



Executive Summary
Renewal of Licensure
Umm Al Quwain University

May 11- 13, 2014

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited the Umm Al Quwain University (UAQU), previously known as Emirates Canadian University College, from May 11-13, 2014 to assess its Application for Renewal of Licensure. The exit interview was held on 13 May 2014.

UAQU was licensed on March 1, 2008 and received accreditation for its first program, a BA in English and Translation in 2009. Subsequently, Bachelors programs in Business Administration, Mass Communications and, as of March 2014, Law have been accredited. The University College, however, initially enrolled very few students. The ownership of UAQU transferred in September 2012. UAQU currently enrolls 137 students, the majority from GCC countries.

UAQU is under new ownership and management. It is clear to the ERT that the new leadership has made much needed and significant changes. Although still small, the enrollment has increased to 137 students. The documentation in the *Self-Study* provides evidence of the changes that have been made to operations and programs. UAQU has a small, but appropriate staff and has upgraded the infrastructure to enable the institution to provide the services that are required. UAQU has performed critical analyses of programs to make improvements in the curricula and to implement modifications that will enable it to address the education and training needs of the community, not only of Um Al Quwain, but of neighbouring Emirates of Ras Al Khaimah and Sharjah. The new leadership has engaged employers and schools in the surrounding community to participate in deliberations on UAQU's future. Significantly, a newly structured Board of Trustees has gained the confidence and financial commitment of the leadership of the Emirate of Um Al Quwain.

In its current stage of development, UAQU has the appearance of a relatively new institution. Thus, it will need to persist with the energy and will it demonstrated to the ERT to implement a number of much needed changes.

- The ERT notes, for example, UAQU's emphasis on developing an institution in which its teaching and curriculum is based on current and ongoing faculty research. Understandably, the full implementation of this strategy is in its embryonic stage.
- Although there is evidence of a commitment to ongoing assessment and evaluation, some staff responsible for implementation of continuous quality assurance processes

have only recently been hired and, understandably have only begun to implement elements of the system.

- In that connection, a significant portion of UAQU's documentation includes substantial passages of material taken from other sources and lacking proper attribution. UAQU recognizes that this issue will need to be addressed expeditiously.
- UAQU recognizes the need to employ additional qualified faculty.
- UAQU has moved its plan for a new campus from the concept stage to the schematic stage and is moving expeditiously toward construction.

Given the evidence provided to the ERT during the visit from the Chairman of UAQU's Board of Trustees, UAQU's senior officers, faculty, staff, students and external stakeholders, UAQU is moving forward toward fulfillment of its vision and mission.

The ERT makes its requirements and offers its suggestions in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the Standards for Licensure and Accreditation are met, and to aid UAQU in its desired objective to be granted Renewal of Licensure.