

Dr. Neruda Barakat

Date of Birth: May1978

Nationality: Syrian , **Marital Status:** Married

Contact Details:

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Education and Qualifications:

- **PhD in Mechanical Engineering (in the field of Materials Science and Engineering)**, Mechanical Engineering Department, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, **UK.2004-2009.**

Current position:

My present workload covers 4 areas of responsibility: Director of the Skills and Career Centre; Lecturer/Researcher ; ERASMUS MUNDUS Coordinator and a freelance trainer of employability and transferable skills.

- **Director of the Skills and Career Centre:** main duties: responsibility for overlooking and supervising all administrative and technical aspects of the work at the centre; designing and following up the undertaking of strategic plans for the centre which main objective is linking the university society (students and staff) with the labour market; **2011-Present.**
- **Lecturer/Researcher: subject areas:** materials science and engineering, mechanical engineering science, composite materials, machine tools, fatigue of metals, biomechanics, and research methodologies. **Main duties:** leading a team of young researchers and running few research projects, supervising final year projects and master and PhD degree dissertations, designing modules, teaching, lecturing, setting up and marking exams for undergraduate and postgraduate students; all the previous are undertaken at the Mechanical and Electrical Faculty, Tishreen University, Latakia, Syria. **September 2009 – Present.**
- **Erasmus Mundus (Erasmus+) Coordinator** representing Tishreen University: AVEMPACE I, II, III, +, Peace I, II, ASSUR: about 30 scholarships were awarded to Tishreen University students and staff to study at more than 8 EU Universities. **2012 – Present.**
- **Freelance trainer of employability and transferable skills.** Main duties: preparing and delivering courses and training workshops on: communication skills, project management, teamwork skills etc... and also ‘English for engineers and scientists’ etc... with **an experience certificate** from

Lund University, Sweden . All work has been done at various universities and organisations in Syria (More than **200** different courses delivered to more than **10000** trainees). **2010 - Present**.

Previous/other work record:

- **Project manager with MONDO (an Estonian NGO)** for training Syrian youth on digital competences and start-up pitching. **September 2018-March 2019**.
- **Trainer and Mentor at the National Centre for the Distinguished:** I deliver a weekly session on research skills and presentation skills etc... required for students of the centre. **2016-Present**.
- **Weekly Guest at 7la Radio Station, Latakia, Syria:** I talk for about half an hour weekly about different careers and skills needed for them, etc.... and also give advice to job seekers both locally and internationally. **2015 – 2018**.
- **Tempus Project Coordinator** for Tishreen University: "Skills and Career Centre", a project coordinated by Damascus University and funded by the EU; **2010-2014**.
- **Supervisor and Follow-up team member with UNDP, Latakia and Tartous** for projects concerned with helping young people to establish their own projects and also for training people with disabilities on communication skills and then career skills, and for training young people to establish societal initiatives. **2018-Present**.

Other Training and Skills:

- **An Erasmus Mundus Staff Scholar:** I took up a one-month scholarship at the **Technical University of Berlin (TU Berlin), Germany**, to exchange experience about international and public relations at the university and also other affairs related to research and student welfare services; **May -June 2018**.
- **An Erasmus+ short mobility scholar:** I got a short mobility to **Barcelona University** which main objective was to exchange experiences in bilateral agreements and international projects in higher education. **July 2017**
- **An Erasmus Mundus Staff Scholar:** I took up a one-month scholarship to exchange experience about international and public relation services for universities and how to engage own university in international agreements, **Santiago de Compostela University, Spain, September -October 2015**.
- **An Erasmus Mundus Staff Scholar:** I took up a one-month scholarship at the **University of Barcelona, Spain**, to exchange experience about career guidance services for students; **June -July 2014**.

Languages: Arabic (mother tongue), English (fluent).

Conference presentations and papers:

- A paper about career guidance in Syria at the symposium on "**Leading career development services into an uncertain future: Ensuring access, integration and innovation**", Tromsø, Norway. June 2019.
- **The Seventh International Conference for Materials Science (CSM7):** 'Hydrogen Permeation through Nickel and 4340 Steels', Beirut, Lebanon, **May 2010**.

- **European Corrosion Congress:** 'Hydrogen Permeation through low alloy steels', Edinburgh, UK; **September 2008.**

Awards:

- An award/prize for **the best research presented** at CSM7 (The Seventh Conference for Materials Science), Beirut, Lebanon; **May 2010.**

References:

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