



**Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation  
and Quality Assurance of Education**

**POLICY ON FEES CHARGED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION EXTERNAL  
QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES AND APPEALS**

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<b>Initiator</b>	Centre for Higher Education Quality Assurance (CHEQA)		
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<b>Related Policies, Manuals or Documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All OAAAQA External Quality Assurance Manuals</li><li>• OAAAQA Appeals Manual</li><li>• Policy on Major Change Notification for Higher Education External Quality Assurance Activities</li><li>• Policy on International External Quality Assurance Activities</li></ul>		
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## POLICY ON FEES CHARGED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE ACTIVITIES AND APPEALS

### 1. Purpose

This policy outlines the fees applied by the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAAQA) for the conduct of External Quality Assurance (EQA) activities in addition to other related activities. The policy details the process for the administration, invoicing and collection of these fees.

### 2. Scope

This policy applies to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) making EQA submissions. It covers fees charged for the following EQA activities:

- Institutional Accreditation (and Reaccreditation)
- Programme Accreditation (and Reaccreditation)
- Reassessment activities resulting from an HEI being Conditionally Accredited or placed on Probation or a Programme being placed on Probation (ISR or PSR)
- General Foundation Programme (GFP) Quality Audit
- Fees applied for lodging an appeal against the outcomes of OAAAQA EQA activities
- Fees related to major change notifications
- Fees for International External Quality Assurance (IEQA) activities.

### 3. Policy Statement

Royal Decree 9/2021, Article 7 requires HEIs to adhere to the systems set by the OAAAQA to carry out its tasks. The OAAAQA operates on a cost recovery basis for EQA activities and has set fees for the conduct of EQA activities, whether for a single-campus HEI, a network of HEIs or a multi-campus HEI. The applicable fee for all types of EQA activities is provided in the Fee Table (Table 1) below, referencing with the relevant government Decisions.

	<b>EQA activity</b>	<b>Single-campus Fees</b>	<b>Network Fees</b>	<b>Multi-campus Fees</b>
<b>1</b>	Institutional Standards Assessment (ISA)	Decision 3/2018, Article 1 (Appendix 1)	Decision 3/2018, Article 2 (Appendix 1)	Decision 1/2023, Article 2 (Appendix 2)
<b>2</b>	Institutional Standards Reassessment (ISR)	Decision 3/2018, Article 3 (Appendix 1)	-	Decision 1/2023, Article 3 (Appendix 2)

3	Programme Standards Assessment (PSA)	Decision 2/2023, Article 1 (Appendix 3)	-	-
4	Programme Standards Reassessment (PSR)	Decision 2/2023, Article 2 (Appendix 3)	-	-
5	General Foundation Programme Quality Audit (GFPQA)	Decision 6/2021, Article 1 (Appendix 4)	Decision 6/2021 Article 1 (Appendix 4)	Decision 6/2021, Article 1 (Appendix 4)
6	Appeal	Decision 4/2017, Article 3, Decision 3/2018, Article 5; Decision 1/2023, Article 5; Decision 2/2023 Article 4; Decision 4/2017, Article 3 (Appendices 1, 2, 3, 5)		
7	International External Quality Assurance (IEQA) activities	Decision 1/2022, Article 1 (Appendix 6)		
8	Major Changes requiring external review	Processed the same way as ISR and PSR (Decision 3/2018, Article 3; Decision 1/2023, Article 3; Decision 2/2023, Article 2 (Appendices 1, 2, 3))		
9	Late notification of major changes requesting rescheduling of an EQA activity	Decision 4/2018, Article 1 (Appendix 7)		

The following provisions apply to all fees:

- 3.1 In the case of an appeal, the appellant shall bear all additional costs if the appeal is not upheld.
- 3.2 Overall, there are no circumstances in which fees are waived.
- 3.3 All fees are published in the official Gazette and the OAAAQA notifies HEIs when any fees are revised.
- 3.4 The Fee Table is periodically revised in accordance with government directives and to reflect the costs incurred by the OAAAQA in the conduct of its activities.

#### 4. Procedures

- 4.1 The Director General (DG) of the Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs (DGAFSA) is advised on scheduled EQA activities upon confirmation by the HEI of the submission date and later updated through the Estimated Budget Form.
- 4.2 Following the publication of EQA activity schedules:

- 4.2.1** HEIs scheduled to undergo an EQA activity are requested to provide the information required for fee calculation for the relevant EQA activity. HEIs or multi-campus HEIs scheduled to undergo ISA, PSA or GFPQA need to confirm that their Application/Portfolio will be submitted as scheduled or notify the OAAAQA of any major changes that may result in rescheduling of the EQA activity at least six months prior to the EQA submission date. The Director of the External Review Activities Support Department (ERASD) undertakes the responsibility, after consultation with the DG CHEQA, of informing DGAFSA accordingly, upon confirmation by the HEI of the submission date.
- 4.2.2** In the case of ISA, the fee is based on the number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) students enrolled by the HEI in the previous academic year. The number of FTE students is confirmed with the concerned HEI by the Financial Affairs Department (FAD).
- 4.2.3** DGAFSA ensures that HEIs undergoing an EQA activity are issued a Fee Payment invoice at least three months prior to the planned HEI EQA submission date.
- 4.2.4** A receipt is issued by the OAAAQA to the HEI acknowledging the fee has been paid.
- 4.3** In the event that the requisite fee is not paid at the required time in accordance with the invoice, the OAAAQA reserves the right to defer or cancel the EQA activity or to withhold the outcome of the EQA activity.

## 5. Abbreviations

CHEQA	Centre for Higher Education Quality Assurance
DG	Director General
DGAFSA	Directorate General of Administrative and Financial Affairs
EQA	External Quality Assurance
ERASD	External Review Activities Support Department
HEI	Higher Education Institution
FAD	Financial Affairs Department
FTE	Full-Time Equivalent
GFPQA	General Foundation Programme Quality Audit
HEI	Higher Education Institution
ISA	Institutional Standards Assessment
OAAAQA	Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education
PSA	Programme Standards Assessment

## 6. Definitions

**External Quality Assurance (EQA):** Any OAAAQA activity such as:

- Institutional or Programme Standards Assessment (ISA or PSA)
- Reassessment activities resulting from an HEI being Conditionally Accredited or placed on Probation or a Programme being placed on Probation (ISR or PSR)
- Institutional or Programme Reaccreditation activities
- General Foundation Programme Quality Audit (GFPQA)
- International External Quality Assurance Agency (IEQA) activities
- Appeals

Full-Time Equivalent (FTE): Number of full-time students plus half the number of part-time students.

## 7. References

- Decision 4/2017, dated 17 January 2017 concerning the determination of the fees for General Foundation Program Quality Audit (GFP QA) and Appeals against GFP QA Reports; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1178, on 22 January 2017.
- Decision 3/2018, dated 22 January 2018 regarding the determination of the fees for Institutional Accreditation (Institutional Standards Assessment) for public and private Institutions of Higher Education and Appeals against Results; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1228, on 28 January 2018.
- Decision No. 4/2018, dated 22 January 2018 regarding the setting of EQA dates for public and private Institutions of Higher Education; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1228, on 28 January 2018.
- Decision 06/2021, dated 30 December 2021 concerning the determination of the fees for General Foundation Program Quality Audit (GFP QA); published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1423, on 2 January 2022.
- Decision 1/2022, dated 2 March 2022 concerning the determination of the fees to review HEI's endorsement application to undergo International External Quality Assurance activities; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1432, on 6 March 2022. Decision 1/2023, dated 16 July 2023 regarding the determination of the fees for Institutional Accreditation (Institutional Quality Audit and Institutional Standards Assessment) for multi-campus public and private Institutions of Higher Education and Appeals against outcomes of both activities; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1503, on 23 July 2023.
- Decision 2/2023, dated 28 August 2023 regarding the determination of the fees for Programme Accreditation (Programme Standards Assessment) for programmes of Institutions of Higher Education and Appeals against the results; published in the Official Gazette, Issue 1509, on 3 September 2023.
- [OAAAQA Appeals Manual](#)

## 8. Appendices

### Appendix 1: Decision 3/2018

**Gazette, Issue: 1228; Decision No. 3/2018, 28 January 2018**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

#### Oman Academic Accreditation Authority

#### Decision No. 3/2018

### Regarding the determination of the fees for Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment) for public and private Institutions of Higher Education

Pursuant to Royal Decree 54/2010, establishing the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority; Decision no. 47/2012, promulgating the OAAA financial bylaws; Decision no. 12/2017, stipulating the fees for Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment-ISA) and the fees for appeals against the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes; to the approval of the OAAA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and for the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### Article 1

The fees for Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment) for public and private Institutions of Higher Education shall be determined on the basis of their classification and the number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) students registered therein, as follows:

HEI Class	Fees (in Omani Riyals)
University	25,000 OMR + (2 OMR x FTE)
University College	20,000 OMR + (2 OMR x FTE)
College	15,000 OMR + (2 OMR x FTE)

#### The Numbers of FTE students is determined according to the following formula:

Number of full-time students in the HEI + half the number of part-time students in the same HEI

#### Article 2

The HEIs (Colleges and Institutes) under the supervision of one government body and assessed as a network shall be exempted of the provisions of Article 1. Their fees for Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment) shall be calculated as follows:

15,000 OMR (for the first HEI) + 8,000 OMR (for each subsequent HEI) x (Number of HEIs in network-1) + 2 OMR x FTE

The Number of FTE students is determined according to the following formula:

Number of full-time students in the HEI + half the number of part-time students in the same HEI, or 20,000 (twenty thousand), whichever is lower.

#### Article 3

The Institutional Standards Reassessment (ISR) fees shall be determined as follows:

HEI Classification	Fees
University	10,000 OMR + number of criteria to be reassessed x 200 OMR

University College	10,000 OMR + number of criteria to be reassessed x 150 OMR
College	10,000 OMR + number of criteria to be reassessed x 100 OMR

#### Article 4

The OAAA shall send the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes of ISA and ISR (Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2) to the concerned public and private HEIs. It shall also publish the Accreditation Outcomes of ISA and ISR on its website 10 days after sending the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes to their concerned HEIs, unless the HEI notifies the OAAA, within that period, of its wish to appeal.

#### Article 5

Public and private HEIs may appeal against the results of ISA and ISR and Accreditation Outcomes up to 60 days from the date they are sent to them, and upon the payment of a nonrefundable fee of RO5000. An Appeals Committee, specially established for the purpose, shall examine the appeal and decide about it within 30 days of its submission. The appealing HEI shall bear all the costs, in the event the appeal is not upheld. In the event the appeal is upheld, the result of the ISA or ISR shall be amended accordingly and published on the OAAA website.

#### Article 6

Decision 12/2017, referred to above, shall be considered null and void, along with any other resolution that conflicts with the present Decision or contravenes its provisions.

#### Article 7

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issued on: 4 Jumada Al Awal 1439 H

22 January 2018

**Dr Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sarmi**

Chairperson, OAAA

## Appendix 2: Decision 1/2023

**Gazette, Issue: 1503; Decision No. 1/2023, 23 July 2023**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education Decision No. 1/2023**

#### **Regarding the determination of fees for Institutional Accreditation – Stage 1 and 2 for Multi-campus Higher Education Institutions**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 9/2021, establishing the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education; to the approval of the OAAAQA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

The fees for Institutional Accreditation- Stage 1 (Institutional Quality Audit) for Multi-campus Higher Education Institutions shall be determined on the basis of their classification and the number of branches, as follows:

<b>HEI Classification</b>	<b>Fees (in Omani Riyals)</b>
University	25,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)
University College	20,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)
College	15,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)

#### **Article 2**

The fees for Institutional Accreditation- Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment) for Multi-campus Higher Education Institutions shall be determined on the basis of their classification and the number of branches, as follows:

<b>HEI Classification</b>	<b>Fees (in Omani Riyals)</b>
University	25,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)
University College	20,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)
College	15,000 + 10,000 × (number of branches – 1)

#### **Article 3**

The Institutional Standards Reassessment for Multi-Campus Higher Education Institutions shall be determined as follows:

<b>HEI Classification</b>	<b>Fees (in Omani Riyals)</b>
University	10,000 + 3,000 × (number of branches – 1) + number of criteria to be reassessed × 200
University College	10,000 + 3,000 × (number of branches – 1) + number of criteria to be reassessed × 150
College	10,000 + 3,000 × (number of branches – 1) + number of criteria to be reassessed × 100



#### **Article 4**

The OAAAQA shall send the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes of IQA, ISA and ISR to the concerned multi-campus HEIs. It shall also publish the Accreditation Outcomes of IQA, ISA and ISR on its website 10 days after sending the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes to their concerned HEIs, unless the HEI notifies the OAAAQA, within that period, of its wish to appeal.

#### **Article 5**

Multi-campus HEIs may appeal against the results of IQA, ISA and ISR and Accreditation Outcomes up to 60 days from the date they are sent to them, and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of 5000 OMR.

#### **Article 6**

An Appeals Committee, specially established for the purpose, shall examine the appeal and decide about it within 30 days of its submission. The appealing multi-campus HEI shall bear all additional costs, in the event the appeal is not upheld. In the event the appeal is upheld, the results of IQA, ISA or ISR shall be amended accordingly and published on the OAAAQA website.

#### **Article 7**

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issues on: 8 Dhi Al Hajja 1444 H

16 July 2023

**Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi**

Chairperson, OAAAQA

## Appendix 3: Decision 2/2023

**Gazette, Issue: 1509; Decision No. 2/2023, 3 September 2023**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education**

#### **Decision No. 2/2023**

#### **Regarding the determination of fees for Programme Standards Assessment and Reassessment for single-branch Public and Private Higher Education Institutions**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 9/2021, establishing the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education; to the approval of the OAAAQA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

The fees for Programme Standards Assessment for single-campus public and private Higher Education Institutions are as follows:

<b>PSA fees (in Omani Riyals)</b>
5000 + (number of programmes being assessed × 5000)

#### **Article 2**

The fees for Programme Standards Reassessment for single-campus public and private Higher Education Institutions are as follows:

<b>PSA fees (in Omani Riyals)</b>
5500 + (number of criteria being reassessed × 200)

#### **Article 3**

The OAAAQA shall send the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes of PSA and PSR to the concerned public/private HEIs. It shall also publish the Accreditation Outcomes of PSA and PSR on its website 10 days after sending the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes to the concerned HEIs, unless the HEI notifies the OAAAQA, within that period, of its wish to appeal.

#### **Article 4**

Public and private HEIs may appeal against the results of PSA and PSR and Accreditation Outcomes up to 60 days from the date they are sent to them, and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of 5000 OMR.

#### **Article 6**

An Appeals Committee, specially established for the purpose, shall examine the appeal and decide about it within 30 days of its submission. The appealing HEI shall bear all additional costs, in the event the appeal is not upheld. In the event the appeal is upheld, the results of PSA or PSR shall be amended accordingly and published on the OAAAQA website.

### Article 7

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issues on: 11 Safar 1445 H

28 August 2023

**Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi**

Chairperson, OAAAQA

## Appendix 4: Decision 6/2021

**Gazette, Issue: 1423; Decision No. 6/2021, 2 January 2022**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education**

#### **Decision No. 6/2021**

#### **Amendments to some provisions of Decision 4/2017 concerning the determination of fees for General Foundation Programme Quality Audit (GFPQA) and Appeals against GFPQA Reports**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 9/2021, establishing the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education; to Decision 4/2017 concerning the determination of the fees for General Foundation Programme Quality Audit and Appeals against GFPQA Reports; to the approval of the OAAAQA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

The text in Article 1 in Decision 4/2017 shall be replaced with the following text:

The fees for GFP QA for every Public and Private HEI are as follows:

1. A fee of 15,000 OMR (Fifteen thousand Omani Riyals) for each HEI that undergoes GFPQA
2. For HEIs that are audited as one network, the fee will be calculated as follows:  

$\text{Fee} = 15,000 \text{ OMR} + (\text{Number of Colleges/Institutes in network} - 1) \times 10,000$
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3. Multi-campus HEIs' fees are calculated as follows:  

$\text{Fee} = 15,000 \text{ OMR} + (\text{Number of branches} - 1) \times 5,000$
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#### **Article 2**

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issues on: 25 Jumada Al Aula 1443 H

30 December 2021

**Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi**

Chairperson, OAAAQA

## Appendix 5: Decision 4/2017

**Gazette, Issue: 1178; Dated 17 January 2017**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Academic Accreditation Authority**

#### **Decision 4/2017**

#### **Concerning the determination of the fees for General Foundation Programme Quality Audit (GFP QA) and Appeals against GFP QA Reports**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 54/2010, establishing the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority, and upon the approval of the OAAA Board and the consent of the Ministry of Finance, and for the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

A fee of 15,000 OMR (fifteen thousand Omani Riyals) is determined for General Foundation Programme (GFP) Quality Audit for any public or private HEI whose General Foundation Programme is audited by OAAA.

#### **Article 2**

OAAA sends the GFP Quality Audit Reports to the public and private HEIs, and publishes these Reports on the OAAA website ten (10) working days after they are sent to the HEI, unless the HEI notifies OAAA, within this period, of its intention to appeal against the Report.

#### **Article 3**

Public and private HEIs may appeal against the GFP Quality Audit Reports up to 60 days from the date they are sent to them, and upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of 5000 OMR. An Appeals Committee, especially established for the purpose, shall examine the appeal and decide about it within 30 days of its submission. The HEI shall bear all the costs incurred by OAAA, in the event the appeal is not upheld. In the event the appeal is upheld, the Report shall be amended and published on the OAAA website.

#### **Article 4**

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issued on: 18 Rabia Al Thani 1438 H

17 January 2017

**Dr. Hamad B. Hashim Al-Dhahab**

Acting Chairperson, OAAA

## Appendix 6: Decision 1/2022

**Gazette, Issue: 1432; Decision No. 1/2022, 6 March 2022**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education**

#### **Decision No. 1/2022**

#### **Regarding the setting of fees for reviewing Higher Education Institutions' applications for International External Quality Assurance activities**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 9/2021, establishing the Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education; Decision no. 47/2012, promulgating the OAAAQA's financial bylaws; to the approval of the OAAAQA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

Fees for reviewing applications from public and private Higher Education Institutions related to International External Quality Assurance activities are set at 230 Omani Riyals per application.

#### **Article 2**

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issues on: 28 Rajab 1443 H

2 March 2022

**Dr Rahma Ibrahim Al Mahrooqi**

Chairperson, OAAAQA

## Appendix 7: Decision 4/2018

**Gazette, Issue: 1228; dated 28 January 2018**

*(Translated into English from the original Arabic text)*

### **Oman Academic Accreditation Authority**

#### **Decision no. 4/2018**

#### **Regarding the setting of EQA dates for public and private Institutions of Higher Education**

Pursuant to Royal Decree 54/2010, establishing the Oman Academic Accreditation Authority; Decision no. 47/2012, promulgating the OAAA financial bylaws; Decision no. 12/2017, stipulating the fees for Institutional Accreditation-Stage 2 (Institutional Standards Assessment-ISA) and the fees for appeals against the Reports and Accreditation Outcomes; to the approval of the OAAA Board; the approval of the Ministry of Finance; and for the public interest, it is hereby decided:

#### **Article 1**

Public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) shall abide by the EQA dates set by the OAAA for each HEI after being notified. HEIs may apply to defer scheduled appointments upon showing acceptable reasons, provided that the deferral application is submitted at least 6 months before the scheduled appointment. Any deferral applications submitted less than 6 months from the scheduled appointment shall incur a fee of 3,000 (three thousand) Omani riyals, and the OAAA shall notify the applicant of the new date within 30 days from the date of the deferral application approval.

#### **Article 2**

This Decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and it comes into effect from the day following the date of its publication.

Issued on: 4 Jumda Al Awal 1439 H

22 January 2018

**Dr Abdullah Mohammed Al-Sarmi**

Chairperson, OAAA