

## *Classmate for Coexistence*

The Classmates for Coexistence program is an educational initiative that seeks to bring Arab and Jewish Students closer through peer studying, group dialogue and social activities. The project is funded by the Bosch Foundation.

Currently launched at the University of Haifa's Jewish-Arab Center, the program is designed to demonstrate that coexistence founded on pillars of academic excellence, cultural diversity and mutual respect is indeed possible.

The project itself is about providing a shared experience, while bringing down barriers between communities. Many of the participants became friends and were encouraged to socialize with each other. As a result, many visited each other's homes, or are planning to do so.

During the meetings, many issues regarding community relations and mutual perceptions of the "other" were raised and debated in a friendly and open manner. While achieving full agreement on every subject is impossible, each participant regarded the other's opinion with respect and empathy.

Participating students are paired (in twos or in groups) with fellow students (Jews, Arabs) and they meet once a week to study together, improve language skills, and exchange thoughts and ideas. In addition, the students also participate in bonding experiences like field trips, guided tours, workshops, group meetings. For many of these students, the program is the first meaningful encounter with fellow students from other backgrounds.

Program participants are mentored by graduate students. Mentors are responsible for four student teams during the 14-week semester.

Twelve students from 42 students (12 Jewish-30 Arab) who participated in the program have been chosen to travel to ERFURT University at Germany and participate in 11 days of Summer School focusing on coexistence, pluralism and tolerance from 9<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> August 2015.



The students who will participate at the summer school program in Erfurt University are:

1. Nour Abu Asia
2. Nur Sa'di
3. Roaa Abbas
4. Manar Kattoura
5. Maiss Ghanim
6. Anwar Ismail
7. Maria Mahamid
8. Thaaer Bokaae
9. Rawan Badran
10. Adi Ozdoba
11. Oron Bronfeld
12. Roqaya Adawi



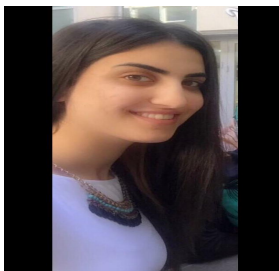


**Nour Abu Asia** ( 23 ) lives in Israel- Paqa Elgarbiia. This is her third year at university of Haifa. She studies nursing.

Nour worked in several positions, such as cashier at clothing store, seller at jewelry store, stationary seller and assistant in accounting office .in one hand, she was supposed to work and collect some money for my study. in the other hand, these experiments helped

her indirectly to know what kind of jobs is suitable for her in the future.

In the past three years, she have volunteered as a guide for youth in movements groups, she states it was awesome experiment with the group members who where 13-15 years old. They did a lot of volunteer jobs together in our country. Besides, she has volunteered at Jesus Heart's special education school at Haifa..



**Nur Sa'di**

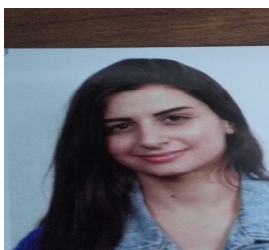
From Nazareth the magical city, now living in an apartment at Haifa uvi',

she is a student in her third year , she majors in sociology and anthropology toward her B.A

in the past she has volunteered for many programs like instructor at the camp "peace and equality" and "summer camp swimming"

this year she was a tutor for perch project ,coaching young student. She also volunteers in the association "women for women"

at last this year she joined the program of "academy classmates" which is associated by the center of "arabic-jewish".



**Roaa Abbas** , lives in Rama village , she studies nursing at the university of Haifa , it's her third year in her BA degree . She is an initiative person; she took part in a lot of activities in her village for helping teenagers and volunteered in numerous charity activities.



**Manar Kattoura** (22) lives in Haifa, she is a nursing student 3rd year at university of Haifa. Manar also volunteered in Sacred Heart's home and was a teacher for children ages 3-5 years.



**Maiss Ghanim**, from Maghar village from the North of Israel.

She lives with her two parents, one sister and two brothers.

She loves to do so many things in her life, she states that she doesn't like wasting time by sitting around at home. One of her favorite things is doing sports, she goes once a week with her

friends or her fiancé for a run, and sometimes she goes to the sports center to get some exercises.

Maiss also loves reading books, romantic books, coaching and others.

She is a 3rd year nursing student at University Of Haifa, Faculty Of Welfare and Health Science, at The cheyrl Spencer Department Of Nursing.

She has been volunteering for 2 years at organization in her village, who promote her village in terms of art, economics and other things. And she volunteers as a counselor at a summer camp for children with various chronic diseases.



**Anwar Ismail** (23), an only child among four siblings and the youngest. After finishing the twelfth grade, she started teaching children with special needs and worked with travels boy with mild mental retardation. She studied and prepared for college entry exams to enter the university, and today she is a



third year nursing student at the University of Haifa. Anwar is volunteering form the age of 15. in Magen David Adom.



**Maria Mahamid** ,(23) From Umm el-Fahm in the center area of israel, She has a great big family, consisting of three sisters and two brothers and her Mother &father,. In a period of her University education she moved to live alone in a rental house at an area close to the university. She is a 3rd year nursing student at University Of Haifa, Faculty Of Welfare and Health Science, The cheyrl Spencer Department Of Nursing, her ambition of is becoming a very successful nurse and Completing her studies until a Doctorate degree . In 2010, she

volunteered in the holidays as a tutor in a camp for youth. In 2011-2013, Maria volunteered at Association "Basma amal" for the children of cancer patients ó It was very wonderful experiences, where she gained a lot of skills to deal with young people and children, which helped her a lot in the field of education, and After returning from Germany Maria will start to volunteer in her the city at the public library. Maria loves all kinds of sports, without exception, and tries as much as possible to practice all sports ó she goes to a Swimming Centre 3 times a week and every month she goes to ride horses in the mountains of Carmel in Haifa. In addition, she loves to read books as she read in the last year more than 60 book and novels.



**Thaaer Bokaae** from Israel ,(20) a student of economic and business in his second year at the university of Haifa.

Thaaer is currently Volunteering at the Jewish ó Arab community project, this project aspires him to promote the Arab- Jewish peaceful coexistence in the Israeli society.



**Rawan Badran**, (19), studying economics and business management at the University of Haifa.

She is a volunteer at the international award for youths and teenagers, The Jewish Arab center at the University of Haifa and The young's center at Danun village.

Rawan is interested at all the sport activities especially Tennis and football, and classic music.



**Adi Ozdoba**, (29), now finishing her BA at Humanities in Israel Studies & East Asia Studies. Adi likes Hiking and she is a Tour Guide in Israel and an archeology museum guide. she likes taking photos and dancing (now she's into swing dancing). Adi used to live in a socialist commune and volunteer as a youth guide.



**Oron Bronfeld**, originally from Alfei Menashe and he lives right now in the dorms of university of Haifa where Oron studies geography and political science.

Oron likes to practice football, which by the way, unfortunately He is not very good at, and also basketball and mixed martial art.



**Rokaya Adawi**, (22), a Palestinian citizen of Israel from Turaan. She is a student of History of Middle East & Arabic Language & Literature at University of Haifa and she will continue to her Master degree at the same faculty at the (2015-2016 academic year) .

She participated in a special program, "Jewish-Arab Community Leadership (2012-2013 & 2013-2014)". During the academic year (2013-2014), according to male, of a student is participated

In the program, "Jewish-Arab Community Leadership", could join the program, "Intercultural Leadership Workshop".

When she's not studying or volunteering, Rokaya reads books and articles that related to Israel-Palestine matter.

Also she enjoys spending time with her friends talking about different issues and knowing their thoughts and point of views.