

ANGABEN ZUM FORSCHUNGSaufenthalt IM AUSLAND / ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH STAY ABROAD

Zielland / Destination country: Jordan	Ort / City: Amman
Name der Gastereinrichtung / Name of the host institution: German Jordanian University	Fakultät / Institut / Faculty / Institute: Faculty of Management
Anschrift / Address: Amman Madaba Street, Amman, Jordan	
Zeitraum / Length of stay: = Tage / Days von / from : <u>01/11/2016</u> bis / until: <u>30/11/2016</u> <u>30</u> <small>(TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy) (TT/MM/JJJJ – dd/mm/yyyy)</small>	

Administrative Formalitäten / Administrative formalities

1. Visum / Visa:

a) Welche Art musste beantragt werden? / Which type of visa did you have to apply for?

Tourist visa. This is what I advise, no need to apply for a work visa for research as it will lead to added complications. The short-term researchers that I met in Jordan were also on a tourist visa.

b) Wo haben Sie das Visum beantragt? / Where did you apply for the visa?

Berlin

c) Wann haben Sie das Visum beantragt? / When did you apply for the visa?

Two months in advance. That is because I had a Pakistani passport. For German nationals visa is available on arrival.

2. Welche Versicherungen haben Sie abgeschlossen/abschließen müssen und von welchen Versicherungsunternehmen? / What types of insurances did you purchase and from which insurance companies?

Just coverage from my health insurance in Germany(TKK).

3. Welche Impfungen waren nötig? / Which vaccines were necessary?

I did not get any and I think they weren't necessary.

4. Wie haben Sie Geldangelegenheiten vor Ort abgewickelt? (z.B. über Konto vor Ort, Online-Konto, Kreditkarte usw.?) / How did you manage your finances? (e.g., opened a local bank account, online banking, credit card, etc.)

Credit Card and Debit Card. Most places only accept cash so having cash at hand is necessary, hence using a debit card may be necessary. My bank(Deutsch Bank) charges 3% in foreign transaction fees which might be avoided with a better bank.

Information & Unterstützung / Information & Support

5. Wie erhielten Sie Informationen über Ihr Gastland, die Gasteinrichtung und die Kontaktperson? Waren die Informationen nützlich? / How did you get information about your host country, host institution and contact person? Was the information useful?

<i>Informationsquelle / Information source</i>	<i>persönlicher Nutzen / useful</i>	
	ja / yes	nein / no
WWU Münster	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Andere StudentInnen / Other students	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Internet	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify) Generally, by talking to people who had conducted research in Jordan.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Erhielten Sie vor und während Ihres Aufenthaltes angemessene Unterstützung durch Ihre Heimat- und Gast-Institution? / Did you receive adequate support from your host and home institution before and during your research stay?

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
WWU Münster	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Gasteinrichtung / Host institution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I was constantly in touch with my supervisor at WWU Muenster. I did not require any other support as such from Muenster but I constantly reported what I was experiencing in Jordan. Also, my host institution and professor offered me all support which was possible for them. There was not much that I asked from them due to the nature of my research which looking at public opinion. The host institution was able to provide me with useful contacts for pollsters for conducting a survey which I intend to field.

7. Welche Vorbereitung auf das Zielland (bspw. Information zu Geschichte, Staatsform, Kultur, Verhalten, Religion etc.) wären hilfreich gewesen? / Which information or preparations in terms of the host country (e.g., history, language, culture, customs) would have been helpful?

Of course knowing a little Arabic and knowledge about customs in predominantly Muslim societies is helpful. But since I had that foreknowledge it was pretty easy for me to settle. Jordan, particularly Amman, is quite welcoming and people are willing to help or give you suggestions if you'd like any. That is also perhaps because they encounter a lot of tourists. Personally I prefer to learn from the surroundings when I am at a place. Guide books might give one good introductions but one should not restrict oneself with learning from others experiences.

8. Welche Vorbereitungen hinsichtlich der Gastinstitution (bspw. Hochschulstrukturen, akademische Gepflogenheiten etc.) wären hilfreich gewesen? / Which information or preparations in terms of the host institution (e.g., university structure, academic customs) would have been helpful?

I think there was nothing specific I needed to know about my host institution beforehand. I think there can be little in terms of preparation one can do while in Germany but rather learn from what is the culture at the institution while there. In Jordan, also the culture is different from institution to institution so the academic culture at one institution may not apply to another institution. I was at the German Jordanian University which had many students from wealthy Jordanians families attending because a student is expected to be able to afford one year of living expenses in Germany. Since there is a wealth divide in Jordan only the wealthy families could afford to send their children abroad. Just the type of students attending this university made it a bit unique. I do not know whether one can prepare for the cultures at different institutions in Jordan.

9. Wie kann das Projekt IP@WWU Ihrer Meinung nach verbessert werden (z.B. Information, Bewerbungsverfahren)? / How could the IP@WWU project be improved (e.g., information, application procedures)?

I find the application procedure to be fine but in some sense information can be improved: for example, my research destination proved to be more expensive than I thought. Also, of course in the future if funding is extended for attending conferences and support for learning a language in foreign country that would be quite good. I thought during my time in Jordan that I should have also taken some Arabic language classes on the side. However, the the financial support provided by the IP program did not allow this.

10. Wie beurteilen Sie den Integrationsgrad mit den Studierenden und Mitarbeitern der Gastinstitution? / How do you consider your degree of integration with students and staff in the host institution?

(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

The staff and students were both quite friendly and welcoming. The German Jordanian University is sort of unique in the area because there are many German students coming there every year on exchange. The students and staff were therefore quite well acquainted to deal with the needs of foreign researchers and students. The students were quite willing to help with anything they could provide and the staff was also available when needed. I would consider myself to be easily integrated with the staff and students mainly because I think it was nothing new to them to host foreign researchers/students.

Unterkunft & Forschungsinfrastruktur / Accommodation & research infrastructure

11. Art der Unterbringung im Ausland / Type of accommodation abroad:

- ☐ durch die Universität (Studentenwohnheim o. Ä.) / university accommodation (e. g., student halls of residence)
☐ private Unterkunft (z.B. mit einer Familie)/ private housing (e. g. family)
☐ WG / shared apartment
☒ Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / other (please specify)
Hotel/Hostel
-

12. Wie haben Sie die Unterkunft gefunden? / How did you find the accommodation?

- ☐ WWU Münster
☐ Freunde, Familie / Friends, family
☐ Privatmarkt / Private market
☒ Internet
☐ Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / other (please specify)
-

13. Wie zufrieden waren Sie mit Ihrer Unterkunft?
How satisfied were you with your accommodation?

(1 = sehr unzufrieden/very dissatisfied; 5 = sehr zufrieden/very satisfied)				
1	2	3	4	5
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

Yes, in the end I was quite satisfied. However, finding an accommodation for short-term at a good price was not quite easy. To be exact I stayed at a place called Sydney Hotel which was a hostel/hotel in al-Balad or the old town district. The staff at the hostel were quite freindly, informative and supportive, and I met many interesting travelers, researchers and NGO workers there. For future students I would advise them to live either in al-Balad or in Webdeh, which also hosts many expat researchers and students.

14. Wie zufrieden waren Sie mit der Infrastruktur Ihrer Gasteinrichtung / How satisfied were you with your host institution's infrastructure:

	(1 = sehr unzufrieden/very dissatisfied; 5 = sehr zufrieden/very satisfied)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Zugang zum Arbeitsplatz (PC, Internet)/ Access to working space (PC, Internet)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Zugang zu den Bibliotheken / Access to libraries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I got quite good access to working space and did not need much from the library during my research stay. The buildings were modern, the food in the cafeteria clean, though a bit expensive. The university is relaively small so getting around from one building to another was not a problem at all. Overall, the infrastructure was quite modern and developed and could match any top institution in the West.

Akademische Qualität / Academic quality

15. Wie beurteilen Sie die Qualität der Betreuung durch Ihren Gastgeber-Dozenten? How do you rate the quality of your host supervisor's support?

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Verfügbarkeit des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement des Betreuers/der Betreuerin / Supervisor's engagement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beratungsgespräche mit dem/der Betreuer/in / Consultations with the supervisor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sonstiges (bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben) / Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<hr/> <hr/>					

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

The supervisor was helpful in terms of what I needed but was quite busy with some of his other work, which was understandable. He provided me important contacts and connected with people who would be important for my research. My supervisor was also serving as the vice-dean for his faculty so of course he was busy for most of the day. But whenever I needed something I could get hold of him. Overall, I think that my supervisor was as supportive as he could be but I would have liked more of his time.

16. Wie beurteilen Sie die Qualität ... / How do you rate the quality of...

	(1 = sehr schlecht/poor; 5 = sehr gut/excellent)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Ihrer Forschungsaufgaben?/research activities you took?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
des an der Gasteinrichtung zur Verfügung stehenden Forschungsmaterials?/study material you obtained at your host institution?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I really was not dependent on study material from my host institution so it did not count. Overall, Jordan presented me with an excellent research experience. I conducted in-depth interviews all over the country, managed to learn and talk from some of the best academics working there and was able to understand quite profoundly the polling culture there. I was able to talk to a variety of pollsters and the polling techniques specific to the region. I got different estimates for conducting a survey and now am in a much better position to field a survey for my project. This survey will hopefully be conducted in early 2017.

17. Wie unterscheiden sich Forschungsstruktur und -kultur an der Gastinstitution von denen an der WWU Münster? / How do research structure and research culture in host institution differ from those at WWU Münster?

Quite a lot, in the sense that education for students at the German Jordanian University mainly focused on vocation rather than research. However, this may not be true of other institutions in Jordan which may be both research focused and vocational. If one wants to go for research at the German Jordanian University therefore one must have a clear research plan as there would not be many ongoing research projects at this university.

Kosten / Expenses

18. Wie hoch waren die wöchentlichen Lebenshaltungskosten während Ihres Auslandsaufenthalts? / What were average weekly costs during your stay abroad?

	€
Unterkunft / accommodation	120
Lebensmittel / food	130
öffentliche Verkehrsmittel / Transportation	100

<i>Gesamtsumme per Woche / Total per week</i>	350

19. Wurden Ihre Kosten durch das Forschungsstipendium gedeckt? / Did the research stipend cover your costs?

☐ Ja / yes
 ☒ Nein, per Woche habe ich zusätzlich _____ € ausgegeben.
 No, I spent additionally 25 € per week.

20. Lagen Ihre wöchentlichen Ausgaben im Ausland höher als in Münster? / Did you spend more abroad compared to what you normally spend in Münster per week?

☒ Nein / no
 ☐ Ja / yes, _____ €.

21. Mussten Sie irgendeine Art von Gebühren an ihrer Gastinstitution entrichten? / Did you have to pay any kind of fees in the host institution?

☒ Nein / no
 ☐ Ja / yes, _____ € für / for _____

(bitte genaue Bezeichnung eingeben / please specify)

Persönliche Erfahrungen / Your personal experience

22. Welche spezifischen Ziele hatte Ihr Forschungsaufenthalt? Haben Sie sie erreicht? / Which specific objectives did you have for your research stay? Did you achieve them?

Ziele / Aims:	(1 = überhaupt nicht erreicht/not at all; 5 = voll erreicht/fully)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Finalize a representative survey experiment in Jordan by talking to pollsters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talk to academics and think tanks about my dissertation and our project	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Conduct in-depth interviews with the general population on the topic	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establish contacts for future help and research	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. Wie würden Sie Ihren Forschungsaufenthalt insgesamt einschätzen? / How would you evaluate your research stay in general?

Fully satisfied with the outcomes. As described before I was able to do all what I had set goals for. Moreover, I was able to get ideas to refine my research and directions for future research. As stated above, I was able to fianlize a survey be conducted in Jordan in early 2017. Was able to conduct a in-depth interviews as well as talk to academics. I was able to make lasting relationships at the host institution as well as with the many pollsters and academics working there.

24. Bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre beste Erfahrung / Please describe your best experience.

Asking open-ended questions to people on the street by introducing myself as a researcher. One of the questions I asked was "what was the first thing that came to your mind when you thought about the UN?" Got a variety of responses, opinions and judgments but was a wonderful experience in understanding Jordanian society.

25. Bitte beschreiben Sie Ihre schlechteste Erfahrung / Please describe your worst experience.

Negotiating with taxi drivers for a fair fare. Like most tourist places the rates for taxi are different for locals and different for tourists. Many taxi drivers in Amman refuse to put the meter on for tourists. Most times because of my appearance and Arabic, I was able to pass as a Jordanian. The times that I didn't I had negotiate for a fair taxi fare which I did not like.

26. Halten Sie die Dauer Ihres Forschungsaufenthaltes für / Do you consider your research stay to have been ...

- ☒ zu kurz / too short
☐ zu lang / too long
☐ genau richtig / just right

Falls zu kurz oder zu lang, welche Dauer hätten Sie sich gewünscht? / If too short or too long: which length would have been ideal?
two months

Beschreiben Sie bitte näher. / Please describe further.

I guess a bit more time would have been more useful in finishing some of the data I intended to collect for my dissertation. I finalized a survey experiment but perhaps would not be there for its implementation. Anyways, I think one has to make choices. I think the survey would be conducted fine without me but it would be better for me to be there. I also think one has to make choices all the time. I do intend to carry another survey in a country in the Middle East with high support of international organization (Jordan being a country with low support of international organizations), for crucial variation of cases for my dissertation. I may rather apply for more funding to go to Morocco to understand the country better and be able to conduct a survey there.

27. Welche Tipps können Sie den nachfolgenden Promovierenden zu dieser Gasteinrichtung, dieser Stadt, diesem Land etc. geben (Geheimtipps, lohnenswerte Aktivitäten, wichtige Ratschläge)? / Could you please give other PhD students some tips about your host institution, city or country (insider info, useful activities, valuable advice)?

Jordan is definitely a growing destination to conduct research on the Middle East. Given the worsening situation in Egypt many academics and other organizations have started using Amman as a base for their research activities. Hence, there are definitely many interesting events such as talks and workshops happening for academics. Good places for events in Amman would be in the Al-Balad and Webdeh districts. Some cool places to work in the city, would be Shams al-Balad, Jadal cafe, Rumi, Books Cafe and al-Sijal. These places also sometimes have good academic talks. Webdeh also has some cool art galleries and the French institute which may also be good places to visit. Also, ACOR has a wonderful library to work in and many visiting academics. All have free wifi and other academics just hanging there and working on their laptops. Overall, however also should also bear in mind that Jordan is a popular tourist destination so it may not be as cheap as one would hope.