



الجامعة الأهلية
AHLIA UNIVERSITY
BAHRAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



**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 Graduation Ceremony 2017
Held under the Patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
the Prime Minister







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Message from the **Chairman**

The year 2016/17 was a year of great importance for Ahlia University as it marches forward on its journey towards fulfilling its mission and vision.

As John Dewey has always maintained, the school/university is intrinsically wedded to society and the educational institution and the context in which it thrives, the community,

cannot be separated from each other. Our name 'Ahlia' means 'family' or 'community' – this spirit was key to our foundation and runs through everything we do: from our goal of providing the best quality of education to our students, to our belief that university life should be well rounded and include scholarship, out-of-class activities, and meaningful engagement with the community.

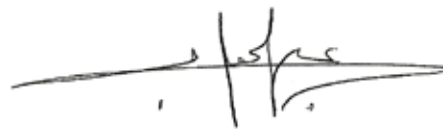
Ahlia University is recognised today for its multifarious roles and contributions to society through its faculty, staff, students, alumni and alumnae. This was made possible through the institutionalisation of the University Strategic Plan (2016-2020) in order to ensure its effective implementation, and long-term sustainability of the institution.

As an educator who dreamt of the AU project in my younger years, I feel truly blessed to have seen this institution grow, from small-scale beginnings, to a dynamic community of stakeholders, with approximately 4,000 graduates to date.

In 2016//17, with my incumbency as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and together with a small group of senior academicians that form the Board, I have had the privilege and responsibility of providing strategic direction and external oversight of the university's activities, within the context of an effective system of governance. As Chairman of the Campus Steering Group, I am delighted to report the completion of the campus schematic designs, which is an important milestone that brings us closer to the achievement of strategic objective 3 of the University Strategic Plan: "To build a state-of-the-art campus in order to provide a 21st century learning environment for students, faculty, staff and the community."

In today's world of digital disruption and disruptive innovation, universities have an ever greater responsibility in equipping students and new graduates with the requisite knowledge and skills through transdisciplinarity. This is critical in the creation of a disruption-ready mindset, which is a precursor to disruptive innovation. Innovation is no longer a luxury, it is imperative. To this end, in 2016/17, Ahlia University approved the establishment of two new centres: A Centre for Statistical Analysis, and a Centre for Entrepreneurship. The former is responsible for fostering a culture of high-quality interdisciplinary research, and providing researchers, both students and faculty, with training and support. The latter is responsible for fostering a culture of entrepreneurial spirit and innovation.

As the Chairman, I take great pride in steering this young and ambitious institution along the ever-ascending road of success and excellence. I look forward to the future with great optimism and hope.



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 2016/17. Our theme this year was internationalisation and collaboration. The University made significant progress with its internationalisation agenda, as we set out to achieve our Strategic Plan and Vision of becoming an outstanding regional and international academic institution.

Our Strategic Plan consists of 9 goals, which translate into 6 themes underpinned by 15 strategic objectives. The first goal focuses on strengthening AU so that it is ranked among the top 5 private universities in the GCC. Additionally, it sets out for the university to gain international accreditation of recognition for its programmes.

2016/17 saw more recognition of our teaching quality and programmes by the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA). We are proud to have achieved validation for, and placement of a total of 5 undergraduate programmes on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF). The NQF is a national framework, which was developed in partnership with the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA), and adopts international standards with the aim of fostering world-class education.

In the same year, the College of Business and Finance gained acceptance for the eligibility application submitted to the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), which is the world's oldest and most prestigious global accrediting body for business education. AACSB represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide.

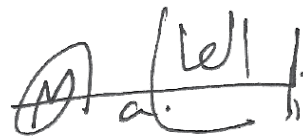
Work is underway in both the College of Engineering, and the College of Information Technology towards applying for international accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

One of the main highlights of 2016/17 was the Graduation Ceremony 2017, held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister.

All in all, 2016/17 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 Board of 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 and gratitude.

I hope you enjoy reading this Annual Report and discovering some of the activities and achievements of Ahlia University during 2016/17.



Professor Mansoor Alaali
President, Ahlia University

Highlights



Ahlia University Graduation Ceremony 2017



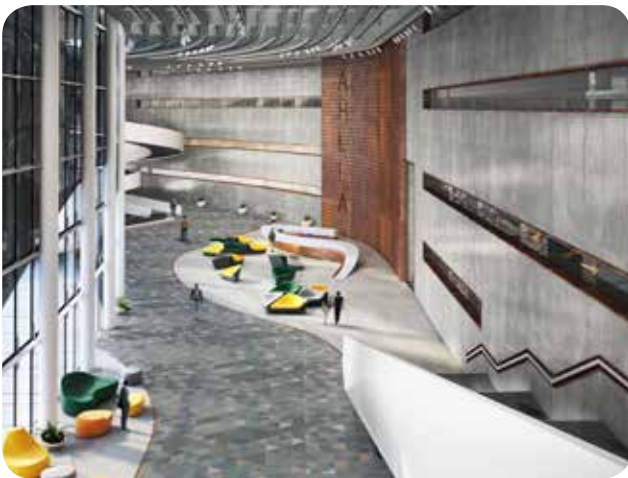
**Held under the Patronage of
HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister**

Strategy & Direction

Ahlia University is cognisant of, and embraces, the Higher Education Strategy 2014-2024 in which national priorities are set out. As such, the University Strategic Plan (2016-2020) was developed to support, and contribute towards, the achievement of these national priorities, which would in turn lead up to the creation of a knowledge economy that fulfills the Economic Vision 2030. Select highlights of 2016/17 are included below.

- **Ahlia University New Campus** is a strategic undertaking that the university is working studiously towards, under the leadership and guidance of the Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Abdulla Y. Al Hawaj. The strategic nature and importance of this project is evident in the strategic plan, in which a specific strategic objective concerned with the future campus is articulated. In 2016/17 the university made significant strides by finalising the detailed masterplan, and commencing work on the schematic designs.
- **Strategic Plan 2016-2020** was monitored and evaluated in terms of its implementation through an enhanced monitoring mechanism devised to ensure proper institutionalisation. The Strategic Planning Directorate conducted a series of meetings with a cross-section of faculty and staff from the different Colleges, Directorates, and Centres to disseminate information on, and build awareness of, the enhanced mechanism. Additionally, the meetings served to provide training and guidance on the effective development of operational plans, in line with new forms and requirements.
- **Strategic initiatives** in the year 2016/17 included the establishment of a number of new centres.
 - Strategic initiatives in the year 2016/17 included the establishment of a number of new centres.
 - Centre for Statistical Analysis: The centre is responsible for supporting the production of high quality research through training and guidance provided to both students and faculty within the university.
 - Centre for Entrepreneurship: The centre is responsible for providing support, assistance, and guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs within the university.
- **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 all internal stakeholders maintained a strategic mindset, and had the opportunity to contribute towards the strategic direction of the university.
- **President's Communication** are continuously shared with faculty and staff on a regular basis for major developments and activities in the university.

University Campus Infrastructure & Facilities



Programmes & Quality

Ahlia University was conceived by its founders to be an agent of real change in university education to ensure that students have a fulfilling learning experience that not only equips them for the world of work, but to become well-rounded responsible citizens. AU cherishes its commitment to excellent quality in the core functions of teaching and learning, research and community engagement, and through to all aspects of its operations. Selected highlights of 2016/17 are included below.

- **Judgements of “Confidence”** AU's commitment to quality is demonstrated by the fact that in all AU's programme quality reviews conducted by the Directorate of Higher Education of the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education & Training (QQA), AU received confidence judgments. 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 validation took place and placement on NQF awarded to:

- Bachelor's Degree in Banking & Finance (2015/2016)
- Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology (2016/2017)
- Master's Degree in Information Technology & Computer Science (2015/2016)
- Bachelor's Degree in Management Information Systems (2016/2017)
- Bachelor's Degree in Management & Marketing (2016/2017)
- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting & Finance (2016/2017)
- Bachelor's Degree in Economics & Finance (2016/2017)

* Dates shown are Review Report publication dates, ** The Admission of the new students to the programme is suspended by the decision of the Higher Education Council (HEC).
تم وقف قبول الطلبة الجدد في البرنامج بموجب مجلس التعليم العالي



University Collaboration

In line with the University's vision "to become an outstanding regional and international academic institution", Ahlia University continues to work towards building its reputation locally and internationally through extending engagement with higher education institutions and organisations beyond Bahrain and the GCC. Such engagement contributes both directly and indirectly to the Ahlia's teaching and research goals and enables the University to provide learners with valuable opportunities for personal and professional development.

- **Academic collaborations and agreements** included
 - Manchester Metropolitan University, UK: preliminary discussions about collaboration
 - British Council, Bahrain: collaboration of faculty training and development
 - Higher Education Academy, UK: training in teaching and learning pedagogies
 - Fulbright Commission: Placement for Fulbright Scholarship Recipients

- **Academic links and memberships** included
 - Association of Private Universities in GCC (APUGCC)
 - Association of Arab Private Institutes of Higher Education (AAPIHE)
 - QS MAPLE Conference International Academic Advisory Committee
 - QS-APPLE Conference in Putrajaya, Malaysia (Nov 2016): attended by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees
 - Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB): Eligibility application approved

- **The Directorate of International Relations** welcomed 22 exchange students from France to spend one full academic year at Ahlia University. Additionally, a total of 5 domestic Ahlia University students participated in two different study abroad programmes in the United Kingdom and France. Three of the students were postgraduate students that attended an exciting international summer school programme at the University of Bradford, and the two others were undergraduate students that participated in a French Language Summer School programme in Paris.

Moreover, the Directorate of International Relations, through its long-standing cooperation with the US Embassy, welcomed 2 Fulbright English Language Teaching Assistants for a 10-month long placement at Ahlia University. Finally, 2016/2017 saw the launch of Ahlia's first French Day; a daylong celebration of French culture and cuisine. The event was a resounding success that was borne out of the close relationship between Ahlia University and the French Embassy in Bahrain.



Research & Scholarship

Since inception, Ahlia University's mission was based on three core pillars that include research and scholarship. 2016/17 was a year of significant progress, in which a number of accolades were obtained, and achievements undertaken, by our growing number of researchers, which is a natural consequence of the comprehensive research support programme that Ahlia University has recently developed and included in the AU Research Plan 2016-2020.

- **Ahlia's Research Plan:**

AU's Research Plan 2016-2020 is derived from several strategic documents such as AU Strategic Plan 2016-2020, Bahrain National Strategy for Research and Bahrain's Economic Vision 2030. Ahlia's Research Plan underpinning AU's vision to contribute to Bahraini and Gulf community development. Also, to work with faculty members, students and external partners in both industry and community to support world-class research and enterprise and to develop a sustainable portfolio of activities that strengthen and underpin the University's research base. To this extent, AU formed four Niche areas which are Entrepreneurship, Islamic Banking and Finance, Information Technology and as well as a community-based research project and AU faculty started to publish in those areas.

- **Ahlia's Fifth Annual Research Forum**

It is a showcase for updates of research in different disciplines. Ahlia research forum is a platform for Ahlia faculty, international academic and industrial experts to present their research and this provides a rich environment of scientific discussion through oral and poster presentations along with book exhibitions. In addition, undergraduate and graduate students have a room in this annual event to support their research-based learning and endorse the research culture in our students which contributes in shaping of their career. The College of Graduate Studies and Research produces an abstract book of the research forum in addition to the slides presentation on AU website for dissemination to the wider community.

- **PhD Symposium 2016/17**

The annual PhD WR Symposium was held on 12th and 13th February 2017. 16 research papers were presented in the symposium. The event was attended by Mr Simon Martin, British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The keynote was presented by Professor James Knowles from Brunel University. Prizes for the best 2 papers were awarded to Mohamed Tayeb and Reem Hamdan, respectively. Hala Hatoum and Noor Al Sayed were awarded prizes for the best 2 presentations, respectively. Moreover, 7 research papers have been submitted and accepted for presentation in the World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) Conference, which took place on 25th April 2017. This is part of an effort to convert all symposium papers to conference and journal publications co-authored by both Ahlia and Brunel supervisors.

- **World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD) 15th International Annual Conference**

Ahlia University patroned and organised the 15th WASD international conference from 16 – 18 May 2017. Keynote speakers addressed the conference participants and more than 10 AU faculty from different disciplines presented papers in this conference

▪ Publications

- Books by Prof. Mansoor Al Aali and Mrs. Samia Yousif, Dr. Ali Omran, Dr. Sayed Tantawy and Dr. Dalia Kamel, Dr. Zuhair Dhaif, Prof. Mohammed Shamsa, Dr. Said Taan Elhajjar, Dr. Khadim Moans and Dr. Ahmed Jedidi.
- Chapters in books by Dr. Karim Hadjar and Prof. Ismail Noori. Journal articles publications, over 64 articles were published by AU faculty in different disciplines in different academic refereed journals.
- Conference presentations, our faculty participated in over 21 conferences and presented their research in many parts of the world such as Spain, Germany, Turkey, India, Egypt, Japan, Czech Republic, Morocco, Malaysia, Indonesia, Abu Dhabi, China, and Portugal.

▪ Other research and scholarship achievements

- PhD doctorate and MSc Master degrees were gained by both academic and staff members.
- Many of faculty were appointed as editorial board members and/or reviewers in refereed academic journals.

▪ Other major symposia

IT Innovations in Knowledge Discovery Symposium: Held on April 6-7, 2017 under the patronage of His Excellency Eng. Kamal Bin Ahmed Mohammed, Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, the symposium offered a platform to ICT researchers to share their research ideas, receive guidance from world-renowned keynote speakers, and attend exciting workshops on new ICT technologies. It also created an opportunity for networking with researchers and experts based in GCC countries and beyond.

University & Community

Community engagement activities form the third of Ahlia's core functions. For this reason, our Strategic Plan is underpinned by a Community Engagement 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 tuition remission schemes; our research is outward-facing and geared to the needs of our society. Selected highlights of 2016/17 are included below.

- **Ahlia's National Day Celebration** inaugurated by the Assistant Governor of the Central Governorate was an exciting event celebrating the Kingdom and showcasing student talents. The day included a schedule of activities and competitions in which students, both domestic and international, heavily participated and won prizes. A live band played traditional music, and students had the opportunity to partake in a buffet of national Bahraini dishes, food items, and desserts.
- **Bahraini Women's Day at Ahlia** paid tribute to the significant contribution of women to Ahlia and to the Kingdom.
- **Fatoor: Break-Fast on the Road Ramadan Campaign** involved Ahlia teams distributing breakfast to drivers.
- **Bahrain Motorsports Marshals Club** organised a workshop, hosted by Ahlia, for the various heads and members of the club to train marshals on different scenarios and contingencies, as part of their wider training in preparation for the Formula 1 Grand Prix 2017.
- **Initiatives for Bahrain high-school students** A large number of school visits and exhibitions were made during the year
- **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.



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 2016/17 are included below.

- **Ahlia's Graduation Ceremony 2017** 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 the Ahlia Annual High Achievers Celebration 2017 which paid tribute to our students' successes.
- **Careers Day 2017** involved over 50 organisations and featured a number of workshops for our students and alumni
- **Entrepreneurship Day** held in April 2017, and organised by the Ahlia Centre for Entrepreneurship, with the theme of 'Spring of Entrepreneurship'. The event was a resounding success that was abuzz with students presenting their ideas and concepts for start-ups, and practicing the 'elevator pitch' in front of a panel of judges.
- **Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship**, Nina Vaca, who is also the Chairman & CEO Pinnacle Group, gave an exciting talk at Ahlia University as a guest speaker and entrepreneurship advocate. 'You can't be what you can't see: Start before you are ready' was the title of one of the year's most exciting guest talks and seminars at the university, where both students and staff were thrilled to attend and engage in dialogue with Ms. Vaca during her visit to Bahrain. The event was organised in collaboration with the United States Embassy.
- **TradeQuest Competition** 1st Place Winner – Ahlia University's team finished at the top of all competing teams in Bahrain during the 2017 edition of the competition.
- **Sports competitions** involving our students included
 - Universities Football Tournament: Ahlia student teams won gold and silver
 - Universities Basketball Championship
 - Indoor Football Competition
- **Student societies** established this year included debate club, theatre club, literature club, music club, and a scouts club, among others.
- **Facebook Global P2P Challenge** is an exciting global digital competition for university students, which involves the conception, development, and implementation of original initiatives and plans geared towards combating extremism. Ahlia University students participated in this global competition, competing against teams from all over the world, to create an original project that relies on the use of digital tools to build awareness, and create engagement, with a certain target audience.
- **Togetherness Day**, organised by Ahlia University student and the 'Together Safe' team, in cooperation with the Bahraini Association for Religious Coexistence and Tolerance, was a heart-warming event that carried deep meaning and a message of solidarity and beauty in diversity.



Ahlia University Centres

■ **AHLIA CENTRE FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP (ACE)**

Ahlia Centre for Entrepreneurship (ACE) was established in February 2017, as an initiative to support and promote entrepreneurship at Ahlia University (AU) and the Bahraini community at large.

ACE is intended to play a strategic role in promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship in Bahrain and create a new breed of young entrepreneurs who aspire to have a positive and lasting impact on their society. Accordingly, ACE aims to support the creation of new companies that create job opportunities and bring about added value to the Bahraini economy.

To achieve this goal, the centre provides programmes and activities which enhance the entrepreneurial learning at Ahlia University and expand the students' knowledge of business creation and opportunity recognition.

GOALS

- To raise awareness about the importance of entrepreneurship as key towards achieving the Economic Vision 2030 and a key pillar within the national strategy.
- To spread the entrepreneurial culture at the university by developing students' skills, providing experiential learning opportunities, conducting meaningful entrepreneurial research, and connecting students with mentors and resources.
- To educate, coach and encourage young entrepreneurs and freelancers to pursue business opportunities and succeed in transforming them into viable start-ups.
- To provide potential entrepreneurs with the necessary tools and experiences to creatively pursue new innovative opportunities in the social and corporate venture arenas.
- To link the students' academic knowledge with the business world through training, workshops, consultation, incubation and research.
- To make of the Entrepreneurship Centre a highly visible hub which would hold all entrepreneurship activities related to Ahlia University.

■ **AHLIA CENTRE FOR STATISTICAL ANALYSIS**

To reach its goal of becoming a contributive research university, Ahlia University has created a Centre for Statistical Analysis (CSA) to give researchers, students and faculty training courses that would be used in their research work across all colleges and departments.

The primary mission of the CSA will be to enhance Social Science, IT and Engineering research at AU by:

- 1) launching training courses to train young researchers in advanced and innovative statistical research methods,
- 2) Provide Faculty and research students with the proper statistical advice,
- 3) encouraging high-quality interdisciplinary research across departments and colleges.

▪ **AHLIA INVENTION CENTRE**

The Ahlia Invention Centre is an invention lab for anyone interested in innovation within Ahlia University and beyond. The centre was built on the belief that the practice of innovation can unlock dormant potential and skills that enable a person to compete in a global environment. The purpose of the Invention Centre is to further develop and support the community of entrepreneurial and innovative talent.

The centre will further the knowledge, embolden the spirit, and fuel the passion of innovators while providing resources for educational, social, networking, teaching, and research events where entrepreneurial and innovative skills can be applied. This centre fosters, inspires, and supports the creation and tapping of new venture opportunities, whether in an existing firm or in the course of the launch of a new firm.

Reviews



مخرج
EXIT



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 2017 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 12th Graduation Ceremony, held in November 2017.

The Chairman added that His Royal Highness' 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 development of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

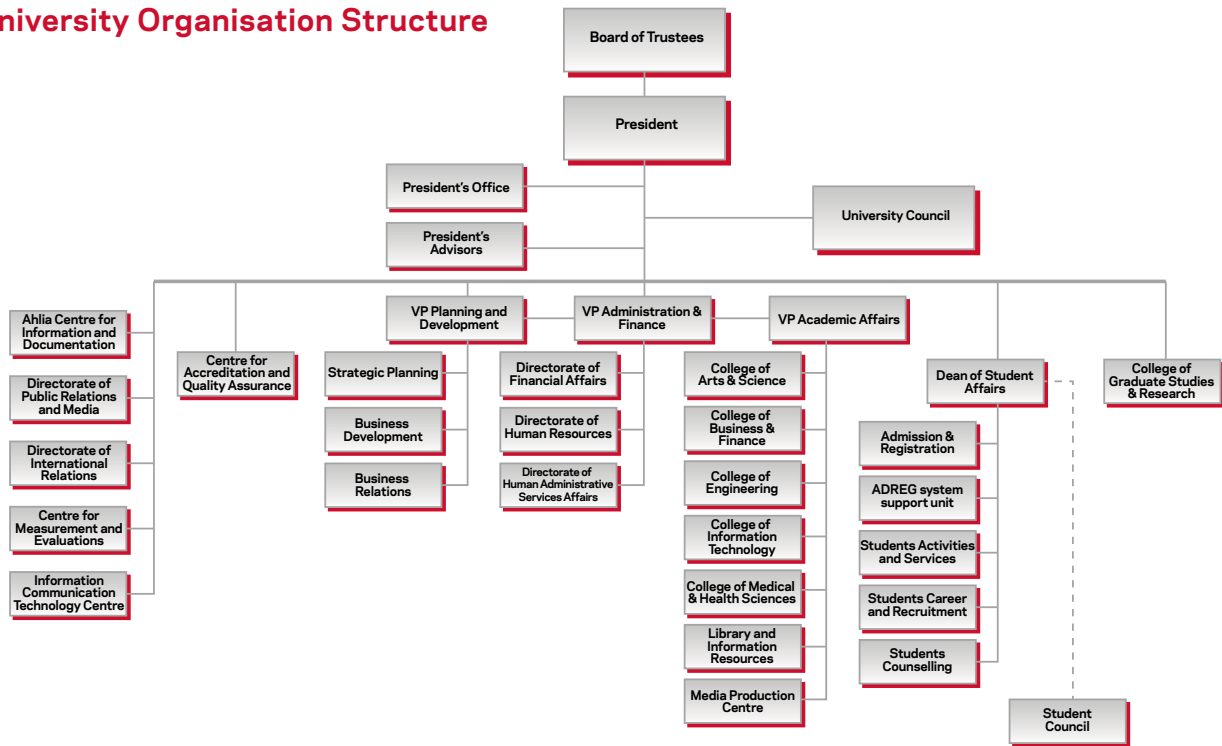
The Chairman noted that the University's new campus planned for the Northern City would include comprehensive educational services and facilities in buildings designed according to the most advanced international standards. He also praised the efforts of the University's faculty and administrative staff and noted the latest achievements of the University, which had once again received the highest judgments 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 2016 and the External Auditor's report on the final accounts for the same year.



Ahlia University Board of Trustees

University Organisation Structure



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



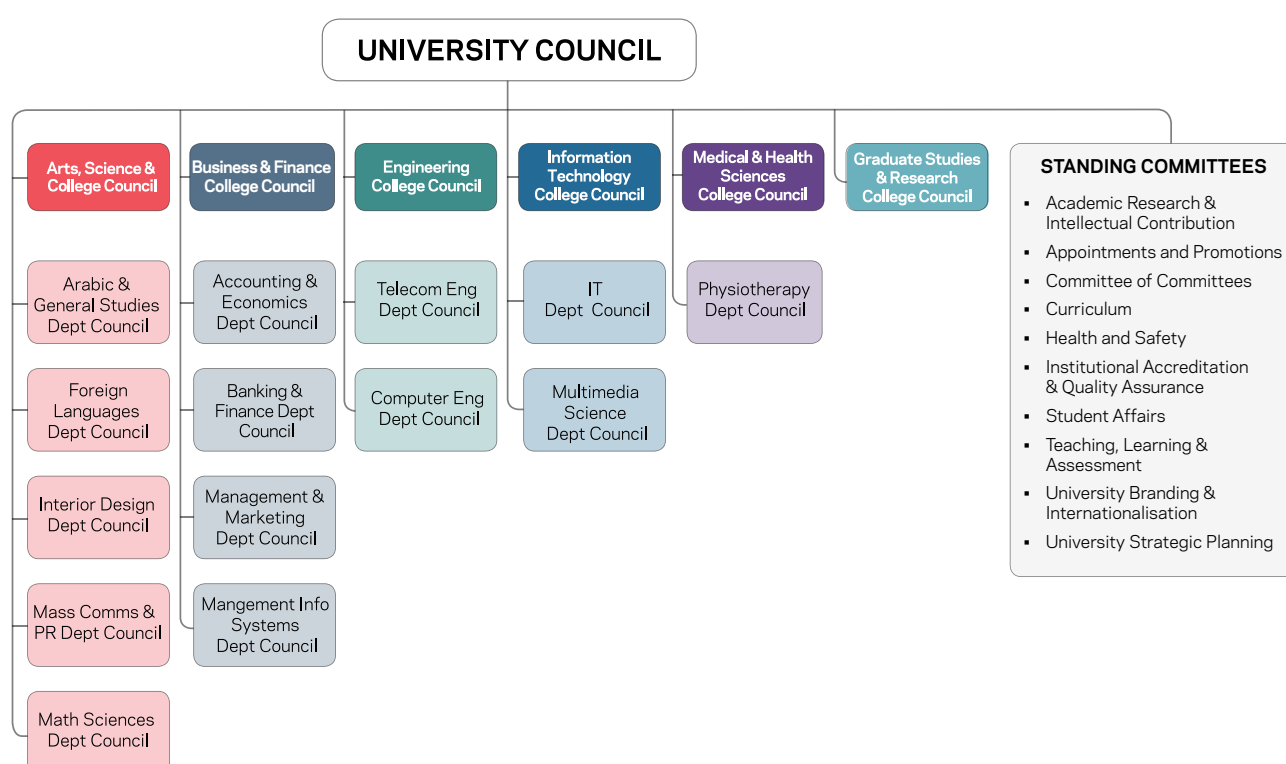
Mr Saud Al-Ashqar

University Council

The University Council is the responsible body for the supervision and management of all academic, educational, administrative and financial affairs within the University. It comprises the University President, the Vice-President, the Deans, the President Assistants and Advisors, representatives of faculty from all academic ranks, representative of students and secretary to the council. In 2016/2017, eleven meetings were held, various topics were discussed and many decisions were issued and proposals/papers were approved including the following:

- Revising the University standing committees and their memberships.
- Approval of revised study plans of the Bachelor's Degree in Computer and Communication Engineering (BSCCE) and the Bachelor's Degree in Mobile and Network Engineering (BSMNE) programmes as per the ABET Accreditation requirements.
- Approval of new programme specific admission criteria for the Bachelor's Degree in Computer and Communication Engineering (BSCCE) and the Bachelor's Degree in Mobile and Network Engineering (BSMNE)
- Updated policies, procedures and rules and regulations related to students and the University internal operations to provide students with support, help and guidance the students and to promote the quality of the University services
- Approval of initiation of new collaborations/affiliations with prestigious international Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- Establishment of new centres: Ahlia Centre for Entrepreneurship and the Centre for Statistical Analysis and Ahlia Centre for Business
- Review of colleges, centres and University standing committees progress and achievements

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



University Council Members 2016/2017



Prof Mansoor Alaali
University President
(Chairperson of the
University Council)



Prof Bakr Hassan
Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Prof Shawqi Al Dallal
President's Adviser for Futuristic
Studies and Innovation/Acting
Dean of College of Medical and
Health Sciences



Dr Muneer Al Mubarak
Dean of College of
Business & Finance



Dr Wasan Awad
Dean of College of
Information Technology



Prof Hemat Al Saka
Dean of College of
Arts & Science



Dr Madina Hamiane
Dean of College of
Engineering



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



Dr Aqeel Radhi
Acting Dean of
Student Affairs



Dr Ahlam Hassan
President Assistant for
Quality Assurance &
Planning



Dr Ebrahim Malalla
President Assistant for
University Compliance



Prof. Kailash Madan
Adviser for Measurement
and Evaluation



Prof Amer Al Roubaie
Representative of
Professors



Dr. Abdulemam AlSammak
Representative of
Associate Professors



Dr Abdul-Muneim Al Shirawi
Representative of
Assistant Professors



Dr. Lameea Al-Tahoo
Adviser for HR and
Professional Development



Dr. Nassima Debab
Adviser for Budget and Finance



Mr Ammar Al Hawaj
Representative of Lecturers



Ms. Sajeda Salah Hussain
Student Council Representative



Ms. Elham Ahmed
Secretary to University
Council

College of Arts & Science





The College of Arts & Science demonstrates excellence and innovation in Mass Communication & Public Relations (MCPR) and Interior Design (INTD) programmes. It exemplifies Ahlia University's commitment to academic excellence as well as contributes to the University's status as a great global community research University in Bahrain with a view to solving real world problems through quality in research while providing relevant and substantial skills to its students. The college includes three service departments that serve all programmes at Ahlia University through mathematical sciences, English, Arabic and foreign studies.

In 2016-2017 we established TV and Audio studios to support MCPR courses with the necessary tools and materials that prepare students to acquire practical skills and knowledge required to make our graduates compete in the market. Art and Computer labs were also established in the Interior Design Department with specialist software and tools to enhance this programme.

In this academic year we launched the first mathematical day hosted by the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Additionally the college hosted more than sixteen events and twelve internal seminars. The events give our students opportunities to hone their analytical and communication skills and build awareness of organizational development and workplace ethics. Specific exposure to real world professional practice is also given through an internship of an eight weeks duration plus a senior graduation research project involving a field study.

The college carries on to be distinguished in world-class research. Our faculty published several books and articles in refereed and indexed journals. A good number of our faculty participated in various international, regional and local conferences.

Annual Report 2016/17: Reviews

College of Business & Finance





The College of Business and Finance is one of the best Business Colleges in the country and has many programmes and activities to offer. 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 have professional certifications accreditation and/or exemptions. We collaborate with CIMA, ACCA and with the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI).

In 2016/17, the college started the process for accreditation by AACSB, the world's most recognised and prestigious international accreditation for business schools. The college believes that such an international accreditation would add value to its programmes, which is in line with Ahlia University's strategic plan.

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 2016/17, many field trips took place (e.g. to GPIC and Tamkeen), where students had the opportunity to see real-life work and professional practice and interact with staff working in companies. Activities this year included the Trade-Quest competition where our team won first place, Entrepreneurship Day to launch projects and build awareness, 4th Accounting and Economics Day with invitees coming from the industry, Together S.A.F.E" Campaign, and many other events.

Faculty attended various international academic conferences as presenters and/or as conference chairs, and published impactful research. Research publications spanned the topics and domains of oil prices and stock market returns; islamic finance; healthcare management, entrepreneurship; knowledge management; accounting; auditing; business and management; marketing; corporate governance and compliance; foreign direct investment; and online shopping.

College of Engineering



The College of Engineering offers four-year Bachelor Degrees in Computer and Communication Engineering and Mobile and Network Engineering. The programmes have well-balanced curricula providing breadth and depth in both theory and practice of computer, telecommunication, and network engineering disciplines. Early 2017, the college began preparation to expand its offerings to cover postgraduate studies. In this regard, the college is currently working on a new proposal for a master of science programme in Wireless Communication systems which is intended to be offered in partnership with Brunel University, London.

The two undergraduate programmes offered by the college have received full confidence by the National Authority for Qualifications and Quality Assurance of Education and Training (QQA) and preparation is ongoing for the placement of both programmes on the Bahrain's National Qualifications Framework. The programmes are also being updated to meet Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) requirements with the view to applying for the International accreditation.

The college emphasises a hands-on approach to engineering that enables students to perform broad panoply of technical tasks with high competence. Learning is further enhanced through co-curricular activities such as field visits to local and regional organisations and participation in engineering competitions. In 2016-17 three engineering students went on a two-week study trip to China as part of a competitive programme organised by Huawei. Furthermore, students participated in Huawei's 'Meet ICT' competition and two engineering students reached the final stages of the competition.

As part of these co-curricular activities the college works to motivate students to keep aware about the latest trends in the market by inviting guest lectures and also encouraging students to attend conferences. As part of this initiative in 2016/17 selected students attended the IEEE Students and Young Professionals Congress, held in May 2017 as well as The International Society of Automation (ISA) Conference and Exhibition in April 2017. Additionally, two faculty

members presented internal seminars for both faculty and students presenting their latest research.

Two guest lectures were delivered, one titled "Design Challenges and State of the Art of 3D" and the other lecture discussed the Professional Certifications that students can take to stand out in the job market after they graduate. Moreover, the college also held two Graduation Project exhibitions which were attended by visitors from the industry as well as faculty and staff.

College faculty members are active in research and are members of relevant professional societies. All faculty hold and IEEE membership along with specific memberships in IEEE societies such as IEEE Communications society, IEEE signal processing Society, IEEE System, Man, and Cybernetics Society, IEEE Computer Society and ACM Computer Society, while others have memberships in the Institution of Engineering and Technology, IET. During 2016-17 faculty published several articles and attended conferences on topics including LTE systems, cross-scripting, data-mining techniques, wireless sensor networks, bio-signal and image processing. Faculty are also actively involved in community service activities such as giving speeches/lectures at forums and in events organised by professional societies, such as the Bahrain Society of Engineers, participating in the organising committees or as session chairs in various conferences such as the 9th IEEE GCC Conference and Exhibition, as well as judging various local and regional competitions such as in the IEEE Students and Youth Professional Congress held in May 2017.

College of Information Technology



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. Moreover, we prepare students for the International Computer Driving License (ICDL), a globally recognised certification.

Alongside our academic courses is a suite of co-curricular activities, aimed at broadening students' education and bringing them closer to the real world. This includes field trips to the Microcenter Training Institute and a regular seminar series, with topics ranging from encrypted databases to cyber threats. We continue to work with INJAZ Bahrain after the start of collaboration in 2015/16 the college set



up a collaboration with INJAZ Bahrain, as 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 2016/17 college faculty were increasingly active in research, publishing articles and books, and attending conferences. Some students also presented papers at international conferences. Faculty published books and articles on topics including problem-solving through swarm optimisation, server batch-queuing optimisation, server queueing systems, big data, case studies in ontology, and information security and computational intelligence.

"IT INNOVATIONS IN KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY" symposium: The symposium brought together participants representing the entire cross-section of academicians, researchers, industrialists and students. This event is a two-day programme which offers a platform for ICT researchers to share their research ideas, guidance from renowned keynote speakers, workshops on ICT new technologies and networking with researchers especially in the GCC countries.

IT Day: Information Technology Day gave the students the opportunity to get to know other students and staff and find out more about the College, so they are fully prepared to successfully navigate their academic journey.

College of Medical & Health Sciences



The College is committed to the cultivation of outstanding students who possess the requisite knowledge and skills proficiency the prepares them to become competent in their practice as physiotherapists.

In 2016/17, the college worked to upgrade the standards of health care practice in the region in the areas of clinical experience, education

and research. Moreover, the college submitted programme proposals for the launch of other allied health programmes. In addition, the college collaborated with Brunel University to lay down initial plan for the launch of a post-graduate degree.

Graduates of the Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy in 2016/17 demonstrated their



global competitiveness as numerous graduates earned their post-graduate degrees in prestigious universities in the US & UK. Majority of them were involved in research as they applied clinical reasoning skills in diverse health settings, for example; private practice, hospitals, rehabilitation and sporting facilities, community organisations organizations, and industrial and school-based rehabilitation settings.

Among the graduates, Pearl Wasif Sulaiman, was selected to join the Master's Degree program in Physiotherapy in King's University London, one of the top-most universities in the world.

International seminars and various events were organised aimed at the development of research interests in the field attended by students, faculty staff and physiotherapy professionals in the kingdom.

- Prof. Jim Richards, Professor in Biomechanics in the University of Central Lancashire, UK conducted a two-day international seminar series in Biomechanics held in the Sheraton Bahrain Hotel.
- A prestigious international scientific inventor, author of physiotherapy textbooks and pioneer of some vital physiotherapy treatment procedures, Dr. Brian Mulligan, visited Ahlia University to deliver an "Introduction to the Mulligan Concepts" seminar-workshop.
- Brunel University London UK sent one of their best lecturers to provide a whole-day seminar entitled, "Chronic Pain: Negotiating the Evidence Maze".

In 2016/17, the college faculty staff made several local, regional and international scientific presentations with special citations on topics including physiotherapy management for various neurological problems, vestibular rehabilitation and disability empowerment.

A number of faculty published scientific papers in international journals on research topics such as the effects of headphone on postural stability, efficacy of lumbar mobilisation on postpartum low back pain and academic institutions providing community-based rehabilitation programmes.

Annual Report 2016/17: Reviews

College of Graduate Studies & Research





The College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) strives to provide suitable environment for graduate students in different programmes as well as research support for faculty and staff. Graduate Students will have access to faculty members with international experience, in a wide variety of subjects. To this extent, Ahlia University offers Master and Doctoral degree programmes in different disciplines. The CGSR has developed a capacity programme to support both graduate students and faculty.

This support takes the form of large variety of activities and events, such as workshops, development seminars, research forums, poster sessions, symposia, which aims to encourage and support publication by AU faculty from different disciplines in international journals through research incentives, and support to apply to awards, attendance to international conferences, and more.

Administration

Ahlia's administrative directorates and units continued to play a key role in supporting the university in fulfilling its mission and achieving its strategic objectives. Brief reports on activities in 2016/17 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.
- **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 BQA's Review of programmes and NQF placement.
- **Centre for Measurement and Evaluation** developed a comprehensive manual, and assisted a number of colleges in designing new customised surveys to enhance the quality of the data collected from various stakeholders. CME 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 Centre (ICTC)** continued to support Ahlia University's teaching, learning, research, and administrative activities by providing a robust ICT infrastructure with dedicated support services for students, faculty and administrative staff. ICTC provided and maintained a Wi-Fi enabled campus, network operations, software as well as cloud-based services in a secure IT environment. ICTC supports the knowledge acquisition and knowledge translation by providing e-learning technology, virtual labs, online library, and other knowledge repositories. Learning and research activities of the students are always facilitated by providing suitable IT environment. The state of the art labs including the Multimedia Systems Lab, Engineering Software's Lab, Research Lab,



Interior Design Lab, Journalism Lab and Linguistics Lab is equipped with the latest software. Research activities of the faculty and students are supported by the existing cloud and enterprise infrastructure, sometimes it includes provisioning of specific infrastructure or software. ICTC has made significant strides in technological up gradation by migrating to the hybrid cloud and thereby users can access the Library, Office 365 as well as other online resources from anywhere and anytime. ICTC provides ongoing and dedicated services to support Ahlia University's relentless pursuit of excellence.

- **Information Systems Support** Information Systems Support continued to develop, monitor, update and upgrade functionalities of the Student Information System [ADREG] and Ahlia's Financial ERP system. It continued its support to middle management by providing functionalities to generate operational data for planning and control, to help in data driven Decision-making. It added additional functionalities to the middle management to aid in short-term planning, target setting and controlling business functions. Moreover, statistical reports were added which could help top management in goal setting, planning and evolving business plans and their implementation. In 2016/2017, the Ahlia Student Management Information System [ADREG] was upgraded with the latest technologies to enhance its interface, speed and performance.
- **Library** supported learning resource needs of faculty and students with borrowing and reference services. Stocks increased further yet, and in 2016/17 the library now accommodates a collection that exceeds 10,000 conventional books across various disciplines. We continuously monitor the utilization of our resources, including the databases which have grown to approximately 50 in number, offering more than 2.5 million electronic journal and reference materials for students and faculty. We continued to disseminate information on the library, conducting training sessions for students, on how to use our resources in a smart way.
- **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 Graduation Ceremony 2017, 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 Operational Planning process were developed, which will be implemented during 2017/18.



Deanship of Student Affairs

The Deanship of Student Affairs is the main contact point for students and their needs relating to registration, fees, record-keeping and graduations. It also provide services and facilities which help students achieve better academic performance and develop as well-rounded individuals. The various Directorate in the Deanship handled a wide range of activities during 2016/2017.

- **Admissions, Registration & Graduation** consists of three units; the Admission Department, which deals with administration matters for prospective students, starting from their first enquiry, to their application, up to their admission to the University in their desired academic programme. The Registration Department is responsible for overseeing the student registration process, maintaining all student records and providing administrative support to activities related to registration and examination. The Graduation Department is responsible for handling the students after the completion of the academic programme by issuing and processing the student graduation certificates and notification, and getting them endorsed by the Bahraini Ministry of Education.

The most important event this year, in which the directorate played a major role, was the 12th Graduation Ceremony which was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and graduated over 300 students. Another important event that the directorate took the lead in organising was the High Achievers Ceremony which honored 64 students who were listed under the President Honour List and 89 students who were listed under the Deans Honour List.

- **Professional Relations** provides current students and graduates with support designed to prepare them for their careers: liaising with over 147 organisations to arrange placements for the Ahlia Internship, organising field visits to support our programmes, offering seminars and events on work-related subjects, and hosting of the annual Ahlia Careers Day which, which this year involved approximately 52 well-known employers.
- **Counselling & Guidance** in addition to advising, students at AU have the privilege of a further assistive service when seeking guidance with challenges that interfere with student learning. Counseling services include, but are not limited to resolving personal concerns, academic support services, mediation, transitioning to University life, coping with a medical or psychiatric diagnosis, mentoring etc. Counseling plays a key supportive role, in not just approaching and guiding students with academic concerns, but further investigating and attempting to resolve the root concern, underlying academic underperformance.

The fundamental goal of all counseling is to support the development of coping abilities and mechanisms enhance students' sense of empowerment and self-efficacy, while directing their ability to find personal solutions for concerns (academic or otherwise). Counseling aims to be quality focused versus quantity focused. This involves autonomy in function (quality focused) yet collaboration in action (advising).

The counseling department presents ongoing workshops for AU faculty, encouraging interdependence and collaborative working of advising and counseling, with the primary goal of student success. Counseling goals and objectives are driven by, mirror and support Quality (2.10, 2.12) and HEC Key Indicators (Area 6) alluding to counseling and its role.

- **Student Activities & Services** enables students to develop skills and talents through organising and overseeing a number of extra-curricular and extra-mural 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.

Facts & Figures

100%

**Success Rate in
Programme Quality
Reviews**



28

**Student
Nationalities**



2038

**Registered
Students**

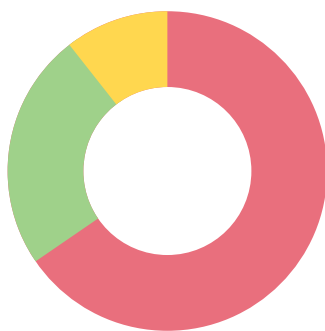


Over

3992

Graduates

(since inception)



Programmes

 Bachelor
Degrees (12)

 Master
Degrees (4)

 Doctoral
Degrees (2)

Over

50

**Organisations at
Careers
Day 2017**

Almost

150



**organisations support
our student Internships**

3 million



**Library resources
(hard copy and e-resources)**

Faculty Publications

Books

- Dr. Ali Omran: 2017 , خواطر انثى الياسمينه دار أمل الجديدة ,
- Dr. Dalia Mohamed and Dr. Sayed Abdel Moneim Tantawy: Abdominopelvic Cavity Concept in Urinary Incontinence Rehabilitation. LAMBERT publishing house, Germany, 2016
- Dr. Ahmed Jedidi: Detection And Localization des Diaphonies dans les Reseaux tout-Optiques. Engineering. Editions Universities Europeennes, 2017

Chapters in books

- Prof. Ismail Noori: 2017,
مئة عام من شروخ الوجدان الجمعي العراق ومثوية الحرب العالمية الأولى
(مئة عام على الحرب العالمية الأولى)
مقاربات عربية
المجلد الأول
(الأسباب والسياقات والتداعيات)
- Dr. Karim Hadjar
University Ontology: A Case Study at Ahlia University, Book: Semantic Web: Implications for Technologies and Business Practices. Springer, 2016.

Chapters in books

- Ahmed Husain Ebrahim, Subhadra Ganguli. A Qualitative Analysis of Singapore's Medical Tourism Competitiveness. Tourism Management Perspectives, Vol. 21: 74-84. 2017.
- Abdalmuttaleb M.A. Musleh, Fatema Alrawahi, Zakeya Sanad: Corporate Governance And The Level Of Compliance With International Accounting Standards (IAS-1): Evidence From Bahrain Bourse. International Research Journal of Finance and Economics, Issue 157, 2016.
- Dalia M Kamal, Sayed A Tantawey, Gehan A Abdelsamea. Experience Of Dysmenorrhea Among A Group Of Physical Therapy Students From Cairo University: An Exploratory Study. Journal Of Pain Research, Vol. 10: 1079-1085, 2017.
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