Executive Summary

**Renewal of Institutional Licensure
Al Qasimia University (AQU)
Sharjah**

22-25 January 2024

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) formed by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) performed an onsite visit to Al Qasimia University (AQU) during the period of 22 - 25th of January 2024 to evaluate the *Self-Study* for the *Renewal of Institutional Licensure* (hereafter the *Self-Study*). The exit briefing was held on the 25th of January 2024.

Al Qasimia University was established by an Emiri Decree (No. 2 of 2013) issued by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah. Situated in the university city of Sharjah, the university boasts five colleges: the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies, the College of Arts and Humanities, the College of Economics and Management, the College of Communication, and the College of the Holy Quran.

The College of Sharia and Islamic Studies offers two Bachelor's programs in the Fundamentals of Religion and a program in Jurisprudence and its Fundamentals. The College of Arts and Humanities offers two Bachelor's programs in Arabic Language and a program in Islamic Civilization and History. The College of Economics and Management has a Bachelor's program in Economics, the College of Communication offers a Bachelor's in Media, and the College of the Holy Quran includes two Bachelor's programs in Interpretation and Quranic Sciences and a program in Quranic Readings.

During the spring semester of the 2023-2024 academic year, the university enrolled 1,315 students, including 572 female students. With 65 full-time faculty members, the student-to-faculty ratio stands at 20:1.

The distribution of students and faculty members across the various colleges at Al Qasimia University is as follows: the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies has 14 faculty members and 374 students, with a faculty-to-student ratio of 1:27; the College of Arts and Humanities has 13 faculty members and 278 students, with a ratio of 1:23; the College of Economics and Administration is staffed by 10 faculty members serving 216 students, resulting in a 1:22 ratio; the College of Communication has 6 faculty members and 181 students, yielding a ratio of 1:30; the College of the Holy Quran has 9 faculty members and 171 students, with a 1:19 ratio; the Language Center has 7 faculty members and 95 students, with a 1:14 ratio; and lastly, the University Requirements Unit employs 6 faculty members.

The ERT has carefully reviewed the request for the renewal of Al Qasimia University's institutional license. They noted the university's exceptional support provided by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, which is clearly reflected in its outstanding infrastructure.

The ERT highlights the following strengths of the university:
- The university's noble mission of promoting Islamic culture and the Arabic language on a global scale.

- A conducive work environment for both academic and administrative staff, positively influencing performance.
- Cultural diversity among students and faculty members.
- A robust technical infrastructure, utilizing advanced electronic systems such as Banner and Canvas.
- Successful efforts in fostering an interactive environment between the university and the local community, helping to achieve its goals.
- The instillation of love for the Arabic language and Islamic faith in students, who actively promote the university's mission in their respective countries.
- Well-equipped specialized laboratories that support academic instruction.
- The publication of three peer-reviewed scientific journals.

However, the ERT also identified areas that require further attention and improvement:

- Updating and revising some policies and procedures to align with current standards.
- Expediting the activation of the Deanship of Graduate Studies and Scientific Research.
- Conducting more evaluations to assess the effectiveness of certain departments, services, and senior leadership positions, ensuring continuous development and improvement.
- Reviewing and auditing the university's website to unify program names in both Arabic and English.
- Correcting and standardizing the financial information related to the fiscal year's start and end dates.
- Complying with the Commission's directive to allocate 5% of the university's budget toward supporting scientific research.
- Implementing plans for academic appointments.

The ERT makes its recommendations in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid AQU in its desired objective to renew the licensure of the institution.