



Executive Summary

Renewal of Institutional Licensure Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai (RITD) Dubai

29 May-1 June 2023

This report was prepared by an external review team (ERT) appointed by the CAA to evaluate an application for renewal of institutional licensure from Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai (RITD), received on 15th May 2023. The evaluation is based on a detailed examination of the submitted self-study and supporting documents, as well as observations made during a recent previous ERT visit to the university from 29th May — 1st June 2023. This report's conclusions and recommendations are guided by *CAA Standards:2019* and *CAA PM-RIL:2019*.

The parent university, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) was founded in 1829 in the United States of America (USA), and has international campuses in China, Croatia, Kosovo and Dubai. RITD was established in 2008 as an independent not-for-profit university owned by the Dubai Silicon Oasis Authority (DSOA) of the Government of Dubai. RIT is responsible for the management of the RITD, curriculum development and the award of degrees, while DSOA is responsible for financing the university and is involved in its oversight and governance. According to RITD's *Fact Book 2021/2022*, the curricula offered are the same as that offered at RIT's main campus in Rochester, New York. RITD received initial institutional licensure from the CAA on 1st Nov. 2008. The RITD campus is located in the Dubai Silicon Oasis free zone and features facilities including student housing, classrooms, administration buildings, a library, a cafeteria, and a sports complex. RITD has 14 laboratories, a workshop, and a research center.

RITD has 5 departments which offer 9 undergraduate programs and 7 graduate programs at the master's level. As of spring 2023, RITD has 1113 undergraduate (28% female) and 165 graduate students (44% female). There are 56 full-time faculty members and 25 part-time faculty members, of which 75% hold a terminal degree. The total FTE count is 64 and the student to faculty ratio is 20:1.

After considering the application for renewal of institutional licensure, examining supporting documentation, and interaction with senior university managers, faculty and others, the ERT identified many strengths at RITD. These include:

Reputation: The strong reputation of RIT and the benefits arising from its global network of institutions.

Facilities: The ongoing investments in campus facilities, witnessed by the Phase 1 campus development completed in 2021 that added over 30,000 square meters of floor area that can accommodate up to 2,500 students, followed by the Phase 2 development to accommodate up to 4,000 students.

However, the ERT has identified some areas for improvement which concern the following:



Policies: policies for vision development, approval, and review and processes for both mission and vision evaluation, that are distinctive to the RITD campus

Health and Safety: documentation showing adherence to *CAA Standards:2019* in areas of health and safety.

Community Engagement: Aspects of engagement identified under Section 7.

Financial Management: The catalog and website discrepancy

The identified areas for improvement have the potential to significantly impact the quality of education provided by RITD. It is imperative for the RITD to address these weaknesses to ensure compliance with *CAA Standards:2019* and achieve renewal of licensure.

The ERT offers its recommendations in a collaborative manner, with the aim of assisting RITD in meeting the required standards and attaining renewal of institutional licensure.