Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah (formerly Rania Al-Yasin) was born in Kuwait on August 31, 1970 to a notable Jordanian family of Palestinian origin. She completed her primary and secondary education in Kuwait and in 1991 obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the American University in Cairo.

Upon her graduation from university, Queen Rania returned to Jordan and pursued a successful career in the banking sector, followed by a brief career in the field of information technology.

Their Majesties King Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein and Queen Rania Al-Abdullah were married on June 10, 1993. They have four children, Prince Hussein, born on June 28, 1994, Princess Iman, born on September 27, 1996, Princess Salma, born on September 26, 2000 and Prince Hashem, born on January 30, 2005.

After her marriage to His Majesty, Queen Rania channeled her energies into projects that aim to improve the livelihood of under-privileged groups in Jordanian society. Her activities encompass the development of income-generating projects, the protection of children from violence, the promotion of early child development, as well as encouraging the advancement of best practices in the field of micro-finance.

In 1995, Her Majesty established the Jordan River Foundation (JRF), a non-profit, non-governmental institution. The overall objective of the foundation is to work at the grassroots level to motivate low-income Jordanian families to participate in income-generating initiatives. The Foundation’s projects include Jordan River Design, Wadi Rayan and Bani Hamida. These initiatives not only assist women to become decision-makers within their family unit as well as skilled contributors to the Jordanian economy. Additionally, these projects have contributed to the revival of an almost forgotten heritage of craft production and tribal rug-weaving. In 1998, and under the direction of Her Majesty, JRF embarked on a micro-credit project that aims to deliver financing, business support and training to small business in order to assist them in launching, expanding and improving their operations. Long-term sustainability and the adoption of best practices are the hallmarks of this initiative, which represent a significant turn in the conceptual framework traditionally applied towards this sector in Jordan. The local micro-credit project is an extension of Queen Rania’s recognized involvement in the field of micro-finance on the international arena. In 1998, Her Majesty oversaw the launching of the Child Abuse Prevention Project --- the first of its kind in the Arab region. The project conceived a framework to create, under one institutional umbrella, the capacity to address the immediate needs for protecting children at risk of abuse and to adopt a long-term campaign to modify public attitudes towards violence against children. In September of 1999, and on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Convention for the
Rights of the Child, Her Majesty joined forces with 15 other First Ladies at the world meeting in Warsaw, Poland to call for the better implementation of the convention at the turn of the century.

Her Majesty also heads the National Working Group for Early Childhood Development, which is entrusted with drawing up a national strategy to tackle the issue of early childhood development in Jordan. Deeply committed to youth issues and concerns, Her Majesty is also involved with several national initiatives aiming to foster community service, creativity and critical thinking among Jordan’s youth, as well as to expose them to global issues, such as Information Technology and conflict-resolution. Aiming to empower the next generation of Jordanian students to meet the challenges of the new millenium, Queen Rania launched a nation-wide initiative to introduce computers and Information Technology to schools across Jordan, and to incorporate their use into the education system. This initiative is in line with His Majesty King Abdullah’s directives, as well as the recommendations of the First Economic Forum held in November 2000 at the Dead Sea in Jordan. Queen Rania is Honorary Chair of the Board of Governors of the Pacem in Terris Program of La Roche University, which offers scholarships to outstanding students from developing countries. The board of governors includes distinguished individuals from around the world including Kim Dae-jung, President of Korea, Former Majority Leader George Mitchell, and the former President of the Republic of Philippine Corazon Aquino. Twelve of Jordan’s brightest high school graduates are among the recipients of this prestigious, four-year undergraduate scholarship award. On the cultural front, Her Majesty sponsors numerous events that promote Jordan’s heritage, arts, and cultural diversity. Queen Rania is Honorary President of the Friends of Archeology in Jordan, and heads the Steering Committee of the National Museum Project, which aims to highlight Jordan’s history and heritage as well as the legacy of His Majesty the late King Hussein. Her Majesty is also establishing the first interactive children’s museum in the Kingdom. In tribute to His Majesty the late King Hussein and on the occasion of the first anniversary of his passing away, Queen Rania produced a children’s book about His Majesty. Proceeds of "The King’s Gift" go to the benefit of under-privileged children across Jordan. Queen Rania is also Chairperson of the International Jury of the UNESCO Prize for Children’s and Young People’s Literature in the Service of Tolerance, which aims to cultivate a global culture of tolerance and peace. The award is given every two years in recognition of young writers best communicating the concepts of peace and tolerance. An active supporter of the tourism sector in the Kingdom, Her Majesty is the Honorary Chairperson of the Jordan National Committee for the Hanover World Exposition, and has taken an active role in the planning and implementation for Jordan’s participation at the biggest cultural event celebrating the new millenium. Her Majesty is also the Honorary President of the International Osteoporosis Foundation and is the President of the Jordan Society for Organ Donation, as well as the Jordan Cancer Society.

Queen Rania is fluent in Arabic and English and has a working knowledge of French. She enjoys reading, water skiing, running and cooking.

Courtesy of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan:
www.jordanembassyus.org/new/jib/monarchy/hmqr.shtml