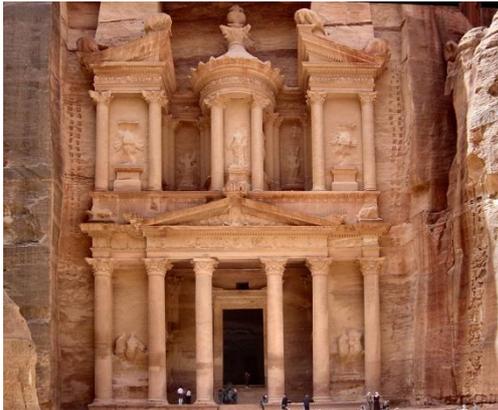


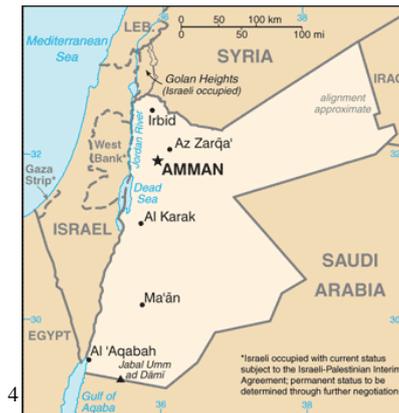
Jordan: higher education and distance learning

Jordan (population 6.5 million) is also called the Hashemite¹ Kingdom, meaning those belonging to the Clan of Hashim: Hashim being Hashim ibn 'Abd Manaf, the great grandfather of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).² Jordan is an Arab Kingdom in Western Asia and lies on the Eastern Bank of the Jordan River. It extends into the region of Palestine and borders Syria to the north; Iraq to the north-east; Saudi Arabia to the south and east; and Israel to the West. Much of Jordan is covered in desert, in particular the Arabian Desert which has one of the world's largest continuous bodies of sand. The capital city of Jordan is Amman, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.



3

The Treasury at Petra has been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1985.



4

Map of Jordan

Within Jordan there are 12 governorates⁵ which are administrative divisions of the country; the table below provides demographical information on each one.

Governorates of Jordan						
Governorate	Area ^[1] (km ²)	Population ^[2]	Urban ^[2]	Rural ^[2]	Density ^[1] (people/km ²)	Capital
Irbid	1,572	1,137,100	943,000	194,100	723.4	Irbid
Ajloun	420	146,900	111,500	35,400	350.1	Ajloun
Jerash	410	191,700	120,100	71,600	467.8	Jerash
Mafraq	26,551	300,300	117,800	182,500	11.3	Mafraq
North Region	28,953	1,776,000	1,292,400	483,600	61.3	
Balqa	1,120	428,000	307,400	120,600	382.0	Salt
Amman	7,579	2,473,400	2,325,500	147,900	326.3	Amman
Zarqa	4,761	951,800	899,800	52,000	199.9	Zarqa
Madaba	940	159,700	114,000	45,700	170.0	Madaba
Central Region	14,400	4,012,900	3,646,700	366,200	278.7	
Karak	3,495	249,100	87,200	161,900	71.3	Al Karak
Tafilah	2,209	89,400	63,800	25,600	40.5	Tafilah
Ma'an	32,832	121,400	66,600	54,800	3.7	Ma'an
Aqaba	6,905	139,200	119,700	19,500	20.2	Aqaba
South Region	45,441	599,100	337,300	261,800	13.2	
Total	88,794	6,388,000	5,276,400 (82.6%)	1,111,600 (17.4%)	71.9	

¹ See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite>

² See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashim_ibn_'Abd_Manaf

³ See Picture by [User:Marky](#) – http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Treasury_Petra.jpg#file

⁴ See Picture from <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/jo.html>

⁵ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Governorates_of_Jordan

1. Population

Jordan in its entirety was estimated in 2012 to have a population of 6,508,887. Thus it is similar in size to many European countries, including Slovakia (5,483,088) and Scotland (5,200,000).

As of 2010, the population of Amman alone was estimated at 2,842,629. The main cities are:⁶

North

Irbid	Population of	1,088,100
Jerash	Population of	153,650
Zarqa	Population of	450,102

South

Madaba	Population of	60,000
Karak	Population of	68,800
Aqaba	Population of	98,400

East

Azraq	Population of	9021
Ruwaished	Population of	12,098

West

Amman	Population of	2,842,629
Salt	Population of	97,000

The age/gender profile is as follows:⁷

0-14 years:	34.6%	male	1,154,791	female	1,089,901
15-24 years:	19.9%	male	661,516	female	625,311
25-54 years:	36.2%	male	1,181,882	female	1,164,957
55-64 years:	4.3%	male	133,371	female	142,636
65 years and over:	5.1%	male	158,514	female	169,202 (2013 est.)

2. GNI per capita⁸

2012 – (US) \$4,670

Income

The average annual salary in rural governorates is 7847.5 JOD and in urban governorates its 9009.8 JOD. As of February 2014 the exchange rate was 1 JOD to 1.02910 EUR.⁹

⁶ See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan>

⁷ See http://www.indexmundi.com/jordan/age_structure.html

⁸ See <http://data.worldbank.org/country/jordan>

⁹ See <http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/convert/?Amount=1&From=JOD&To=EUR>

3. Stability

Jordan is one of the ten non permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. It has very few natural resources and so relies upon neighbours in the Persian Gulf and allies in the West. Syrian refugees pose resource issues for Jordan; however it is part of the World Trade Organisation and organised a \$2.1 billion arrangement with the International Monetary Fund in 2011 to finance its deficits.¹⁰ Despite these points Jordan is considered by the World Bank as an upper middle income country with the 35th best infrastructure in the world. The Jordan Investment Board, Jordan's investment promotion agency, has been in action since 1995 and provides a One Stop Shop for investor services with 150 opportunities on its Investment Map.¹¹

Political reform is felt by many to be key to the stability of Jordan and a state of ongoing managed reform continues; however this is not made easy by the effects of Syria's civil war and the threat of Egypt's cancellation of their natural gas contract with Jordan (approximately 80% of Jordan's electricity needs come from that source).¹²

Ease of doing business

The Standard International Trade Classification can assist in providing us with an insight into trading with Jordan. European trade flows in 2012 suggest considerable growth in imports of crude materials and beverages and tobacco; the later at 87.9%; whilst total exports are listed as €3.444 Million.¹³ According to the European Commission the EU is Jordan's second biggest trade partner after Saudi Arabia, with trade equal to €3.8billion. Currently Jordan is ranked at 114 on the *Ease of Doing Business* scale out of a possible 189.¹⁴ The Ministry of Industry and Trade lists Foreign Trade Policies.¹⁵

4. IT infrastructure

Internet users per 100 people:¹⁶

2012	41.0
2011	34.9

Fixed broadband internet subscribers per 100 people:¹⁷

2012	3.00
2011	3.16

Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 people:¹⁸

2012	139
2011	118

¹⁰ See <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2012/INT080312A.htm>

¹¹ See <http://www.jordaninvestment.com/BusinessandInvestment/Infrastructure/tabid/140/language/en-US/Default.aspx#515> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telecommunications_in_Jordan

¹² See http://petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?Site_Id=1&lang=2&NewsID=137255&CatID=-1

¹³ See <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/>

¹⁴ See <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IC.BUS.EASE.XQ>

¹⁵ See <http://www.mit.gov.jo/Default.aspx?tabid=743>

¹⁶ See <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.P2>

¹⁷ See <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.BBND.P2>

¹⁸ See <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.CEL.SETS.P2>

Broadband

In section 6 of the Budde report *Middle East – Digital Media, Broadband and Internet Market and Forecasts*, details are provided on Jordan's underpinning focus on broadband. In 2008 Jordan's National Broadband Network project which begun in 2003, was halted due to lack of funding but it is planned to be resumed with the help of funds received from the Arab Gulf countries.¹⁹ It is hoped the project will boost e-learning. The Ministry of Information Communications Technology (MOICT) ensures the objectives and plans within the National ICT Strategy are met²⁰ and within this strategy you will find information on InfoComm²¹ involved with the implementation of ICT strategies in many Asian countries including Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Benchmarking from these strategies is being used by Jordan to link their ICT development goals to those produced by InfoComm; one in particular is "Help create an e-empowered society by facilitating convergence through digital content development of frequently used e-government services." In terms of learning the MOICT is providing "e-Initiatives" which span both in business and education such as "Academy Training and Qualification for Graduates and Employees in the ICT Sector". E-Initiative partners include the following:

- Jordan Education Initiative²²
- Information Technology Association (Jordan)²³
- Madrasati²⁴

5. English-language capability

Ethnicity

In the 2004 DOS.gov census Assyrians and Syriacs accounted for 5% of the population; Circassians 1%; Armenian 1% and Non-Jordanians 7%.

More recently in December 2013 Index Mundi²⁵ reported that Arabs make up 98%; Circassian 1% and Armenian 1% of the population.

Languages

The official language of Jordan is Arabic; however English is used and understood by the educated and upper middle class.

Schooling²⁶

The structure of the educational system in Jordan consists of a two-year cycle of pre-school education, ten years of compulsory basic education, and two years of secondary academic or vocational education after which the students sit for a General Certificate of Secondary Education Exam (Tawjihi).

¹⁹ See <http://www.budde.com.au> and <http://www.budde.com.au/Research/Middle-East-Digital-Media-Broadband-Internet-Market-Overview.html>

²⁰ See <http://www.moict.gov.jo/Portals/0/PDF/NewFolder/ADS/Tender2/Final%20Draft%20Jordan%20NIS%20June%202013.pdf>

²¹ See <http://www.infocomm.org/cps/rde/xchg/infocomm/hs.xsl/index.htm>

²² See <http://www.jei.org.jo/>

²³ See http://www.intaj.net/members_directory

²⁴ See <http://www.queenrania.jo/education/schools/madrasati>

²⁵ See http://www.indexmundi.com/jordan/ethnic_groups.html

²⁶ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Jordan

6. University-level institutions

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHE)

The Ministry in overall charge of education is the MOHE. A comprehensive account of MOHE history can be found on its website.²⁷

Significant progress has been made in education since the reign of King Abdullah II (which began on 7 February 1999) including expansion of higher education institutions.

Universities summarised

Jordan has 10 public universities and 19 private universities. These are listed on the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research website,²⁸ reproduced below:

Public

- The University of Jordan www.ju.edu.jo
- Yarmouk University www.yu.edu.jo
- Mutah University www.mutah.edu.jo
- Jordan University of Science & Technology www.just.edu.jo
- The Hashemite University www.hu.edu.jo
- Al al-Bayt University www.aabu.edu.jo
- Al-Balqa Applied University www.bau.edu.jo
- Al-Hussein Bin Talal University www.ahu.edu.jo
- Tafila Technical University www.ttu.edu.jo
- German Jordanian University www.gju.edu.jo

Private

- Amman Arab University www.aau.edu.jo
- Middle East University www.meu.edu.jo
- Jadara University www.jadara.edu.jo
- Al-Ahliyya Amman University www.ammanu.edu.jo
- Applied Science University www.asu.edu.jo
- Philadelphia University www.philadelphia.edu.jo
- Isra University www.isra.edu.jo
- Petra University www.uop.edu.jo
- Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan www.alzaytoonah.edu.jo
- Zarqa University www.zu.edu.jo
- Irbid National University www.inu.edu.jo
- Jerash University www.jpu.edu.jo
- Princess Sumaya University for Technology www.psut.edu.jo
- Jordan Academy of Music www.jam.edu.jo
- Jordan Applied University College of Hospitality and Tourism Education (JAU) www.jau.edu.jo²⁹
- Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts www.rsica.edu.jo

²⁷ See <http://www.mohe.gov.jo/HomePage/tabid/36/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

²⁸ See <http://www.mohe.gov.jo/UniversitiesE/tabid/64/language/en-US/Default.aspx?x=2>

²⁹ Page not available

- American University of Madaba www.aum.edu.jo
- Ajloun National Private University www.anpu.edu.jo
- University of Banking & Financial Sciences www.ubfs.edu.jo

Scientific research within higher education has been an important part of Jordan's institutions and particularly between 2007 and 2012 with robust monitoring and evaluation of the strategy of higher education. The Scientific Research Support Fund³⁰ finances projects with national priorities in mind and provides grants and prizes for outstanding graduates.

Universities in more detail

The universities have been listed previously within the report. Further information can be found below on several of the most important ones.

Public Universities (state supported, established by Royal Decree)³¹

- The University of Jordan (UJ, established in 1962)
- Yarmouk University (YU, established in 1976)
- Mutah University (Mutah, established 1981)
- Jordan University of Science & Technology (JUST, established 1986)
- The Hashemite University (HU, established 1981)
- AL al-Bayt University (AABU, established 1992)
- AL-Balqa Applied University (BAU, established 1997)
- AL-Hussein Bin Talal University (AHU, established 1999 – the first under the reign of King Abdullah II)
- Tafila Technical University (TTU, established 2005 replacing TAUC)

TTU replaced Tafila Applied University Faculty (TAUC). It was previously affiliated to Al Balqa Applied University in 1997 and was also known as Tafila Polytechnic in 1986.

- German Jordanian University (GJU, established 2005)

GJU is a joint venture between the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of the Federal Republic of Germany relating to the German Study Programs Abroad Program.³²

Private Universities

- Amman Arab University (AAU, established 1999)
- Middle East University (MEU, established 2005)

MEU shares its name with an un-associated university in Lebanon which is part of the Seventh-day Adventist AAA Accredited Colleges and Universities.

- Jadara University (University of Wall, established 2004)
- Al -Ahliyya Amman University (AAU, established 1989)

³⁰ See <http://www.srf.gov.jo/>

³¹ <http://www.mohe.gov.jo/UniversitiesE/tabid/611/language/en-US/Default.aspx?x=1>

³² See <http://www.gju.edu.jo/page.aspx?type=u&id=1&lng=en>

- Applied Science University (ASU, established 1989)
- Philadelphia University (PU or Philadelphia, established 1989)

“The name *Philadelphia* is derived from the cultural heritage of Jordan. It is the former name of Amman, given to it by Ptolemaeus Philadelphus in... 285 BC”.³³

- Isra University (IU, established 1989)
- Petra University (PU, established 1996)
- Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan (ZUJ, established 1993)
- Zarqa University (ZU, established 1994)
- Irbid National University (INU, established 1994)
- Jerash University (JPU, established 1993)
- Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT, established 1991)
- Jordan Academy of Music (JAM, established 1989)
- Jordan Applied University College of Hospitality and Tourism Education (JAU, established 1980)
- Red Sea Institute of Cinematic Arts (RSICA, established 2008) – non operational³⁴
- American University of Madaba (AUM, established 2011)

AUM provides a four year university style programme mirroring that of the US, many of its staff members have US degrees and teaching is solely in English.³⁵

- Ajloun National Private University (ANU, established 2008)
- University of Banking & Financial Sciences (UBFS, established 1988)

Regional Universities

- World Islamic Sciences and Education University (WISE, established 2008)

WISE has the permanent seat of the Arabic Language and Nation Identity Conference and is prestigious in its scientific research studies.

- University of Banking and Financial Services (UBFS, established 1988)

UBFS is a member of the Council of Arab Economic Unity and has financial independence.

- Arab Open University (AOU, established 2002)

AOU's programmes are licensed from the UK Open University and are taught in English.

³³ Taken from <http://www.philadelphia.edu.jo/name-and-significance>

³⁴ See <http://euromedaudiovisuel.net/p.aspx?t=news&mid=21&l=en&did=1625>

³⁵ See <http://aum.edu.jo/en/about-aum/history-and-overview.html>

Polytechnics

The phrase “polytechnic” in its typical meaning of “lower-cost vocational higher education provider” is not much used in Jordan, but has been talked about recently.³⁶

More generally, vocational Training in Jordan is administered through three Ministries: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Ministry of Labor. Opportunities in vocational training are overseen by The Vocation Training Corporation (VTC), established in 1976.³⁷ The Jordan VTC provides regional training programmes – Middle Region (established 1996 with 21 institutes), North Regions (established 1996 with 9 institutes) and South Region (established over ten years ago, 12 institutes).

Branch campuses of Foreign Tertiary Institutions

The MOHE provides information on recognised Arab and foreign universities, including downloadable files containing all those recognised universities within each Arab or foreign country; currently the listing on their website consists of the following:

The following foreign universities have branch campuses in Jordan:³⁸

- New York Institute of Technology Jordan; closed in 2013
NYIT remains a global institution of higher education, but the Jordan branch closed in 2013 following a review by the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality and Assurance of Education and Training.³⁹
- DePaul University
The branch campus based in Jordan is part of DePaul’s FY@broad programmes for 1st year students: the international visit counts as 2 credit hours.⁴⁰

7. Distance Learning

Infrastructure for distance learning

Infrastructure is a barrier to distance learning in Jordan, however upon reading the e-learning section on the website of King Abdullah one can learn that ADSL connectivity has reached more than 600 of Jordan's 3,000 public schools. The students per computer ratio now stands at 51, compared to 120 in 1999.⁴¹

JUNet⁴² (Jordanian Universities Network) is a private organization set up to manage the national broadband network of fibre optic cables interconnecting Jordanian public universities. This is specifically in the interests of cross-collaboration in eLearning, research and multimedia communications.

In relation to JUNet, the Terena.org compendium for 2013 mentions the following: “In the past year we connected almost all of Jordan’s public community colleges by fibre optic.

³⁶ See <http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20110305085107979>

³⁷ See <http://www.jordan.gov.jo/wps/portal/>

³⁸ See <http://www.globalhighered.org/branchcampuses.php>

³⁹ See <http://en.qaa.bh/SearchResults.aspx?Key=NYIT>

⁴⁰ See http://studioabroad.is.depaul.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=10014

⁴¹ See <http://www.kingabdullah.jo/>

⁴² See <http://www.junet.edu.jo/>

Also, we are planning to connect the private university [universities?] in Jordan in cooperation with the Ministry of Communication”.⁴³

Support for distance learning and e-learning

There is a lot of scope and planned improvement for distance and e-learning within Jordan. Many of Jordan’s universities have begun adopting online portals providing a gateway to online learning. Moodle is widely used as a platform. The University of Jordan is prominent in this and has its own YouTube channel providing troubleshooting information for its portal.⁴⁴ It is also an affiliate of the Global Development Learning Network. German Jordanian University,⁴⁵ Philadelphia University⁴⁶ and the Jordan University of Science and Technology⁴⁷ also have e-learning portals in place. Hashemite University produced a PowerPoint presentation on its e-learning development which provides information on its full suite of LMS tools.⁴⁸

Both the Jordan and Japan governments have provided financial support to help establish the GDLN⁴⁹ Global Development Learning Network to promote e-learning. The World Bank was involved in all aspects of its establishment. Also known as Atheer, other countries linked to it are from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, Asia, Europe and North America. In total it is a partnership of over 120 learning centres or GDLN Affiliates.⁵⁰

The Jordan Education Initiative launched in 2003 aims to improve education through information and communication technology. Its focus includes quality education for students and development of the ICT sector. One important aspect is that of training teachers in the use of computers during their lessons. To help accelerate e-learning, 100 pilot Discovery Schools (covering school year groups 1-12) have been tasked with delivering six e-learning curriculum areas. One of those curriculum areas was Maths: Mathematics Online was rolled out in 2004 after being developed by the CISCO Learning Institute.⁵¹

EduWave is an e-learning management platform, including LMS (Learning Management System), CMS (Content Management System) and IMS (Instructional Management System) components. The system itself was created by ITG (Integrated Technology Group)⁵² which has a strong presence in Jordan, the Middle East, North Africa, Europe and the U.S. Jordan has its own EduWave log in page and Tawjihi results are published on this platform, which is available in approximately 3000 Jordanian schools.⁵³

⁴³ Take from <http://www.terena.org/publications/files/TERENA-Compendium-2013.pdf>

⁴⁴ See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nO818u0L8Rk&list=PLGAWH31aeJ_v5Nh0kDSLE59IN2cEeU6u0

⁴⁵ See <http://elearning.gju.edu.jo/>

⁴⁶ See <http://elearning.philadelphia.edu.jo/login/index.php>

⁴⁷ See <http://elearning.just.edu.jo/>

⁴⁸ See http://linc.mit.edu/conference/presentations/mosleh_ akhasawneh.ppt

⁴⁹ See <http://gdl.org/>

⁵⁰ See <http://gdl.org/affiliates-regions>

⁵¹ See https://learningnetwork.cisco.com/community/learning_center

⁵² See <http://www.itgsolutions.com>

⁵³ See <http://eduwave.elearning.jo/Eduwave/ElearningMe.aspx>

ANODE is the Arab Network for Open and Distance Education, based in Amman: Jordan and promotes e-learning and distance learning best practice in the Arab world; providing a platform between institutions. Website views will require translation.⁵⁴

Distance learning providers

The following are examples of distance learning providers in Jordan (non preferential in their listing).

Arab OU⁵⁵

Vision – A pioneering Arab Open University dedicated to building the science and knowledge society

The AOU headquarters is based in Kuwait and promotes five faculties: Business Studies; Computer Studies; Education Studies; General Studies and Language Studies, each having its own Dean. An interesting sub section of the AOU is the IAJET – International Journal of e-Technology which promotes exchange of information and knowledge in research work, exploring new developments and inventions related to the use of e-technology. A board of trustees including Prince Talal Bin Abdul Aziz and HM Queen Rania Al Abdullah set and endorse AOU strategies and there are Branch Directors responsible for associate country branches which include Saudi Arabia and Lebanon. The AOU is a member of the Middle East e-Learning Association.⁵⁶

Philadelphia University⁵⁷

Vision – To be one of the most highly recognized Jordanian University well-known educational conglomerates in Jordan in the spheres of teaching and learning, research, and community services according to international standards

The Philadelphia University has fully embraced e-learning with two portals accessed via its main website. To further stamp its commitment PU organised the First International Conference on e-Learning and Blended Learning in 2012, which was co-organised by the ANODE.⁴

University of Jordan⁵⁸

Vision – To Manage society in order to make UJ one of globally ranked universities by 2018

The University of Jordan has an interactive e-learning site based around Moodle; posts are relatively new dating back to May 2013. The mission stated is to provide quality education that is accessible anywhere, anytime. A YouTube channel featured on the site promotes videos on topics such as registration and blended learning.

Distance learning portals

EduWave, bookmarked and previously mentioned, is a national portal covering 3000 schools.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ See <http://www.anode1996.org/>

⁵⁵ See <https://www.arabou.edu.kw>

⁵⁶ See <http://me-ea.org/membership/current-members>

⁵⁷ See <http://www.philadelphia.edu.jo/e-learning>

⁵⁸ See <https://elearning.ju.edu.jo>

⁵⁹ See <http://www.itgsolutions.com/page/open/id/151>

The following are examples of distance learning portals from universities in Jordan.

- elearning.gju.edu.jo German Jordanian University
- www.hu.edu.jo Hashemite University
- elearning.just.edu.jo Jordan University of Science and Technology
- www.philadelphia.edu.jo/e-learning Philadelphia University
- elearning.ju.edu.jo University of Jordan
- elearning.yu.edu.jo/yulms/ Yarmouk University

Open educational resources – OER

OER for Jordan is something which it has yet to fully establish' however an example of resources can be taken from the University of Jordan which provides free and open e-learning courses that can be found without logging into their Moodle e-learning platform. *How Computers Work* is one free course for perusal and *Water Science* is another.⁶⁰

A MOOC platform was agreed for launch in November 2013 as part of Queen Rania Al Abdullah's initiatives under The Queen Rania Foundation.⁶¹

The Jordan Open Resource Association successfully proposed an Arabic Open Educational Resources Platform which was originally due to be launched in June 2011.⁶² The platform is still yet to launch but will eventually provide free use of all uploaded learning materials. A further report of the portal's imminent arrival was mentioned in December 2013 by UNESCO on their Global Open Access Portal page.⁶³

8. External Distance Learning Providers

From UK universities

The providers below are only a snapshot but the following UK universities appear to have Jordan as a target, at some level or other.

Open University

The UK OU, launched in 1969, is directly involved with approved educational partners, one of which is the Arab OU. All learning materials produced by the UK OU and used by the Arab OU have been adapted to meet the country's cultural and religious specifications. "AOU is the one of the OU's biggest partnership ventures in terms of student numbers and the income it generates for the university. Set up in 2002, it has some 23,000 students across Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait where its headquarters is based".⁶⁴

A wider range of courses is available directly from the OU to for students to study in Jordan.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ See <http://ujelearning.ju.edu.jo/TLWT/TLWT.aspx> and <http://ujelearning.ju.edu.jo/WSS/ch1.swf>

⁶¹ See <http://www.queenrania.jo/media/press/queen-rania-witnesses-signing-agreement-launch-mooc-portal-arab-world-edrak>

⁶² See <http://jordanopensource.org/article/arabic-oer-platform-start>

⁶³ See <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/communication-and-information/portals-and-platforms/goap/access-by-region/arab-states/jordan/>

⁶⁴ See <http://www.openuniversity.edu/news-blog/news/despite-the-turmoil-its-business-as-usual-for-arab-ou>

⁶⁵ See <http://www3.open.ac.uk/courses/countries/Jordan.shtml>

University of Lancaster

Lancaster is a highly ranked university set up since 1964: it receives around 400 international students per year, many through the Erasmus Programme.⁶⁶ Notably, Lancaster University has been in partnership with Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) since 2009. Together they provide the Lancaster Global MBA programme at the PSUT campus in Jordan.⁶⁷

University of London International

The University of London, established in 1836, is one of the oldest universities in England and consists of 18 self governing Colleges and 10 smaller specialist research Institutes. Distance learning has its own dedicated website⁶⁸ offering undergraduate, post graduate, foundation courses, certificates and diplomas. Courses are offered via 11 Lead Colleges. Distance Learning and Flexible Study currently consists of 30+ students in Jordan according to the London International's global map.⁶⁹ The British Council in Amman is an authorised exam centre.⁷⁰

University of Leicester

The University has won seven consecutive Times Higher Awards for University of the Year⁷¹ – it provides distance learning opportunities to 70 countries.⁷² It also provides MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). Amongst its course offerings are postgraduate study modules, masters degrees and PhD research. A web page notes that it is using Stafford Associates, headquartered in Dubai, as its agent for Saudi Arabia and many other nearby countries including “Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, *Jordan*, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Yemen”.⁷³

9. Funding and regulation

The Jordanian higher education system faces several challenges, expertly summarised in a recent (2013) report to a conference.⁷⁴ Funding is just one of these.

Funding

Student fees

University

University fees are listed per credit hour and are *in addition to* basic registration fees. For example, a Bachelor's Degree requires a total of 126-257 credit hours, depending on the field of study. One “UK module of 20 credit is comparable to Jo/US course of 3 Credit hours”.⁷⁵

⁶⁶ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ERASMUS_programme

⁶⁷ See <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/international-students/international-campuses/princess-sumaya-university-for-technology/>

⁶⁸ See <http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk>

⁶⁹ See <http://www.londoninternational.ac.uk/>

⁷⁰ See <http://www.britishcouncil.jo/en>

⁷¹ See <http://www2.le.ac.uk/about/the-awards>

⁷² See <http://www2.le.ac.uk/study/ways/distance/>

⁷³ See <http://www.stafford.ac/>

⁷⁴ See http://www.ub.edu/LinkingMedGulf/docs/kickoff_meeting/jordan.pdf

⁷⁵ See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Jordan

Public University Fees Example

The Al al-Bayt University charges JD184 for one set of humanitarian disciplines and a further JD184 for one set of scientific disciplines. This is for a bachelors degree.

Private University Fees Example

Fees are JD435 in the first and second semesters and JD335 in the summer session at the University of Philadelphia.

Scholarships are available based on merit and need, promoted by Queen Rania Al Abdullah. Five programmes are listed on the education section of her personal website. Current scholarships include The American University in Cairo Scholarship and Athens Information Technology Scholarship.⁷⁶

Al-Aman Fund

Those potential students without the means to fund their education can be assessed by the Al-Aman Fund who aim to provide programmes free of charge for students aged 6-17 and then at university level.⁷⁷

Student loans

The MOHE provides financial assistance to students in respect of loans and scholarships through the Student Support Fund.⁷⁸

The Jordan Kuwait Bank offers loans for students attending public or private Jordanian universities and colleges.⁷⁹

Regulation

Quality assurance

MOHE regulates and oversees all legislations and laws pertaining to education. A list of these regulations can be found on its website.⁸⁰

The Higher Education Accreditation Commission⁸¹ is part of the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE) whose sole purpose is to generate a network for quality assurance specifically in higher education.⁸²

The Tempus project EQtel “aims to improve the quality and relevance of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) at Jordanian higher education institutions”.⁸³

EQtel is led by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The project duration is listed as 36 months running from 1 December 2013 to 30 November 2016.

⁷⁶ See http://www.queenrania.jo/Queen_Rania_Scholarships

⁷⁷ See <http://www.alamanfund.jo>

⁷⁸ See <http://mohe.gov.jo/brief/briefMohe2/tabid/559/language/en-US/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁷⁹ See <http://jkb.com/node/99>

⁸⁰ See <http://mohe.gov.jo/Legislations/tabid/524/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

⁸¹ See <http://www.heac.org.jo/Heac/Home.aspx?lng=1>

⁸² See <http://www.anqahe.org>

⁸³ See <http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/enhancing-quality-of-technology-enhanced-learning-at-jordanian-universities-eqtel/>

10. Conclusion

It is clear that King Abdullah II in conjunction with MOHE Jordan and all the aforementioned initiatives is driving forward the importance of e-learning and distance learning inclusion across all learning expanses. Funding and infrastructure pose a constant threat to the rate of ongoing progress but considerable developments have been made nevertheless.

In terms of foreign admission to Jordan's expansion plans, many countries are lining up to offer their expertise; however MOHE provides strict instructions and formal invitations to all countries expressing an interest of involvement.

There are many challenges to higher education in Jordan but that in fact increases the desire of some students to either study abroad or gain qualifications from outside Jordan, which may well be of greater perceived value to them in the global economy.

The greatest constraint on incoming international activity is the stability of the country, not primarily because of the internal situation but because of the effects of the Syria crisis. However, as seen in other scenarios including in Palestine, distance learning solutions can in fact be somewhat more resilient than place-based tuition (branch campuses etc), provided that the IT infrastructure (and power supply, including local generators) remains reliable.

R. References and further reading

Further reading

- Ministry of Higher Education:
<http://www.mohe.gov.jo/HomePage/tabid/36/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Web references

See the footnotes.

Wikis and related

- Wikipedia: Jordan: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jordan>
- Wikipedia: Education in Jordan: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Jordan
- Re.ViCa/VISCED wiki: Jordan, <http://www.virtualcampuses.eu/index.php/Jordan>
- POERUP wiki: Jordan, <http://poerup.referata.com/wiki/Jordan>

Reports and papers

e-Learning

- <http://www.weforum.org/pdf/JEI/JEIreport.pdf>
- http://www.weforum.org/pdf/GEI/GEI_Jordan_presentation.pdf

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⁸⁴ See <https://at-web1.comp.glam.ac.uk/staff/kbegain/webpage/>