

## A long-awaited visit strengthens VOSH/International's links with Jordan

*Based on the report submitted by Dr. Tareq Nabhan*

After months of preparation, Dr. Tareq Nabhan, faculty adviser of the SVOSH chapter at the University of Missouri-Saint Louis (SVOSH-UMSL) completed a successful Ambassador's visit to the SVOSH chapter at the [Jordan University of Science and Technology](#) (SVOSH-JUST) from October 30 to November 5, 2025. The visit, requested by SVOSH-JUST, focused on humanitarian outreach and delivering lectures for optometry students.

To implement the visit, Dr Nabhan mobilised several partnerships that enabled humanitarian eyecare and eyewear services and knowledge sharing with the school. During humanitarian outreach clinics held in the Jordan Valley villages of Deir Alla and Ma'addi, more than fifty optometry students and faculty members provided eye care to 1,076 patients.



*Image 1 Dr Tareq Nabhan, far left, and the SVOSH-JUST team*

The students conducted entrance tests and refractions, participated in onsite group discussions, and assisted with dispensing eyewear, including adjustments. All eye health evaluations were carried out by an ophthalmologist in compliance with Jordanian healthcare regulations.

The eye clinics were made possible through collaboration with the Jordanian Ministry of Health, the [Princess Alia Foundation](#) (PAF), OSELF and a local EssilorLuxottica retailer, Alpha Optical. Additionally, a partnership with Zain Telecommunications, supported a mobile unit offering audiology, dental screenings and care kits.



Image 2 Students and a young patient at the dispensing area



Image 3 JUST team working together



Image 4 JUST faculty and patient

While at JUST, Dr. Nabhan met with faculty leaders, including Dr. Saleem Banihani, Dean of Allied Medical Sciences, Dr. May Bakkar, Head of Optometry and SVOSH faculty advisor, and Dr Khalaf.

Discussions centered on research collaboration, academic development, and strategies for expanding SVOSH-JUST humanitarian engagement. There is interest in studying visual eye health challenges related to malnutrition in underserved and refugee populations.



*Image 5 Dr. Nabhan lecturing at JUST*

There were two campus tours led by Dr. May and Dean Saleem included meetings with students in the preclinic area and evaluations of optometric equipment. Dr Nabhan also delivered a guest lecture to more than 150 optometry students in the Salah al-Deen Auditorium, inspiring increased student participation in the humanitarian clinic.

The visit exceeded all initial expectations with strong student engagement in the clinic and lecture. The partners involved recognized the vital role that SVOSH-JUST plays in advancing optometry in Jordan. With approximately 100 students per class, JUST demonstrates a strong commitment to the profession. Despite the limited scope of practice, the dedication of its faculty and students highlights an opportunity for expanding access to patients throughout the country.



*Image 6 SVOSH-JUST team with their new equipment*

As part of this activity, JUST received a grant to purchase equipment needed by the school.

VOSH/International thanks the SVOSH-JUST chapter and its faculty adviser, Dr. Bakkar, for organising such a successful visit and warmly welcoming Dr. Nabhan.

For more information, please contact

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