



## Executive Summary

### **Renewal of Institutional Licensure Mohammed bin Zayed University for Human Sciences (Formerly, Mohammed V University - Abu Dhabi)**

**June 15-18, 2020**

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited Mohammed bin Zayed University for Humanities (MBZUH), formerly Mohammed V University - Abu Dhabi to evaluate its Self-Study (hereafter the *Self-Study*) for Renewal of Institutional Licensure. In view of what the UAE and the whole world are going through with the plight of the spread of the Corona epidemic, it was decided to conduct the evaluation remotely through a virtual visit that was conducted from 15 – 18 June 2020.

MBZUH was established in the city of Abu Dhabi based on the decree issued by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan on January 23, 2013, to be a distinguished scientific institution in the UAE. MBZUH aims to offer programs that include Islamic studies, social sciences, and humanities at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The university currently has two branches: main campus in the city of Abu Dhabi and a branch campus in Ajman, which started to enrol students at the beginning of the first semester of 2017/2018.

MBZUH seeks to enable graduates to have a deep understanding of Islam, comprehend the purposes of Islamic law in moderation, have the ability to take initiative, creativity and critical thinking, instil a positive spirit and consolidate Islamic values that lead to psychological, intellectual, social and material balance, and present the Emirati society as an effective model for openness to the world with creative mindset, human values, effective coexistence, and constructive cooperation for the good of humanity.

MBZUH currently offers four programs, which are:

- Bachelor's degree in Islamic Studies with two tracks: Qur'an and Hadith, and Fiqh and its Fundamentals.
- Bachelor's degree in Arabic language and literature.
- Master's degree in the Maliki school of thought and contemporary issues.
- PhD in Islamic jurisprudence and contemporary society issues.

The number of students enrolled at MBZUH during the spring semester of the academic year 2019/2020 is approximately 745 male and female students, including 665 male and female students at the bachelor's stage, 35 male and female students at the master's stage, and 45 male and female students at the doctoral stage, representing 17 different nationalities. MBZUH employs 28 faculty members, 23 of which are of Moroccan nationality. The ratio of the faculty to students is 1:27.

It was clear to the ERT that MBZUH has taken substantial steps toward improvement since its establishment in December 2014

The ERT praises many of the policies, procedures and positive attributed that were observed during the review process, the most significant of which are:

- The effective leadership, whether its higher administrations (such as the Board of Trustees and the University Council) or the academic departments and administrative units. The ERT also commends the loyalty of the university administration, all its members and employees, and their keenness to work towards achieving the university's mission and goals.
- The infrastructure including buildings and facilities, whether on the university's main campus in Abu Dhabi or in its branch campus in Ajman. The buildings provide a distinct environment for teaching and learning requirements, student services, administrators, and employees, which enhance the teaching and learning process.
- The computer network and modern technologies that MBZUH provides and utilizes to achieve its mission and goals at the academic and administrative levels.
- Provision of free-of-charge education, academic guidance services and public services such as health, housing and transportation, modern technologies for teaching, learning and communication using tablets and a computer network covering both Abu Dhabi and Ajman campuses.

On the other hand, the ERT identified some observations that need attentions to set a path toward total quality that can be summarized as follows:

- Re-designing and organizing the university's website, and constantly updating it, so that it reflects accurate information about the university, and allow easier access to users.
- As MBZUH strives for universality, and to deliver its information to all those interested in Arabic and Islamic studies, the ERT believes that its website should present information in other international languages, such as English and French at least.
- Involving external and impartial bodies and institutions in evaluating the university's programs, students, and alumni.
- Encouraging students in all academic programs to engage in scientific research, and participate in local and international conferences, and recognizing the distinguished among them.
- Appointing an internal auditor who is independent of the financial department at the university, to facilitate financial control and supervision on a timely basis.

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