



Oman Academic Accreditation Authority

Institutional Quality Audit (IQA) – Summary of a Restricted Report

Key Details			
Higher Education Institution (HEI)	Institute of Topographical Sciences		
IQA Panel (Chair/Co-Chair)	Air Commodore (Retd) Eng Muhammad Ismail Consultant Quality Assurance, Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, Pakistan		
IQA Panel (Members)	Mr Adam Spowers, Consultant, United Kingdom		
	Prof Glenda Crosling, Professor and Dean of Quality, Sunway University, Malaysia		
	Dr Mohamad Al-Najjar, Director of Occupational Standards Centre, Ministry of Manpower, Sultanate of Oman		
	Dr Tahseen Rafik, Dean, Global College of Engineering and Technology, Sultanate of Oman		
Review Director	Hannah Manogaran, Review Director, Oman Academic Accreditation Authority, Sultanate of Oman		
Portfolio Submission	5 August 2018	Portfolio Meeting	13 September 2018
Planning Visit	2 October 2018	Audit Visit	12-15 November 2018

Institutional Quality Audit (IQA)

As per Royal Decree 54/2010, Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAA) 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the OAAA website (unless designated 'restricted access only', as is the case with this Report) until such time as it is superseded by the publication of results, following the second stage of the process, Institutional Standards Assessment (ISA).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 OAAA 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. The resulting Report, however, is confidential to the HEI and access is restricted to a limited number of stakeholders.