

Language Center's Strategic Plan

The Language Center constantly seeks to develop and update the academic programs it offers, the teaching methods that the academic staff members apply and the services provided to the University community and students. Hence, the staff members make periodical reviews of the programs prepared at the Center, in terms of content depth and topic variation. It is worth mentioning that these efficient efforts go in line with the vision of improvement adopted by all other University Departments and Faculties.

❖ Reintroducing and updating Language Center's Courses.

The academic staff members at the Language Center review and reconsider the language used, the skills practiced and the content covered in each course. Instructors also make sure that all courses keep pace with recent updates when it comes to topic selection and teaching methodology.

The University students are granted the opportunity to study the Arabic language as a first language. Moreover, non-Arab students from foreign countries are introduced to the Arabic language efficiently. As a matter of fact, teaching Arabic as a second language is given a particular importance at the Language Center because many students who live outside the Arab region are motivated to learn Arabic for a variety of reasons and purposes. Hence, the Language Center works hand-in-hand with the Arabic Department at the Faculty of Literature and Arts in order

to prepare Arabic programs of different levels and purposes. All in all, students benefit from each course because it addresses their needs, meets their expectations and is commensurate with their individual levels. `

Enriching the Center with efficient academic staff members, whose qualifications and experiences are appropriate for teaching the study courses at the Language Center.

Enhancing the efficiency of the academic staff members at the Language Center, by conducting courses relevant to academic staff members' experience and organizing workshops that enable communication with English-speaking experts.

Inviting specialized, experienced and competent academic staff members and dedicated researchers from various Jordanian universities to take part in an annual symposium. The meeting of all these proficient people would definitely benefit the University's students who study the English language and other languages as requirements for graduation.

Encouraging the academic staff members to conduct theoretical research and field-based investigations related to their fields of specialization. Distinguished and productive instructors are granted titles like: "The Head Instructor" or "The Outstanding Instructor" as a kind of motivation. It is worth mentioning that each research is reviewed and evaluated deliberately and the best research is selected on the basis of its academic value as well as its positive influence on students.

Enhancing the Language Center's communication with the other academic Departments at the University, with the view of exchanging opinion about the best plans and courses offered by the Center so as to benefit students who belong to these Departments.

Increasing outreach to highly-honored educational and cultural institutions concerned with the languages that the Center teaches. Some of these institutions are the British Council, the AmidEast, the French Cultural Center and the Italian Cultural Center. The ultimate aim is to attract competent and even expert instructors, who are native-speakers of these languages.

Enriching the study material of courses taught at the Center with electronic material that would support and add more depth to the content of each course. Consequently, students' communication skills would improve dramatically when they learn different languages offered by the Center.

Introducing electronic courses on the University website, in collaboration with the Deanship of Distant Learning, Ibn-Seena Center and the Computer Center. The University students are enabled to access these e-courses in accordance with the instructions provided at the training of utilization offered at the beginning of the course. The content of electronic courses is prepared by the Language Center's instructors and implemented technically by specialized people who work at the Centers mentioned above.

Equipping the language laboratories with appropriate and sophisticated software that would improve the experience of learning languages remarkably.

❖ Symposiums, Workshops and Course Curricula

Holding seminars that engage a variety of Jordanian universities. The aim is to improve the content of courses presented by the Language Centers at these Universities as well as their general performance.

Conducting a set of workshops to benefit from the experience of one expert or more, invited to train the academic staff members at the Center. It is worth mentioning that some of these workshops might last for one day only. The primary topic revolves around writing comprehensive exams that are inclusive of various language skills. Previous exams written at the Center are also reviewed and evaluated so as to improve the instructors' experience of writing efficient exams.

Conducting a workshop for one day at least with the aim of assessing textbooks used at the Language Center, in terms of content, exercise variation, balanced and convenient access to all communication skills, in addition to being in line with recent updates. Moreover, the workshop provides instructors with sufficient training on preparing supportive material that would be added to the textbooks taught at the Center.

Taking into consideration that the courses and curricula prepared and implemented at the Center must help students improve their oral and writing skills dramatically.

❖ Communication and Interaction with the University Society

The Language Center works on increasing communication with the academic, administrative and students' community at the University, through the following:

Exchanging opinion with the Heads of Departments about what they think is necessary for students, in terms of the language skills they learn at the Language Center. Consultations involve the English and Arabic languages and accentuate the way the two languages would help students master the curricula of their majors.

Conducting language courses for the University students and the administrative staff members, with the purpose of improving their language proficiency. The University employees would benefit from these courses in all possible ways, with special attention given to oral skills that would improve their ability and fluency in spoken English.

❖ Study Plan

✓ English Courses

The Centre seeks to develop the curriculum for English language courses, which are given as a compulsory University requirement. Coordination with College Deans begins when there is a necessity to offer an alternative course of English Skills 2, the one currently called "General Language Skills". The objectives of the alternative course benefit students on the basis of their fields of specialization. For instance, a

“Course of Legal Terminology and Texts” is introduced to students at the Faculty of Law. In this course, each text includes a number of language exercises that help improve students’ English language skills, enrich the acquisition of more English vocabulary and introduce them to a wide range of English legal terminology. Other alternative courses benefit students at other Faculties in the same manner. There might be a version of an English Skills 2 course that addresses the needs of more than one Faculty. For example, one course is designed to serve students at both the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Information Technology. In the light of this vision, which seeks to benefit students in all possible ways, the Language Center offers three levels of English courses, as is explained below:

Remedial English (English 99):

This course is offered to students who don’t pass the English placement test.

English Skills (1):

This course teaches English at the intermediate level. Students learn English grammar and acquire some English skills. It is a compulsory course for all University students.

English Skills (2): This is an English Course for Special Purposes. The objective of this course is to serve Faculty students by introducing certain skills beneficial for them in their fields of specialization.

✓ Arabic Courses:

The Language Center constantly reviews and modifies the Arabic course plans, including the syllabi of Arabic (99), Arabic (101) and Arabic (102). Reading comprehension texts are often updated to keep pace with the current cultural, intellectual, religious, social and political issues. Teaching methods applied help improve the Arabic language skills, besides the intense focus on the quality of content. The following are the three levels of the Arabic language courses:

Remedial Arabic (Arabic 99):

This course is offered to students who don't pass the Arabic placement test.

Arabic Skills (101):

This course enables students to master the basic components and skills of the Arabic language, by reading a variety of Arabic texts.

Arabic Skills (102)

❖ Compliance with Accreditation and Quality Assurance Criteria

The Language Center is completely and continuously committed to quality assurance criteria, through the following:

Reviewing and improving curricula and course plans constantly.

Providing students with a course syllabus at the beginning of the semester, including required material for exams, exam dates, marking of examinations and some drilling exercises.

Providing sufficient numbers of highly-qualified instructors.

Making sure that the proportion between instructors and students is (1: 30). In other words, each instructor shall not have over thirty students in each class, which provides students with the opportunity to practice language communication skills efficiently.

Evaluating the performance of instructors periodically.

Fulfilling the requirements of accreditation and quality assurance constantly.

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