



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

Directorate of Higher Education Reviews

Programme Follow-Up Visit Summary

Bachelor in History

College of Arts

University of Bahrain

Kingdom of Bahrain

First Follow-up Visit Date: 29 November-1 December 2020

Review Date: 5-9 November 2017

HC113-C2-F018

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The Programme Follow-up Visit Overview

The follow-up visit for academic programmes conducted by the Directorate of Higher Education Reviews (DHR) of the Education & Training Quality Authority (BQA) in the Kingdom of Bahrain is part of a cycle of continuing quality assurance reviews, reporting and improvement.

The follow-up visit applies to all programmes that have been reviewed using the Programmes-within-College Reviews Framework, and received a judgement of 'limited confidence' or 'no confidence'.

This Report provides an account of the follow-up process and findings of the follow-up panel whereby the Bachelor in History, at the University of Bahrain (UoB) was revisited on 29. November-1. December 2020 to assess its progress in line with the published Programmes-within-College Reviews Framework and the BQA regulations.

A. Aims of the Follow-up Visit

- (i) Assess the progress made against the recommendations highlighted in the review report (in accordance with the four BQA Indicators) of UoB's Bachelor in History since the programme was reviewed on 5-9 November 2017.
- (ii) Provide further information and support for the continuous improvement of academic standards and quality enhancement of higher education provision, specifically within the Bachelor in History programme at UoB, and for higher education provision within the Kingdom of Bahrain, as a whole.

B. Background

- (iii) The review of the Bachelor in History programme, at UoB in the Kingdom of Bahrain was conducted by the DHR of the BQA on 5-9 November 2017.

The overall judgement of the review panel for the Bachelor in History programme, of UoB was that of '**limited confidence**'. Consequently, the follow-up process incorporated the review of the evidence presented by UoB to the DHR, the Improvement Plan submitted to BQA, the Progress Report and its supporting materials and the documents submitted during the follow-up site visit and those extracted from the interview sessions.

The external review panel's judgement on the UoB's Bachelor in History programme for each Indicator was as follows:

Indicator 1: The learning programme; '**satisfied**'

Indicator 2: Efficiency of the programme; '**satisfied**'

Indicator 3: Academic standards of the graduates; '**not satisfied**'

Indicator 4: Effectiveness of quality management and assurance '**satisfied**'

The follow-up visit was conducted by a (Panel) consisting of two members. This follow-up visit focused on assessing how the Institution addressed the recommendations of the report of the review conducted on 5-9 November 2017. For each recommendation given under the four Indicators, the Panel judged the recommendation as per Appendix 1; whereas an overall judgement is given based on the rubric provided in Appendix 2.

Overview of the Bachelor in History

History discipline is part of the Sociology Department of the College of Arts, University of Bahrain. The programme is one of the first academic programmes offered by the university, and graduates are awarded a bachelor's degree in history. The programme consists of 128 credit hours. Of these, 66 credit hours are for major option, and 30 credit hours for minor option (Arabic Language, psychology, and Islamic Studies). It also offers a bachelor's degree in a single major in history with a total of 128 credit hours; of which 93 hours are major requirements. The Programme is taught by seven faculty members, according to the latest statistics (three are specialised in history, two in archaeology, and the remaining two staff are specialised in political science).

The records of the programme demonstrated that the total number of students enrolled in the History discipline at the time of the Virtual Follow-up Visit was 553 students. The History Programme has contributed to supplying the local job market with a number of distinguished graduates, who hold various positions in a number of ministries and institutions such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, archaeology and others.

1. Indicator 1: The Learning Programme

This section evaluates the extent to which the Bachelor in History programme of UoB, has addressed the recommendations outlined in the programme review report of November 2017, under Indicator 1: The learning programme and as a consequence provides a judgment regarding the level of implementation of each recommendation for this Indicator as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report.

No.	Recommendations	Judgement
1.1	Review, during the next periodic review of the programme, the allocation of theoretical and practical hours within the curriculum, and revise the distribution of courses and their pre-requisites within the study plan to achieve the greatest benefit for the student	Partially Addressed
1.2	Expedite obtaining necessary approvals on the revised learning outcomes of the programme	Fully Addressed
1.3	Implement procedures that contribute to proper and effective utilization of e-learning.	Partially Addressed

2. Indicator 2: Efficiency of the Programme

This section evaluates the extent to which the Bachelor in History programme of UoB, has addressed the recommendations outlined in the programme review report of November 2017, under Indicator 2 Efficiency of the programme and as a consequence provides a judgment regarding the level of implementation of each recommendation for this Indicator as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report.

No.	Recommendations	Judgement
2.1	Develop an appropriate mechanism in cooperation with the University, through which the Department is involved in the process of determining the specifications/attributes of the admitted students in the programme	Fully Addressed
2.2	Develop a comprehensive plan to increase the number of the academic staff members and select academics who hold higher ranks to lead and guide the programme	Partially Addressed
2.3	Organize a formal induction programme for new academics at the department, college, and university levels, to introduce them to the University policies, regulations, resources, and various services, and evaluate its effectiveness	Partially Addressed
2.4	Implement a clear plan for supporting faculty members in applying for promotion	Not Addressed
2.5	Provide laboratories for examining historical monuments, and specialized libraries to save ancient historical documents which are needed for the programme delivery	Fully Addressed
2.6	Further utilize the tracking reports and the updated data of the tracking systems to enhance making decisions that contribute to enhancing the educational process	Fully Addressed

3. Indicator 3: Academic standards of the graduates

This section evaluates the extent to which the Bachelor in History programme of UoB, has addressed the recommendations outlined in the programme review report of November 2017, under Indicator 3: Academic standards of the graduates and as a consequence provides a judgment regarding the level of implementation of each recommendation for this Indicator as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report.

No.	Recommendations	Judgement
3.1	Activate the benchmarking policy of the University, and benchmark all the aspects of the programme formally against similar programmes and utilize the results in improving the programme	Partially Addressed
3.2	Implement a rigorous mechanism to ensure the implementation of all policies and procedures of the University related to the evaluation of students' achievements, such as providing them with feedback, the detection of academic plagiarism, and moderation at the programme level to ensure that the graduates meet the academic standards of the programme	Fully Addressed
3.3	Implement suitable formal procedures for the external moderation and ensure their alignment with the University's policies in this regard, and it should utilize the moderation results in developing the programme, reviewing and improving the courses	Partially Addressed
3.4	Further pursue the development of its internal moderation mechanisms, to include both pre and post moderation of all basic assessment tools, and implement these mechanisms in a formal and consistent manner, so as to ensure the accuracy of assessment and programme improvement	Fully Addressed
3.5	Develop a clear description for the levels of performance assessment to measure the achievement of the course intended learning outcomes and programme intended learning outcomes	Partially Addressed
3.6	Revise students assessed work to ensure that it is suitable for the type and level of the programme; and contributes to achieving all programme intended learning outcomes	Partially Addressed
3.7	Implement a comprehensive study and a systematic analysis of the programme's student cohorts, to track their year by year progression, rates of admission, transfer, withdrawal, study length, and their first destination upon graduation, and utilize the analysis results in the development of the programme.	Fully Addressed

4. Indicator 4: Effectiveness of quality management and assurance

This section evaluates the extent to which the Bachelor in History programme of UoB, has addressed the recommendations outlined in the programme review report of November 2017, under Indicator 4: Effectiveness of quality management and assurance and as a consequence provides a judgment regarding the level of implementation of each recommendation for this Indicator as outlined in Appendix 1 of this Report.

No.	Recommendations	Judgement
4.1	Improve the used approaches for monitoring and evaluating the quality assurance management system in the programme and measure its effectiveness	Fully Addressed
4.2	Consider the results of the holistic periodical review of the programme; and include an external body as stated in the University's policy; in addition to developing the mechanisms of improving, monitoring them, and generating periodical reports about the rates of the achieved improvements	Fully Addressed
4.3	Continue to develop suitable mechanisms to survey the stakeholders through a representative sample, and analyse the data periodically and regularly to utilize the results in developing the programme, and inform all its internal and external stakeholders with the results	Partially Addressed
4.4	Conduct systematic studies regularly, to enable the programme to identify current and future labour market needs.	Not Addressed

5. Conclusion

Taking into account the institution's own progress report, the evidence gathered from the interviews and documentation made available during the virtual follow-up visit, the Panel draws the following conclusion in accordance with the DHR/BQA Follow-up Visits of Academic Programme Reviews Procedure:

The Bachelor in History programme offered by University of Bahrain has made "Adequate Progress" and as a result, the programme won't be subjected to another follow-up visit.

Appendix 1: Judgement per recommendation.

Judgement	Standard
Fully Addressed	The institution has demonstrated marked progress in addressing the recommendation. The actions taken by the programme team have led to significant improvements in the identified aspect and, as a consequence, in meeting the Indicator's requirements.
Partially Addressed	The institution has taken positive actions to address the recommendation. There is evidence that these actions have produced improvements and that these improvements are sustainable. The actions taken are having a positive, yet limited impact on the ability of the programme to meet the Indicator's requirements.
Not Addressed	The institution has not taken appropriate actions to address the recommendation and/or actions taken have little or no impact on the quality of the programme delivery and the academic standards. Weaknesses persist in relation to this recommendation.

Appendix 2: Overall Judgement.

Overall Judgement	Standard
Good progress	The institution has fully addressed the majority of the recommendations contained in the review report, and/or previous follow-up report, these include recommendations that have most impact on the quality of the programme, its delivery and academic standards. The remaining recommendations are partially addressed. No further follow-up visit is required.
Adequate progress	The institution has at least partially addressed most of the recommendations contained in the review report and/or previous follow-up report, including those that have major impact on the quality of the programme, its delivery and academic standards. There is a number of recommendations that have been fully addressed and there is evidence that the institution can maintain the progress achieved. No further follow-up visit is required.
Inadequate progress	The institution has made little or no progress in addressing a significant number of the recommendations contained in the review report and/or previous follow-up report, especially those that have main impact on the quality of the programme, its delivery and academic standards. For first follow-up visits, a second follow-up visit is required.