

Shatt Al-Arab University Quality Policy

Introduction

Shatt Al-Arab University was founded in Basra on 5 October, 1993, according to the Decree of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research No MF / 568 under the name 'Shatt Al-Arab College'. It is the first private college in Basra and the fifth private college in Iraq. It was then converted into a university under the name Shatt Al-Arab University according to the Ministerial Decree No THA/K 16006 on 28 July, 2024. The University primarily aims at upgrading academic and cultural knowledge in Iraq in general and in Basra in particular.

The University encompasses at present 6 colleges having 13 departments as outlined in the following table. It is the policy of Shatt Al-Arab University to introduce new colleges and departments in future.

No.	College	Department	Year Established
1	College of Law	Department of Law	1993
2	College of Administration and Economics		
3	College of Arts	Department of English	1995
4	College of Science		2024
5	College of Engineering		2021
6	College of Engineering Technology		

Shatt Al-Arab University has drawn its own policy of quality assurance based on its own message that seeks to apply the comprehensive quality parameters in academic performance. The main objective is to upgrade the academic and cultural levels of our country in general and Basra in particular. The University also pays due attention to students by providing them with the principles of modern knowledge, research writing methodology, high values, and qualifying them to cater for self-access learning, innovation, leadership and team work to be effective in their community. The University policy is based upon academic assurance programs that align with the nature of specialties of its various departments. The University curricula are regularly reviewed and updated in line with the international academic developments. Special attention is given to scientific research that takes community needs into account to secure its development. Besides, the University cooperates with other universities and institutions with the aim of exchanging expertise and knowledge. The University further regularly evaluates and reviews its quality policy for improvements, provides training and support for faculty staff and other personnel to guarantee high-quality services.

Objectives of the Quality Assurance Policy

Shatt Al-Arab University is committed to provide a high-quality educational environment that meets the needs and aspirations of students, faculty staff, and employees in line with the objectives of sustainable development (2020- 2030) on both the local and international levels. Such policy reflects the endeavors made to achieve continuous improvement and academic and administrative excellence. This is coupled with offering teaching, research and other support services to the community. The

quality system adopted carry out its objectives in conformity with the requirements of the quality assurance standards of higher education institutions by taking the following points into consideration:

1. Shatt I-Arab University is keen to be one of the outstanding universities in the region. Such a desire is achieved through qualifying graduates, in various fields, to meet the needs of the labor market.
2. Providing a stimulating learning environment that promotes high-quality study, research work, and catering for the community. The academic atmosphere in the University aligns with modern developments using up-to-date technology.
3. The University also seeks continuously to improve the teaching process, upgrade curricula and study, and plans to cope with the labor work requirements in accordance with the scientific and technological developments.
4. Promoting skills of distinguished and talented students through carrying out theoretical and applied research work with the aim of empowering qualified cadres to take part in the progress of their nation.
5. The top administration of the University is always supporting the quality system.
6. The University is committed to conform to regulations and legislations in force. It also adopts the standard requirements related to the systems and parameters of local and international quality.
7. The University is keen, at present and in future, to undertake specific academic fields that comply with the ambitions and aspirations of its

graduates, the community, and the institutions that receive those graduates.

Quality Assurance Policy of the University

Shatt Al-Arab University has adopted its respective policy on quality assurance based on two systems;

1. Internal Quality Assurance (IQA): This system aims at ensuring continuous improvement through planning, enforcement and reviewing. This is reflected in the University's policy and work mechanisms that seek to implement its objectives. This system focuses on reviewing quality internally seeking to bring out improvement of the higher education system based on analysis that diagnoses both strong and weak points. Such tasks are undertaken by the Quality Assurance Team in the University and the Quality Assurance Department.

2. External Quality Assurance (EQA): This system certifies that the academic institution concerned is quite suitable and efficient. It also evaluates the procedures and processes adopted by the University to maintain its educational quality, and that it copes with the defined objectives.

The University Quality Policy

The comprehensive quality standards of the University performance system of Shatt Al-Arab university focus on seven main domains, on both internal and external levels as follows:

1. The University as an Educational Institution

The University message highlights the importance of consolidating the educational and ethical aspects for its personnel and students. This is a priority in qualifying its graduates to ascertain that discipline and proper behavior are incarnated in the graduates' professional careers.

2. The University as a Teaching Institution:

The University plays a pivotal role as a teaching institution. It should concentrate on the following criteria:

- a. The criteria elated to the faculty members.
- b. The criteria related to the students.
- c. The criteria of the curriculum.

3. The University as a Research Institution

The University is committed to adopt certain criteria related to quality performance. This includes backing up research work and providing the material and human potentialities. Due attention is paid to the research studies that serve the community and the environment and contributes to the main objective of sustainable development. Researchers are encouraged and supported to publish their research work in rigorous academic journals, taking into account the following points:

- a. Applied research work that seeks to find solutions for the problems facing the community and the environment.
- b. Promoting a suitable research environment in the University.
- c. Providing the required potentialities to carry out research work.

d. Encouraging team work in undertaking research studies to achieve a quality output.

4. The university as an Environmental Institution

The University has an obligation towards the environment. The following criteria have been laid out to secure quality of performance in this regard:

- a. Emphasizing the University's role in preserving the surrounding environment.
- b. Promoting the University's contribution in growing up the environment resources and how to handle them in the best possible manner.
- c. Spreading environmental awareness.
- d. Helping a great deal in solving the environmental problems.

5. The University as a Social Institution

As the University endeavors to meet the needs of the community, it therefore receives inputs from the surrounding community and works hard to qualify them for the future. The University academic performance should influence the community with respect to the following criteria:

- a. The quality of outputs that are liable to meet the satisfaction and aspirations of the community.
- b. Promoting awareness of the University's role in developing the community.
- c. Emphasizing the role of universities in solving the problems facing the community.

d. Consolidating partnerships with the community to upgrade the quality of the inputs and outputs.

6. The University as a Cultural Institution

Universities are main sources of producing knowledge. They, in fact, represent cultural landmarks in society. A number of criteria have been put to serve this purpose:

a. The importance of the universities' role in introducing knowledge and spreading it.

b. Promoting awareness of the cultural role of universities.

c. The universities lucid contribution in bringing out dialogues among various cultures and achieving security and societal peace on the local, national and international levels.

7. The University as a Productive Institution

The University seeks to promote the resources of the services offered to others while maintaining its academic and cultural commitments towards society. It also offers the best solutions for national affairs through guiding research work to tackle the societal and community affairs. This can be carried out through the following points:

a. Adopting modern, innovative and creative strategies with the aim of attaining a distinguished and creative productivity.

b. Highlighting difficulties, risks, development-restricting thoughts and promoting the level of the individual's productivity.

c. Conducting several critical and field studies on business administration.

d. Cooperating and entering into partnerships with productive institutions.

University Commitment to Achieve Quality

1. Academic Excellence

- The University adheres to rigorous academic standards and work continuously to upgrade its curricula to provide a comprehensive and coherent teaching experience that integrates students in the teaching process.
- The University works hard to motivate students for learning, broad knowledge, critical thinking, innovation, and lifelong learning.

2. Student-based Curriculum

- The University gives priority to raise the personality of the student through teaching programs and various activities that enhance learning and meet the manifold needs of students, besides providing a suitable teaching environment.
- The University takes students' points of view into consideration, takes part in the recurrent evaluations, and therefore brings about improvements to bolster students' experiences.
- Promoting the proficiency of the faculty staff and employees.
- The University pays due attention to the professional development of faculty staff and employees based on a plan for training and development in response to needs.
- The University encourages continuous learning and cooperation to attract talented individuals to achieve output excellence.

4. Research and Innovation

- The University supports high-quality research work, scholarships, and innovation that generate knowledge and help to solve the problems and challenges of the community.
- The University enhances cooperation, various partnerships and works on publishing the results of the research work accomplished.

5. Quality assurance and Continuous Improvement

- The University is keen to lay out and apply programs and effective mechanisms to ensure quality and evaluation with the aim of improving the efficacy of its programs and academic services.
- The University takes part in the periodic evaluations, close examinations and external reviews to ensure compliance with the standards and practices in force.

6. Coordination and Partnerships

- The University is keen to exchange views with students, faculty staff, employees, graduates, and the community. The aim is to make use of these points of view in decision-making.
- The University promotes partnerships and cooperation with all parties concerned to consolidate the roles of their graduates and enhance their influences on the community.

7. Ethics and Transparency

- The University is committed to high ethical standards and original values of society. This is liable to ensure transparency, integrity, and fairness.
- The University undertakes an approach based on the unity of the nation that discards all radical views and thoughts to secure social security and peace.
- The University is committed to educational and ethical laws, regulations, policies, and principles that enhance proper conduct and intellectual ownership rights.

Bodies in Charge of Enforcing the University Quality Policy

To implement the quality policy successfully and review and improve it continuously, Shatt Al-Arab University undertakes the following procedures:

1. The Quality Assurance Team in the University is headed by the University President. Quality Assurance Department and Academic Accreditation Section are administratively in charge of supervising the development, implementation and observing the sort of work undertaken by the Quality Administration.
2. Working on receiving, analyzing data and feedback, and gauging performance to evaluate the efficacy of academic programs, support and jobs services.
3. Carrying out regular internal and external evaluations and reviews to ensure commitments to quality policy, pinpointing possible improvements

and gauging indicators of performance in comparison with the best practices.

4. Providing resources, training and support for faculty staff and employees to enable them to offer high-quality services, maintain professional development and endeavor for continuous improvement.

5. Seeking to spread the quality awareness and bring the quality policy and related objectives to all people concerned.

Procedures

The University adopts the following procedures (indicators) to evaluate this quality policy:

1. Students' satisfaction: The average of students who have shown satisfaction towards quality of teaching and support services offered by the University.

2. Beneficiaries' satisfaction: The average of bodies or persons who have shown satisfaction towards the quality of teaching, its outputs, and the support services offered by the University.

3. The periodic assessment of faculty staff and employees.

4. Training of Faculty Staff and Employees: The number of training courses held for faculty staff and employees to promote the skills related to quality and also improve performance.

5. Program Accreditation: The number of successful programs approved by the Accreditation Board concerned and the number of specialties that have completed the requirements of attaining accreditation.

6. Establishment Accreditation: The level of completing the requirements of attaining establishment accreditation by the University.

7. Initiatives of Continuous Improvement: The number of documented improvements achieved based on the outcomes of evaluation.

8. The level of transition from the teaching techniques into the learning techniques. This tendency supports more qualified graduates.

9. Employability and Graduates' Success: The average of graduates who have been employed in their respective academic specialties during a specific period of time, and the level of their proficiency of teaching outputs.