



Executive Summary

Renewal of Licensure Al Ain University

January 26- 29, 2020

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited the Al Ain University (AAU) from 26 to 29 January 2020, to evaluate the *Self-Study* (hereafter the *Self-Study*) for Renewal of Licensure. The exit interview was held on 29 January 2020.

AAU is a private institution of higher education that was established in 2004 and received initial licensure by the CAA in 2005. Formerly known as Al Ain Institute of Science and Technology, the name change was approved by the Commission and was implemented in 2019.

The University has six Colleges: Pharmacy, Business, Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, Law, Communication and Media, and Engineering. The primary campus is located exclusively in Al Ain, with a branch in Abu Dhabi that was opened in October 2007. The Abu Dhabi Campus moved from its initial location in a series of villas to its new bespoke campus in Mohamed Bin Zayed City in Abu Dhabi in 2017. The previous Renewal of Licensure was undertaken in June 2014, and the current Licensure expired 31 October 2019.

Both the Al Ain and Abu Dhabi campuses are separated into female and male sections employing common and segregated areas. At the time of the External Review Team (ERT) visit the University had 5,350 enrolled students of whom 2,450 are male, 2,900 are female. The AAU student body includes 54.84 % Emirati nationals. There are 4,534 full-time students, with 4,527 students at the undergraduate level. There are 41 students of determination. AAU employs 193 full-time faculty, yielding a student to faculty ratio of approximately 28:1.

This ERT visit to AAU notes the considerable growth of maturity of the institution since the last licensure visit in 2014 affirming its position within the higher education environment of the UAE. The development of the new campus in Abu Dhabi, and the change of name from Al Ain University of Science and Technology to Al Ain University, further affirms the strategic direction and importance of the University to its many communities. The growth of academic research and consistency of management and practices has served to underpin this development. The ERT expresses confidence in the management and governance of AAU and its quality assurance policies and practices.

The ERT is encouraged by AAU's approach to academic program development, which fosters close working relationships among faculty and between faculty and students. Similarly, the ERT acknowledges the positive relationship between AAU and the Commission, as well as the ways in which AAU has sought to involve employers and other external stakeholders in its mission. Whilst the ERT recognizes that many initiatives have been developed recently, it considers that these initiatives provide a firm foundation for the future.

However, the ERT notes that there are several areas where AAU would wish to improve its practice. These include measures to evaluate the effectiveness of a number of processes; strengthening of operational planning to include quantitative performance indicators; strengthening the diversity of the faculty; conditional admission of students; CAA-related documentation; and further consideration of employability of graduates and employer needs in the development of its academic portfolio.

The ERT makes its requirements and suggestions in the spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid AAU in the desired objective of renewing its institutional licensure.