



الجامعة الأهلية
AHLIA UNIVERSITY
BAHRAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



His Royal Highness
Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
The Prime Minister



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,
Deputy Supreme Commander
and First Deputy Prime Minister

Ahlia University New Campus Foundation Stone Ceremony held under the Patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister





Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees	8
Message from the President of Ahlia University	10
Highlights of 2015/16	12
Strategy & Direction	14
Programmes & Quality	16
Research & Scholarship	18
University & Community	20
Students & Activities	22
Reviews of 2015/16	24
Board of Directors of AARS	26
Board of Trustees of Ahlia University	27
University Council	28
College of Arts, Science & Education	30
College of Business & Finance	32
College of Engineering	34
College of Information Technology	36
College of Medical & Health Sciences	38
College of Graduate Studies & Research	40
Administration	42
Deanship of Student Affairs	44
Appendices	45
Facts & Figures	45
Publications	46
Acknowledgements	47



Message from the Chairman

As a Founder Member of the Arab Academy for Research & Studies (AARS), I was part of the beginning of the Ahlia vision. Following the licensing of the University in 2001, I was honoured to be appointed as the first President of the University and to welcome

our first students in February 2003. Twelve years later, after presiding over the University's advance from a small, local institution to one with world-wide collaborations and reputation, I have become the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

As Chairman, I am part of a small group of senior academicians who provide external oversight, guidance and strategic advice to the University, ensuring of that Ahlia determines its own strategic direction, with an appropriate balance between financial self-reliance and academic excellence.

A key aspect of Ahlia's strategy is to become a major regional and international university, by increasing our student population and moving into appropriate new premises. I am also the Chair of the Campus Steering Group, responsible for overseeing the project since our agreement in 2011 with the Ministry of Finance for land for the new campus in Al Madina Al Shamaliya.

In the period since 2011, the Conceptual Masterplan and Financial Feasibility Study for our new campus have been approved and the phased project has started.

To the great delight of the whole University, the Foundation Stone Ceremony for our new campus was held in February 2016 under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister.

The University is already recognised and greatly admired for the quality of the education that we provide and we can look forward to a bright future in an equally impressive campus, with state-of-the-art facilities, including a conference centre and a science park, to serve the full breadth of our dynamic and developing academic community.

During 2015/16 the University developed its forward strategy, including the approval of the new Strategic Plan for the period

2016 to 2020. Ahlia also developed and enhanced its governance framework, in line with updated national requirements and best international practice.

I am extremely proud of everything that has been achieved by Ahlia University since our licensing in 2001 as Bahrain's first private university. Our successes are evidence of our commitment to quality in all areas and a demonstration of our ability to achieve it. All of the developments and advances that we have made demonstrate a high-quality institution, playing a full and confident part in society.

Knowing that our Trustees, faculty, staff and students share a spirit of community and a desire for excellence, I look forward to the future with optimism and confidence, knowing that Ahlia University will continue to make a significant contribution to the global community and in particular to our beloved Kingdom of Bahrain.

Professor Abdulla Al Hawaj
Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Message from the President

I am pleased to present Ahlia University's Annual Report for 2015/16.

Our theme this year was strategy. We continued to plan our route to becoming a Top 500 university by the year 2030, drawing up our Strategic Plan 2016-2020 in light of Bahrain's *Economic Vision 2030* and

National Strategy for Research, to ensure that our activities serve the Kingdom, the region and society in general.

Our Strategic Plan is built around our core activities of teaching, research and community engagement, in furtherance of our mission to reach out to the academic

community and society at large and to produce leaders through our own leadership in these activities.

In 2015/16 we were honoured to hold the Foundation Stone Ceremony for our new campus under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, at a wonderful event receiving significant media coverage. This major strategic project is now becoming a reality, thanks to the vision and effort of Professor Abdulla Al Hawaj, our Founding President and Chairman. Ahlia can look forward to a bright future in an impressive campus environment.

2015/16 saw more recognition of our teaching quality. The College of Engineering was reviewed by Bahrain's Education & Training Quality Authority, which awarded "Confidence" to both programmes; continuing our 100% record of receiving the highest judgement available. We also continued programme-mapping activities for the National Qualifications Framework and preparations for accreditation by Bahrain's Higher Education Council and by AACSB and ABET, the international accrediting bodies for business, engineering and IT programmes.

Research activities in 2015/16 aimed to advance society in line with Ahlia's strategy and Bahrain's future vision, by developing research areas, considering problems and seeking the solutions which our society needs. One highlight was a redesigned Research Forum, which for the first time included students, demonstrating our commitment to developing research capability from the earliest opportunity.

In 2015/16 we continued to be active in our community, with students and staff organising and contributing to a wide range of events.

Student activities were as varied and enjoyable as ever; the highlight was the Graduation Ceremony 2016, held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister.

All in all, 2015/16 was a year of consolidation, progress and building for the future. We have come a long way since our first students joined in 2003 and have grown into an internationally-recognised University with a well-deserved reputation for excellent education. That we have achieved so much stems from the commitment of our students, faculty, staff and stakeholders; guided by our Board of Trustees and the Directors of the Arab Academy for Research & Studies; and supported by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain. We are very grateful for the input and efforts of all of these and to all of you I offer my sincere thanks.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and discovering some of the activities and achievements of Ahlia University during 2015/16.

Professor Mansoor Alaali
President, Ahlia University

Highlights



Ahlia University Graduation Ceremony 2016

Held under the Patronage of HRH Prince Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister

Strategy & Direction

Ahlia's Vision is to be an outstanding international university and to take our place in the global Top 500 by the year 2030. Our Strategic Plan charts our way and is our route map toward the future. In 2015/16 we developed our forward strategy and enhanced it with area focus plans, designated roles and an effective committee structure. Selected highlights of 2015/16 are included below.

- **Ahlia University New Campus** is a major element of our future strategy and significant progress was made during 2015/16. We completed the engineering and schematic studies and in February 2016 we were honoured and delighted to be able to hold the New Campus Foundation Stone Ceremony under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- **Strategic Plan 2016-2020** was approved by University Council, following a development process which included input from student, external, faculty and staff stakeholders. The new Plan has an enhanced focus on our mission, to be achieved through nine goals. Our goals are grouped into six themes underpinned by fifteen strategic objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs) have been derived to measure progress. The Strategic Plan is advanced each year through actions set out in annual operational plans.
- **Area Focus Plans** were approved by University Council, to guide key areas of the University's strategic activities:
 - Research Plan
 - Teaching & Learning Plan
 - Community Empowerment Plan
 - Employability Action Plan
- **Adviser roles** were created to support various aspects of the University's strategic activities:
 - Academic Affairs
 - Budget & Finance
 - Capacity Building & Collaboration
 - Community Engagement
 - Futuristic Studies & Innovation
 - Human Resources & Professional Development
 - Quality of Teaching
 - Measurement & Evaluation
 - Planning & Development
- **President's Assistants** for Quality Assurance, Compliance and Special Projects also ensured appropriate support for three other important aspects of the University's strategic activities
- **President's Meetings** were held on a regular schedule and with various groups (deans; advisers; chairpersons; faculty; admin; departments) to act as conduits for communication across the University and to ensure that the strategic message receives continual focus
- **President's Circulars** were established to enhance communication with faculty and staff and share information on a regular basis



New Campus Foundation Stone Ceremony



Strategic Plan SWOT session



Chairman and President with the Foundation Stone



Strategic Plan External Stakeholders session

Programmes & Quality

Teaching and learning activities form the first of Ahlia's core functions. For this reason, our Strategic Plan is underpinned by a Teaching & Learning Plan detailing this aspect of our path towards becoming an outstanding global Top 500 university. Our Plan commits us to programmes that are innovative, market-relevant, meet international quality standards and provide our students with breadth of knowledge and depth of specialization. Selected highlights of 2015/16 are included below.

- **Judgements of "Confidence"** were awarded by the National Authority for Qualifications & Quality Assurance of Education & Training (BQA) when the College of Engineering's two programmes were reviewed in 2015/16. This maintains Ahlia's perfect record of Confidence judgements in programme quality reviews which now reads as follows*:
 - BSc Accounting & Finance (2015)
 - BSc Banking & Finance (2015)
 - BSc Computer & Communications Engineering (2016)
 - BSc Distributed Systems & Multimedia (2014)
 - BSc Economics & Finance (2015)
 - BSc Information Technology (2014)
 - BSc Management & Marketing (2009 & 2015)
 - BSc Management Information Systems (2015)
 - BSc Mobile & Network Engineering (2016)
 - BSc Physiotherapy (2013)
 - Master of Business Administration (MBA) (2012 & 2015)
 - MSc Information Technology & Computer Science (2011 & 2014)
- **National Qualification Framework** verifications took place and placement was awarded to BSc Banking & Finance and MSc Information Technology & Computer Science
- **Academic collaborations and agreements** included
 - Gulf Air, Bahrain: Memorandum of Understanding
 - Scranton University, USA: Memorandum of Understanding
 - Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, Qatar: Memorandum of Understanding
 - Peoples' Friendship University of Russia: preliminary discussion about collaboration
 - British Council, Bahrain: collaboration for faculty training and development
 - US Government / US Embassy, Bahrain: award of Fulbright Scholarship for 2015/16
 - QS-MAPLE: Memorandum of Understanding to host 8th International Conference in 2018
- **Academic links and memberships** included
 - Association of Private Universities in the GCC (APUGCC): membership
 - Association of Arab Private Institutes of Higher Education (AAPIHE): membership
 - QS MAPLE Conference International Academic Advisory Committee: membership for Chairman and President
 - QS-APPLE Conference in Melbourne, Australia (Nov 2015): attended by Chairman and President
 - 3rd Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE, Oct 2015): Invited Speaker role for President
 - INCONET-GCC2 (Dec 2015): Invited Speaker role for President
 - 6th QS MAPLE Conference (May 2016): Debate Motion Proposer/Speaker roles for Chairman and President
- **Ahlia's French student exchange programme** welcomed over 50 participants from universities in France, doubling its intake for the second year in a row

* Dates shown are Review Report publication dates



College of Engineering's successful programme review



MOU agreement with QS-MAPLE



MOU agreement with Doha Institute for Graduate Studies



French Exchange students 2015/16

Research & Scholarship

Research, academic enquiry and scholarship activities form the second of Ahlia's core functions. For this reason, our Strategic Plan is underpinned by a Research Plan developed in light of the Kingdom's needs. We encourage research by faculty and by all our students; and we work with partners in industry and the community as part of our commitment to research that can discover the solutions which our society needs. Selected highlights of 2015/16 are included below.

- **Ahlia's Research Plan**, developed in light of *Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030* and *National Research Strategy*, places academic enquiry and collaborative research at the centre of our endeavours. It promotes our research strategy and coordinates activities that deliver this aspect of our Strategic Plan (see page 14). Our four niche research areas are Entrepreneurship, Islamic Banking & Finance, Information & Communication Technology and community-based research projects
- **Ahlia's Fourth Annual Research Forum** featured a record number of talks and posters by faculty, staff and students, on a range of interesting topics. The College of Graduate Studies & Research introduced some new features this year and also published an Abstract Book. The Forum was attended by a number of guests from Bahrain's Higher Education Council and from other universities and provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on and share the academic work and research which supports our teaching
- **PhD Symposium 2015/16** showcased the research work of Ahlia students following the Ahlia-Brunel PhD (WR) programme
- **Ahlia Symposium on the Decline in Oil Prices and Impact on GCC Economies** was held in May 2016 under the Patronage of His Excellency Dr Abdulhussain bin Ali Mirza, Minister of Electricity & Water Affairs
- **Ahlia Healthcare Research Centre (AHCRC)** was established as a collaborative research group involving members from Ahlia University and from Brunel University London, led by Dr Tillal Eldabi
- **Publications** included
 - Books by Dr Said Al-Hajjar, Professor Mukhtar Al-Hashimi, Dr Wasan Awad, Dr Kadhim Moans Aziz, Dr Hossam Elhamy, Professor Ismail Noori Mseer, Dr Ali Omran, Professor Mohamed Shamsa, Dr Sayed Tantawy & Dr Dalia Kamel Shewitta (see list of titles on page 46)
 - Chapters in books by Dr Samia Costandi & Dr Allam Hamdan and Dr Karim Hajjar
 - Over sixty articles by faculty and staff in various academic journals
- **Other research and scholarship achievements** included
 - Dr Allam Hamdan's First Prize in Economic Research for the Ajman Annual Prize for Culture and Science (UAE)
 - PhD doctorate degrees gained by several faculty and staff members
 - Editorial board and reviewer appointments for international peer-reviewed journals for several faculty



Symposium on the Decline in Oil Prices



Fourth Annual Research Forum



Bahrain high-school student winners of CERN competition



Research Forum Poster Session

University & Community

Community engagement activities form the third of Ahlia's core functions. For this reason, our Strategic Plan is underpinned by a Community Empowerment Plan and our activities are wide-ranging, aimed at our internal and external communities. We offer programmes meeting the needs of students, employers and the Kingdom; we support good causes and encourage volunteering and other activities; we make our high-quality education accessible to all qualified applicants through scholarships; our research is outward-facing and geared to needs of our society. Selected highlights of 2015/16 are included below.

- **Ahlia's National Day Celebration** opened by the Assistant Governor of Central Governorate was a joyous event celebrating the Kingdom and showcasing student talents
- **Bahraini Women's Day at Ahlia** paid tribute to the significant contribution of women to Ahlia and to the Kingdom
- **Fatour: Break-Fast on the Road Ramadan Campaign** involved Ahlia teams distributing breakfast to drivers
- **Ahlia Symposium on Integrating Special Needs in Higher Education** focused on integration approaches; training needs; and successful integration case studies – attendees came from Ahlia and from charities, universities and government ministries
- **Special dictionary apps for smart-phones** were devised by Ms Fatima Al-Dhaen (IT College): a sign-language dictionary for deaf/mute people and a three-way language dictionary (Bahraini dialect / Arabic / English)
- **Initiatives for Bahrain high-school students** included
 - Workshop at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) in Switzerland for two high-school students who won a competition organised by our Dean of Graduate Studies & Research (see p41)
 - Masterclass for high school students from St Christopher's School about studying science and physics at university
- **International Day of Health** activities were held in collaboration with staff from the American Mission Hospital
- **Employment sector links** were strengthened through College Advisory Boards and our valued relationships with over a hundred employers who support our Internship Programme
- **Responsible citizenship** was encouraged through student participation in initiatives including
 - Conference on Religious Tolerance and Religious History in Bahrain (Isa Cultural Centre)
 - Understanding the Role of Charities In Bahrain (Royal Charity Organization)
 - Pearl Initiative Good Governance Case Study Competition: Ahlia hosted the Ceremony attended by the Executive Director of the Pearl Initiative and Lord Hastings, KPMG International Global Head of Corporate Citizenship
- **Bahrain Ironman 70.3** participant Dr Maria del Mar de Fez Laso (ASE College and GSR dean) was sponsored by Ahlia to take part in this world-famous sporting event, a first for the region



Symposium on Integrating Special Needs in Higher Education



Break-Fast on the Road Ramadan Campaign



Prize winners at Women's Day event



National Day Celebrations

Students & Activities

Ahlia's students are the key focus of all of our activities, of our strategy and of all the functions which we undertake. Our role is to develop our students intellectually, academically and personally. For this reason, we encourage their growth and development by ensuring a balance of curriculum-related learning and wider activities. Together, these provide a rich and varied education which fosters students' personal growth and helps them become responsible adults. Selected highlights of 2015/16 are included below.

- **Ahlia's Graduation Ceremony 2016** held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister. We are grateful for His Royal Highness' gracious Patronage of this wonderful occasion and look forward to continuing our strategy in the service of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- **Other celebrations of student achievement** included
 - Graduation Celebration Event for 2nd Cohort of George Washington University Master of Science in Engineering Management attended by Mr William Roebuck, US Ambassador to Bahrain
 - Ahlia Annual High Achievers Celebration 2016 which paid tribute to our students' successes
- **Careers Day 2016** involved 64 organisations and featured 13 workshops about the job market and a variety of work-related topics delivered by speakers from Ahlia, Bahrain and beyond
- **Course field visits** were made by our students to a variety of locations, including
 - Al Ayam Media Centre
 - Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company (BALEXCO)
 - Bahrain TV & Radio
 - Dubai Media City and the high profile media organisations located there
 - Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co (GPIC)
 - Tamkeen
 - The Ritz-Carlton Bahrain Hotel & Spa
 - Zain Bahrain
- **External competitions** involving our students included
 - Universities Start-up Challenge 2015 organized by the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry: Ahlia students won First Place
 - Pearl Initiative's GCC Good Governance Project Case Study Competition: Ahlia students won First Prize
 - Bahrain Bourse's TradeQuest Investment Trading Competition
 - 15th Inter-College Environmental Public Speaking Competition in Dubai
 - Universities Football Tournament: Ahlia student teams won gold and silver
 - Universities Basketball Championship
 - Indoor Football Competition
- **Student societies** established this year included
 - Student Branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE)
 - Ahlia University Toastmasters Club
- **Student activities** also included blood donation, camping, charity activities, cultural tours, festivals, karting, poetry and the *Let's Play Sport* of His Highness Sheikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Representative of His Majesty the King for Charity Works & Youth Affairs, Chairman of Supreme Council for Youth & Sports and President of Bahrain Olympic Committee



Graduation Celebration Event for 2nd Cohort of George Washington University Master of Science in Engineering Management



Pearl Initiative - Ahlia's prize winning students



Students enjoying a day out



Sakhir Desert Camp



Board of Directors

(Arab Academy for Research and Studies)

The Arab Academy for Research and Studies (AARS) is the parent company for Ahlia University, Ahlia School and the Bahrain Institute of Technology. Comprising a number of high-profile educators and business people in Bahrain and the GCC, AARS acts as the University's financial guarantor.

Members of the AARS Board of Directors

- Mr Farouk Almoayyed, Chairman
- Dr Ali Jaffar Al Aradi
- Mr Saud Al-Ashqar
- Mr Mohammed Al-Naki
- Mr Khalid Janahi
- Dr Lulwa Mutlaq
- Professor Abdulla Al Hawaj
- Dr Jaffar Al-Tarif
- Mrs Layla Al-Araifi
- Mr Hameed Salman
- Mrs Fawzia Zainal

The AARS Annual General Assembly meeting was held in April 2016 chaired by Mr Farouk Almoayyed and attended by shareholders.

At the meeting, the Chairman and the Directors paid tribute to the generous gesture of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister, who gave his Patronage to the Foundation Laying Ceremony for Ahlia University's new campus, held in February 2016.

The Chairman added that His Royal Highness's gracious Patronage was a great encouragement to the Board and to the University's faculty, staff and students in their aspirations towards excellence to benefit the Kingdom and the region. He expressed his sincere thanks and appreciation to His Royal Highness the Prime Minister for sponsoring the ongoing march of development in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Chairman noted that the University's new campus planned for the Northern City would include comprehensive educational services and facilities, in buildings designed according to the most advanced international standards. He also praised the efforts of the University's faculty and administrative staff, and noted the latest achievements of the University which had once again received the highest judgements in the review reports recently issued by the National Authority for Qualifications & Quality Assurance of Education & Training, thus reinforcing Ahlia's position of excellence in academic performance and quality standards.

The meeting also approved the Board of Directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2015 and the External Auditor's report on the final accounts for the same year.



Ahlia University Board of Trustees

Ahlia University is a legally separate division of AARS and has its own Board of Trustees, clearly distinct and separate from the AARS Board, in order to ensure effective governance and management through external oversight of activities.

The University Trustees ensure that Ahlia determines its own strategic direction with an appropriate balance between financial self-reliance and academic excellence.

Members of the Board of Trustees



Prof Abdulla Al Hawaj
Chairman



Prof Marwan Kamal



Prof Mansoor Alaali



Prof Ali Abdul Rahman



Dr Faisal Al Moosawi



Dr Zamil Al-Mokrin



Dr Anwar Al-Naki



Mr Saud Al-Ashqar

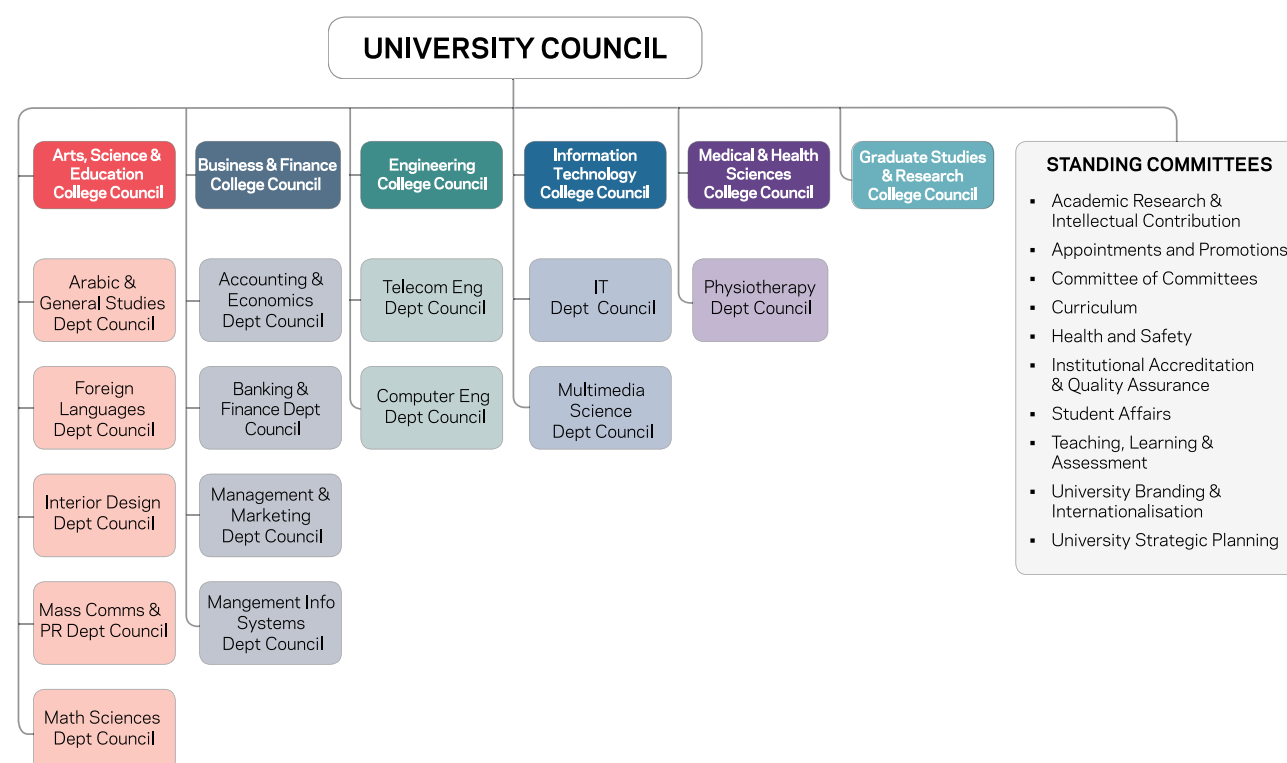


Architect's image of Ahlia University's new campus

The University Council is the senior policy-making body within the University and comprises the President, the Vice President, the Deans and representatives of faculty. In 2015/16 University Council business included:

- Approving the University's Strategic Plan 2016-20; revised AU Mission Statement; Research Plan; Teaching & Learning Plan; and Community Empowerment Plan
- Revising its Standing Committees and their memberships
- Approving the University's Employability Action Plan; Professional Development Plan; and post-review Quality Improvement Plans
- Establishing an Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre and several research focus groups/ niche areas
- Approving improvements to the undergraduate project course to make it more beneficial to students and relevant to their future careers
- Introducing the INJAZ Bahrain programme (see page 37); the new research methodologies course; new Engineering courses
- Revising programme benchmarking processes
- Updating the bylaws and various student-related policies designed to make regulations clearer and more helpful to students.

University Committee Structure



University Council membership 2015/16



Prof Mansoor Alaali
President / UC Chairman



Prof Bakr Hassan
Vice President
Academic Affairs



Prof Hemat Al Saka
Dean of College of Arts,
Science & Education



Dr Muneer Al Mubarak
Dean of College of
Business & Finance



Dr Madina Hamiane
Dean of College of
Engineering



Dr Wasan Awad
Dean of College of
Information Technology



Dr Maria del Mar de Fez Laso
Dean of College of Graduate
Studies & Research



Prof Shawqi Al Dallal
Acting Dean of College of
Medical & Health Sciences
/ Advisor to President for
Innovation & Futuristic Studies



Dr Aqeel Radhi
Acting Dean of
Student Affairs



Prof Amer Al Roubaie
Representative of
Professors



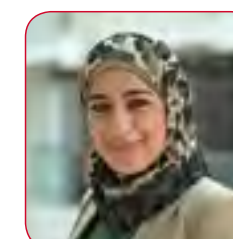
Dr Husain Dhaif
Representative of
Associate Professors



Dr Abdul-Muneim Al Shirawi
Representative of
Assistant Professors



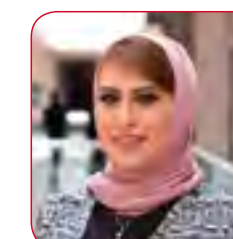
Mr Ammar Al Hawaj
Representative of Lecturers



Dr Ahlam Hassan
President Assistant for
Quality Assurance



Dr Ebrahim Malalla
President Assistant for
University Compliance



Ms Sajeda Salah
Student Council President

College of Arts, Science & Education



The College offers three specialised programmes (BSc Interior Design; and BSc and MSc Mass Communications & PR), together with a wide range of courses contributing to programmes across the University:

- Arabic courses covering language proficiency, writing skills, cultural awareness and history of the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region
- Courses in Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish covering language proficiency and, uniquely in Bahrain, exam techniques for IELTS examinations
- Complementary courses including anthropology; cultural studies; Islamic culture; ethics; history of Bahrain and the region; human rights; international relations; law; mathematics; physics; psychology; sociology; statistics

All College courses are designed to develop employment-related skills and to provide a balance of theoretical and practical elements. Essential skills are developed through team-working, solving problems, making presentations; and developing logical, critical and analytical approaches for clear and effective communication.

In 2015/16 we continued our programme of extracurricular activities to enrich courses and add to students' enjoyment while they are gaining and improving skills. This year our programme included college seminars and field trips to relevant workplaces, including Bahrain TV & Radio, Bahrain Institute For Political Development, the Gulf Interiors Exhibition 2016, Salwa Amin Interiors and several high-profile news and/or media organisations located at Dubai Media City, including MBC Group, Tecom Investment, Thomson Reuters, Bell Pottinger, Dubai Channels Network, Al Bayan Newspaper. Our students continued to produce their interesting magazine *Voice of Ahlia*.

Outreach activities included a Physics Masterclass for St Christopher's School, for their students to find out about studying physics and science at university level (joint-organised with College of Graduate Studies & Research).

Research areas in which our faculty published in 2015/16 included Arabic language and literature; brand impact; communication and behavioural impact; cultural analysis; design and health; e learning in schools; education issues in the GCC; history; journalism; language and meaning; narrative analysis; new media; politics; sustainable development; and Walsh sequences.

College of Business & Finance



The College offers eight programmes in business and finance subjects: five bachelor's, an MBA, a master's (with George Washington University, USA) and a PhD (with Brunel University London, UK). All curricula are innovative, relevant and develop knowledge and work-related skills; and wherever possible include professional certifications. We collaborate with CIMA, ACCA and (new this year) with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).

In 2015/16, programme activities included validation of several programmes by Bahrain's National Qualification Framework (NQF); and completing application for accreditation by AACSB (the internationally-recognized business-specific accreditation).

We aim to develop socially responsible professionals, capable of leading and contributing to the economic growth of Bahrain and the region, through programmes and co-curricular activities. In 2015/16, as well as field trips (eg to BALEXCO, GPIC and Tamkeen), our students took part in International Health Day activities with staff from Ahlia and from the American Mission Hospital. Student teams took part in several competitions and were awarded First Place in the Universities Start-up Challenge 2016 organised by Bahrain's Chamber of Commerce & Industry; and First Place in the Student Case Study Competition organised by the Pearl Initiative.

This year our successful series of workshops and seminars by invited guests and Ahlia speakers included topics ranging from nation branding in the Gulf region to diversification and the challenges and opportunities presented by low oil prices.

In 2015/16 faculty research publications covered audit, accounting and asset control; business and management; corporate governance and compliance; foreign direct investment; GCC monetary union; incentivisation, professional training and performance; Islamic banking and standards; online shopping; share prices; white-collar fraud; and women entrepreneurs.

Faculty attended various international academic conferences as presenters and/or as conference chairs. Some also participated in the Annual Ahlia Research Forum. Academic prizes for our faculty included Dr Allam Hamdan receiving First Prize in Economic Research in the Ajman Annual Prizes for Culture and Science (UAE).



The College offers two undergraduate programmes with combinations of computer, network and telecommunication engineering that are unique in Bahrain. Curricula are in line with those at well-known international universities and are designed to equip students to become globally competitive engineering professionals.

In 2015/16 our programmes were reviewed by Bahrain's Education & Training Quality Authority and were awarded judgements of full "Confidence". We also began preparations for programme placement on Bahrain's National Qualifications Framework and for accreditation by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET).

During 2015/16 we enhanced laboratory space for experimental courses by acquiring new dedicated labs with specialist software, one for computer engineering courses and one for telecommunication courses.

Co-curricular activities enrich programmes and give insight into the sector. In 2015/16 the Ahlia IEEE Student Branch was established. As the IEEE is the world's largest technical professional association for engineers, scientists and allied professionals, this will enable students to broaden their education, develop additional skills and network with professionals in the industry. Other student activities included field trips to Zain Telecommunications and Huawei Technologies; visits to the Zain Technology Conference and the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Roundtable event; an industrial career day at Bahrain Exhibition Centre; and guest workshops from local telecommunication companies at Ahlia's Careers Day.

Our Graduation Projects Exhibition was held in May 2016, attended by faculty, staff and students and by visitors from industry and from Bahrain's secondary schools.

College faculty are active researchers and most are members of relevant professional societies. In 2015/16 faculty published articles on topics including change detection systems, matter-antimatter interaction and intra-crosstalk in all-optical networks. Some students also published research, individually or jointly with College faculty. The College continued its research seminar series in 2015/16 with several faculty presenting their most recent research on a wide range of topics.

College of Information Technology



The College offers bachelor's degrees in Information Technology and Distributed Systems and Multimedia, and a master's degree in Information Technology and Computer Science. All our programmes are designed to meet business and industry needs and develop students into high quality professionals who will excel in their careers and contribute to society.

In 2015/16 we implemented programme enhancements based on feedback from reviewers and stakeholder surveys. We also initiated application for external accreditation by ABET and submitted documentation for programme placement on Bahrain's National Qualifications Framework. NQF validation of our bachelor's degrees are in progress and the MSc Information Technology & Computer Science has been validated and placed on the NQF.

College programmes have a hands-on, reality-based approach so students can apply what they learn to solve real-life problems, preparing them to become future innovators and leaders. Academic courses are complemented by incorporation of Oracle and Microsoft professional courses and we prepare students for the International Computer Driving License (ICDL), a globally recognised certification.

Alongside our academic courses is a programme of co-curricular activities, aimed at broadening students' education and bringing them closer to the real world. This includes field trips (eg to the Microcenter Training Institute) and a regular seminar series, with topics ranging from encrypted databases to cyber threats. In 2015/16 the College set up a collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain, part of Junior Achievement Worldwide, which aims to empower young people, open their minds to their own potential and prepare them for today's business challenges.

In 2015/16 College faculty were active in research, publishing articles and books and/or attending conferences. Some students also presented papers at international conferences. Faculty published books and articles on topics including problem-solving through swarm optimization, server batch-queuing optimisation, server queueing systems, big data, case studies in ontology, and information security & computational intelligence.

College of Medical & Health Sciences



The College offers a well-regarded bachelor's degree which blends theoretical and practical clinical courses to treat real patients in a variety of healthcare environments and which graduates effective, self-sufficient physiotherapists.

In 2015/16 we conducted benchmarking to ensure our programme remains up-to-date and in line with top international universities. We are keen to maintain our pioneering role in physiotherapy education and to promote the Kingdom's role as a hub for medical education and treatment, so in 2015/16 we initiated proposals for postgraduate programmes in rehabilitation sciences.

College students achieved some of the highest grades in the University in 2015/16. Clinical Community Physiotherapy course students represented Ahlia in International Health Day activities organised by Bahrain's Ministry of Health. All second-level students gained Bahrain and UK certification for Emergency First Aid at Work with Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Training.

Our graduates all obtain professional accreditation; they are employed in Bahrain and abroad, including the GCC, Canada, Australia and Germany, and many have obtained postgraduate and research qualifications at prestigious universities in the US and the UK.

One of our alumni, Mrs Amina Al Hawaj, was selected to join MBC's Stars of Science, Qatar Foundation's media initiative for young entrepreneurs and worked with engineers and designers at Qatar Science & Technology Park. She has four patents and is working on three more, all relating to physical rehabilitation devices. In June 2016, she attended the Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Stanford University, at the invitation of US President Barack Obama.

In 2015/16 faculty published on topics including abdominopelvic cavity concept in incontinence rehabilitation; treatments for acute and chronic BPPV; CPD for physical therapists; and academic institutions as providers of community-based rehabilitation. Roles included conference invited/guest speaker and presenter; conference organising committee and editorial board member; and activities included developmental workshops; and contributing to the Ahlia Annual Research Forum.

College of Graduate Studies & Research



The College mission is to support graduate programmes; advise and assist faculty with research, publication and conference activities; promote research culture; and provide data for management and external reports. Following a review by the incoming dean, the focus for 2015/16 was enhancing all of these activities.

Graduate dissertation viva processes are administered by the College. In 2015/16 there were almost 300 students to assist, plus three faculty for each viva exam committee (for whom we arrange procedural requirements and fee payments). We also made quality assurance enhancements and introduced a summary report to ensure viva processes are optimal.

This year, to enhance reporting, we developed databases for graduate programme activities and for research data (articles, books, conferences, etc), linked to Ahlia's student record system (ADREG) as appropriate.

In 2015/16 we organised various events aimed at fostering research interest and activity in the University and the community

- Seminar by students from Bayan School and St Christopher's School, who had attended a Workshop at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) Switzerland, after winning a competition organised by our dean, Dr Maria del Mar de Fez Laso (CERN's Bahrain representative)
- Physics Masterclass for St Christopher's School, for students to find out about studying physics and science at university level (joint-organised with ASE College)
- PhD Programme Doctoral Symposium, at which students presented their research in progress
- A half-day workshop on 3-D printing for higher education, with presentations by faculty and outside experts
- Ahlia University's Fourth Annual Research Forum, with talks, posters and books from a record number of faculty, staff and students; several new features including daily hand-outs with abstracts/ profiles and a published Abstract Book; and appreciative attendees from Ahlia, other universities and Bahrain's Higher Education Council

In 2015/16 we also reorganised and augmented our website pages, which now provide a full record of College events, seminars and press releases. This redesign is aimed at raising awareness of the breadth of our faculty's research and enhancing the external visibility of Ahlia's research activities.

Administration

Ahlia's administrative directorates and units are key contributors to its success, through work which supports the programme offering. Brief reports on activities in 2015/16 are included below.

- **Administrative Services** continued to support activities for Ahlia's current and future operations, including facilities management; maintenance; security; safety; and liaison with Tamkeen on various major funding projects. Further significant progress was made on the new campus project, including the engineering and schematic studies, and the New Campus Foundation Stone Ceremony was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister
- **Branding & Digital** implemented a major upgrade to Ahlia's website; supported academic and administrative units with production of printed and other materials; ran a high-impact social media publicity campaign; continued to support implementation of the new brand developed in 2014/15; coordinated production of Ahlia's first Undergraduate Prospectus, for use in student recruitment for 2016/17, bringing Ahlia into line with leading global universities
- **Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance** continued to support departments and colleges with the programme offering; updated and monitored implementation of the quality management system (AUQMS); conducted internal programme evaluations; assisted with NQF programme mapping; facilitated activities for HEC, AACSB and ABET accreditation; and supported all internal processes for QQA's Review of programmes in the College of Engineering
- **Centre for Measurement and Evaluation** supported the improvement of teaching and learning through the design, conduct and analysis of surveys and other evaluation exercises
- **Financial Affairs** provided support to all Ahlia's academic and administrative units with accounts payable, accounts receivable, purchasing; and financial planning. Improvements were made to services, including support to students and sponsors, which resulted in faster processing times; regular reporting; reduced fee debts; and compliance with new external regulations
- **Human Resources** continued to provide support across Ahlia on three main areas: employee relations including payroll; recruitment and selection; and training, development and performance improvement. All activities were reviewed and improved during the year, to increase user support and compliance with new external regulations; in addition, HR's website was revised and the Ahlia Staff Handbook was updated.
- **Information & Communications Technology** continued to support Ahlia's teaching and learning activities with hardware/software for teaching labs and e-learning/virtual labs; as well as providing the ICT infrastructure including telecommunications, IT and WiFi. Improvements to servers and to security were introduced; and day-to-day problems continued to be resolved on demand
- **Information Systems Support** continued to provide support for Ahlia's two major administrative IT systems: ADREG (student records) and Alamthal (course fees, asset records, payments, payroll and HR records). Various enhancements were introduced to improve day-to-day operations and to support users
- **International Relations** liaised with colleges and departments to identify new collaboration partners; managed Ahlia's exchange programme, including providing academic and pastoral care advice to incoming students. Fifty-three French students came to Ahlia this year (another record level at almost double the total for 2014/15 and far in excess of the numbers at other universities in Bahrain) and we also hosted a Visiting Scholar under the US Government's Fulbright Scholarship Programme.
- **Library** supported learning resource needs of faculty and students with borrowing and reference services. Stocks were increased by 571 books and 2 databases; 3 new study spaces were added; and use of the library increased through enhanced service awareness achieved by updating posters and brochures and holding open days and training sessions
- **Media Production Centre** continued to provide a multi-function service to faculty, students and staff, including photography and video (for classes and for adverts, events, PR and training) together with graphic design, print and publication services
- **Public Relations & Media** continued to plan and organise Ahlia's events; arrange press coverage and media liaison; deal with PR activities and related collateral; and coordinate exhibitions. This year's most high-profile media coverage came from the New Campus Foundation Stone Ceremony and the Graduation Ceremony 2016, both of which were held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister
- **Strategic Planning** worked with all sections across the University developing and implementing the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 and continuing the related operational planning cycle. Various enhancements to the SP development process were introduced in liaison with an experienced HE Consultant and further enhancements to the OP process were developed, which will be implemented during 2016/17



Ahlia's new brand in action



Head of Safety & Security with drill stewards



Library training session



High school students at recruitment fair

Deanship of Student Affairs

The Deanship of Student Affairs is the main contact point for students and their needs relating to administration, fees and record-keeping. It also provides services and facilities which help students achieve better academic performance and develop as well-rounded individuals. The sections in the Deanship handled a wide range of activities during 2015/16.

- **Admissions, Registration & Graduation** deals with administration matters for students, from first enquiry, throughout their studies, to the graduation processes which conclude their programme. The most high-profile activity this year related to the Graduation Ceremony 2016, held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister
- **Professional Relations** provides current students and graduates with support designed to prepare them for their careers: liaising with over 100 organisations to arrange placements for the Ahlia Internship; organising field visits to broaden our programmes; offering seminars and events on work-related subjects; and by hosting the Annual Ahlia Careers Day which this year involved almost 70 well-known employers
- **Counselling & Guidance** supports students with issues that might hinder academic progress, providing short-term advice and on-going assistance, including for students with special needs. The team helps with issues such as adjusting to university life, exam anxiety and study skills as well as personal concerns. In 2015/16 the team also contributed to the QQA Review of programmes in the Engineering College and to the preparations for HEC accreditation; and worked with the Student Activities & Services team to organise the first Ahlia Symposium on Integrating Special Need Students in Higher Education.
- **Student Activities & Services** enables students to develop skills and talents through activities including basketball, blood donation, camping, charity activities, cultural tours, festivals, football, poetry; and with external competitions such as the university debates competition. The team also supports the elected Student Council. This year the team organised a survey on student interests to develop activities and clubs offered; and worked with the Counselling & Guidance team to organise the first Ahlia Symposium on Integrating Special Need Students in Higher Education, attended by participants from twenty external charities, universities and government organisations.



Students at Careers Day



Registration team at Induction Day

Facts & Figures

100%

Success Rate in
Programme Quality
Reviews



35

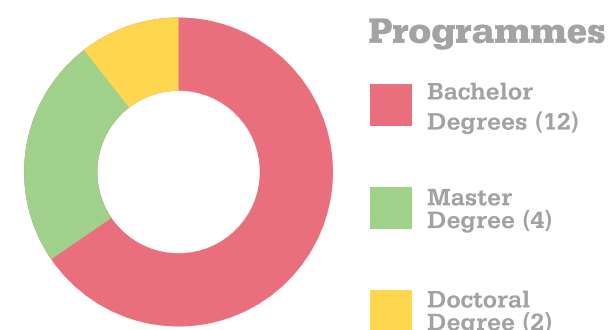
Student
Nationalities



Over

3500

Graduates
(since 2003)



68

 Organisations at
Careers
Day 2016

Almost

100

organisations
support our Internship

3 million

Library resources
(hard copy and e-resources)

Books

- **Dr Said Al-Hajjar:**
 - *Probabilities and Statistics*
 - *Investigating the Success of E-Learning in Secondary Schools: The Case of Kingdom of Bahrain*
- **Professor Mukhtar Al-Hashimi:**
 - *Let's Talk Business*
 - *Quotes*
- **Dr Wasan Awad:**
Improving Information Security Practices Through Computational Intelligence
- **Dr Kadhim Moans Aziz:**
Models of Communication and Behavioral Impact Theories
- **Dr Hossam Mohamed Elhamy:**
 - *Creativity in journalism writing: a scientific vision*
 - *Research Methods in New Media*
- **Professor Ismail Noori Mseer:**
A Century Later: Arab Approaches to the Hundred years after the First World War
- **Dr Ali Omran:**
 - *Arabic for Non-native Speakers*
 - *Characteristics of the Artistic Image in Imam Ali's Military Sermons*
- **Professor Mohamed Shamsa:**
 - *Contemporary Management Accounting, Accounting and Tax Planning*
 - *Tax Accounting and Assets Control Procedures*
- **Dr Sayed A Tantawy and Dr Dalia Kamel Shewitta:**
Abdominopelvic cavity concept in urinary incontinence rehabilitation

Chapters in books

- **Dr Samia Costandi and Dr Allam Hamdan:**
Two chapters in a book entitled *Education Issues and Challenges in GCC Countries*:
 - *The Risk of Intellectual Decadence: Stakeholder Organizations and the Neglect of the Human Sciences in Universities in the Arabian Gulf*
 - *The Relationship between Investment in Higher Education and Economic Growth in Saudi Arabia*
- **Dr Karim Hajjar:**
Chapter in a book entitled *Semantic Web: Implications for Technologies and Business Practices*
 - *University Ontology: A Case Study at Ahlia University*

The Chairman and the President extend their thanks to all students, faculty, staff and external stakeholders who contributed to and featured in the Annual Report 2015/16.

Design services:
Salt Creative, Kingdom of Bahrain

Photographs:
Media Production Centre, Ahlia University

Production, concept and content:
Ms C Hogan, President's Assistant for Special Projects, Ahlia University

© Copyright Ahlia University 2017
ISBN Ref. No: 978-99958-1-173-0





الجامعة الأهلية
AHLIA UNIVERSITY
BAHRAIN

For all general inquiries please contact:
Ahlia University
P.O. Box 10878, Manama
Kingdom of Bahrain

T: +973 1729 8999
F: +973 1729 0083
E: Info@ahlia.edu.bh



[ahliauniversity](#)



[ahliauniversitybh](#)

www.ahlia.edu.bh