Message From the Editor

Welcome to the 30th issue of the 7th volume of the President's News Digest.

In this issue **Prof. Ghassan Aouad , President the University** will address the subject of :- **"Press release from the QAA about our accreditation"**

Email: ayat.nass@asu.edu.bh
T: +973– 16036163
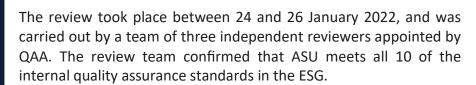
Message from the President

Press release from the QAA about our accreditation

Applied Science University (ASU) has become the first higher education institution in the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve global quality accreditation through the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), the UK's independent quality body and a global leader in quality assurance for higher education.

ASU has obtained global accreditation having successfully completed QAA's International Quality Review (IQR), a rigorous process which benchmarks global higher education institutions against international quality assurance standards set out in Part 1 of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The review took place between 24 and 26 January 2022, and was carried out by a team of three independent reviewers appointed by QAA. The review team confirmed that ASU meets all 10 of the internal quality assurance standards in the ESG.

The review team also identified a number of features of good practice including:

• ASU's partnership with Advance HE, to offer a fellowship scheme for academic staff, recognising excellence in teaching and learning and student support.

• the embedding of management information into decision-making processes at all levels of the institution through the integration of databases and other sources of information into the University's IT systems.

Written By
Professor Ghassan Aouad
The President of Applied Science University

Professor Ghassan Fouad Aouad, President of Applied Science University commented: 'We are delighted with this achievement as it bolsters the strong international reputation of the University. This is the result of a team effort of all the University's stakeholders including the Board of Trustees and its Chairman, Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, senior administration, staff, students, alumni and external collaborators. ASU is the first university in the Kingdom of Bahrain to achieve the QAA's global accreditation. We are grateful to the QAA, UK leadership and the review team for their professionalism, hard work, and their confidence in us.'

Alastair Delaney, QAA's Executive Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive and Chair of the IQR Accreditation Panel said: 'I would like to extend our warm congratulations to ASU on this commendable achievement. Through the International Quality Review process, the institution has demonstrated its compliance with international best practice in quality assurance, demonstrating its commitment to enhancing the quality of its students' academic experience. This accreditation provides an opportunity for ASU to explore opportunities for collaboration with UK and international higher education institutions.'

QAA's institutional accreditation applies for five years, subject to a satisfactory mid-cycle review. ASU will be able to display QAA's IQR Accreditation badge, demonstrating that their quality assurance processes are comparable with international best practice. ASU is also now eligible to become a QAA International Member. International Quality Review is carried out in QAA's capacity supporting the development of higher education quality internationally, including activity to support QAA Members and collaboration with international partners.

By securing global accreditation from QAA, international institutions can clearly spotlight their quality standards internationally, and more easily start a dialogue with institutions outside their own country. You can read Applied Science University's full IQR report on our website. You can also find out more about the IQR process and international membership. If you are interested in your institution signing up and wish to discuss this further, contact Stephanie Sandford, Director of International and Professional Services at s.sandford@qaa.ac.uk

Formal Benchmarking of the Academic Programmes at the College of Arts and Science – Academic Year 2021/2022

The College of Arts and Science finished the formal benchmarking for its three academic programmes (Interior Design, Graphics Design and Computer Science). One of the major programmes quality activities is to supplement the periodic reviews by a comprehensive formal benchmarking of programmes in colleges against its peers in high reputation universities. Formal benchmarking activities inclde: Programme Aims, Programme PILOs, Programme Advising plan, Program Overview and table of courses and Prerequisite, Courses Descriptions, Labs, Library resources, Programme admission criteria, Methods of assessments and teaching for courses, measurement of CILOs and PILOs.

The purpose of the formal benchmarking is to:

- critically examine the programmes and ensure they are comparable to similar programmes in other universities.
- examine the content of the programmes against similar programmes
- confirm that the programmes continue to comply with the requirements of external agencies such as the Higher Education Council (HEC), Directorate of Higher Education Reviews (DHR), Quality Assurance Authority (GDQ) and operate in accordance with the University Bylaws
- review and comment upon future plans for the programme

The formal benchmarking report will also provide benchmarking evidence to demonstrate that the content of the programme is comparable with similar programmes offered at other Higher Education institutions.

- A visit to October University for Modern Sciences & Arts (MSA) in Egypt was scheduled between 8-11 May 2022. The visit was conducted by Dr Mohamed Abdeldayem, Head of Department of Design and Arts, and Dr Nader Sonbol, coordinator of the Programme of Interior Design. The visit wasintended for the purpose of formal benchmarking, in preparation of reviewing the study plan of the programmes of Graphic Design and Interior Design. The visitors were welcomed by Prof. Dr Tarek Saleh, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Design, Dr Rasha Alzainy, HoD of Inetrior Design, and Dr Dina Aboud, HoD of Graphics and Media Arts.

- A visit to University of Sharjah in United Arab Eimartes was scheduled between 9-12 May 2022. The visit was conducted by Dr Moaiad Khder, Head of Department of Computer Science. The visit was intended for the purpose of formal benchmarking, in preparation of reviewing the study plan of the programme of Computer Science. Dr. Moaiad was welcomed by Prof. Saad Harous, Head of computer Science Department, Prof. Ashraf AlNagar Vice Dean of College of Computing and Informatics, and Prof. Zaher Alaghbari – Professor at the Department of Computer Science.

Quote of the Week

"The biggest concern for any organisation should be when their most passionate people become quiet."

- Tim McClure

من روائع الشعر العربي

لا يُدرِكُ المَجدَ إلا سَيّدٌ فَطِنٌ
لِمَا يَشُقُّ عَلى السّاداتِ فَعّالُ
لا وارِثٌ جَهِلَتْ يُمْنَاهُ ما وَهَبَتْ
وَلا كَسُوبٌ بغَيرِ السّيفِ سآلُ
قالَ الزَّمانُ لَهُ قَوْلاً فَأَفْهَمَهُ
إنّ الزَّمَانَ على الإمْساكِ عَذّالُ

المتنبي-