



EDUCATION SYSTEMS OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN

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Abstract

This article provides a brief overview of the education systems in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It provides a brief history of the education systems in these countries and highlights modern higher education institutions.

Keywords: The education system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, King Saud University, the education system in Jordan, Al-Hussein Bin Talal University, University of Jordan.

Introduction

The education system in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the fastest growing countries in the Middle East in terms of quality education. Saudi Arabia now has several world-class institutions. The country offers world-class education in almost all fields of study. 21 of the best higher education institutions in Saudi Arabia are among the top 100 Arab universities. There are many advantages to studying at universities in Saudi Arabia. These universities also offer you the opportunity to explore the diverse cultural and political environment of the country. Some universities in the Kingdom also offer study and visit to the country's major archaeological sites.

Saudi Arabia gained independence in 1932. When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was established in 1932, education was available to very few people, mainly to the children of wealthy families living in large cities. Today, the Saudi education system includes more than fifty public and private higher education institutions; 30,000 schools; colleges and a number of other educational institutions. The system



is open to all citizens, and students are provided with free education, books and health services.

In 1926, laws were passed on compulsory primary education and the opening of secular schools, and in 1960 on the involvement of girls in compulsory education. The education system is state-run and free for both citizens and foreigners. Admission to school is from the age of 6. Primary school lasts 6 years, secondary school is 2-stage, consisting of incomplete secondary (3 years) and complete secondary (3 years). Vocational schools (4 years) operate on the basis of primary school, and vocational schools (2 years) operate on the basis of incomplete secondary school.

Boys and girls are educated separately in schools. There are 11,191 schools for boys and 11,441 for girls in SA, with 4.15 million children studying there and 292,000 teachers. There are 15 students per teacher. This is one of the highest ratios in the world.

King Saud University is a public university in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, founded in 1957 by King Saud bin Abdulaziz as Riyadh University, the first university in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was renamed King Saud University in 1982. Today, the university has a student body of 40,000 students. Undergraduate education is offered in English and Arabic, depending on the chosen specialty. Its medical programs are highly regarded among Arab universities. In 2022, King Saud University ranked 350th in the top 1000 in the QS World Rankings.

The female students have their own disciplinary council and a center where female faculty members or male professors monitor the progress of female students via closed-circuit television. The university offers courses in the natural sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines, and many courses are free of charge. Undergraduate education is offered in English and Arabic, depending on the chosen major. Its medical programs are highly regarded among Arab universities. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral courses in the natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and professional disciplines. Tuition is completely free, and there are scholarship programs for Saudi and international students.



Training is carried out in the following stages:

- 🎓 – Preparatory (1-2 years)
- 🎓 – Bachelor's degree (4-5 years)
- 🎓 – Master's degree (2 years)
- 🎓 – Doctorate (1-3 years)

The university has the following amenities:

- Dormitory at the university is 100% free;
- There are monthly scholarship programs;
- Additional scholarships are awarded to students who are studying for high grades;
- Free transportation (dormitory – university);
- Provides free Visa;
- Provides a free round-trip ticket;
- He can go on Umrah pilgrimage at the university's expense;
- Students who have not performed Hajj before can go on Hajj at the University's expense;
- Students can receive free treatment at the University Hospital and all medications are free;
- Families can obtain a Family Visa after being admitted to a Bachelor's degree;
- King Saud University has accreditation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;
- Students have the opportunity to participate in international "Work And Travel" programs.

Education system of Jordan. In Jordan, 6 years of primary and 6 years of secondary education are free and compulsory. Educational institutions are mainly state-run. There are also private schools. 75% of the population is literate (before independence, 80% were illiterate). 8-10% of the country's budget is spent on education annually. The country has the universities of Amman and Irbid, as well as a number of institutes and colleges. Tuition is paid. In Amman, there is the Scientific Research Council, the Royal Scientific Society, and the Jordanian Arabic Language Academy. In Amman, there is a university library, a public library, an archaeological museum, an art gallery, a mosaic museum, an Islamic museum, and a public museum.



Al-Hussein Bin Talal University (AHU). Al-Hussein Bin Talal University (AHU) is a public coeducational university located in the heart of the Southern Region, 210 km from the capital Amman. Approximately 9 km northwest of Ma'an. Southern Region of Jordan. Established by royal decree on 28 April 1999. AHU is a comprehensive public university on an independent campus, with a student population representing almost every governorate in Jordan. Over the years, AHU has grown to include eight colleges offering undergraduate programs in natural and environmental sciences, business, nursing, education, humanities, IT, and engineering; and two deans, a deanery for student affairs, and a deanery for research. AHU has nine research centers that engage in research and development projects to serve local and national communities. Al-Hussein Bin Talal University was founded in 1999 and was the first higher education institution established during the reign of King Abdullah II. Initially, the university was a branch of Mutah University, which occupied a temporary campus in Ma'an, and was relocated to a permanent campus located 9 km northwest of Ma'an in September 2004. The university was founded in 1999 as a branch of Mutah University. It was the first higher education institution established during the reign of King Abdullah II.

University of Jordan. The University of Jordan is a state-funded university located in Amman, Jordan. It was founded in 1962. It is the oldest higher education institution in Jordan, with about 1,400 faculty members and 37,000 students. It is the most prestigious university in Jordan and one of the most prestigious universities in the Arab world and the Middle East.

The University of Jordan offers bachelor's and master's degrees in about 20 colleges (faculties) and institutes. The University of Jordan offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees. All programs are fully accredited by HEAC. Two faculties of the university have been internationally accredited by international accreditation bodies, while others are working towards international accreditation. The university is located in Amman, Jordan, and is supported by the state.

The university was established in 1962 by the Amman North Command. The area covered by the university is one of the metropolitan areas of the city of Amman, and is called the university area.

The University of Jordan offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in 20 colleges (faculties) and institutes.



Medical education in Jordan. The Faculty of Medicine was established in 1972, and the Faculty of Dentistry in 1982. The academic programs offered by the faculty include a four-year program in oral and facial surgery, as well as a bachelor's degree in dental surgery. There is a three-year master's program in pediatric dentistry.

The Faculty of Pharmacy, founded in 1980, had 1,585 undergraduates, 82 graduate students, and 50 research staff by 2010.

The Faculty of Medicine was established in 1972 and offers bachelor's and master's degrees in clinical nursing, public health, and maternal and child care.

Faculty of Natural Sciences. The faculty was founded in 1965 and, as of the 2009-2010 academic year, had 3,489 undergraduates, 413 postgraduates and 121 professors. The Faculty of Natural Sciences consists of 5 departments: Mathematics, Physics and Materials Science, Geology, Chemistry and Biology. In 2002, the Department of Mathematics added an accounting program and in 2004, the Department of Biological Sciences added a new program in Medical Analysis.

The Faculty of Agriculture offers bachelor's and master's degrees in 6 programs: horticultural and seed sciences, soil, water and environmental conservation, agricultural economics and agribusiness, food and food technology, and plant protection.

The Faculty of Engineering and Technology, established in 1975, offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Mechatronics Engineering.

King Abdullah II School of Information Technology. The Faculty of Foreign Languages began operating in 2008, but most of its departments were established in 1962. The college has an enrollment of 3,500 students (in 2010), 85 percent of whom are girls. The Faculty of Foreign Languages offers 14 languages, in addition to Arabic.

The Faculty of Arts was also founded in 2008, but most of its departments were established by the university itself in 1962. The faculty has 7 departments. All departments have departments in history, geography, psychology, and sociology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. There are currently 106 teachers and 2,926 students enrolled (as of spring 2010).



The university has the following faculties:

1. Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences;
2. Faculty of Sharia (Islamic Studies);
3. Faculty of Business;
4. Faculty of Law;
5. Faculty of Educational Sciences;
6. Faculty of Physical Education;
7. Faculty of Art History and Design.

Science is an important factor in human life and the foundation of progress and development. In this regard, the University of Jordan, established in 1962, has become the largest and leading university in Jordan in education, research and innovation, and global development. The University of Jordan can choose and offer more than 250 academic programs from 24 different schools.

The University of Jordan offers 94 undergraduate majors in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, nursing, rehabilitation sciences, natural sciences, agriculture, engineering, information technology, arts, business administration, Sharia, educational sciences, law, physical education, art and design, and international programs.

In the next phase, the university will offer 38 doctoral programs, which accounts for more than 50% of Jordan's doctoral programs, and 111 master's programs, which accounts for 25% of Jordan's master's programs, including 16 highly specialized medical and dental programs.

Since its founding, the university has produced over 200,000 graduates worldwide, and according to the QS world rankings 2018, the university is ranked 267th in the world.

The university has qualified academics, many of whom have held important positions in the educational, administrative, and political spheres in Jordan. Some of them are ministers, advisors, MPs, university heads, and some are engaged in innovation and scientific research in Jordan.

The university not only strives for excellence, but also strives to apply the principles of total quality management and use the latest information technologies in its programs and strategies. The University of Jordan has achieved advanced positions in various international rankings. In particular, the university is among the top 600 universities in the world and one of the top 10 Arab universities, and



recently achieved 4 stars according to the QS ranking. In addition, the university has received many international accreditations for its programs, such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, engineering, rehabilitation and other disciplines.

Conclusion

The education systems of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Jordan have undergone significant transformations over the years, evolving into comprehensive frameworks that support both domestic and international students. Saudi Arabia has made substantial investments in higher education, offering free education, scholarships, and various support services, making institutions like King Saud University globally recognized. The structured education system ensures accessibility, with state-funded schooling and specialized programs catering to various academic disciplines.

Similarly, Jordan has emphasized the development of its higher education sector, with institutions like the University of Jordan and Al-Hussein Bin Talal University playing pivotal roles in advancing research, innovation, and global academic collaborations. The country's commitment to educational excellence is evident in its diverse academic offerings, international accreditations, and continuous efforts to integrate modern technologies into education.

Both countries demonstrate a strong commitment to improving education by expanding access, investing in infrastructure, and fostering academic excellence. Their universities continue to rank among the top institutions in the Arab world, reinforcing their role in shaping the region's educational landscape. The advancements in education in Saudi Arabia and Jordan contribute to their broader socio-economic development, preparing students to meet the challenges of the modern world.

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