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Federal Foreign Office



DAFI

Newsletter



KING HUSSEIN FOUNDATION  مؤسسة الملك الحسين
مركز اليوبيل للتميز التربوي
JUBILEE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the May, 2017 edition of the DAFI Newsletter. Thank you for being part of our information dissemination in Jordan.

DAFI at a Glance:

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative known as the DAFI Programme is a unique UNHCR higher education scholarship programme initiated by the Government of Germany in 1992. The DAFI programme is funded by the Government of Germany and Saïd Foundation; a non-sectarian and non-political charity which works for a brighter future for children in need and talented young people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine. Since 1992, the programme grants scholarships to refugees at universities, colleges and polytechnics in their host countries. The purpose of the DAFI Programme is to contribute to the self-reliance of refugees by providing them with a professional qualification for future employment. Scholarships are granted only for studies in the country of asylum to see the graduates return home and contribute to the reconstruction of their home country, or to the development of the country of asylum or the refugee community at large. The scholarship project is implemented by UNHCR and its partners in the countries of asylum and return and the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE) / King Hussein Foundation is the implementing partner in Jordan.

Strategic Priorities of DAFI Programme:

The DAFI programme contributes to develop skills, empowerment and academic achievement as part of a broader UNHCR strategy of promoting self-reliance and durable solutions for refugees. Its main objectives are:

- Achieve self-reliance by providing a higher education that will lead to gainful employment.
- Develop qualified human resources among the displaced population, also to build the capacity and leadership of individual refugees for when they return home.
- Support the refugee community in camps as qualified professionals, including teachers and community workers, until a durable solution is found.
- Facilitate integration, contribute skills and qualified human resources to the host country if repatriation is not desired or not possible.
- Provide a role model for other students, particularly for girls to advance their education and demonstrate benefits of education.

(JCEE) Overview:

The Jubilee Institute, which comprises the Jubilee School and the Jubilee Center for Excellence in Education (JCEE), is one of the major undertakings of the King Hussein Foundation, which foundation fulfills His Late Majesty's vision and belief in the importance of education to achieve social justice and economic growth.

Both sections of the institute strive to upgrade national and regional educational standards through developing innovative curricula and training programs for the benefit of public and private school teachers, in Jordan and the Arab region. Furthermore, the center is connected to an extensive network of educational institutions in the Arab region and the rest of the world.

The JCEE was established in 1998 with the view of qualifying teaching staff, recruiting students, and evolving instructional programs and curricula. The center continued developing its technical programs and offering quality service through its various branches that kept expanding with the growing needs of the educational community for models of excellence - mainly in response to the requirements of gifted and outstanding students, of teaching staff, and of models that cater to these needs.

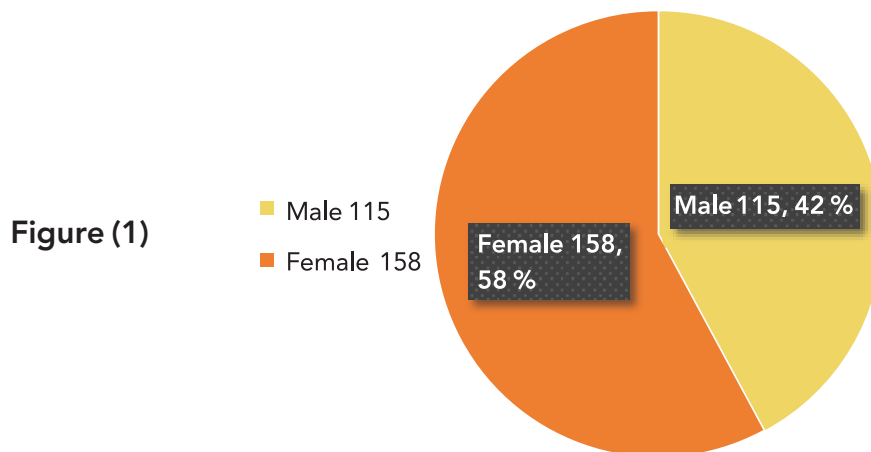
JCEE's Role as an Implementing Partner:

- Coordinating with universities on DAFI related financial and academic issues.
- Monitoring and following-up on new and ongoing scholars' progress and performance.
- Follow-up on students after graduation and activate DAFI alumni.
- Enrolling students in English courses and any other training courses that suit their study.
- Distributing books, transportation and subsistence living allowances to students.
- Providing students by all means of technical and logistical support.
- Conducting / providing voluntary and social work opportunities for students to integrate them into the local community.
- Holding periodic meetings to follow up with students.
- Doing field visits to universities and camps to check on students.
- Holding different activities for students through DAFI Club such as: seminars , lectures , workshops in addition to recreational and sporting activities.

DAFI Facts and Figures:

• Gender

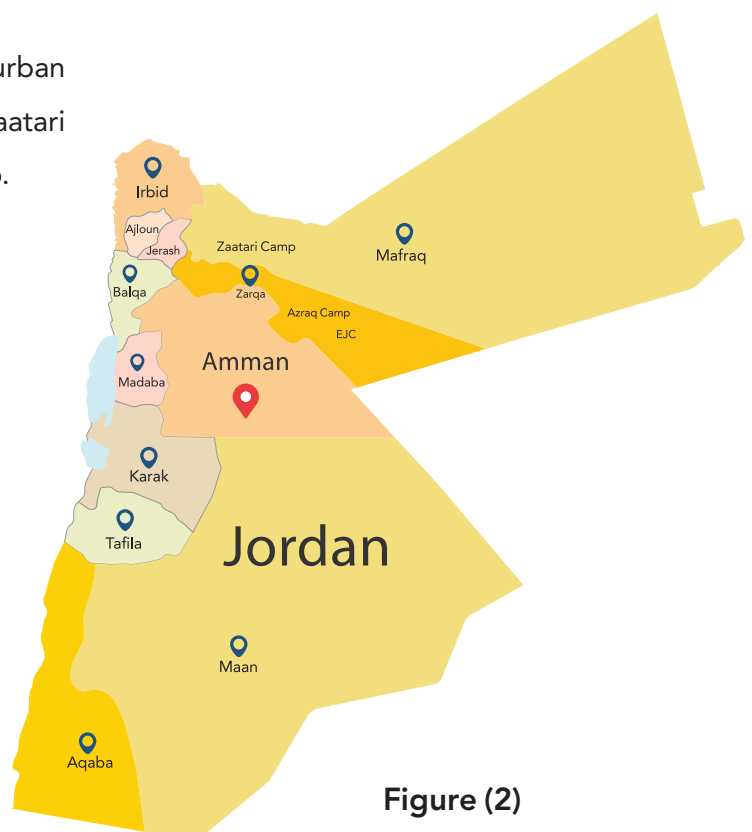
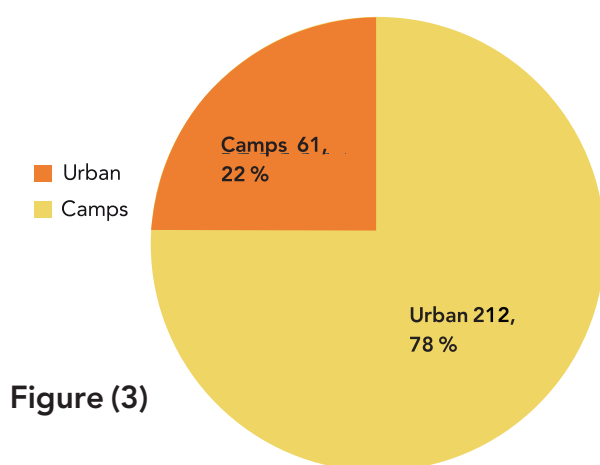
The current DAFI scholarship students number in Jordan is 273 students, 269 students are Syrians while 4 students are Iraqis. As shown in figure (1), DAFI scholarship has a male to female ratio of 42% male to 58% female; there are 115 male and 158 female students.



• Demographic Distribution/ Urban Vs Camps

Figure (2) illustrates the demographic distribution of DAFI students in Jordan. Students come from Mafrq, Irbid, Amman, camps and other regions.

As seen in figure (3), 78% of the students live in urban areas, while 22% live in three refugee camps; Zaatari Camp, Emirati Jordanian Camp, and Azraq Camp.



• Majors of study

Figure (4) sheds the light on variations of students' specialties among 18 university in Jordan.

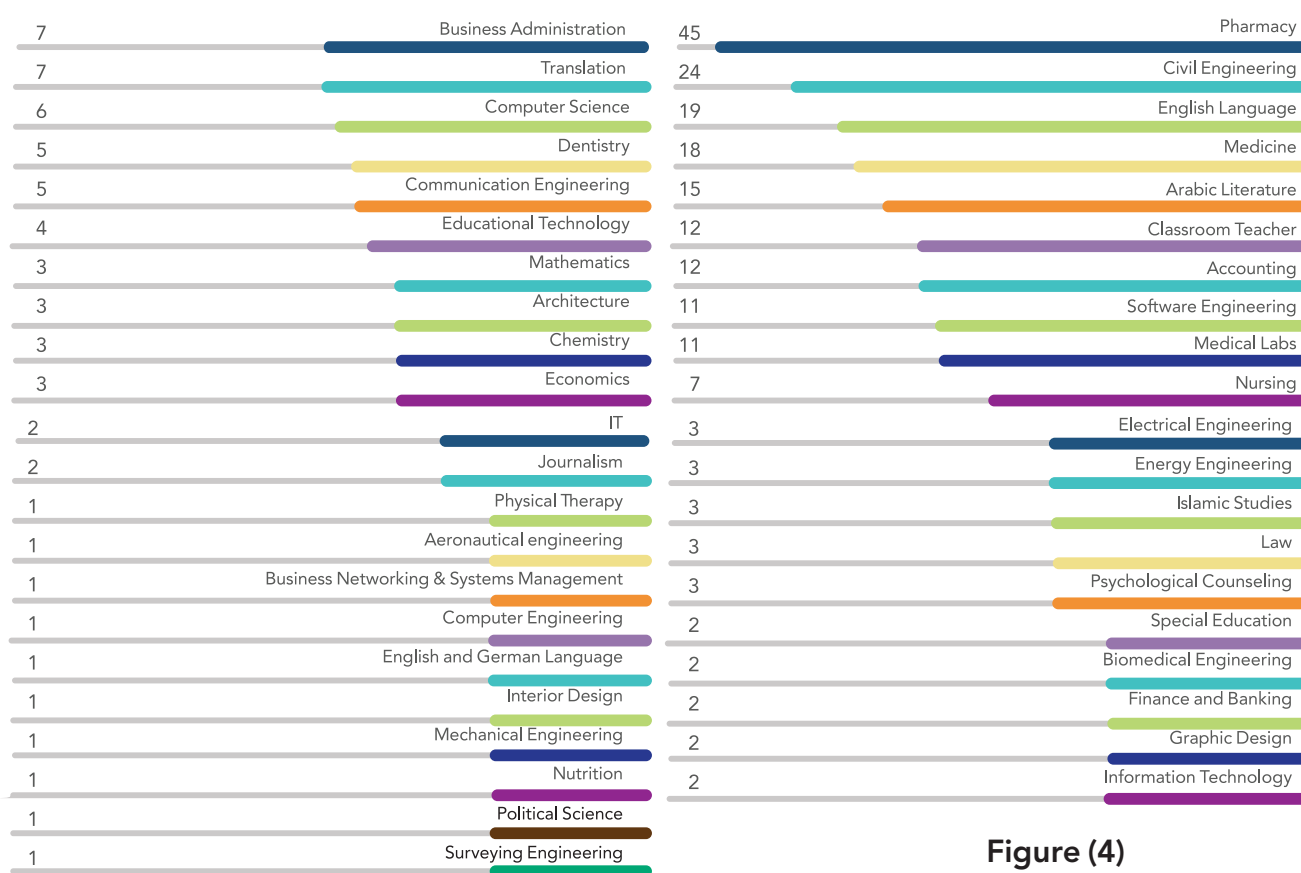


Figure (4)

• Number of DAFI Students Per University

Figure (5) displays the collective of students among Jordanian universities. It shows that 80 students are studying at Zarqa University which is considered as the largest number of students. On the other hand, 54 students are studying at Al al-Bayt University, 40 students at Jadara, while 15 universities have less than 20 students.

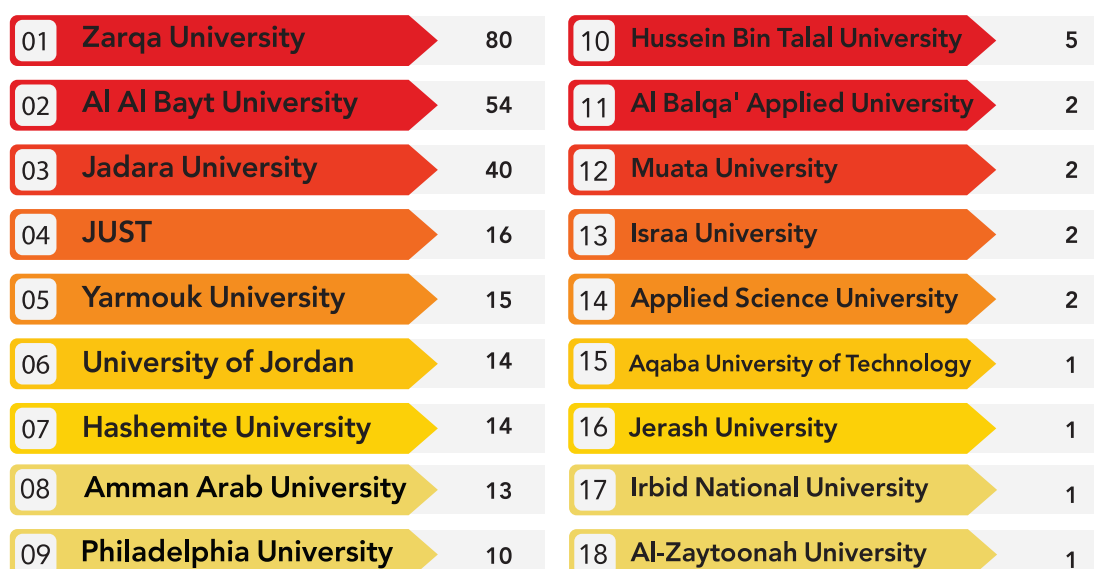


Figure (5)

DAFI Programme in 2017

The DAFI scholarship is an opportunity that does not only change lives, but which also contributes to social cohesion, promotes mutual respect and understanding and helps young people to become leaders and agents of change. Till now, 2017 was a year full of activities and continues to remain so.

Students' Meetings



- “DAFI Students Meeting 2017” as new students were able to meet former students and DAFI staff members to follow up with students on different issues, provide scholars with an opportunity to share their challenges, discuss their concerns; as well as, enjoying a lecture about Positive Thinking.

- DAFI students met Canadian delegate consists of professors and representatives for some Canadian Universities at UNHCR headquarter as the students talked about their universities, motivation behind their choices of majors, current live and future plans.



Voluntary Work



- Teamwork was the star of DAFI students' voluntary work with **Charity Clothing Bank**, as it was the tool to ease the work to become a smooth process as they distributed clothes and packed them according to their different types.

- DAFI students accompanied orphan kids to The Children's Museum as they shared with them a great educational experience and exciting activities.



- Some of DAFI students visited a school for orphan kids where they spent their time playing and drawing with them. They made different activities such as role plays, drawing and played football game.



- A group of DAFI volunteers putting their handprints on a wall rug, after they finished their tasks with **"Insan Organization for Psychological Support"**, as a motivation for them where they conducted different activities.





- DAFI students participated in an **"International Students Exhibition"** at the Hashemite University and Jordan University of Science and Technology as they represented the Syrian community, exhibited their culture and talked about their traditions.



- The student Obayda Alhamad, who is studying Civil Engineering at Mutah University, helped some kids in their homework and had different activities with them at a non-profit organization in Al-Karak governorate.





- DAFI's voluntary work with **The Jordan National Red Crescent Society**.

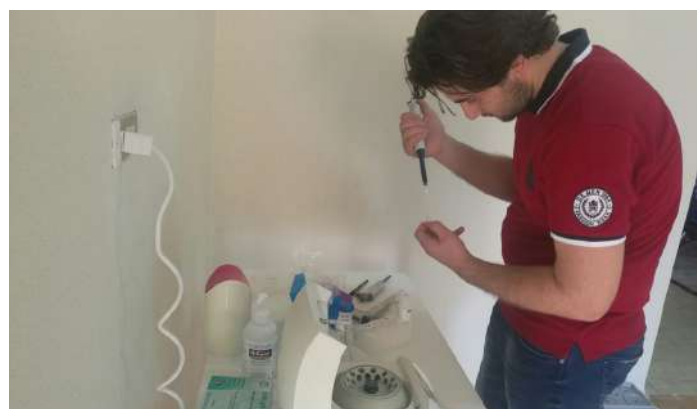


- DAFI students prepared meals and distributed them on unfortunate families as an initiative by them to help other people.

Training Courses



- DAFI students participated in a specialized training course about **(PCR: Polymerase Chain Reaction)** which was a practical course and will help them in their field of study.





Students Accomplishments

Mohamad Aldaghestani and Maher Fares who are studying Pharmacy at Philadelphia University, launched their first “9 Months Bot” project; the first pregnancy auto responder, which was chosen from 30 projects to be ranked the first in Jordan and won the first place at “Bots for Facebook Messenger challenge”. They designed the data base of it as a pregnant woman can send a text message to the project page “9 Months Bot” on “Facebook”, for any query or question she wants, to be answered automatically followed up with pregnancy weekly general tips, information on the shape and health of the unborn baby, the foods that should be eaten, medical examinations during pregnancy, and various medical articles on pregnancy and childbirth. This competition was sponsored by Facebook, Orange, and Arabots, and they were awarded by the Jordanian Minister of Communication and Technology. The two young men working on the project, Mohamad Aldaghestani and Maher Fares, are working on developing the project to be available in the future as an application on smart phones. Also, they plan to participate in the same challenge but, at the Middle East and North Africa level.

University Visits



- DAFI team members attended the graduation ceremony of Monther Al Hoshan and Asmaa Al Akhras, who studied Law at Al al-Bayt University, where they enjoyed the joyful atmosphere and celebrated with their families.



- A DAFI team member visited Jadara University to strengthen the cooperative bonds between the university and JCEE and to facilitate any services that DAFI students might need during their study at the university.



- Students visit to Yarmouk University Museum of Jordanian heritage as they participated in a scientific tour. The students were very interested in the tour and enjoyed listening to a lecture about the history of the artifacts exhibited at the museum.



- A French photographer visited students at their universities, with the presence of some UNHCR and DAFI team focal point, as he took photos for students to be published in a French magazine with their stories.



- An “**International Students Exhibition**” was held at Jordan University of Science and Technology, and DAFI staff attended the exhibition that provided opportunities for students to exhibit their culture and traditions to a broad audience of professors, professionals and peers alike.



- DAFI team members visited Jadara University where they met the students to discuss some issues related to their study and met with some administrates.



DAFI Club:

DAFI club was launched in 2011, located at the Jubilee Institute (JI) premises. It is a unique safe academic environment that encourages learning through providing computers, printers, photocopier & scanners, internet connection, LCD screen, collection of books in a small library for borrowing, a collection of architectural board and tools. The club will give the students the opportunity to carry out their projects and researches by using the equipment and tools available there. It is also a place where students can enhance their educational performance.

DAFI team members at JCEE organize and run all DAFI club activities such as training courses , voluntary work, dialogue sessions, life skills workshops, trips, sport activities and social evenings.

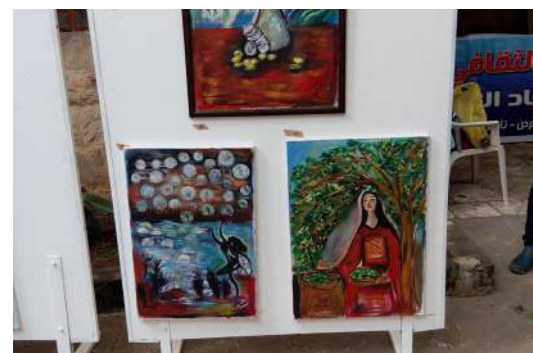


DAFI Club Activities

- A meeting with DAFI students was held at **Princess Bassma Center / Irbid**, in association with UNHCR members, to follow up with students and share their concerns.



- During the visit of DAFI students to **Arar House / Irbid** as they were introduced to great symbols of Jordanian poets, and were introduced to the local art.



- DAFI team members had a field visit to **Al Azraq Refugees Camp** where they got a chance to visit different areas of the camp, and discuss ways of cooperation with the UNHCR team in the camp.



- DAFI students' visit to DAFI Club and where they made a talk circle and had discussions about hot topics in current social issues.



- DAFI students visited Jerash Archaeological sites in the presence of some members from Jerash Tourism Directorate/ Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities where they were introduced to the history of the area and helped in cleaning the site.





- DAFI students and staff members visited the **"Syrian Women Association"** to introduce DAFI Programme and share awareness about the importance of education among Syrian families.

Camps Activities



- The student Maher Alatmah, who is studying Islamic Studies at Al al-Bayt University, participated in a participatory research project conducted by UNICEF, and was rewarded as an excellent researcher. His research in Al Zaatari Camp took six months to finish.



- **"Voluntary work at EJC"**. DAFI students participated in different voluntary works in which they varied between children protection and medical support activities.



- Some DAFI students from Pharma Team in Zarqa University who visited Al Zarqa City to share awareness about medical drugs.



- The student Muhannad Aljuneid, who is studying Physical Therapy at the Hashemite University, participated in a psychological support with UNICEF in Makani project for Syrian students.

A Makani project is based on the lessons learnt from child protection and education emergency response supported by UNICEF in Jordan that offers a comprehensive approach to service provision covering alternative education, skills building programmes and psychosocial support.



- DAFI students organized Football League for children of Zaatari Camp in cooperation with UEFA organization as 320 child participated in the event.



Highlights of DAFI Activities in 2016



- All DAFI students were invited to the DAFI Gala lunch at the Royal Hotel, UNHCR focal points and JCEE team have attended the lunch; as well as, representatives from King Hussein Foundation and the German Embassy.



- Mr. Wafic Said, founder and chairman of Said Foundation and the co-donor of DAFI scholarship, visited the Jubilee Center and met with DAFI scholars to discuss the importance of education for the generation of Syrian youth.



- Meetings were held for DAFI students at JCEE to follow up with students on different issues, provide scholars with the opportunity to share their challenges, concerns, and ideas; as well as, to exchange views and discuss updates related to the project.



- DAFI staff organized a retreat trip to **"Ranger Adventure Camp"** and to Ajloun Castle. Activities inside the camp were designed to put leadership skills in practice and to encourage team work spirit. The activities were described by students as challenging, rewarding, and enjoyable.



- Representatives from Said Foundation visited the DAFI Club/Amman and met with a group of students. The meeting was very effective and successful; students focused on the role of DAFI in improving their lives and achieving their dreams.

Graduates of 2016



Mohammad Al Dairy
Classroom Teacher



Nour Hajidres
English Literature



Isra'a Sadler
English Literature



Salam Idress
Pharmacy



Seba Hamzah
First Aid & Emergency



Ahmad Mushref
Communication Engineering



Asmaa Al Akhras
Law



Monther Al Hoshan
Law

Scholars Success Stories:

Grateful graduate students tell how education helped.



Ahmad Mushref, Communication Engineering.

Ahmad's family members were separated due to war and lived in three different countries as he was living with his mother and younger brother who gave him motivation to graduate with Communication Engineering degree from Al- Balqa' Applied University. Those who have been affected by war like Ahmad came to Jordan with no hope; they couldn't study or work, Ahmad was one of those students in which hope was brought back to their lives, he explained:

"No words could express the happiness I felt when I found out that I got the scholarship and that I will be able to finish my studies".



Monther Al Hoshan from Zaatari Camp was awarded a DAFI scholarship to study Law at Al al-Bayt University in Mafraq. He graduated in 2016 with his name on the top of the Honor List.

Monther's study at Damascus University was interrupted because of war. The numerous obstacles that he faced, forced him to work harder and to have more determination to reach the image that they have drawn for himself. His achievement was like a dream come true for most of Syrian refugees.

"DAFI scholarship guaranteed for me a whole new life. It was my own supplement of power to skip all the barriers, it is like a bridge to life after losing the hope of continuing my study in Law" Says Monther.

The fact that Monther was living in Zaatari Camp; sheds the light to all of the obstacles that he had to overcome during his study, such as the lack of the basic needs a student can have starting from electricity, transportation and ending with internet.

Monther states about his experience with DAFI:

"This would not have been possible without the DAFI scholarship. DAFI has made me who I am today. This great experience allowed for the creation of a person who is passionate about having a brighter future and taking responsibility to contribute in building his country back".

- As the number of DAFI students is increasing, their impact is expanding as well, due to the varieties of their specialties and achievements.



(From the left) Salam AL-Hariri and Manar Alhamed are students of Pharmacy.

Young, bright-eyed and eager to take on the world: meet Manar Alhamed, a Syrian refugee and scholar who is studying to become a pharmacist. She was grateful for being awarded a scholarship under the DAFI programme in the first semester 2016 -2017.

Like Manar and Salam, many refugees excel in school and are then at loose ends, trying to fund their way through a college after war. DAFI scholarships are lifelines to young refugees who are eager to further their education. DAFI programme is a precious and priceless opportunity for refugee students to pursue their studies.

Salam, who is studying Pharmacy at the University of Jordan, says:

DAFI scholarship is a stepping stone, turning dreams into reality. "I want to work in a big firm and leave my fingerprint in it" I will prove that I can make a difference," says Salam confidently.

Khalid Dahdooh, a student among 10 siblings.



Khalid Dahdooh is one of DAFI students who is studying Communication Engineering at Philadelphia University. Khaled studied Communication Engineering for four years, with an excellent rating, at the University of Aleppo with one year left to graduate. Suddenly, the war came and caused him and his family; 10 siblings and parents, to leave their home, city, friends and the whole country to move to Jordan. When Khaled was asked to express how it felt when he first arrived to Jordan, he said that he was devastated, sometimes shocked and sometimes greatly upset. He didn't know what to do or where to start.

However, Khaled's ambitions were built again, he was motivated to work hard in order to fight all the circumstances surrounding him, he insisted on getting high marks to prove to the whole world that he will achieve what other people with better circumstances could not achieve.

"It won't end here, I will always seek for more, I want to get a Master degree then a PHD degree, my success in life and study, will know no limits." Says Khaled

By quoting Khaled's words, DAFI has added a great value to students' life. It is giving them a chance to dream and succeed as many DAFI scholars already did and became a role models for other students.

Quotes from Students:



"DAFI drew me a path of success by giving me confidence and hope. I'm sure that I will be a successful and active member in the society".

Ayat Al Jalabi

Amman Arab University

"DAFI is an excellent scholarship opportunity for students and I'm honored to be a DAFI scholar".

Ahmed Farzat Al Hariri

Jadara University



"DAFI gave me and many Syrian students hope to pursue higher education after our studies have been disrupted due to the war".

Ghofran Zerdi

Zarqa University





"DAFI scholarship was a glimmer of hope, I had a sense that I would get a new chance and this was the DAFI grant".

Hamzah Al-Samadi

Jadara University

"DAFI scholarship is the most beautiful thing that happened to me".

Salam Al Hariri

University of Jordan



"I would like to thank DAFI and its sponsors for granting us the opportunity to finish our university studies, which has become a dream for many refugee students as it made it possible for us to show the world that education and the will of life is stronger than anything else".

Marwa Khattab

JUST University



DAFI Memories



