



# 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)	A'Sharqiyah University		
IQA Panel (Chair/Co-Chair)	Prof. Mairead Browne Quality Assurance Consultant in Higher Education, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia		
IQA Panel (Members)	Dr. Bilal Al Omari Assistant Professor of Economics, Al Buraimi University College, Oman		
	Dr. Louis der Westhuizen Executive Manager in the Office of the Vice-Rector Academic, University of the Free State, South Africa		
	Dr. Mona Ismail Dean, Scientific College of Design, Oman		
	Prof. Ramzi Taha Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering, College of Engineering, Qatar University, Qatar		
Review Director	Ms Hannah Manogaran Oman Academic Accreditation Authority (OAAA)		
Portfolio Submission	27 December 2016	Portfolio Meeting	9 February 2017
Planning Visit	6 March 2017	Audit Visit	1- 4 May 2017
Report Publication	3 May 2018	Report Archived	14 January 2024

### Institutional Quality Audit (IQA)

The Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAAQA) was mandated by the Royal Decree 9/2021, to carry out Institutional Quality Audit (IQA) of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in accordance with the [IQA Manual](#). IQA 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report is made publicly available on the Authority's website (unless designated 'restricted access only') until it is superseded by the publication of Institutional Standards Assessment (ISA) results. 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 OAAAQA 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 an Authority's Board decision dated on 07 May 2020 to archive IQA reports after the publication of ISA results, this IQA Report was archived after A'Sharqiyah University's [ISA Report](#) was made public.