



“Build myself in order to build the community”



I am Bassam Adnan Hashim, from Iraq, Baghdad. I was born in 1984 and I have two brothers and three sisters. My father passed away in 2008 because of the situations in Iraq.

About coming to Amman, the decision was made by my parents in 1999 when they decided to leave south Iraq because

of the compulsory military where they involve even children in war by recruiting them to militias. My family took that decision to keep my childhood safe.

Life in Amman of course is too difficult. I was here when I was a teenager, I faced a lot of difficulties like culture shock, home sickness and also the problem of separation of my family. Life here is too expensive and I try to manage by starting to work at 16 years old. I was not sure about my future, it seemed dark.

Then I heard about Jesuit Worldwide Learning: Higher Education at the Margins (JWL, former JC:HEM) from my friend and of their online diploma program which he encouraged me to apply. When I applied I was not sure if I might be selected or not, but at last I applied and I was afraid for a while because the refugee learning service is weak in general, but the JWL service is perfect. I felt great when they called me that I had passed and I was the third among eighty persons. I am proud because I didn't think I could finish the program because of my life, financial issues and my general needs.

My real idea about JWL it is that it is an inspiring experience of which I recommend everybody to be involved with the JWL activities. I felt like a global citizen because the huge information I received during my diploma study.

The start of course we get some things that changes our mind, our way of thinking, to be better person. I gained the appropriate skills like communication and also accepting others regardless to their race, gender, religion and ethnicity.

It is a life changing experience being a part of this program. As a person, I really wish – because without

this kind of education, especially for such people, who come from destroyed countries this will rebuild their lives. It is our way to survive. Without education, this situation will continue – it will get worse and worse and worse. This is honestly my idea about JWL. If others help people like JWL programs, make JWL, or students of JWL grow bigger, study more, they will diminish the gap between the west through to the middle east and will also improve the way of thinking, the way people think here. Because no matter, even if we travel, we will have an influence for our surroundings, our families, connections and friends.



Bassam Hashim on Graduation Day, pictured on right.

I'm different now because of the huge knowledge I received. I have a clearer view about my goals and what matters in life. So I have to thank JWL for the positive change in my character.

Continuing my higher education is one of my goals, but now I am even more determined to continue to the next step to get a bachelor degree if it is possible. I now have a job as a Managerial Editor in a news organization that focuses on Syrian refugees. They only train Syrian candidates to be a journalist with international standards but I got this job by the help of the JWL people and they took my C.V. and sent it to many directions. At last I got this chance, the organization is called Syria Direct.

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