

ANNUAL REPORT

2021/2022

Applied Science University



ASU



جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



EST 1892

London
South Bank
University



His Majesty
King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa
The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain



His Royal Highness
Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa
The Crown Prince and Prime Minister

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Foreword by the Chairman of the BOT



Welcome to Applied Science University's Annual Report for the academic year 2021/2022.

This year marks the second year in our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, so it was important to see that we are making good progress in achieving our goals as per the KPIs set in the plan.

But this year also marks the "end" of the Covid-19 pandemic era, as we officially learned from authorities that teaching and learning will be back to normal, i.e. face-to-face, starting from the first semester 2022/2023. We learned a lot during the pandemic, and this report will reflect some of these lessons.

This annual report also covers the main achievements and activities in the University under the 9 Strategic Objectives that make up our new Strategic Plan, and while I hope you will find this report useful, I strongly invite you to regularly visit the News Section on our website and also read the weekly President's News Digest which is available on our website to keep up with ASU's latest achievements and activities.

As usual, I take this opportunity to thank the President of the University, Professor Ghassan Aouad, for his commendable leadership, and all our academic and administrative staff members, for their continuous efforts to take ASU from strength to strength.

Happy Reading.

Introduction by the President



I am pleased to present Applied Science University's Annual Report for 2021/2022, a year that will probably be remembered in the educational sector as the last year of online learning. We are very excited to learn that starting from next academic year, teaching and learning will resume face-to-face and that we will have all our students back on-campus.

But for now, let us reflect on the many achievements of ASU during the academic year 2021/2022. Without any doubt, our biggest achievement this year is the QAA UK International Accreditation. We are the first and only university in Bahrain to achieve this prestigious accreditation by the same organization that accredits British universities. This puts ASU on par with British universities and just goes to show how far we have come in terms of quality improvement in a relatively short period of time.

But we have achieved so much more, in terms of successful program reviews by the BQA, our improved rankings on the various international league tables, student attainment, student support, research, and community engagement, among many other achievements that you will find in this report.

I'd like to conclude here by expressing my deepest gratitude to the Chairman of our Board of Directors, the Chairman of our Board of Trustees and the members of both Boards, to the Ministry of Education, the Higher Education Council and the BQA, to the employers who support us, to all our academic and administrative staff members, and above all, to our dear students and their families.

Regardless of what the future holds, I am very proud and humbled by my tenure at ASU and I will always regard my work here as my proudest achievement.

Happy reading.

End of an Era, Lessons Learned

This academic year marks the end of the Covid-19 era as it is the last academic year where students are given the choice to attend lectures online or on-campus. Starting from next academic year (2022/2023), all teaching and learning is conducted face-to-face on-campus and student physical attendance is mandatory. That said, throughout the academic year 2021/2022, all the health and safety measures initiated at the beginning of the pandemic were kept in place (hand sanitizers installed across the campus, specialized company to sanitize the campus and the offices on a regular basis, delivering courses and conducting exams online, conducting meetings online, including the meetings of the Board of Trustees and the University Council, etc.).

It is a nice feeling to know that things will finally get back to "normal" starting from the 1st semester 2022/2023, but if anything, the pandemic taught us that we should never take anything for granted, that "normal" is a fluid and ever-changing state, and that anticipating and preparing for the worst scenarios is never an overkill.



As the pandemic era comes to an end, here are some of the key lessons we learned:

- Digital transformation is a must for the business continuity of any sector, but this is particularly true for the education sector.
- Human connection, empathy and support should remain at the heart of the educational process, regardless of the tools used, be it online or face-to-face.
- Great teaching and learning are not enough, universities need to address the wellbeing of students and faculty members as well.
- Having the right IT infrastructure is not enough without proper training and full adoption from both faculty members and students.

- Regardless of the organization's size, it is important to keep a startup mindset and have a lean and flexible structure to be able to take decisions quickly and address emerging issues in a promptly manner.
- It is high time universities in Bahrain and the region started working on generating additional revenue streams as relying solely on tuition fees comes with a high risk, considering the fluctuation of student numbers during the pandemic.
- To end this section on a funny note, we are quite sure that the phrases "I think you are on mute!" and "Is everyone able to see my screen?" will go down in history books as the most used sentences in business meetings ever!

Teaching and Learning

"Teaching and Learning" is the first of our three pillars and it's all about being a leader in applied programmes.

Key Achievements:

Graduation Ceremony of the 13th and 14th Cohorts: At Al Dana Amphitheatre, ASU celebrated the graduation of the 13th and 14th cohorts and the graduates of our hosted British programmes. Under the patronage of HE Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Daij Al Khalifa, Secretary General of the HEC and Deputy Chairperson of the HEC Board of Trustees, the graduation ceremony acknowledged the achievements of our students and marked a milestone for the University as the first cohorts of the London South Bank University and Cardiff Metropolitan University programmes graduated.

First Edition of ASU Summer School for British Programmes: Our students at the College of Engineering profited from the opportunity to visit our British Partners at London South Bank University in the first edition of the summer school we organized for our British Programmes. The summer school trip was organized in collaboration with the International Partnership Office and in coordination with the Engineering College and the LSBU Global Team.



ASU Moves Up in the QS Arab Region Rankings: On the evening of the 13th of October 2021 and in the presence of Dr. Mohammed Yousif Ahmed and Mr. Abdullah Alkhaja, the President received in Dubai the trophy for our ranking at 22 in the QS Arab Region, up 7 places on our ranking of last year at 29.



ASU Moves Up in the QS World University Rankings: The QS World University Rankings 2023 were announced in June 2022, and we are now ranked at 561-570 up from 591-600 in the World last year and 651-700 the year before. This great achievement demonstrates our excellence in different areas including teaching and learning, and it is actually beneficial for us and the higher education sector in the Kingdom of Bahrain.



Research

“Research” is the second of our three pillars and it informs our teaching and learning and creates a culture of curiosity and knowledge sharing.

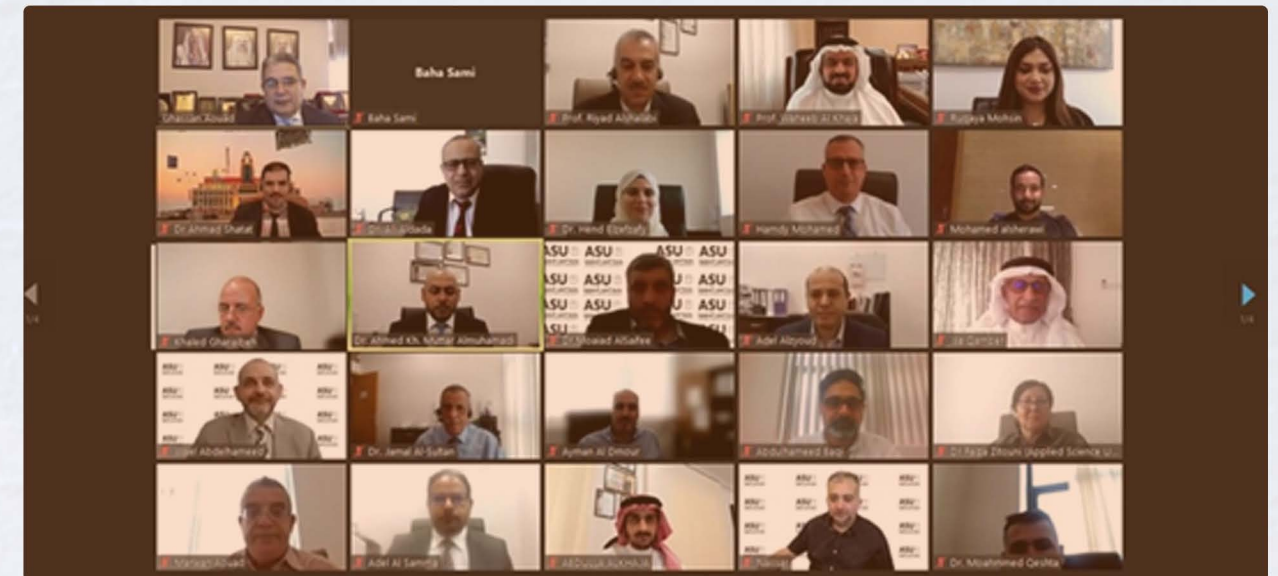
Key Achievements:

Third Scientific Conference for Students' Projects and Papers: The Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies successfully organized the 3rd Student Conference at ASU virtually (online). In total, 40 presentations were made by bachelor and master students. This very important conference gives our students the confidence and skills needed to undertake research of good quality. The culture of excellence we are creating in the University is manifesting itself in many good practices and initiatives including the student conference.



International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainability and Intelligent Systems (ICETSIS): The 2022 ASU International Conference on Emerging Technologies for Sustainability and Intelligent Systems (ICETSIS) took place from June 22-23, 2022 in collaboration with IEEE Bahrain Section during. The themes covered Emerging Technologies such as communication, intelligence, visualization and simulation technologies including VR/Augmented

Reality, 3D printing, Drone Technologies, (Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Science, Blockchain, Robotics, Educational Technologies, Knowledge Management, Social Media, Machine Learning, Smart Cities, Smart Roads, and Cloud Computing. 72 papers from 24 countries were presented at the conference.



Significant Improvement in Research Publications in Terms of Both Quality and Quantity: ASU invests heavily in promoting research culture and endorsing its academic staff members to conduct meaningful and impactful research especially in areas that align with the national priorities and research strategies in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The number of publications increased year over year and we crossed a significant milestone this year as we moved the 300 publications mark for the 1st time.

Academic Year	Published Papers	Increase over past year	Scopus, ISI or EPSCO
2015/2016	55	%30.95	29
2016/2017	69	%25.45	21
2017/2018	105	%52.17	47
2018/2019	116	%11.05	91
2019/2020	158	%36.2	81
2020/2021	183	%15.8	107
2021/2022	312	%70.5	209

Community Engagement

“Community Engagement” is the third of our 3 pillars and it is an essential part of our identity as we truly believe in giving back to society.

Key Achievements:

First Edition of ASU Nationwide High School Competitions: For the first time in the Kingdom of Bahrain, the University took the initiative to organize and host contests where a good number of students from both private and public high schools within all over Bahrain participated in various competitions with the support of our different Colleges and our faculty members. It was very successful and the University will continue conducting these contests on annual basis.



ASU Signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Bahrain Society of Engineers:

The agreement will launch various and hopefully fruitful collaborations between the University and the Society of Engineers for the benefit of both entities and it entails providing consultancies, trainings and joint research for the benefit of the society and the country in general.



Student Support

We pride ourselves on being a student-centered university, that's why "Student Support" is the very first of our six enablers.

Key Achievements:

ASU Enters the QS Graduate Employability Rankings: The University has been ranked in the top 500 universities in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2022, the only university to be ranked in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We believe that the biggest support a university can give to the students is to equip them with the necessary skills to help them get employed, and being in the top 500 universities globally just shows how seriously we take this responsibility here at ASU.



ASU Organizes its 9th Career Fair and Forum: In the same vein, and under the Patronage of HE the Minister of Labor and Social Development, Mr. Jameel Bin Mohamed Ali Hmaidan, and in the presence of Prof. Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and many dignitaries, the Deanship of Students Affairs organized the 9th career fair and forum. 49 private and public companies/institutions showcased their vacancies and opportunities for our students.



ASU Organizes Educational Trip for its Engineering Students to Dubai EXPO 2020: The College of Engineering organized an educational trip for its Students to visit EXPO 2020 in Dubai on 9-10 March 2022. The trip also included an opportunity to visit a construction site to enrich students' practical experience, and the Global Village to enrich students' cultural experience. The trip was initiated and supervised by Dr. Faiza Zitouni, Assistant VP for Academic Affairs and Development, and Dr. Mohamed Salama, Acting Dean of College of Engineering.



ASU Honors Student Sports Teams for their Outstanding Performances: The University showed gratitude towards its students who have been part of its various sports teams (football, volleyball, etc.) by organizing a special event to honor them. Our students have always been brilliant at the various sports competitions and this year was no different, so they surely this event was well-deserved!



Quality Enhancement

Quality is at the heart of everything we do, and “Quality Enhancement” is our second enabler to help us achieve that.

Key Achievements:

ASU Achieves the QAA-UK International Accreditation: The University achieved the QAA-UK international accreditation by meeting the 10 ESG Standards and Guidelines. This makes us one of 13 institutions worldwide which have achieved this accreditation and we are the first and only university in Bahrain that has achieved this prestigious accreditation. The University organized a celebration event under the patronage of HE Dr. Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Dajj Al Khalifa, Secretary General of the HEC and Deputy Chairperson of the HEC Board of Trustees.



ASU Enters the QS Subject Rankings 2022 for Arts & Design:

The QS World University Rankings by Subject 22 was announced on the 6th of April and our Art and Design subject in the College of Arts and Science was ranked at 101-150, which is a significant development. This is the first time we appear in the QS Subjects Rankings and can be considered as a serious development.

101-150		Altai State University Barnaul, Russia
101-150		Applied Science University - Bahrain Al-Ekir, Bahrain 4 QS Stars
101-150		Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) Bandung, Indonesia
101-150		Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, Thailand
101-150		Ewha Womans University Seoul, South Korea

College of Law Programs Achieve Full Confidence in Cycle 2 BQA Programme Reviews: In Cycle 2 BQA Programme Reviews, our three programmes in the College of Law: Bachelor in Law, Master in Law, and Master in Commercial Law have all achieved full confidence in Cycle 2 BQA Programme Reviews, and this is a strong confirmation of the quality of our delivery at ASU.



Entrepreneurship & Innovation

This third enabler in our strategic plan helps us create the perfect environment for our staff and students to unleash their creativity.

Key Achievements:

ASU Signs an Agreement with Huawei and Becomes an Accredited Partner:

This year, ASU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Huawei in Bahrain to collaborate on various fronts for the benefit of both entities, including our staff and students. In addition, Huawei approved the University to become an accredited partner to deliver different training programs on cutting-edge technologies as part of the Huawei Academy, and we consider this to be yet another step to create and foster an environment that facilitates innovation and entrepreneurship for our students, especially in the digital field.



"Muhamik", an Innovative Startup by our Students at Injaz National Competition:

This year, our students participated at the nationwide context between universities organized by Injaz Bahrain with an innovative startup called "Muhamik" (Your Lawyer). The company is based on a platform that connects top lawyers with customers in Bahrain and the region to profit from their services online.



Internationalization & Partnerships

This fourth enabler is important for the University's growth and outreach, and it does impact all aspects of our activities.

Key Achievements:

ASU at the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Arab Universities (AArU): On the 26-29 March 2022, the President of the University attended and contributed to the 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association of Arab Universities, which was hosted by Amman Ahlia University in Jordan. Important topics were discussed, such as periodicals and scientific publishing, and Arab rankings of universities amongst many others. HE Prof. Dr. Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities, delivered the Association's speech, which focused on the achievements of last year and future directions.



ASU Participates at the 'Higher Education & Career Fair' in Saudi Arabia 25-26 March:

To consolidate its regional and international outreach, the University participated at the 'Higher Education & Career Fair' which was organized in Saudi Arabia from 25 to 26 March 2022. The Saudi market is a big one and it include not only Saudi students but also international students thanks to a diverse and vibrant expat communities living there.



Graduates of Hosted Programs Attend their Graduation Ceremony at LSBU in London:

Some of our students who graduated from our hosted programs chose to attend their graduation ceremony organized by LSBU in London. ASU facilitated their trip and they were accompanied by the Acting Dean of the College of Engineering, Dr. Mohammed Salama, who praised the good organization of the event and the warm welcome from LSBU to our staff and students.



Human Capital

This fifth enabler is a testament that the University values its staff members and provides them with the right environment to grow and prosper

Key Achievements:

Important Milestone in the Number of HEA Fellows in the Various Categories:

The University continued its partnership with Advance-HE which resulted in an increased number of HEA fellows. In fact, ASU crossed a very important milestone by achieving over 150 awarded fellowships to its academic and administrative staff members in the various categories.

Catagory	No. Of Fellows
PFHEA	1
SFHEA	34
FHEA	67
AFHEA	28
Total No. of Fellows	130
Total No. of Recognitions	154

AdvanceHE
Accredited Center

ASU Organizes its Annual Ramadan Ghabgha Night Gathering for all its Staff:

Universities social events are important for community spirit and bonding. This was reflected in our last Ghabgha (traditional Bahraini gathering associated with the holy month of Ramadan) that was held at the Art Hotel on the evening of the 17th of April. In this event, more than 250 people including BOD and BOT members, ambassadors, staff and their families, some students and alumni, and invited external guests attended the Ghabgha night.



ASU Organizes a special "Pink October" Event on Campus: The Women Club organized a special "Pink October" Event on Campus in coordination with "Student Affairs", "Health Unit" and "Community Engagement" at the University. The event was an opportunity to raise awareness among staff and students about breast cancer and the importance of early diagnostic for successful treatment.



Sustainable Growth

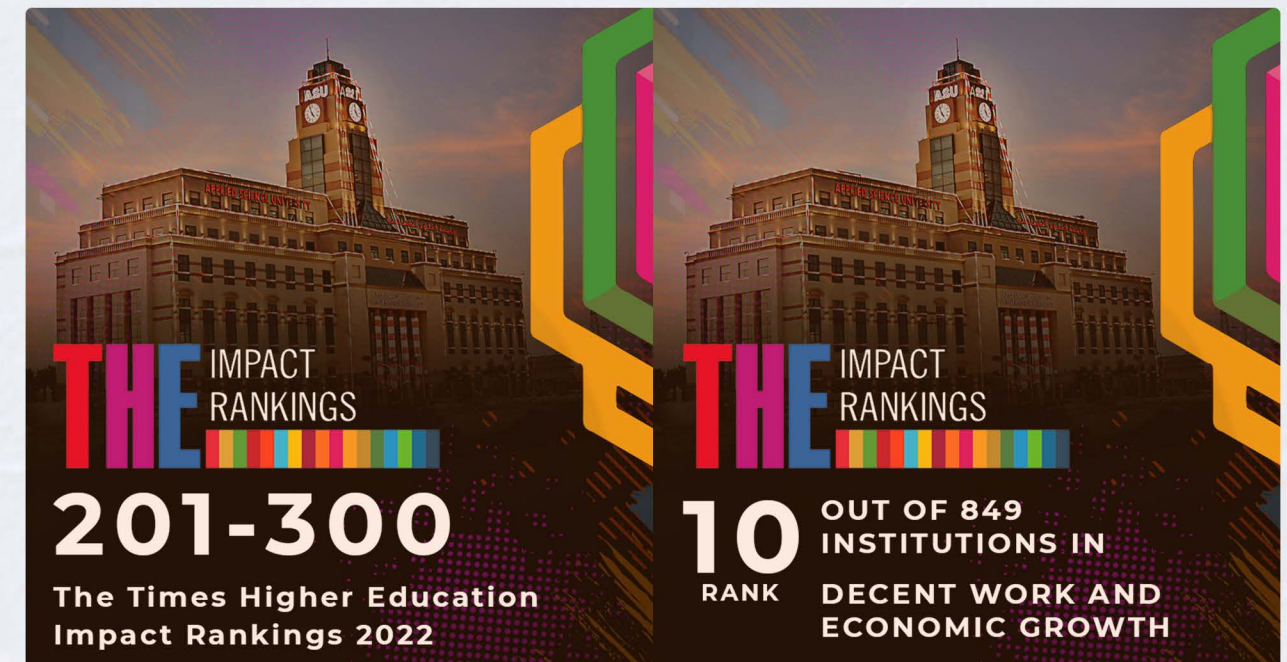
Last but not least, this sixth enabler is there to support everything we do in a sustainable way that is both environment-friendly and beneficial to the University's operations.

Key Achievements:

ASU Moves up on the GreenMetric World University Ranking: The Rankings for the year 2022 revealed that ASU was ranked at 459 out of 959. Before, ASU was ranked at 484 out of 912 which means that we have improved by 23 places in the ranking despite the fact that the participating universities for this year increased by 47 universities. The other universities that participated from Bahrain were, University of Bahrain and it was ranked at 453, Arabian Gulf University and it was ranked at 837.



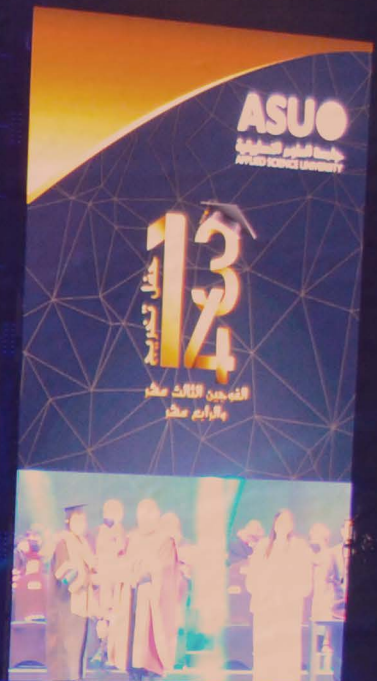
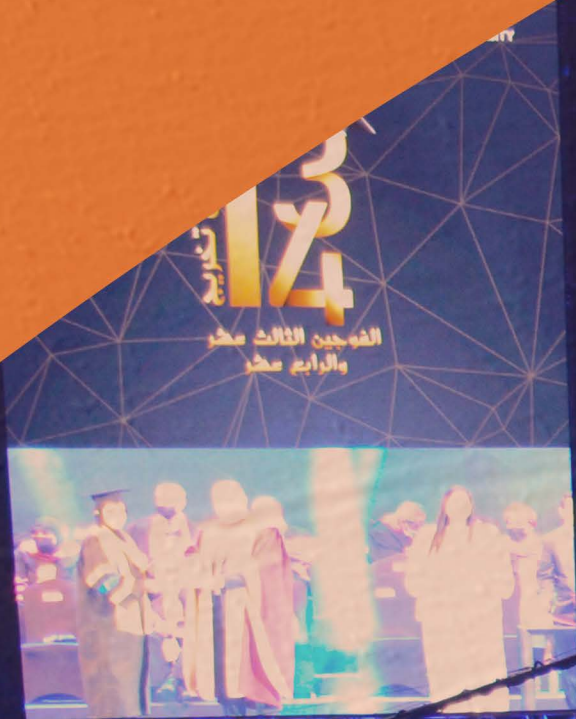
ASU Moves Up in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking: The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022 results were announced in April 2022. The University is now ranked at 201-300, which is a massive improvement on last year's ranking of 401-600. We are ranked number 10 in the World in Decent Work and Economic Growth.



First Place for our Students in the Climate Champions Competition:

Our students participated in the training programme of the international "Climate Champions" research project for undergraduate students in public and private higher education institutions in the Kingdom. The great news was that our students have won first place (Ayesha Madany, Rasheed Albinzaid and Abdelrahman Al Hassan) participating in the "Watergy team" at the level of Bahraini universities.





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