



جامعة السلطان قابوس
Sultan Qaboos University

Deanship of Postgraduate Studies
ANNUAL REPORT
2010



www.squ.edu.om/ps

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Introduction

With the appointment of a new Dean for Postgraduate Studies in April 2010, the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies is now operating under the auspices of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research and has four operating departments including Admissions and Statistics; Academic Affairs; Programs; and Scholarships and International Students. There is a director for each department responsible for all assigned tasks. The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies has an overall responsibility for the ad-

ministration of Postgraduate Diplomas, Masters and Doctoral programs. Masters programs are available in four options: by research and thesis; by coursework and thesis; by coursework only; and by coursework and a comprehensive examination. Doctoral programs are by research with the option of limited coursework as required by the student's committee. The 2010 Annual Report contains much useful information about the accomplishments of the Deanship in 2010 and the way to move forward in the years ahead.

Mission

The mission of the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies is to promote nationally and internationally the high quality postgraduate programs offered at Sultan Qaboos University and to support colleges by:

- Coordinating all matters relevant to admission, registration and graduation of postgraduate students.
- Marketing and publicizing of programs.
- Administering of the Postgraduate Academic Regulations.
- Managing of the scholarship program.
- Offering workshops and courses to develop postgraduate students' and faculty members' skills in research and scholarships endeavors.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies are to:

- Implement the University postgraduate academic guidelines and policies.
- Support the University and Colleges' endeavors to produce high quality graduates.
- Serve the needs of Omanis and international students, who desire to advance their knowledge, innovation and skills in the workplace.

Deanship's Structure

The Organizational Chart of the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies was approved by Qarar No. 27/2010, dated 3rd March 2010 (Figure1).

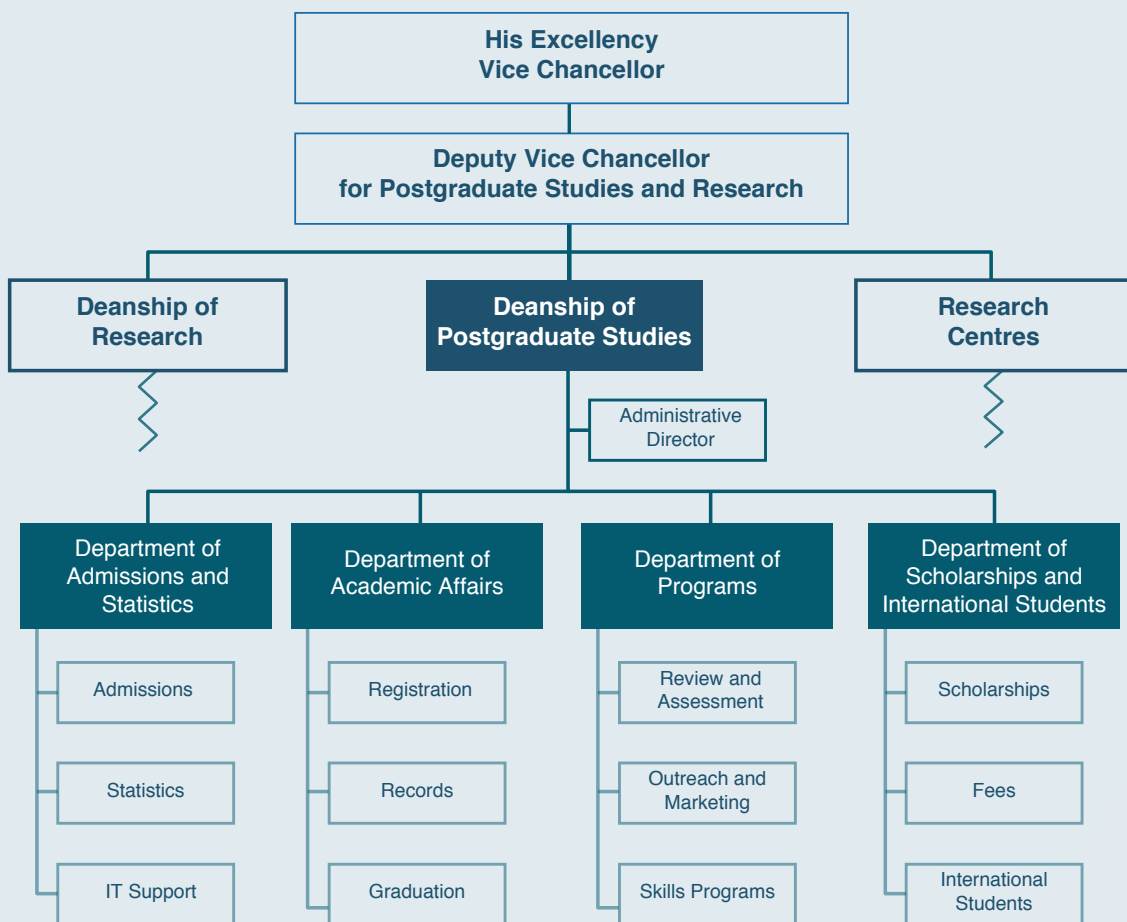


Figure 1. Deanship of Postgraduate Studies Organizational Chart

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of each department and section in the Deanship have been completed. A letter was sent to the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research for final approval.

Academic Programs

In 2010, a new PhD Program in History and new Masters Programs in Petroleum Geosciences, Islamic Studies, Sociology, and Social Work were approved. In addition, the following Masters and PhD Programs are pending final approval by the University Council:

- Masters degree in Environmental Engineering.
 - PhD degree in Arabic Language and Literature
- The College of Medicine and Health Sciences requested to rename the PhD Program in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics to Epidemiology and General Health.

College/Programs	Masters	PhD
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	8	4
Arts and Social Sciences	6	1
Commerce and Economics	1	0
Education	8	0
Engineering	7	6
Law	4	0
Medicine and Health Sciences	8	7
Science	9	7

Table 1. Number of Postgraduate Programs, 2009-2010.

Skills' Enhancement Programs

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies offers Skills' Enhancement Programs for postgraduate students, faculty and researchers. The programs are offered in the form of seminars and workshops. The aim of the programs is to improve participants' skills in their specialization.

The overall evaluations of the programs showed that they were useful and the Deanship was encouraged to continue offering them every semester.

In 2010, the Deanship offered the following skills Programs:

1. Effective Supervision of Postgraduate Research.
2. Academic Paper Writing (Arabic).
3. Scientific Paper Writing (English).
4. Basic Safety Training.
5. Skills Enrichment (English).
6. Skills Enrichment (Arabic).
7. Professional Safety Training.
8. Writing for Publishing Scientific Paper.
9. How to Choose your Research Topic?

Students' Applications

College \ Degree	Bridging Year	PhD	Masters	Postgraduate Diploma	Total
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	1	28	32		61
Arts and Social Sciences	10	4	103	23	140
Commerce and Economics	61		94		155
Education			281		281
Engineering	24	10	102		136
Law			84		84
Medicine and Health Sciences		12	38		50
Science	25	15	97		137
Total					1,044

Table 2. Number of Students' Applications by College, 2009-2010.

Students' Admissions

College \ Degree	Bridging Year	PhD	Masters	Postgraduate Diploma	Total
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	1	11	25		37
Arts and Social Sciences	9	2	42	3	56
Commerce and Economics	60		72		132
Education			94		94
Engineering	22	2	54		78
Law			21		21
Medicine and Health Sciences		2	19		21
Science	25	1	54		80
Total					519

Table 3. Number of Students' Admissions by College, 2009-2010.

Enrollment by College

College	Degree	Bridging Year	PhD	Masters
Agricultural and Marine Sciences		36	6	16
Arts and Social Sciences		0	0	30
Commerce and Economics		19	0	37
Education		0	0	85
Engineering		1	2	25
Law		0	0	20
Medicine and Health Sciences		21	2	12
Science		9	2	32
Total		86	12	257

Table 4. Number of Students' Enrollment by College, 2009-2010.

Graduation

College	Degree	Masters
Agricultural and Marine Sciences		19
Arts and Social Sciences		28
Commerce and Economics		27
Education		50
Engineering		13
Law		28
Medicine and Health Sciences		11
Science		19
Total		195

Table 5. Number of Graduated Students by College, 2009-2010.

International Students

Colleges	Masters			PhD		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	1	1	2	0	2	1
Arts and Social Sciences	1	0	0	0	0	0
Commerce and Economics	0	0	1	0	0	0
Education	0	2	1	0	0	0
Engineering	1	3	4	0	3	1
Law	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medicine and Health Sciences	0	1	1	0	0	1
Science	0	1	1	0	1	0
Total	3	8	10	0	6	3

Table 6. Number of International Students by College, 2009-2010.

Masters Scholarships

College	Approved	Awarded
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	3	5
Arts and Social Sciences	21	21
Commerce & Economics	7	8
Education	12	7
Engineering	16	7
Law	4	4
Medicine and Health Sciences	4	6
Science	26	26
Total	93	84

Table 7. Number of Masters' Scholarships by College, 2009-2010.

PhD Scholarships

College	Approved	Awarded
Agricultural and Marine Sciences	2	3
Engineering	2	2
Medicine and Health Sciences	2	1
Science	2	2
Total	8	8

Table 8. Number of PhD Scholarships by College, 2009-2010.

Fees-2010

Figure 2 shows the fees collected from Masters and PhD students in 2009-2010.

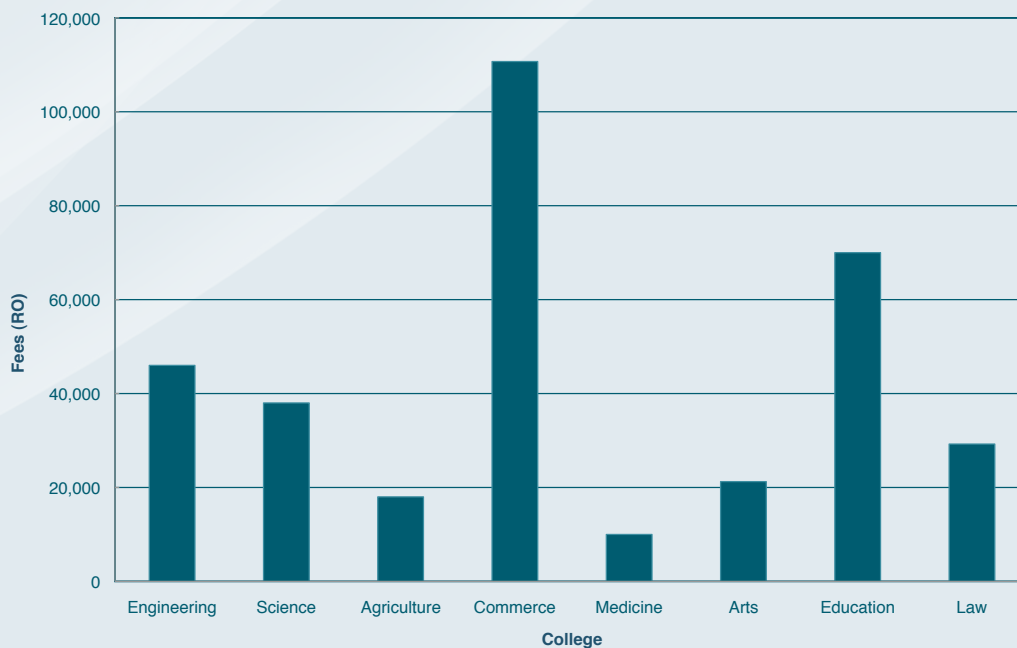


Figure 2. Collected Fees by College, 2009-2010.

Other Deanship's Work

Deanship's Operational Plan (2010-2013)

The 2010-2013 Operational Plan was prepared and it is the guiding document for the Deanship's work.

Centralization of Admission and Registration

All admissions and registration of postgraduate students is now centralized with the Deanship of Postgraduate studies, with the transition of three staff members from the Deanship of Admissions and Registration in September 2010.

Orientation Day for Postgraduate Students

An Orientation Day was held on the 6th of October 2010 for new and old postgraduate students. Presentations by the Deanship's staff were made and an answering session was held to respond to students' concerns. Copies of academic regulations and other materials were distributed to all attendees.

Seminar for Faculty Members

All postgraduate faculty members were invited to attend a seminar on the 17th of October 2010 concerning Postgraduate Academic Regulations.

Statistical Data Report

A Statistical Data Report on postgraduate programs, students, scholarships, etc. was circulated to all colleges' Deans in December 2010.

Faculty and Students' Surveys

Surveys were circulated to all faculty and postgraduate students concerning supervision, postgraduate studies, concerns, etc. The data were collected and their analysis is in-progress.

Bench Fees System

The Department of Scholarship Program started to work with the bench fees system, which is financial support provided for PhD students to cover costs for consumables needed in their research work. Bench fees do not cover expenses for conference attendance, international travel, major equipment purchases and personal salaries. The Department also prepared a form for bench fees. One of the general requirements is that the requested funds should not exceed RO 7,000 and that the total money allocated should be distributed over the studies' duration.

The Bench Fees Guidelines and Form were approved by the Postgraduate Studies Board in December 2010.

Top-up System

The top-up system was proposed and it was approved by the University Council in December 2010 to attract students in the face of a strong international competition for talent and to entice students to work on funded research projects. The current SQU scholarship system pay monthly stipends of RO 250 to Masters students and RO 350 to Doctoral students. One of stipulated

requirements in the Top-up System is that for those students receiving SQU scholarships, the total financial support from the monthly scholarship stipend plus the top-up from funded research projects should not exceed:

- RO 800 for Masters students:
(i.e. maximum top-up of RO 550)
- RO 1,000 for Doctoral students:
(i.e. maximum top-up of RO 650)

Website

A new website (www.squ.edu.om/ps) with a modern structure was designed for the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies, replacing the old website. The new website contains academic regulations, fees, forms, skills' enhancement programs, brochures, and other important information about postgraduate studies to make it a user friendly system for all interested individuals.

Newspapers

Local newspapers, in both Arabic and English, were used for programs' announcements and other activities offered by the Deanship.

E-mail and University Website

The University website, e-mails, and SMS messages were used to communicate with postgraduate students and faculty regarding Skills Programs, Orientation Day, Seminars, etc.

Exhibitions

1. Kuwait Exhibition for Postgraduate Studies 2010.
2. Book Exhibition in Muscat, 24th of February–6th of March 2010.
3. Higher Education Exhibition in Muscat, April 2010.

Publications

1. Booklet for Admission Requirements for Postgraduate Programs 2010.
2. News release regarding the Postgraduate Studies Board's first meeting.
3. News release regarding the Workshop on "How to become an Effective Supervisor?".
4. Postgraduate programs for a free page at the Kuwait Exhibition Catalogue, 2010.
5. Posters for postgraduate programs.
6. Trade Directory 2010.

Conference Support for Doctoral Students

Guidelines to support Doctoral students to attend conferences were prepared and approved by the Postgraduate Studies Board in December 2010. The revised document was sent to the Vice Chancellor for final approval.

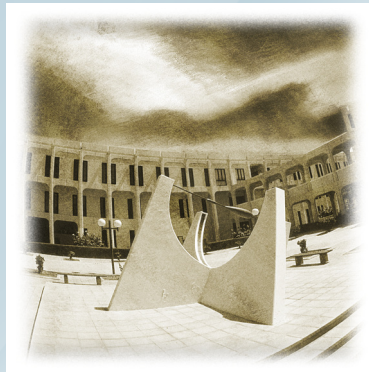
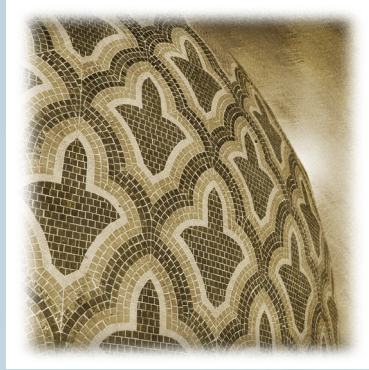
Forms

All postgraduate studies forms have been revised and updated according to the 2008 Postgraduate Academic Regulations. New forms were designed to cover new issues which have risen.

Work-in-Progress

Work-in-progress in the Deanship includes:

- Development of a template for writing Master's thesis and Doctoral dissertations.
- Preparation of new brochures, flyers, welcoming material, etc. to publicize postgraduate programs in the national and international arenas.
- Preparation and eventual approval of guidelines for External Examiners of postgraduate programs to be implemented in April/May 2011.
- Transitioning towards on-line application, registration, auditing and graduation of students.
- Further attendance of educational exhibitions in 2011.
- Working with colleges on the development of new Masters and Doctoral Programs, including one Masters Program on Strategic Studies for National Security and Defense in partnership with the College of National Defense.
- Developing partnerships with ministries and companies in Oman for employees interested in pursuing postgraduate studies.
- Formulating solutions pertaining to postgraduate students' concerns including health coverage, housing and visas.



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