



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
Master in Private Law
Kingdom of Bahrain**

Site Visit Date: 31 May – 2 June 2021

HA018-C3-R018

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

Criteria	Judgement
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 Standard 1 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*	Master in Private Law
Qualification Approval Number	-
NQF Level	-
Validity Period on NQF	-
Number of Units*	Dissertation + 9 units
NQF Credit	-
Programme Aims*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the appropriate environment for creativity and creative thinking in different areas of law that lead to the advancement of scientific and professional skills of the researcher for the progression of his/her legal knowledge. • Creating the appropriate environment for creativity and creative thinking in the field of law, which leads to developing, refining, and promoting scientific capabilities. • Ability to analyze legislations, comparative legislations, and judgments by weighing and refuting different legal views and opinions. • Enabling the students to be familiar with the rules and methods of scientific research in the field of law and the principles of expressing legal opinion and recommendations to the legislator. • Promoting scientific research in the field of law at the University of Bahrain. • Providing the Bahraini community with graduates with distinguished legal experience and the ability to practice law with competence.

<p>Programme Intended Learning Outcomes*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-depth study for the branches of law. • Ability to analyze and establish legal texts and realities. • Ability to make refutation and weighing between different jurisprudential attitudes, and comparative legislations. • Ability to use scientific research skills in preparing legal studies and research, in accordance with the needs of the labor market and society. • Ability to conduct all legal and judicial work efficiently and outstandingly.
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* Mandatory fields

III. Judgment Summary

The Programme's Judgment: Confidence

Standard/ Indicator	Title	Judgement
Standard 1	The Learning Programme	Addressed
Indicator 1.1	The Academic Planning Framework	Addressed
Indicator 1.2	Graduate Attributes & Intended Learning Outcomes	Partially addressed
Indicator 1.3	The Curriculum Content	Addressed
Indicator 1.4	Teaching and Learning	Addressed
Indicator 1.5	Assessment Arrangements	Addressed
Standard 2	Efficiency of the Programme	Addressed
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	Addressed
Standard 3	Standard 3: Academic Standards of Students and Graduates	Addressed
Indicator 3.1	Efficiency of the Assessment	Partially addressed
Indicator 3.2	Academic Integrity	Addressed
Indicator 3.3	Internal and External Moderation of Assessment	Partially addressed
Indicator 3.4	Work-based Learning	Not Applicable

Indicator 3.5	Capstone Project or Thesis/Dissertation Component	Addressed
Indicator 3.6	Achievements of the Graduates	Addressed
Standard 4	Effectiveness of Quality Management and Assurance	Addressed
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	Partially 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 the 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 Master in Private 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. Activating e-learning by creating virtual classrooms on the online learning platforms, as a means for sustaining teaching and learning during the spread of the (covid-19) pandemic.
2. The practical training activities organized by the college for the students of the programme; which help them in integrating theory with practice and enhance independent learning.
3. The professional development opportunities available to develop faculty skills.
4. The cyber security procedures followed by the University.
5. The mechanism used to benefit from the feedback of the advisory committees in taking necessary action and decision-making.

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

1. Conduct a more comprehensive benchmarking exercise for the learning outcomes of the Master in Private Law through direct communication with similar regional and international universities. The department should avoid relying on old and out-of-date data on their websites to ensure the accuracy and comprehensiveness of the applied benchmarking processes, and to distinguish between the required learning outcomes of both Master in Private Law and Master in Public Law.
2. Ensure that all CILOs in the programme are mapped to the PILOs, in order to be able to judge their alignment.
3. Regularly review and adjust the admission policy taking into account feedback from the stakeholders, and conduct benchmarking practices with regional and international distinguished colleges that offer master's degree in private law.
4. Review faculty's administrative and teaching load, including the maximum number of dissertations they can supervise.

5. Subscribe to international electronic databases specialized in law such as "Westlaw and LexisNexis"; due to their importance as reference to students and faculty members.
6. Review the content of assessments and encourage students to deal with argumentative questions that discuss ideas, and theories used to establish and give the reasoning for legal rules without applying texts only; to enable them to reflect; so that the assessment does not depend on measuring the level of knowledge as much as it depends on measuring the student's ability to comprehend and compare ideas.
7. Ensure that the assessment follow-up process is accurately and systematically implemented, improved, and documented.
8. Expand the academic integrity practices to include all written assignments and not just the dissertations.
9. Evaluate the effectiveness of internal moderation of assessments.
10. Activate external moderation processes to ensure the adequacy and fairness of assessments as well as the mechanisms and standards used in them; and select external moderators who are experts in the academic and legal field in order to improve the programme and its effectiveness.
11. Review the procedure of (sending a written dissertation proposal to the arbitrators instead of presenting it during seminars) as the transition to e-learning allows the students of the programme to present their dissertations face-to-face and defend their ideas.
12. Improve the process of tracking graduates of the private law department, by gathering and analyzing the data to accurately and clearly verify their fulfillment of the academic standards.
13. Introduce a position of a coordinator for the master's programme in private law, so that there is a coordinator for each postgraduate programme, instead of a single coordinator for all postgraduate programmes offered by the Department.
14. Determine the period of time required to conduct the periodic review and document that as it is important to review the programme regularly.
15. Conduct separate formal studies for the Master in Private Law programme to study the needs of the labor market, national and societal needs, and foresee the future; to ensure that the programme is up-to-date and meets the needs of the labor market and society.