



# Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education

## Institutional Quality Audit (IQA) – Summary of an Archived Report

Key Details			
Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Salalah College of Applied Sciences		
IQA Panel (Chair/Co-Chair)	Prof Clive Neal Sturgess Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Director Birmingham Automotive Safety Centre, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Birmingham, UK		
IQA Panel (Members)	Dr Rima Al Zadjali Deputy Director, Language Centre, Sultan Qaboos University, Sultanate of Oman		
	Dr Imran Hameed Head of Department of Business Studies, Nizwa College of Technology, Sultanate of Oman		
	Dr Gerhard Apffelthaler Professor, School of Business, California Lutheran University, USA		
	Prof. Martin Oosthuizen Former Senior Director, Centre for Planning and Institutional Development, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa		
Review Director	Tess Goodliffe Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation Authority and Quality Assurance of Education		
Portfolio Submission	25 August 2010	Portfolio Meeting	28 September 2010
Planning Visit	25 October 2010	Audit Visit	12-15 Dec 2010
Report Publication	26 June 2011	Report Archived	27 January 2021

### Institutional Quality Audit (IQA)

As per Royal Decree 9/2021, Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (the Authority) carries out Institutional Quality Audit (IQA) of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as the first stage of the Institutional Accreditation process and in accordance with the [IQA Manual](#). Each HEI only undergoes IQA once, after the graduation of their first cohort of students. This External Quality Assurance (EQA) activity is designed to provide constructive feedback to the HEI to assist with its ongoing improvement efforts and results in a report. The IQA report is made publicly available on the Authority's website (unless designated 'restricted access only') until such time as it is superseded by the publication of results, following the second stage of the process, Institutional Standards Assessment (ISA). The IQA report is then archived.

### IQA Process

The IQA process commences with the HEI undertaking a self-study of internal systems, measured against the HEI's Mission and Vision, as summarised in a Quality Audit Portfolio. This document is submitted with supporting evidence to OAAA and the Panel conducts a Portfolio Meeting (international members by telephone) to consider the contents. A Planning Visit takes place thereafter to clarify logistic matters, request additional information and make arrangements for the Audit Visit. Prior to this, the Panel invites Public Submissions from individuals who may wish to comment on the quality of an HEI's activities. During the Audit Visit, the first day of which ('Day Zero') is generally conducted outside the HEI while the remaining days take place at the HEI's premises, the Panel interviews many people, including members of the HEI's governing authorities, staff and students, in addition to internal and external stakeholders. The Panel also visits selected venues and examines additional evidence.

### IQA Report

IQA reports (developed through six draft versions, v1 to v6) comment on the appropriateness and effectiveness of systems put in place by an HEI to achieve their specified Mission and Vision and contain a summary of the Panel's findings, together with formal outcomes, or 'CARs': **Commendations** where good practices have been confirmed, **Affirmations** where the HEI's ongoing quality improvement efforts merit support, and **Recommendations** where there are significant opportunities for improvement not yet being adequately addressed. The report aims to provide a balanced set of observations but does not comment on every system in place within the HEI. No information provided after the last day of an Audit Visit is taken into consideration in the IQA report, unless submitted by the HEI in response to the fifth version (v5) of the report. The HEI is invited to comment on v5 before a sixth version (v6) of the report is approved by the Authority's Board; the HEI is then given the formal opportunity to appeal before the final report is made public. IQA reports designated 'restricted access only' are not made public.

**Specific Notes Pertaining to the HEI Listed Above**

The HEI listed in the table above underwent the IQA process as specified above. Based on Authority Board decision dated 7 May 2020 to archive IQA reports after the publication of ISA result, this IQA Report would have been archived after the CAS Salalah ISA results would have been made public. In the event, however, Royal Decree 67/2020 was issued on 12 August 2020 announcing the merger of CAS with the Colleges of Technology to form a new entity, namely the University of Technology and Applied Sciences (UTAS). This took immediate effect with the result that CAS ceased at that point to function as HEIs in their previous form and the IQA Report related to it has been archived.