



University of
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Hewlêr



UKH Alumni
Association

UKH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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VAREEN AZAD

Account Manager of a German Medical Disposal Company



My name is Vareen Azad, with a BSc in Computer Science and Executive Master's in Business Administration (EMBA), both from UKH. During my academic journey, UKH helped me to manage my studies and to undertake lots of training, contests and leadership courses, which helped me to develop both in my career and personally.

In 2015, I was chosen to participate in the Iraqi Young Leaders Exchange Program (IYLEP) in the USA and was placed at Virginia Commonwealth University. With the experience that I gained and knowledge from my education, I was chosen to work in a medical company as a Business Developer. I was helped by two amazing instructors, Dr. Nawzad Salihi and Mrs. Neven Wali and I will never forget their help throughout my life, and even now they continue to support students' careers and studies. UKHians always give positive vibes, good attitude, and this work knowledge has been shown to others.

Currently, I am an Account Manager (General Manager) of a German medical disposal company. Throughout my career as I was developing, I needed management skills but none of the other universities in Iraq gave the opportunity, to have an additional degree that didn't match with their BSc. UKH saved me by giving me the opportunity to be a full-time student and an employee, which was very difficult managing both at the same time.

I'm proud of UKH and myself as I write these words because I remember my experiences and the ordeals that I faced. It was both good and bad, and some of the people I knew, became a lifelong friends. I learned good things that I really appreciate, and lessons that I will never forget. I'm hoping that by sharing my story, others will realize that life is not always easy. For this I give thanks, to God who helped me to succeed, as well as thanks to my family, friends and workmates, who have all helped me reach the stage I am at now.

SHWANA AKOI

Lecturer at Qaiwan International University, and Komar University of Science and Technology.



My first day at UKH was filled with uncertainty and doubt. As I stepped onto campus, I wondered if I had made the right decision in choosing to attend this university. The buildings were unfamiliar, and the students seemed so confident and at ease, while I felt out of place. However, as the day went on, I began to feel more comfortable. I met new friends in my classes and was impressed by the passion and dedication of my professors. The campus was beautiful, with green trees and flowers everywhere, and the atmosphere was lively and energetic.

By the end of my first day at UKH, I knew that I had found my second home. The university offered everything I was looking for in a higher education institution - knowledgeable professors, a supportive community, and endless opportunities for growth and discovery.

With a bachelor's degree and a Master's in Business Management from UKH, I set my sights on obtaining a PhD in Business Administration. My unwavering commitment and passion for education led me to complete my PhD and become a lecturer at different universities namely; Qaiwan International University, Komar University for Science and Technology, University of Human Development, and Univeristy of Raparin.

My achievements have not gone unnoticed. I have received numerous awards and recognition for my contributions to education and my exceptional teaching skills. My research in the field of business administration has been widely published. Looking back, I realize that my first day at UKH was a turning point in my life. It was the start of a new chapter, full of growth, challenges, and rewards. And I am so grateful to have found my second home at the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr and I am proud to be part of the UKH community.



SAZAN M. MANDALAWI
Independent Consultant
working with Local and
International Organizations

I was 18 when I started at UKH. Young, free-hearted, and energetic, I enjoyed every single day of my journey, and along the way stressed myself a little too much!

I graduated in the class of 2010; I like to call it the Golden Era, when we studied three incredible years in Politics and International Relations. I built lifetime friendships, learned about myself, discovered my strengths (and weaknesses), improved my skills and indulged in my political interests. I pursued my Master's in Diplomacy soon after graduation and later returned to work at UKH, heading the Media and Public Relations Department.

I stepped into work with UN agencies, where my interest in education for adolescent girls in humanitarian, conflict and post-conflict societies grew. I pursued this deep passion at the University of Southern Queensland in Australia and completed my PhD last year. Where am I today? I am a mother of two, an independent consult-

ant working with local and international organisations, and in the time between, I do research. If it continues the way it does, then yes, I am where I dream of being.

Thirteen years after graduation from UKH, every time I enter the Blue Building on the 30 Meter Road, I go down memory lane. I recall the hours spent in the library, the warm conversations with the librarian Lesley, and the fact that we never missed a lecture, not because it was compulsory, but because we wanted to attend. I walk into the cafeteria, remembering the table we sat on by the window, and the conversations, friendships, and bonds we made. I will carry that with me for a lifetime.

I am still learning every day, growing and developing. I guess that part never stops, but I owe much of my success to the foundation created in UKH lecture rooms, cafeteria, library and garden.

DIYAR KURDA

Director of Washinton D.C Bureau of Rudaw

My name is Diyar Kurda, and I am a husband, a father, and a journalist. I am also a proud UKH alumni, currently working as the Washington D.C. Bureau Chief at Rudaw Media Network, the largest media outlet in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

I enrolled at the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr in 2010 and studied Water Resource Engineering and Management. In 2013, I was elected as the president of the UKH-Student Union. In my life, I have faced many challenges, and sometimes, struggled for existence. Success is always a result of our dedication for hard work and trying our best to make things happen.

My journey as a journalist began by working with Rudaw Media Network when I was still a student at UKH. I was rejected twice before getting the chance to work at this professional media outlet. Whoever sees me on TV, should know that: I was a UG student, and each day I went to university from 8:00 am to 4 pm, returned to the dormitory until 11:30 pm, and then went to work at Rudaw from 12:00 am to 8:00 am. Notwithstanding I was promoted at Rudaw to become the head of department.

In 2010, I became the head of the Planning Department at Rudaw, working 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week. In 2022, I moved to the United States of America and I am now running the Washington D.C. Bureau.

I was active when accepted at the UKH, but UKH exposed me to new areas and added many marvellous values to my experience. UKH gave me a great chance to meet different people with different backgrounds. It also helped me to have the right to build bridges, to cross to any destination I have ever dreamed of.

To end, let me reiterate that being dedicated, adventurous and hard working makes anything possible. Thus, dreaming big, working hard, having a strong work ethic will get you what you want, not today, but definitely tomorrow. Remember, that life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all.



ZAMO DANA, OUR ALUMNI, HAS CREATED TWO INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS/SOLUTIONS

1. HydroKurd

HydroKurd is a portable device designed by Kurdish engineers at ZDR in Kurdistan to introduce molecular hydrogen therapy into the body. The therapy is intended to balance the effects of modern-day diet and pollution, acting as an antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antiapoptotic, and antiallergic agent. Hydrogen therapy can be administered through various methods, with inhalation being the easiest and simplest.

The HydroKurd device separates O₂ and H₂ gases from distilled water and outputs them for therapy through inhalation or mixing with drinking water. It has undergone 18 stages of modification over seven years and is made up of high-end hardware with high safety standards. Two models of HydroKurd devices are available: the HK1000 and HK3500, capable of producing up to 1000cc/minute and 3500cc/minute of H₂ gas, respectively.

During development, HydroKurd was tested on a range of patients in Kurdistan, demonstrating positive results in line with other studies globally. HydroKurd is now available for large-scale production and distribution and has the potential to become the first Kurdish-made advanced medical device to compete in the global market.

Hydrogen therapy is an emerging field of research and has been shown to offer various health benefits. Inhalation of hydrogen gas, in particular, has been studied for its potential effectiveness in COVID-19 cases. As a portable and versatile device, HydroKurd has the potential to provide accessible hydrogen therapy to people in hospitals, clinics, homes, and specialized centers.



2. EcoKurd

Developed by ZDR, a technology and engineering firm based in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, EcoKurd improves fuel efficiency and reduces emissions for all engine types. It achieves an optimal air-fuel ratio and can increase engine power, reduce maintenance frequency, and extend engine and oil life. The device uses a gas catalyst to increase fuel burning speed, runs autonomously with safety features, and notifies users of malfunctions via LED indicators. Installation is quick and easy, and the device has a range of approximately 15,000 kilometers before needing a \$30 annual refill. The current version is the 19th prototype, optimized for size, effectiveness, and practicality with LED malfunction displays, internal fuel backup, copy protection, and a smart system that adapts to all conditions.

NABAZ NAWZAD

The Dean of Administration and Economic College at the Lebanese French University.

I was in the first group of students admitted to UKH in 2006, and at that time we had foundation before starting University. There was a robust filtering process to get into UKH, but I was



one of the luckiest students and was accepted as a pre-foundation student. Then, I started studying a bachelor's degree in Politics and International Relations; in addition to studying modules directly related to my major, we also had to study modules related to Business Management, Information Technology, and Sociology which helped us to enrich our skills and gain different competencies.

At UKH, we had to write, search, communicate, and work in a team; thus, I spent most of my time in the library.

UKH became my motion to start my master's degree in Public Management at the Northern University of Malaysia (UUM). I remember, I did not have IELTS at that time, which was required to study at master's level, so I went to the Entrance Test, and I passed the exam with flying colors. Even though the field was different, the program and the teaching methods applied at UKH made it very easy for me to be one of the top students in the university; thus, the university offered a scholarship to cover my doctorate study, and I was able to complete my Ph.D. in Public Management. After completing my journey in Malaysia, I returned to Kurdistan and started my career as a lecturer at the Lebanese French University. Within a month, I was promoted to Department Coordinator and Head of the Business Administration Department.

In 2018, I was selected to go to Finland and take the Teachers Professional Development Program (Pedagogy) in Finland at the Häme University of Applied Sciences. Since 2019, I have trained hundreds of university instructors and lecturers on modern teaching and entrepreneurial learning. I have taught in more than 14 universities in Kurdistan and delivered many training programs on a wide range of topics to organizations and the public as well as participating in several training and development programs abroad. Since February 2021, I have been the Dean of the Administration and Economic College at the Lebanese French University. In addition, I am currently an adjunct lecturer and visiting supervisor at UKH. Overall, I believe UKH is at the heart of my achievements; I have always been proud to be a UKHian, and it was the best thing that happened to me. UKH for me was not only the university but a value, community, culture, and the future.

AHMED BAYIZ

Programme Director of Business, Management, and Economics-UKH

When UKH opened its doors in 2006, I was among the first group of students to join the newly established institution. I graduated in 2010 with 1st class honors.

In 2011, I was awarded a full scholarship by the KRG and moved to Australia to pursue my master's degree, first, at the University of South Australia and then at the University of Canberra, where I obtained my degree with distinction.

In 2014, I was awarded a Chinese Government scholarship to study another master's degree at Tsinghua University and a PhD at Beijing University. In 2019, I started my Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University where I published 17 papers in prestigious academic journals and completed the fellowship with distinction.

I am an exceptionally prolific research scholar and have published over 20 scholarly articles in high impact journals in collaboration with several eminent scholars from China, Australia, Germany, the UK and the UAE. In 2018, the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research recognized me as the Top Social Science Researcher of the Year-2018.

In 2021 and 2022, I was invited to be a Visiting Professor at the University College London's School of Public Policy in the UK and Aalen University of Applied Sciences in Germany. I returned to UKH as a full time faculty member in September 2021, and in January 2022, I was appointed as Acting Chair of Business and Management Department, and now I am the Programme Director of Business, Management and Economics.

I credit all I have now to UKH for one simple reason. UKH helped me to become who I am today. Before joining UKH as a student back in 2006, I came from a public school, having studied all my life in the Kurdish language with limited access to educational materials.

Soon after joining UKH, I took advantage of the resources available to UKH students. I had rarely used a computer before 2006, so I started to learn how to use a computer in the labs. I was a frequent visitor to the library and I could easily remember the Business and Management related textbooks.



ROZHAN MHAMED RAOUF

Organizational Development & Performance Manager

As I reflect on my journey into a proud Organization Development and Performance Manager, my thoughts return to the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr (UKH). This renowned and recognized institution has been key to creating my success story and becoming the first alumnus of this distinguished university is an honor that I cherish in the greatest esteem, firmly engraved inside the core of my person.

My adventure at UKH began with an outflow of passion and a great thirst for information, but it was not limited to the confines of academic instruction. Rather, the institution offered me a complete and thorough learning experience that extended beyond the boundaries of traditional education. The nurturing and diverse environment at UKH supported my academic and personal growth, while also challenging me to break out from conventionality and create innovative solutions to challenging situations.

The erudite and insightful faculty at UKH instilled in me the necessity of keen and discerning analysis, unrestrained inventiveness, and unwavering determination, which I continually applied to improve my skills, which are today the foundation of my professional growth. The exciting and interactive classroom sessions, together with the practical projects, gave me a platform to demonstrate my leadership and team-building skills.

Furthermore, UKH's curriculum emphasized the importance of extracurricular activities, and as a student, I was actively involved in a variety of clubs and societies, prepping me for the corporate world and inspiring me with the confidence to pursue my dreams with passion.



As I graduated from UKH with a glittering array of academic achievements, I was well aware that the road ahead would be far from easy, but I was armed with a wealth of information, abilities, and confidence that would push me to the highest point in my career.

Today, as an effective Organization Development and Performance Manager, I credit UKH for a large part of my success. It is an institution that has given me the agility, intellect, and self-assurance I need to achieve my goals. As UKH's first graduate, I am honored to be a member of a community that is unshakably devoted to developing leaders and indelibly molding the future. My success story would be incomplete if I did not promote the virtues of the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr.

UKH CENTRES

There are four centres available at UKH, we will cover a centre in each newsletter:

- Career Development Centre (CDC)
- Creativity Entrepreneurship Centre (CEC)
- Centre for Environmental Studies (CES)
- Centre for Peace-building and Dialogue (CPD)
- Professional and Executive Education Centre (PEEC)

CENTER FOR PEACEBUILDING AND DIALOGUE (CPD)

The Centre for Peacebuilding and Dialogue (CPD) is a policy and research-oriented center established at the University of Kurdistan Hewlêr in July 2022. CPD is a hub for researchers, scholars, various community actors, and stakeholders to address pressing matters related to international, regional, and local peacebuilding issues and practices. The center adopts dialogue and peacebuilding models and incentivizes freedom of research to encourage inclusive, collaborative policymaking aiming for long-lasting stability and peace. In addition, the CPD will foster youth engagement, gender equality, women participation, climate dialogue and advocacy, and discussions in state management, economy, and security. To achieve building more peaceful communities and societies, CPD participates in the vibrant partnership model-based processes with different partners.



Vision of CPD

Achieving peacebuilding through making dialogue culture and being a hub for freedom of research.

Mission of CPD

- To provide a trustful source for specialized institutions, government, diplomatic missions, and individuals involved in the decision-making process and provide them with information to picture them of ideas and opinions through our research activities.
- Connect local and international scholars to promote joint research and exchange ideas. CPD is a platform for Ph.D. students and fellows to create an academic environment and to become the future source for decision-makers to rely on.
- To make dialogue a culture.
- To Provide the floor for young scholars and women and promote research on women and youth participation.