



# STUDENT GUIDE



**Ali Baba**  
INTERNATIONAL CENTER

# Welcome to the Ali Baba International Center Amman - Jordan

Welcoming you at the Ali Baba International Center in Amman, the capital city of Jordan, is what we are looking for. It is our pleasure to provide you with the most important information regarding your stay in Amman. That we kindly ask you to carefully read this guide .



## Locations and Coordinates

### Address

Khalifa Plaza ( 1st and 4th floors)  
opposite the University of Jordan  
Queen Rania Al-Abdullah Street  
P. O. Box 1928 Amman 11941 Jordan.

**Website :** [www.alibaba.jo](http://www.alibaba.jo)

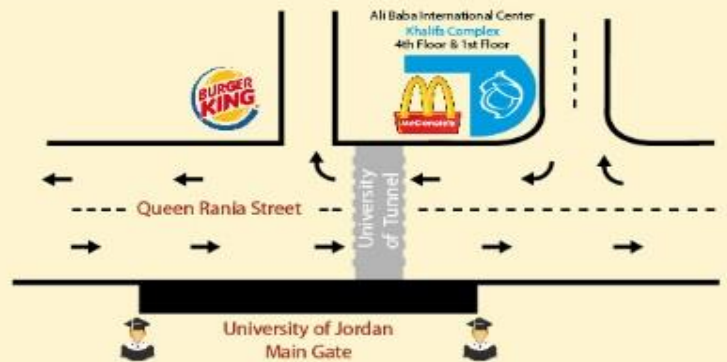
**Email Address :** [info@alibaba.jo](mailto:info@alibaba.jo)

**Telephone :** + 962 6 5 3 4 1 3 0 0

### Emergency Contact :

Mr. Fadi Abu Hamdeh Mobile : +962 79 641 2333

**Police 911**



## Transfer from Queen Alia International Airport

At the Ali Baba International Center, your convenience is what we care about, and so you may freely choose the way you would prefer to arrive from the airport.

### 1. Pickup service provided by the center

If you had already requested the center to provide you with an airport transfer from Queen Alia International airport, our driver **Ashraf Abu Khadra** will be there waiting for you. To guarantee that your pick up will go easily, kindly take the following into consideration:

- Providing us with your exact flight details is a necessity, which should be at least a week ahead of your arrival. These details can be sent to the following **e-mail: [info@alibaba.jo](mailto:info@alibaba.jo)**.





- Our driver **Mr. Ashraf Abu Khadra** will be holding a sign with your name written on it. You will find him as you exit the custom's hall of the airport.

- Please call **Mr. Ashraf Abu Khadra** to notify him in case of a delay of your flight is highly appreciated. Please note that Mr. Ashraf 's mobile number is; **(+962 78 618 1823)**.

- If you were unable to reach the driver, please call **Mr. Fadi Abu Hamdeh**, the director of the center at **(+962 79 641 2333)**.



### Airport Taxi

You can easily get a taxi from the airport to your accommodation, which approximately costs **(25) to (35) JDs**. Make sure that you have the correct address.

### Airport Bus

Another available option is that you can take the bus t'Northern Bus Station', and from there you can get a taxi to your accommodation.



## First Day at the Center

On your first day at the center, which will be a Sunday, we at the Ali Baba International Center expect you to arrive at 9.00 am. Our center is open from 8.00, and so you are welcome even at an earlier time. During this day there will be; a placement test, breakfast, and an orientation. You will start your course on the next day, Monday.







### The Placement Test

Doing the placement test is important to evaluate your level in Arabic Language in order to place you in the appropriate class. Should the level be too easy or too difficult for your level, we kindly ask you to inform your teacher, so actions needed will be applied.

### Breakfast and Orientation

Once you arrive Amman, you are a member of the Ali Baba International Center family, and so we would like to get the chance to strengthen this relation through spending time sharing breakfast and introducing you to our place, rules and regulations.



### Course and Learning Materials

Once you finish the placement test, and get your grade, our Arabic department supervisor will specify the level you should be enrolled in. And so you will be informed about the book you will need, which is basically one part from the Al-Asas curriculum series, and which is available at our bookshop along with other learning materials that you as a student may need. Our staff is always responsible to provide you with the material needed to fulfil your language learning needs.

### Daily Schedule

are offered five days a week (Sunday through Thursday), four hours per day. The time of the course can be either from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm or from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm. This course is usually in Standard Arabic (Fus'ha), unless the group requests a supplement in Colloquial Arabic (Ammiah).

### Certificate of Completion

Upon the successful completion of the course, you will receive official transcripts indicating the content of the course studied so you can claim credit at your university. You have to insure that such credits are possible through your home universities.

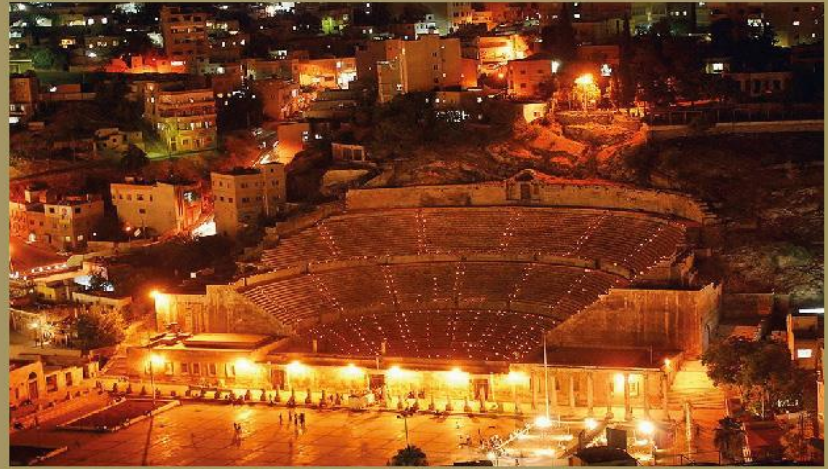




## Extra-curricular and Leisure Time

### A round trip in the down town

A round trip in the down town will be arranged, where you will be introduced to the famous places in the capital city of Jordan, such as the; the Citadel, the restored Roman Theatre, the Roman Forum, the Nymphaeum, The Grand Hussein Mosque.



### Trips around Jordan

Trips around Jordan: Following the belief that a language isn't only words and grammar but also a culture and a history, we arrange different trips around Jordan, one of them is a monthly trip to Petra during the weekend, where transportation and breakfast are free, but you will be asked to pay 50 JDs as an entrance fee to Petra. We can also help the students arranging other trips around Jordan, as there are many incredibly amazing places in Jordan which worth to be visited. Some of these places are; Jerash, Ajloun, Karak, Ma'daba, Wadi- Rum, and the Dead Sea.

Amongst many others. For more information about such places you may visit: [www.visitjordan.com](http://www.visitjordan.com)



### Language Partner

Whether you live in a homestay or not, the idea that you live in an Arabic speaking country, gives you the opportunity to practice your Arabic Language in each possible moment. At the Ali Baba International center we do advise you to watch, listen, read and speak Arabic as much as possible, and for that we have designed the Language partner program, which is free of charge, in order to help you with improving your Language proficiency.





## Useful Tips

### 1. Valid Visa

Multiple-entry Visas are usually obtained from Jordanian consulates around the world and are valid for 3-4 months from the date of issue. However, you can always get a one month tourist residence visa upon your arrival at Queen Alia International Airport (QAIA). This 1-month visa would be enough for the duration of the summer program, although it can be easily be extended for two more months. After that date you must exit and re-enter the country, or undergo immigration procedures. If your visa has not been renewed properly by the time you leave Jordan you will have to pay a fine at the border. If you plan to stay for more than two weeks in Jordan, you will need to register at the nearest police station. Should you need any further help, you are welcome to ask for it.

### 2. Comprehensive Travel Insurance

Students are advised be fully covered with comprehensive international travel insurance before they travel to Jordan. Travel insurance should include: health insurance, accident insurance, baggage insurance, and travel cancellation insurance. Therefore, students are responsible for checking with their insurance provider to see if their coverage is adequate for overseas travel. If not, students are responsible for getting travel insurance for the duration of their stay in Jordan.



### 3. Appropriate Clothes

#### a. Summer Times:

Summer in Jordan is dry and warm. However, the low humidity makes dryness comfortable and endurable. The temperatures range between 26-33c. Therefore we recommend that you bring with you the appropriate summer clothes. In general, any casual clothing is appropriate for summer wear, however, our recommended clothes for women would be a long dress, pants or jeans, with a blouse or shirt that extends to the elbows. Clothes that shows off the waist, cleavage, or the back is not appropriate. For men, appropriate attire consists of pants or jeans, and a shirt extending to the elbows.

#### b. Winter Times:

Winter, from October through February, can be cold, particularly in Amman, with snow, rain and wind, but there is little rainfall in the desert regions and in Aqaba, which makes a pleasant wintertime resort. About 75 percent of the country can be described as having a desert climate with very little annual rainfall.





#### 4. Supermarkets and Restaurants

Vegetables and fruits are excellent and in a reasonable prices. You can easily find usual products in supermarkets. On the other hand, you may easily find fast food restaurants all around the country, such as; Macdonalds, Burger King, KFC... etc. For more information about cafés and restaurants, you may visit the link below;  
[www.jeeran.com](http://www.jeeran.com)



#### 5. Extra Expenses Budget

Students should budget for any additional traveling they anticipate during their stay. They should also budget for the items and activities which are NOT included in the programs fees. Students may bring money with them in US dollars or Euros and exchange them to Jordan Dinar in Amman, or they may as well choose to use Visa and American Express cards which are widely used in Jordan, and in the greater Amman in particular. Hotels of three stars or above will also change money but at a less favorable rate. An internet-based money conversion site is [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

#### 6. Currency in Jordan

The currency used in Jordan is called “Dinar”, **1 Jordanian Dinar equals 0.71 US Dollar**. A Jordanian Dinar equals 100 piasters. The available currency notes are: 5 piasters, 10 piasters, 25 piasters, 50 piasters, 1 Dinar, 5 Dinars, 10 Dinars, 20 Dinars, 50 Dinars.

#### 7. Transportation

In Jordan there are two available options for transportation, which are;

**1. Taxis:** When it comes to taxis, you have to keep in mind that there are two kind of taxis, which can be easily distinguished by their colors;

- Yellow taxis: and getting one of these, you should know that there is a meter which starts at (0.25 Dinar = 25 piasters) please note that in the evening the meter starts at (0.35 Dinar = 35 piasters).

- Grey Taxi : they are also called “Taxi Al-Mumayyaz”, the meter for these starts at (0.35 Dinar = 35 piasters). So unless you are going somewhere really far, like the airport, the total won't be more than 5 JDs.





## 2. Busses

In Amman, there are buses which go all around the city, and their fees are considered to be really cheap; less than 1 JD. So, it's just a matter of finding the right bus.



## 8. Mobile Phone

We do recommend that you get a Jordanian Mobile number, to make contacting easier especially in case of emergencies. SIM cards can be bought from many shops around the center, and in the airport as well.

## 9. Business Hours

Friday and Saturday is the weekly holiday for most government offices and banks. The weekly holiday of the business sector varies from business to another.



**10. National holidays for the year 2014** The following tables shows a list of national and bank holidays in Jordan for the year 2014. Please note that the Islamic Holidays follow the lunar calendar, so the dates mentioned aren't accurate.

Date	Day	Holiday	Type
January 1	WED	New Year's Day	National Bank Holiday
January 13	MOD	The Prophet's Birthday	Islamic Bank Holiday
May 1	THU	Labor Day	National Bank Holiday
May 25	SUN	Independence Day	National Bank Holiday
June 28 (30 days)	SAT	Start of Ramadan	NOT a Holiday
July 28 (4 days)	MOD	Eid Al-Fitr ( <i>End of Ramadan</i> )	Islamic Bank Holiday
October 4 (5 days)	SAT	Eid Al-Adha ( <i>Feast of the Sacrifice</i> )	Islamic Bank Holiday
October 25	SAT	Islamic New Year	Islamic Bank Holiday
December 25	THU	Christmas Day	National Bank Holiday



# Accommodation options and Regulations



## 1. Private Studios- Dormitories

Students of all ages have the option of staying at an all-males or all-females dorms located within a walking distance from the center. The dorms are modern, clean, and secure. At the dorm, you will have your own studio which consists of a bedroom, a bathroom and a kitchenette. Some of the available services at the dorms are: the free wireless internet, laundry service once a week, and the ability to cook in your kitchenette, as meals aren't served.

To guarantee a smooth stay at the dorm, we would expect you to follow the rules and regulations of it, which normally are;

- **Time regulations:** Following opening and closing times of the dorm. Further more, notify the receptionist ahead of time whether you need to leave the dorm earlier in the morning or even if you need to stay out later than closing time.
- **Alcohol:** Alcoholic beverages are not allowed.
- **Cleanness :** Keeping the place clean.
- **Water and Electricity:** Not to waste water or even electricity. Kindly note that if your electricity bill exceeds (30 JDs/ specified cost) then you will be responsible for paying the excess).

## 2. Homestays

Your host can be families with children, families without children or even older married couples. We rely on your cooperation while living with the host family, and would like to ask you to take the points below into consideration;

- **Arrival arrangements:** your arrival arrangements is part of our responsibility, as we will get you to your host family's house on your first day. On the other hand, they will introduce you to the way of getting to the center. Please restudy the arrival information mentioned before in your handbook.
- **Your Room;** Your host family will provide you with a bedroom. For the bathroom shower, some hosts families offer separated one while with others you may share the bathroom.





- **Laundry:** You will be able to do your laundry at the host family house for free by your own self, arrangements will be done with the host family.

- **Meals:** Your host family will offer two meals, which are usually; breakfast and dinner. If you have any dietary requirements or allergies then don't forget to inform your host family about it.

- **Guests and Friends:** If you want to invite any of your friends to spend some time with you, you have to ask for the permission of your host family. It is also important to let you know that guests are not allowed to stay at the host family house.

- **Telephone and Internet:** You are always able to receive calls, but you are expected to ask for permission to do outgoing calls, and it would be better if you used pre-paid cards to do so. According to the internet connection, please ask your host family if you are allowed to use their internet. You can also use The Ali Baba internet.

- **Language:** You are encouraged to use Arabic to speak to your host family. This will help you improve your language skills rapidly.

- **Problems and emergencies:** If you have any problem, you should contact the Ali Baba center directly. Problems are easily solved if we are informed early enough.



### - Important Information

1. Make sure that you turn off the lights when you are not using your room.
2. Don't spend too much water.
3. Respect the scheduled times given by the host family, and if you want to spend the night out then you should inform your host family about it.
4. Make sure that you don't lend the keys of the house, not even to your close friends.
5. Your host family will never interfere in your religious beliefs or even your political point of view, and they expect you to do the same.
6. Although smoking is becoming a common habit in recent times, still not all families accept it. For this, if you are a smoker, you should find out whether it is okay or not for your host family that you smoke at their house.
7. Arabs consider talking about; sex, private body parts and mild words of sexual nature in front of the different sex to be insulting and shameful. Take care of this issue!







### 3. Apartments

A standard apartment has a bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchenette, and sometimes, a small living room. It's usually designed for one or two people. It's popular among university students, couples, and small families since it offers a convenient location and friendly atmosphere. No meals are served, however, the neighborhood does have various types of restaurants.

### 4. Hotels

Modern 2-star, 3-star and 4-star hotels are located within a walking distance from our center and the University of Jordan. Students may also stay at 5-star hotels, however, such hotels are located around a 10-minute drive from the school.



## Courses Offered at Ali Baba International Center in 2014

Monthly Sessions (weeks each 4)	Start Date	End date
January 2014	Jan 5	Jan 30
February 2014	Feb 2	Feb 27
March 2014	Mar 2	Mar 27
April 2014	April 6	May 1
May 2014	May 4	May 29
June 2014	Jun 1	Jun 26
July 2014	Jun 29	Jul 24
August 2014	Aug 3	Aug 28
September 2014	Aug 31	Sep 25
October 2014	Sep 28	Oct 30
November 2014	Nov 2	Nov 27
December 2014	Nov 30	Dec 25

Term Courses (weeks each 12 )	Start Date	End date
Winter Term	Jan 5	Mar 27
Spring Term	April 6	Jun 26
Summer Term	Jun 29	Sep 25
Fall Term	Sep 28	Dec 25

Summer Courses (weeks each 8 )	Start Date	End date
May – Jun	May 4	Jun 26
Jun – July	Jun 1	July 24
July – Aug	Jun 29	Aug 28
Aug – Sep	Aug 3	Sep 25
<b>Private Courses</b> ( any duration )	<b>Anytime</b>	<b>Anytime</b>