



U.S.-Jordanian University Cooperation Network (UCN) Webinar Series

Four webinars sponsored by Virginia Tech with the financial support of the United States Embassy –
Public Affairs Section, Amman, Jordan

- **When:** November 12; November 17: December 8 and December 15
- **Time:** Rehearsal for panelists and moderators starts at 8:30am (EST) - Webinar starts at 9:00am (EST) and finishes at 11:00am (EST).

TOPIC	INSTITUTION	PANELISTS	MODERATOR
12 NOVEMBER 2020			
<p>9:00-9:30 AM</p> <p>Welcoming remarks</p>	<p><u>U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Office, Amman, Jordan</u></p>	<p>McKenzie Louw, Cultural Affairs Officer, U.S. Embassy Amman, Jordan</p>	<p>Mark Johnson, Senior Advisor to the UCN, Lecturer University of Wisconsin-Madison</p>
<p>Background and achievements of the UCN</p>	<p><u>Virginia Tech (VT): the U.S.-Jordanian UCN State of Affairs</u></p>	<p>Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships, Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI).</p>	
<p>9:30-10:30 AM</p>	<p><u>University of Jordan: evolution of the Jordanian UCN Secretariat.</u></p>	<p>Hadeel Yaseen, Director of International Affairs Unit; Associate Professor of Finance.</p>	

<p>Panel on Internationalization of the campus: Tertiary Education Institutions' Response to the Pandemic. Transition from in person to virtual, how universities have managed this period of adaptation, challenges and opportunities, lessons learned so far and where do we go from here.</p> <p>10:30-11:00 Am Questions and Answers (Q&A)</p>	<p><u>University of Arizona</u>: recently implemented internationalization effort, global locations & online strategy; grants and collaborative partnerships</p> <p><u>The World Bank</u>, Middle-East and North Africa (MENA) Region</p> <p><u>Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)</u>: taking the International Students Network (ISN) as an example.</p> <p><u>Yarmouk University (YU)</u>: UCN GRE English online Prep Program.</p> <p><u>Tafila Technical University</u>: academic research projects.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hassan Hijazi, Assistant VP MENA, UA Global 2. Kamel Braham; Human Development Program Leader, MENA Region. 3. Fawzia Amoura, International Relations Office, Head of Exchange Programs Section 4. Mwaffaq Otoom, Dean of Engineering and Anna Lindh Foundation Badge Awardee. 5. Hassan Al-Momani, Director of International Relations Office. 	
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17 NOVEMBER 2020

<p>9:00-9:30am (EST)</p> <p>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p>9:30-10:30: Panelists Presentations</p> <p>Linking Tertiary Education to the Labor Market</p> <p>Description: Education is still often characterized by rote learning and repetition instead of teaching to reason and focusing on problem-solving skills and real-world issues. Thus, skills have become a severe constraint to growth and employers have highlighted this on various occasions. The question for us today is how can tertiary education systems respond to these challenges and play a</p>	<p><u>Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)</u></p> <p><u>Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST)</u></p> <p><u>Virginia Tech</u></p> <p><u>Yarmouk University (YU)</u>: Problems facing women's employment in Jordan.</p>	<p>Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mohannad Aljarrah, Director Center of Excellence for Innovative Projects; <i>Associate Professor Department of Chemical Engineering</i> 2. Rick Rudd, Professor Community Viability Chair of Excellence, Ag Leadership Community. 3. Dr. Amneh Khasawneh, Director of the Princess Basma Center for Jordanian Women's Studies at Yarmouk University. 	<p>Sudipta Sarangi, Department Head & Professor of Economics, Pamplin School of Business, Virginia Tech</p>
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<p>stronger role in preparing young people for the labor market? In addition, although women's enrollment in all levels of education have improved dramatically in Jordan, these gains have not led to improvements in women's economic participation or agency. Barriers to economic participation seem to start with women's education and are negatively impacted by low economic incentives. There remains a clear disconnect between the skills and education women acquire, and those demanded by employers, particularly in the private sector.</p> <p>10:30-11:00am Questions and Answers</p>	<p><u>The World Bank MENA Region</u></p> <p><u>The University of Jordan (UoJ):</u> The Role of Educational Technology and E-Learning during COVID -19 Pandemic and Its Impact on the Education Sector in Jordan</p> <p><u>University of Florida:</u> Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Certification experience.</p> <p><u>Hashemite University (HU):</u> establishment of the HU-Career Counseling Center (HU-CC) as a link between HU and the labor market.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Andreas Blom: Manager, World Bank Education Global Practice, and Mariam Nusrat: Education Specialist, MENA region. 5. Muhannad Al-Shboul, Professor of Educational Technology and e-Learning; Vice Dean for Quality Affairs and Development, School of Educational Sciences. 6. Bahar Armghani, Lecturer and Director, UF Green Building Learning Collaborative Sustainability and the Built Environment, LEED Fellow, College of Design, Construction and Planning (assisted Jordan to develop Jordan Green Building Council). 7. Ebrahim Mansour, Director of HU – Career Counseling Center (HU-CC). 	
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8 DECEMBER 2020

<p>9:00-9:30am</p> <p>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p>9:30-10:15 am. Panel Presentations</p> <p>Virtual Exchange Programming</p> <p>Description: many educators and institutions are wandering how to make global education possible for young people. There are many pathways to engage in virtual exchange, including researching and joining existing programs, piloting programs at a small scale</p>	<p><u>Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)</u></p> <p><u>University of Florida</u></p> <p><u>Virginia Tech</u></p>	<p>Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paloma Rodriguez, Director, Office for Global Learning, International Center 2. Theresa Johansson, Director, Global Education Office (GEO) 	<p>Nargiza Ludgate, Assistant Scholar University of Florida International Center</p>
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<p>with international partners, or tapping into international networks to establish new virtual exchange partners. Panelists will share how they explore ways to adopt virtual exchange and will highlight best practices and learnings for those new to the virtual exchange field.</p> <p>10:15-11:00am Questions and Answers</p>	<p><u>Global Ties</u>: In person to Virtual – Adapting Youth Programs during the Pandemic; Stevens Initiative</p> <p><u>Yarmouk University (YU)</u>: Erasmus+ Exchange (ICM and Virtual)</p>	<p>3. Sarah Martin, Special Program Manager, Global Ties KC.</p> <p>4. Mwaffaq Otoom, Dean of Engineering and Anna Lindh Foundation Badge Awardee</p>	
<p>15 DECEMBER 2020</p>			
<p>9:00-9:30 am</p> <p>INTRODUCTION AND WELCOMING REMARKS</p> <p>The Impact of COVID-19 on Higher Education, Technology, Emotional Distress and Lessons Learned</p> <p>Description: As the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has spread across the globe, every continent and nearly every country had to react. The webinar will explore possible solutions and practical ways that universities, researchers and other stakeholders can tackle the COVID-19 situation and how we can move forward from a health and socio-economic perspective.</p>	<p><u>Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute (VT-LCI)</u></p> <p><u>University of Florida</u>: Preliminary results of a study on the effects of rapid immersion of students into distance learning due to COVID (stress, depression, anxiety, academic readiness, etc.) and how this compares to academic performance.</p> <p><u>Virginia Tech</u>: Lessons, Triumphs, & Obstacles on Interdisciplinary Projects at Virginia Tech in response to COVID-19</p> <p><u>The University of Jordan</u>: Online Teaching During COVID-19 Crisis: The Role of Techno stress and Emotional Dissonance on Online Teaching Exhaustion and Teaching Staff Productivity.</p> <p><u>Al-AI Bayt University (AABU)</u>: the role of the university during COVID-19.</p>	<p>Patricia Parera, Associate Director for Partnerships and U.S.-UCN Secretariat Representative.</p> <p>1. Elizabeth Wood, Director, Bachelor of Public Health Program, Clinical Assistant Professor</p> <p>2. Carla Finkelstein, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute and Matthew Hull, Institute of Critical Technology and Applied Sciences (ICTAS).</p> <p>3. Laila Dahabiyeh, Assistant Professor of Information Systems Management at the School of Business & Assistant Dean for International Accreditation Affairs.</p> <p>4. Adnan Atoum, President, Al-AI Bayt University.</p>	<p>Laura Hungerford, Department Head Department of Population Health Sciences Professor Veterinary Public Health and Epidemiology</p>

10:30-11:00am Questions and Answers

Hashemite University: the impact of COVID-19 on public health research from a Tertiary-Care focused system.

Virginia Tech: adaptive approaches to conducting international research on water resources and food security assessments during COVID-19 times.

5. **Sukaina Alzyoud**, Jordan Tobacco Control Research Group Founder. World Health Organization, Consultant. The Hashemite University.
6. **Venkat Sridhar**, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Systems Sciences