

Law No. (20) of 2009 and its Amendments
Jordanian Universities Law

Article 1

This law shall be titled “*Jordanian Universities Law of 2009 and its Amendments*” and shall become effective as of its date of publication in the official gazette.

Article 2

Unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms and expressions, wherever mentioned herein, shall have the hereinunder designated meanings:

University	: Public or private higher-education institution offering university degrees.
Council	: Council of Higher Education
Board of trustees	: The university’s board of trustees appointed under this law.
President	: University’s president.
Dean	: The dean of a faculty or institute, or the dean of university activities.
Owner	: Any company or association owns a private university and is registered according to the regulations in force.
Board	: The board of directors or administrative board of the company owning the private university.

Article 3

A public university has a legal personality and is financially and administratively independent. As such, it may own movables and immovables and carry out all legal transactions, including: concluding contracts, borrowing through the Cabinet's approval and accepting aids, donations, grants and wills. Furthermore, it has the right of litigation, carrying out all legal and judicial procedures, and appointing on its behalf a civil prosecuting attorney or any other attorney appointed for this purpose.

Article 4

- A- Based on an application by the owner, a private university is established through a decision by the Council and in accordance with the conditions and guarantees prescribed by the relevant regulation, provided that the Council shall make its decision regarding such application within a maximum period of four months as of its submission date.
- B- Subject to paragraph (C) of this article, a private university has a legal personality and is financially and administratively independent. As such, it may carry out all legal transactions, including: concluding contracts and accepting aids, donations, grants and wills, and has the right of litigation.
- C- The Board may own movable and immovable property, and has the right of borrowing.
- D- The relationship between the Board and the university is governed by a regulation issued for this purpose.

Article 5

The provisions herein are applicable to any university established before or after such provisions have come into effect. No provision in any public university's law shall be effective if it contradicts the provisions stated herein.

Article 6

A- A university is an independent academic institution endeavors to achieve the objectives of higher education and scientific research. In order to achieve such objectives in accordance with the higher education policy, it may carry out the following:

- 1- Designing its study and research programs, curricula and plans.
- 2- Holding exams.
- 3- Granting scientific and honorary degrees and certificates.

B- 1- A public university shall establish a manpower structure of all positions it needs in its scientific, art, administrative and other organs, and shall appoint applicants pursuant to the regulations in force.

2- A private university has its own organizational, administrative, technical and financial structure directly subordinated to the president.

Article 7

A- By a decision by the board of trustees based on a recommendation by the university council, the university may establish learning, training, consulting and services offices or any other private programs. Moreover, it may establish applied schools inside or outside its premises.

- B- 1- The university may open branches, centers and offices inside and outside the Kingdom by a decision from the Council based on a recommendation from the board of trustees.
- 2- A university branch inside the Kingdom is administratively and academically independent unit, in order to apply the public and private accreditation standards.
- 3- A public university branch inside the Kingdom is administratively and academically independent unit for the purposes of budget and final financial statements.
- 4- The branch president is the only person who may represent the branch in the university council and in the board of trustees.

Article 8

- A- Each university shall have a “board of trustees” consisting of a president and twelve/fourteen members for the public and private universities respectively, who must at least hold a first-level university degree.
- B- Subject to paragraph (B) of article (9) and (10) herein, the president and the members of the board of trustees are appointed for a one-time renewable term of four years.
- C- The board of trustees shall nominate a member as a deputy president who shall assume the president’s duties when absent.
- D- If the post of the president or any member of the board of trustees becomes vacant due to any reason, a substitute shall be appointed for the remaining period and in the same way the previous holder of the vacant post was appointed.

- E- The university president is not allowed to be the president of the board of trustees; as well as, the member of the university's teaching staff is not allowed to be a member of its board of trustees.
- F- The board of trustees shall establish from its members an academic, administrative, financial and any other permanent committee it deems necessary to study issues it is entrusted with by the board of trustees and according to each committee's specialization.
- G- The board of trustees shall hold its meetings at least once a month and whenever it is necessary to do this. The university shall designate a suitable place in the campus for the board of trustees and its administrative organ to carry out their tasks and to hold their meetings.
- H- The board of trustees shall issue the instructions necessary for organizing its meetings and tasks.

Article 9

- A- The board of trustees of the public university consists of the following:
 - 1- President of the board of trustees.
 - 2- Four academic members holding a degree of professorship from another university.
 - 3- Three members from the industry and trade sector.
 - 4- Four expert members.
 - 5- University's president.

B- The president and members of the board of trustees of a public university are appointed and discharged by a royal decree according to the Prime Minister's recommendation.

Article 10

A- The board of trustees of the private university consists of the following:

- 1- President of the board of trustees recommended by the Board.
- 2- Five academic members holding a degree of professorship from another university to be chosen by the Council.
- 3- Three members from industry and trade sector recommended by the Board.
- 4- Two expert members recommended by the Board.
- 5- Three members recommended by the Board from among its members.
- 6- The university president.

B- The president and members of the board of trustees of a private university are appointed, their resignation accepted, and discharged by the Council's decision.

Article 11

The board of trustees assumes the following tasks and powers:

- A- Designing university's general policy.
- B- Approving university's annual strategic plan according to the university council's recommendation, and following up its implementation and evaluation.

- C- Evaluating the university's performance regarding the academic, administrative, financial and infrastructure aspects.
- D- Appointing deputy presidents, branch presidents and deans.
- E- Recommending the council to establish university's faculties, departments and scientific centers inside the Kingdom.
- F- Recommending the council to establish, integrate or cancel academic programs and majors.
- G- Determining university's fees in all majors through a recommendation by the university council.
- H- 1- Approving university's annual, final budget after approving it by the university council, and submitting it together with the auditor's report to the council for approval.
2- Discussing university's annual report after approving it by the university council and submitting it to the Council for examination.
- I- Endeavoring to support university's financial resources and organizing its investments.
- J- Accepting grants, donations, wills and other.
- K- Recommending the Council to approve scientific, technological and cultural cooperation agreements with other universities abroad, provided that the scientific programs and majors resulting therefrom shall acquire special approval, meet the terms and conditions and comply with the Council's rules regarding agreements that lead to acquire scientific degrees.
- L- Submitting draft regulations to the Council to duly approve and implement them.

- M-Appointing an external auditor to audit university's accounts and determining his/her fees by a recommendation from the university council.
- N- Carrying out any other matters submitted by the president of the board of trustees which neither come under the jurisdiction of an authority mentioned herein nor the regulations effective in the university.

Article 12

- A- Each university shall have a full-time president appointed for a one-time renewable term of four years, provided that he/she is a Jordanian national and had held a post of a professor.
- B- The president of a public university is appointed by a royal decree based on the Council's recommendation.
- C- The president of a private university is appointed by the Council's decision based on the recommendation of the board of trustees, provided that he/she is not a partner, shareholder or member in a company or a member of the Board. His/her salary, rights and privileges are determined by the board of trustees based on the Board's recommendation and according to a special contract with the university signed by the president of the board of trustee on behalf of the university.
- D- The president's term shall be terminated in the following cases:
- 1- At the end of his/her term or by a resignation accepted by the council.
 - 2- If discharged by a Council's decision (if a public university) or by a recommendation from the board of trustees (if a private university).

- E- Despite what is mentioned in paragraph (D) herein, the president continues to hold the office of a full-fledged professor in the university, unless he/she has notified the university of his/her unwillingness to continue.
- F- When recommending discharging the president of a private university, the board of trustees shall submit the justifications therewith.

Article 13

- A- The president is accountable to the board of trustees regarding the management of university's affairs. Moreover, he/she is the paymaster and exercises the following powers:
- 1- Representing the university before all official and judicial authorities, bodies and individuals, and signing contracts on its behalf without any prejudice to the Higher Education and Scientific Research Law in force.
 - 2- Managing the university's scientific, financial and administrative affairs according to the provisions herein and according to the regulations, instructions and decisions issued by its virtue.
 - 3- Inviting the university council and the council of deans to meet, presiding over their meetings and supervising and implementing decisions issued by them.
 - 4- Submitting university's annual work-plan in order to study and submit it to the board of trustees.
 - 5- Preparing and submitting the university's draft annual budget according to the model adopted by the Council.

- 6- Submitting to the university council quarterly and annual reports about the university's performance, showing therein performance indicators in the fields of higher education, scientific research, community service and others. Moreover, he/she shall make suggestions deemed appropriate for the university's development, provided that the university council shall discuss and submit them to the board of trustees.
 - 7- Suspending the study wholly or partially in cases he/she deems appropriate to do this. However, if the suspension period exceeds one week, the president shall submit the matter to the university council to give the appropriate recommendation and then submit it to the board of trustees to take the proper decision.
 - 8- Recommending the board of trustees to appoint deputy presidents, branch presidents and deans of the university.
 - 9- Any other powers he/she is entitled with according the rules and regulations effective in the university or any other tasks he/she is entrusted with by the board of trustees.
- B- The president may delegate any of his/her powers to his/her deputies, deans and directors in the university according to their fields of specialization, provided that this delegation must be in writing, specific and temporary.
- C- If absent, the president shall select one of his/her deputies to carry out his/her duties and powers. Moreover, if the president post is vacant, the president of the board of trustees shall delegate one of the president's deputies to carry out his/her duties and exercise his/her powers until a new president is appointed.

Article 14

- A- Based on the president's recommendation, the deputy presidents are appointed by the board of trustees for a one-time renewable term of three years. A deputy president's term ends when the term expires, or by accepting his/her resignation or after being discharged in the same manner.
- B- Subject to any other law of the public universities, the university's deputy president shall be a Jordanian national and had held a post of a professor.
- C- In accordance with the president's recommendation, the board of trustees shall nominate one of the deputy presidents as a president of the university's branch.
- D- A decision shall be issued by the president in which he/she determines the tasks and powers of his/her deputies and of the branches presidents.

Article 15

- A- Each university shall have a "university council" presided by the president and consists of the following members:
 - 1- Deputy Presidents.
 - 2- Deans.
 - 3- A member of the teaching staff nominated by the teaching staff of each faculty at the beginning of each university year.
 - 4- Three directors of the academic, technical and administrative departments in the university.
 - 5- Two members of the local community.

6- One of the university's students.

7- One of the university's graduates.

B- The council members mentioned in articles (4), (5), (6) and (7) of paragraph (A) of this article are appointed by the president for one year.

Article 16

The university council assumes the following tasks and powers:

A- Promoting the level of services provided by the university in the fields of education, scientific research, training and public service.

B- Examining the annual plan of the university's developmental projects prepared by the president and submitting it to the board of trustees for judgment. In case of a private university, the examination will be submitted to the Board for approval and then to the board of trustees.

C- Recommending the board of trustee concerning university fees received from the students in order to reach a decision about it.

D- Examining university's draft rules and regulations in order to complete their necessary procedures.

E- Approving the university's draft annual budget and its final financial statements in order to submit them to the board of trustees.

F- Approving university's reports of performance, activities and accomplishments in order to submit them to the board of trustees.

G- Examining any other matters presented by the president in relation to the university

Article 17

A- Each university shall have a “council of deans” presided by the president and consists of the following members:

- 1- Deputy Presidents.
- 2- Deans of faculties, institutes and university activities.

B- The council of deans assume the following tasks and powers:

- 1- Recommending the board of trustees to establish scientific faculties, institutes, departments and centers inside the Kingdom.
- 2- Recommending the board of trustees to establish, integrate and cancel academic programs and majors.
- 3- Appointing, promoting, transferring, delegating and seconding the teaching staff, and granting them leaves (including scientific dedication leaves and unpaid leaves), accepting their resignation and transferring them to other faculties.
- 4- Evaluating the members of the teaching staff regarding their academic activities, teaching methods and scientific researches, and making the appropriate decisions concerning the above mentioned.
- 5- Delegating the members of the teaching staff, full-time lecturers, research or teaching assistants, technicians working in the academic field in the university or persons who worked with the university in scientific delegations and missions and training courses pursuant to the Delegation Act effective in the university.
- 6- Examining, discussing and issuing decisions concerning the draft study-plans submitted by the councils of faculties, institutes and centers.

- 7- Evaluating the academic performance and scientific achievement level in the university.
- 8- Granting scientific and honorary degrees and certificates.
- 9- Establishing the professorate.
- 10- Advising the council regarding the annual number of students to be admitted in the various programs and majors in the university.
- 11- Establishing the rules necessary to implement regulations related to the academic work in the university.
- 12- Examining any matter related to the academic work presented by the president. This is not within the jurisdiction of any other body according to the legislations in force.

Article 18

- A- Based on the president's recommendation, the faculty dean is appointed by the board of trustees for a one-time renewable term of two years, provided that he/she had previously held a post of a professor. His/her term ends when the term expires, or by accepting his/her resignation or after being discharged in the same manner.

- B- The faculty dean is responsible for managing academic, administrative, financial and scientific matters in the faculty. Furthermore, he/she implements the decisions of the faculty, university and councils of deans, and submits a report to the president at the end of each academic year – or upon the president's request – about the faculty's performance and activities.

- C- By a recommendation of the president and in special cases, the board of trustees may appoint a member of the teaching staff as a chargé d'affaires of the faculty dean. His/her term ends when the term expires, or by accepting his/her resignation or appointing a substitute.
- D- By the dean's recommendation, the president may appoint a professor as a deputy dean for a one-time renewable term of one year. The deputy shall carry out the duties and tasks and exercise powers entrusted with by the dean. However, and after the board of trustees' approval, a member of the teaching staff who had not held a post of a professor may be appointed as a deputy dean when necessary.
- E- 1- When absent, the dean shall select one of his deputies to carry out his/her duties and exercise his/her powers.
- 2- If the post of the dean becomes vacant, the president shall entrust a deputy dean to carry out the duties and exercise the powers of the dean until a new faculty dean is appointed pursuant to paragraph (A) of this article.
- 3- Should there be no deputy available, the president shall entrust a member of the teaching staff to carry out and exercise the powers of the dean until a new faculty dean is appointed pursuant to paragraph (A) of this article.

Article 19

Deans other than the faculties' deans may be appointed to supervise the institutes or any university activity. For this end, they shall carry out the designated duties in accordance with the rules and regulations effective in

the university, and they shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of article (18) herein.

Article 20

A- Each faculty shall have a “faculty council” presided by the president and consists of the following members:

- 1- Deputy deans.
- 2- Heads of the academic departments in the faculty.
- 3- A representative of each academic department in the faculty nominated by the members of the department’s teaching staff at the beginning of each study year.
- 4- Two experts from outside the university nominated by the president after consulting the dean, and who shall serve for a one-time renewable term of one year.

B- Each new faculty shall have a temporary council established by the council of deans based on the president’s recommendation consisting of a president and three members at least. It shall exercise the powers of the faculty’s dean, council and department councils until a new dean, council and department councils are appointed.

C- The faculty council assumes the following duties and powers:

- 1- Proposing the faculty’s study plan and the conditions of granting scientific degrees and certificates.
- 2- Approving the curricula proposed by department councils.

- 3- Coordinating with the deanery of higher studies to appoint the supervisors of scientific treatises and establishing thesis-proposal defense committees.
- 4- Organizing and supervising faculty's exams, and discussing and certifying their results incoming from the competent departments.
- 5- Advising the council of deans to grant scientific degrees and certificates.
- 6- Supervising and promoting scientific research in the faculty in coordination with the deanery of scientific research.
- 7- Making recommendations about the faculty's teaching staff concerning their appointment, promotion, transference, delegation, seconding, study leaves, resignation and other university matters in accordance with the regulations in force.
- 8- Preparing faculty's draft annual budget.
- 9- Deciding the matters entrusted with by the faculty's dean.

Article 21

- A- Each faculty department shall have a council consisting of a president and all members of the teaching staff.
- B- The department council assumes the following duties and powers:
 - 1- Submitting proposals to the faculty council about the department's study-plans.
 - 2- Proposing the department's curricula.
 - 3- Promoting scientific research activities in the department, examining scientific research projects and submitting the necessary recommendations for the purposes of support, publication or participation in scientific conferences and seminars.

- 4- Proposing the distribution of classes and lectures.
 - 5- Examining the applications of appointment, promotion, transference, seconding, delegation, leaves and resignation and recommending them according to the effective legislations. However, no member of the teaching staff shall participate in any of the above-mentioned unless he/she has a similar or higher rank.
 - 6- Preparing department's draft annual report.
 - 7- Proposing any subject lies in the interest of the department, faculty or university.
 - 8- Examining any matter it is entrusted with by the dean or presented by the department president.
- C- The head of department is responsible for a smooth educational process in his/her department without any prejudice to the legislations in force.
- D- By the president's decision based on the dean's recommendation, a department professor shall be appointed as the head of this department for a one-time renewable term of one year. However, and in special cases evaluated by the president based on the dean's recommendation, a member of the teaching staff may be appointed as an acting president. Moreover, if the department president is absent or his/her post is vacant, the dean may entrust a member to carry out his/her duties until he/she returns back or a new president is appointed according the provisions herein.

Article 22

Notwithstanding the provisions of any other legislation, the members of the teaching staff in public universities are allowed to combine the fees they receive from their universities with their civil pensions.

Article 23

The member of the teaching staff is a:

- A- Professor.
- B- Associate professor.
- C- Assistant professor.
- D- Professor.
- E- Lecturer.
- F- Assistant lecturer.
- G- Practicing professor.

Article 24

A- A public university has its own independent budget prepared by the president, approved by the university council, endorsed by the board of trustees and ratified by the council.

B- 1- A private university has its own independent budget prepared by the president, discussed by the university council, endorsed by the board, confirmed by the board of trustees and ratified by the council.

2- A private university shall open a private account – independent of that of the owner – in a bank inside the Kingdom. All university's allocations shall be deposited in this account according to the budget, and withdrawal therefrom shall be approved by the president.

C- The university branch has an independent budget prepared by the branch president, approved by the university council, endorsed by the board of trustees and ratified by the council.

Article 25

A- The financial resources of a university include the following:

- 1- Study fees.
- 2- Revenues from its movable and immovable properties.
- 3- Incomes from the educational, advisory and research activities of the faculties, institutes and centers, and from any productive projects and university facilities.
- 4- Grants, donations and wills after the approval of the Cabinet if from a non-Jordanian source.
- 5- Any other incomes.

B- Allocations from the State's general budget are additional resources for the public university.

C- 1- The university shall have an internal monitoring and audit unit; its director is appointed by the board of trustees based on the president's recommendation.

2- The unit is directly accountable to the board of trustees, and supervises administrative and financial matters in the university and submits monthly and semiannual reports to the board of trustees.

D- Each university shall have an external legal auditor who audits university's accounts, provided that the president of the board of trustees shall send a copy of the auditor's report to the council.

Article 26

- A- The university shall allocate (3%) of its annual budget for scientific research, publication and scientific conferences. Moreover, it shall allocate (2%) for delegations aiming to acquire master degrees and doctorates in order to develop the academic cadres according the regulations effective in the university.
- B- The surplus of the percentages mentioned in paragraph (A) of this article shall be transferred to the Scientific Research Fund if they are not spent within three years of their date of allocation for the above-mentioned purposes.

Article 27

- A- The funds of a public university are public funds and are collected according to the effective public funds collection law. For this end, the president exercises the powers of the governor and the public funds collection committee stated in the above-mentioned law.
- B- The public university enjoys all exemptions and facilities enjoyed by ministries and official authorities.

Article 28

Notwithstanding any provisions of other legislation, a public university shall carry out all tasks and public services and provide necessary means and facilities required to achieve its goals and objectives mentioned herein. Moreover, it shall make all necessary arrangements to protect its assets and properties by erecting the necessary buildings and installations according to the planning and designs it deems appropriate.

Article 29

Notwithstanding any provision in the Companies Law or in any other legislation,

- A- the board is directly responsible for capitalist construction projects, buildings, private university's facilities and securing its financial resources according to the plan accredited by the board of trustees.
- B- the Board shall not intervene in the management of the private university's affairs and organs in any way.
- C- the university shall manage accounts and financial records that organize its tasks according to the customary accounting norms. The final accounts and reports are subject to auditing by a legal auditor appointed by the Board.

Article 30

- A- Each council mentioned herein holds meetings by an invitation from its president or one of his/her deputies in case he/she is absent.
- B- The president of the university may invite any of its councils to meet – with the exception of the board of trustees.
- C- At least one half of the members of any council may submit a request to its president to meet; in such case, the council president shall invite the members to meet within fifteen days as of the date of his/her reception of such request.
- D-

Article 31

The quorum of any council mentioned herein is met by the presence of the great majority of its members, and the decisions shall be made by at least the majority of the votes of its present members.

Article 32

The decisions made by any council may be challenged and submitted to a higher-ranking council, whose decision shall be deemed final.

Article 33

A public university may establish funds for housing, saving, investment, donations, students and other funds related to the teaching staff and workers. Each fund (except donation and student funds) has a legal personality, whose regulations, purposes, management, membership, subscription, fees, liquidation and other relevant matters are subject to regulations issued therefor.

Article 34

The provisions of this law and any other legislation related to higher education are applicable to any non-Jordanian institution or any of its branches which offers higher education in the Kingdom regardless of its legal status.

Article 35

The board of trustees of a private university may prepare draft by-laws and submit it to the council for approval, provided that it shall adopt the teaching staff law effective in public universities.

Article 36

The Cabinet shall issue the regulations necessary for the implementation of this law, including the following regulations related to public universities:

- A- Appointing, promoting, transferring, delegating, and seconding the members of the teaching staff, lecturers, research and teaching assistants, secondees, pensioners, employees and all workers in the university, and granting them leaves (including the scientific dedication leaves and the unpaid leaves), accepting their resignation, discharging them and determining their work and financial rights and duties and all other matters related to their university work.
- B- Transference, travel and health insurance.
- C- Financial matters, supplies and public works.
- D- Granting degrees and certificates and determining their conditions, rules and procedures.
- E- Scientific delegations, including their costs and conditions.
- F- Matters related to scientific research.

Article 37

University council shall issue the instructions related to the clubs of the teaching staff, workers, and students, student dormitories and any other matters related to the students' social and cultural activities.

Article 38

The following laws shall be abolished: [Jordanian Universities Law no. (29) of 1987], [Temporary Public Jordanian Universities Law no. (42) of 2001 and its Amendments] and [Private Jordanian Universities Law no. (26) of 2007].

Article 39

The rules and regulations effective in any university shall remain effective when this Law is issued until they are amended, abolished or replaced according to the provisions herein.

Article 40

The Prime Minister and the ministers are entrusted with the implementation of the provisions of this law.