics engineering from all over Germany met to exchange their experiences, network with colleagues, and to report their activities in the field of mechatronics engineering. The German Jordanian University held a joint presentation at the meeting with Philadelphia University as partners in the

TEMPUS project to develop joint master programs in mechatronics engineering, as well as life-long-learning training courses for working mechatronics engineers. The goal of the presentation was to find new German partner universities interested in hosting Jordanian Master students for a research semester, in the framework of a double degree program under development through the TEMPUS grant. Other items of discussion and activities included mechatronics education formats and accreditation requirements, as well as upcoming conferences, new books, international cooperation, a laboratory tour, and the achievements of the Bochum SolarCar project.



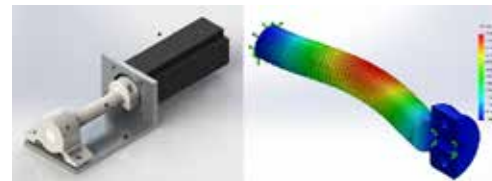
- Mechatronics Karlsruhe Award 2010

Completed in May 2010, this was the first Mechatronics Engineering graduation project to see the light. Students Abdalla Zaid Alkilani and Saifallah Qasim, built a wirelessly controlled quadrotor, implementing attitude control and pulse width modulation. The project was co-advised by Dr. Mohammad Nazzal and Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh, and won the “Mechatronics Karlsruhe Award 2010”, and 1st place in the National Technology Parade 2010.



- Joint Graduation Projects

This mechatronics engineering project was performed in Germany at Fraunhofer in Stuttgart by the student Omar Diab. It was advised by Eng. Valentin Schmidt and Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh at GJU. A cable robot was designed to control an end-effector in an enclosing frame through the synchronized actuation of ropes the end-effector is attached to. The work included the design of mechanical parts and programmable logic based control algorithms.



In October 2011, the student Mohammad Abu Hamdah completed his bachelor graduation project with Audi AG in Germany. The title of his project was “Image Processing for Detection of Hybrid Vehicle Functionality on Conjunction with Hardware-in-the-Loop Simulator”, which was co-advised by Dr. Nathir Rawashdeh.



Partner Universities in Germany and Austria

Aalen HS	:	Industrial Engineering
Albstadt-Sigmaringen HS	:	Facility Management
		Industrial Engineering
Aschaffenburg HS	:	Industrial Engineering
		Mechatronics
Bingen FH	:	Industrial Engineering
Bochum HS	:	Mechatronics
Brandenburg FH	:	Mechatronics
Cottbus BTU	:	Engineering Sciences
Deggendorf TH	:	General Engineering (BA)
		Industrial Engineering
		Mechanical Engineering
		Mechatronics
		Physikalische Technik / Engineering Physics
Emden/Leer HS	:	Technic / Applied Sciences
Frankfurt FH	:	Mechatronics
Fulda HS	:	Industrial Engineering
Furtwangen HS	:	Mechatronics
Heilbronn HS	:	Mechatronics
Jena FH	:	Industrial Engineering
		Mechanical Engineering
		Mechatronics
Karlsruhe HS	:	Industrial Engineering
		Mechatronics

Köln FH :	Industrial Engineering
Landshut HS :	School of Applied Technical Sciences
Magdeburg-Stendal HS :	Industrial Engineering
	Mechanical Engineering
Merseburg HS :	Mechanical Engineering
	Mechatronics
Mittweida HS :	Mechatronics
München HS :	Industrial Engineering
Niederrhein / Krefeld HS :	Mechatronics
Reutlingen HS :	Industrial Engineering
	Mechatronics / Mechanical Engineering
Saar HTW :	Mechatronics
Wiener Neustadt FH (Austria) :	Industrial Engineering
	Mechatronics
Wismar HS :	Maintenance Engineering
	Mechatronics
Würzburg-Schweinfurt FHWS :	Industrial Engineering
	Mechatronics
Zittau/Görlitz HS :	Mechatronics
Zwickau HS :	Industrial Engineering / Elektrotechnik

**School of Computer Engineering and
Information Technology**
Prof. Dia Abu Al-Nadi, Dean

Computer Science, Computer Engineering and
Communication Engineering Departments,
Exchange Coordinator, **Dr. Christina B. Class**

The German Dimension of SCEIT

The School is in the fortunate situation to have a very active German partner network that cooperates closely with the school. Three faculty members have received higher education in Germany and bring their expertise to the School's teaching and research: Dr. Dhiah El Diehn I. Abou-Tair (Computer Science, University of Dortmund and University of Siegen); the Dean, Dr.-Ing. Dia Abu Al-Nadi (Communication Engineering, University of Bremen), as well as the school's exchange coordinator Dr. Christina B. Class (Computer Science, University of Mannheim and ETH Zürich).

Based on requests by students, the School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology started offering a technical course in German language for students of Computer Science and Computer Engineering in summer 2010. Since fall 2010, participation in this course has become a prerequisite for the

German Year for all Computer Science and Computer Engineering students. It is taught by Dr. Christina Class, a native German speaker, and offered once a year.

Joint Projects

- Cooperation in Higher Education

The School of Computer Engineering and Information Technology participated in the EU-funded Tempus project "Establishing Quality, Relevant and Collaborative Industry – Oriented IT Education" (2007-2010) led by the German Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences. HTW Saarland was a second German partner next to partners from Finland and Sweden. This project and the international partners were very supportive for the newly founded school and its two programs computer science and computer engineering.

The School is currently participating in two more Tempus projects with German participation: "Partnership with Enterprises Towards Building Open Source Software Communities and Rejuvenation of Technical Education and Innovation – OSSCOM" under participation of Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences, as well as "Exporting Master Program in Enterprise Systems Engineering to Jordan, Syria, Tunisia and Egypt" in partnership with Magdeburg-Stendal University.

- Visits, Meetings and Research Stays in Germany

Furthermore, several members of the School spent the summer in Germany to do research funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation). Dr. Dhiah el Diehn I. Abou-Tair (Computer Science) was at the University of Siegen in 2012, as well as at the University of Oldenburg in 2013. Dr. Christina B. Class (Computer Science) stayed at TU München in 2012 and at Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) in 2014. Dr. Yaser Mowafi (Computer Science) conducted research of the University of Oldenburg in 2013.

- Research

In December 2014, GJU gained a research grant within the EU-funded project line “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Demonstration Projects” (REEED) for the project “Biogas Production in Local Communities in Jordan”. Next to GJU, the Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) in Germany will participate in the project, coordinated by Dr. Mohammad Al-Addous (School of Natural Resources Engineering and Management) and Dr. Christina B. Class from GJU. In this project, a hybrid biogas plant for local communities is designed. In order to do so, a lab will be created and existing substrates analyzed. The results will be made available in an online inventory. A pilot will be designed, installed and tested with local substrates.

Based on continuous data collection and analysis, a design for an industrial scale plant will be proposed. The project members of the School will contribute expertise in the areas of data analysis, modelling and simulation.



Partner Universities in Germany

Anhalt HS :	IT-CE-Software
Aschaffenburg HS :	IT-CE-Software
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg HS :	IT-CE-Software
Brandenburg FH :	IT-CE-Software
Bremen HS :	IT-CE-Software
Darmstadt HS :	IT-CE-Software
Deggendorf TH :	Electrical Engineering and IT Applied Computer Science
Fulda HS :	Electrical Engineering and IT
Köln FH :	IT-CE-Software
Landshut HS :	IT-CE-Software
Regensburg OTH :	IT-CE-Software
Saar HTW :	IT-CE-Software
Trier HS :	IT-CE-Software
Worms HS :	IT-CE-Software
Zittau/Görlitz HS :	IT-CE-Software
Zwickau HS :	IT-CE-Software

**School of Natural Resources Engineering
and Management**
Prof. Suhil Kiwan, Dean

Department of Energy Engineering
Dr. Mohammad Al-Addous, Exchange
Coordinator

Department of Water and Environmental
Engineering Dr. Jamal Nejem, Exchange
Coordinator

The German Dimension of SNREM

The Energy Engineering Department of GJU was established in 2005/2006. The Department offers strong programs in Renewable Energy and Electric Power Engineering. The study programs were developed with the help of the German partners in the Energy Engineering network. Three faculty members have received degrees in higher education in Germany and bring their expertise to the Department teaching and research: Dr.-Ing. Ahmad Muhaidat (Electrical Engineering, Bremen University), Dr.-Ing. Louy Quaidar (Rostock University in cooperation with Cologne University of Applied Sciences), as well as the Department's Exchange Coordinator Dr.-Ing Mohammad Al-Addous (Energy Engineering, Freiberg Technical University).

Current research focuses on the design of energy systems, specifically using solar energy. In 2010, the project "Solar Energy Lab" was awarded as best research project 2010 by Support to Research and Development (SRTD) in Jordan. This project was supervised by Dr.-Ing Mohammad Al-Addous.

Joint Projects

**- International Seminar on Solar Thermal
Power Plants (Amman, 2009)**

In 2009, the Engineering Department organized an international seminar on solar thermal power plants (CSP)-within the scope of the TREE (Transfer Renewable Energy & Efficiency) Project. The seminar was co-organized by the Renewables Academy (RENAC) in Berlin and held in Amman, Jordan. The seminar aimed at outlining the use of thermal power plants technology, familiarizing decision-makers with related information, and training project engineers.

**- Joint Project "Modelling and Management
of Catchments in Mediterranean Basins" with
the Forschungszentrum Jülich**

A joint five-year project between the Water and Environmental Engineering Department at GJU and the research center of Jülich

(Forschungszentrum Jülich, FZJ) was established with a kickoff meeting taking place in March of 2014 at GJU. The project title is Modelling and Management of Catchments in Mediterranean Basins. The project is a venue through which the principal investigators will firstly undertake exchange visits. After this stage, two of our M.Sc. level students will spend up to two months at FZJ to receive training and do a significant part of their Master's research there. This project will also set the stage for other future projects with this and other centers.

- Joint Project on Heavy Metal Removal from Wastewater with Leibniz Institute for Analytical Sciences

A scientific project on “Novel Magnetic Nanoparticle Doped Nanofiltration Polymeric Membranes for Heavy Metal Removal from Wastewater” was initiated between the Leibniz Institute for Analytical Sciences (ISAS) and the German Jordanian University, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Starting in 2015 with the duration of three years, the project is mainly aiming to develop a water treatment system based on the advanced nanofiltration technique for water cleaning. The polymeric nanofiltration membrane which is the essential and the core part of the nanofiltration unit will be prepared based on highest technology of hybridization of the active group of cross-linked polymer

with polymeric nanochains. Heavy metals and other multivalent and monovalent ions need to be removed from water. Moreover, the project output will go beyond material development and will propose ideas to ultimately advance a novel nanofiltration membrane that bears the potential to be highly efficient and have a low cost. This project is coordinated by Dr. Inshad Jum'h.

- Research Visits Funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation)

The German Research Foundation (DFG) funded two research stays of Dr.-Ing. Mohammad Al-Addous in Germany. In Summer 2012, he spent 3 months at Munich University of Applied Sciences working on energy informatics. He was invited to give a keynote lecture in a conference in Copenhagen that was co-organized by TU Munich. In summer 2014, he spent 2 ½ months at Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH) working on Biogas. The cooperation that was established during this stay will be continued in a research project. Moreover, two members of the department: Dr.-Ing. Mohammad Al-Addous, and Prof. Dr. Shuil Kiwan, spent three days in Germany in a workshop on solar cooling funded by GIZ (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) in fall 2012.

Partner Universities in Germany and Austria

Aschaffenburg HS :	Energy Engineering
Biberach HS :	Energy Engineering
Bingen FH :	Energy Engineering
Cottbus BTU :	Engineering Sciences
	Environment Engineering and Management
Darmstadt HS :	Energy Engineering
Deggendorf TH :	Energy Engineering
	General Engineering (BA)
	Resources and Environmental Management
Emden/Leer HS :	Technic / Applied Sciences
Furtwangen HS :	Water & Environment
Gelsenkirchen HS :	Water & Environment
	Energy Engineering
Innsbruck University (Austria) :	Water & Environment
Leipzig HTWK :	Energy Engineering
Magdeburg-Stendal HS :	Energy Engineering / Electrical Engineering
	Water Engineering
München HS :	Energy Engineering
München TUM :	Water & Environment
Rosenheim HS :	Energy Engineering
Wilhelmshaven Jade HS :	Energy Engineering (Elektrotechnik)
Zittau/Görlitz HS :	Energy Engineering
	Water & Environment



School of Management and Logistic Sciences
Prof. Loay Mohammed Salhieh, Dean

Department of International Accounting
Dr. Malek Alsharairi, Exchange Coordinator

Department of Management Sciences
Dr. Serena Sandri, Exchange Coordinator

Department of Logistic Sciences
Dr. Omar Shubailat, Exchange Coordinator

The German Dimension of SMLS

The School of Management and Logistics Sciences has a very intense cooperation with German partners: Starting with continuous joint research, faculties and students' exchanges, to joint curricula developments and much more. Due to the big number of students in the School, many students are sent to Germany every year. The School is also hosting the largest number of incoming German students, who are enriching the teaching activities and exposing GJU students to the German mentality and university life before they actually travel to Germany. In International Accounting the German partner universities allow the students to get exposed not only to the international financial reporting standards (IFRS), but also to the German accounting principles (HGB). Moreover, some partner universities offer

training on ERP systems, which boosts the employability of the students at the leading industrial corporations. The German industry partners provide an application and training platform for the students and equip them with "work-place skills", so they can get job-trained through their international internship course.

Joint Projects

- **Conference on Social Water Studies in the MENA Region in Amman/Madaba, Jordan (September 28th/29th, 2014)**

During the academic year 2013-14, we promoted several events in cooperation with German partners. Together with the University of Jordan and Humboldt University of Berlin, we were convenors and organizers of the Conference on Social Water Studies in the MENA Region. The conference was attended by internationally known scholars. Moreover, Prince Hassan Bin Talal held the opening speech and inaugurated the event.



- A project of Challenges and
Transformations in the Wake of the Arab
Spring

Funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), a cooperation between the Department of Management Sciences at GJU, the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics at Freie Universität Berlin, and the EuroMed programs at Cairo University was established. The aim of this project is to address the challenges of the current political and social transformations, as well as their ramifications for higher education and the social sciences in Egypt, Jordan, and other MENA countries. The project is intended to deepen the partnership and extend of emerging regional networks, and to contribute to institutional transformations by enhancing the quality of teaching and research.

Partner Universities in Germany and Austria

Albstadt-Sigmaringen HS :	International Accounting / Logistics
Anhalt HS :	International Accounting
Aschaffenburg HS :	Logistics
Berlin HTW :	Management / International Accounting
Bielefeld FH :	Logistics / Management
Bonn-Rhein-Sieg HS :	Management
Brandenburg FH :	Management / Logistics
Bremen HS :	International Accounting
Bremerhaven HS :	Logistics
Cottbus Senftenberg BTU :	Business
Darmstadt HS :	Business
Deggendorf TH :	Applied Economics
	Business
	International Management
Dresden HTW :	International Accounting / Management
Emden/Leer HS :	International Accounting / Logistics / Management
Erfurt FH :	Management / International Accounting
Frankfurt am Main FH :	Logistics / International Accounting
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management :	International Accounting / Management
Fulda HS :	International Accounting / Management / Logistics
Heilbronn HS :	Logistics
	Management / International Accounting

Ingolstadt TH :	International Accounting / Logistics / Management
Kaiserslautern FH :	Management
Koblenz HS :	Management / International Accounting / Logistics
Köln FH :	Management / International Accounting
Kufstein Tirol FH (Austria) :	International Accounting / Management
Landshut HS :	Management / Logistics International Business Administration
Lübeck FH :	Logistics
Ludwigshafen am Rhein HS :	Logistics / Management / International Accounting
Magdeburg-Stendal HS :	International Accounting / Management
München HS :	International Accounting
Neu-Ulm HS :	Logistics / Management
Nürnberg Georg Simon Ohm TH :	International Accounting / Management / Logistics
Oberösterreich FH (Austria) :	International Accounting / Management / Logistics
Ostfalia HS :	Logistics
Regensburg OTH:	International Accounting / Management / Logistics
Saar HTW:	International Accounting
Trier HS :	International Accounting
Jade HS (Wilhelmshaven/Oldenburg/Elsfleth) :	International Accounting
Wismar HS :	Wirtschaft (Int. Class)
Worms HS :	International Accounting / Management / Logistics
Würzburg-Schweinfurt HS :	Management

School of Architecture and Built Environment
Prof. Mohammad Yaghan, Dean

Department of Architecture and Interior
Architecture, **Dr. Janset Shawash**,
Exchange Coordinator.

Department of Design and Visual
Communication, **Rawan Majzoub**, Exchange
Coordinator.

The German Dimension of SABE

As Jordan is progressing to the status of a technologically able country and a major regional hub for expertise in the fields of engineering and architecture, the GJU is in a critical position to provide high quality education on par with international and specifically German advancements and technologies of design, construction, and the theoretical fields. In this venue SABE is actively drawing on the cooperation with German Partner Universities through established instruments of attracting flying professors, pursuing the train-the-trainer program, welcoming German exchange students, and cooperating in workshops and research projects with German academics. The students are also contributing to the profession upon their graduation drawing on the skills gained during their internships and their experiences in Germany.

Joint Projects
Department of Architecture and Interior
Architecture

During the past ten years, the Department of Architecture and Interior Architecture has organized a number of joint projects with a number of German partner universities. Two main themes could be noticed in those projects; Intercultural Dialogue, and Environmental Sustainability Measures in Architectural Design.

- Intercultural dialogue

has been the main theme of two on-going projects in the framework of the “German-Arabic / Islamic Higher Education Dialogue” program, enabled by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The first is the three-year project (2006-2008), Spatial Planning through Intercultural Dialogue. Professors and students from Dortmund TU, GJU, Beir Zeit University, and Damascus University worked together on a number of case studies of four historic towns in Germany, Jordan, Palestine, and Syria; simulating the potential of these historic town and providing integrated urban regeneration and revitalization proposals. The final products had been published in three booklets. The project was coordinated by Prof. Christa Reicher and Dr. Katrin Bäumer (Dortmund TU), Dr. Maram

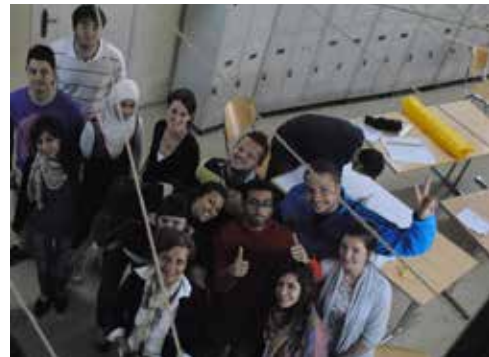
Tawil and Dr. Yasser Rajjal (GJU), Dr. Lubna Shahin (Beir Zeit University), and Dr. Wa'el Samhoury (Damascus University).

The second on-going project three-year project (2012-2014), concerned the Urban Minorities and Spatial Transformations in Germany and the Arab / Islamic world. Professors and students from the Bauhaus University, Weimer, GJU, University of Alexandria, Istanbul Sehir University, and Tehran University, jointly investigated the cultural, religious, and ethnic minorities in Germany, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey. The project was coordinated by Prof. Frank Eckardt and René Seyfarth (Bauhaus University, Weimer), Dr. Yasser Rajjal, (GJU), and Hebatallah Abouelfadl and Dr. Ebtissam Farid (University of Alexandria).

Within the same theme, GJU and Regensburg University of Applied Sciences offered a joint project for the third year students to design a Centre for Inter-Cultural Harmony. The students jointly worked on designing a cultural centre, in Amman, as an interpretation of the other, representing the cultural background of the students from Regensburg and drawing on the depth of their cultural, social and historical experiences. In order to arrive at a culturally sensitive and desirable design, a number of collaborative workshops were conducted in both Amman and Regensburg, whereby the students strived to acquire mutual input and

consensus to guide the design. The final product was presented to the faculty and students of Regensburg University in June 2012 and received very positive feedback. The project was coordinated by Dr. Yasser Rajjal, Dr. Janset Shawash, and Salma Abu Ghazaleh (GJU), and Prof. Anne Beer (Regensburg).

Another joint project was the Mosque Design in Amman. Students from GJU and Koblenz University of Applied Sciences jointly worked on designing a small mosque in Amman. The project included a number of visits to mosques in Jordan, as well as a seminar on Islamic Architecture and Mosque Design covering historic and contemporary examples. The final product was presented in April 2011 in Amman with interesting designs. The project was coordinated by Dr. Yasser Rajjal and Mohammad Baroudi (GJU), and Prof. Dagmar Eisermann (Koblenz FH).



Within the theme of Environmental Sustainability Measures in Architectural Design, the department of Architecture and Interior Architecture organized a number of joint projects. These include the architectural design of a School in Aqaba as an Energy Efficient Building. Third year students from GJU and Erfurt University of Applied Sciences jointly provided a number of design alternatives for the school through a number of collaborative workshops in Amman, Aqaba, and Erfurt. The final product was presented to the faculty and students of GJU in December 2008 and received very positive feedback. The project was coordinated by Dr. Yasser Rajjal, Mayes Al-Ja'fari, and Me'meh Rihani (GJU), and Prof. Prof. Gerhard Mayer (Erfurt FH).

Another project within the same theme was the Unity of Building Construction, Energy Efficiency and Regional Design Workshop. This project was enabled by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), and included DAAD lecturers from GJU and Wadi International University and Damascus University in Syria. It aimed at exploring the opportunities of using solar energy and solving problems and challenges posed by the particularities of geographic conditions and climate in Syria and Jordan. These concerns evoked a bilateral design workshop to explore architectural development possibilities in the hope that cultural exchange and

knowledge would stimulate development and improvement. The workshop included a theoretical part covered by experts from the region and abroad as well as practical design tasks to deepen abilities and knowledge. A publication was issued following the workshop documenting the proceedings and lessons learnt to serve as a guiding tool for future students. The project was coordinated by Prof. Ingo Helmedag (DAAD Lecturer - GJU) and Bisher Zuriekat (GJU), together with Juliane Jager, Christoph Schulten, Ghassan Asfour, Micheel Wassouf, and Ghassan Badwan. The publication title is Stone and Architecture in the Mountainous Regions of Jordan and Syria, edited by Prof. Ingo Helmedag, published in 2012.

Another DAAD enabled project, within the same theme, was the Gardens in the Desert Project, aiming to study and analyze the Bahyriya Oasis, Egypt, covering its traditional irrigation systems, adobe architecture, transformations of typographies, as well as the building materials and techniques. The project was conducted in March 2011, and coordinated by prof. Ingo Helmedag and Bisher Zuriekat (GJU).



Joint Projects

Department of Design and Visual Communication

This integrated design program incorporates graphic design, cinematography and TV producing, multi-media and animation, and product design. These areas of concentration have been reflected in the joints projects with the German partner universities.

- GJU Corporate Design

In 2009, Prof. Christine Burnhardt (Rhein-Main HS, Wiesbaden) was assigned to prepare the Corporate Design for GJU through a design project offered to her students in Germany. Four working groups were formed to prepare design alternatives representing the university's vision and its prospect status locally and internationally. The four alternatives were evaluated and the winning design was selected in a brainstorming session at GJU according to the following criteria: Originality (creative, intelligent, exceptional), Appropriateness to the discipline (University), Branding (eye-catching, recognizable), Competition (outstanding, different to other universities), Emotional attractiveness, Internal target group (students, parents, staff), External target group (professional scene, society, ministry), and Long term effect. GJU visual manual was later prepared by Mr. Caesar Jarrar and Halla Barajakly (GJU), in

coordination with Prof. Christine Burnhardt (Rhein-Main HS), Dr. Aladdin Jokhosha (Head of Alliance of German Designers), and Dr. Yasser Rajjal (GJU) though a number of workshops in Wiesbaden and Amman.

- Latin Calligraphy Workshop

In 2009, Prof. Christine Burnhardt (Rhein-Main HS) conducted an introductory short course in Latin Calligraphy to GJU students in design and visual communication. The course was coordinated by Prof. Christine Burnhardt (Rhein-Main HS), and Luzan Hussein (GJU).



Prof. Christine Burnhardt

- Workshops on Teaching Filmmaking at GJU

A number of workshops on teaching filmmaking at GJU were conducted in Amman, Mainz and Wiesbaden during 2009-2011. The workshops were coordinated by Prof. Harald Pulch (Mainz FS), Roland Blum and Tidi von Tiedeman (Rhein-Main HS), and Dr. Yasser Rajjal, Prof. Mohammad Yaghan, Mustafa Hammouri, and Ali Maher (GJU). The outputs of those workshops were adopted in teaching the different cinematography courses offered by GJU, where the students produced a number of short films that were screened at the Royal Jordanian Film Commission, the Royal Cultural Center, and Darat Othman Bdeir.

- Selling Cart Design Workshop

In November 2011, students from Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal and GJU worked jointly for designing a selling cart that can be used for multiple purposes in Jordan. The project was coordinated by Musa Abu Khalaf (GJU) and Prof. Franz Hinrichsmeyer (Hochschule Magdeburg-Stendal).



Partner Universities in Germany

Anhalt HS :	Architecture
Augsburg HS :	Design
Biberach HS :	Architecture
Bielefeld FH :	Design
Bremen HS :	Architecture
Bremerhaven HS :	Design
Coburg HS :	Architecture / Interior Architecture Design
Cottbus BTU :	Architecture / Built Environment
Darmstadt HS :	Design
Dortmund TU :	Architecture / Spatial Planning
Dresden HTW :	Architecture
Düsseldorf FH :	Architecture
Frankfurt FH :	Architecture
Hamburg HCU :	Architecture
Karlsruhe HS :	Architecture
Karlsruhe KIT :	Architecture
Koblenz HS :	Architecture
Köln ISD :	Design
Leipzig HTWK :	Architecture
Magdeburg-Stendal HS :	Design (Industrial Design)
Mainz HS :	Architecture Design Interior Architecture

Mittweida HS	:	Design
Münster FH	:	Architecture
		Design
Ostwestfalen-Lippe HS	:	Architecture
		Interior Architecture
		Interior Design
Regensburg OTH	:	Architecture
Wiesbaden RheinMain HS	:	Architecture
		Design
Rosenheim HS	:	Interior Architecture
Saar HBK	:	Design
Saar HTW	:	Architecture
Schwäbisch-Gmünd HfG	:	Design
Stuttgart HfT	:	Architecture
		Interior Architecture
Trier HS	:	Architecture
		Design
		Interior Design
Wilhelmshaven Jade HS	:	Architecture
Würzburg-Schweinfurt FHWS	:	Architecture
		Design

School of Applied Medical Sciences
Prof. Malyuba Abu-Daibes, Dean

Department of Biomedical Engineering,
Dr. Adnan Bashir Al-Lahham,
Exchange Coordinator.

Department of Pharmaceutical and Chemical
Engineering,
Dr. Samer Al-Gharabli, Exchange Coordinator.

The German Dimension of SAMS

The School of Applied Medical Sciences is an accredited and recognized academic body by providing high-quality education, training, and research in the fields of pharmaceutical and biomedical engineering. The faculty was established in September 2005 consists of two programs, Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering (CPE) and Biomedical Engineering (BME). The School is providing high-level educational programs to fulfill the requirements of the Jordanian society and the region in the related disciplines. CPE graduates are employed in several pharmaceutical, food, and chemical industries as well as academic and research institutes. BME graduates find jobs in hospitals, medical companies, government institutions, universities, and research institutes in Jordan, the Gulf, and even in the international market including German companies. The intellectual

and creative skills of our students are improved through our partnerships with German industry and educational institutions. The School continuously develops its study programs with valuable advice and feedback from Network meetings with our German partner universities on a regular basis, as well as with feedback given by our Jordanian industry partners. SAMS is offering more than 120 courses of different disciplines in the area of Pharmaceutical-Chemical and Biomedical Engineering as well as a master program in vision rehabilitation. The school established more than 20 laboratories with cutting edge technology.

Joint Projects

- Nano-Science Education

The faculty gained substantial funding from different national and international funding agencies. Since 2014 we participate in the 3 year Tempus project “Excellence in Nanoscience Education for the MENA Region (XNEM)”. The aim of the project is the development of a regional Master of Science in Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Arab postgraduate students. The program aims to transfer the know-how from the European partners (German, Sweden, France and Spain) in the field of nano-sciences through students and staff exchange,

this will allow the initiation of a competitive program equivalent to those in Europe.

- Participating in Network Meetings with German Partner Universities

In March 2013, a network meeting in the field of Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering was held in Amman. The meeting developed GJU's partnership and modified many process in the student's internship and fourth year in Germany. Many topics were discussed, including the Bachelor's students' graduation the 10th semester, German technical terms (Fachsprache, Fachwörter), a planned double Master's degree program, proposals for the contents of the Master's program, Flying Faculty visits, and research cooperations.

Also in 2013, the BME Department, through its Exchange Coordinator Dr. Adnan Al-Lahham, participated in the network meetings with representatives of the German partner universities, which was held in Magdeburg in November 2013. The main objective of the meetings was to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the German Year. It focused on the mobility issues for both students and academics among the participating institutions. Moreover, problems of both sides were discussed to find out the best solutions for strengthening the cooperation, exchange and future joint projects.



Partner Universities in Germany

Albstadt-Sigmaringen HS :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Anhalt HS :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Berlin Beuth HfT :	Biomedical Engineering
	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Dresden HTW :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Frankfurt FH :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Fulda HS :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Furtwangen HS :	Biomedical Engineering
	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Hamm-Lippstadt HS :	Biomedical Engineering
Koblenz HS :	Biomedical Engineering
Lübeck FH :	Biomedical Engineering
Ostwestfalen-Lippe HS :	Pharmaceutical and Chemical Engineering
Ulm HS :	Biomedical Engineering
Wilhelmshaven Jade HS :	Biomedical Engineering
Zwickau HS :	Biomedical Engineering



Prof. Dr. Nicola Huson

DAAD lecturer and coordinator of the
M.A. DaF program, School of Applied
Humanities & Languages

“I joined the GJU in August 2013. Before, I was a DAAD lecturer at the German University of Technology in Oman. At GUTech, German is taught only until level A2. So when recruited to join the M.A. DaF programme at GJU I was delighted since teaching Master’s students is a great chance. As the coordinator of the M.A. DaF I collaborate with our two partner universities: LMU University of Munich and Ruhr University Bochum. The M.A. DaF program is an international program with students from all over the region. Our graduates are offered teaching positions at the GJU German Language Center.”

Statements about GJU





Our German Partners in Jordan



The success story of GJU is built on close ties to our German partners. Some of them are directly located in Amman. They have been following the development of the university from the beginning, providing support when needed and paving the way for new concepts and strategies for our students and staff. Throughout the years we found that these partners have truly become part of the GJU family.

The German partners in Jordan have become part of the GJU family.

H.E. Ralph Tarraf

Ambassador of
Germany to Jordan

Since when have you been the Ambassador of Germany to Jordan?

I have been the Ambassador of Germany to Jordan since August 2011. The country and the region have undergone significant developments during that period. Jordan has been a challenging and at the same time very rewarding environment to work in.

What are your main tasks and challenges as Ambassador?

My duties are various and it is rather difficult to generalize them. But the main topic of my work is certainly, together with my team at the Embassy, to bring the people of my country of origin, Germany, and the people of my current country of residence, Jordan, closer to each other. We try as much as possible to facilitate communication and cooperation in all relevant fields and sectors, be it the implementation of our common political goals, the promotion of bilateral trade, business, development cooperation, tourism, culture, archaeology and, last but not least, the cooperation in the field of Higher Education. Besides that, I constantly enjoy explaining Germany to Jordanians and Jordan to Germans - in private as well as in public.

How do you cooperate with GJU?

As a Member of the Board of Trustees of the GJU, I am closely involved in discussions and in decision making on the main strategic and institutional issues related to the University. I highly appreciate the extraordinarily open and constructive atmosphere we have in the Board of Trustees. Besides that, I regularly attend and participate in festive occasions organized by the GJU, often as a speaker, like the inauguration of new premises, commencement exercises, evenings of excellence and other, more work-oriented occasions like conferences, round table discussions with students etc. However, my main field of cooperation with the GJU is invisible. I am in constant contact with the President of the GJU, with Members of the Board of Trustees, with the Ministry of Higher Education and other relevant Jordanian authorities, with Partners in Germany in Government, Academia and Business over all issues related to the GJU. All my interlocutors acknowledge and appreciate the crucial role the GJU is playing in the field of Higher Education in Jordan and the central role it occupies in the bilateral relations which tie our two countries together.

What makes GJU so unique and successful from your point of view?

The GJU is unique and successful for a number of reasons. I would highlight three: First, the outstanding and unparalleled commitment and engagement of the people who have built this university and who keep it going. This includes the founding fathers and mothers in Government, Academia and Business in Jordan and Germany as well as the current leadership of the GJU, its academic and administrative staff, and their Partners in Germany, who all gave and continue to give, on a daily basis, their utmost to see this project succeed and thrive.

Second, the curriculum of the GJU, and in particular the implementation of a model of Applied Sciences, which tries to anticipate and actively address the gap between Academia and Business.

And third, the fact that all Bachelor Students of the GJU have to study and work for one year in Germany. This is a unique feature worldwide and takes Higher Education to a new level, to include a broader knowledge of our common world and to promote a deeper sense of belonging together in this common world.



by
Radi Haddad

Jasmin Sadoun

Head of Administration, GIZ Office Amman
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Since when are you Head of Administration of GIZ Amman?

Since 1999 I've been the Head of Administration at GIZ Office Amman

What are your main tasks as Head of Administration?

My main tasks include coordination of administrative and logistical support, and financial management to the joint German Jordanian cooperation projects and programmes implemented by GIZ in Jordan and the region.

How do you cooperate with GJU?

GJU has become an integral part of the daily life in Jordan. We send our children to study there and receive them back as future potential employees. GJU and GIZ are cooperating in numerous ways, for example: Through the returning and integrated experts programmes implemented by the Center for International Migration and Development (CIM), the global labor mobility center of GIZ.

Since GJUs establishment 3 integrated experts and 7 returning experts have been placed in positions that GJU had requested.

Also, together with GJU's forward thinking directors and staff, the GIZ installed a highly innovative solar cooling unit on the state-of-the-art university campus in Madaba. The unit is the first of its kind in Jordan and will impact research in the field of renewable energies and showcase sustainable solutions.

What makes GJU so unique and successful from your point of view?

GJU has become a source of highly qualified and multilingual experts for Jordan, Germany, and the MENA-Region. Study courses at GJU are highly specialized and practice-oriented, hence providing Jordan with experts the country is actually in need of. Innovation and sustainability – this is what German-Jordanian cooperation in general, and the GJU in particular, stands for. GJU creates cultural ambassadors and fosters international understanding by sending young Jordanian students to Germany and hosting German students in Jordan.



Andreas Wutz

Director DAAD Information Center (IC) Amman
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Since when are you DAAD Director at Amman?

I was entrusted with this beautiful task on Sept. 1st 2012. Since then I have been living in Jordan.

What are your main tasks as DAAD Director?

In the beginning of my assignment, the focus was on establishing the office which had not existed before. After the dust settled and working procedures had been defined priorities shifted towards developing further the manifold DAAD activities in Jordan. These include cultural and scientific events such as conferences as well as a rising number of scholarship programs which are managed and organized in close collaboration with DAAD headquarters in Bonn. When I started, we were only two people; now I am in the lucky position of having five very dedicated members of staff without whom all of these achievements would not have been possible.

What are your fields of cooperation with GJU?

GJU is a project which has been very dear to the DAAD since its early days. DAAD involvement is not limited to financial assistance only and cooperation extends to many fields. For example, there is a DAAD

funded Arabic language program for German students which was affiliated to GJU last year. I am also always very eager when it comes to getting in touch with GJU students by delivering lectures or presentations about studying in Germany.

What makes GJU so unique and successful from your point of view?

GJU is unique because of the dedication of all people involved (academic staff and students alike) who are really committed to building bridges between Jordan and Germany in order to foster intercultural exchange. Therefore I say: Happy Birthday GJU! You have come a long way and the journey continues.



Dr. Christiane Krämer-Hus-Hus

Director, Goethe-Institute Jordan (2009-2015)

How do you cooperate with GJU?

There have been many ways the Goethe-Institute has been able to cooperate with the GJU in the past. During the last years the cooperation was most intense in the field of teaching German as a foreign language. 2 years ago the GJU and the Goethe-Institute signed an "Agreement on Awarding an Exam Contract" and the GJU can organize the official B1-exam of the Goethe-Institute (Goethe-Zertifikat B1) for the students of the GJU. The two institutions have jointly organized the "German Teacher's Day" in the last five years, which has become bigger and more important every year. And the Goethe-Institute was entrusted by the GJU to organize Summer Language Courses e.g. in the summer of last year.

What makes GJU so unique and successful from your point of view?

What makes the GJU unique world-wide are 3 factors: the German language requirements, the mandatory study semester in Germany, as well as the mandatory practical training. The German language classes are the best preparation for a successful stay at a German university; and the mandatory practical training is the best preparation for a smooth transition from graduation to a successful work life.





Our Partners in Germany

Our Partners in Germany

From the beginning, GJU has strived to establish a strong and broad network of partner universities in Germany. Today we can proudly say that we are working closely together with more than 90 partner universities, most of them universities of applied sciences, and we are on a good way to reach 100. All of them are providing placements for GJU students to perform their study semester in Germany in different majors, and many of them even follow up with our students for the internship semester. Due to the growing numbers of students and due to the compulsory German Year for undergraduate students the university is still trying to recruit new partners and to strengthen the partnerships we already have. We are proud to reckon many distinguished German universities among our partners covering all federal states of Germany.

GJU has more than 90 partner universities in Germany and Austria.

Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences

German-Jordanian University Project Office
Director Project Office, Christof Mühlberg

The Project Office (PO) at the Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences was established in 2004 and has been in charge of the project management ever since. Four full time members work on tasks that range from financial transactions and budget allocation to immigration procedures project management and political communication. With the DAAD grant, the PO currently funds a total of almost 400 scholarships including tuition, cost of living, and summer courses in Jordan and Germany in cooperation with the International Office of GJU.

The Project Office is actively supporting GJU students in any challenge they might face while in Germany and facilitates solutions for obstacles. In close cooperation with the Office of Industrial Links, the PO supports the industry liaison efforts of the GJU in Germany and works at providing students with quality internships. With a number of programs like Flying Faculty and Train the Trainer, the PO supports the German dimension of GJU beyond the German Year. The PO's support of a number of faculty and staff members further increases the awareness of the German aspect on the campus.

The PO presence at various trade fairs, International Days, and one to one meetings in Germany fosters the public exposure of the GJU in the German public and communicates the idea of this university and its dedication to excellence.



Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule Regensburg (OTH Regensburg)

Director of the International Office,
Dr. Wilhelm Bomke

How many students are studying at OTH altogether?

Currently, approximately 10,500 students are enrolled at OTH Regensburg.

How would you describe the unique feature of your University?

We offer a broad range of degree programs in Engineering, Business, and Social Sciences, of which many are highly innovative. To promote the best study environment possible, we combine all of our strengths and possibilities. We are situated in a very beautiful city with a high percentage of students among its inhabitants. With a population of 150,000 people, many important local industries and its 32,000 students (together with the University of Regensburg), Regensburg is secure, historically important, and very lively.

Since when did you join the Partner Network of GJU?

We officially joined the partner network in March 2009.

What study programs do you offer for GJU undergraduate exchange students?

GJU students at OTH Regensburg can choose between several programs, such as Computer Studies degree programs, Business Studies, International Relations, Management, and Architecture.

Did you send German students to spend their study semester at GJU?

Yes, many! The feedback we received was very positive.

What are the challenges and benefits in the cooperation with GJU?

The cultures, the climate, and the ways of living are rather different. Coming to Regensburg or Amman demands openness and curiosity. On our side, German language skills are very important to enjoy our academic and social offers fully.

Some personal words about your experiences with GJU students and staff

I was very impressed by the kindness of all the people I met. However, weak German language skills made some stays less satisfying than they could have been. I have learnt very much professionally and personally from our visitors and hope they also enjoy coming to Regensburg as well.



by
Yasser Rajjal



JADE HOCHSCHULE
Wilhelmshaven University of Applied Sciences



Jade University of Applied Sciences

Jane Fischer, International Office

How many students are studying at JH altogether?

The total number of our enrolled students is 7500, distributed over our sites in Wilhelmshaven (4800), Oldenburg (2100), and Elsfleth (600).

How would you describe the unique feature of your University?

Jade University of Applied Sciences is unique for its mixture of attractive features: First of all, the familial atmosphere at our university as well as our modern, well equipped labs and our orientation toward the future.

Furthermore, we are not only located at a touristically attractive region, but also located at the UNESCO world natural heritage site Wadden Sea. Also, many big German and European cities are easy to reach. Another important feature: We speak "Hochdeutsch," which is a huge help for our international, German-learning students.

Since when did you join the Partner Network of GJU?

Jade University and GJU became partners in 2008.

What study programs do you offer for GJU undergraduate exchange students?

Currently we have jointly signed memorandums of understanding for Biomedical Engineering, Mechatronics, Industrial Engineering, International Accounting, and Architecture. In addition, students have attended courses in Electrical Engineering, and Tourism Business.

Did you send German students to spend their study semester at GJU?

Unfortunately, we did not have the chance to send our students to GJU yet, but some of our professors already visited the university.

What are the challenges and benefits in the cooperation with GJU?

The cultures, the climate, and the ways The challenges are mainly to be found in the realm of German language skills: the higher the German language skills of the students, the better the students can follow the courses. On the other hand, some of the benefits are that Moreover, Germans learn a lot about Jordan because of the international evenings held about Jordan.

Some personal words about your experiences with GJU students and staff

We experienced students from GJU as very polite and as having good manners. We experienced their good command of the German language. On the other side, we experienced GJU staff as always being quick and precise in answering emails, obliging in requests, and offering good services.

Saarland University of Applied Sciences (htw saar)

Director of the International Office,
Andrea Roth-Bastian

How many students are studying at htw saar altogether?

We currently have about 5900 students. About 720 students are international students from more than 60 different countries.

How would you describe the unique feature of your University?

Study programs are highly structured with students often learning in small groups. Excellent supervision and close contact to the academic staff are distinctive features of academic life at htw saar. The university places considerable emphasis on high-quality, practically-focused teaching that is closely meshed with real social, business and industrial applications. Moreover, being located in the centre of the so-called Saar-Lor-Lux triangle, Saarland is strongly influenced by its neighbors France and Luxembourg. This makes Saarbrücken a unique, open-minded and student-oriented city located in the heart of Europe.

Since when did you join the Partner Network of GJU?

htw saar welcomed the first GJU-student in the academic year 2009-10.

What study programs do you offer for GJU undergraduate exchange students?

GJU students can attend courses in Mechatronics & Sensor Technology, Computer Sciences, and Business Studies.

Some personal words about your experiences with GJU students and staff

It is always a pleasure to meet the GJU students. They are very open, social and an important ingredient to the very nice atmosphere in our exchange student community. Moreover, while they are at our university they really contribute to the intercultural experiences of their fellow German and international students. We learn so much from each other!

The main challenges I think for the GJU-students are to adapt to the expectation, that in the German university system students are highly self-organized, as well as being able to manage classes, group work and daily life in the German language. I think the GJU students have a great team in the GJU International Office to support them. We very much enjoy working together with our colleagues there.







Our Partners in Germany

One extraordinary component of the bachelor study programs at GJU is a compulsory internship semester within Germany or a German speaking country. To promote German Jordanian cooperation and to support GJU-students with the task of finding an internship, the GJU Project Office in Magdeburg has built up a network of industry and company partners. Some of the most prominent German companies hire GJU students on a regular basis, yet also small and medium enterprises benefit from the skills of GJU-students. In the following section some of them introduce themselves, their motivation in hiring, and their experience with GJU-interns.

GJU has built up a strong network of industry and company partners.

AquaSoli GmbH & Co.KG

München, Germany

From lighting up our homes to fueling large industries: To meet increasing world energy demand, renewables have become a leading source of electric power. As the sun is an infinite source of energy, solar power can provide a large part of renewables supply. In Jordan it has been announced that by 2020, 10% of the country electricity will be provided by renewables. Photovoltaic (PV) is supplying a large part of that figure.

Engineering design of solar farms is considered the most essential part of construction, because a resilient strategy ensures high cost efficiency and long term sustainability; this is where a leading company in solar farm design such as AquaSoli comes in. AquaSoli is a German based company established in 2003 by Jürgen Schmid. It operates worldwide with offices in Europe, North America and Asia, with representatives in Africa and South America. The company specializes in Geotechnical engineering (Soil Surveys, Test Loadings, and Foundation Design), Design of PV Installations (Optimized Layout for Shading, Electrical Design), and Acquisition Support Services (Advisory Services for Investors, Feasibility & Project Pre-Assessment), and Civil Design (Structural Design Analysis, Corrosion

Evaluation) in addition to many other services that provide high return on investment.

AquaSoli has extensive experience from over 1200 projects on 6 continents. The firm has provided design services on 10 GWp of installed PV or about 10% of the world's implemented utility scale PV Projects. From this diverse and successful experience AquaSoli has become an industry leading and trusted name to insurance companies and investors.

Arising from AquaSoli's interest in education, the company has partnered with German Jordanian University to enrich the students with internships at its headquarters in Munich, Germany. Also, the company benefits from the young minds that GJU has to offer, thus training one student a semester. "The students from GJU are not here only to study the theory. Integrated into the planning and design teams, students learn how to connect the theory they learned at university with practical projects."

So theory and practical work reinforce each other. Jürgen Schmid, CEO of AquaSoli, is committed to the belief that learning both the theory and how to apply it is the best way to teach problem solving and achieve practical success.

Jürgen Schmid also appreciates the great hospitality in Jordan and its heartfelt & open minded people. "I fully support the German Jordanian University's contribution in the 21st

century where mankind will hopefully start jointly working for peace and welfare in the region.”

These successful internships have resulted in a GJU student becoming the Middle East Manager of AquaSoli and running the Jordan office to explore the large potential in the Region. Osama Al-Radhi AquaSoli’s MENA Region Manager states “studying at GJU has opened new horizons for me and enabled me to work and grow in a prestigious company like AquaSoli.”



DHL Express Germany GmbH

Bonn, Germany

DHL Express is part of Deutsche Post DHL and being the world leader in international express delivery. The Deutsche Post and DHL corporate brands are known for a unique portfolio of logistics (DHL) and communications (Deutsche Post). The Group provides its customers with easy to use standardized products as well as innovative and tailored solutions ranging from dialog marketing and e-commerce related logistics to industrial supply chains.

DHL is the global market leader in the logistics and transportation industry and “The logistics company for the world”. DHL commits its expertise in international express, national and international parcel delivery, air and ocean freight, road and rail transportation, as well as contract and e-commerce related solutions along the entire supply chain.

The corporate division DHL EXPRESS delivers urgent documents and products reliably and on time from door to door - on the same day, at a certain time or a particular day of the week. This offer is continually supplemented by industry-specific services. With a global network composed of more than 220 countries and territories and about 77,000

employees worldwide, DHL Express offers customers superior service quality and local knowledge to satisfy their shipping and supply chain requirements.

DHL accepts its social responsibility by supporting climate protection, disaster management, and education. Therefore we advocate our cooperation with the German Jordanian University (GJU). Since March 2010 we have welcomed about 30 students who actively supported us for a period of six months. They have supported us especially in Operations, Marketing, IT, Finance, and Quality & Performance Management.



EXCELLENCE. SIMPLY DELIVERED.

Diehl Metering

Ansbach, Germany

Metering is our Duty -Innovation our Driving Force -Sustainability our Goal

As a full-service provider, Diehl Metering supplies the entire process chain from meters to billing. Producing 7 million meters and 4.6 million radio modules per year, it is one of the major players in the international industry. The companies of the corporate division Diehl Metering have shaped the history of metering for more than 150 years. Using highly accurate meters and intelligent system solutions for automated remote reading for all types of energy in combination with smart metering solutions, Diehl Metering ensures the economic and environmentally-friendly use of water, thermal power, gas, and electricity.

As an internationally operating company, Diehl Metering repeatedly sets new standards in the markets and at the same time is in continuous competition within this industry. A worldwide network enables the company to grow. This also includes our intensive collaboration with universities and students. In recent years Diehl Metering has provided many international students with an industrial placement both in commercial and in technical areas of work.

Its cooperation with the German Jordanian University gives Diehl Metering the opportunity to further expand its business relationships in the Middle East. By providing Jordanian students with an industrial placement, both sides benefit from mutual exchange and Diehl Metering also benefits from the innovative ideas of the Jordanian students. Qualified students studying Business Management, Industrial Engineering, and Communications Engineering are given the opportunity to spend a 20-week period of practical training at Diehl Metering and in this way to find out about the technologies and processes of a forward looking company.

Diehl Metering looks forward to continuing its excellent collaboration and long-term partnership with the German-Jordanian University!

DIEHL
Metering

Continental Automotive GAM

Hannover, Germany

Continental develops intelligent technologies for transporting people and their goods. As a reliable partner, the international automotive supplier, tire manufacturer, and industrial partner provide sustainable, safe, comfortable, individual, and affordable solutions. In 2014, the corporation generated preliminary sales of approximately €34.5 billion with its five divisions: Chassis & Safety, Interior, Powertrain, Tires, and ContiTech. Continental currently employs approximately 190,000 people in 49 countries.

Continental Automotive Group is divided into three divisions:

Chassis & Safety

The department “Chassis & Safety” addresses, among other things, the development and production of braking systems, sensors for the safety of passengers and pedestrians, as well as assistance systems.

Power- train

Power train division includes all business units which deal with the drive train, engine and transmission control units, hybrid drives, sensors, fuel injection systems, etc.

Interior

This department deals with the management of information in vehicles. Here, for example, infotainment and entertainment systems, vehicle access systems, multi-function displays, and navigation systems are developed.

Global Allocation Department (GAM)

GAM is a cross divisional organization which interferes in various complex situations, ranging from quality to quantity issues, in addition to natural catastrophes such as earthquakes, fires, floods, and volcanoes. The team is always responsible to find the optimal solution in the shortest possible time, to make sure that customers of Continental Automotive (CA) are always satisfied by e.g. balancing capacities to the needs of all manufacturing Continental plants worldwide.



Throughout the last 2 years we had three interns seated at the GAM Department from the German Jordanian University working on the following tasks:

- Creating and updating overview reports for the CA TOP Management of the Supply Chain.
- Collection as well as adaption of data from the team members.
- Support of the global allocation managers by preparing urgent documents applying tools as e.g. SAP/BW/SQM Tool Box/Excel.
- Preparation of presentations related to the department.

To point out the experiences of our interns from German Jordanian University we have here a short collection of their statements about GAM department:

“The team which I’m working with was very welcoming at first, and gave me a sense of relief and comfort.” Nabil Saadeh

“Being an intern at Continental Automotive opened my eyes on what a perfect work might look like after finishing my studies and how important it is to love the job you do in order to give all your abilities to work.” Rabah Al-Taher

“I have learned and gained a lot of technical things, and also I have enhanced my social skills.” Majd Abu Eita

“All I can say is that I’m really happy and satisfied for doing my internship here at CA GAM Department, and I’m sure it will give me better chances for my job after graduating from the University.” Rabah Al-Taher / Nabil Saadeh

“I really advise all the students from GJU to apply for CA for their internship here in Germany.” Majd Abu Eita

SystemKosmetik GmbH

Münster am Lech, Germany

SystemKosmetik is a certified specialist for development, production and packaging of cosmetics and certified natural cosmetics for over 25 years. The custom-made recipes are composed due to the wish of our customers (e.g. NaTrue, ECOCERT, BDIH, ÖKO-TEST). The quality of the products is being ensured through strict quality controls and accurate documentation. Today, SystemKosmetik busies approx. 120 employees, who generated a turnover of 14 million euro in the last fiscal year.

Over the past three years, SystemKosmetik made it possible for four students of the German Jordanian University's degree course Pharmaceutical Engineering to complete successfully a traineeship. In the Department of Research and Development, employees incorporate and supervise the students. Within a short time, the students were able to develop high-quality recipes themselves. One student completed the regularly 6 month lasting traineeship even with a successful Bachelor's thesis about UV-filter. Another student, Rawan Sawalha, developed a high-quality line of "Dead Sea Skin Care." SystemKosmetik is willing for this reason to still give young people the opportunity to complete a successful traineeship, to start in a bright professional future.



SystemKosmetik
Produktionsgesellschaft
für kosmetische
Erzeugnisse mbH

Editorial Team

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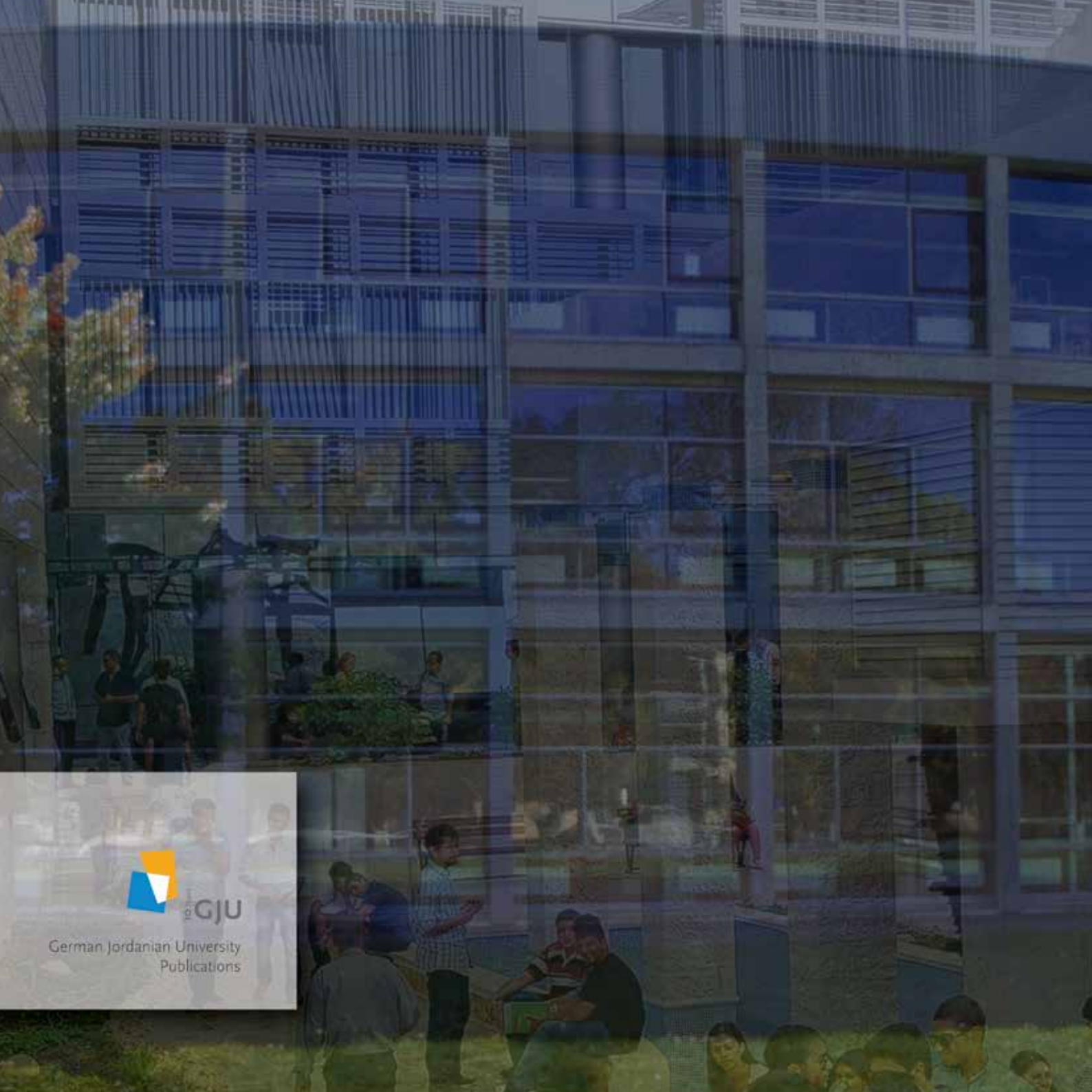
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