



**Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education
(OAAAQA)**

UoB ISA

EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE NOTICE

General Information for Staff, Students and Stakeholders

Notification of an OAAAQA ISA at UoB			
HEI	University of Buraimi (UoB)		
Panel Visit Dates	June 03-06, 2024	EQA Type	ISA
Visit Venue	UoB		
Panel Chair	Dr Imran Hameed		
Panel Members	Dr Ahmed Al Mamari Dr Achim Hopbach Prof Hasan Ali Bicak Dr Kheira Anissa		
Review Director	Ms Gargi Chugh	Further Info	www.oaaaqa.gov.om
HEI Contact Person	Dr Sandhia	HEI Contact Email	sandhia.v@uob.edu.om

What is an External Quality Assurance (EQA)?

The Oman Authority for Academic Accreditation and Quality Assurance of Education (OAAAQA) has convened an External Quality Assurance (EQA Activity) Panel to undertake an ISA at UoB. OAAAQA EQA activities evaluate whether an institution or their programmes meet the OAAAQA's academic standards and criteria, set to reflect international standards for Quality Assurance. The OAAAQA's standards, embedded in Part B of the ISA Manual, are available on the OAAAQA website (www.oaaaqa.gov.om).

What are the outcomes of an EQA activity?

An EQA involves a comprehensive self-assessment of the University, resulting in a submission known as an 'Application'. This is followed by an external review by an EQA Panel. The process results in the Institution being given ratings against (applicable) standards and criteria, and an overall Accreditation Outcome. The ratings and the Accreditation Outcome are then published on the OAAAQA's website.

Who are the EQA Panel Members?

The EQA Panel comprises senior academic, professional, or industrial experts, resident both in Oman and internationally.

What does the Panel do during an EQA Panel Visit to an HEI?

As part of its work, the EQA Panel conducts a Visit during the dates shown above. During the Visit, the Panel will meet a wide range of people, including staff and students of the Institution and external stakeholders who have links to the Institution, such as employers and external

examiners. Mostly, these meetings are in formal interview sessions. Other interviews, however, are 'random' in order to help the Panel Members gain a broad perspective. At some stage during the Visit, therefore, a Panel Member may approach you on campus and ask whether you would be willing to spend a few minutes with them responding to some questions. All Panel Members are clearly identifiable from their name badges. You are under no obligation to participate, but it is hoped that you will assist in order to help the EQA Panel gain as full an understanding of this Institution as possible. The questions cover a range of topics focusing on your personal experiences of the Institution under assessment.

Are interview sessions (including random interviews) during the Panel Visit confidential?

All interviews are confidential in the sense that although the EQA Panel needs to be able to use the information you provide, it will not do so in a way that attributes the statements to you. In other words, the EQA Panel may reveal what was said, but not who said it.

Thank you very much for your participation in this important exercise



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Information for Interviewees

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How are interviewees involved?

Some staff and students are requested to participate in interviews with the EQA Panel. Interview sessions for staff (up to eight people interviewed) are conducted in the EQA Panel rooms. One-

hour long interview sessions with students (up to five people) are conducted around tables with a single EQA Panel Member and in a room with other student interviews taking place. EQA Panel Members ask questions about the experience of teaching, supporting or studying a programme and may also seek comments on a broader range of matters, such as experiences at the college or university in general.

How should students prepare for an interview?

To prepare, interviewees may wish to read the college or university's EQA Application. Panel questions are based on this. Interviewees may not bring pre-planned answers to the interview. Panel Members examine a wide range of supporting materials during the EQA process and use the lived experience or knowledge of interviewees about the Institution being assessed as part of their analysis of this information. The contact person (see table above) will inform interviewees of the time and venue of their interview.

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