



هيئة جودة التعليم والتدريب  
Education & Training Quality Authority  
Kingdom of Bahrain - مملكة البحرين

# Directorate of Higher Education Reviews Programme Review Summary

University of Bahrain  
College of Law  
L.L.B. in Law  
Kingdom of Bahrain

**Site Visit Date: 31 May – 2 June 2021**

HA017-C3-R017

## I. Introduction

In keeping with its mandate, the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA), through the Directorate of Higher Education Reviews (DHR), carries out two types of reviews that are complementary. These are: Institutional Reviews, where the whole institution is assessed; and the Academic Programme Reviews (APRs), where the quality of teaching, learning and academic standards are assessed in academic programmes within various colleges according to specific standards and indicators as reflected in its Framework.

Following the revision of the APR Framework at the end of Cycle 1 in accordance with the BQA procedure, the revised APR Framework (Cycle 2) was endorsed as per the Council of Ministers' Resolution No.17 of 2019. Thereof, in the academic year (2019-2020), the DHR commenced its second cycle of programme reviews.

The Cycle 2 APR Review Framework is based on four main Standards and 21 Indicators, which forms the basis the APR Reports of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The **four** standards that are used to determine whether or not a programme meets international standards are as follows:

*Standard 1: The Learning Programme*

*Standard 2: Efficiency of the Programme*

*Standard 3: Academic Standards of Students and Graduates*

*Standard 4: Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance*

The Review Panel (hereinafter referred to as 'the Panel') decides whether each indicator, within a standard, is 'addressed', 'partially addressed' or 'not addressed'. From these judgments on the indicators, the Panel additionally determines whether each of the four standards is 'Satisfied' or 'Not Satisfied', thus leading to the Programme's overall judgment, as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Criteria for Judgements**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Judgement</b>
All four Standards are satisfied	Confidence
Two or three Standards are satisfied, including Standard 1	Limited Confidence
One or no Standard is satisfied	No Confidence
All cases where <b>Standard 1</b> is not satisfied	

The APR Review Report begins with providing the profile of the Programme under review, followed by a brief outline of the judgment received for each the indicator, standard, and the overall judgement.

The main section of the report is an analysis of the status of the programme, at the time of its actual review, in relation to the review standards, indicators and their underlying expectations.

The report ends with a Conclusion and a list of Appreciations and Recommendations.

## II. The Programme's Profile

Institution Name*	University of Bahrain (UoB)
College/ Department*	College of Law
Programme/ Qualification Title*	L.L.B. in Law
Qualification Approval Number	-
NQF Level	-
Validity Period on NQF	-
Number of Units*	46
NQF Credit	-
Programme Aims*	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing graduates with legal knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of the legislative and judicial aspects which will qualify them to deal with all aspects of legal issues.</li> <li>2. Developing the legal thought and practice of the law students through assigning students to conduct research and studies related to legal sciences and providing graduates with scientific research skills that would qualify them for postgraduates studies.</li> <li>3. Providing the Bahraini and Gulf community with qualified legal graduates who are capable of working individually and within a team in accordance with professional ethics, and contributing positively to community service.</li> <li>4. Promoting national values and citizenship and spreading a human rights culture and fundamental freedoms in Bahraini society via enhancing the collaboration link with legislative and judicial institutions.</li> </ol>

<p>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes*</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Awareness of all law sciences both in public law and private law, as well as Islamic law, understand the legislative policy of the country, and provide students with the ethics of practicing the law profession.</li> <li>2. Practice legal functions including analyzing provisions of contracts, realities, and incidents by putting them in their appropriate content.</li> <li>3. Conduct the investigation, and prepare lists of lawsuits across all branches of law.</li> <li>4. Prepare defense briefs and oral pleading in front of courts, with its different levels, as well as arbitration boards.</li> <li>5. Develop legal research, and reflect on judicial provisions, so that the student acquires research skills and independent learning.</li> <li>6. Legal drafting including the drafting of judicial decisions and legislative texts.</li> <li>7. Encourage teamwork through direct communication and electronic means.</li> </ol>
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\* Mandatory fields

### III. Judgment Summary

## The Programme's Judgment: Confidence

Standard/ Indicator	Title	Judgement
<b>Standard 1</b>	<b>The Learning Programme</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
Indicator 1.1	The Academic Planning Framework	Addressed
Indicator 1.2	Graduate Attributes & Intended Learning Outcomes	Addressed
Indicator 1.3	The Curriculum Content	Partially addressed
Indicator 1.4	Teaching and Learning	Addressed
Indicator 1.5	Assessment Arrangements	Addressed
<b>Standard 2</b>	<b>Efficiency of the Programme</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
Indicator 2.1	Admitted Students	Addressed
Indicator 2.2	Academic Staff	Partially addressed
Indicator 2.3	Physical and Material Resources	Addressed
Indicator 2.4	Management Information Systems	Addressed
Indicator 2.5	Student Support	Partially addressed
<b>Standard 3</b>	<b>Standard 3: Academic Standards of Students and Graduates</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
Indicator 3.1	Efficiency of the Assessment	Addressed
Indicator 3.2	Academic Integrity	Addressed
Indicator 3.3	Internal and External Moderation of Assessment	Partially addressed
Indicator 3.4	Work-based Learning	Addressed

Indicator 3.5	Capstone Project or Thesis/Dissertation Component	Addressed
Indicator 3.6	Achievements of the Graduates	Addressed
<b>Standard 4</b>	<b>Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance</b>	<b>Addressed</b>
Indicator 4.1	Quality Assurance Management	Addressed
Indicator 4.2	Programme Management and Leadership	Addressed
Indicator 4.3	Annual and Periodic Review of the Programme	Addressed
Indicator 4.4	Benchmarking and Surveys	Partially addressed
Indicator 4.5	Relevance to Labour market and Societal Needs	Addressed

## IV. Conclusion

Taking into account the institution's own self-evaluation report, the evidence gathered from virtual interviews and documentation made available during the virtual visit, the Panel draws the following conclusion in accordance with the DHR/BQA *Academic Programme Reviews (Cycle 2) Handbook, 2020*:

**There is Confidence in the L.L.B. in Law of College of Law offered by the University of Bahrain.**

**In coming to its conclusion regarding the four Standards, the Panel notes, with appreciation, the following:**

1. Launch of the Legal and Human Rights Clinic programme in collaboration with the American Bar Association, which helps train students in giving legal advice and writing legal memoranda in the field of human rights.
2. The cyber security procedures followed by the University.
3. The important and influential role played by the e-Learning Center at the university, in supporting the transition to digital learning for both student and faculty.
4. Actions taken to carry out the internship programme, despite the corona pandemic, which resulted in offering a comprehensive virtual training programme for students via the online platform (Microsoft teams).
5. The active role of the Advisory Committee in improving the programme to meet the needs of the labor market and the local community.

**In terms of improvement, the Panel recommends that the University of Bahrain should:**

1. Implement the recommendations listed in the departmental meeting minutes no. (12 /2021), regarding the re-introduction of "Principles of Economics" as a compulsory course, alongside the "Economics of Money, Banks and Foreign Trade" course, and the "Tax Law" course within the college's undergraduate programme and in accordance with the recommendation of BQA mentioned in the previous review report.

2. Increase the topics related to the labor market when developing the study plan in future, and incorporate new courses that are up-to-date, such as those related to artificial intelligence to enhance students' practical skills.
3. Ensure that the number of faculty members and the facilities of the college is in line with the annual increase in the students' number.
4. Consider adding a remedial course in Arabic; due to the nature of legal studies which requires a high level of proficiency in the Arabic language.
5. Increase the number of faculty and reduce the workload of each academic member as well as the number of committees that each member participates in, so they can dedicate more time to scientific research and publication.
6. Subscribe to international electronic databases specialized in law such as "Westlaw and LexisNexis"; due to their importance as a reference to both students and faculty in their scientific research.
7. Strengthen the academic advising process and ensure that it supports students in achieving the intended learning outcomes and reaching the required graduate attributes.
8. Continue to investigate the causes of students' failure in the programme and try to address them.
9. Expedite the implementation of external moderation in cooperation with professors specialized in law.
10. Develop an appropriate mechanism to ensure the effectiveness of external moderation of the programme once it is initiated.
11. Determine the period of time required to conduct the periodic review and document that; as it is important to carry out a review of the programme on a regular basis.
12. Conduct comprehensive benchmarking exercises with regional or international universities, covering all aspects of the programme.