



Executive Summary

Renewal of Institutional Licensure American University in the Emirates (AUE) Dubai

14-17 November 2022

An External Review Team (ERT) visited the American University in the Emirates (AUE) from 14 to 17 November 2022, to evaluate the *Self-Study (Self-Study)* for Renewal of Licensure of the AUE. The exit interview was held on 17 November 2022.

AUE is a private institution of higher education originally licensed by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research in 2006 under the name American College of the Emirates. In 2008, the institution adopted its current name with the approval of the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA). The institution received Initial Licensure in 2007, Re-Licensure in 2012, 2019 and is applying for Re-Licensure in 2022.

The University has seven faculties: College of Business Administration, College of Media and Mass Communication, College of Fine Arts and Design, College of Law, College of Computer and Information Technology, College of Education, and College of Security and Global Studies. It occupies three floors in two blocks, in the Dubai International Academic City campus, Dubai. The total number of full-time faculty members is 115, of whom 91 have a doctorate degree (23% have terminal degrees from the USA).

The University offers 13 undergraduate programs and 9 graduate programs at the master's level; all programs are accredited by the CAA. The current total enrollment is 1889 students, of which 54% are UAE nationals, and 38% are females. The largest single program area is the Bachelor of Business Administration (27%), followed by the BA in Security and Strategic Studies (11%), and the BA in Media and Mass Communication (10%).

Through its consideration of AUE's *Self-Study* for the Renewal of Institutional Licensure, examination of other documents, and interactions with faculty, students, alumni, and others, the ERT identified several strengths in the university. These include:

Staff. AUE has very enthusiastic, capable, and knowledgeable administrators, faculty, and staff.

Students and Alumni. AUE has enthusiastic and articulate students and alumni.

Information Systems and Portals. AUE has a home-grown Campus Suite portal that integrates a wide range of university functions.

Financial Sustainability. AUE has financial stability, well defined budgeting policies and procedures that reflect institutional mission and initiatives.

Research. AUE now provides incentives for research and scholarly activity that have resulted in a noticeable increase in research output since previous review.



Matters which need to be addressed to bring the AUE into full compliance with the *Standards for Licensure and Accreditation 2019 (Standards)* are include the following:

Research. While research incentives have improved output, research policies, budgeting, procedures, and the Research Strategic Plan have significant contradictory language that is confusing and misrepresentative. The University is not budgeting the required 5% of its operating budget for research.

Facilities. Health, safety, and environmental risks, including locked emergency exit doors, missing fire extinguishers, excessive travel distance to extinguishers, and inadequate signage. AUE must also address Dubai Building Code violations that affect People of Determination in the hallway leading to the second-floor administrative offices. AUE must request its landlord to designate parking for maintenance vehicles in the underground lot, so that parking spaces dedicated to persons of determination will remain available for their use. The library's seating capacity is inadequate. Additionally, it is very congested with the space per seat, the distance between desks and shelves, and the width of the walkways being unacceptably narrow. AUE's Library weeding policy has not been implemented for many years with the result that many of books on Library shelves need to be weeded.

Technology Resources. AUE's published policy for the replacement of technology resources isn't being adhered to and many such resources are out of compliance with this policy.

Plagiarism. AUE's Scheme for Grade Point Deduction for Academic Misconduct doesn't comply with international norms. Firstly, similarity scores aren't necessarily indicative of the presence/absence of plagiarism. Secondly, international norms dictate zero-tolerance of plagiarism.

Internships. The duration of internships doesn't comply with the CAA reform letter of 21 April 2021.

The ERT makes its requirements in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aims of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid AUE in its desired objective to obtain Renewal of Institutional Licensure.