



Executive Summary
Renewal of Licensure
The University of South Wales Dubai

January 5-8, 2020

An Initial Licensure Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited the University of South Wales Dubai (USWD) from 05-08 January, 2020 to evaluate its Application (hereafter the *Application*) for Initial Licensure. The *Application* was based on the *Procedural Guidelines for Initial Institutional Licensure (PMIL)* (2019). The exit interview was held on 08 January, 2020.

USWD was officially opened on Sunday 23 September 2018. The USWD Campus is located in Dubai South's business district alongside the Al Maktoum International Airport. Currently, USWD is offering one Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) accredited program, the BSc (Hons) Aircraft Maintenance Engineering with three different entrance points: 1) without a foundation year, 2) including a foundation year, and 3) top-up, which is ideal for individuals who may have already obtained an EASA Part-66 certification, relevant HND, or equivalent qualification. Currently, this program have 29 students. USWD has five full-time faculty members, two of whom have terminal degrees (40%).

The team recognizes the following strengths of USWD. The Dubai faculty, staff, and administrators are knowledgeable, passionate, approachable, and dedicated to excellence. They have done an outstanding job of launching the institution and program. There is demonstrably strong institutional support for the success of USWD from USW-UK. The parent institution, USW-UK, has well-developed policies, protocols, and programs in place. Having such a strong institution is a strength for the Dubai branch. Visionary long-term plans position USWD for success; USWD is well placed to align itself with the growing opportunities in the regional aerospace industry.

As it is the case with quality evaluations, there are always areas for improvement. These areas are summarized into the following themes:

- **USWD individual identity:** In this regard, USWD must develop its specific, locally relevant vision and mission. USWD must increase its local control over academic and operational aspects of programs. Additionally, all USW-UK policies and protocols must be localized so that the Dubai and UAE context, laws, and culture are recognized; identity can then grow from that. USWD must increase and formalize partnerships that lead to student professional training, employment, and development. Create an Advisory/Industry Board for the institution.

- Budgeting: USWD must document budget details that reflect operational and personnel needs.
- Research: USWD must grow a research plan and capacity of faculty and infuse this activity in the curriculum.
- Learning Facilities: USWD must ensure that the laboratory facilities are mapped onto the full breadth of the institution's commitment to comprehensive programs.

The ERT makes its recommendations in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid USWD in its desired objective to establish the institution. The following are strengths and areas for improvement noted by the ERT.