

# AL-AHLIYYA AMMAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

MONTHLY

Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year  
**2023**

December - 2022



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Innovation in Education

# The Fourth Industrial Revolution in Education within the Middle East

Education 4.0 is an education model that aims to prepare students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by integrating technology, such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things, into the classroom. In the Middle East, Education 4.0 initiatives are being implemented in various countries to modernize and improve the quality of learning experience and outcomes for students. It typically involves the use of digital tools and resources such as online learning platforms, virtual reality, and artificial intelligence to enhance traditional teaching methods. In the Middle East, Education 4.0 is being adopted by many schools and universities in order to stay competitive in an increasingly digital world. Some examples of Education 4.0 initiatives in the Middle East include the use of virtual reality for language learning, the implementation of online degree programs, and the incorporation of artificial intelligence into grading and assessment systems.



The United Arab Emirates has launched the "UAE 4.0" initiative, which aims to accelerate the adoption of advanced technologies in education and to develop a more innovative and entrepreneurial workforce. UAE has also launched the "Smart Learning Program" to transform traditional classrooms into digitally-equipped learning environments. Similarly, Saudi Arabia has launched the "Vision 2030" program, which includes a focus on developing a strong education system that prepares students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It has introduced "Taqadam," a program that provides training and resources for educators to incorporate technology into their teaching.

It is important for countries in the Middle East to adapt to the rapidly changing technological landscape and equip their citizens with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the 21st century.

Dr. Maher Hourani  
Chairman of Board of Trustees

*Maher Hourani*



## From Our President

As we begin this new year of 2023, I want to celebrate the previous success that we have all achieved throughout the previous year from our Students and Staff Members and motivate them to maintain their excellent performance while focusing on their goals. May the light of goodness glow upon us all, filling us with gratitude, persistence and happiness.



For nearly 32 years, Al-Ahliyya Amman University has been earning the respect and loyalty of tens of thousands of students, parents and alumni. It is where you will find exceptional experiences that allow you to grow, develop, explore new interests and fully realize your potential. Producing career-ready graduates has always been central to our mission. Through a process that includes career exploration and professional preparation, we connect you with career paths and foster the skills and mindset needed for professional advancement. When you walk across the stage as a graduating senior at commencement, you will have more than just a degree from Al-Ahliyya Amman University, you will have career direction and the confidence needed for success in your chosen field.

I encourage you to visit our beautiful campus, meet our Students and Faculties, and see for yourself the outstanding opportunities, activities and facilities that Al-Ahliyya Amman University offers.

**President**

Prof. Sari A. Hamdan

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## Her Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali inaugurated the new building of our Agricultural Technology Faculty



Faculty of  
Agricultural  
Technology

Her Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali inaugurated the new building of our Agricultural Technology Faculty that offers a smart and innovative BA program in the field of agricultural biotechnology and genetisc engineering. This ceremony was in the presence of our President, Prof. Sari Hamdan, Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Rida Al-Khawaldeh, Vices of President, Deans of Faculties, academic and administrative members and a group of university students.



# AAU signs an agreement with Windsor Brokers



Our University, represented by Prof. Sari Hamdan signed an agreement with Seldon Investments Company, Windsor Brokers, represented by its Director, Mr. Iyad Abu Mayzar signed a memorandum of agreement to establish a simulation room for trading in global markets in the

Financial Technology Department in our Business school. The simulation room is prepared and equipped with all modern technologies, machinery and programs necessary to establish an advanced and pioneering educational simulation room at a local level and is considered to be the first in Jordanian universities. Nonetheless, the company will provide training courses from expert analysts and specialists to faculty members and students.

The agreement was signed in the presence of Prof. Fayeze Haddad, Dean of our Business School, Prof. Anas Al-Soud, Vice Dean for International Relations and Quality, Dr. Khaled Halteh, Head of the Financial Technology Department in addition to Mr. Raed Abu Asbeh, the Account Manager of Windsor Brokers.



Published by: Global Engagement Center (GEC)





## Her Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali sponsors the opening ceremony of the Agricultural Technology Faculty Conference on Food Security



Her Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Hashemite Fund for Development of Jordan Badia and Director of the Royal Botanical Garden sponsored the opening ceremony of the Conference on "Food Security in Jordan, Reality and Future Vision". This Conference was organized under the guidance of Prof. Rida Al-Khawaldeh, Dean of the faculty.

Dr. Sabah Siefan, Head of the Agricultural Technology Department mentioned that the food security conference was organized under the guidance of Prof. Rida Al-Khawaldeh, Dean of the faculty. In addition, Dr. Sabah stated that this conference came with the aim of contributing with the national efforts that are employed to achieve the royal vision on food security in Jordan through joint collaboration among all sectors, strengthening partnership and exchanging

information to develop strategies and use of technologies in order to provide and maintain food security to all Jordanians.

Dr. Sabah indicated that the Faculty of Agricultural Technology at our university is a promising faculty that aspires to excellence and leadership, in which it graduates agricultural engineers aware of global agricultural challenges, modern agricultural systems in addition to knowledge of food industry. Moreover, it has been equipped with specialized laboratories for practical trainings and conduct research in the field of biotechnology and modern agricultural systems such as aquaculture.

During the conference:

- The former Minister of Agriculture, Engineer Saeed Al-Masri presented a worksheet on the role of health square in the food security system.
- Dr. Nabil Assaf from the Food and Agriculture Organization presented a research paper on the role of international organizations in the food security system.
- The former minister, Dr. Mahmoud Al-Duwairi presented a research paper on food security in Jordan, reality and aspirations.
- Dr. Naeem Mazahreh, Assistant Director of the National Center for Agricultural Research presented a research paper on food security and agricultural scientific research in Jordan.
- Dr. Fadel Al-Zoubi also discussed strategies to achieve food security in Jordan.





# The Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus visits Al-Ahliyya Amman University

Our President, Prof. Sari Hamdan, invited the Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus in Amman, Mr. Michalis Ioannou, to explore Al-Ahliyya Amman University to discuss possible areas of collaboration that would enhance academic and cultural cooperation between our University and Cypriot educational institutions.

From his part, Prof. Anas Al-Soud, Vice Dean for International and Quality Affairs explained to Mr. Michalis the university's willingness to expand its spectrum of collaboration on an international level, especially in the fields of academic exchange for students and staff, joint scientific research and project as well as Erasmus+ programs. In addition, the ambassador was accompanied on a campus tour to explore the University's facilities and learned more on the academic programs provided on BA, MA and Higher Diploma levels.



## Prof. Muntaha Al-Gharaibeh participates in a scientific seminar at the University of Jordan



The Dean of our Nursing Faculty and - Chair of the Women Health Center, Prof. Muntaha Al-Gharaibeh participated in a scientific seminar on Global Indicators and Strategies of Women's Health after the COVID-19 pandemic in partnership with the University of Harvard. The seminar took place at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Jordan, in which it highlighted global evidence regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on women's health from different perspectives. Especially since there is an intersection between its validity and the gender roles which may result in negative effects affecting the distribution of societal roles between men and women, regardless of biological differences.

**Dr. Ruba Abu Kharma from our IT Faculty holds a virtual workshop for postgraduate students on writing scientific research papers using the Latex code by referring to Overleaf website**



Published by: Global Engagement Center (GEC)







## **The Administrative Board of the Sports Federation of Jordanian Universities headed by Prof. Sari Hamdan holds its ninth meeting on our campus**





## Al-Ahliyya Amman University hosts the Jordanian World Champion in Gymnastics Ahmad Abu Al-Soud

Our University hosted the World Champion Ahmad Abu Al-Soud, who won the Silver Medal on the Pommel Horse in the World Gymnastics Championships that was held in Liverpool, in which more than 400 players representing 74 countries from all over the world participated. The Jordanian Olympic Committee stated that the champion Abu Al-Soud is the first Arab player to achieve a medal in the history of the World Gymnastics Championship, which was launched for the first time in 1903. Ahmad Al-Soud was ranked the 8th among 142 players who competed in the Pommel Horse competitions.

Under the patronage of Prof. Sari Hamdan, the Faculty of Educational Sciences in collaboration with the Deanship of Student Affairs arranged a seminar with the Jordanian world champion in the presence of faculty and administrative members and a large group of students on our campus where he talked about his determinant and challenging journey in gymnastics.





# Al-Ahliyya Amman University participates in the orientation day of the Erasmus+ Program



Funded by  
the European Union



National Erasmus+ Office  
Jordan



Business  
School



Faculty of  
Engineering

The Erasmus+ National Office in Jordan held an introductory meeting on the Erasmus+ Program to explain its mechanism, available opportunities for collaboration with various educational institutions, training and youth, academic mobility and capacity building projects in the Language Center at the University of Jordan. Dr. Sandra Al-Matarneh, Deputy Dean for Accreditations and Quality Affairs from the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Khaled Halteh from the Business School and Dr. Arwa Al-Khatib from the Pharmacy Faculty attended this meeting representing Al-Ahliyya Amman University.



Dr. Khaled Jamal Halteh



Dr. Sandra Al-Matarneh



Arwa Al-Khatib

# Al-Ahliyya Amman University organizes a voluntary day to support the Clothing Bank Initiative







## Law Faculty of Al-Ahliyya Amman University represents the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in the 9th Arab Mock Trial Competition in Kuwait



The Faculty of Law Team at our University was qualified for the finals of the ninth Arab Mock Trial Competition, which will be taking place in Kuwait on March 2023, after achieving victory in the national competition among Jordanian universities. Therefore, Al-Ahliyya Team was chosen to represent the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

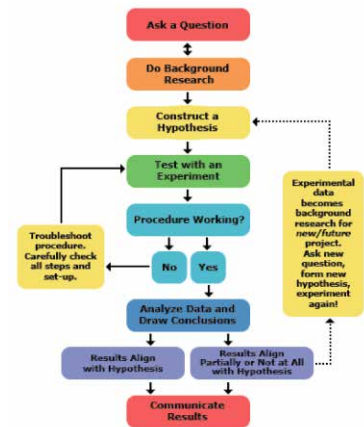
The national competition was held virtually under the supervision Kuwait International Law School, with an international jury that arbitrates the flow of the mock trials.

## Prof. Eman Al-Nazli holds a workshop under the title "Scientific Research Methods"

Within the framework of academic collaboration and achieving high scientific research outcomes, the Vice Dean of Scientific Research, Prof. Eman Al-Nazli presented an online meeting via Zoom platform for the academic members and students of the University of Al-Zahra College. The workshop covered methods of scientific research, tips on writing research papers in English as well as answered all inquiries and questions of the attendees in regards to research.



Prof. Eman Al-Nazli



## Dr. Sandra Matarneh publishes a research paper in one of the top ten journals in the world

Dr. Sandra Al-Matarneh from the Department of Civil Engineering at our Faculty of Engineering published a research paper under the title "Automated and Interconnected Facility Management System: An Open IFC Cloud-based BIM



Dr. Sandra Al-Matarneh

Solution" in the journal of Automation in Construction. This journal is included within the list of top ten journals worldwide, as this journal is ranked 98/100 in civil and structural engineering, where as it is indexed in Scopus Database with a cite score rank of 14.9 for the year 2022.



# **Al-Ahliyya Amman University participates in the activities of the Arab Young Engineers Forum**



Faculty of  
Engineering

Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arab Potash Company, Engineer Shehadeh Abu Hudaib inaugurated the activities of the Arab Young Engineers Forum. Our Faculty of Engineering participated with multiple projects that were applied at the Center of Innovation and Excellence at the faculty in addition to the distinguished graduation projects of the students of engineering. The activities of the forum were attended by representatives of the faculty, Dr. Sandra Matarneh, the Deputy Dean for Accreditation and Quality Affairs and the Assistant Dean for Field Training Affairs, Engineer Munira Al-Tayeb.

It is worth noting that the forum witnessed a huge crowd and presence of Engineers from the Jordanian Engineers Association, in which it included discussion sessions on:

- Arab Engineering Integration; the Path to Investment, Leadership and Innovation
- Prospects of Transformation from Academic Education to Technical Education
- Engineering and Digital Development Strategies
- Challenges of Digital Transformation





## Our Faculty of Law signs an agreement with the Jordan Bar Association



Our Faculty of Law hosted the President of the Jordan Bar Association, Lawyer Yayha Abu Abood to sign an agreement of cooperation between our University and the association. This agreement comes within the framework of establishing partnerships and collaborations between our faculties and local institutes to link the students with the applied aspect of their studies. Prof. Musleh Al-Tarawneh, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Mr. Yayha Abu Abood, President of the Jordan Bar Association, signed the agreement in the presence of faculty members.

Prof. Al-Tarawneh stressed the importance of continuing cooperation including engaging with the activities organized by the association and activating practical trainings for law students, in which it educates, qualify and prepare students to practice the legal procedure flow in addition to the use of terminology.





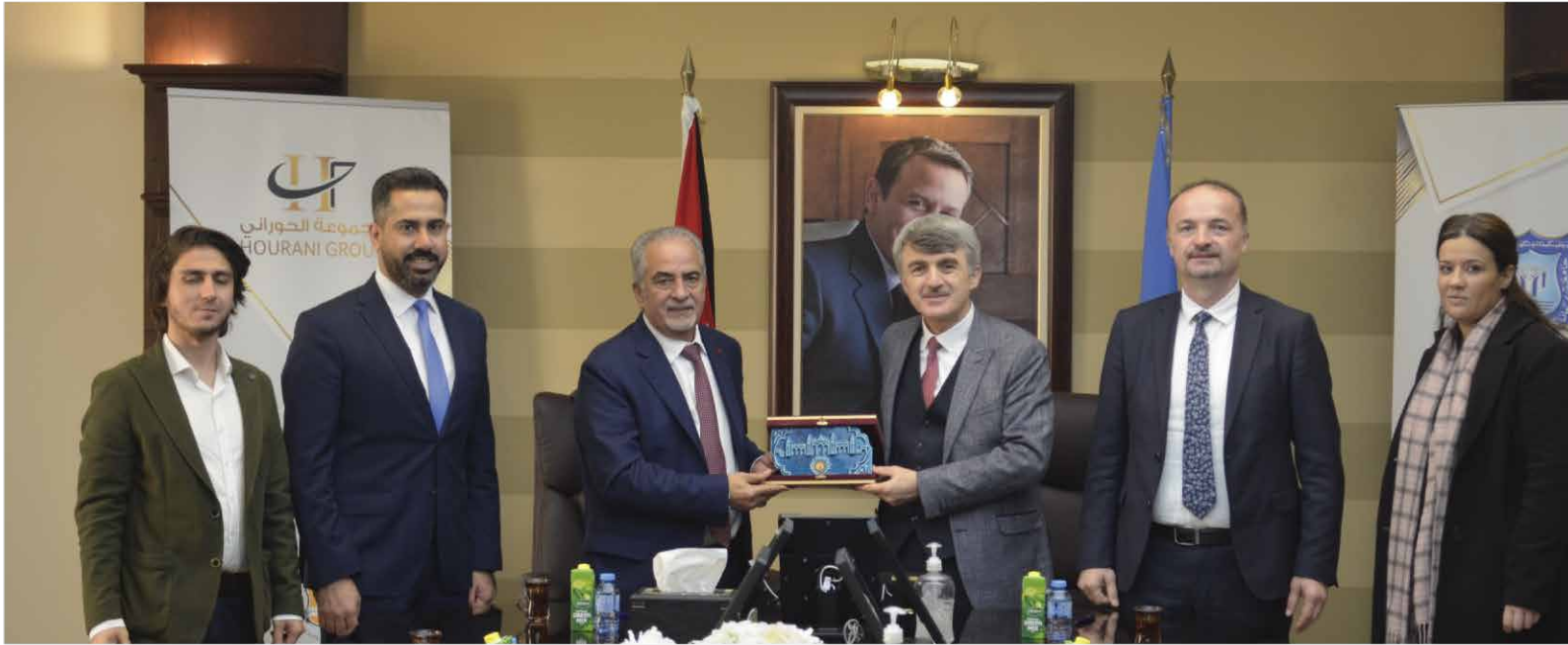
# Our Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences arranges a scientific visit to the National Blood Bank

Under the supervision of Dr. Khaled Abdel Aziz, Head of the Medical Laboratory Sciences, Dr. Jihad Al-Hmoud and Lecturer Ghada Al-Assi organized a scientific visit to the National Blood Bank for the fourth year students of the Medical Field Training and the Blood Bank Course.

Dr. Khaled thanked Dr. Asia Al-Adwan, Director of the National Blood Bank Directorate for this visit and appreciated the efforts of her team in providing all needed help and guidance for our students.



# A Memorandum of Understanding between AAU and Kütahya Dumlupınar University

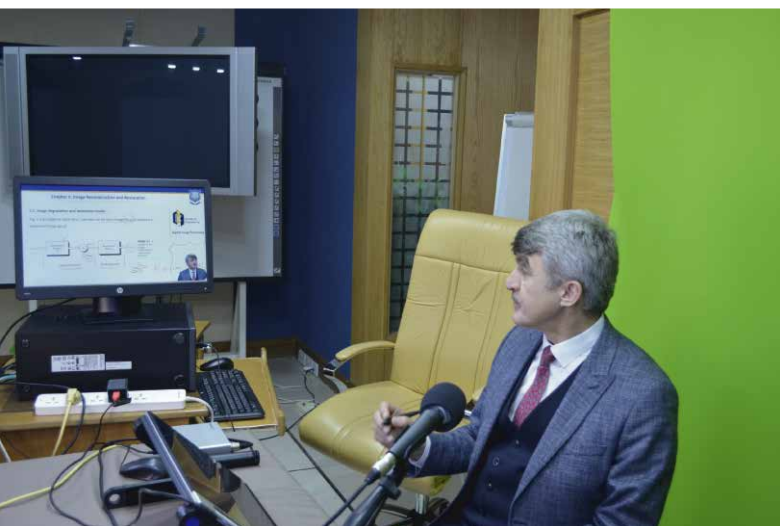


Our University President, Prof. Sari Hamdan, signed a memorandum of understanding with the Turkish University of Kütahya Domlupinaz, represented by its President, Prof. Kazem Uysal to encourage and strengthen academic expertise exchange, joint scientific research and exchange of faculty members and students between the two universities as well as other educational institutions.



The signing of the agreement was in the presence of the Vice Dean for International Relations and Quality and Director of the Global Engagement Center, Prof. Anas Al-Soud, where he mentioned the academic programs the University offers on all academic levels and highlighted the need of boosting joint research in various scientific and technological fields.

In addition to the participation in scientific conferences and seminars, exchange semesters abroad and programs. Moreover, Prof. Anas accompanied the delegation on a campus tour to explore the University's facilities and laboratories as well as learn more on the newly launched majors.





## **AAU organizes the Universities' Awareness Days initiative in collaboration with the Public Security Directorate**

Under the patronage of Prof. Sari Hamdan, our Deanship of Student Affairs in collaboration with the Public Security Directorate represented by the Directorate of Media and Community Police, Anti-Narcotics Department and Jordan Traffic Institute held an awareness initiative under the title “Fight Against the Scourge of Drugs and Traffic Safety”.





# Innovation in Education

Innovation is solving problems in a new, more effective way that meets new requirements or needs. Innovation in education is concerned with improving all aspects of students' learning, and this means flexibility of the teacher, curriculum and following practices and strategies that stimulate innovation. Adopting innovation in education develops students' different thinking processes that develop their creativity and problem-solving skills and make them productive individuals in their future careers.

Innovation in education is not only the use of technological tools in the educational learning process, as some believe, but it is a broader and more comprehensive concept that aims to prompt equity, improve the quality of learning and includes the adoption of systems, policies, strategies and tools that allow access to education and make it more efficient and effective. Employing technological tools in education is part of innovation in education. Technological tools contribute to supporting students' new ideas and enable them to find innovative solutions.

Qualifying the teacher is the main pillar of preparing innovative classes that are considered innovative students. The innovative teacher motivates students and stimulates their motivation towards learning and creates opportunities for challenge and problem solving, and allows discussion and reflection, develops skills of cooperation, communication, critical, creative and innovative thinking, and gives students leadership roles, freedom of expression and the courage of adventure. Innovative teacher uses modern strategies for learning that support students' innovation, such as project-based learning, flipped learning, use technology in educational tasks, such as the use of augmented reality, virtual reality, educational robots, instructional games, applications based on artificial intelligence and expert systems. In order to achieve innovation in education, educational institutions must adopt modern educational policies and systems that promote innovation, such as open learning, distance learning, and provide innovative learning environments and tools that take into account students' characteristics, needs, and learning styles, and provide them with learning opportunities at any time and place.

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) mentioned the latest four innovative trends in (K-12) education, which are online learning, as many schools have become permanently offering virtual learning for their students, and are adopting innovative practices such as blended learning and flipped learning. Secondly, Data literacy, as considered an essential skill, which is the ability to collect, organize, visualize, analyze, interpret and share data with others. Third: Employing technology in education, as



Dr. Aseel Ajlouni

technology contributes to facilitating students' cooperation, communication and developing their various skills. Finally, rethinking the teacher's roles in order to add fun to teaching.

In the Arab world, educational institutions have taken serious steps in the field of innovation, such as providing innovation and leadership centers in their institutions and adopting blended learning in the higher education sector, but there is still a gap between reality and expectations. In general, the financial support represented in providing the necessary infrastructure constitutes a challenge facing innovation in the education sector in the Arab world. More specifically, Al-Ahliyya Amman University presents a model for supporting innovation. In addition to the infrastructure that the university provides for innovation and its adoption of the latest educational strategies and practices that support innovation and its use of the latest technological tools in education, the university has established a center for innovation and excellence, which act as a hub to pursue the innovative ideas of students and teachers at Al- Ahliyya Amman University. The center seeks to encourage, adopt and implement distinguished ideas by creating partnerships, platforms, products and affecting policies.

In a recent study that I conducted aimed at identifying Undergraduates' Perspectives and Challenges of Online Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic, published in the "Journal of Social Studies Education Research," the results showed the students' preferred online learning over the traditional method, and students encountered some challenges such as unreliable internet connections, slow e-learning platforms, a lack of information and communication technology skills. In another study, also published in the same journal, aimed at identifying gender differences in the quality of academic motivation among students in light of the self-determination theory, that included a number of undergraduates students who studied online during the COVID-19 pandemic, its results revealed statistically significant differences in the quality of academic motivation among students in favor of female students, and the study recommended to carefully consider online learning environment and employ intrinsic motivation strategies to enhance students' motivation quality.



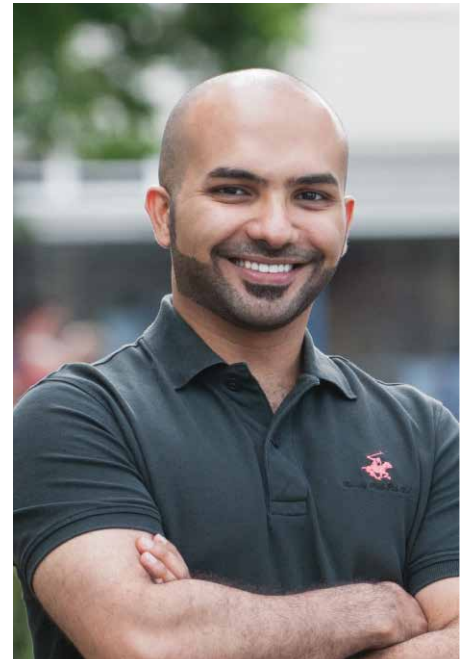


# Our Alumni.. Our Pride

## Baraa Sami Quronfulah

Doctor of Philosophy

Assistant Professor, Hospital Affairs Unit  
Supervisor- Saudi Arabia



Dr. Baraa earned his BA degree in Health Promotion and Education from Al- Ahliyya Amman University in 2009 with distinguished honors, which led him to seek opportunities abroad, travelling to Canada and gaining experience working and volunteering for about two years. His education and experience led him to Saudi Arabia, where he became a teaching assistant in the Health Promotion and Health Education department at the college of public health and health informatics at Umm Al-Qura University (UQU). By the end of 2013, he went to Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Brisbane, Australia, to study Masters of Public Health with a Health Promotion major. He graduated in 2015 and was offered a spot in the PhD health program at QUT.

During his PhD journey, he was involved in teaching assistance duties besides his thesis and research activities. Dr. Baraa's education and dedication allowed him to receive a promotion to become an assistant professor as well as receiving professional classification as senior specialist in public health -health promotion from the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties.

His dedication, his education that assisted him through this journey in addition to his extensive work at the college of public health and health informatics promoted him to be appointed as the supervisor of hospital affairs unit, which his role included the support and assisting the interns during their practical year. Since holding this position, Dr. Barra has successfully helped around 587 interns to graduate to be public health specialists in Health Promotion and Education, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, and Health Information Management and Technology.

Quote Dr. Baraa lives by: "The best amongst you are those who have the best manners and character." Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him).

# GEC Team



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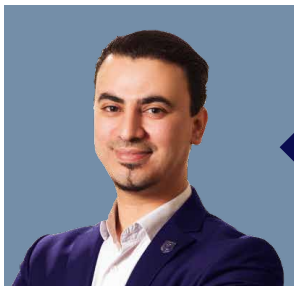
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