

German-Jordanian University (GJU)

In October 2005, one of the largest educational and cultural projects outside of Germany opened its gate in Amman: the German-Jordanian University (GJU). After three years of teaching and research, the GJU has found its undisputed active and highly respected place in academia in Jordan. Some 1,400 students are enrolled in 7 faculties and 19 different study programmes on undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Application oriented approach

This new university – one of the ten public Jordanian universities – is designed following the model of the German Fachhochschulen, Universities of Applied Sciences. These universities are mainly characterized by their philosophy of strict relation to practice and their application oriented approach to knowledge transfer. Experts agree that this approach is just as needed and as important for the Jordanian and the general Middle Eastern labour market as it has proven to be for the German labour market.

The new institution's vision is to play a pivotal role in the socio-economic and professional development in Jordan; its mission is life-long learning and continuing education.

Foundation

In August 2004, a founding committee took up its activities in Jordan, closely cooperating with the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. At the same time, the German project office opened at the University of Applied Sciences of Magdeburg-Stendal, on its part in close cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD.

A consortium of around seventy dedicated German Universities of Applied Sciences, led by the one of Magdeburg-Stendal, is assisting in setting up the structure of the university by contributing to the know-how, study plans, curricula and academic faculty.

Governments as well as the private sectors of both countries support the project financially and ideologically. Especially from Jordan industry, the GJU enjoys a substantial active engagement.

Prof. Dr. Labib Khadra, former Vice President of Jordan University of Science and Technology and member of the university's founding committee, was appointed President of the GJU in 2005 and is still in office now.

Location

After an initial phase at a provisional site, the GJU will be located near the city of Madaba about 20 kilometres away from Amman; land has been allocated by the Government of Jordan. The laying of the corner stone took place on April 25th, 2005, under the



patronage of His Majesty King Abdullah II. Meanwhile extensive construction is on its way there. The final move is expected to be carried out in 2010/2011. Up to then, students are served in 4 newly rented buildings on the premises of the Royal Scientific Society in Al-Jubeiha and at Mecca Street where the Talal Abu Ghazaleh College of Business, the business faculty of GJU, offers the MBA programmes.

Programme

The German-Jordanian University is prepared to accept up to 5,000 students over the years and will turn special attention to meeting the needs of female students in all aspects of campus life. Students from neighbouring countries are highly welcome.

The BA programmes mainly comprise Architecture, Computer Sciences, various Engineering Sciences, and Management Sciences. The GJU enlarges and enriches its academic portfolio continuously.

New study programmes have been introduced lately, e.g. “German as a Foreign Language”, “Translation Arabic – German – English”, and “Design”. Further innovative programmes on undergraduate and postgraduate level will be introduced shortly, like “Spatial Planning”, “Architecture and Reconstruction”.

The GJU is also very proud of serving the society through its unique Certificate Programme on “Vision Rehabilitation”. The GJU fills a gap in education in Jordan as well as the whole Arab World.

The main medium of instruction is English, gradually shifting to German. Provided they gain sufficient knowledge of the German language, students will spend their fourth year in Germany. During this year, each one of the partner universities will host a small group of GJU students in order to enable them to build close relations to German culture and ways of living and to offer them optimal support and advice. German industry is encouraged to offer six month internships for students to assist them in training during their stay and provide financial sponsorship where necessary.



The German-Jordanian University’s mission is to produce multilingual and cross-culturally trained professionals who possess the social as well as academic skills necessary to meet the labour market.

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