

Studying abroad at the GJU (German Jordanian University) - a testimonial by Malte Flegelskamp

What was your daily study routine like?

A mixture of big city jungle and Hollywood campus in the desert. During the semester in Jordan, we were very busy from Monday to Friday. During the exam period, I often studied in cafés. In the afternoons and on weekends, I often went out with Jordanian students. In my lectures, I was the only foreign student, but my Jordanian fellow students helped and supported me a lot. My everyday life at the university was often similar to the one in Cologne except the fact that you often sat in a taxi in Amman instead of the tram in Cologne.

Why did you decide to study abroad at the GJU?

I particularly liked the cooperation between my institute at TH Köln (ITT) and the German Jordanian University. On top of that, my institute received a CNRD* scholarship for the exchange semester at the GJU. Additionally, I always wanted to get to know the Arabic culture better. I found Jordan exciting in itself even before I knew the GJU and knew about the possibility of spending a semester abroad: desert landscapes in the south, the lowest point of the earth at the Dead Sea in the northwest and the green, rugged mountains in the east - Jordan can be so different! I also wanted to broaden my knowledge in the field of renewable energy development in desert climate. Jordan is perfect for this.

* Centers for Natural Resources and Development

What were lectures like compared to TH Köln lectures?

Teaching depended – for sure – on the professors. On average, the system at the GJU in Jordan is more similar to the American university system: compulsory attendance, homework, mid-term exams. But that shouldn't put anyone off, because we still had a lot of free time and the professors prepared us well. In any case, the many exams kept us motivated and also kept us in the learning process.

What is your takeaway?

The time abroad in Jordan has been a really instructive and great experience. I will always remember my Jordanian friends well and some of them want to visit me in Germany soon. You learn a lot about the "Arabic culture", you get to know Islam and the Jordanian hospitality. I also learned a lot about the use of renewable energies in the continental desert climate. Jordan can be an adventure, which I definitely do not regret. I would do it again and I am looking forward to coming again!