



Yarmouk Newsletter

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Crown Prince Attends Graduation Ceremony of Post-Graduate Students at Yarmouk University



Following is the full translation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II's speech:

"In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Mohammad,

University President,

Dear graduates,

Students and faculty of Yarmouk University,

Distinguished guests,

Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

I am delighted to be among you today, to join the fortieth graduating class at Yarmouk University, and to be in Irbid, a precious city that is very dear to our hearts—the Irbid of the past, present and future.

I am proud and humbled to be speaking to you here from the same podium where my grandfather Al Hussein—may his soul rest in peace—and my father His Majesty King Abdullah II—may God grant him long life—once stood and addressed the vanguard of young Jordanian graduates.

Brothers and sisters,

Congratulations on graduating. Congratulations on your success. May success be your permanent companion. May you excel and succeed further. A thousand congratulations!

There is no doubt that your journey has not been easy, and would not have been possible without having the opportunity and ambition. When ambition and opportunity meet, success is guaranteed.

I will begin with opportunity, because those who gave it

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II attended on Tuesday the graduation ceremony of the 40th class of post-graduate students at Yarmouk University for the academic year 2018 / 2019, where he handed over certificates to 226 graduates.

In a speech delivered at the ceremony, Crown Prince Al Hussein stressed that Jordan, built by the will and determination of the ancestors, will continue progressing through the ambition and resolve of young people who are the homeland's most precious asset.

Addressing the graduates His Royal Highness said: "Jordan now looks to you, awaiting your positive role in its progress. Do not withhold your determination. Be ambitious for yourselves and for Jordan. Carve your way through rock when obstacles face you. Support students in the classrooms and soldiers on the borders with your knowledge and spirit; for the homeland—my brothers and sisters—is our most precious asset."

Crown Prince Attends Graduation Ceremony of Post-Graduate Students at YU - Continued



to you—and the credit belongs to them after God—are here with us today. Their eyes are full of joy and pride, for they have sacrificed so that you receive an education, and they have spent sleepless nights and prayed night and day for you. I speak on behalf of all graduates when I say to the parents out here: Thank you, from every son and daughter. Your blessings, your pride, and your trust have always been the driving force. Thank you for your support and sacrifice.

As for ambition, I see an abundance of it here. You have persevered and worked hard day and night for years to get here today. Your ambition, like that of your homeland, does not take the easy way out.

Jordan's ambition is the ambition of its sons and daughters. Our ancestors did not find easy fortune, so they worked hard, carving cities out of rock. They studied, passed on the knowledge, and travelled the world with their experience. No one can deny the capabilities and professionalism of Jordanians, nor their ability to withstand adversity.

This determination is inspired by our values and our principled positions that keep Jordanians strong and unshakable despite difficult challenges—always unwavering on our principles, priorities, and, above all, our dignity.

This is why Jordan, its leadership and people, will not relinquish the custodianship of holy sites in Jerusalem.

This is why Jordan welcomes those seeking refuge with open borders and open arms.

This is why Jordan is the most beautiful, the most secure, and the most harmonious, despite everything.

Distinguished guests,

Jordan's ambition and its principled positions are the guarantees of its progress.

Today, the world is witnessing rapid changes and economic challenges. Our country is no exception. The future may seem ambiguous, but we are absolutely certain that Jordan did not and will not take any step backwards. It will continue to move forward, as it always does.

Graduates,

As scholars, you—and all the young men and women of this generation—are entrusted with this nation, which, in turn, is fully confident in your persistence to participate in its progress and to base your decisions on facts and reliable information.

Do not allow suspicion and destructive views to kill your dreams. Carve out your own path to open up new horizons. Here, I will quote what His Majesty said from this very podium: “In the future, you will be the ones who create job opportunities, not those who seek them.”

Distinguished guests,

This nation was built and has progressed through the ambition and determination of our parents and grandparents, because they believed in Jordan; they believed that they themselves are its most precious asset. And you, the youth of this nation, are its most precious asset. You are its fortitude and hope, no matter what the sceptics and the cynics may claim.

Jordan now looks to you, awaiting your positive role in its progress. Do not withhold your determination. Be ambitious for yourselves and for Jordan. Carve your way through rock when obstacles face you. Support students in the classrooms and soldiers on the borders with your knowledge and spirit; for the homeland—my brothers and sisters—is our most precious asset.

Peace, God's mercy and blessings be upon you.”



The Irish Ambassador to Jordan Visits Yarmouk University

The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, met the Irish Ambassador to Jordan, Dr. Vincent O'Neill and the accompanying persons, Dr. Moya Galen from the Irish Dundalk Institute of Technology and Dr. Muath Atmeh, the Director of Al Rayad Center for Training, Consultancy, and Study in Ireland.

As the visit aimed at discussing cooperation between Yarmouk and the various Irish institutions of high education, Prof. Kafafi started the meeting reviewing the establishment of Yarmouk University and its scientific, literary, and social faculties, pointing out the main developments in the university represented by the establishment of a group of scientific disciplines like medicine and pharmacy. He then stressed that Yarmouk University always welcomes the various forms of scientific, cultural, and academic cooperation, which has positively influenced its academic life and educational vision. He added that through the many cooperation agreements with various international educational institutions, Yarmouk students and faculty members were given the opportunity to learn about the cultures of other countries

Moreover, Prof. Kafafi referred to Yarmouk's willingness to strengthen its scientific and academic cooperation with the various Irish universities attempting to enhance the educational system in the two countries. Then he pointed out the possibility of signing a memorandum of understanding between Yarmouk and the Irish Dundalk Institute of Technology, in which case the Institute will accept Yarmouk students who wish to complete their bachelor and master's degrees in various disciplines.

In his turn, Dr. O'Neill praised the distinguished level of



the Jordanian higher education sector in general and the distinguished academic reputation of Yarmouk University in particular. He highlighted the embassy's interest in extending the scientific and cultural cooperation between the Irish universities and Yarmouk University in all possible areas of mutual interest. Likewise, Galen pointed to her Institute's efforts to enhance its cooperation with Yarmouk University in various fields, especially in the field of hospitality, tourism, and hotel management, emphasizing that the Institute offers its students the opportunity to obtain practical training opportunities in the Irish labor market.

On the sidelines of the visit, the Irish delegation met the deans and the faculty members of the Faculty of Tourism and Arts and discussed the possible means of cooperation in the areas of mutual interest.

A Delegation from the Indonesian Islamic Propagation Council Visits YU



Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, the President of Yarmouk University, met with the Indonesian Islamic Propagation Council delegation, which was headed by the director of the institute, Madrek Qari. The means of cooperation between the two parties were discussed, and an academic memorandum of understanding was set accordingly. The memorandum aims at enhancing the aspects of the academic cooperation between the two institutes, i.e. exchange faculty members, knowledge resources, teaching digital materials, and organizing academic meetings and conferences.

During the meeting, Prof. Kafafi expressed Yarmouk's willingness to present its expertise to the Council, helping it achieve its goals of spreading the teachings of tolerant Islam. He stressed that Jordan and its Hashemite leadership are widely known for defending Islamic and familiarizing the world with the moderation of the Islamic principles and values. Also, he emphasized that Yarmouk University is proud of the great academic level as well as distinguished scholars of the Faculty of Shari'a and Islamic Studies. Focusing on the fact that the Arabic language program for non-Arabic speakers has a leading reputation internationally, Prof. Kafafi mentioned that the University annually attracts many Indonesian students who receive their education in various academic disciplines, particularly in the fields of Islamic Studies and Arabic.

In his turn, Qari praised the outstanding scientific reputation of Yarmouk University in Indonesia, stressing his institute's keen efforts to strengthen cooperation ties with Yarmouk University, especially in the field of exchange of faculty members and students. He also stressed the possibility of sending one of the Council's teachers to teach the Indonesian language in case Yarmouk allocates an Indonesian language (elective) course for the university students. Then Qari reviewed the origins, objectives, and role of the Council in exploring and interpreting the Holy Qur'an.

Enhancement of Cooperation with Fulbright and the University of Wisconsin, USA



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, met Dr. Mark Johnson from the College of Education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, representative of the American Fulbright Program. Means and ways of cooperation between the two universities were discussed.

Kafafi pointed out that YU has academic agreements with various American universities and educational institutions, that include students and staff exchange programs. He also pointed out that Yarmouk was one of the first universities to join the Fulbright Program, and a key partner in educational exchange programs as well as students grants. He further stressed the need to activate these relationships and to invite faculty members from American universities to teach in the different departments of YU to enrich the

teaching process and to share experiences.

Kafafi also stressed the need to strengthen cooperation with the University of Wisconsin for its distinguished academic reputation in various fields, especially in medicine and education, adding that Yarmouk has been a pioneer among local and regional universities in offering certain disciplines such as media and fine arts. He also pointed that YU aspires to offer an MA degree in Museum Studies at the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, which will be the first at the kingdom.

Johnson, for his part, confirmed the U.S. Embassy's keenness to strengthen cooperation between Jordanian and American universities through the Fulbright Program, and the keenness of the Fulbright program in Jordan to offer opportunities for academic cooperation between Yarmouk and various American universities in different fields to enhance educational processes at YU.

He further expressed the University of Wisconsin's readiness to cooperate with Yarmouk through students and staff exchange programs in disciplines of interest to both sides, stressing the need to provide students with English and communication skills necessary to pursue their postgraduate studies in American universities.

The meeting was attended by vice president, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, dean of the Faculty of Archaeology and Anthropology, Dr. Hani Hayajneh, the director of international relations department, Dr. Mowaffaq Al-Otoom, and the director of public relations and media, Mr. Mukhlis Al-Ibbini.

"A Journey around the World ": Activity in Yarmouk

Dr. Amal Nseir, dean of Students' Affairs at YU, sponsored a cultural activity entitled "A Journey around the World", organized by Students' Care Department at the deanship of Students Affairs, in which Arab and foreign students studying in Yarmouk participated.

The activity was about a flight full of passengers heading to several countries around the world, and the opportunities that passengers have, when landing on each country, to learn about the country's culture and heritage.

Students from Yemen, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Indonesia and the United States of America featured cultural and art performances that included traditional songs, folk dances with traditional costumes, and poems.

Nseir praised the international students' creativity in transferring their countries' heritage and culture to Yarmouk students, and stressed their integration with the university community and the importance of fostering their creativity and talents.

The activity was attended by the dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts,



Dr. Wael Al Rashdan; assistant dean of Students Affairs, Dr. Mohammed Alawneh; director of Students' Care Department, Mr. Marwan Tayfur; faculty members from the faculty of Fine Arts; officials from the deanship and university students.

It is worth noting that the number of international students at Yarmouk is 2600 from 43 Arab and foreign countries.

"The Importance of English in Humanities": A Conference Organized by the Dept. of English Language and Literature



The President of Yarmouk University, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, sponsored the inauguration of the conference: "The Importance of English Language in Humanities", which was organized by the Department of English Language and Literature at Yarmouk University celebrating the International Day of English.

In his concise talk, Prof. Kafafi stressed the importance of the English language at present and how it stands as a global language that is widely used in the political, scientific, literary, and cultural aspects of our modern life. Referring to the main differences between Old and Modern English, he stated that English has always been the lingua franca and the most appropriate means of communication among the different peoples.

Also, Prof. Kafafi praised the distinguished academic level of the English Language and Literature Department at the university and how its academic staff members exert their best efforts to teach the students the many language skills needed for everyday life communication. He then encouraged the academic staff members of the English Department to cooperate with academic staff members of other faculties and continue organizing various cultural events using English.

In his turn, Prof. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, the Vice President for Student Affairs and External Communication, said that English proficiency in writing, reading, and listening is essential for students of English as such a language is the medium of communication among communities. As the head of the standards-setting group for the English language curriculum in Jordan, Prof. Al-Abed Al-Haq likewise emphasized the importance of making a radical change in the English language curricula by getting rid of the traditional methods of teaching, such as lecturing and memorization, so that students can learn different language skills in the school stage.

For his part, Prof. Mohamed Beni Doumi, the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, called for more efforts from the academic staff members of the English Department to establish a PhD program in English, which should enable students to complete their PhD studies at Yarmouk University, something which will contribute to the academic reputation of the University as well as its English Department.

As a representative of the Department of English Language and Literature at Yarmouk University, Dr. Lutfi Abu Al-Hajaa, the head of the Department, stressed the importance of the English language in the various fields of humanities and called the students for taking advantage of the activities of this day and reflecting such knowledge on their academic life. He then appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee, namely Dr. Hussein Obaidat, Dr. Aya Akkaawi, Dr. Malek Zuraikat, and Dr. Eqab Shawashreh.

However, the conference included three sessions. The first one was chaired by Dr. Lutfi Abu Al-Hijaa and included several papers, namely "Teaching American Literature" by Dr. Ghada Saasa, "The Role of British Documents in the Study of Modern Jordanian History" by Dr. Ahmed Jowarneh and Dr. Jabr Al-Khatib, "The Role of English in the Integration of Knowledge of Political Sciences" by Dr. Khair Al-Thiabat, and "English for Social Workers: A Need or a Luxury" by Dr. Ayat Nashwan.

The second session was chaired by Dr. Aya Akkawi and included several papers, namely "The Importance of English in Social and Cultural Studies" by Dr. Ruba Al-Akash, "The Importance of English in the Study of History" by Dr. Mohammed Al-Mazawdeh, "The Importance of English in Political Sciences" by Dr. Ayman Al-Hayaajneh, "The English Language in Hebrew Literature" by Dr. Mahmoud Al-Amaraat, and "Speech of Conviction" by Dr. Mahmoud Kannakri.

The third session was chaired by Dr. Rashid Al Jarrah and included several papers, namely "Between English and Arabic in the Language Use" by Dr. Ahmed Abu Delo, "The Effect of English on Hebrew " by Mohammad Al-Nuseirat, "Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems" by Dr. Khaled Hazaima, "The English Language in the Field of Geography from the Perspective of Students: A Comparative Study between Students of Bachelor and Master Degrees" by Dr. Reem Kharouf, and "The Impact of the Turks' Negligence of English in the Academic and Public Life" by Dr. Walid Al-Aredh.



Artistic Activities in the Department of Design

Under the cultural cooperation agreements between Yarmouk University and the General University of Spain (UPV), the Department of Design at the Faculty of Fine Arts hosted the designers, Chili Stef Sandra and Dr. Ricardo Moreno, and held a variety of scientific and artistic activities for two days.

As part of these activities, Sandra and Morino delivered a lecture entitled "The Silk Road", in which the role and importance of the Silk Road in spreading culture, science, and art between the East and the West were discussed. They talked about the artistic group that had performed The Moan of the Earth, which aimed at spreading the environmental awareness to preserving the land through using art and design.

The two designers then reviewed the establishment of UPV University, the most important achievements of the department of Design of the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University, and the concept and importance of the artist's book in modern and contemporary art in Spain.

After that, the Spanish designers and their academic host: the head of the Department of Design, Dr. Bassam Al-Radaidh, several members of the teaching and administrative staff, and a crowd of students participated in a set of artistic activities that focused on the achievements of William Morris, the famous Spanish artist, who once said: "If you can't learn to love art, at least learn to hate false art" and whose academic publications and works of art called for maintaining the national identity through art, promoting arts and crafts, and embracing simplicity in design and art.

On the sidelines of the visit, Dr. Mowaffaq Al-Atoum, the Director of the Department of Foreign Relations and Projects, met with Dr. Sandra and Dr. Moreno, and they all discussed the means of enhancing academic and cultural cooperation between the two universities.



Graduation of the Arabic Language Program for Non-Speakers



The Language Center celebrated the graduation of a number of students of the Arabic language program for non-Arabic speakers who have completed their study in this semester. Commenting on this event, Dr. Hala Al-Hamad, the assistant director of the Language Center for the Arabic Language, stressed that the center is keen to prepare an integrated program for students in order to improve their proficiency

in the Arabic language, thus helping them assimilate into the local community and successfully proceed in their student career at Yarmouk University.

In their turn, a number of graduate students who came from the universities of Missouri, South Carolina, Kansas, Virginia and Georgia spoke during the ceremony about their experience of learning Arabic at Yarmouk University. They praised the efforts made by the program's facilitators who enable the students to master the Arabic language. The graduates also spoke about the extracurricular activities that contributed to their integration into the student body of the university community and how such extracurricular activities (i.e. visiting a number of monuments and archaeological sites) familiarize them with the cultural history of Jordan. After that, one of the graduates played some musical pieces expressing the graduates' thankfulness for the center and the university.

At the end of the ceremony, Dr. Al-Hamad congratulated the students and bestowed the certificates to them.

Cooperation between YU and Sciences Po



The president of YU, Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, and the international manager for the Middle East at the French University of Sciences-Po, Lea Albrieux, discussed possible means and ways of academic cooperation. At the beginning of the meeting, Kafafi stressed the keenness of YU to cooperate with prestigious international universities, which enhances educational processes, and provides training and research opportunities for both students and staff. He also pointed out that YU is one of the first Jordanian universities to participate in Erasmus+ student exchange programs, which opened doors for scientific and research cooperation with various European universities.

Kafafi further pointed to framing cooperation with Sciences Po in social sciences through signing a memorandum of understanding within the Erasmus+ program to benefit from exchange programs, as well as sending students from Yarmouk to seek postgraduate studies there, confirming the readiness of YU to receive students from Sciences Po to learn Arabic at the Languages Center.

Albrieux, for her part, expressed Sciences Po's willingness to cooperate with YU, proceeding from their philosophy to expand cooperation with various Middle Eastern countries through students and staff exchange programs. She also gave an introduction about Sciences Po in which she stated that the university is a pioneer in social sciences, and ranked fourth for politics and international studies in QS, adding that it has cooperated with more than 400 universities around the world, and uses French and English as languages of instruction to allow more students from Middle East countries to enroll.

The meeting was attended by vice president, Dr. Ahmed Al Ajlouni, dean of the faculty of Arts, Dr. Mohammad Bani Domi, director of International Relations and Projects, Dr. Mowaffaq Al-Otoom, director of Public Relations and Media, Mr. Mukhlis Al-Ibbini, and Dr. Reham Jaradat from the Department of Modern Languages.

El-Hikam Consultant Center, Indonesia Visits Yarmouk

Dr. Zeidan Kafafi, president of YU, met a delegation from El-Hikam Consultant Center (ECC) in Indonesia, headed by the Director General, Masroohan bin Khatib. The two sides discussed means and ways of cooperation.

During the meeting, Kafafi stressed the keenness of YU to cooperate with various educational institutions around the world, including Islamic countries in East Asia, pointing that YU have signed many cooperation agreements with Indonesian universities in terms of teaching Arabic, Sharia and Islamic studies, which reflects the role of YU in serving Arabic language and in the dissemination of Islamic teachings. He further reviewed the degrees offered by YU in various academic disciplines, and the development that YU have witnessed recently.

Bin Khatib, for his part, praised the academic reputation that YU enjoys in the region, particularly in teaching Arabic to speakers of other languages, and in Islamic



studies, noting that the center seeks to benefit from Yarmouk experiences and competencies, and hoping to serve as a link between Yarmouk and various Indonesian universities in students and staff exchange.

The meeting was attended by several officials from both sides.

Yarmouk University Celebrates Graduating the College of Medicine First Cohort



students for performing the Hippocratic Oath.

On his turn, MP Riyadh Al-Azzam, the spokesperson of the graduates of the College of Medicine, delivered a speech in which he highly appreciated the University's naming of that graduation ceremony after the name of Dr. Dana Al-Azzam, the deceased graduate. The speaker emphasized that such an honorable step proves that Yarmouk University is a unified family that is distinguished by its noble values, eternal vision, energetic graduates, patriotism, loyalty, and universality, thus having the righteousness to be proud of graduating such a constellation of doctors who will improve the health sector in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

At the end of the ceremony, which was attended by the Vice-President of the Colleges of Sciences and

Finance, Dr. Ahmed Al-Ajlouni, the Vice President of Student Affairs and External Communication, Dr. Fawwaz Al-Abed Al-Haq, a number of deans and faculty members of the Faculty of Medicine and students, Professor Kafafi handed the certificates to graduate students and congratulated them.

Yarmouk University President, Prof. Zeidan Kafafi, has patronized the commencement of the College of Medicine first 202-student cohort, which is part of the University's 40th graduation ceremonies for the second semester of the academic year 2018 / 2019, which has been blessed by the patronage of His Highness the Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II.

During the ceremony, Professor Wissam Shehadeh, the Dean of the College of Medicine at Yarmouk University, has talked on behalf of his College and stated that the College, which was founded six years ago, has become equivalent to other medicine colleges in Jordan and that it aims to be a distinct regional school in the near future. He also stated that the 202 graduates are among the elite of Yarmouk University degree holders who will honorably represent the university wherever they go. Later on, he congratulated the graduates' families and thanked them for their invaluable support of their children who have successfully completed the requirements of the bachelor degree in medicine. He also thanked the College's academic and administrative staff for supporting the graduates and providing them with the necessary academic environment to ensuring their excellence.

Furthermore, Professor Shehadeh emphasized the support of the university administration, which has generously supplied the College with the technical laboratories and medical devices that are needed for high-quality education, a matter that contributes to the distinguished quality of the College students who are made sufficiently capable to bearing the responsibility of raising the level of medical services provided to community members. At the end of his speech, Professor Shehadeh called the graduate

