



الجامعة الأهلية
AHLIA UNIVERSITY
BAHRAIN

ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



**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 2018
**Held under the Patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa
the Prime Minister**







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Message from the **Chairman**

I am very proud to be the Founding President of Ahlia University, when I served as President for the period from 2001 until 2015 at which time, I became the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Ahlia University is an institution increasingly recognized as one of the leading finest universities in the region. Last year the University was ranked by QS as the most rising university in the Arab region, and ranked

as 35 among more than 1000 universities in the Arab region.

As Chairman of the campus steering group, I am responsible for the building of the new campus in Al Madina Al Shamalia (Northern Town). To the great delight of the whole university, the Foundation Stone Ceremony for the new campus was held in February

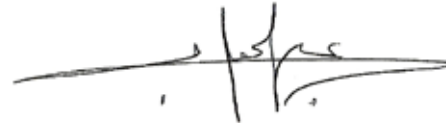
2016 under the Patronage of HRH Prince Khalifa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Prime Minister who honoured us by his attendance at the laying of the foundation stone.

The University is already recognized and greatly admired for the quality of 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.

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 the developments and advances that we have made demonstrate a high-quality institution, playing a full and confident part in society.

We continue to be proud of our close relationship with Brunel University – London, UK and The George Washington University, US as well as the relationships we have forged in the public and private sectors and the signed MOUs and agreements that benefit our students and staff.

I look forward to more successes with optimism and confidence for the future.



Professor Abdulla Al Hawaj

Chairman of the Board of Trustees



Message from the President

It is my pleasure to present Ahlia University Annual Report for the academic year 2017/2018. Ahlia's five year strategic plan (2016 to 2020) is progressing well and we are achieving our set objectives and KPIs with full confidence. Our core activities of teaching, research and community engagement has gone from strength to strength. Ninety seven Ahlia academics have been listed on Scopus.

Ahlia faculty have published 550 research papers and books with their publications being cited by other international researchers - 9073 citations.

The Ahlia faculty professional development plan, research plan and community engagement plan have played a major role in placing Ahlia as a leading university in Bahrain

and the region. Our drive to achieve teaching excellence, research excellence, best graduate attributes as well as student and faculty community engagement have placed Ahlia in the international rankings. In 2017, the QS ranked Ahlia in the top 3% of over 1000 universities in Arab countries. Ahlia was ranked by QS in position 35 out of over 1000 universities. Furthermore, QS categorised Ahlia as the fastest rising university in the Arab region.

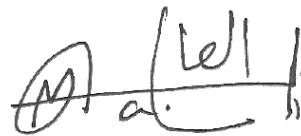
In 2017, Ahlia students have captured a number of awards and prizes. Ahlia football futsal team received HH Shaikh Nasser Bin Hamad Universities League cup. Ahlia basketball team received the first prize in the Universities Basketball League for Men and was awarded by HH Shaikh Isa Bin Ali Bin Khalifa Al Khalifa. Ahlia Students received the best product prize in Injaz Competition for Young Entrepreneurs.

In 2017, a number of Ahlia programmes have been placed on the Bahraini Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA) National Qualification Framework NQF. The college of Business and Finance is steaming ahead with its AACSB accreditation of its programmes. The College of Engineering and the College of Information Technology are both progressing with the ABET accreditation

for their programmes. Many of Ahlia degree programmes have been reviewed and updated in 2017 in line with benchmarking findings and developments in the corresponding disciplines worldwide.

In 2017, Ahlia faculty participated in numerous international research conferences. Ahlia held a number of research forums, activities and workshops, e.g., QS MAPLE Conference, Ahlia 5th Annual research forum, Ahlia- Brunel PhD annual symposium and the First Equal Opportunities Symposium.

At Ahlia, we believe in getting feedback from all stakeholder. Consequently, Ahlia conducts a total of 27 surveys from students, alumni, advisory boards, employers, etc. All such feedback has been fully utilised to improve Ahlia's services, enhance academic programmes, improve community engagements, etc.



Professor Mansoor Alaali
President, Ahlia University

Highlights



Ahlia University Graduation Ceremony 2018



**Held under the Patronage of
HRH Prince Khalifa Bin 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 direction our way and is our route map toward the future. In 2017/18 we developed our strategic direction and enhanced the strategy with area focus plans, designated roles and an effective committee structure. Selected highlights of 2017/18 are included below.

- **Ahlia University New Campus** is a major element of our future strategy and significant progress was made during 2017/18. 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. We have great progress in the strategic plan and we are confident that all nine goals will be achieved by 2020
- **Strategic initiatives and plans** Focused strategic plans and directions were approved by
 - Research Plan
 - Teaching & Learning Plan
 - Community Empowerment Plan
 - Employability Action Plan
- **Adviser roles** continue to support various aspects of the University's strategic activities:
 - Academic Affairs
 - Capacity Building & Collaboration
 - Human Resources
 - Measurement & Evaluation
 - & Professional Development
 - Community Engagement
 - Budget & Finance
 - Planning & Development
 - Quality of Teaching
 - Futuristic Studies & Innovation
- **President's Assistants** for Quality Assurance, Compliance and Special Projects and Marketing Media & PR also ensured appropriate support for all 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 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

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 2017/18 are included below.

Judgments of Full Confidence for the year 2017/18:

In line with the Bahrain Education and Training Quality Authority (BQA), the programmes offered at AU are subjected to be reviewed. The programmes below are reviewed by BQA and received the status "Confidence":

Bachelor's Degree:

- Computer & Communication Engineering (2016)
- Mobile & Network Engineering (2016)
- Accounting & Finance (2015)
- Banking & Finance (2015)
- Economics & Finance (2015)
- Management & Marketing (2009 & 2015)
- Management Information Systems (2015)
- Multimedia Systems (2014)
- Information Technology (2014)
- Physiotherapy (2012)

Master's Degree:

- Masters in Engineering Management (MSEM) (2017)
- Masters of Business Administration (MBA) (2012 & 2015)
- Information Technology & Computer Science (2011 & 2014)

National Qualification Framework:

Programmes of Ahlia are listed on the Bahrain's National Qualification Framework (NQF) that is another review and validation of programmes, the programmes listed below are listed on the NQF as for the year 2017-2018:

- Computer & Communication Engineering
- Mobile & Network Engineering
- Multimedia Systems

Aligned to NQF standards 2017-2018:

- Masters in Engineering Management (MSEM)

For the year 2016-2017:

- Accounting & Finance
- Economics & Finance
- Management & Marketing
- Information Technology
- Management Information Systems

For the year 2015-2016:

- Masters in Information Technology & Computer Science
- Banking & Finance



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
 - Scranton University, USA: preliminary discussions about collaboration
 - Manchester Metropolitan University, UK: preliminary discussions about collaboration
 - Gulf Air, Bahrain: Memorandum of Understanding
 - British Council, Bahrain: collaboration of faculty training and development
 - QS-MAPLE: Memorandum of Understanding to host 8th International Conference in 2018
 - 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 Melbourne, Australia (Nov 2015): attended by the 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 the Chairman and President
- **The Directorate of International Relations** In the 2017-18 Academic Year, the Directorate brought significant growth to the number of students engaged in international mobility. Numerous students visited Ahlia from institutions abroad and several domestic students were given the opportunity to attend various international study programmes in the UK and France.

The Directorate also ensured that all students were carefully assisted and provided with logistical and administrative support when needed. Overall, the Directorate hopes to follow up on this substantial growth in numbers and is actively working towards expanding its international mobility offerings to students in the coming years.

- **Incoming** The Directorate welcomed 23 students from the University's partner institution EPITECH, as a part of Ahlia's international exchange programme.

This marks a notable increase from the previous year's total of 21 students. Additionally, 3 Fulbright Fellows were welcomed to the University as English Teaching Assistants and Visiting Scholars; an increase from the previous year's total of 2 Fulbright Fellows.

The Directorate also coordinated with Bradford University in the UK to receive 5 Bradford University students as part of an international study tour covering the topics of Islamic Finance and Entrepreneurship in the GCC region.

- Outgoing The 2017-18 Academic Year also brought an unprecedented increase to the number of outgoing students. 2 students spent the First Semester of the Academic Year at Brunel University London as a part of Ahlia's Study Abroad programme.

2018 also marked the first year of Ahlia's participation in Brunel's "Games Design Summer School", which 2 Ahlia students attended. Finally, 2018 saw the return of the highly successful "International Summer School" at Bradford University, which 3 students attended, and the "French Language Summer School", which 2 students attended at the France Langue institute in Paris, France.



Research & Scholarship

Ahlia University (AU) second basic pillar is Research. The distinctive research publications which were achieved by AU faculty on worldwide recognizable databases such as Scopus are a natural consequence of the comprehensive research support program that Ahlia University has recently established and included in the AU Research Plan 2016-2020. To this extent, AU won the third place among more than 19 universities in Bahrain and the first among the private universities in regard of the research publication

■ 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 and as well as a community-based research project and AU faculty started to publish in those areas.

■ Ahlia's Sixth Annual Research Forum

Ahlia annual research forum which was held 22-23 April 2018 is a platform for Ahlia faculty, international academic and industrial experts to present their research. This provides a rich environment of scientific discussion through oral and poster presentations along with book exhibitions.

The Sixth Annual Research Forum included 4 keynote speakers from different disciplines and 2 keynote speakers were from outside AU as for Brunel University London and Bahrain Specialist hospital. In addition to more than 30 oral and poster presentation and book exhibition. This year forum was a good practice for PhD students to summarize their PhD story in three minutes.

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 more dissemination of those scientific output.

■ PhD Symposium 2017/2018

The annual PhD WR Symposium was held on 11th and 12th February 2018. 7 research papers were presented in the symposium in different categories (1. Entrepreneurship 2. Business & Organization 3. Health & Safety). The event was attended by Mr Simon Martin, British Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain and Professor Thomas Betteridge, Vice Provost and Dean of College of Business, Arts and Social Science at Brunel University London.

The keynote was presented by Professor Ashely Braganza from Brunel University London. Prizes for the best 2 papers were awarded to Hala Hatoum and Nada Alyouha, respectively. Hasan Ghura and Amina Bullay were awarded the prizes for the best 2 presentations, respectively. Moreover, 4 research papers have been submitted and accepted for presentation at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) in Kuwait as part of the 17th IFIP Conference (Doctoral Colloquium) on E-Business, E-Service and E-Society. The conference was held on 30th October 2018. This is part of an effort to convert all symposium papers to conference and journal publications co-authored by both Ahlia and Brunel supervisors

Publications

- Books by Prof. Prof. Fouad Shehab, Dr. Ali Abdulnabi, Dr. Reda Amin
- Chapters in books by Dr. Allam Hamdan and Dr Esra Aldhaen.
- Journal articles publications, over 65 articles were published by AU faculty in different disciplines in different academic refereed journals and indexed in Scopus. Most of AU publications were in highly ranked journals either A* and A classes.
- Conferences presentation, over 17 conferences AU faculty participated and presented their research in different parts of the world such as Egypt, Jordan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vienna, Italy, India, UK, and Dubai.

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 symposium

College of information technology organized a research symposium for MITCS students on 24th April 2018 to present their research progress so that they can be prepared for their upcoming evaluations effectively.

The symposium serves the purpose of encouraging the research activities within college of IT and Ahlia University. The symposium was a great opportunity to have guest speakers form industry and academic expert from Brunel University London, UK.

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 2017/18 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
- **Fatoor: Break-Fast on the Road Ramadan Campaign** involved Ahlia teams distributing breakfast to drivers
- **Social Outreach Activities** such as offering discounts to students with special needs for various programmes.
- **Special Needs Students** are supported at Ahlia through committee of special needs, which addresses their academic and personal concerns.
- **Initiatives for Bahrain high-school students** included visiting 40 schools throughout Bahrain to provide them with guidance and assistance in selecting their academic path once they apply for university.
- **Breast Cancer Awareness Day** was held in collaboration with staff from Al Kindi 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 various initiatives throughout the year, including various conferences, charity events, community service activities and cultural events.



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 2017/18 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
 - Graduation Celebration Event for 3rd 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 2017 which paid tribute to our students' successes
- **Careers Day 2018** was a highly successful event that gave Ahlia students the opportunity to learn about the employment offerings of 52 over 50 organisations in Bahrain
- **The "Together Safe Campaign"** was organized and promoted by students, and involved workshops, presentations, activities intended to counter extremism and promote social tolerance, inclusion, and cohesion in society.
- **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
 - Two students spent two weeks in China to participate in Huawei's "Seeds for the Future" programme.
- **External competitions** involving our students included
 - Universities Football Tournament: Ahlia student teams won gold and the "Best Player" award
 - Universities Basketball Championship
 - Indoor Football Competition
- **Korean Classes** were offered for the second academic year in a row, with students taking part in Korean speaking competitions and other fun activities throughout the year that revolved around Korean language and culture.
- **Student societies** continued to students throughout the year by promoting various extracurricular activities to support their artistic, creative, and professional interests.
- **Student activities** also included blood donation, camping, charity activities, cultural tours, festivals, karting, poetry, Desert Camping Trip 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.



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 add substantial job and bring about extra values to the Bahraini economy. To achieve this goal, the Centre provides programs 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 a 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 the 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 start-up, 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 of Statistical Analysis (CSA) to give researchers' students and faculty training courses that would be used in their research work across all colleges and departments, including the PhD students, of the campus. 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. As a research supporting centre, the CSA would be a multidisciplinary centre that is primarily research data analysis in nature and will not be the home unit for research courses or primary appointments. This centre is directed by Dr. Said T. EL Hajjar.

Dr. EL Hajjar is an Associate Professor in Mathematics, Statistics and Education at Ahlia University in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Dr. EL Hajjar has taught different courses in mathematics and statistics for over 20 years. He has supervised many MBA and PhD students in different fields of education. Outside of the classroom, Said has participated in many scientific papers at different international conferences and workshops. He was a keynote speaker at the Gulf E-Commerce Forum GEF 6, 2013. He has published in referee journals several research papers supporting mathematics, statistics, management, interactive learning, e-learning education, e-business and marketing. He has published the mathematics book "Introductory Mathematical Analysis" for sophomore and Junior students at X-Libris Publishing House in USA, and the two statistical books "Basic & Business Course in Statistics I" and "Basic & Business Course in Statistics II" for Sophomore, Junior and Senior students at Author Publishing House in UK. His book "Probabilities & Statistics" has been published in Germany

at "LAMBERT Academic Publishing". He recently published with his PhD student, Dr. Madina Taha, the book entitled: Investigating the Success of E-Learning in Secondary Schools: The case of the Kingdom of Bahrain at SARA BOOK PUBLICATION, India in 2016.

Dr. EL Hajjar has been awarded the OUTSTANDING SCIENTIST AWARD (in the category of Science / Statistics) of the Research Awards - VIFRA 2015 issued by Venus International Foundation. EL Hajjar has been awarded the Research World Excellent Paper for the category Best Presentation/Best Content at the Research World International Conference, Barcelona, Spain. October 2016.

■ **AHLIA INVENTION CENTRE**

is an invention fab for anyone interested in invention from the Ahlia University or outside. This Centre believes that the practice of innovation brings out skills within us to compete in a global environment, leading to a more prosperous society and world economy. 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, spirit, and passion of innovators while providing resources for educational, social, networking, teaching, and researching events where entrepreneurial and innovative skills can be applied. This centre fosters, inspires, and supports the creation of new venture opportunities, whether in an existing firm or the launch of a new firm.

■ **AHLIA HEALTHCARE RESEARCH CENTRE (AHCRC)**

is a collaborative research group involving faculty from Ahlia university and Brunel University London. It focuses on the healthcare research from different aspects. One of the topics searched by the centre is the obesity. One research is conducted by Dr Sayed Tantawy and Dr Dalia Kamel to investigate obesity and blood pressure among Middle school's students in Bahrain. Furthermore, many publications were produced under same theme by Dr Anjum Razzaqi, Dr Tillal Eldabi and Ms Noor El Sayed.

Reviews





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

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 13th Graduation Ceremony.

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 in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

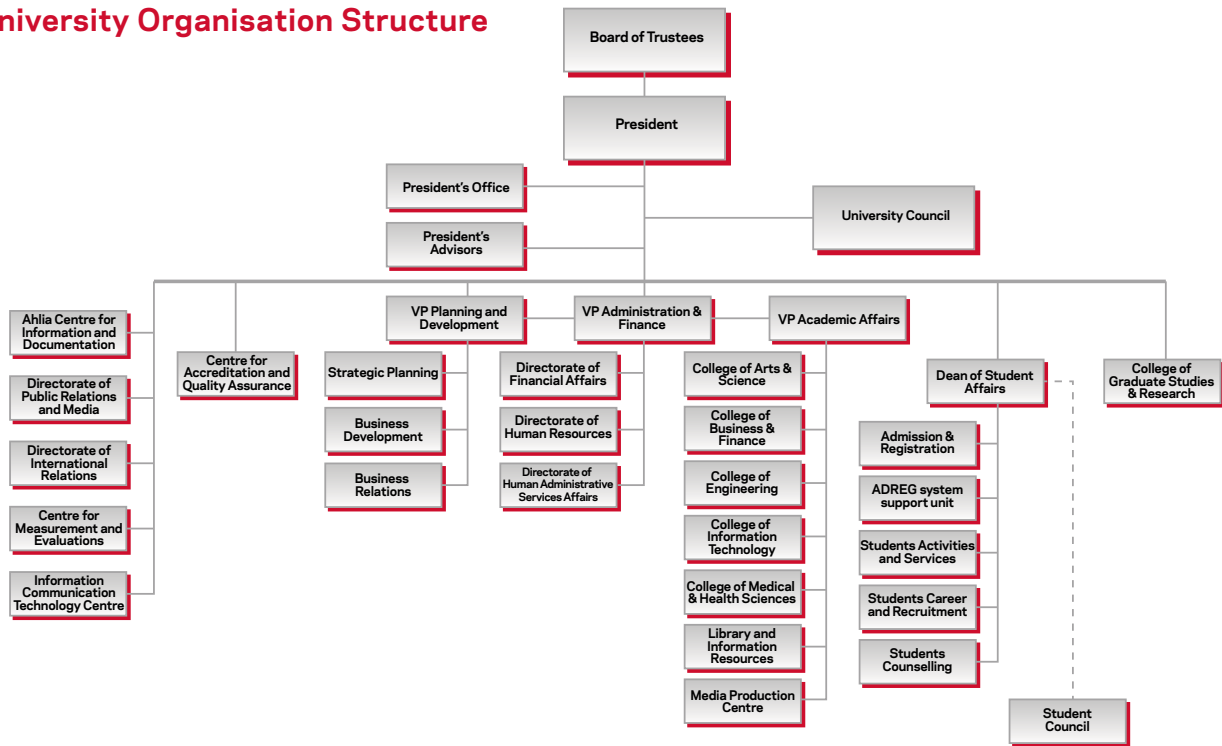
He also praised the efforts of the University's faculty and administrative staff and noted the University's latest achievement of 35th University among all University's in the QS University Rankings for the Arab Region.

The meeting also approved the Board of Directors' report for the year ended 31st 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



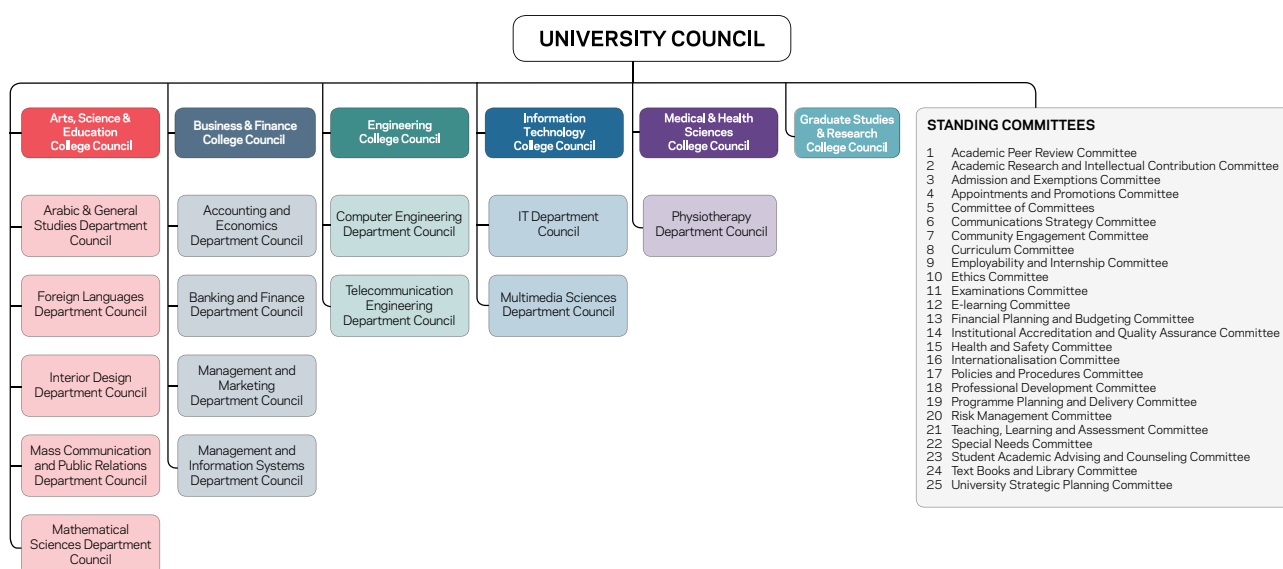
Mr Saud Al-Ashqar

University Council

The University Council is responsible for the governance 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 Advisers, representatives of faculty from all academic ranks, representative of students and secretary to the council. In 2017/2018, twelve meetings were held, various topics were discussed and many decisions were issued and proposals/papers were approved to further support the achievement of the University's strategic objectives and goals including the following:

- Revised Bylaws:
 - Ahlia Bylaws
 - Administrative Bylaws
 - Academic Bylaws
 - Postgraduate Studies and Research Bylaws
- Revised Ahlia University Organisational Structure
- University Council Governance Self-Assessment
- Student-related policies and procedures to further support student academic progress and social wellbeing
- Revised set of policies, procedures, guidelines and schemes for promoting research and intellectual contributions
- Strategic Plan Review and Progress Report
- Higher Education Institutional Accreditation Application for Ahlia University
- Revised Study Plans (12 study plans)
- Academic Appointment and Promotions (8 appointment/promotion approvals; 1 promotion application approval)
- Approval of appointments and promotions of faculty

UNIVERSITY STANDING COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS STRUCTURE 2017/2018



University Council Members 2017/2018



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



Prof Amer Al Roubaie
Representative of
Professors



Prof. Kailash Madan
Adviser for Measurement
and Evaluation



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



Dr Muneer Al Mubarak
Dean of College of
Business & Finance



Dr Wasan Awad
Dean of College of
Information Technology



Dr Madina Hamiane
Dean of College of
Engineering



Dr. Said Al Hajjar
Acting Dean of College of
Arts and Science



Dr. Dalia Kamel
Acting Dean of College
of Graduate Studies and
Research



Dr. Raida Al-Alawi
Dean of Student Affairs



Dr Ahlam Hassan
President Assistant for
Quality Assurance &
Planning



Dr Ebrahim Malalla
President Assistant for
University Compliance



Dr. Thaira AlShirawi
President Assistant for
Media, Marketing and Public
Relations



Prof. Ismail Noori
Representative of
Professors



Dr. Gagan Kukreja
Representative of
Associate Professors



Dr. Ammar Al Dallal
Representative of
Assistant Professors



Dr Abdul-Muneim Al Shirawi
Representative of
Assistant Professors



Mr Ammar Al Hawaj
Representative of
Lecturers



Mr. Loay Ali Mubarak
President of
Student Council



Ms. Elham Ahmed
Secretary to
University Council

College of Arts & Science





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

In 2017-2018 we updated the TV and Audio studios to support MCPR courses with the necessary tools and materials that prepare students to acquire the practical skills and knowledge required to make our graduates compete in the market. This update was done to fulfil the feedback raised by advisory board members and stakeholders. Art and Computer labs were also updated with specialist software and tools to enhance the Interior Design Department. Moreover, additional interior design studios and workshop classes were established and a printer was installed in a lab for students.

Co-curricular activities enhanced the programmes and provided perception to the area. In this academic year, we hosted more than twenty events and eight internal seminars. The events give our students opportunities to adopt analytical and communication skills as well as building awareness of organisational development and workplace ethics. Specific exposure to real world organisational functioning is also given through internship that last eight weeks and 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 referee and indexed journals. A good number of our faculty participated in various international, regional and local conferences. Research is implemented in most of the courses and most of the research topics are related to industrial needs.

College of Business & Finance



The College of Business and Finance continues offering high quality programmes that cater to industry requirements and offer a high level of employability. The College also continues to engage its students and faculty in many activities, internally and externally, as part of its commitments towards the community and the Ahlia University strategic plan. The

College offers eight programmes in Business and Finance subjects: five Bachelors', an MBA, a Master's in Engineering Management (with George Washington University, USA) and a PhD (with Brunel University London, UK). All curricula are innovative and develop relevant knowledge and work-related skills; and, wherever possible, include professional certifications.



We collaborate with CIMA, ACCA and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment (CISI). Proposals for new partnerships and new programmes are under consideration to make the learning experience more robust and match it with industry requirements and international learning trends.

In 2017/18, the College conducted many sessions as part of the process for accreditation by AACSB, a well-known internationally-recognized business-specific accreditation. The College believes that such an international accreditation would add value to its programmes. Acquiring this accreditation is in turn a part of Ahlia University's strategic plan, specifically objective fifteen which says states that the Ahlia intends to "gain accreditation for the university and international accreditation for programmes."

We aim to develop socially responsible professionals that are capable of leading and contributing to the economic growth of Bahrain and the region, through programmes and co-curricular activities.

In 2017/18, were taken on numerous field trips to the offices of leading organisations in the industry, such as KPMG and Gulf Air Company, where our students have had the opportunity to see these companies in action and interact with staff.

Activities this year include, the "Together S.A.F.E" Campaign, AACSB awareness sessions, INJAZ Bahrain (students' competition), Embedding of Research into Teaching & Learning, Embedding of Entrepreneurship into Teaching & Learning, Ahlia Entrepreneurship Day: The Spring of Entrepreneurship, and Ethical Business Practices: Preparing Future Leaders for the Corporate Environment and many other events. As part of our research activities, faculty members attended several international academic conferences as presenters and/ or as conference chairs.

The College also continued publishing as well as impactful research this year, covering numerous areas such as accounting and finance; entrepreneurship; teaching and learning; corporate governance, intellectual capital; human capital; management and marketing; service quality; healthcare; higher education; banking; auditing; economics; e-learning; and E-business.

Annual Report 2017/18: Reviews

College of Engineering



The College of Engineering offers four-year Bachelor of Science degrees in Computer and Communication Engineering and Mobile and Network Engineering. The degrees are taught with a depth of theory as well as a hands-on approach to enable students to perform a 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 2017 the College integrated this learning approach by encouraging students to participate in Huawei's MEET ICT Competition. Two students were among the top ten students in Bahrain.

The College also participated in the National Charted Day by exhibiting one of the best student projects in the celebration. Furthermore, students are also encouraged to participate in international events and activities. In 2018 two students participated in Huawei's "Seeds for the Future" programme, which is a two week study trip to China.

One student also went to Brunel University, London as part of a Games Designing Summer Project; her role was as a programmer. Additionally, as part of the students' co-curricular activities, the College invited guest lecturers to enrich students' awareness about matters pertaining to the practice of engineering in Bahrain. A mentorship session was given to the female engineering students by the Supreme Council for Women in Bahrain to endorse women's role in engineering. Another awareness session was held by the Council for Regulation of Engineering Professions to inform students about the law of practicing engineering professions in Bahrain.

As part of the continuous development of programmes offered by the College and in line with the college's mission to ensure that students receive high quality and internationally recognised education, the College of Engineering applied for the placement of the BSMNE and BSCCE programmes on the Bahrain National Qualification.

Moreover, as an initial step to apply for ABET accreditation, the College modified the BSMNE and BSCCE study plans to meet ABET requirements. The new study plans were implemented in the Second Semester 2017-18 with content that is in full compliance with ABET Engineering curricula criteria.

Furthermore, the College of Engineering encourages all its faculty members to be participate in professional organisations and conduct research. All faculty hold an IEEE membership along with specific memberships in IEEE societies, such as the IEEE Communications Society, IEEE Signal Processing Society, IEEE System, Man, and Cybernetics Society, IEEE Computer Society and ACM Computer Society.

Others have memberships in the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). Throughout 2017-18, faculty members published several conference and journal papers covering numerous topics including Wavelet Based Signal Analysis and Classifications, SVM Classification, DOM Based Cross-Site Scripting and Wireless Sensor Networks. Furthermore, one of the College's faculty members was awarded the GCC Award for Pioneers in Engineering in February 2018.

Faculty are also actively involved in community service activities such as giving speeches/ lectures at forums and in events organised by professional societies. They also participated in judging competitions and were members of organising committees of various forums.

College of Information Technology



The IT College offers Bachelor's degrees in Information Technology and Multimedia Systems, and a Master's degree in Information Technology and Computer Science.

All of our programmes are designed to meet industry needs and produce high quality professionals who will excel in their careers and contribute to society. In 2017/18, we continued to enhance our programmes based on the feedback received from reviewers and stakeholder surveys.

The title of the Bachelor's Degree in Distributed Systems and Multimedia has been changed to Multimedia Systems.

Furthermore, all of our Bachelor's programmes have been validated by Bahrain's National Qualification Framework.

The College's programmes have a hands-on reality-based approach, so students can apply the things they learn to solve real-life problems, thus preparing them to become future innovators and leaders.



Academic courses are complemented with Oracle and Microsoft professional courses, and we prepare students for the globally-recognised International Computer Driving License (ICDL) certification.

The College collaborated 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 2017/18, our IT students participated in the INJAZ Bahrain Competition, has and won the prize of the Best Product (a web-based system).

Furthermore, the IT College has been awarded the Entrepreneurial Skills Pass (ESP) certification, an international qualification that certifies students to start a business or to become successfully employed through an online test.

We have nominated our IT College students to undertake this pilot assessment due to the commitment and dedication they exhibited during this year's company program.

The results of the assessment will determine INJAZ Bahrain's viability to implement the ESP certification across all company program participants for years to come.

The College of Information Technology organized a research symposium for MITCS students to present their research progress and prepared them for their upcoming evaluations.

The symposium in turn promoted further research activities within college of IT and Ahlia University, and a number of our faculty members were awarded for their research contributions.

College of Medical & Health Sciences



The College is committed to the cultivation of outstanding students who possess the adequate knowledge, satisfactory attitude and proficient skills to prepare them to become competent physiotherapists who are responsive to the well-being of people, both locally and internationally.

In 2017/18, the College aims to upgrade the standards of health care practice in the region in the areas of clinical experience, education and research. Likewise, the College submitted program proposals for the opening of other allied health programmes.



In addition, the college collaborated with Brunel University to lay down the initial plan for the opening of a post-graduate degree.

Graduates of the Bachelor's Degree in Physiotherapy in 2017/18 demonstrated their global competitiveness with many acquiring post-graduate degrees in prestigious universities in the US & UK. A majority of them were involved in research as they applied clinical reasoning skills in diverse health settings, i.e. private practice, hospitals, rehabilitation and sporting facilities, community organizations, and industrial and school-based rehabilitation settings.

International seminars and various events were organized to develop research interests in the field. Many were attended by students, faculty, staff and physiotherapy professionals in the kingdom.

In 2017/18 our faculty conducted several local, regional and international scientific presentations with special citations on topics including physiotherapy managements for various neurological problems, vestibular rehabilitation and disability empowerment. Some of them published scientific papers in international journals on research topics such as the effects of headphone on postural stability, efficacy of lumbar mobilization on postpartum low back pain and academic institutions providing community-based rehabilitation programs.

Deanship of Graduate Studies & Research





The Deanship of Graduate Studies and Research (GSR) is keen to provide sustainable development for graduate students in different programs and research for faculty and staff.

In order to achieve this dynamic sustainable environment, a variety of vast activities and events have been held, such as workshops, guest lectures, developmental seminars, research forums, poster sessions and symposia.

The Deanship supports and encourages faculty to publish their academic work in international journals, attend reputable conferences, acquire project grants, and apply for awards, and more.

Graduate Students 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 and additionally with international partnerships.

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 2016/17 are included below.

- **Administrative Services** continued to support the University across all of its operational functions, through the provision of effective facility maintenance, facility management, safety and security services.
- **Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance** updated and monitored the implementation of the quality management system (AUQMS) and conducted internal programme evaluations. The Department also 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** supported the functioning of all of the University's administrative and academic departments through the design, implementation and analysis of surveys and other evaluation exercises throughout the year.
- **Financial Affairs** continued to streamline the provision of financial services across all academic and administrative departments, by introducing various improvements to ensure efficient and faster processing times of transactions, regular timely reporting; reduced fee debts and compliance with new external regulations
- **Human Resources** continued to support all Ahlia academic and administrative staff through the provision of essential employee services in the area of employee relations. All activities were evaluated and improved upon throughout the year, to streamline user support and ensure compliance with regulations.
- **Information & Communications Technology (ICTC)** continued to maintain the University's robust ICT infrastructure and ensured that all staff and students were satisfied through the provision of a secure Wi-Fi enabled campus, stable network operations and software, as well as cloud-based services. Furthermore, the ICTC Department continued with the provision and maintenance of its knowledge-based services including e-learning technology, virtual labs, online library, and other knowledge
- **Information Systems Support** continued to develop, monitor, update and upgrade the functionalities of the Ahlia Student Management Information System [ADREG] and Ahlia Financial ERP system. It continued its support to junior management by providing functionalities to generate operational data for planning and control and help them in Decision-making. Furthermore, all systems were continuously reviewed to make sure the updated policies/procedures are implemented and workshops were conducted.



- **International Relations** met with the representatives of several intuitions abroad for the consideration of potential future collaborations and partnerships. Additionally, the Directorate received 23 students from EPITECH and ensured that they were supported and provided with guidance and administrative assistance when needed. 3 Fulbright Fellows were also received, marking an increase from the previous academic year.
- **Library** continued supporting students and academic staff through the provision of text borrowing and reference services. Furthermore, open days, training sessions and workshops were held to increase awareness among students and staff of the University's Library services.
- **Public Relations & Media** continued to organize and coordinate PR activities throughout the year while ensuring that all corresponding collaterals were provided. More notably, the department assisted with the planning, coordination and the relaunch of the University's website which took place in 2018 and successfully bolstered the University's web-ranking.
- **Strategic Planning** worked and coordinated with other staff members in each College and Directorate throughout the University to ensure the implementation of the University's overall Strategic Plan. Additionally, enhancements to the Strategic Plan were considered through consultation with the appropriate staff members for potential implementation in the coming Academic Year.
- **Media Production Resources:** continued to provide the University with its creative graphic design, print and publication services, alongside video and photography coverage of various events, workshops, and visitations from foreign staff and other external stakeholders that took place throughout the year. Numerous events and workshops were covered including Ahlia's 13 th Graduation Ceremony, the 1st Equal Opportunity Conference, and the QS Maple 2018 Conference.



Deanship of Student Affairs

The Deanship of Student Affairs supports the University in all matters pertaining to students' registration, fees, record-keeping and graduation. Moreover, it handled numerous activities throughout the 2017/18 Academic Year.

- **Admissions, Registration & Graduation:** The three units of the Admission, Registration & Graduation Department continued supporting all Ahlia students and staff by managing all matters related to students' applications and their graduation from the University. The most high-profile activity this year was the 13th Graduation Ceremony which was held under the Patronage of His Royal Highness the Prime Minister and graduated over 300 students.
- **Professional Relations** liaised with over 140 organisations all over Bahrain and across numerous sectors and industries to assist students upon graduation. More specifically, students were supported through the provision of internships and the organization of Careers Day which involved the participation of over 50 organizations in Bahrain that were looking to hire Ahlia graduates.
- **Counselling & Guidance** worked throughout the year to help students resolve their personal concerns and also provided them with academic support services, mediation, emotional support during the transition to University life, and assistance in coping with a medical or psychiatric diagnosis, mentoring etc. The department coordinated with departments throughout the University to ensure that all matters of concern to students and/or conflicts between students were addressed in a timely fashion and were resolved effectively.
- **Student Activities & Services** supported students well-being through the organization of various activities throughout the year. These activities include sports activities and students' participation in athletics teams, cultural activities such as poetry competitions, MUN participation, Symposium on petroleum information and workshop in Bahrain Parliamentary Training Centre about Kingdom of Bahrain Elections, social (Dessert camp, charity, visiting elderly home and Iftaar Saem in Holy Ramadhan, health awareness (Think Pink Cancer Awareness, blood donation campaign, The directorate is also responsible for providing support and services to AU elected Student Council.

There are two active student's clubs as the Media Club & Theatre Club which are overseen by the Directorate of Student Activities and Services, these are the Toastmaster Club and the Music club. AU provide sport facilities to its students through an agreement with Barbar and Al Naser clubs so that students can use their sport and recreational facilities.

Student contributions and achievements are acknowledged and honored by the top management through various events and recognition programmes. AU organizes an annual ceremony to recognize the high GPA achievers who are listed in the President's and Dean's Honour lists.

During the 2017- 2018, AU had organized a gala dinner at the Diplomat Hotel to honor its football team who won the gold medal of First Nasser Bin Hamad Tournament for Universities, its basketball team who won the gold medal of the university's basketball tournament, and the IT student team who won the Best Product Prize of INJAZ.

Facts & Figures

11

Qualifications placed on
the National Qualification
Framework



30

Student
Nationalities



2000

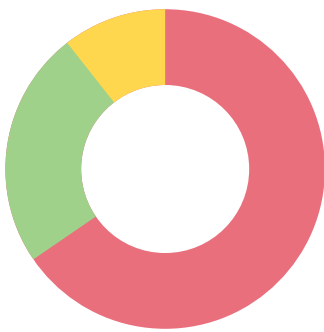
Registered
Students



Over

4354

Graduates
(since inception)



Programmes

Bachelor
Degrees (12)

Master
Degrees (4)

Doctoral
Degrees (2)

Over

53

Organisations at
Careers
Day 2018

Almost

100



organisations support
our student Internships

3 million



Library resources
(hard copy and e-resources)

Faculty Publications

Books

- **Dr. Reda Amin:**
 - التأثيرات الاجتماعية للمواقع الإباحية - دراسة ميدانية على الشباب الجامعي بدول الخليج العربي
- **Prof. Fouad Shehab:**
 - *Mariam Book English Version*
- **Dr. Ali Abdulnabi Ebrahim Farhan:**
 - مقامات الحريري: حجاجية السرد والنسق الثقافي - دراسة في البنية والخطاب
- **Dr. Esra Aldhaen :**
The Future of Higher Education In The Middle East And Africa:

Chapters in books

- **Dr. Esra Aldhaen :**
AU's Strategies Towards Integrating Research With Student Learning: Ahlia University Model

Journals

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