

ANNUAL REPORT

2022 / 2023



ASU
جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY



**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

The background of the page features a photograph of the Applied Science University (ASU) clock tower. The tower is a multi-story building with a prominent clock face on its upper section. The building is illuminated with warm lights, and the sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The text "APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY" is visible on the side of the building, and "ASU" is displayed on the clock tower's facade.

Table of Contents

Foreword by the Chairman of the BOT	6
Introduction by the President	7
Teaching and Learning	8
Research	12
Community Engagement	14
Student Support	16

Quality Enhancement	20
Entrepreneurship & Innovation	22
Internationalization & Partnerships	24
Human Capital	26
Sustainable Growth	28

Foreword by the Chairman of the BOT



Welcome to Applied Science University's Annual Report for the academic year 2022/2023.

This year marks the academic year that comes in the middle of our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025, so it was gratifying to see that we were making good progress in achieving our goals as per the KPIs set in the strategic plan.

This year also marks the "end" of the Covid-19 pandemic era, as we officially came back to the "normal" on-campus face-to-face teaching and learning, and it really warmed my heart to see our campus buzzing with life again and to see our students back at attending classes here and actively engaging in curricular and extracurricular activities.

This annual report covers the main achievements and activities in the University under the 9 Strategic Objectives that make up our 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 our 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 and his entire team, along with all our academic and administrative staff members, for their continuous efforts to take ASU from strength to strength.

Happy Reading.

Professor Waheeb Ahmed Al Khaja

Introduction by the President



I am pleased to present ASU's Annual Report for 2022/2023, a year that will probably be remembered in the educational sector as the "come-back" year of conventional teaching and learning after nearly three years of online learning due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Our students are finally back to attend classes on-campus, and we are really excited about it.

That said, the best practices and good lessons that we learned during the pandemic are here to stay and will keep informing our educational and managerial processes. Good examples are conducting some meetings and work sessions online, increasing the digitization of our processes and operations, supporting the teaching and learning with more online and blended learning material, etc.

This report is a collection of key achievements of the academic year 2022/2023 at the institutional level. There are many noticeable achievements that I could cite here, but if I had to pick the top 2, I would certainly choose getting the HEC's approval on the 'Dual Awards' arrangement for our LSBU hosted programmes, and getting listed by the Saudi authorities as one of the recommended universities for Saudi students who wish to pursue their studies here in Bahrain. Combined, these 2 achievements open new growth opportunities for the University which is essential for it to achieve its mission and its strategic objective and sustain its development and prosperity in the long run.

In addition to that, we achieved a lot in terms of regional and international rankings, such as ranking 19th among Arab Universities in the QS Ranking for the Arab region and getting the 5-Star rating in the QS Stars Ratings, making us the only university in Bahrain to achieve this.

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.

Happy reading.

Professor Hatem Al Masri, Acting President.

Teaching and Learning

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

Key Achievements:

Successful Launch of 4 New Hosted Programmes:

ASU successfully launched the following 3 new hosted programmes:

- BEng (Hons) Electrical and Electronic Engineering (in partnership with LSBU)
- BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering (in partnership with LSBU)
- LLB (Hons) Law (in partnership with LSBU)
- BA (Hons) Business Management (in partnership with LSBU)

This is a significant achievement as it's the first time the University has launched new academic programmes since the launch the College of Engineering over 4 years ago.



Awards at GHEDEX Awards for 'Excellence in Education':

ASU participated at the "Global Higher Education Exhibition" from 6 to 8 May held at the Exhibition World Bahrain where it was awarded 4 Excellence Awards in 4 categories:

- International Ranking
- Staff / Student Ratio
- Student Support
- Best of the best

This is quite an impressive feat as 53 universities from 10 countries participated at this edition of the event.



Graduation Ceremony for the 15th and 16th Cohorts:

On Tuesday 20 June 2023, ASU graduated more than 700 students at the Dana Hall, Gulf Hotel, under the patronage of the Minister of Education, thus taking the overall number of its graduates to 7362. The graduation ceremony was a very





ASU is Now a 5-Star University, First and Only in Bahrain:

In November 2022, ASU revealed that it obtained the 5 Stars rating in the QS Star Rating systems in which 5 stars is the maximum stars a university can get. This makes ASU the first and only university in Bahrain to be rated 5 stars.



This achievement is particularly important because a lot of students and parents care about the QS rating system as it enables them to identify which universities are the best in the specific topics that they care about, like program strength, facilities, graduate employability, social responsibility, inclusiveness, etc.

Accreditation of 2 Engineering Programs by CIOB:



In May 2023, ASU received the Certificate of Accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Building, a UK-based international professional association which exists to promote and advance for the public benefit the science and practice of building and construction, awarded for a period of 6 years (2022-2028), for its 2 Engineering Programs: B.Eng. (Hons) Architectural Engineering; B.Eng. (Hons) Civil Engineering.

This is in line with the University's ongoing efforts to secure accreditation from professional bodies to its academic programs to strengthen their reputation and better link them to the job market and the professional associations which would further improve our graduates' employability.





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.

A World-Class Refereed International Scientific Conference:

On the 27th and 28th of November 2022, ASU organized its International Conference on the Leadership and Management of Projects in the digital age (ICLAMP 2022) under the patronage of HE Dr Shaikha Rana bint Isa bin Duaij Al Khalifa, Secretary General of the Higher Education Council, Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Higher Education Council and in the presence of HE Professor Amr Ezzat Salama, Secretary General of the Association of Arab Universities. This conference brought together researchers from around the globe with 53 papers from 16 countries. Important themes such as digital transformation, digital marketing, Education, innovation and digital construction were discussed over 2 days. It was organized in partnership with LSBU and in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Building, the Association of Arab Universities, Bahrain Society of Engineers, and Advance HE.



Significant Improvement in Research Publications in Terms of 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 consistently year over year and while the overall number of publications remained at 312 this year, the number of papers published at Scopus, ISI or EPSCO databases increased by 25% from 209 last year to 261 this year. This just goes to show that ASU is now in pursuit of quality rather than quantity which is a sign of maturity in terms of research output.

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
2022/2023	312	-	261 (+ 25%)

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.

A World-Class Refereed International Scientific Conference:

ASU celebrated like many Bahrainis and institutions the Bahraini national days and part of the activities was decorating the campus with lighting that bears the colors of the national flag. Thanks to its efforts, the University won the 2nd Best Decorated Building in the Capital Governorate Competition, and the award was handed to the President by His Excellency Sheikh Rashid Bin Abdulrahman, the Governor of the Capital Governorate.



Bringing Joy to kids at Batelco Home for Child Welfare:

As part of the ASU's initiatives for community engagement and service, and in conjunction with the Prophet's birthday, the Community Engagement Office at ASU organized a visit to Batelco Home for Child Welfare on Saturday, October 8, 2022, with the participation of a number of academic and administrative staff, the Volunteers Club, students and graduates of the university and the local community. During the visit, a number of recreational activities were held, and gifts were distributed to the residents of the house.



Student Support

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

Memorandum of Understanding with the General Sports Authority:

In December 2022, ASU signed an MoU with the General Sports Authority (GSA) in the presence of First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports, General Sports Authority (GSA) Chairman and Bahrain Olympic Committee President, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa who praised ASU for supporting his initiative "Golden Generation". Under this initiative, the University will support students who are active with the nation sports clubs but also would like to pursue their academic studies and obtain their university degrees.



ASU Organized its 10th Career Fair and Forum:

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 Directorate of Students Affairs organized the 10th career fair and forum. Over 50 private and public companies/institutions showcased their vacancies and opportunities for our students many of whom profited from such opportunities.





ASU Organized the Annual ASU Alumni Gathering
: حفل لم الشمل

With the help of its Alumni Club, ASU organized its annual gathering for its alumni (حفل لم الشمل) in the Presence of Professor Waheeb Al Khaja, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The convivial event was opportunity to bring together graduates from various cohorts and different discipline, but they all had one thing in common: their unwavering attachment and commitment to their beloved University.



Election of the 16th Student Council members:

In convivial yet competitive atmosphere, ASU helped organize the election of the 16th Student Council members for the academic year 2022/2023. This year, voting was conducted normally as things went back to normal after being conducted distantly during the pandemic. It was a very good exercise for students to enhance their communication and leadership skills and prepare them to be active and engaged citizens in their communities.



Quality Enhancement

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

QS World University Rankings: Top 600 in the world and n°1 in Bahrain:

QS World University Rankings for 2024 was announced in 2023 and ASU achieved the position 582. This means that ASU is in the Top 600 in the world, making it the premier university in the Kingdom of Bahrain according to this ranking.



ASU ranked 19th in the QS Ranking for Universities in the Arab Region:



for Universities in the Arab Region for 2023 was announced in 2022 and ASU moved to the 19th spot up from 22nd in the previous year ranking (and up from the 29th spot the year before). For a relatively young university such as ASU, it is an impressive achievement to become one of the Top 20 universities in the Arab world, and this can only mean that the quality of teaching and learning at ASU is on par with the best universities in the region.

ASU's QS Ranking in the subjects of 'Arts & Science' and 'Business and Management Studies':

In the QS International Ranking for Subjects, ASU Ranked 101-150 in Arts and Design for the 2nd consecutive year, and 351-400 in Business and Management Studies, making it the first and only university in Bahrain to achieve this.

BQA Programme Reviews and NQF Programme Placement:

During the academic year 2022/2023, ASU continued its efforts and collaborative work with BQA which resulted in the successful placement of all its academic programmes on the National Qualifications Framework. The University is now working on the alignment of its hosted programmes. Likewise, all ASU programmes achieved full confidence from BQA with only the Bachelor in Graphic Design and the Bachelor in Interior Design awaiting the final reports after a successful visit from the panel assigned by the BQA.



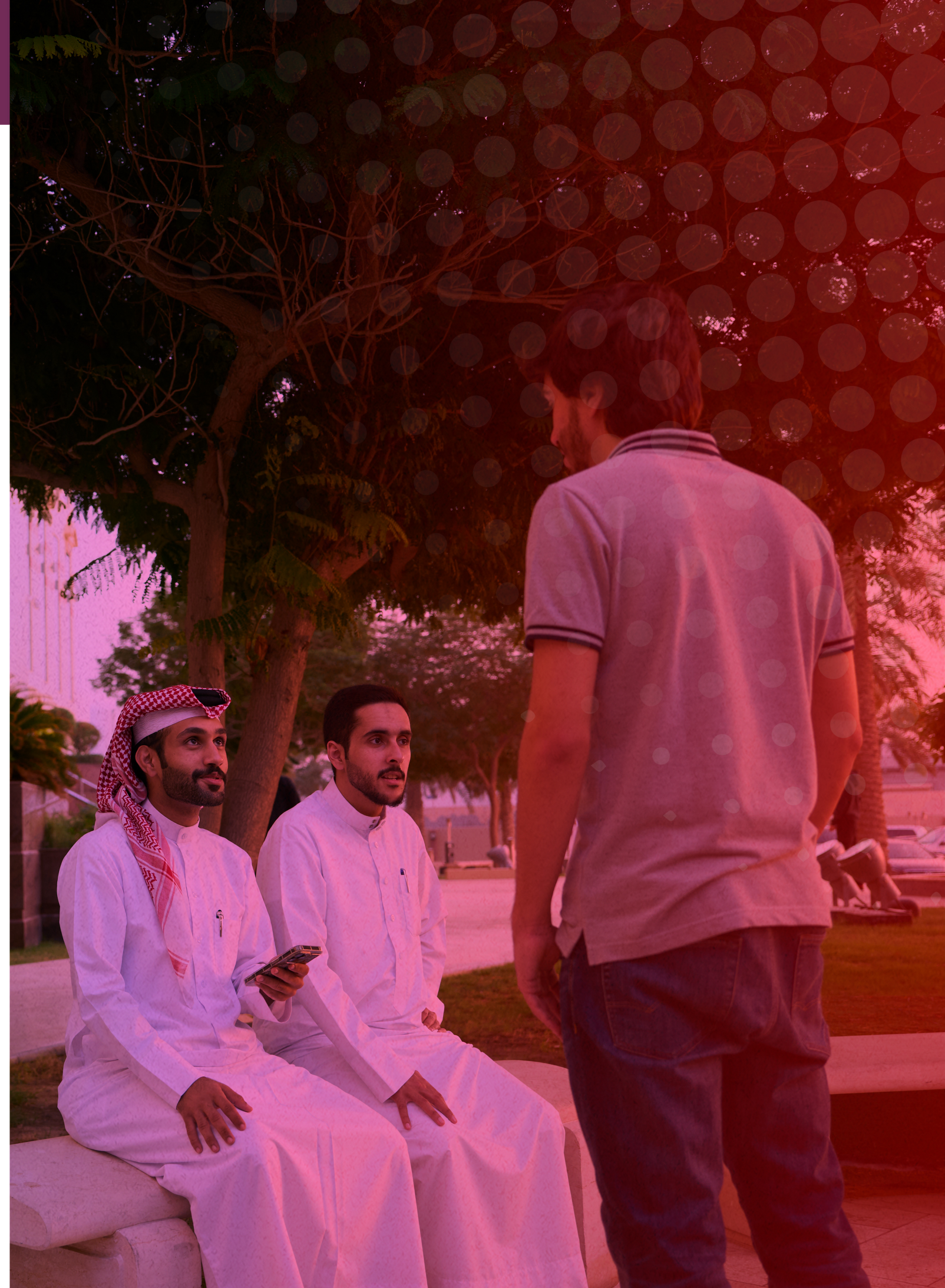
Entrepreneurship & Innovation

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

62 Pre-startups led by students for the academic year 2022/2023:

ASU is a pioneer University in Bahrain when it comes to promoting entrepreneurship. Indeed, the course "Introduction to Entrepreneurship" is mandatory to all the students regardless of their discipline. In addition, the university offers its students with multiple extracurricular opportunities to enhance their entrepreneurial skills namely through the universities business incubation center. During the academic year 2022/2023, the students generated 62 pre-startups as summarized in the following table:

Achievement 2022-2023			
Economic Sector	Number of Pre-startups	Male	Female
Manufacturing	32	7	25
Retailing	17	12	5
Service	11	7	4
Agriculture	2	2	0
Total	62	28	34



Internationalization & Partnerships

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

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding with University for Peace:

In January 2023, ASU signed an MoU with the University for Peace (UPEACE) which is an international university and intergovernmental organization, established as a treaty organization by the United Nations General Assembly in 1980. The scope of the cooperation covers joint research and events and potentially hosted academic programmes, and it strengthens ASU international outreach.



Participation at the QS Higher Education Summit 2023 Middle East & Africa 2023:

The QS Higher Ed Summit: Middle East & Africa 2023, took place online and in-person in Kuwait in March 2023 with the theme: 'Envisioning a meaningful future: Purpose-driven higher education in the Middle East and Africa'. ASU participated at the event with the President contributing to one of the panels.



Obtaining the 'Dual Awards' status for all LSBU hosted programmes:

ASU officially obtained HEC's approval to assign the 'Dual Awards' status to all of its hosted programmes offered at ASU in partnership with LSBU. As per this arrangement, the students who join our hosted programmes starting from September 2023 will be awarded 2 certificates upon graduation: one from LSBU, and from ASU. This is particularly important for our international students or local students who wish to pursue further studies or seek job opportunities abroad.



ASU Senior Team attends the Partnership Board meeting with LSBU in London:

In April 2023, a delegation from the University led by the Senior Management visited LSBU in London as part of the PBM (Partnership Board Meeting) and it was a very fruitful visit where topics of mutual interest were discussed. The objective was to enhance collaboration between the 2 institutions, namely in terms of joint academic programmes, joint research and capacity building programmes for 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.

Graduation of the 9th Cohort of ASU-rise Accredited Scheme:

The University continued its partnership with Advance-HE which resulted in an increased number of HEA fellows after the graduation of the 9th cohort. In fact, ASU crossed a very important milestone by achieving over 100 recognized fellows and over 160 awarded fellowships to its academic and administrative staff members in the various categories since the beginning of its collaboration with Advance HE (formerly known as the Higher Education Academy UK).

Status of Advance HE Fellowship

Category	No. of Recognized Fellows	No. of Recognitions
PFHEA	1	1
SFHEA	25	34
FHEA	47	94
AFHEA	28	33
Total No. of Fellows	101	162

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 in April 2023. During this event, ASU honored the student sports teams that participated in the national collegial leagues in different sports, namely the University's Volleyball team which won the league and left the trophy despite the fierce competition from the other universities.



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.

ASU Ranked 407th Globally on the GreenMetric World University Ranking:

The new GreenMetric World University Ranking 2022 was announced, and it revealed that ASU was ranked at 407th globally, which is a noticeable advancement compared to the 459th place last year and 484th place in the year before. This puts ASU again at the top spot amongst private universities in Bahrain according to this ranking.



ASU keeps its spot in the Times Higher Education Impact Ranking:

The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2023 results were announced, and ASU sustained its ranking from last year at 201-300, despite the fact the 150 new universities joined the ranking this year.

This proves the University's impact and contribution to the realization of the United Nations' SDGs and makes it the 2nd best university in Bahrain as per this ranking.



A Major Strategic Breakthrough: Penetrating the Saudi Market:

In October 2023, ASU achieved its long-awaited goal of becoming listed as one of the recommended universities by the Saudi Ministry of Education. This is a massive achievement as it opens new growth opportunity for the University and shall contribute to its financial stability and sustainability at a time when all private HEIs in Bahrain suffered from a decline in student numbers, mainly because of the pandemic's impact.





ASU



جامعة العلوم التطبيقية
APPLIED SCIENCE UNIVERSITY

