

**Memorandum of Understanding
to Implement the**

EARLY GRADE EDUCATION ACTIVITY (ASAS)

Between

Hashemite University

And

International Research & Exchanges Board

The Board of Trustees of Hashemite University (the "University") established in the Kingdom of Jordan, and the International Research & Exchanges Board ("IREX") enter into this Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") in order to coordinate their efforts to develop, deliver, sustain and market the EARLY GRADE EDUCATION ACTIVITY also known as "Asas" (the "activity") with a commencement date of January 2024.

Each University and IREX are referred to as a Participant and collectively as the Participants.

Hashemite University **Roles and Responsibilities**: With the aim of participating in the activity, the University hereby commits to closely collaborate with IREX, the program implementer on behalf of USAID. The University shall undertake the following:

Collaborating to achieve shared ASAS main goal:

1. Work to launch the already developed Undergraduate Early Childhood Program (UECP) in the academic year 2024-2025.
2. Develop a financial model for the developed Undergraduate Early Childhood Program making sure that the (cost per credit hour) is approved in advance of marketing the program (July 2024) to potential students.
3. Develop the student admission regulations in alignment with the national supply and demand model focusing on quality rather than quantity.

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4. Market the activity across the different media channels including the social platforms provided. (Note that all announcements must be approved in advance by the communication department of "Asas" team.)
5. Appoint dedicated and motivated faculty members to actively engage in the activity.
6. Ensure the attendance of all faculty members and administrators at the professional development sessions assigned by the Asas activity.
7. Participate effectively in the Asas activity's governance including the activity steering committee and sub-groups committees.
8. Support the implementation of the Novice Teachers Readiness assessment, if required.
9. Support the implementation of the faculty members training needs analysis.
10. Participate actively in the Higher Education Improvement Quality Assessment Tool (the "HEIQAT") that will be conducted and facilitated by IREX and implement its recommendations within an agreed time frame.
11. Develop a Performance Improvement Action Plan ("PIAP"), in collaboration with IREX, that the University will take the lead to implement within an agreed time frame.
12. Establish a virtual professional learning community with the support of IREX to ensure that the faculty members and alumni have access to peer support.
13. Enhance the Participation of the faculty/academic staff members in collaborative research projects and any other activities with the US partner University and any other universities for the purpose of exchanging knowledge and being updated on the field of Early Childhood Education.
14. Increase the number of research published in "Scopus" in the field of Early Childhood Education.
15. Develop and update the university policies and regulations and align them with all relevant Pre-Service Teacher Education Project policies and regulations.
16. Update the university policies and regulations, ensuring alignment with In-Service Teacher Education policies. Work closely with the Ministry of Education, the Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education institutions (AQACHEI) or any other relevant national entities
17. Approve the appropriate privileges to support the faculty members participating in the activity that is in line with the University policies regarding promotion.

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18. Set up and carry out all necessary preparations for ("Asas" team) Quality Assurance visits in accordance with the "Quality Assurance Monitoring Process" manual and facilitating the field visits on campus and to the selected schools.
19. Deliver annual reports to ASAS detailing the progress of implementation of the undergraduate Early Childhood Program in accordance with the activity work plan.
20. Cooperate with "Asas" university coordinators and facilitating their work.
21. Provide the "Asas" team with office space connected to the internet at Queen Rania Faculty for Childhood, where the staff can operate daily (if required).
22. Provide the Asas team with an account to access the university E-library.

ASAS Roles and responsibilities: To implement the activity at the selected universities across Jordan. Provide support to the University dependent on the University's commitment to its roles and responsibilities within this MOU.

Support from ASAS will entail the following activities:

- 1- Undertake Higher Education Improvement Quality Assessment Tool (the "HEIQAT") with the University to co-develop a Performance Improvement Action Plan ("PIAP") that the University will take the lead on implementing within an agreed time frame.
- 2- Ensure the procurement of a material resource agreement based on the HEIQAT and with no cost to the University.
- 3- Provide technical assistance to the University to strengthen its partnership with the Ministry of Education and the schools selected for the practicum component (The ones where students of Undergraduate Early Childhood Program will gain their practical experience)
- 4- Support the University in strengthening the quality assurance standards for the admission process of applicants (students).
- 5- Orient and build the capacity of faculty members and administrators to implement the activity through online and on-site workshops in partnership with the US HEI and the activity local partner.
- 6- Ensure the direct provision of staff training, curriculum development, knowledge transfer and technical assistance to the University.



7- Provide technical and financial support to the University to apply for the international accreditation for the Program, if required.

8- Provide technical and financial assistance for the media marketing and campaigns starting from the first cohort enrolled in (2024/2025) and up to 2028.

Joint Roles and Responsibilities: The Participants intend to work together to implement the activity. **Specially,**

1- Collaborating to ensure that the developed undergraduate program is acknowledged by the Ministry of Education, approved by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and accredited from the Accreditation & Quality Assurance Commission for Higher Education 'institutions (AQACHEI) (if required) in advance of student recruitment, which is expected to commence August 2024.

2- Collaborating to market the activity across multiple media channels and making sure that the promotional activities support students' recruitment.

3- Ensuring that any ASAS related social media content has been approved by both participants.

Points of Contact

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General Provisions

23. **Term:** This MOU shall be effective as of January 2024 (the "Effective Date") and shall continue for a period of four (4) years from the Effective Date. Either Participant may cease participation in this MOU at any time but shall endeavor to provide at least six (6) months advance notice.

24. **Amendments:** This MOU may be amended or renewed by a written agreement signed of both Participants

25. **Effect of this MOU:** This MOU is not a treaty and is not intended to give rise to rights or obligations under international law. The Participants enter into this MOU but intend to maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities. Unless specifically provided otherwise, the cooperation among the Participants as outlined in this MOU shall not be

construed as a partnership or other type of legal entity or personality. Each Participant shall accept full and sole responsibility for all expenses incurred by itself relating to this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with any agreements or contracts entered among the Participants, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as an exclusive working relationship. The Participants specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by any Participant or create any rights in any third party.

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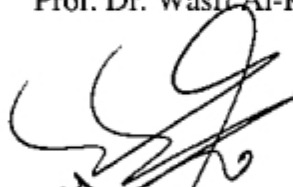
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Participants affirm the intentions stated in this MOU,

On behalf of Hashemite University

IREX

Prof. Dr. Wasfi Al-Rawabdeh

Cameron Mirza



2024
3/25

