

East Meets West in the Jordanian countryside: King's Academy as a Model

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This presentation examines a unique educational institution that seeks to bring the New England boarding school experience to the region. King's Academy is the first coeducational boarding school in Jordan and the Arab Middle East. Based on the model of Deerfield Academy, it is a Jordanian school that seeks to transfer the spirit of the boarding school life to the region and to offer this educational opportunity within an Arab context that combines New England traditions with Arab and global cultural ideals. The establishment of this school is a bold initiative that has attracted interest among Arabs and Americans alike. This presentation will explore the challenges of transferring boarding school life to the region. One major challenge is striking a balance between national culture and language on one hand and a globalized, internationalized education on the other. Diversity in both student body and faculty members is another major issue, as well as the perceived image of the school. The presentation will probe these challenges and discuss the potential connections between the United States and the Arab World that such institutions could create.