

# NEWSLETTER

JUST Clinical Rehabilitation Sciences



SEPTEMBER 2017, EDITION I

## JUST-CRS



The Establishment of an  
Interdisciplinary Clinical Master  
Program in Rehabilitation Sciences at  
Jordan University of Science and  
Technology.

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Thank you for your interest in the [JUST Clinical Rehabilitation Sciences](#) Master's Program "JUST-CRS".

JUST-CRS is an Erasmus Plus capacity-building in higher education project cofounded by the European Union. In this international project, JUST has partnered with three other top-notch European Institutions in the field of Rehabilitation Sciences as well as other national institutions; Oxford Brooks University (UK), ESSA (Portugal), Hacettepe University (Turkey), The University of Jordan and The Hashemite University (Jordan).

In this project, all expertise from all consortium partners are brought together to create an innovative interdisciplinary master's program that will address the national rehabilitation priorities, improve the quality of rehabilitation services and improve the quality of rehabilitation higher education in Jordan.

JUST-CRS program is intended to serve as a benchmark program in the region that produce competent rehabilitation sciences' professionals. The curriculum was created according to both Jordanian and European higher education standards; applying both Bologna Process and Jordanian Accreditation Commission for Higher Education standards. Whether you are an educator, rehabilitation professional or manager, student or a patient, your feedback is highly valuable and appreciated.

On behalf of JUST-CRS Team,  
**Dr. Mohammad Nazzal**



## JUST-CRS project: an overview



There is an urgent need for a post-graduate program in rehabilitation sciences in Jordan and the neighboring region, as evidenced by the constant inquiry of students and professionals. Availability of only an undergraduate level of both Physical and Occupational Therapy programs in the region limits the quality of rehabilitation services provided by the rehabilitation community.

The project named "JUST CRS", an Erasmus Plus capacity-building project co-funded by the European Union, is meant to be a successful step towards adding a graduate program to improve the rehabilitation sciences teaching and service quality in Jordan. It aims to establish the first-ever innovative international master's program in Rehabilitation sciences at JUST and will be tailored to both Physical and Occupational Therapists who seek holding a graduate education. The overall goal of this project is to develop a model program that graduates highly employable health-care professionals.

The project will be performed by a multidisciplinary team that has extensive experience of teaching in the field of rehabilitation sciences. This cooperation will provide an exciting opportunity to learn. "JUST CRS" consortium consists of academic members and clinical educators from 6 higher education institutions and one clinical setting. Each member of the consortium will contribute to the project according to their relevant expertise. It consists of 3 higher education institutions from the European Union (EU), including; ESSA in Portugal, Hacettepe University in Turkey and Oxford Brookes University in the UK. The three EU Universities

all have excellent records of academic staff and comprehensive graduate programs in the field of rehabilitation for years. They also have extensive knowledge of Bologna process reforms and will be able to disseminate such knowledge into the "JUST-CRS" project. The local partners are 2 higher education institutions in Jordan which already contain undergraduate rehabilitation programs. These include: University of Jordan and Hashemite University. All of which have a common professional interest and a sincere desire to establish a master's program in rehabilitation sciences in Jordan.

The anticipated program will be two years long covering all theoretical, clinical and research components with an overarching multidisciplinary framework. Two teaching laboratories namely; Neurological rehabilitation laboratory and Oorthopedic Rehabilitation laboratory, will also be established and will have the most up-to date equipment in the field of rehabilitation to offer an optimal learning environment.

The program will also set up an online educational system, a new trend pedagogy, as a distance learning methodology that will accompany traditional classroom experience to encourage independent and collaborative learning. Online modules will be adopted within the master's program and shared with all partners and their affiliated instructors, staff, students and clinicians.

In summary, "JUST CRS" will extend to benefit the community, to build up the academic, clinical and research capacity in Jordan and to produce graduate-level professionals who infuse good research evidence into their clinical practice, allowing them to enter the job market ready and equipped to serve.



# DEAD SEA



# AMMAN







## Launch of the Project

### Kick off Meeting

The Vice President of Jordan University of Science & Technology, Prof. Khaled Al-Salem, has patronized the launching of JUST-CRS project at the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences on January 14 2017. Prof. Al-Salem has welcomed the attendees and debriefed them on JUST's mission and vision, academic programs, achievements and goals to become a distinguished university, regionally and internationally. The meeting was attended by representatives of the participating countries, Britain, Turkey and Portugal, in addition to a number of national institutions; The University of Jordan and the Hashemite University. During the meeting, Prof. Al-Salem stated that Jordan University of Science and Technology looks forward to strengthening research partnership through the Erasmus Plus projects in order to support and encourage the development of global programs that are interdisciplinary in nature, as is the case in this project (physical and occupational therapy). Such projects are encouraged especially as the university enjoys a rich environment and infrastructure required for scientific research through a number of scientific centers, the presence of a distinguished university hospital, active partners within the local community, and the presence of faculty members and staff with qualified expertise, and confirmed the importance of this project as one step closer for JUST towards becoming an internationally recognized institution.

**Project Officer at the National Erasmus Plus office (NEO)**, Dr. Reem Alkhader, on behalf of NEO Director; Prof. Ahmad Abu-El-Haija, shed light on the activities of the office, the quality of t

the projects it supports, the scholarships and projects the office sets forth, and the opportunities and academic exchange programs available to the faculty and students within the Erasmus+ program. Dr. Alkhader praised the quality and outcomes of the projects the Jordan University of Science and Technology has won since the beginning of the Tempus program up to the Erasmus Plus program, she said: "Jordan University of Science and Technology has been participating in Tempus projects since 2002 and continued its success through the years to reach a total of 14 projects in 2013. In 2015 alone JUST has **won 10 projects under Erasmus + program**, with one project as an applicant. In 2016, JUST has won 4 new projects with two projects as an applicant. This is a living evidence on the developing capacity of JUST in projects' management and the remarkable efforts of JUST in contributing to the development of higher education in Jordan through its collaboration with EU institutions."

The Dean of the Faculty of Applied Medical Sciences, Dr. Mohammad Al-Jarrah has confirmed the importance of success in this project due to its benefit towards the university and students both and working to build international partnerships for all the programs of the college with their international counterparts. Dr. Al-Jarrah also confirmed that providing the necessary support and facility for this project to succeed will help achieve the university's goal of becoming a global university.

The coordinator of the project, Dr. Mohammad Nazzal, gave an introductory presentation on the project concerning its aims, work packages, and outcomes. The project aims to build an interdisciplinary clinical masters program in rehabilitation sciences which would ensure a great leap in the quality of offered rehabilitation services and the development of the physical and occupational therapy professions in Jordan and the Arab World.

The next two days were conducted at the Movenpick Hotel in the Dead Sea, where working groups started discussing the practical issue of how to build the curriculum and address Jordan's Rehabilitation needs.



## **The Second International Curriculum Meeting - Ankara, Turkey**



On March 5-7 2018, the second curriculum meeting for the project was held in Ankara-Turkey and was hosted by Hacettepe University. There was a huge effort in between the first meeting in Amman and this meeting to start working on the design of the JUST-CRS curriculum virtually. The aim of this meeting was to finalize the courses structure for the interdisciplinary clinical rehabilitation master's program and to build the course profiles and syllabi. Eight mandatory courses, 2 mandatory clinical courses, 1 thesis course and 15 elective

courses were established and agreed upon. Hacettepe Team conducted two important workshops on Bologna process and the establishment of the European system of the ECTS. The JUST-CRS courses were meant to comply with both the Jordanian regulations and the European standards.

After the meeting, all partners were invited to take a tour of Hacettepe University's facilities. They were welcomed by the vice president of the university and the academic staff of the physical and occupational therapy departments. The partners had a chance to see where the students of this master's program would be training. The tour included the main building of the university, the university teaching hospitals, the vocational rehab center and the physical and occupational therapy departments with their attached laboratories and clinics. The staff also presented an overview of the services provided to the patients through these teaching facilities. As the main outcome of Ankara meeting, and upon return to Jordan, the grant holder (JUST) was able to submit the initial accreditation proposal for the master's program to JUST administration and consequently The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for approval.



## **The Third International Curriculum Meeting - Lisbon, Portugal**

On May 22-24 2018, the third curriculum meeting was held in Lisbon, Portugal and it was hosted by Escola Superior De Saude Do Alcoitao (ESSA) team. The meeting lasted for three days and included a group tour of the ESSA University and its facilities including the Unidade de Cuidados Continuados Integrados Maria José Nogueira Pinto and also the Rehabilitation Center.

The purpose of the meeting was to finalize the program curriculum, train the consortium members in the use of the online system, discuss training placements for both Jordanian students and instructors, and decide what equipment will be needed for the laboratories. In groups of professors who are most likely to teach the courses during the implementation phase of the project, professors were drafting their ideas of how to merge the learning outcomes of the courses, teaching content, evaluation methods and the many online tools available through Moodle system offered by JUST.

By the end of this meeting, the curriculum was mostly finalized, with a general idea of who will be teaching each course among the Jordanian and European consortium members.





## **The Fourth International Curriculum Meeting - Oxford, UK**

On July 12-14 2018, the third and last curriculum meeting was held in Oxford-UK. It was hosted by Oxford Brookes team. The meeting was attended by both Jordanian and European consortium members. The aim was to discuss the content of each work package in detail prior to the anticipated launch of the program in JUST which has been set for the first semester of 2017/2018.







## JUST-CRS Dissemination Activities

### JUST-CRS @ JSOT-Amman

On April 8th 2017, one of the first dissemination activities where the project was first introduced was during the Jordanian Society for Occupational Therapists (JSOT) centennial celebration of the profession of Occupational Therapy. The celebration was held at Al-Hussein Cultural Center in Amman under the patronage of HRH Princess Majida Raed. Attendees included occupational therapy professionals and students, delegates from Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development, delegates from the Royal Medical Services, representatives from a number of rehabilitation centers, and representatives from various medical equipment companies.

Dr. Mohammad Nazzal, the project manager for the JUST-CRS project, presented about the project to a group of occupational therapy professionals and students. Dr. Nazzal introduced the JUST-CRS interdisciplinary clinical rehabilitation master program and provided details regarding the aims of the project, the Jordanian and European partners involved, what has been accomplished so far and the expected outcomes of the project in the future.

Dr. Nazzal also announced that this program will begin the first semester 2017/2018. The announcement was well received among the attendees as it is the first master's program in the field of rehabilitation sciences (occupational and physical therapy) in Jordan and the Arab region.



### JUST-CRS @ JSPT-Amman

22 April 2017

On April 22, 2017, another dissemination activity was held in Amman in the title of "Live your day naturally". The event was a free medical day supervised by physical therapy professors from several Jordanian universities and the Sarcomere Team. The aim of this event was to provide free medical examinations and assistance for a wide variety of conditions from orthopedic to neurologic diseases, pediatric, diabetic and even cardiovascular examinations, as well as to raise awareness of the essential role of physical therapy in the management of these conditions.

The JUST-CRS team also attended this event to promote the exciting new master's program in interdisciplinary clinical rehabilitation starting at Jordan University of Science and Technology September 2017. A representative of the team working to build this program was present to provide information on the program and to answer all questions regarding the courses and clinical training the program will provide.

This event was patronized by Prince Murid Bin Raed who is known to be a great supporter of people with disabilities in Jordan. He praised such event that strives to raise awareness of the difficulties these people face and to aid them.



## JUST-CRS Coordinators



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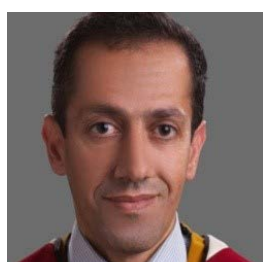
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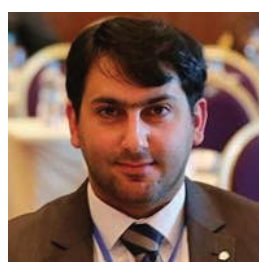
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