Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges & Universities

Final Report

Institution: ██████████████████████████
██████████████████████
██████████████████

Dean: ████████████████

Dates of visit: ████████████

Name of Inspector(s): RI: Dr Lawrence Watson, ██████████████

Accreditation decision: Click here to enter text.
Date of decision: Click here to enter text.

1. Introduction

1.1 Historical background and links with other institutions

██████████████████████████ is the oldest non-religious university in ████, founded in ████. It is a huge public institution with 270000 students and many thousands of employees. The Faculty ████ ████████ (hereafter ████) was established by presidential decree in 1959. The faculty is the size of a small university and has a comprehensive committee structure of its own enabling it to enjoy a good measure of autonomy within the university. The faculty has its own Quality Assurance and Accreditation Unit, International Relations Office, Skills Development, Careers and Entrepreneurship Unit, Staff Affairs Unit, Green Office, and Student Union.

The faculty is subject to inspection on a four-year cycle by the ██████ National Authority for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Education from which it has very positive reports (██████ was the first ██ faculty to be accredited). It also has ISO accreditation (9001/2015 and 2100/2018).

████ has active agreements with several international universities mainly in student exchange programmes, dual degrees, summer immersion programmes, internships and research projects. Among others, ████ works with University of Paris 1 -Pantheon/Sorbonne (dual degrees in Economics and Political Sciences at bachelor's level), Hamburg University (dual professional Master's degree in Law and Economics), Cambridge University, Sussex University, Rotterdam University, and Chicago University. A new collaboration is being developed with University of East London (dual degree at master's level), Some of these initiatives are supported by Erasmus Plus. The Euro-Mediterranean Programme, supported by Tempus, involves collaboration with Sciences Po Paris, Freie Universitat Berlin, Amsterdam University and Barcelona University.

████ is regarded as an elite academic entity within ████ and the MENA region more widely. Many former and current ██████ government ministers and senior diplomats are ████ graduates. The present Minister of Foreign Affairs sent a video message as part of the inspectors' meeting with alumni and stakeholders. The latter included senior figures from NGOs such as the World Bank and UNICEF as well as the National Bank of ████ and a think tank working directly with the Prime Minister's Office. The stakeholders' relationship with ████ encompassed both the sourcing of expertise in project development and the employment of ████ graduates, many of whom have gone on to senior executive roles.

The inspection visit built upon very thorough and informative documentation and a self-evaluation received in advance. Our special thanks go to ████████████ for coordinating ████s engagement with both the pre-visit and visit stages of the inspection.

1.2 Location

████'s principal site is on the main ██ campus in an attractively landscaped and architecturally impressive setting in the centre of ████ where it occupies two parallel three-storey buildings. There is a recent shared campus at ██████████ where students on partnership programmes with international universities will spend part of each week. ██ has its own metro station and is close to numerous routes; it also operates contracted bus services. Although it has its own full catering facilities, there are numerous snack shops in the vicinity.

1.3 Academic Provision

████ offers a range of programmes at bachelor's, postgraduate diploma, master's and doctoral levels within its five departments: Economics, Political Sciences, Statistics, Socio-Computing, and Public Administration (the latter two do not currently offer bachelor's degrees but there is demand for them and appropriate resources and expertise are in place). ████ follows the credit hour system having found that it provides more flexibility and opportunities for interdisciplinarity than the previous semester system. All of ████'s courses are delivered on campus. There are three language streams: English, Arabic and French.

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1.4 Current Student Numbers

FT International (student visa required)	0
FT International (student visa not required)	413
FT home-based students	3480
PT	0

Predominant areas of origin

████, Middle East and Africa

1.5 Personnel – Current Staff Numbers

Teaching staff and Research staff
Full time: 431
Permanent part time: 0
Temporary/Occasional part-time: 0
Support staff: 222

Any Comments
Student/teacher ratios are good and permit a significant amount of small group teaching.

1.6 Meetings held at Stage 2 and Stage 3

The meetings held during the visit included separate sessions with the President of ██, the Dean and senior management of ████, teachers, support staff, undergraduate students, postgraduate students, alumni and stakeholders.

1.7 Statutory requirements

Have the statutory requirements of the University been met?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

1.8 Significant features/changes since Stage 2

N/A

2. Areas of Assessment

A) Governance, Management and Staff Resources

A.1	Are the numbers of staff and the staffing structure appropriate for the scale and nature of the Institution?	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.1.1	*Membership and documented role of the Governing Body*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A.1.2	*Diagram of staffing structure with names (this includes management, teaching and support staff)*	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.1.3	*Appropriate vision and/or mission statements*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
Although ultimately accountable to the ██ President and the ██ Council, ████ is more immediately governed by its Faculty Council. This currently consists of the Dean and two Vice-Deans (Graduate Studies and Research, and Community Service and Environmental Development respectively), the Chairs of the five departments, five members of teaching staff, five emeritus professors, and three external members (two former government ministers and a serving Senator). ████ has its own vision and mission statements. These are displayed in prominent places around the campus and in promotional material and properly reflect the activities of the faculty. Student input is provided via representation at departmental level. Staff numbers are sufficient for the size and scope of the faculty. Staff indicated that they feel supported by management and have the opportunity to put proposals forward through the committee structure.

A.2	Communication amongst governors, management, and all staff is effective. (Regular, recorded meetings of staff should take place to manage the operations of the University at various appropriate levels.)	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.2.1	*Minutes of staff meetings*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments

There is a detailed communications procedural document. Meetings at Faculty Council and monthly Departmental Council levels are minuted and records kept for future development purposes. There are many other regular meetings at task group level.

Commendable: There are formal minutes of committee meetings, which record actions agreed, designated individuals responsible for the actions, and an audit trail that these actions have been completed.

A.3.1	*Current Employer's Liability Insurance Certificate or equivalent*	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.3.2	*Public Liability insurance or equivalent*	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.3.3	*Equal opportunities policy relating to employment*	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.3.4	*Written procedures for: staff promotions*	☒ Yes ☐ No
	staff discipline	☒ Yes ☐ No
	complaints/grievances	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
There are comprehensive insurance arrangements in place meeting government requirements.

A.4.1	*CVs of staff who manage courses/programmes and/or subject areas*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Staff files are maintained for all academic and administrative staff including course/programme managers. These files have details of staff's qualifications, experiences, publications and other career data. They also contain offer letters, CPD and career advancement information. These details are in compliance with national civil service regulations.

Commendable: There are designated persons one of whose principal roles is to take responsibility for the successful delivery of the academic programme and the enhancement of the curriculum.

A.5	Are classes timetabled appropriately in terms of room sizes and facilities?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Are all programmes and assignments scheduled to provide reasonable workloads for students?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Are all programmes and assignments scheduled to provide reasonable workloads for staff?	☒ Yes ☐ No
A.5.1	*Current course/programme and room timetables*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A.5.2	*Research facilities and supervision arrangements*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Classes are timetabled appropriately with room timetables on display and students receive their information via the Thinqi LMS. Both staff and students confirmed that they are happy with the workload and their programme and assignments schedules.
Research facilities and rigorous supervision arrangements are in place including the initial vetting of research proposals. Students expressed their satisfaction with the arrangements and that they feel supported.

A.6.1	*Written procedures exist for examination/test papers, for formative tests/mock examinations, and for summative assessments (if appropriate).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A.6.2	*Written procedures for the conduct of assessments, including invigilation arrangements; proctoring arrangements (where relevant).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A.6.3	*Arrangements for the receipt, from any external awarding bodies, and secure storage of examination/test papers and students' scripts, course work, and other submitted work.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
A.6.4	*Confirmed approval of the University as an awarding body test/examination centre as appropriate (originals).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments

Examinations are invigilated. Staff are properly trained and there is full written guidance on the conduct of assessment including advice to invigilators. Examination papers and other confidential assessment materials are stored in a secure place with access available only to authorised representatives. Examination timetables along with invigilator rosters are made and arrangements communicated to concerned staff.

A.7	New staff receive an appropriate induction?	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.1	*Staff Handbook*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.2	*Records to show that staff have signed confirming receipt of their copy of the staff handbook at induction*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.3	*Written staff induction programme*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.4	*Appraisal/performance review system*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.5	*Staff development policy*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.7.6	*Records of staff development activities*	☒ Yes	☐ No

Comments
There are documents equivalent to a staff handbook. There is a combination of informal and formal induction for new staff with many teaching staff having previously progressed from being students to being teaching assistants before becoming lecturers. Professional development activities are carried out in house (including mandatory completion of five training units to pass each promotion threshold, e.g., Teaching Assistant to Assistant Lecturer). As well, staff are encouraged to participate in professional development events taking place outside the university. There is provision of separate funds for external participation. There is a well-structured performance review process that is applied to all staff. Two in-house training classes were observed, one in ICT Skills and one in Advanced Excel.

Commendable: Annual appraisals/performance reviews are formally recorded and agreed performance targets are actioned.

A.8	All teaching staff are subject to review of their teaching with a view to achieving continuous improvement of standards?	☒ Yes	☐ No
	Research staff are reviewed on their scholarly activity, including papers written and presented at suitable conferences?	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.8.1	*Written procedures for the monitoring of the delivery of the academic programme (teaching quality) and/or the review of scholarly activity.*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.8.2	*Records of monitoring of the delivery of the academic programme.*	☒ Yes	☐ No
A.8.3	*Records of published papers and presentations; citations; funding awarded; successful research supervision.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A	

Comments
Lesson observation is routinely conducted by module coordinators and overseen by the Quality Assurance Unit. Teaching staff confirmed that they found the process constructive and helpful. This is further underpinned by student feedback. Teaching quality and research output figure in the promotion system.

Commendable: There are written procedures in place for addressing issues identified in the review of the delivery of the academic programme and for monitoring improvement; and evidence to show the effective use of these procedures. There are written procedures in place for facilitating improvements in research outputs.

A.9.1	*A copyright licence or equivalent (where possible) and/or suitable copyright notices at photocopiers and printers.*	☒ Yes	☐ No

Comments
███ is bound by ██████ Intellectual Property Law (82/2002).

A.10.1   Procedures and protocols for protecting data relating to employees and students (in some countries formal registration is a local requirement).   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
▮▮▮▮ complies with ▮▮▮▮ Data Protection Law (151 of 2020) which is aligned with European GDPR.

B) Quality Assurance and Enhancement

B.1   Does the University undertake an annual/periodic academic review of its courses/programmes and research activities?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does this include formal input from students and staff?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does the review consider the appropriateness of the Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) and the methods used to determine the extent to which the ILO are being met?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.1.1   Written procedures for conducting academic review.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.1.2   Records of academic review meetings which include action points.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
The faculty undertakes annual academic review drawing on the annual Departmental Conferences which consider performance, research plans and possible new modules. A more in-depth review occurs every three years. There is a written process; review meetings are recorded, and reports maintained of actions taken.
Commendable: Formal minutes of academic review meetings show that effective action is taken as a result of the academic review process.

B.2   Does the University monitor students' academic development and pass/completion rates, including research degrees?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Does the University analyse examination results to identify trends and inconsistencies?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.2.1   Student examination results.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.2.2   Written analyses of student performance by course and cohort. Written report by supervisors on research activities.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
▮▮▮▮ has an electronic process to monitor students' development and success rate including that of research degree students.   Statistical analysis is made, and changes identified and implemented when needed. The software allows the faculty to monitor student progress, course progress and graduate completion status.
Commendable: Statistical analysis is made of examination results, making comparisons across modules assessed at a given time and with earlier results, together with evidence of any action taken.

B.3   Do mechanisms exist for students to provide feedback on the delivery of their programmes and/or the quality of research supervision, and the quality of the supporting resources?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.3.1   Examples of completed student feedback questionnaires.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

B.3.2   Records of relevant meetings involving students.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Students provide feedback for each module. This feedback is collected, and results are available to teachers and research supervisors. Meetings between the teaching staff and Heads of Department are organised once all feedback is received and areas for improvement are discussed with staff.
Commendable: There is documented evidence to show that effective action is taken in response to student feedback.

B.4 (Internal Programmes Only)

B.4.1	*Written procedures for programme design and curriculum development.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
B.4.2	*Records of relevant programme development meetings.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
B.4.3	*Programme descriptions, including details of curriculum, learning outcomes, teaching approaches, and assessment arrangements.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
B.4.4	*Programme approval documentation.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
B.4.5	*Evidence of external validation, including involvement of external advisors/examiners from other universities (local or international), or from relevant industrial/commercial/business companies.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
All academic staff participate at departmental level in curriculum development. Suggested changes and additions are passed to the Faculty Council for consideration and, if approved, upwards through ██'s committee structure. Changes must comply with an outline framework of government regulations. External examiners are used at postgraduate level. They provide useful advice.

C) Systems Management

C.1.1	*Student application form.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.1.2	*Written administrative procedures for processing applications.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.1.3	*Sample offer letter and visa letter (if appropriate).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.1.4	*Written administrative procedures for monitoring the number of visa letters issued and accepted (if appropriate).*	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
C.1.5	*Confirmation of students' academic qualifications and relevant language competence prior to joining the course (in student files).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.1.6	*Written administrative procedures for checking the student's financial status.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.1.7	*Enrolment form.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.1.8	*Written administrative procedures for student admission and enrolment.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.1.9	*Written administrative procedures for handling deposits, fee payments, and refunds and for maintaining records of these transaction.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.1.10	*University policy for the refund of deposits.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.1.11	*A list of all students showing: course; date of first enrolment in the University; date of enrolment on current course; nationality, and sight of passport and visa details (if appropriate).*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
██████ works in collaboration with ██'s central administrative units to ensure a smooth student admission process, enabling the faculty to get the best students. There are generous scholarship schemes, In addition, student who attain high GPA scores (3.7 and above) benefit from a 25% discount on the following year's fees. The best students are offered teaching assistantships which run in parallel with studying master's degrees making these financially accessible.

C.2	The University creates and maintains accurate, up-to-date, student files and stores these securely.	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.2.1	*Written administrative procedures for creating and maintaining student files.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.2.2	*Examination of a sample of student files.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.2.3	*Evidence of a self-service system for students to update their personal details.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Sample student files were viewed on the LMS. Students are aware of the process for updating any change in their personal details.

C.3	Can the University demonstrate that it attempts to identify those students who have been granted a visa to enable them to study at the University but who fail to enrol (no show)?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.3.1	*Written administrative procedures for investigating a 'no show' and reporting to immigration authorities (where required).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.3.2	*Sample letter to immigration authorities informing of a 'no show' (where required).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
As yet there has been no need to implement these procedures.

C.4.1	*Written administrative procedures for recording and monitoring student attendance.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.4.2	*Completed student attendance registers.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.4.3	*Sample records of cumulative attendance.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
████ monitors student attendance and participation via an electronic registration system with each student having to log in with their password. .

C.5	Does the University have robust procedures for contacting students who miss classes without authorisation?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Are warnings issued that de-registration will occur in the case of inadequate attendance?	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.5.1	*Written administrative procedures for dealing with student absences and if appropriate reporting to immigration authorities.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.5.2	*Sample warning letters to students regarding unsatisfactory attendance.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.5.3	*Sample letter to immigration authorities advising that a student's registration has been cancelled due to unsatisfactory attendance.*	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Comments
Attendance is monitored and students who do not meet regular attendance requirements are contacted by the Student Affairs Department. Students who do not meet 75% attendance are given two warnings and may not be eligible to write the final exams unless the situation is rectified.

C.6	Does the University closely monitor students' academic progress, for example through a system of personal academic tutoring and/or formative assessments?	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.6.1	*Sample student assessment records.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.6.2	*Student files incorporating academic progress records.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.6.3	*Written administrative procedures for dealing with unsatisfactory student progress and, if appropriate, reporting to immigration authorities.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.6.4	*Sample warning letters to students regarding unsatisfactory progress.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
The Student Affairs Department is responsible for this procedure. There are well laid out processes for this activity.

C.7	Does the University record voluntary withdrawals and deferrals, and in the case of students requiring a visa, informs the immigration authorities accordingly?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.7.1	*Written administrative procedures for dealing with voluntary withdrawals and deferrals and if appropriate reporting to immigration authorities (if required).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
C.7.2	*Sample letters to immigration authorities regarding withdrawals and deferrals (if required).*	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

Comments
The Student Affairs Department deals with this and there are laid down policies for dealing with dropouts; reporting to immigration has not yet been required.

C.8.1	*Written staff appointment procedures, job descriptions, and appointment criteria.*	☒ Yes ☐ No	
C.8.2	*Sample job advertisements.*	☒ Yes ☐ No	
C.8.3	*Sample contracts for management, academic, and support staff.*	☒ Yes ☐ No	
C.8.4	*Written evidence that staff qualifications have been verified.*	☒ Yes ☐ No	
C.8.5	*A list of staff showing their visa status (if appropriate) and written evidence of verification that staff have the right to work in the country.*	☒ Yes ☐ No	

Comments
██████ follows strict government regulations relating to employment. Qualifications are verified via sight of originals and checking them with appropriate regulatory agencies.

C.9.1	*Written administrative procedures for creating and maintaining staff files.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.9.2	*Examination of a sample of staff files.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
C.9.3	*Evidence of a self-service system for staff to update their personal details.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
██████ has a procedure in place. Sample staff files were viewed. The HR Manager explained the procedure satisfactorily. Staff files are kept electronically; only authorised personnel have access. Staff are aware of the procedure for updating their personal details.

C.10	The University is aware of the need to inform ASIC of a significant change of premises or major development of existing premises.	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
██████ management and quality assurance personnel are aware of the procedure.

D) Learning, Teaching and Research Activity

D.1.1	*Pre-enrolment information.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
██████ produces pre-enrolment information in the form of a student handbook. Information online and in the handbook contains selection criteria, fee charges and refund policy. It also has information about the programme structure and other important information related to student life cycle. This information is made available online as well as when the student enquires/enrols.

D.2	Are students carefully briefed on the nature and requirements of their chosen programme, including curriculum, assessment regulations, completion schedules, reading lists/relevant academic papers?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Are students carefully briefed on the nature and requirements of their chosen research activity?	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
D.2.1	*Programme/Course descriptions.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Students confirmed during interaction that they found the information useful.

D.3.1	*CVs of all teaching staff detailing:*	
	Responsibilities within the University;	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Academic, professional, and teaching qualifications;	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Summary of academic career and other relevant employment;	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Recent/current self-development activities;	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Publications;	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
	Academic papers refereed and submitted at conference;	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
	Peer reviews/citations.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments

All staff details including CVs, copies of qualifications and other important documents, are maintained in staff files. This includes staff performance reviews, development activities, publications, student feedback. To encourage the sharing of professional practices, ▮▮▮▮ encourages its professors to do some work for other relevant entities such as NGOs. This type of appointment is also approved by the government. As an example, one professor of Economics is the Executive Director of the Museum ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮.

Commendable: The teaching staff have a formal pedagogic qualification and many first served as supervised teaching assistants whilst completing higher degrees in the faculty.

D.4.1	*Sample lesson plans relating to the course description, curriculum, and learning outcomes.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
D.4.2	*Written procedures for teachers on providing feedback on students' work.*	☒ Yes ☐ No
D.4.3	*Samples of marked student work.*	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments

The inspectors attended several classes at various levels. These included both special summer courses as well as regular courses for students seeking to add credit hours.

All the lessons began on time with the structure of the session being clearly explained. The lecturers outlined learning outcomes of the sessions at the beginning.

Smart screen presentations were used with notes and explanations written on the whiteboard. In a couple of cases adjustments to the height of whiteboards and screen size would be beneficial for students seated near the back. Lecturers regularly paused to check the engagement of the students and probing questions were asked. Students were very engaged and were confident in their responses. Several examples were given in the classes by the lecturers that made learning relevant and easy to understand.

Classes observed included Special Needs Issues in Study and Employment, Labour Economics, Sustainability Policies, Testing Linear Restrictions between Parameters (Economics), Comparative Political Systems, Algebra, Stock Market Analysis, International Finance, Rehearsal Presentations in Entrepreneurship (in the Business Incubator), and the inaugural session of the Migration Research and Study Unit. In all cases the pace and delivery were appropriate. Interaction between lecturers and students was very effective and there were good class dynamics. There were disabled students in several of the classes observed.

An extensive sample of graded student work was made available. This showed grading methodology and levels to be broadly similar to that of leading US universities. Written feedback varied in format but was never less than adequate. Students confirmed that this was backed up by oral feedback both individually and in groups.

Commendable: The delivery of the academic programme is considered commendable through the use of appropriate teaching and learning approaches, as well as very positive feedback from students on the effectiveness of delivery.

D.5.1	*The University's plans for research activities.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
D.5.2	*Procedure for assessing the viability of research proposals including the selection of supervisors.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
D.5.3	*Evidence of appropriate direction, feedback, and critical input to research students.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
D.5.4	*Evidence of active engagement between the University's research work and the commercial sector.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments

Inspectors had discussions with PhD students and researchers. Students confirmed that they were provided with the required supervision, resources and support to perform their research. Students were very happy with the support they received. ▮▮▮▮'s research informs the work of the ▮▮▮▮▮▮ Government and many outside organisations. Some current research themes are Disability Studies, Women's Studies,

and Youth Studies. There are five specialist research centres in ▮▮▮▮: Economic and Financial Research Studies, Area Studies, Political Studies and Cultural Dialogue, Public Administration Research and Consultation, and Surveys and Statistical Applications. FEPS has its own quarterly journal – Review of Economics and Political Sciences – which is Scopus Q2 listed and has a rapidly increasing impact factor.

Commendable: There is a carefully structured system of research supervision, including regular, documented meetings/contacts between supervisors and students.

D.6   The University's library provision.

Comments

▮▮▮▮ has its own extensive library in addition to the ▮▮ central library where a large volume of books, journals, periodicals and magazines are available. The library uses appropriate software for the management of its resources. There is also an online portal where students can access books online, can reserve their preferred book online and get notification when they are available. Both libraries are close to each other and use similar software.

E) Awards and Qualifications

E.1   Internal Programmes/Courses

E.1.1	*Access to programme/course descriptions for each internal programme/course.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
E.1.2	*Sample award certificates for the University's own programmes/courses.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
E.1.3	*Documentation confirming recognition of the University's degree-awarding powers (originals).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
E.1.4	*Evidence that the University maintains destination data for its graduates (employment/further study) in building its reputation.*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

List of courses and levels:

Bachelor's Degrees

Economics
Political Sciences
Statistics

Postgraduate Diplomas

Project Evaluation and Feasibility Studies
Banking Operations
Stock Market Analysis
Education Economics
Health Economics (in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine)
Industrial Statistics and Quality
Population and Vital Statistics
Health and Environmental Studies
Applied Scientific Research
Public Opinion Measurements
Parliamentary Studies
Civil Society and Human Rights
International Organisations
International Crisis Analysis
Israeli Studies
Local Administration
Environmental Management
NGO Management
Sustainable Finance (programme being approved)

Master's

Economics
Political Sciences
Public Administration
Socio-Computing
Statistics
International Political Economy
Governance and Anti-Corruption
Euro-Mediterranean Studies
Law and Economics
Gender and Development
Health Economics (in collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine)
Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Strategic Political Studies (in collaboration with the ███ Higher Military Academy)
Diplomatic Studies (programme being approved)

PhD

Economics
Euro-Mediterranean Studies
Political Sciences
Administration and Public Policies
Computer Applications in Social Sciences
Statistics

Comments

██ is approved by the ██████ Government and awards its own qualifications. Bachelor's degrees require a minimum of 142 credit hours over four years. In addition to their major (as indicated by the departmental title) students take a minor specialisation from any one of the other four departments. 15 mandatory faculty modules are common to all the bachelor's degrees. As required by the Ministry of Higher Education, two further modules are mandatory for all students across ██: Critical Thinking and Entrepreneurship. There is a comprehensive description of the programmes, assessment methods and learning outcomes in the Student Handbook. The one-year postgraduate diploma programmes focus on the upskilling needs of professionals.

There is a new sophisticated system for tracking alumni and active networking.

Commendable: Degree certificates and transcripts have multiple security and verification features.

E.2	External Programmes/Courses	
E.2.1	*Programme/Course summary (Appendix 2, (AF)) for each approved external course/programme.*	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
E.2.2	*Confirmation of franchise/other collaborative arrangements i.e., dual degrees, validation, articulation, and progression with advanced standing from approved international universities (originals).*	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
	The dual degree awards mentioned in 1.1 have been approved at the highest level by the partners and are ongoing, being typically reviewed every two years. The collaboration with Paris has been running since 2010.	
E.2.3	*Confirmed centre status of other recognised awarding bodies (originals).* List of courses, levels and awarding bodies and end date of agreements:	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

E.2.4   *Evidence that awards made by overseas universities/other institutions are genuine - in that the awarding body is formally recognised in its own country and has approval to offer qualifications overseas.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

E.2.5   *Written evidence that students are registered with the external awarding body.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

E.2.6   *Written evidence that the awarding body follows quality assurance procedures in its collaborative relationship with the University and, in the case of UK universities, that they follow QAA guidelines.*   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Comments
▇▇▇ does not offer external programmes except as part of dual degrees.

E.3.1   *Written guidance for staff on the scheduling and content of formative assessment of all programmes/courses.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

    Written guidance for staff on the scheduling and content of ongoing assessment of Research activity.   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

E.3.2   *Written regulations for summative assessment of all programmes/courses.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
▇▇▇ has well established assessment processes and manual that is well documented. There are regular assessment standardisation meetings to ensure consistency between assessors and across programmes. Learning outcomes are clearly tabulated and benchmarked against international institutions such as the London School of Economics.

E.4.1   Are students made aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and of the consequent penalties?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

E.4.1   *Written guidance on academic misconduct.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No

E.4.2   *Evidence of systems to detect and deter plagiarism and ghosting (students employing others to write their work) in non-invigilated assessments, e.g., assignments, projects, dissertations.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
There are strict written protocols on academic misconduct. These rules are documented in the student handbook and examination rule book. There is an appropriate committee that deals with any incident and each incident is processed in line with rules and protocols laid down. Software is used to deter plagiarism and unauthorised use of Generative AI.
Commendable: For non-invigilated assessments, ▇▇▇ has in place software to detect plagiarism and ghosting, and viva voce checks on the authenticity of students' work.

F) Student Welfare

F.1.1   *Students receive advice/information and assistance in relation to such topics as:*

    Living in the country   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

    Police registration   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

    Registration for medical treatment   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

    Banking   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

    Travel cards   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
Special guidance from a dedicated unit is provided for international students. There are treaties with other African countries which facilitate the admission of gifted international students and provide generous financial support. International students interviewed by the inspectors expressed complete satisfaction with the student support they received.

F.2   Ongoing welfare support is available to students from identified staff.

Comments
All ▓▓▓ students are allocated an Academic Adviser. There is a specialist counselling unit. ***Commendable: Welfare support is provided by experienced staff or those with relevant formal qualifications.***

F.3.1   Written student induction programme.   ☒ Yes ☐ No
F.3.2   Student handbook.   ☒ Yes ☐ No
F.3.3   Records to show students sign to confirm receipt of their copy of the handbook   ☒ Yes ☐ No
          at induction.

Comments
▓▓▓ conducts well-structured student induction programmes. Programmes cover all aspects of student life cycle and introduce the student to the faculty, course, facilities and policies and procedure of the university. There is well documented evidence of this activity happening for each intake. Students confirmed that they found the programme helpful and informative. Subsequently, students are encouraged to write about their experiences and activities at ▓▓▓ in the faculty's own student magazine, ▓▓.

F.4.1   Child protection policy (under 18s), where relevant.   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
F.4.2   Staff list recording police checks (under 18s), where relevant.   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
F.4.3   Staff list recording enhanced police checks (under 18s, plus personal   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
          tutoring/mentoring system), where relevant.

Comments
▓▓▓ does not enrol students under 18years.

F.5.1   Disability strategy: which must include advice to students, with special learning,   ☒ Yes ☐ No
          medical, or physical needs which the University cannot support, signposting
          them to seek guidance from appropriate identified bodies.
F.5.2   Written documentation where students have the opportunity to declare special   ☒ Yes ☐ No
          learning, medical, or physical needs, including the University's application form.

Comments
Students have the opportunity to declare their disabilities on the application form. There are specific guidelines by government handling of students with a disability and ▓▓ follows these. There are ramps where required for wheelchair users, and lifts are staffed by assistants. Tackling disability issues has been identified as a strategic priority.

F.6.1   Written guidance to homestay students and providers, including a   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
          recommendation that adults also living in the homestay are police
          checked if any students accommodated by them are aged under 18.
F.6.2   Records of homestay inspections by the university, including   ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
          compliance with in-country legislation.

Comments
▓▓ does not offer homestay provision but provides its own student hostels. These were visited by the inspectors and found to comply with appropriate standards, including for health and safety.

F.7.1   Written student complaints and grievance procedure.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
▓▓▓ has a well-documented mechanism for complaints and grievances redressal with relevant dedicated committees. Students expressed their satisfaction with the availability of this process.

G) Premises, and Health and Safety

Documentation required for this Area:

Floor plan of each site being inspected, showing classrooms and other teaching facilities, offices, toilets, student study areas, refreshment areas, residential areas, and emergency exits.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

List of all teaching rooms showing capacities and any specific teaching resources.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

G.1.1   *Lease agreement or evidence of ownership (as applicable).*   ☒ Yes ☐ No

G.1.2   *Confirmation from the local authorities that the University has permission to use the premises for educational purposes.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
There are complete floor plans showing classrooms and other teaching facilities, offices, toilets, student study areas, refreshment and recreational areas, residential facilities and emergency exits.   The premises are owned and historically approved for educational purposes.

G.2   All external and internal signage is clear, comprehensive, current, and accurate. (Including institutional, floor and room signs; and programmes, affiliations, and logos on display.)   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Signage is clearly displayed at all key locations. All rooms are identified with a number. Safety signage and evacuation routes are clearly visible. Floor and room signs are clear.

G.3   Building facilities and maintenance ensure a safe and clean environment for staff and students, with adequate lighting, heating and ventilation, and sanitary provision. (Toilets should be clean and well maintained with full hand washing and drying facilities.)   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are there wheelchair accessible toilets?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are all areas of the institution accessible for those with physical disabilities?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
There are four halls accommodating between 100 and 400 students, 25 teaching rooms accommodating between 20 and 120, four computer laboratories, a research laboratory, a self-study laboratory and numerous offices. Building facilities are maintained properly to ensure a safe and clean environment for staff, students and visitors. Building and classrooms are well ventilated. They have air conditioning. Ladies, gents and disabled toilets were found to be in hygienic and clean condition. There is wheelchair accessibility via ramps and lifts throughout the campus.   ***Commendable: The premises, including the toilets, are well furnished, in a good state of repair, and extremely clean.***

G.4.1   *Local Authority certificate showing compliance with health/sanitary regulations.*   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

OR satisfactory inspection reports from the relevant local authorities (originals)   ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments
█████ complies fully with local regulations.

G.5   Students have access to informal study areas including IT provision where appropriate.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Students have free access to the internet, including e-mail.   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is there a student common room with seating?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do students have access to refreshments facilities?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Do students have access to recreation facilities?   ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
█████ provides adequate informal break out and study areas to students and these have IT provision. Wi-Fi access is provided throughout.   There are several student common areas and refreshment facilities. ███ provides outstanding sports facilities including a football stadium and an Olympic sized swimming pool.

There is a well-equipped gym accessible by students and staff that is provided for free. There are trained sports instructor available on campus.

Commendable: There is an appropriately sized student common room with seating and students have access to refreshments and state of the art recreation facilities.

G.6	All staff have access to workspaces and IT?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Is hot-desking in operation?	☐ Yes ☒ No
	Do staff have access to refreshments facilities?	☒ Yes ☐ No
	Do staff have access to personal storage facilities?	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments
Comments
Staff have dedicated and private workspaces that are safe, secure and provide privacy. The offices can be locked and can only be accessed by staff or other authorised personnel. Staff have access to refreshments through the university canteens.

Commendable: There is appropriate office space where all staff have designated workspaces equipped with individual IT facilities; and the staff have access to personal storage and refreshment facilities.

G.7   Classrooms, laboratories, research centres, workshops, and other specialised teaching areas.

Comments
There are sufficient classrooms and IT laboratories of an appropriate size with sufficient range of teaching facilities and aids. There are whiteboards, projectors, audio/visual aids and smart classrooms. There are a number of research, workshop and specialised teaching spaces.

Commendable: The majority of classrooms/IT laboratories have projection facilities and/or a high standard of relevant facilities for practice-based activities.

G.8.1	Health and safety declaration by Head of the University/Owner (Appendix 3, (AF)).	☒ Yes ☐ No
G.8.2	Health and safety risk assessment, with all recommendations addressed.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.3	Fire risk assessment undertaken by an appropriately qualified organisation/person (external to the university where possible), with all recommendations met.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.4	Health and safety policy, including duty of care to students.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.5	Documentation for other emergency procedures such as earthquake, lockdown, pollution, volcano etc.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
G.8.6	Staff training records in relation to first aid, fire precautions, emergencies, and safety in areas of hazard.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.7	List of qualified first aiders and their certificates, and/or other medical facilities.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.8	Relevant health and safety information on display.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.9	An accident report book.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.10	Fire Precautions declaration (Appendix 4, (AF)).	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.11	Records of testing of fire detection equipment, extinguishers, alarms, and emergency lighting.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.12	Fire notices and emergency/fire exit signs.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.13	Records of timed fire drills (and evacuation of the premises), including hazards encountered and remedial actions taken.	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
G.8.14	Safety rules applicable to areas of hazard.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
G.8.15	Records of portable appliance testing (this may not be applicable in some countries).	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
G.8.16	Gas and electrical safety certificates provided by qualified contractors (these may not be required in some countries).	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

G.8.17	Carbon monoxide detector is appropriately sited and operational.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
G.8.18	Fire extinguishers correctly wall or floor mounted.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
G.8.19	List of trained fire marshals. (N.B. lists of fire marshals and first aiders/medical staff should be prominently displayed on student notice boards).	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments

██ has many fire marshals and first aiders including teams located in ████, and a list was available. There is a Crisis and Disaster Management Committee. There are scheduled sessions on fire safety complying with local regulations although no full evacuation fire drills. The faculty has its own staffed clinic. More generally, ██ provides dental and hospital care.

H) Marketing and Recruitment of Students

| H.1.1 | Ethics policies for: University marketing; recruitment of students; ethical practice of staff and agents. | ☒ Yes ☐ No |
| H.1.2 | Written administrative procedures for processing student enquiries. | ☒ Yes ☐ No |

Comments

There are ethical rules set for the marketing activity. There are government regulations concerning recruitment standards. There is a Marketing Department with well experienced staff. There are no agents or other third-party involvement in the admission process. The whole process is performed in house by trained and qualified staff. The Ethics Policy is monitored at senior level.

Students confirmed that the information they received from ████ was true and that they were pleased with how their enquiries were dealt with.

Commendable: Implementation of the ethics policy is monitored at a senior level and the Institution takes responsibility for the training, briefing and updating of its staff.

H.2.1	Written criteria for the appointment of agents.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
H.2.2	Written briefing documents for agents.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
H.2.3	Copy of agent agreement.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
H.2.4	List of active agents and their contact details (there should be a file for each agent).	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
H.2.5	Evidence of monitoring the performance of agents such as: record of agents' student recruitment data; student satisfaction questionnaires.	☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Comments

████ does not use recruitment agents. The faculty is the top choice of many students with outstanding high school grades and entry is highly competitive.

H.3.1	A University website with up-to-date and accurate content.	☒ Yes ☐ No
H.3.2	University prospectus (where applicable).	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
H.3.3	Approvals/licences for the use of images used on the website and other hard copy literature.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A
H.3.4	Sample advertisements and other marketing literature where applicable.	☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Comments

Inspectors viewed the website and social media posting. These were accurate and informative. ████ has a range of brochures detailing its programmes and other services. All images are CU's own.

H.4.1	Written academic admissions requirements (on course summary, Appendix 2, AF).	☒ Yes ☐ No
H.4.2	Written English language or other language of instruction admissions requirements (on course summary, Appendix 2, AF).	☒ Yes ☐ No
H.4.3	The Institution's equal opportunities policy in relation to student selection	☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments

███ follows basic criteria set by the Ministry of Higher Education and other relevant government bodies but is allowed to set its own high bar for admission. The Equal Opportunities policy applies to student selection and allows for equity, diversity and inclusion.

3. Areas of Strength and Good Practice

The faculty is congratulated on:
- its exceptionally well presented documentation
- its high standard of teaching
- its research activities and support provided to research students
- its student placement opportunities
- its support for students via the academic adviser system
- its course management arrangements
- its attention to course review processes
- its student common room, students' access to refreshments and state of the art recreation facilities
- its comprehensive course and programme information provided to students
- its library provision and resources
- its accessible location
- its clean and hygienic premises
- the standard of safety measures in place on the campus
- its flexibility in dealing with staff and student requests or suggestions
- its good relationship between staff and top management
- its relationship with external partners and stakeholders which contributes to curriculum development
- its tracking system for student progress
- the ethical marketing of its programmes
- its timely processing of student enquiries and admissions
- its growing number of collaborative programmes with overseas universities including dual degree programmes
- the attention given to the conduct of assessments
- the standard of its internal communication
- its continuous evaluation and review processes
- the support from staff and students for ███.

4. Conditions and Recommendations for the Institution to address

The Institution is required as a condition of accreditation to:

There are no conditions.

The faculty is recommended to:
1. consider developing or accelerating the development of Bachelor's degrees in Public Administration and in Socio-Computing (1.3).
2. consider adding members of the administrative staff to the Faculty Council (A.1).
3. add a text on the website highlighting the measures underpinning the integrity of the assessment system (A.6 and E.4).
4. invite more short-term visiting professors from overseas (A.7)
5. produce a short pre-arrival information document for visiting academics (A.7).
6. include general guidance on the services and support offered by ███ and ██ as part of the induction of new non-academic and academic staff (A.7).
7. explore ways of integrating more internship opportunities into curriculum development (B.4).
8. consider streaming the Research Methodology unit in the first year of master's programmes to avoid repetition for those students who have already covered the material previously at ███ (B.4).
9. produce a standardised form to enhance consistency of written feedback from academic staff to students (D.4)
10. carry out a visibility audit of screens and whiteboards (some were difficult to see from seats near the back and could be higher up or larger) (G.7).
11. organise a full evacuation drill once a year for each FEPS building (G.8)
12. revamp the website so it reaches out more effectively to potential international students (H.3).
13. adopt a more tactical approach to the subject rankings of the various world university ranking systems so as to better reflect the faculty's strong research output, facilities, teacher/student ratios and reputation.

5.   Recommendations to the Accreditation Committee

The Inspectors recommend that ████████████████████████████████ be accredited for a period of four years and that Areas of Operation A, B, D, E, F, G and H be deemed commendable. The faculty should, therefore, be considered as a candidate for Premier status.

Dr Lawrence Watson   ████████

Notes:
1. Where staff and student views are stated in the report, these refer to the views expressed by those individuals whom the Inspectors met.