



Sultan Qaboos University
Deanship of
Postgraduate Studies



Postgraduate Students' Guide

International Students



His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said



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Deanship of Postgraduate Studies

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Introduction

Studying in a foreign country is a very exciting experience. In addition to the new academic culture one will be introduced to, there is also the national culture with its nuances and subtleties. Learning about a new culture can be a very enlightening experience, which will eventually help remove any misconceptions.

We do acknowledge the difficulties associated with being in a new culture, therefore, this guide is intended to offer you some tips, do's and don'ts that are hoped to make your time at Sultan Qaboos University and in Oman a very memorable experience. We have tried our best to cover all topics we believe you will need during your period of study at Sultan Qaboos University.

We wish you a rewarding academic experience.



Message from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Postgraduate Studies and Research

Welcome to the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies at Sultan Qaboos University.

Realizing the importance of postgraduate study for building a research culture and developing skills required for Oman's rapid development, the University has been offering master's programs since 1992. A key recent development is the creation of doctoral programs in the four science-based colleges and the College of Arts and Social Sciences. A total of 29 doctoral programs are currently offered in five colleges. These programs rest on a strong research base, which emphasizes academic excellence and addresses issues of national strategic importance.

A master's degree may be obtained by a combination of coursework and a thesis based on original research or by a combination of coursework and a comprehensive examination. We currently have close to 1,100 students enrolled in 59 master's programs covering medicine, engineering, science, agriculture, the environment, marine science, commerce, economics, education, information technology, and the humanities and social sciences. Postgraduate diplomas are awarded to students who satisfy certain coursework requirements only.

The doctoral degree is obtained by a thesis arising from original research; but candidates may also be required to take one or more graduate courses to obtain sufficient background in their areas of specialization. We currently have 58 doctoral students enrolled in our colleges.

This guide, which outlines our postgraduate programs and activities, is designed to assist postgraduate students in finding information on SQU's postgraduate programs and on available research support. In addition to their, you may also navigate the information available on our Postgraduate Studies Website at www.squ.edu.om/ps.

I hope that you will find our guide informative and useful.

A stylized signature in white ink, consisting of several curved lines that suggest the name 'Amer Ali Al-Rawas'.

Prof. Amer Ali Al-Rawas

Message from the Dean of Postgraduate Studies

Greetings from the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies. We take overall responsibility for the administration of postgraduate diploma, master's and doctoral programs at Sultan Qaboos University.



Postgraduate programs play a vital role in high level capacity building in the Sultanate. As the national house of expertise, Sultan Qaboos University is uniquely placed to provide such advanced programs, which are based on experience gained from cutting-edge research of national strategic importance. We aim to support these programs to ensure world class training and a quality experience for all postgraduate students.

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies facilitates and supports postgraduate programs in a variety of ways, including: (1) providing a range of scholarships, (2) marketing programs through advertisements as well as informative brochures and booklets, (3) administering the postgraduate academic regulations, (4) coordinating the defense/examination of theses, and (5) offering a range of courses and workshops to develop faculty and students' skills related to research, publishing and professionalism. We are here to serve the colleges and their postgraduate students and we trust that you will find the information in our website useful.

Master's programs have been running at the University since 1992 with a total of 59 programs across eight colleges. Doctoral programs are now offered in 29 specializations in five colleges – Science, Engineering, Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Medicine & Health Sciences and Arts and Social Studies. The total number of postgraduate stands above 1,100 which includes full-time and part-time students. Close to 58 students are pursuing their doctoral degree. Master's programs are available in four options: by research and thesis, by coursework and thesis, by coursework only, and by coursework and comprehensive examination. Doctoral programs are research-based with the option of a limited course work.

We are here to serve the colleges and their postgraduate students and we trust that you will find the information in our guide very useful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ramzi Abd Taha".

Prof. Ramzi Abd Taha









Oman and Its People



History

On the 23rd of July, 1970, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said came to power. From the beginning of his reign, His Majesty paid enough attention to balancing tribal, regional, and ethnic interests in composing the national administration. The Council of Ministers, which functions as a cabinet, consists of 26 ministers, all directly appointed by Sultan. The Majlis Al-Shura (Consultative Council) has the mandate of reviewing legislation pertaining to economic development and social services prior to its becoming law. The Majlis Al-Shura may request ministers to appear before it.

In November 1996, Sultan Qaboos presented his people with the “Basic Statutes of the State”, Oman’s first written «constitution». It guarantees various rights within the framework of Qur’anic and customary law. It partially resuscitated long dormant conflict-of-interest measures by banning cabinet ministers from being officers of public shareholding firms. Perhaps most importantly, the Basic Statutes provide rules for setting Sultan Qaboos’ succession.

In September 2000, about 100,000 Omani men and women elected 83 candidates, including two women, to seats in the Majlis Al-Shura. In December 2000, Sultan Qaboos appointed the 48-members Majlis Al Dowla, or State Council, including five women. The council acts as the upper chamber in Oman’s bicameral representative body.

Oman occupies a strategic location on the Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Persian Gulf, 35 miles (56 km) directly opposite Iran. Oman has accorded great importance to regional stability and security. Due to His Majesty’s wisdom, the Sultanate has maintained its diplomatic relations with the neighboring countries even and especially during critical periods of time while at the same time supporting and abiding by the laws of the United Nations.

His Majesty’s extensive modernization program has opened the country to the outside world and has preserved a long-standing political and military relationship with the United Kingdom, the United States, and others. Oman’s moderate, independent foreign policy has sought to maintain good relations with all Middle Eastern countries.



Population	3,027,959 including 577,293 expatriates (July 2011 est.)
Language	Arabic (official), English (widely spoken)
Capital	City of Muscat
Natural Resources	Oil, Natural Gas, Copper, Fishery, Agriculture
Local Time	GMT +4
Business Hours	Government: 07:30 - 14:30 Private Sector: 08:00 - 13:00 and 16:00 - 19:00

Currency

The currency of Oman is the Omani Rial (OMR) divided into 1,000 baisa. Notes come in denominations of 50, 20, 10, 5 and 1 rials, and 500 and 100 baiza. Foreign currency and travellers cheques can be exchanged at banks, exchange bureaus, hotels and at the airport. Outside banking hours, money exchangers operate between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm in the evenings and at weekends. US Dollars are recommended. American Express, MasterCard and Visa credit cards are readily accepted in large shops and hotels and by an increasing number of traders in the souks. (<http://www.worldtravels.com>)

Banks such as Bank Muscat, Oman International Bank, Oman Arab Bank, National Bank of Oman and HSBC are available for service from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and are open from Sunday to Thursday. One OMR is equivalent to 2.58 US dollars and 1.81 Euros.

Automated Teller Machines can be found in most major supermarkets, hotels and other locations throughout the country.



Cost of Living

The cost of living in Oman when compared to that in western countries is similar. Yet, your living expenses will depend on the lifestyle you choose to have. Buying goods that are recognized brand names costs more than the local brands which are usually of comparable good quality and are sometimes even better. (<http://www.expatsfocus.com>)

The cost of housing is also on an equal footing to the west and can generally be quite high. (<http://www.expatsfocus.com>)

Although living costs are comparable to western countries living expenses, the fact that salaries in Oman are tax free and there is very little tax on goods and services makes the cost of living that little more affordable. Electrical items such as televisions, cameras, and computers are usually less expensive as there are very low import duties in Oman. (<http://www.expatsfocus.com>)



Culture

The Omani culture has its roots firmly grounded in the Islamic religion. Oman developed its own particular form of Islam called Ibadhism, after its founder, Abdullah ibn Ibadh who lived during the 7th Century AD. Omanis are not only tolerant of the beliefs of different Muslim divisions, they are also tolerant towards believers of other faiths, who are allowed to practice their religion in churches and temples. Islam is based on the fulfillment of the Five Pillars of Islam, and also on the hadiths (the teachings of Prophet Mohammed). By fulfilling these duties, one is assured of a place in heaven.

The awqaf are religious endowments which can take the form of property or revenue and are administered by the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs for the maintenance of mosques and for the benefit of the community. The zakat is a charity tax which is paid to the needy. Every Muslim must pay this, according to his/her means.

All Muslims are obliged to fast during the holy month of Ramadhan, one of the Pillars of Islam. For around 2930- days, each Islamic year, Muslims refrain from smoking, eating and drinking during the hours of fasting (from dawn sunrise to sunset). Ramadhan advances 10 to 11 days each year as it is governed by the lunar calendar.

The Haj or pilgrimage is another Pillar of Islam. The pilgrims travel to al-Medina in Saudi Arabia to visit the Prophet’s tomb before travelling to the holy sites in Mecca. In 1999, there were approximately 19,000 Muslims travelling from Oman to Saudi Arabia. The pilgrimage is organized and coordinated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, which ensures the pilgrims’ health and safety during the course of their stay.



Occasions and Events

Renaissance day	July 23
National Day	November 18
Eid Al-Fitr	Lunar Calendar Based
Prophet’s Ascension	Lunar Calendar Based
Ramadhan	Lunar Calendar Based
Eid Al-Adha	Lunar Calendar Based
New Islamic Year	Lunar Calendar Based
Muscat Festival	January – February
Salalah Tourism Festival	July – August

**Christmas, New Year and Easter are not recognized as national holidays in Oman.*

Oman’s National Day is celebrated every year on the 18th November. It is a huge celebration in Oman which goes live for the whole month. The official venue of celebrations changes each year and events usually include camel racing, dancing and fireworks.



Daily Life and Social Customs

Oman is a tribal society, although tribal influence is gradually declining. Muslim population observes social customs that – though still conservative by Western standards. Women in particular have enjoyed relatively more freedom in Oman than elsewhere on the Arabian Peninsula. Social interaction remains largely segregated by gender, however, and most Omani women particularly those in rural areas dress in a conservative time-honored fashion.

Omani Food and Meals

Omani people are well known for their hospitality and offers of refreshment. To be invited into someone's home means coffee (Qahwa), a strong, bitter drink flavored with cardamom, accompanied by dates or 'halwa', a sticky sweet gelatinous substance which is made from starch, sugar, ghee, cardamom and rose water. And it can be flavored with many different ingredients such as nuts, saffron, dates and figs or even chocolate. 'Loqiyamat' is another accompaniment to coffee, which are balls of flour, sugar and yeast deep fried until golden then served with a sweet lime and cardamom syrup. The sweetness of this dish counteracts the bitterness of the qahwa. More substantial meals often have rice as the main ingredients, together with cooked meats.

The main daily meal is usually eaten at midday, while the evening meal is lighter. 'Maqbous' is a rice dish, tinged yellow with saffron and cooked over a spicy red or white meat. 'Aursia' is a festival meal, served during celebrations which consists of mashed rice flavored with spices. Another popular festival meal is 'shuwa', which is meat cooked very slowly (sometimes for up to two days) in an underground clay oven. The meat becomes extremely tender and it is impregnated with spices and herbs before cooking to give it a very distinct taste. Fish is often used in main dishes too, and kingfish is a popular ingredient. 'Mashawi', is a meal comprising whole spit-roasted kingfish served with lemon



rice. The 'rukhal' bread is a thin, round bread originally baked over fire made from palm leaves. It is often eaten at any meal, typically served with Omani honey for breakfast or crumbled over vegetable and chicken stew for dinner.

Etiquette

Omanis are very polite and formal in public. Upon meeting, formulaic greetings must be exchanged before a discussion can ensue. To do otherwise would be considered



rude. Although men and women may interact in public, their contact should always be chaperoned or in the open. Omanis tend to stand close to one another as Arabs generally do, and it is common for friends and relatives of the same sex to hold hands. In addition, Omanis are courteous, friendly and spontaneous people. They are renowned for their unmatched tradition of hospitality. A manifestation of their heritage can be seen in their craftsmanship, superior nautical and agriculture skills and finely boned commercial acumen.

Religion



All Omanis are Muslims. A few families of Indian origin are Hindu but there are no Omani Christians or Jews. Omanis tend to be careful in their observance of religious obligations. Most carry out the prescribed five prayers per day and many men go to nearby mosques to perform them. Most Omanis observe the dawn-to-dusk fasting required during the Islamic month of Ramadhan, and it is against the law to eat, drink or smoke in public during daylight hours of Ramadhan. (<http://www.everyculture.com>)

In addition, the basic law, in accordance with tradition, declares that Islam is the state religion and that Shari'a is the source of legislation. The government also prohibits discrimination based on religion and provides for the freedom to practice religious rites as long as doing so does not disrupt public order. The government generally respects this right, but within defined parameters. There are two separate locations of churches. There is one in Ghala and another is in Ruwi.

We invite you to discover the vibrant culture of Oman that exists in tandem with the modernity in every region of the Sultanate, each with its own personality. In a land that changes from dry wadis to lush green oases, from vast unending plains to mighty mountains, from golden brown sands to aquamarine seas, there is a lot of scope for discovery, adventure and entertainment. Each region has its own special personality and cultural heritage that is waiting to be discovered.

Muscat

Muscat is considered the pulsating heart of Oman and is one of the region of Oman. It is lthe home of Muscat City, the capital of the Sultanate. It is inked to Port Sultan Qaboos by Mutrah Corniche where the visitor to Muscat can view the wonderful varieties of nature. The Muscat Governorate Wilayats are: Muscat, Bawsher, Aseeb, Qurayyat Al Amirat and Matrah.



Musandam

Musandam Peninsula is located on the northern border of the Sultanate of Oman. The high mountains in this region rise for more than two thousand meters above sea level. The mountains spread out in a naturally geometrical way. This area also contains the most important waterway, the Strait of Hormuz.

The juxtaposition of sea and mountains is considered one of the exclusive features of this area. Excursions on boats and traditional ships give the visitor unforgettable enjoyment, while fans of beautiful coral reefs can dive to their hearts' content. Archaeological sites also abound in this area. Khasab is the regional center of the Governorate of Musandam. It is located 570 kilometers away from Muscat.



Dhofar

Dhofar Governorate is famous for its seasonal weather, locally known as monsoon or “khareef” (the Arabic word for autumn), when it witnesses its best period, clothed in lush greenery and its hills surrounded by white fog. Light rain drizzles to cool the air. During this time, it is frequented by many visitors, especially from within Oman and the neighboring countries. Salalah Tourism Festival takes place from 15 July to 31 August every year. The festival is part of khareef that extends from the end of July until the beginning of September.

Dhofar Governorate stretches over an area of one third of Oman and forms the Sultanate's southern part. Dhofar includes a distinctive natural diversity where the coast blends with the mountains and the desert in wonderful harmony so that the mountains look like a fertile crescent, rising to a height of 1,500 meters and then descending into a flat plain that embraces sandy beaches stretching for hundreds of kilometers. One can appreciate the magnificence of this province when knowing that most parts of the Arabia Peninsula witness a rise in temperatures of up to 45 degrees Celsius or even higher in summer. But in Salalah, the capital of Dhofar that lies 1,040 kilometers away from Muscat, the temperature never rises above 27 degrees Celsius. Dhofar Governorate includes the following Wilayats: Salalah, Taqah, Mirbat, Sadah, Shalim and Halaniyat Islands, Dalkoot, Rahkyut, Thamrit, Mokshin and Al Mazyuna.



A'Sharqiyah

The nature of this region blends three environments, each having its own distinctive flavor: the coastline, hugging the Arabian Sea and part of the Sea of Oman, tells the story of hard work done by hardy men. Their weapons are the boats they have built with their own strong hands. Their ammunition is their nets spun by their dexterous fingers while chanting melodious work songs. Under the cover of night, they sail into the sea and wrangle with its high waves in a constant battle between the desire to earn their living and to come home safely. At the break of dawn, these hard working men return with their nets overflowing with fish, chanting the melodious refrain, "Thanks be to Allah" for His boon and a safe trip back home. This is the first environment of A'Sharqiyah Region, and the most prolific fishery of all the regions of Oman.

The second environment is the sand dunes mirroring the depth of an artistic painting, vibrant with the quiet nomadic life in a pastoral setting embracing the wealth of cattle, camels and horses that A'Sharqiyah Region is renowned for. This region's special attribute is typified in Badiya, where horse and camel races take place, and where fans from the Sultanate and abroad come to watch. The third environment is urban or agricultural and is the meeting point for both the nomadic and coastal environments.

A'Sharqiyah Region Wilayats are: Al Qabil, Al Kamil and Al Wafi, Al Mudhaibi, Dimma and At Tayyin, Ibra, Jaalan Bani Bu Ali, Jalan Bani Bu Hassn, Masirah, Sur and Wadi Bani Khalid.



Al Batinah



Omanis compare Al Hajar Mountains to the human backbone, so they call the area which lies on the Sea of Oman, Al Batinah, and the area that lies west of the heights A'Dhahirah.

Al Batinah area is the beach formed by the valleys descending from the mountains, whose width varies between 15 and 80 kilometers. This is the main agricultural region in Oman, not to mention the nearby mountains and glittering beaches. Al Batinah Region is distinguished by the presence of some rare trees like Al Mashut in Wilayat Liwa and Ad Dibaj in Wilayat As Suwayq.

Sohar city is the provincial center of the region and lies about 230 kilometers from the capital, Muscat. Sohar was the capital of Oman before the advent of Islam, and was known by the name of Majan. Sohar is one of the most important Wilayats in Batinah Region and has been famous for producing and exporting copper for a long time.

In the fourth Hijri century (10th AD), Al Makdessi described Sohar as "providing comfortable living. Its impressive residential districts spread along the beach, and its towering buildings are built with baked brick and teak wood." Al Makdessi also goes on to describe "Sohar's mosque overlooking the sea and its towering minaret," adding that what distinguishes the city is "its prosperous markets that attract shoppers' attention and admiration". The Al Batinah Region has 12 wilayats: Sohar, Barka, Wadi Al Mawil, Nakhil, Al Awabi, Ar Rustaq, Al Masana'h, As Suwayq, Al Kabura, Saham, Lway and Shinas.

A'Dakhiliyah

A'Dakhiliyah region occupies a distinctive location on the western slopes of Al Hajar Mountains (the slopes of Al Jabal Al Akhdar) towards the desert in the south.

A'Dakhiliyah Region has played a role of great significance in Oman's history, particularly with regard to the spread of Islam in Oman. Nizwa, the capital of Oman in the early days of Islam, was the cradle of ardent intellectual activity and produced generations of Omani scientists, scholars and historians. That's why it has been known as "the egg of Islam". Its towering historic castle still stands today as well as many forts, castles, ancient mosques and other beautiful tourist sites. Nizwa district is also famous for its many old houses.

A'Dakhiliyah region has played a significant role in linking the coast to the interior of Oman, as it was the main trade route and the meeting place of caravans for many centuries. The A'Dakhiliyah Region Wilayats are: Nizwa, Bidbid, Samail, Izki, Monah, Bahlah, Al Hamra and Adam.



Al Wasta

Al Wasta Region is located to the south of the regions of A'Dakhiliyah and A'Dhahirah regions. It is flanked on the east by the Arabian Sea, on the west by The Empty Quarter, and by Dhofar Governorate to the south. It occupies a large area in the middle of the Sultanate.

Its beaches stretch for vast distances along the Arabian Sea. These beaches are famous for their cleanliness and the purity of their water. This has resulted in an increase of marine plants which give the water its green color. You can also find other types of plants swaying in the shallow water of Barr Al Hikman (Al Hikman Peninsula). Many birds pass this area during the annual autumn season in Dhofar. In this region, you can also see a variety of plants and rare mammals such as the Arabian Oryx and the Nubian ibex. In addition to all this natural wealth, the area abounds in a large number of oil and gas fields, making it rich on every score. Hima, Mahut, Ad Duqum and Al Jasir are the Wilayats of this region.



A'Dhahirah

A'Dhahirah Region descends from the southern slopes of the western Al Hajar Mountains. The region forms a bridge to the caravan trade routes between Oman and the neighboring countries, which is why the region has a Wilayat by the name Ibri (from "crossing"). A'Dhahirah includes Bat Tombs which are on the World Heritage List.

Wilayat Ibri is one of the regional centers in west Oman. It lies 279 kilometers from the capital city Muscat. The two cities are linked by two roads: one runs directly from Muscat and the other cuts through Wilayat Ar Rustaq. This city has a unique location connecting the Sultanate with the other regions in the Arabian Peninsula. A'Dhahirah Region Wilayats include Ibri, Yanqul, and Danak.

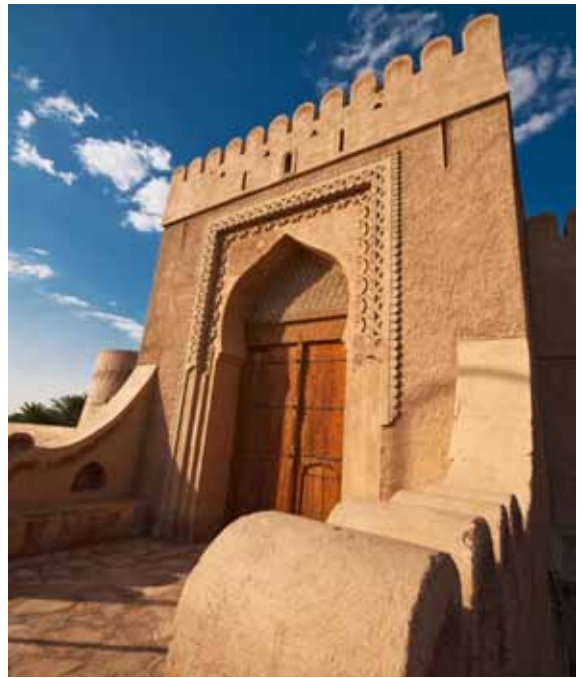


Al Buraymi

Al Buraymi Governorate is located in the north-western part of Oman. In ancient times it was known by the name of Twam and Al Jaw.

Al Buraymi Governorate is a semi-desert plain descending from the southern slopes of the western Al Hajar Mountains. Ruins discovered in this governorate indicate the existence of trade routes dating back to ancient times. The presence of pottery and the remains of copper and other ruins in Al Buraymi indicate the existence of ancient civilizations.

Wilayat Al Buraymi lies 370 kilometers from Muscat. Visitors coming to Al Buraymi from Muscat Governorate can reach it via two main routes: A'Dhahirah Road (Abri-Hafeet) and Al Batinah Road (Sohar-Wadi Al Jizi). Al Buraymi Governorate Wilayats are: Al Buraymi, Mahadha, Al Sinaynah.



Sultan Qaboos University encourages the international students to take the opportunity to travel in Muscat and the surrounding governorates. Students will be able to choose from a range of tourist and adventure activities. You may plan your own tour or choose to participate in the organized tours and activities of SQU through the Public Relations Office.

Wadi Shab



This wadi is located in Tiwi, part of Sur in A'Sharqiyah Region (Eastern Region). It lies 140 kilometres (87 miles) from Muscat on the Qurayat – Sur Coastal Road. Fresh water cascading from tops of the mountains meets the briny sea water on its banks, creating an environmental diversity unique to this wadi, and making it stand on a pedestal of its own when compared with other wadis (valleys) in the Sultanate. You will doubtless enjoy the adventurous journey through Wadi Shab, as you can only meander through certain areas by boat, or take pleasure in a refreshing hike through this mountainous region.

Al Hoota Cave



“Al Hoota Cave” lies in the southern part of Al Jabal Al Akhdar, specifically near Wilayat Al Hamra in Ad A'Dakhiliyah Governorate. It is about a two-hour drive away from Muscat and half an hour from Nizwa. Al Hoota Cave was discovered by local residents hundreds of years ago, and its name derives from the village where it is located.

The cave extends for 5 kilometers underground, but it may only be accessed for a distance of 860 meters, ending at Cave Lake. Perhaps the visitor to this cave, passing through the surrounding area inside the cave, the visitor, will find proof of the claim that “caves are the underground equivalent of the landscapes we see above ground, like valleys, streams and springs.”

Al Jabal Al Akhdar

This rises to a height of 2,980 meters and is famous for its wide plateau close to the summit. The journey from Muscat to Al Jabal Al Akhdar in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate takes about two hours and can only be undertaken by a four-wheel drive.

Al Jabal Al Akhdar is known for its Mediterranean climate. Temperatures drop during winter to below zero Celsius, with snow falling at times, and rise in summer to 22 degrees Celsius. Due to its location and unique weather, the Green Mountain produces a variety of fruits, such as apricots, plums, figs, grapes, apples and pears, as well as almonds, walnuts and saffron. The pomegranate that grows here is classified among the finest of its kind in the world. Spread across the mountain are many Omani villages. Villagers have dug terraces in some parts of the mountain for growing crops.



Ras Al Hadd Beach

The beach is about 60 kilometers from Sur City, the capital of the A'Sharqiyah Region (Eastern Region). This beach has been home to human activity since the third millennium BC and serves as a safe haven for ships from the storms. Fighter planes took shelter in it in during World War II and the marks of the runways still exist today.

This beach has been proclaimed a turtle reserve. Turtles come here, especially to Ras Al Jinz beach in Wilayat Ras Al Hadd, to lay an estimated number that ranges from 6,000 to 13,000 eggs. The beach is distinguished by its spectacular bays and rock formations which are havens for large numbers of birds.



Al Kasfah Spring

Al Kasfah Spring is located in Wilayat ArRustaq in Al Batinah Governorate. It is a collection of natural water springs whose temperatures reach up to 45 degree Celsius. Hot water pours out of it in several streams to irrigate orchards. Al Kasfah Spring is famous for its sulphate therapeutic waters.

What distinguishes Al Kasfah Spring from the rest of the springs in the Sultanate is the presence of sulphur and the availability of swimming pools for bathing. The pools are open all year round. Also, this spring waters the Wilayat's farms through Al Hammam Falaj.

A'Sharqiyah Sands

A'Sharqiyah Sands are considered among the most beautiful camping areas in the Sultanate and extend over an area of up to about 10,000 square kilometers.

The Sand colors range from red to brown as far as the eye can see. This area is the original homeland of the Bedouins. It attracts many desert adventure fans, and is preferred by visitors owing to its accessibility and the availability of nearby services, which make it a first class tourist attraction. Also, tourist camps that make the sands their home base offer a variety of services in this sea of golden sand and have played an important role in promoting A'Sharqiyah Sands.



Barr Al Hikman

Barr Al Hikman is located in the center of Oman's east coast in Al Wasta Region (the central region), 500 kilometers south of Muscat. This island is considered one of the most important bird migration stations both in Oman and Southeast Asia. Many birds congregate here, especially water birds coming from as far as Siberia's northern shores.

In addition to being a sanctuary for birds and fish of all kinds, the existence of coral reefs in its shores makes it a favorite destination for divers.

Wadi Bani Khalid



This wadi is located 203 kilometres (126 miles) from Muscat. To get there you take the Bidbid – Sur Road in A'Sharqiyah Region(Eastern Region), which forks into a side road leading to Bani Khalid, then weaves up across the eastern AlHajar Mountains to Bida village deep in the mountains. There you can enjoy the spectacular views of the fertile valley with its spreading trees and abundant water that tumbles down as waterfalls in some areas to form natural pools of water. The road then cuts through the valley to reach Muqal town, well known for its cave. To explore this cave, you'll have to exercise great caution as you may need to crawl or even scramble in some places. Here the gushing waters creates a loud rushing sound and collects in pools, only to dissipate and gather - once again – in small lakes which the villagers have used to fill three irrigation canals.

Al Sawadi Beach



This beach is located at Barka in Al Batinah Governorate. It lies 70 kilometers from the capital Muscat. What distinguish this beach are the beautiful rock islands scattered close to the coast. These islands lend an artistic touch to the location and are an important spot for both migratory and indigenous birds.

You will find a number of aquatic sports on this beach, which has a resort equipped with all the necessities for such activities.

Jabal Shams

Jabal Shams which is located in A'Dakhiliyah Governorate is so called because it is the first place to greet sunlight at dawn and the last to bid it farewell at dusk.

This is the highest peak in the Arabian Peninsula, rising to an altitude of 3,004 meters above sea level, and has a number of versants (slopes) and summits. Every time a tourist reaches a versant, he'll find that it leads him to another, until he reaches the mountain peak.

Life on the summit is different from what most people are used to, as the weather is mild in summer and cold in winter. Close to the peak lies a deep chasm called the “An Nahkr Balcony”, one of the most beautiful places tourists visit. It is a deep ravine in the heart of the rocks that can be viewed from the top, which directly overlooks the ravine. At the bottom of the ravine rock formations, chiseled into different forms by erosion, lies a breathtaking depth.

Tourist guest houses have been built where the visitor can spend time enjoying the serenity of this scenic mountain.

Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque

Close to the road leading to the heart of the capital Muscat stands the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Wilayat (district) Bawshar, like a radiant light house attracting its visitors to interact with the spirit of Islam as a religion, science and civilization. This mosque highlights its role as a scientific and intellectual source of knowledge across the Islamic word.

After having an architectural competition to select the best design for Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, construction took six years. The mosque's total capacity is 20,000 worshipers, and it covers an estimated area of 416,000 square meters. The main square-shaped prayer room can accommodate 6,500 worshipers and has a central dome which rises 50 meters above the floor.

The mosque prayer hall floor is topped with a single piece Persian carpet composed of 1,700 million knots which took about 27 months to make, covering an area of 4,200 square meters and weighing 21 tons. Twenty-eight different colors made from plant or natural dye, in varying gradations, were used in this carpet's weave.

Non-Muslims are allowed to visit the mosque every day, except on Friday, from 8:30 am until 11:00 am. Visitors are asked to dress modestly and in a way befitting to places of worship. Women are also required to cover their heads.



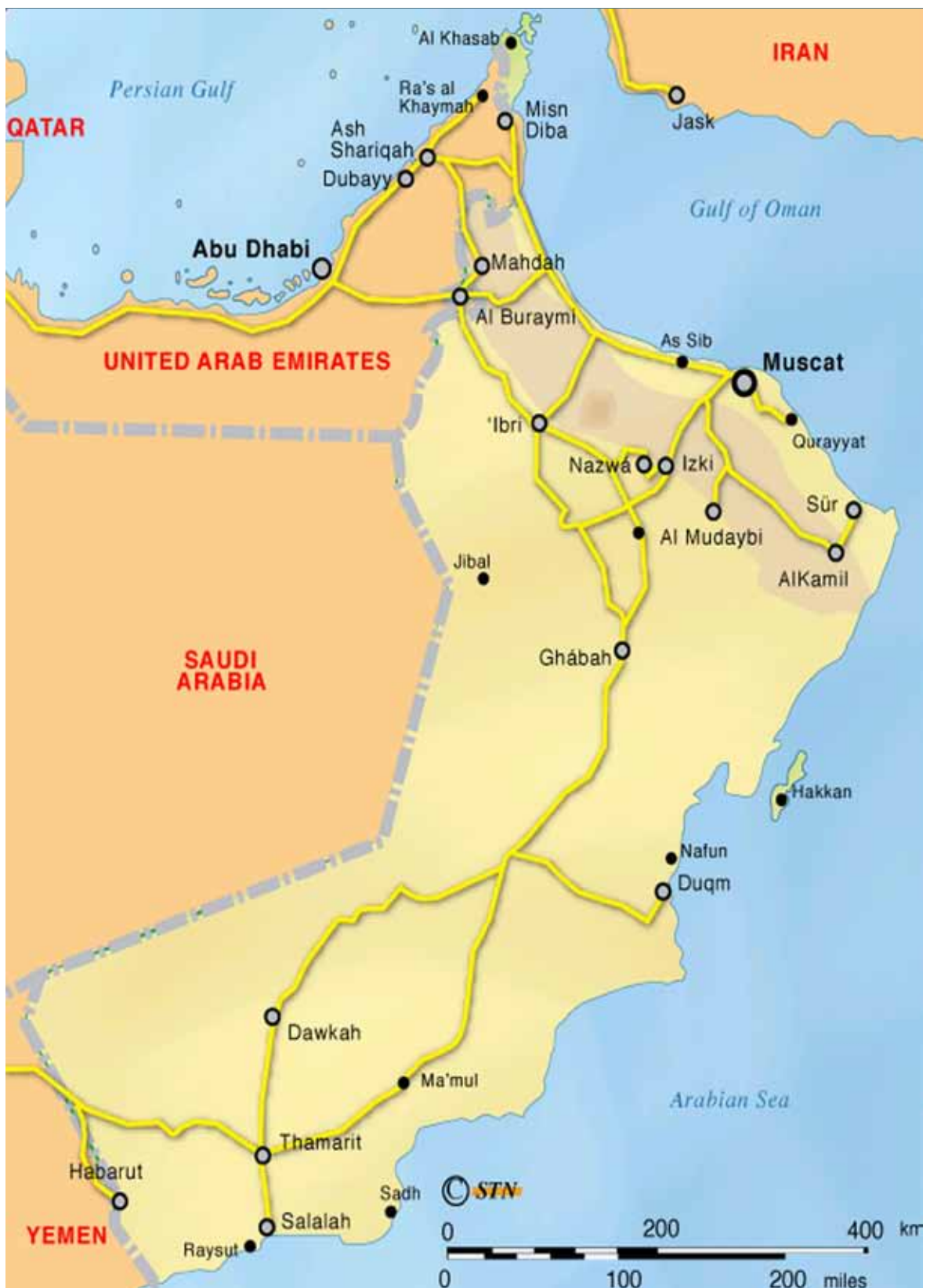
Masirah Island



The island is located on south east Oman, and is within the administration of A'Sharqiyah Region (Eastern Region). It is surrounded by several other islands, Marsis, Cha'nazi and Kalban. Marsis is the largest island in Oman and is a landmark in the middle of the sea. To the viewers, it looks like a jewel amid the azure waters. The visitor is enchanted by the island's beautiful and diverse natural environment, clearly seen in its abundant marine life. The island has expansive agricultural fields. Because of the fertility of its soil, plants quickly spring up after rainfall. The island also has a number of mountains on Ras Halif, Rasia, Al Ija and other places, and enjoys temperate weather all year round.

As a visitor to Masirah Island, you'll feel the harmony of nature, the persuasive calmness of the sea waves, and the cool breeze which envelopes you, giving you a profound sense of serenity as you breathe the pure air. The beaches provide an unparalleled opportunity to see clusters of rare sea turtles lay their eggs.

You can reach the island by a large ferry, known locally as Alyasoor. This is a large carrier that carries cars, goods, and people to and from the island. The island can also be accessed by air.







All About Muscat

The Capital of Oman



Muscat, the capital of Oman, is a place where tradition meets modernity in a dramatic setting, with mountains on one side and the Arabian Gulf on the other. This attractive city provides a glimpse of all that the country has to offer. The souk and fish market can be found in Muttrah district while world class shopping malls are located throughout the capital area. Muscat is world famous for its cleanliness, spacious parks and roadways lined with green lawns and flowers.

Background



As mentioned previously, Muscat Governorate is considered the pulsating heart of Oman. It is linked to Port Sultan Qaboos by Muttrah Corniche where the visitor to Muscat can view the wonderful variety of nature: golden beaches, mountainous heights, and golden sand dunes (Bawshar Sands).

Perhaps what is striking about Muscat Governorate and its states is the breathtaking intermingling of ancient cultural heritage and modern style. You will see houses, gates, old markets, small shops, and winding roads redolent of authentic history, side by side with modern markets, shops, buildings, and streets stamped with modern architecture. This allows Oman to preserve its historic character, and at the same time enjoying its contemporary spirit. Muscat is renowned as one of the cleanest Arab capitals, and has gained the honour of winning the Cleanest Arab City Contest several consecutive times. Muscat as a city has played a prominent historical role due to its strategic location. (www.omantourism.gov.om)

Climate

The climate in Oman is characterized by two seasons: winter and summer. Winter normally starts in November and it lasts till end of February. Summer is between April and October when the weather is hot and humid. Mild weather is experienced on the mountains and in the Dhofar region all year round, which also enjoys a regular monsoon season between June and October every year. An ideal time to visit Oman is between October and April with temperatures averaging between 25 and 35 degree Celsius during the day and between 17 and 19 degree Celsius in the evening.



National Dress – Men

The national dress for Omani men is a simple, ankle-length, collarless gown with long sleeves called the dishdasha. The colour most frequently worn is white, although a variety of other colours such as black, sky blue, brown and lilac can also be seen. Its main adornment is a tassel (furakha) sewn into the neckline, which can be impregnated with perfume. Underneath the dishdasha, a plain piece of cloth covering the body is worn from the waist down. Omani men may wear a variety of head dresses. The mussar is a square of finely woven woolen or cotton fabric, wrapped and folded into a turban. Underneath this, the kumma, an intricately embroidered cap, is sometimes worn. The shal, a long strip of cloth acting as a holder for the khanjar (a silver, hand-crafted knife or dagger) may be made from the same material as the mussar. Some men carry the assa, a stick, which can have practical uses or is simply used as an accessory during formal events. Omani men, on the whole, wear sandals on their feet. (<http://www.omanet.om>)



National Dress – Women



In general, the women of Oman may present themselves without a veil. Yet most women wear a black or coloured headscarf (known as sheilah or lihaf) and an abaya (a black-coloured cloak worn over clothes). Tribal Omani women, however, prefer to wear the burqa (facemask). In addition, older generations of Omani women still prefer to wear traditional, colorful dresses or tunics that are worn over the sirwal (trousers). The younger generations of Omani women prefer to mostly wear modern designs of clothes. Additionally, Omani older women like to wear jewellery which is generally made from silver and gold engraved with patterns, symbols, and calligraphy based on Quranic scripts. Traditionally, Omani women wore the qurhaf as footwear, but modern-day women wear western-style shoes and sandals. For make-up, the women of Oman used natural and traditional cosmetic products, including Kohl as eyeliners or eye-enhancers, a mixture of the seeds of the prunus mahled and the flowers of the carthamus tinctorius plant as moisturizers, and the indigo plant as a form of skin wash. For taking care of their hair, Omani women used oils from the seeds of the shoo plant, and the shampoo that was produced from the sidr and ipomoea nil plants. Today, however, most women use products of globally known brands. Omani women also like to decorate their hands and feet with henna paint, particularly during wedding celebrations and other special occasions.

General Lifestyle



Shopping Malls

Modern shops and traditional souqs (Arab Markets) are located throughout the Sultanate with the largest concentration in the capital area around Muscat. Traditional crafts include silver and gold jewelry, khunjars, hand-woven textiles, carpets and baskets are available to visitors and bargaining is expected as it is considered part of the culture. Certain antiques; however, may not be exported.

On the other hand, Muscat has come a long way from the simple old souks to the bustling, ultra modern shopping complexes that have sprung up in the city in recent times. The shopping malls are mostly situated in Qurum, but the biggest and popular malls are the Muscat City Centre which is located in Seeb and Qurum City Center located in Qurum.

Malls	
Muscat City Center	Seeb
Al BAHJA Mall	Al Mawaleh
Babil Shopping	Al Khoud
Bushra Al Khair	Al Khoud
Lulu Hypermarket	Seeb

Muscat has a wide variety of shops for your everyday clothing needs. From high-end designer shops, to affordable local boutiques, to the one-stop shop department stores, to the ultimately cheap bazaars. You name it, they have it. You may want to visit the closest malls to the University listed here for your clothing needs.

Mutrah Souq

Mutrah Souq is one of the oldest markets in Oman, dating back about 200 years. Its antiquity has perhaps increased the extent of its beauty, magic and allure. You cannot see Mutrah Souq from the outside, as it stretches deep within the city. The market starts at the gate facing the Sea of Oman and Mutrah Corniche, and ends with another gate in the city's old quarters that usually receive the majority of visitors coming from other Omani towns and villages.

Mutrah Souq is a prototype of old Eastern markets, characterized by narrow winding alleys roofed with wood. This souk goes by another name among the Omanis; the Market of Darkness, due to its myriad of alleys and roads lined by shops that block the sun during the day. This name applies specifically to the section that extends from the Prophet's Mosque to Khawr Bimbah. Mutrah Souq has two markets known as "the small market" and "the large market". The Market of Darkness is the small market, whereas the large market is the wholesale market. When passing through this souq, your senses are tantalized by the aromatic smells of frankincense, incense and Arabian perfumes. Mutrah Souq is known for its handicrafts like silverware, daggers, traditional clothes, new apparel and shoes, in addition to the famous Omani sweets (halwa), spices and braziers (receptacles in which incense or frankincense is burned).



Muscat Festival

A celebration of Muscat heritage, this event is one of the biggest of the year, featuring all aspects of Omani culture including handicrafts, folklore and history. The festival is educational as much as it is cultural, with theater performances, educational seminars and poetry and literature readings.



Dining Out

There are a wide variety of restaurants in Oman offering all types of cuisine, including Omani, Arabic, Indian, Oriental, European and American dishes. Al Khoud has quite a big number of restaurants- mainly Indian and Turkish- cafes and shwarmah stands. Al Khoud is also home for two well-known Omani restaurants that offer customers a taste of the most popular Omani dishes. There are a lot of scrumptious dishes to choose from such as the famous Shuwa, Maqbous and Mashawi. Upscale restaurants are mainly located in Qurum and Khuwair. Should you be invited into an Omani house, it is customary to remove one’s shoes before entering your host’s house. Traditional Omani meals are eaten with hands, using the right hand only although as the guest, you won’t be expected to do so. Muslim law forbids alcohol, however alcoholic beverages are available in most hotel bars and restaurants where visitors to Oman may drink. It should be noted that Omanis are not permitted to drink alcohol in these establishments and visitors are cautioned not to offer drinks to locals as this may inadvertently cause offense. (<http://www.exploreoman.com>) Aside from the eateries mentioned above, you can always go to your favorite fast-food chain, in case you don’t feel adventurous when it comes to food.

Listed below are places near the University you might want to dine in or buy food from.

Fast food/Restaurants/Café’s

Supermarkets	
Pizza Hut	Al Khoud
Domino’s Pizza	Al Khoud
KFC	Al Khoud
Hungry Bunny	Al Khoud
The Golden Spoon	Seeb Souq
Omar Al Kayyam	Al Khoud
McDonalds	Mct. CityCenter
Hardee’s	Al Khoud
Subway	Mct. CityCenter
Magic Wok	Mct. CityCenter

Supermarkets	
Carrefour	Mct. CityCenter
Al Fair	Al Khoud
Sama Hypermarket	Al Khoud
Babil	Al Khoud
The Sultan Center	Seeb
Lulu Hypermarket	Seeb



Sports & Recreational Activities

If you are into swimming, trekking, surfing or mountain climbing, then Oman is the place for you! Oman's diverse terrain of mountains, deserts and seascapes provide a host of outdoor pursuits from diving and sailing to hiking and caving.

(<http://www.hoteltravel.com>)



Cinemas

The most popular English-language cinema is the one located in Shatti. It has 3 screens and is usually the first (along with the one located in Markaz Al Bahja) to show the latest movies. The Markaz Al Bahja Cinema is located in the Mall of the same name in Al Hail. It is at the first exit after the airport if driving from Ruwi. The cinema is situated on the basement of the mall and features mostly English language movies. (<http://www.totalmuscat.com>)

Business Hours

The weekend in Oman falls on Thursday and Friday. However, for the private sector the weekend starts Thursday afternoon. Most shops open from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and again from 4:30 pm till 10:00 pm. Major shopping malls, such as City Center, are open from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm. Those working in the banking sectors have their weekends on Friday and Saturday.

During Ramadhan, the working hours get shortened. Banks, embassies and consulates are open from 8:00 am to noon. But shops close late at night.



Transportation

Taxi

Licensed taxis are painted orange and white and do not use meter. The approximate fare in for going to SQU from the nearest place (Al Khoud) is 0.300 to 0.500 baiza. (<http://www.asiarooms.com>)



Baiza buses

Baiza buses, colored orange and white, serve all major roadways, as well as a wide and loose network of smaller byways in the greater Muscat metropolitan area. These shared taxis are available from the airport and throughout the city; they will take you to virtually any destination, as long as you find one that is going in your direction. (<http://www.hoteltravel.com>)

Muscat can be reached by bus from Dubai, while there are also bus links from the capital (Muscat) to many other Oman cities like Sur, Salalah, and Buraimi, operated by Oman National Transport Company (ONTC). They even have buses from Salalah going to Dubai and back. For detailed information of the buses schedule you may want to visit their website. www.ontcoman.com

Car Rental

Renting a car is probably the most convenient way to see the city of Muscat and its environs. Most signs are clearly written in both Arabic and English. Major car rental companies are located within Muscat. You can book a car in advance with any of these companies to ensure that they are waiting for your arrival. (<http://www.worldexecutive.com>) (Please refer to P. 45 for some listed car rental companies).

Telecommunications

There are many telecommunications companies in Muscat, but the most popular among them are the Oman Telecommunication (Omantel), Oman Mobile and Nawras. Omantel has the monopoly of the landline and internet access markets. Meanwhile, Oman Mobile offers mobile services that a client can choose from prepaid to postpaid. The amount available for the prepaid cards/calling cards is RO 1, RO 3, RO 5 and RO 10. Oman Mobile also offers a handy USB modem which can offer customers easy access to the internet. Similarly, Nawras also offers mobile services and internet access with a USB



modem. The Nawras recharge cards/phone cards are available in denominations of RO 1, RO 2, RO 4 and RO 8.

The offices/branches of the above mentioned companies can be easily found in some shopping malls like Muscat City Center and at the airport for the convenience of customers especially tourists.

Health Care Centers near SQU

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital attends to the medical needs of the Omani Students, faculty, staff and international students who are on postgraduate scholarships. Its services include first aid, consultations and starting medication for common ailments. For all your other medical needs, there are also a number of medical and health centers near the University that you can go to.

Dental Clinics	
Al Balsam Al Shafi Dental Clinic	Seeb Souk-Tel. No. 24423002
Badr Al Samaa Polyclinic	Seeb
Aseriya Dental Clinic	Al Khoud, Souk
Retag Dental Clinic	Al Khoud, Souk
Hospitals	
Star Care Hospital	Near Muscat City Center, Seeb
Badr Al Samaa Polyclinic	Seeb
Pharmacies	
Muscat Pharmacy	Al Khoud Souk
Belqees Pharmacy	Al Khoud Souk
Waleed Pharmacy	Al Khoud Souk









Sultan Qaboos University

Sultan Qaboos University (SQU)

As the national house of expertise, Sultan Qaboos University shoulders the responsibility of providing advanced programs, which are developed based on knowledge gained from cutting-edge research of national strategic importance. In addition, SQU makes it its central focus to develop student learning, promote research and enhance faculty and staff professional development in its various forms. The university is also keen to exhibit organizational learning as it deals with the various challenges facing it.

Brief Information

Sultan Qaboos University is the realization of the promise announced by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said during the 10th anniversary of Oman's National Day in 1980. Construction started in 1982 and the first Sultan Qaboos University students were enrolled in 1986. In accordance with the Royal Degree of His Majesty, the University commenced with five colleges; namely, Medicine, Engineering, Agriculture, Education and Science. Furthermore, the College of Arts was established in 1987, followed by the College of Commerce and Economics, which received its first batch of students in 1993. The College of Law joined the University in 2006 and finally the College of Nursing was established in 2008.



The traditional Islamic separation of the genders is maintained in the architecture of the University. There is separate access to buildings: lower walkways designated for men and upper walkways reserved for women. The seating in the classroom also reflects the Islamic teachings. In most classes, male students are seated on the front while female students are seated on the back.

Altogether, the campus portrays the rich heritage of Oman and Islam while incorporating all the efficiencies of modern life. The result is an educational and living environment which is both functional and attractive.

Colleges

Sultan Qaboos University consists of nine colleges namely the College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, Commerce and Economics, Education, Law, Medicine and Health Sciences, Science and Nursing. These colleges have specific target plans which guide them in designing their programs in their areas of specialization. Each college is comprised of highly qualified faculty members who are actively involved in teaching, research and community service.

College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences

The College of Agricultural and Marine Science provides the students with world class training for life in a pleasant and stimulating atmosphere that encourages enquiry, commitment and excellence.



The College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences faculty and staff conduct basic and applied research in the sustainable use of renewable resources for food production and processing, and disseminate research outcomes through scientific publications, international conferences, workshops, short courses and seminars. The college is proud to have the highest per capita rate of research funding and peer reviewed publications in the University. The College aims at fulfilling the Sultanate's needs for well qualified graduates to work in agriculture, marine and food's sectors. The college also conducts basic and applied research, develops sciences, and organizes exhibitions in the fields of agriculture and marine sciences, and food production and preservation.



The college offers its students Bachelor's, Masters' and doctorate degrees.

PhD Programs taught in English for full-time students
Crop Sciences
Food Sciences and Human Nutrition
Soil & Water Management
Marine Sciences & Fisheries
Masters Programs taught in English for full-time and part-time students
Natural Resource Economics
Agricultural Engineering
Animal and Veterinary Sciences
Crop Production
Crop Protection
Food Science and Nutrition
Marine Science and
Soil and Water Management

College of Arts and Social Sciences

The college started teaching in 1987. It aims at qualifying and training students in various fields of knowledge that satisfy the needs of the Sultanate. The college develops the students' general knowledge, encourages research and team work. It also takes care of humanitarian researches that are connected with the needs of the society. The college offers bachelor's and master's degrees.

PhD Programs for full-time students

History

Arabic

Information Library

Additional Admission

Requirements:

- Pass the written test and interview held in the department.
- Must have computer skills.

Masters Programs taught in both Arabic and English for full-time and part-time students

Arabic Language and Literature

Translation

History

Geography

Mass Communication

Library and Information Science

Sociology

Social Work

Postgraduate Diploma for full-time and part-time students

Translation

College of Commerce and Economics

The College of Commerce and Economics was founded in 1993 with the aim of qualifying students in various commercial and economic domains as well as carrying out a number of researches in these fields. The college has a specialized library that gives students the opportunity to enrich their knowledge in commercial and economic fields.

Masters Program taught in English for part-time students

Master of Business

Administration (MBA) Program



International students always face some sort of difficulties living outside their countries. My stay in Oman and studying as a PhD student in Sultan Qaboos University was a new experience and I also felt a few problems in the beginning, but with the help of faculty and Department of Postgraduate Studies, all troubles were solved easily. I appreciate the way Sultan Qaboos University manages all the academic programs while maintaining the Islamic Culture.

Maaz Akhtar, PhD student
Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering



College of Education

The College of Education, through its teaching activities and programs, aims to serve the community by producing graduates of the highest caliber and keeping abreast with the latest pedagogical developments regionally and internationally. More specifically, it seeks to provide highly-qualified teachers to work in the constantly expanding General Education system, using the latest methods and techniques.

Masters Programs taught in English and Arabic for full-time and part-time students

Curriculum and Method of Teaching Arabic Language

Curriculum and Method of Teaching English Language

Curriculum and Method of Teaching Islamic Education

Curriculum and Method of Teaching Science

Curriculum and Method of Teaching Mathematics

Curriculum and Method of Teaching Social Studies (History and Geography only)

Educational Administration

Educational Psychology (Learning and Measurement)

Islamic Studies

Sports Science

College of Engineering



The College of Engineering strives to achieve its vision of being an outstanding educational and research college in the region. The College of Engineering is the top Engineering College in Oman and offers strong undergraduate programs in architectural, chemical, civil, electrical and computer, industrial, mechanical, mechatronics, and petroleum and natural gas engineering. At the postgraduate level, the college offers Master of Science and Ph.D programs in civil, electrical and computer, industrial, mechanical, and petroleum and natural gas engineering.

PhD Programs taught in English for full-time student

Civil Engineering

Electrical and Computer Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Industrial Engineering

Petroleum Engineering

Chemical Engineering

Masters Programs taught in English for full-time and part-time students

Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering (Water Resources)

Electrical and Computer Engineering

- Energy & Power Systems
- Electronic Instrumentation & Control
- Communication & Signal Processing
- Computer System & Networks

Mechanical Engineering

Industrial Engineering

Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering

Geomatics Engineering



College of Law

College of Law started teaching in 1997 as an independent college. The college was affiliated to SQU in the academic year of 2006/2007. The college aims at both providing the society with specialists and researchers in different fields of law, and at carrying out related research projects.

Master of Law Program taught in Arabic for full-time and part-time students in four disciplines

Public Law

Private Law

Commercial Law

Criminal Law

Additional Admission Requirements:

- Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in Law (Law Major).
- Final admissions will be based on the CGPA.



College of Medicine & Health Sciences



The College of Medicine was established in 1986 and since then has undergone impressive development & growth.

The college qualifies specialists in modern medical fields and it trains students with the help of SQU Hospital medical staff and using up-to-date laboratories and technologies. The college's academic & organizational expansion is accompanied by a continuing process of establishment and revision of academic policies, rules and regulations, and administrative procedures.

Masters Programs in Biomedical Sciences taught in English for full-time students

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Medical Microbiology

Epidemiology and Medical Statistic

Clinical Pharmacy

Physiology

Human & Clinical Anatomy

Radiology & Molecular Imaging

PhD Programs taught in English for full-time students

Biochemistry & Molecular Biology

Medical Microbiology

Epidemiology & Medical Statistics

Clinical Pharmacy

Physiology

Human & Clinical Anatomy

Radiology & Molecular Imaging

Genetics

College of Science

Established with the University in 1986, the College of Science is regarded as the «mother college». The College is the home of the departments of biology, chemistry, computer science, earth sciences, mathematics and statistics and physics. The college is proud to provide high quality science education, scholarly research, and technical expertise nationally and internationally.



Masters Programs taught in English for full-time students
Biology
Computer Science
Chemistry
Applied Mathematics
Physics
Statistics
Environmental Science
Earth Sciences
Petroleum Geosciences

PhD Programs taught in English for full-time students:
Biology
Earth Sciences
Mathematics (Pure Mathematics & Applied Mathematics)
Physics
Statistics
Chemistry
Computer Science

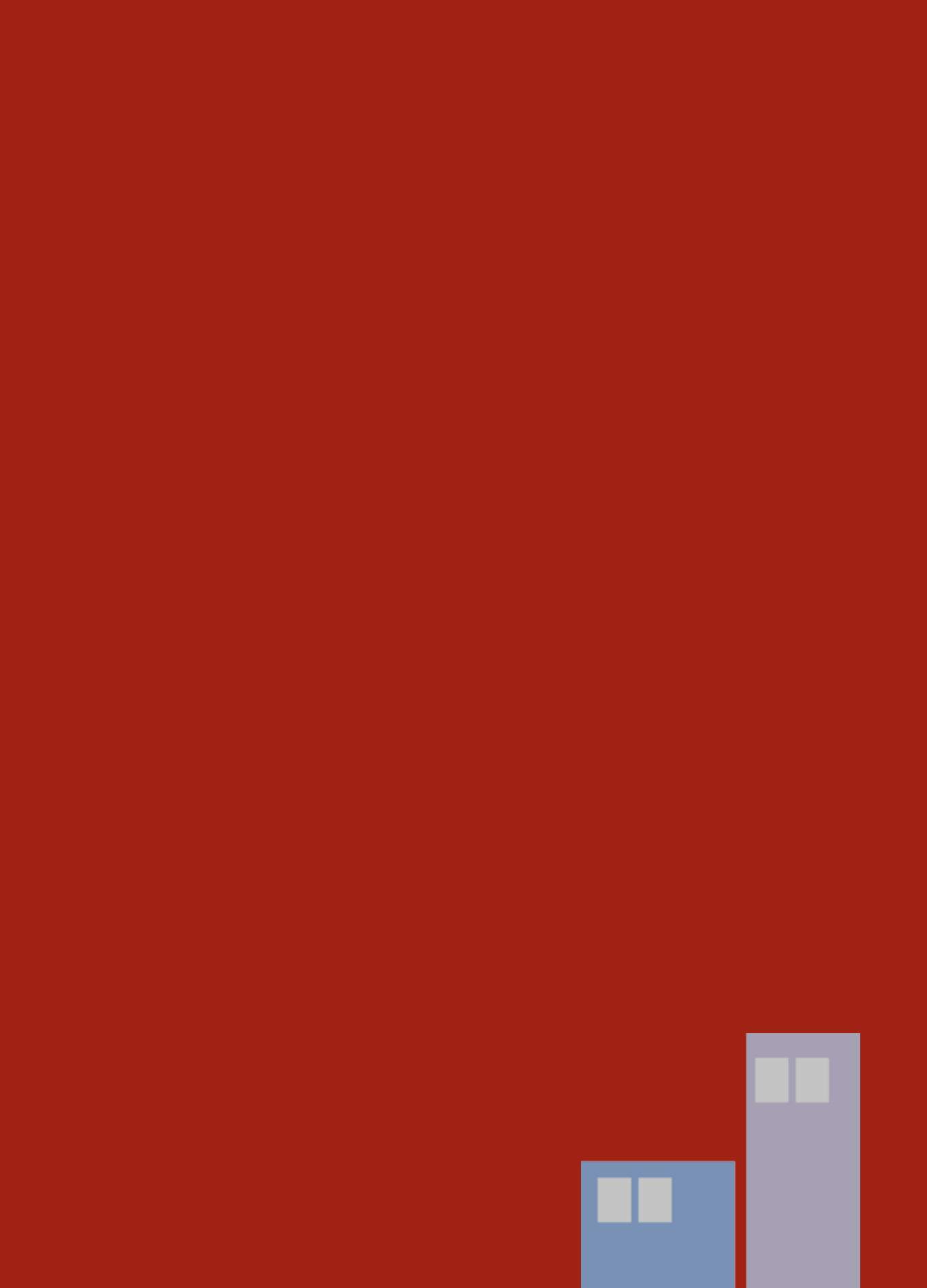
College of Nursing

The Nursing program started in the College of Medicine and Health Sciences in 2001 and during the 20082009/ academic year, the program was developed into an independent college. The college aims at qualifying male and female nurses with sound training by way of collaboration with S.Q.U Hospital. The college also carries out researches in the different fields of nursing.

The College offers bachelor degrees for its students, but does not currently offer MSc.









Facilities

Facilities

Sultan Qaboos University also provides comprehensive and specialized equipment which are located in some departments and laboratories. Postgraduate teaching and research are supported by well-equipped laboratories and libraries in various colleges. In addition, various centers support the educational needs of postgraduate students.

Libraries

Sultan Qaboos University contains three libraries which are the following:

The Main Library

This library provides all information and services to support the curriculum in the colleges and centers. The primary focus of the collection is on the subjects covered in programs offered at SQU. Bibliographic records of materials are available through catalogs and indexes that allow users access to resources available. It has 200,000 books, 100,000- theses, 22,000 e-journals, 67,000 of e-books and there are 27 electronic databases. Postgraduate students are allowed to order 45 photocopies of articles and 8 books on loan from overseas in one academic year free of charge. Prepaid card-operated photocopy machines are available on all floors of the library. The library has seven floors and students can use their laptops as wireless connectivity is available. A professional reference librarian is available at the reference desk to help students during the opening hours of the library. The main library is located in the Cultural Centre near Block G building.

The Medical Library

Sultan Qaboos University Medical Library is leading health sciences in the Sultanate of Oman. It maintains a substantial collection of current and retrospective Medical literature in various media to support the academic programmes of the College of Medicine, University Hospital and health care community in the Sultanate. It has a reading area with an adequate number of chairs and tables in addition to reading cubicles. This library provides its users with 4 searching terminals to enable them to search the library catalogue, a photocopying area and computers with internet access.



The College of Commerce Library

The library holdings in the Information Center include supplementary and supportive materials to the required coursework for the college's eight majors. This library has 920 collections of audio visual materials. It has 40 full-text and bibliographic databases for the University researchers available online. There are two reading halls provided with photocopying and printing areas. Computers with internet access are also available.

In addition, some colleges also have their own libraries which also have a variety of collections of books, e-journals, e-books and databases. In the College of Arts and Social Sciences, for example, the library specializes in different domains of Arts and Social Sciences. The library houses a collection of more than 20,000 books. This diverse collection includes books, periodicals and CD ROMs in the disciplines of Arabic, English, History, Geography, Mass Communication, Tourism, Arts, Music, Library and Information Science, Humanities, Archaeology and Religion. Furthermore, the library houses almost 1000 general reference collections. The library offers a distinguished information service by integrating the symphony information system. This system enables users to perform direct search through a computerized catalogue locally or through direct connection with the internet.

The College of Law library

The College of Law library contents, sources and supplies vary between the traditional (printed) and the modern (electronic) ones. The library also consists of books, references, periodicals, university researches and letters and codes of law.

These contents are also written in different languages with Arabic language sources representing 98% whereas those written in English and French making only form 2%. In addition, those contents cover various historical

periods and Arabian and foreign geographical regions.

Reference service is provided to the beneficiaries through a set of comprehensive and encyclopedic resources that help them to reach the required information and make use of them in the field of their studies. Reference service includes encyclopedias, knowledge periodicals, dictionaries, statistical books, evidences, university researches, atlases and indexes. The library contains so many Omani books concerning the fields related to the university goals and programs. Moreover, the library has a number of electronic resources such as CDs. It also provides internet service for its students to enable them find the latest information online.

Sports Facilities

It is worth mentioning that there are two sports complexes separately allocated for male and female students. Each complex includes football fields, fields for athletics, outdoor stadiums, and volleyball playgrounds, outdoor volleyball fields, indoor sport halls which include handball and volleyball playing areas, two halls for weight lifting, a swimming pool and squash courts. Moreover, there is also a student services center that contains a hall for games which includes three snooker tables, three billiard tables, two tennis tables, and a twelve lane bowling alley provided with the latest design features and with an electronic system that is so excellent and distinct a championship can be held in this alley.





Research and Financial Support

The importance of research has been recognized at Sultan Qaboos University from the very beginning. The Charter states that one of the University's objectives is to uphold scientific research as the most effective tool in establishing accurate facts, problem solving and the prediction of social patterns as well as undertaking research in the fields of technology in relation to the needs of the Omani Society, in particular, and those of others, in general, in order to enhance the intellectual capabilities and quality of life of the Omani society and mankind as a whole.

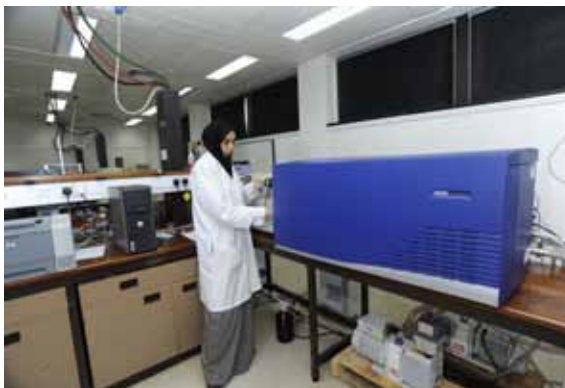


Strategic Research Projects

The generous research trust funds donated by His Majesty and Research Council fund are best used to support long-term multidisciplinary research projects of strategic importance to the Sultanate. The aim of such projects is to generate new knowledge and discoveries leading to substantial socio-economic benefits to the Omani society in the long run.

Academic Research Projects

University's internal research fund, external research donations and collaborative funds are used to support academic-type research on topics proposed by faculty members for approval by their respective departments and colleges. Academic research is expected to yield original results or findings that generate new knowledge and to develop concepts consistent with the research and educational objectives of the University.



Contract and Consultancy

Research

Many companies and organizations from the private and public sectors for example Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO), Oman Oil Company, Omantel, Middle East Desalination Research Centre and Shimizu Corporation stand to benefit from University's know-how and technical facilities through Contract and Consultancy Research. This typically involves systematic development of new knowledge for the benefit of the Sponsor to address current problems, create new opportunities, or sometimes stumble on unexpected discoveries.

Patents Research

Patents are the projects that register in intellectual Property. The following are some of these projects registered in Gulf Patents Office in Riyadh:

- Minced Fish Products of Improve Eating Quality
- Nematicidal Compensation of Essential Oils and Method of Parathion
- Emulsion Layer Detection Apparatus and method using high Frequency
- Desalinated water and Electricity Generating System.

Research Centers

Sultan Qaboos University is the primary research institution in the country. A main facet of its vision is to be the forefront of scientific research and to receive unassailable international recognition.

Remote Sensing & Geographic Information System Center

The vision of the Remote Sensing and GIS Center involves manpower development which will lay the foundation for effective research and for teaching Remote Sensing and GIS courses at SQU. The RSGISC is establishing itself as a center of excellence in the Sultanate and the region. To this end, it has developed partnerships with industry and government agencies.

The Centre teaches undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Remote Sensing and GIS in the Department of Earth Sciences and in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering. The Centre also supervises Master's and Doctoral theses in these departments.

Omani Studies Center

In a globalizing world, preserving a people's identity and culture becomes an urgent priority. This ensures a country's link with its past achievements and future aspirations. The Omani Studies Center was established with this concern in mind. Providing modern scientific and academic knowledge and teaching an understanding of the historical, cultural and social specifics of Oman are among the valuable services that SQU offers to the Omani society and the world. The OSC's mission is to conduct and support research, provide consultancy services, and to document, preserve and disseminate knowledge on Omani Society, culture and heritage. The Center also works with relevant local and international institutions to promote research and studies on the Sultanate of Oman.



Center for Environmental Studies and Research

The Center envisages conducting research, raising awareness on environmental issues locally, regionally and globally. It also aims at helping various governmental agencies and other stakeholders to protect and sustainably manage the nation's natural resources through planned initiatives and research. Work at the CESAR has also been directed at influencing policy and strengthening institutional support. The Center actively contributes to local thinking and provides intellectual input on sustainable development issues.

Earthquake Monitoring Center

The mission of the Earthquake Monitoring Center (EMC) is to operate, manage and develop the national earthquake monitoring program and to conduct and coordinate multidisciplinary research activities within the University. The EMC is responsible for monitoring earthquakes that occur in and around the Sultanate. There are many seismic stations located in different parts of the country which help with assessing earthquake risk by locating seismic zones and determining their characteristics and implications for all types of civil structures. The EMC has also developed an earthquake awareness program for schools and universities. The Center has developed several courses which are taught by the Center's staff at the Department of Earth Sciences. B.Sc. and M.Sc thesis projects from this department are also supervised by the Center.



Communication and Information

Research Center

Establishing the Communication and Information Research Center represented the first phase of what is expected to become a fully-fledged National Information and Communication Research Center, providing R&D services to both the government and the private sector in respect of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). CIRC's mission is to promote and improve information and communication technologies through applied research, consultancy and training. These goals will be achieved by developing and maintaining strong relationships with industry, ministries and educational organizations, both nationally and internationally.

Water Research Center

The Center envisages becoming a convening location where water professionals in Oman and elsewhere can conduct research, provide continuous education in water-related academic disciplines, and disseminate knowledge. To achieve this, the Center plays a vital role in coordinating research facilities and expertise at SQU and at other national and international institutions. It also strives to effectively disseminate research findings to the public and private sectors and to the community at large.

Research at the Center focuses on agricultural water management, desalination, groundwater hydrology, and the socioeconomics of water resources management. The Center has hosted international researchers from the USA, Japan, Italy, Pakistan, Tunisia, and the Netherlands. Annually, World Water Day is co-hosted by the Ministry of Regional Municipalities and Water Resources and the Center. Furthermore, the Center, each year, conducts one or more short courses for personnel in the public and private sectors. It maintains an e-list called WRCINFO, which is a platform for delivering water-related news, including conference announcements and research papers, to over a hundred

recipients in Oman. A Research Chair in the Nanotechnology of Water Desalination, funded by the Research Council, is being established at the Center.

Oil and Gas Research Center

The main aim of the Center is to conduct research in areas pertaining to the oil and gas industry. In addition, the Center seeks to enhance practitioners' professionalism in the industry through development programs, including short courses, conferences, workshops, seminars and specialized lectures. Its mission, for the benefit of the oil and gas industry in Oman is to conduct quality research in areas vital for the effective development of the oil and gas industries, while exploiting the state-of-the-art research facilities currently available.

Over the last seven years, the Center, in cooperation with researchers in the Colleges of Engineering, Science, and Agricultural and Marine Sciences, has carried out more than 50 major research projects covering different aspects of the oil and natural gas industries. Diverse areas are included such as hot water injection, surfactant injection, formation damage, expandable tubular, multi-phase metering, the modeling of hydrocarbon basins, and exploration of Oman's surface and subsurface geology. So far, the Center has secured projects to a value of about RO 800,000. A central commitment of the Center is to combine the expertise available within recognized research groups in order to foster synergism, continuity and sustainability. The Center has succeeded in institutionalizing its research efforts for the oil and gas industry in order to provide a focus on technology development.



Center of Excellence in Marine

Biotechnology

The Center focuses on capacity building and plans to make optimal use of Oman's marine resources so that development is sustainable, thereby encouraging future growth and prosperity. Since its inception in 2004, the Center has been working on research projects that will create opportunities for utilizing marine raw materials and thus promote public health.

The CEMB has published several research papers in international journals, in addition to these. Information on the development of Oman's marine biotechnology is continually shared with the public through bilingual newspapers and magazines published nationally, regionally and internationally. An extensive feasibility study in 2009 recommended the establishment of a National Center of Excellence in Marine Biotechnology to serve as a regional hub. The CEMB is currently playing a major role in this proposed project.

Humanities Research Center

The mandate of the Humanities Research Center is to play both a proactive and supportive role in relation to existing humanities studies in Oman. The Center's mission is to explore disciplines, topics and problems that are in need of a specific national focus and to conduct research in the areas of Social Science, Education, Business, Economics, and Law. One of the main objectives of the Center is to initiate surveys and conduct empirical research on social, educational and business phenomena that accompany the process of change, development and modernization in contemporary Omani and Arab society. The Center is currently involved in preparing its operational strategy and is also organizing research projects of strategic importance.



Support Services

Center for Information System

CIS, the Center for Information Systems, is responsible for providing and supporting the SQU's entire computer based information systems requirements.

CIS supports the information systems needs of the SQU campus community, faculty, staff and students. This is done by developing, maintaining and running the SQU's computing infrastructure, providing academics with educational resources, and operating electronic information systems for and on-behalf of SQU's Administration, and similar units including CIS itself.

Center for Educational Technology

The Center for Educational Technology (CET), conducts instructional development activities, produces instructional/learning materials and provides media services.

The CET is currently venturing into the e-learning domain and at the stage of developing comprehensive training and consultancy packages to enable faculty to develop high quality instruction.



The Language Center

The Language Centre is responsible for all English language teaching and testing at the University. The Centre offers two types of English courses, Foundation Programme English Language (FPEL) courses, Credit English Language Programme (CELP) courses for English-medium colleges and majors. The Centre also teaches English at the postgraduate level as well as English for the university administrative and technical staff.

There are two active units in the Centre, one for testing and assessment and another for curriculum development. The Testing and Assessment Unit prepares entrance and exit exams. It is also responsible for final exams in the foundation programme. The Curriculum Development Unit designs curricula, reviews and develops teaching materials and supervises curriculum implementation. The two units are also involved in research related to their area of specialty. They sometimes invite experts for the purpose of training and consultation.

The Language Centre consistently strives to advance the knowledge and skills of its staff members through workshops and seminars in areas related to teaching, testing and materials development. The Centre has a Professional Development Committee that looks into matters of staff development. One of the most prominent teacher development events has been the annual English language teaching conference which attracts scholars and practitioners from all around the world.

Support facilities for students and teachers are available. They include a Teacher Resource Centre and a Student Resource Centre. The Teacher Resource Centre provides Language Centre academic staff with professional support through books, journals and audio-visual materials. The Student Resource Centre houses five computer laboratories, a small student library and video viewing facilities. All of these facilities are used during the normal teaching programme and are also open to students on a self-access basis outside teaching hours.



Center for Community Service & Continuing Education

The University has established the Center for Community Service & Continuing Education to act as a link between various SQU departments and the community. The main objective of CCSCE is to extend educational and community services to the largest possible part of the community.

The CCSCE provides a wide range of short term courses, seminars and workshops as well as community service activities in various fields for public and private sectors and other interested individuals and parties in the community.



Center for Career Guidance

The mission of the career guidance (CCG) is to assist students of SQU and other designated clients in developing, evaluating, and implementing career, education, and employment decision plans. The Center exists to support the mission, academic programs and overall advancement of SQU. The Center plays a major role in enhancing the interface with the labour market to maximize the employment opportunities available to SQU graduates.



Student Counseling Center

The Center provides a comprehensive program of support services to assist Sultan Qaboos University students in their adjustments to the demands of university environment. Services offered are: Individual Counseling, Group Counseling, Counseling Outreach Program, and Career Counseling. Additionally, the Student Counseling Center has prepared and is implementing developmental guidance programs which include activities, lectures, workshops and training courses.



Units

Planning and Statistics

Department

The Planning and Statistics Department (PSD) provides advise based on scientific principles of planning to decision makers, by reviewing all development proposals and making appropriate recommendations. In order to provide such advise, the PSD is now on the process of establishing a warehouse for the University so that all planning will be based on real data which can help to prepare development proposals and monitor progress of all development projects and other activities in the University and provide progress reports for decision makers.

Procurement Department

Sultan Qaboos University Procurement Department is one of the operation departments under the Office of Deputy Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. The Procurement Department is responsible for the coordination and management of all purchase requisitions generated by different units of the University. The department plays a very important role in providing support to the academic and research development.

Financial Affairs Department

The Financial Affairs Department is one of the most important departments in SQU. Its top priority is to provide financial support to all Colleges, Center and Departments within the University and to serve the educational process in accordance with SQU's main objective. The department's work is based on scientific standards utilizing cutting edge technologies to guarantee the delivery of accurate and fast services.

Technical Affairs Department

The Technical Affairs Department's mission is to develop the skills of department technicians and engineers. It works to attract expertise, guarantees the highest levels of progress and excellence, creativity and quality in University project management.

Aside from the above mentioned units/ departments, we have others like:

- Legal Affairs Department
- Public Relations & Information
- Personnel Affairs Department



Deanships

Deanship of Admission and Registration

(for Undergraduate Students)

The main duty of the Deanship of Admission and Registration is to provide information about the different programs, specializations and degrees offered at Sultan Qaboos University, as well as the regulations for admission and registration, and preparation of statistics required by the various bodies within the University.

Deanship of Student Affairs

The Deanship of Student Affairs is the authority that has a direct relationship with the students. The utmost role of this authority is to take care of the students and supervise their different activities. It shoulders the responsibility of preparing SQU students educationally, socially, culturally and physically as well as entrenching their principles and Islamic values. Besides, through the various activities the Deanship organizes, it helps provide students with emotional and psychological stability that they require to achieve educational excellence.

Deanship of Research

The mission of scientific research at Sultan Qaboos University is to create and nurture a research culture, oversee the research output in the country, develop the research potential of its students, academic and technical staff, establish a strong knowledge base and seek solutions that respond to the strategic research needs of the Sultanate.

The Deanship of Research takes responsibility for the administration of all aspects of research in the University. It has three departments and these are:

1. Research Department
2. Innovation Affairs Department
3. Academic Publications and Outreach Department

Six research funding schemes (International Grants, Joints Grants, His Majesty's Trust Fund Grants, Research Council Grants, External Grants and Consultancy Services) are administered by the Research Department, while the Innovation Affairs Department is responsible for supporting research innovation, technology transfer, and the protection of intellectual property. The publication of scholarly books and scientific journals, the administration of conference attendance by faculty, and the important task of linking society and scientific research through outreach activities involving visual and print media are among the duties of the Academic Publications and Outreach Department.

Research Themes

Research at SQU can be broadly grouped under nine themes, which cut across disciplines, college and research centers:

- Environmental and biological research
- Energy and non-renewable resource research
- Life and health sciences research
- Humanities and social sciences research
- Information and communication systems research
- Fundamental research
- Educational research
- Industry-related research

Deanship of Postgraduate Studies

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
- Scholarships and International Students

Department of Admission and Statistics:

- To supervise the implementation of the University's rules and regulations, which relate to admission of postgraduate students
- To develop actions plans and make appropriate suggestions to implement the objectives of the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies which relate to admission
- To coordinate with colleges to determine which programs will be offered along with their application schedules
- To oversee the process for admission of postgraduate students.

Department of Scholarships and International Students:

- The development of appropriate operation plans and proposals to implement the objectives of the Deanship of Graduate Studies relevant to scholarships, tuition fees and international students.
- Providing assistance to international students
- Announcements of the numbers of scholarships offered in coordination with specialists
- Following-up on the work performance of students on scholarships
- Ensuring that students on scholarships have their benefits.

Department of Programs:

- To follow-up on the implementation of regulations relevant to postgraduate programs in the University
- To develop plans and suggestions to implement the objectives of the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies relevant to programs
- To assist colleges in developing programs' review
- To coordinate with colleges on development and implementation of marketing plans for postgraduate programs
- To develop and administer skills' enhancement programs with cooperation form specialists from inside and outside the University.

Department of Academic Affairs:

- The development of operational plans and suggestions to apply the objectives of Deanship of Postgraduate Studies relevant to the academic affairs of students.
- Following-up on academic performance of postgraduate students with colleges and external units, including employers.
- Supervising the procedure of thesis defence sessions and masters and doctoral comprehensive examinations in coordination with colleges.
- Monitoring students' graduation.

All departments have assigned directors responsible for overseeing the accomplishment of all the aforementioned tasks. The Deanship has overall responsibility for the administration of postgraduate diploma, Master's and Doctoral Programs.



Besides being one of the most prestigious academic institutions with international reputation having both high quality teaching and research facilities, I am very impressed by how kind, respectful, easy-going and intelligent the students and staff at Sultan Qaboos University are. I am really very grateful for having such an opportunity to pursue my postgraduate study (PhD) in this reputable University and in a country with the most marvelous traditions and history the person may come across.

F. Mansoor Abdelmageed, PhD student
Physiology
College of Science



Study at Sultan Qaboos University

SQU offers a wide range of postgraduate programs which aim to build professional capacity and develop skills required for the rapid development of Oman. Postgraduate programs rest on a strong research base which emphasizes academic excellence and addresses issues of national strategic importance.

Deanship of Postgraduate Studies

The Deanships of Postgraduate Studies has an overall responsibility for the administration of Masters' and Doctoral programs.

Sultan Qaboos University has strongly supported postgraduate programs in order to keep pace with the vast and rapid developments witnessed by the Sultanate in various fields and domains. The University offers postgraduate programs in all Colleges in different specializations. Students from various sectors join these programs as part of their human resources development and to upgrade their scientific and vocational standards, so that they can take part in the overall development process.

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:

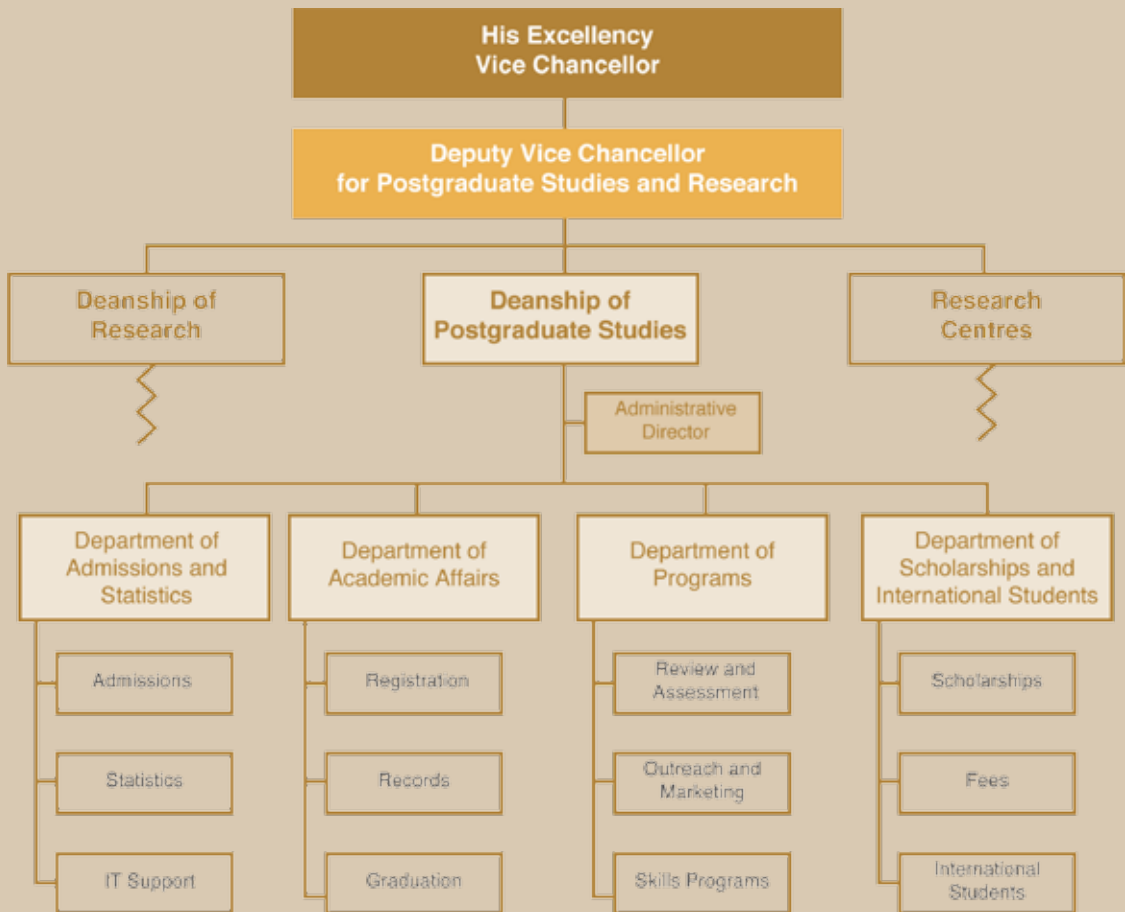
- 1- Coordinating all matters relevant to admission, registration and graduation of Postgraduate students.
- 2- Marketing and publicizing of programs.
- 3- Administering of the Postgraduate Academic Regulations.
- 4- Managing of the scholarship program.
- 5- Offering workshops and courses to develop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

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies facilitates and supports postgraduate programs in a variety of ways including:

- 1- Providing a range of scholarships.
- 2- Marketing programs through advertisements as well as informative brochures and booklets.
- 3- Administering the postgraduate academic regulations.
- 4- Coordinating the defense/examination of theses.
- 5- Offering a range of courses and workshops
- 6- to develop skills related to research, publishing and professionalism.



Organizational Structure



Organizational Structure of Deanship of Postgraduate Studies



By being in this international academic program, I was exposed to a variety of learning perspectives and professional development programs. SQU brought inside me a sense of curiosity, increased problem solving skills, excitement, and happiness, while strengthening my knowledge every day. On top of this, the University itself has an energetic and booming culture in which postgraduate students are actively encouraged to take part.

Mohamed Haneef, PhD student
Mechanical Engineering
College of Engineering

Postgraduate Studies Programs

Postgraduate Programs have been running at SQU with Master Programs since 1992 and are offered in all colleges, with the exception of the College of Nursing. There are four options: by thesis, by coursework and thesis, by coursework only, and by coursework and a comprehensive examination.

Doctoral programs started in 2008, and are research-based with the option of limited coursework as required. Doctoral programs are offered in most colleges at SQU.

More Master's and Doctoral Programs will be opening soon in the Colleges.

Masters' Programs

A master's program is designed to normally be completed within two years of full-time enrolment. An extension of one semester may be approved by the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies on the recommendation of the supervisor and the College Dean. In case of part-time study, all degree requirements must be completed in three years. An extension of one semester may be approved by the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies on the recommendation of the supervisor and College Dean. The maximum period of registration is counted from the date of first registration, excluding any postponements granted throughout this period. The minimum residency period required for full-time students is one year and for part-time students is two years.

Admission Requirements

A. Unconditional Admission

For unconditional admission, an applicant for a masters' program must meet the following criteria:

- a. An undergraduate degree or equivalent from a recognized university
- b. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on

a 4-point scale or equivalent is required for admission into the masters' by thesis program.

- c. A minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4-point scale or equivalent is required for admission into the masters' program by either course work, course work and thesis or course work and a comprehensive examination.
- d. An undergraduate degree or an equivalent qualification and a one year postgraduate diploma in a related specialization from a recognized higher education institution with a cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4-point scale (or equivalent grade) in the diploma.

b. Conditional Admission

Conditional admission is granted to an applicant for the masters' programs as per the following criteria:

- a. An applicant with cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4-point scale, but deficient in pre-requisite courses needed for the program, may be considered for conditional admission into the masters by research program. Such pre-requisite courses are termed bridging courses and should be completed within one year of study as specified by the department.
- b. An applicant with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 on a 4 point scale, but deficient in pre-requisite courses needed for the program, may be considered for conditional admission into the masters by course work, or course work and thesis, or course work and a comprehensive examination options. Similarly, the bridging courses should be completed within one year of study.
- c. An applicant whose cumulative GPA is between 2.74 and 2.50 may be considered for conditional admission into the masters by course work, course work and thesis, or course work and a comprehensive examination options. In such cases, relevant work experience and any other academic activity beyond the first degree may be taken into consideration to assess the applicant's potential to achieve at a high level in the selected field.

Application Requirements

The applicant must fulfill the following:

- a. Submit an application form.
- b. Attend an interview, if required.
- c. Provide a letter of release and support from the employer for full-time study, or a no-objection letter for a part-time study.
- d. Provide proof of financial support.
- e. Provide a medical report, not more than six months older than the date of application, certifying fitness to pursue the study.
- f. Submit official transcripts, copies of degree certificates and passport/national identity card.
- g. Adhere to the requirements of specific programs, such as language and computer proficiency, assessment of work experience or a qualifying examination in a specific area. Such requirements are listed under the relevant program description.

Any conditions placed on the student will be included in the notification of admission. If the conditions are not met within the specified time, the candidate's registration in the masters' program will be cancelled.

Additional Requirements in each College,

College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences:

- Applicant should have a Bachelor's degree in one of the following disciplines: Agriculture, Science, Engineering, Commerce and Economics.

College of Arts and Social Sciences:

- Candidates for the following programs must submit a English proficiency certificate in:
 - > History and Library & Information Science (IELTS 4 or equivalent).
 - > Sociology and Social Work (IELTS 4.5 or equivalent).
 - > Geography and Mass Communication (IELTS 5.5 or equivalent).
- Applicants for the Masters in Translation must have a postgraduate diploma in translation from SQU with a CGPA of 3.00 on a 4 point scale.



College of Commerce and Economics:

- Candidates with a nonbusiness background are encouraged to apply. They may, however, be required to take additional bridging courses to provide them with necessary business background.
- Candidates with an undergraduate GPA between 2.5 – 2.99 are required to submit a Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) score of 450 or above.
- Candidates must pass the interview.

College of Education:

- Applicants should have a bachelor's degree in Education in the specialization applied for, or a B.A. in any discipline with a Postgraduate Diploma in Education.
- Applicants with a Postgraduate Diploma in School Administration, Supervision, or a Bachelor's in Islamic Studies may apply for the Masters' program in the appropriate specialization.
- Applicants from other non-educational disciplines can be considered for the Educational Psychology program. However, they may be required to enroll in pre-requisite courses before they are admitted to the program.
- Applicants for the Curriculum & Methods of Teaching, Mathematics, Teaching Science, Educational Psychology, Educational Administration, and Islamic Studies Program should pass the English test, which is offered by the Language Center at SQU and achieve Level 4.
- A minimum of one year of teaching experience is required for acceptance into the Curriculum & Method of Teaching Science, Teaching Mathematics and Teaching English Language Programs.
- A minimum of two years of experience in educational or administrative work for the Masters' Program in Educational Administration.

Graduates of the Institution of Sharia, the Islamic Institutes and Islamic Sciences Department at SQU with a specialization in Islamic Sciences can apply for the Masters' program in Islamic Studies.



Doctoral Programs

A doctoral program is offered for full time students only and should normally be completed within four years, with all course work completed within the first year. Extension of one semester may be approved by the Deanship of Postgraduate Studies, on the recommendation of the supervisor and the College Dean. The maximum period of registration is counted from the date of first registration, excluding any postponements granted throughout this period.

Admission Requirements

Application for entry to a doctoral program can be made in either fall or spring semester, subject to the normal processing time. An applicant for a doctoral program must meet the following criteria:

- a. A masters' degree from a recognized higher education institution with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 on a 4-point scale or equivalent in the masters' program, or:
- b. In the case of an applicant from a system not using a 4-point GPA scale, whose cumulative GPA is equivalent to less than 3.00 and above 2.75, work experience and any other academic activity during or beyond the masters' degree may be taken into consideration, subject to the approval of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research.
- c. In the case of medicine, a medical graduate degree (MD) with a minimum grade of (B) from Sultan Qaboos University or an equivalent qualification from a recognized higher education institution.
- d. Any other program-specific requirements.

Application Requirements

The applicant must fulfill the following:

- a. Submit an application form.
- b. Submit a statement on the objectives and goals of the research proposed for the doctoral program.



- c. Submit 3 letters of reference, at least 2 from academics, to show competence in the discipline of interest and research capability.
- d. Attend an interview if required.
- e. Provide a letter of release and support from the employer for full-time study.
- g. Provide proof of financial support.
- h. Provide a medical report, not more than six months older than the date of application, certifying fitness to pursue the study.
- k. Submit official transcripts, copies of degree certificates and passport/national identity card.
- n. Adhere to the requirements of specific programs, such as language and computer proficiency, assessment of work experience or a qualifying examination in specific area.

Degree Requirements

Doctoral candidates are required to produce a thesis containing original work of suitable merit to demonstrate their command of the relevant research methodology and their ability to undertake independent research. The thesis should make a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in the specific area, as demonstrated by at least one paper being published or accepted for publication in an international, specialized, refereed journal. The student should identify the research problem in consultation with the supervisor, which normally takes place at the time of application. A student may not submit for assessment thesis material which has already been submitted for another degree at Sultan Qaboos University or any other academic institution.

While there is no minimum course work requirement, a program or Thesis Committee may specify certain course work requirements which are deemed to be in the candidate's interest. These requirements must be completed within the first year of study.



Preliminary Oral Examination

Doctoral students must undertake a searching oral examination after the first seminar but before the end of the first year. This will be undertaken by the Thesis Committee with one external person nominated by the Head of Department. This will be based mainly on the student's research proposal and will assess the student's readiness to engage in the proposed research. Failure in this can lead to a second attempt within four months; failure in the repeat will result in the expulsion from the program.

Graduation Requirements

Authorization to grant a doctoral degree will be confirmed upon completion of the following conditions:

- a. Satisfactory completion of all degree requirements within the specified time.
- b. Cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 for any course work requirements.
- c. Acceptance of a paper for publication in a specialized international journal and a conference contribution or a paper in a local journal.
- d. Successful defense of a thesis involving independent research.
- e. Submission of the required number of copies of the final approved version of the thesis.
- g. Clearance of all debts to the University.

Bench Fees

Bench Fees is financial support provided for PhD students to cover costs for consumables needed in their research work. However, bench fees do not cover expenses for conference attendance, international travel, major equipment purchases and personal salaries.

General Conditions:

1. Students have to pass the preliminary oral examination.
2. Students should not be working on funded research projects.
3. Students must not exceed the program's duration.
4. Students are required to register every semester.
5. Requested funds should not exceed RO 7,000 and the total money allocated should be distributed over the studies' duration.
6. Minor equipment requested should not exceed RO 2,000.

Application Procedure

1. The bench fees form (DPS 28) should be filled in by the concerned supervisor, be approved by the Head of Department and eventually be sent to the Dean of the college through the college's Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Studies and Research.
2. The signed form along with the proposed research plan should be sent to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies for recommendation. Final approval will be solicited from the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research.
3. The concerned college and the Finance Department will be informed of the final decision.



Tuitions Fees

Fee Type	Science Colleges*	Humanities Colleges*	College of Commerce and Economics	College of Law	Translation Program
Application fee	RO 10	RO 10	RO 10	RO 10	RO 10
Fee per credit hour for bridging courses	RO 50	RO 40	RO 50	RO 50	RO 40

Omani Students' Fees

Fee per credit hour for Master's courses	RO 90	RO 75	RO 125	RO 90	RO 75
Master's Thesis	RO 840	RO 700	-	RO 840	-
Total cost for Master's Programs	RO 3,000	RO 2,500	RO 4,500	RO 3,000	-
Total cost for PhD Programs	RO 5,000	RO 4,000	-	-	-

International Students' Fees

Fee per credit hour for Master's courses	RO 120	RO 105	RO 150	RO 120	RO 105
Master's Thesis	RO 1,120	RO 980	-	RO 1,120	-
Total cost for Master's Programs	RO 4,000	RO 3,500	RO 5,400	RO 4,000	-
Total cost for PhD Programs	RO 7,000	RO 5,000	-	-	-

Note: * Science Colleges: Science - Engineering - Agricultural and Marine Sciences - Medicine and Health Sciences.
* Humanities Colleges: Education - Arts and Social Sciences.

Remarks:

- All fees are quoted in Omani Rials (1 RO = 2.60 US Dollars).
- Fees are NOT subject to reduction.
- Fees for Masters Programs do not include undergraduate (bridging) courses.
- Fees will be paid every semester based on the number of registered credit hours.
- Students won't be able to register unless they have paid the full amount.
- A student will be required to pay course tuition again in case they repeat the course.



When I joined SQU, I found well equipped laboratories with modern technologies and equipment focused mainly on research that is based on country's strategic needs. The University is trying to support every student by providing e-journals, e-books, other academic resources as well as non-academic activities.

Um E Ammara, PhD student
Crop Science
College of Agricultural and Marine Science

Scholarships

The university offers the following types of scholarship annually:

- a. Exemption from tuition fees scholarships – these are limited to exemption from tuition fees only.
- b. Full teaching scholarships – these include exemption from tuition fees, and granting the student a stipend in addition to other benefits in return for part-time teaching responsibilities at the University.
- c. Research scholarships – these include exemption from tuition fees, and granting the student a stipend in addition to other benefits in return for involvement in research projects conducted at the University.

Benefits for Recipients of Scholarships

Recipients of full teaching and research scholarship are granted the following:

- a. Exemption from tuition fees. This exemption, however, does not cover housing, transportation, food, academic references, and any other fees required by the University.
- b. A monthly stipend of RO 250 for Master's students and RO 350 for PhD students for the duration of their scholarship.
- c. The use of the University libraries, laboratories and computers in accordance with SQU regulations.
- d. Medical care at SQU Hospital during the period of their scholarship in accordance with SQU regulations.
- e. International students may be accompanied by their spouses and children in accordance with the laws regulating the residency of expatriates in the Sultanate.
- h. Recipients of scholarships shall receive one economy class ticket to the nearest international airport to his/her residence.

Criteria for Applying for a Postgraduate Scholarship

- a. Filling out the required admission application form.
- b. Fulfilling the postgraduate program's admission requirements (Receiving an unconditional acceptance).
- c. Having a bachelor's degree with a CGPA of 3.00 or a higher on a 4-point scale.
- d. All candidates applying for full scholarship must be full time students.
- e. Applying for "exemption from tuition fees scholarships" is limited to students who have not been admitted to a postgraduate program before.
- h. Students already enrolled in a postgraduate program may apply for teaching and research scholarships if they have completed one semester but have not registered for the second.



Top-Ups

Supervisors can top-up SQU scholarships from their respective departments' research funds. The following guidelines for top-ups have been approved by the University Council and are based on the values of scholarships provided by the Research Council:

1. For students receiving SQU scholarships, the total financial support from the scholarship monthly stipend plus top-up should not exceed:
 - RO 800 per month for master's students (i.e maximum top-up of RO 550)
 - RO 1000 per month for doctoral students (i.e maximum top-up of RO 650)
2. Acceptable SQU-administered sources of top-up funds are:
 - His Majesty's Trust Fund
 - The Research Council Open Grants Program
 - External Grants and Contract Research
3. A student on scholarship should not have more than 2 top-ups sources simultaneously and total weekly hours worked outside thesis research should not exceed 15 hours (paid teaching and/or research assistance).
4. Control/Monitoring of top-ups
 - The current Research Assistant form should be modified to indicate whether the student has a scholarship and this should be verified by the supervisor or head of department.
 - The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies should give the Deanship of Research a list of scholarship recipients at the start of each academic year.
 - The Deanship of Research should check that the above limits are not exceeded.



Non-Academic Programs

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

These cover a variety of topics including the following:



1. Effective Supervision of Postgraduate Research

To help academics become effective supervisors by raising awareness of all facets of supervising postgraduate research students. Effective communication and enhancing students ability to work independently are emphasized.

2. Writing and Publishing Academic and Scientific Papers

To introduce junior researchers to the range of skills needed to take a piece of research from the proposal stage to a paper published in an international journal. Special emphasis is placed on constructing a paper, dealing with editors and reviewers and ethical issues.

3. Postgraduate Skills Enrichment

To provide basic training in the variety of skills needed to pursue research, communicate and publish the results and to operate in a professional manner in the work environment. This includes undertaking literature searches, proposal/thesis/paper writing, use of statistical packages, critical thinking, presentation and professional skills.

4. Basic Safety Procedures in the Laboratory and the Field

To ensure that students working in laboratories or the field are aware of relevant safety procedures. This includes fire safety, hazardous chemicals and basic first aid.



Privileges

Residence Card (Visa)

Sultan Qaboos University will assist the international postgraduate students in securing visas to study in Oman. Students should submit the necessary documents that will be required by the university for their visa application.

Accommodation

Omani female postgraduate students can apply for on-campus residence in accordance with the University Article (5462009/), where they are charged a small fee. However, providing on-campus residence for international female postgraduate students is still under discussion.

Male postgraduate students are not offered on-campus residence. The Deanship of Student Affairs and the Housing Department can assist postgraduate students in finding a suitable accommodation close to the University. Rental payment is the responsibility of the student. Sultan Qaboos University has plans to rent a building close to campus for all postgraduate students for a small fee. Future plans also include constructing on-campus residence halls.

There are several private property rental offices wherein you can lease a house from a landlord or a real estate agent. This can offer you an independent lifestyle and privacy. Properties available through the private rental market are generally unfurnished. Living with other people in a shared house is usually one of the more affordable options as many of the costs can be shared. Monthly rents vary according to the residence type and distance from the University. The closest residential place to SQU and where many students live is Al-Khoud, which is around 3km away from the University.

Cost of living estimates

Sharing a rented house close to the University (Al- Khoud) with two people may require you to spend the following (please note that the quote amounts are per person)

Monthly Expenses	
Rent for Accommodation	OR 100
Food and Groceries	OR 80
Bills (water & electricity)	OR 10
Public Transport Fare (from house to SQU)	OR 15
Total Cost	OR 205

On the other hand if you opt for renting your own apartment (one or two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen and two bathrooms) the expenses will be as follows:

Monthly Expenses	
Rent for Accommodation	OR 250 - 300
Food and Groceries	OR 80
Bills (water & electricity)	OR 15
Public Transport Fare (from house to SQU)	OR 25
Total Cost	OR 370 - 420

***Please note that the above estimates are a rough guide only and may be subject to inflation or market fluctuations.*

Food

The University does not offer meals or food expenses; however, a student may consider a budget in the following range for food expenses:

Meal	Amount
Breakfast	RO .500 – 1.500
Lunch	RO .700 – 3.00
Dinner	RO .700 – 3.00

But still, it depends on the student's personal choice and budget.

Transportation Inside Sultan Qaboos University

Transportation such as buses are available and free inside the university campus. Free campus buses are painted in red and green. There are buses for male students and buses for female students. Mini buses with the SQU logo are also available free for people going from the SQU Hospital to the FAMCO clinic.



Libraries

The University has one main and two specialized libraries (medical and business). In addition, there are four supporting libraries in the colleges and in the Mosque. SQU's libraries provide physical collections as well as electronic resources via the campus network, the Internet, and an inter-library loan service. At present, the SQU Library system includes close to 300,000 volumes, about 1,014 printed journals, 9,706 audiovisual materials, 18,600 electronic journals, 50,000 e-books, and about twenty-seven databases.



Health

Sultan Qaboos University offers free health care to international students, who are on postgraduate scholarships from SQU, at the University Hospital and family clinic (FAMCO). International students are responsible for any treatment costs incurred by seeking outside health care services.

Transportation Outside Sultan Qaboos University

A student's budget for transportation may depend on how far he/she lives from the University. If a student is living in Al-Khoud (a place nearest to SQU) the fare will range from RO .300 - .500 baiza only.

Licensed taxi are painted in orange and white and do not use a meter. Taxis work on two bases: 'engaged' which means you take the taxi for your own ride till you arrive to your destination. This option is of course more expensive. The other base is known as 'shared' in which you can have other passengers riding the taxi with you which makes the fare cheaper.



Internet Access

The University provides intranet and internet servers support for email and websites hosting. Postgraduate students can get their internet access from the CIS (Center for Information System). SQU web resources can be accessed on and off campus. But be aware that the usage of the internet inside the campus is limited due to website's content.

Students' Support and Services

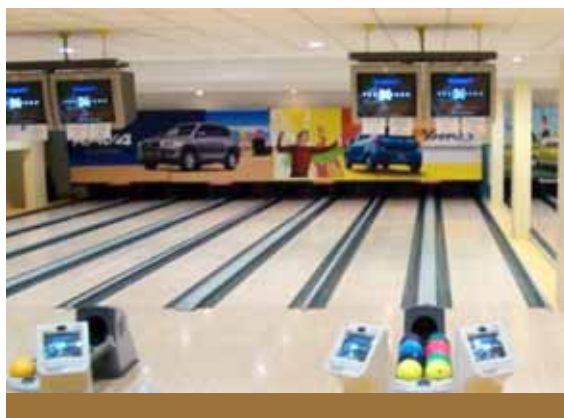
Sultan Qaboos University provides a stimulating and lively atmosphere in its academic and educational environment for its students to guarantee that they participate in the university life. Take a peek at what is on our list of services.

Arrival

The Sultan Qaboos University can meet international students, from Muscat International Airport upon arrival in Muscat City. One must apply and contact the assigned person from the university either by phone or by e-mail at least one week before the date of arrival. Please note that this arrangement is still under discussion.

Student Services Center

This center consists of two dining floors. The top floor is allocated for the banqueting hall the restaurant, and the cafeterias. The ground floor, contains a cafeteria serving snacks to students and visitors. It also includes public waiting places used by the students to have rest after or between classes to study, several shops and two television rooms, sometimes used for showing films collectively to provide the students with an educational and recreational atmosphere. One of the television rooms accommodates 46 students while the other accommodates 88 students. The ground floor also contains a hall for games which include three snooker tables, three billiard tables, two tennis tables, and a twelve-lane bowling alley provided with the latest design features with an excellent and distinct electronic system.



Health Services

For Omanis, health services are provided by a medical center which falls under the supervision of the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at SQU. The health center has a pharmacy as well, which is equipped with all the necessary instruments and medications. Medical services involve running comprehensive medical tests, some of which can be performed in the students health center while others in the laboratories of SQU Hospital. This health services is also free for all international students who are on postgraduate scholarships.



Sultan Qaboos University Hospital

Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, in partnership with the College of Medicine and Health Sciences, strive to assume a strong leadership role in academic excellence and maintain a reputation as a Premiere Referral Center for teaching, training, research and clinical area.



SQU Mosque

It is considered the precious gem on the necklace of SQU buildings. Besides the praying hall there is a large courtyard. For female students an oratory that accommodates 400 prayers has been added. SQU mosque includes facilities in which the comfort of the students, employees, and visitors was taken into consideration through providing them with a design that inspires tranquility and peace of mind.

Banking Services

The banking services are provided at SQU campus through the SQU Branch of Bank Muscat. The bank is located on the far east end of the University. Bank Muscat is open from Sunday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm.

The Post Office

The post office service is offered also on campus through which one can send letters and cards, but not parcels, to all countries all over the world. For receiving posts, one may use the mail boxes of SQU Colleges or hire a private mail box inside or outside the campus. This is located near Bank Muscat. There is also another post office available at SQU which is located near the Faculty Club.



The Commercial Area which caters for students' needs is located between the mosque and the Deanship of Student Affairs. The area includes a bookshop, a shop for photography and electronic services, a beauty salon, male and female lounges, and a supermarket. All the products and goods available in the supermarket are reduced in prices to be within a student's budget.



Student Representative

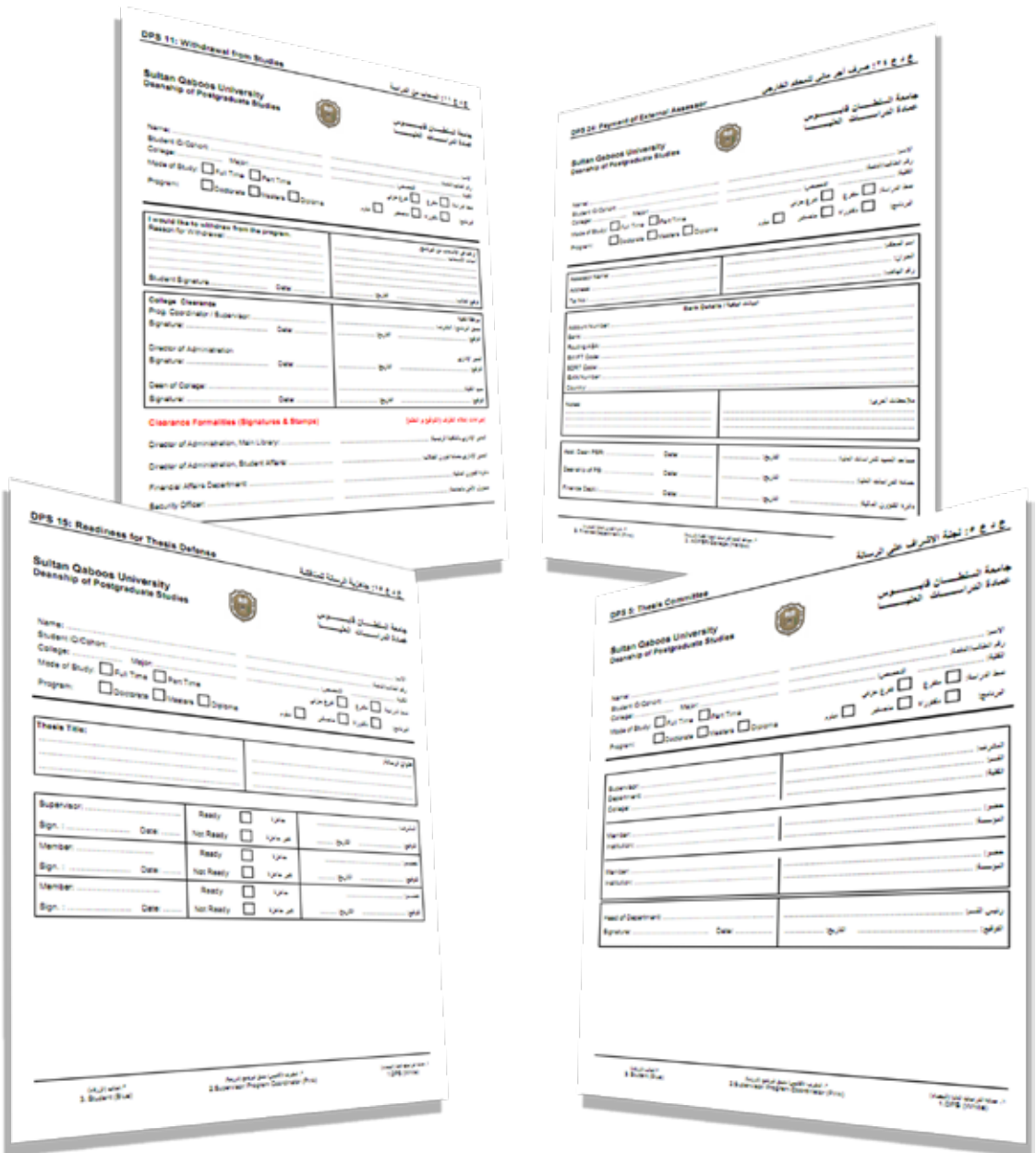
In each college there is an assigned student to be the voice of every international student. Any concerns, comments or suggestions pertaining to their studies can be expressed through the student buddy.





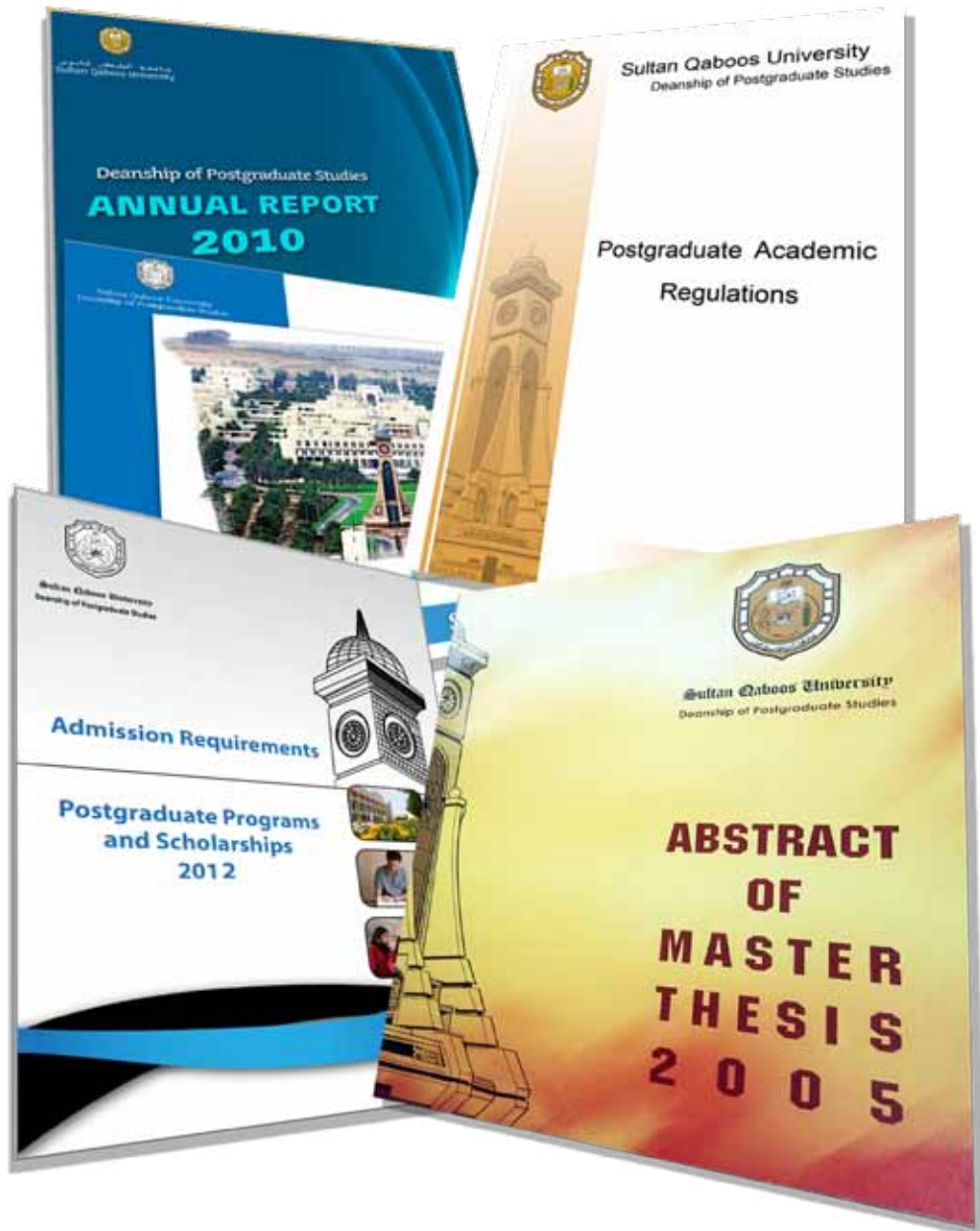
Appendices

DPS Forms



*All forms are in the PDF website: www.squ.edu.om/ps

Publications



**All Publications are in PDF, website: www.squ.edu.om/ps*

Transport Companies

Most Omanis have their own cars, as private cars are the most common means of transportation in the country. Foreign residents and visitors often travel by bus, shared taxis or a rental car. Many car rental companies operate throughout the Sultanate, some of which are franchise branches while others are local companies. The following list provides you with the most common car rental companies in Oman:

Al Jabar Al Akhdar Height Rent-A-Car

Tel: (+968) 2459 2036

GSM: (968) 99330459

Location: Bowsher, Muscat

Al Maha Rent A Car

Tel: (+968) 2460 3359, 2460 3376

GSM: (+968) 99467384

Location: Al Sarooj Complex, 2nd Floor, Muscat

Avis Rent A Car

Branches:

Hotel Incontinental

Tel: (+968) 2460 1224, 2460 7235

Crowne Plaza

Tel: (+968) 2456 6526

Grand Hyatt Hotel

Tel: (+968) 2469 6596

Seeb International Airport

Tel: (+968) 2451 0342

Salalah

Tel: (+968) 23202585

Budget Rent A Car

Branches:

Ruwi, Muscat

Tel: (+968) 2479 4721

Salalah Holiday Inn

Tel: (+968) 23235160

Salalah Airport

Tel: (+968) 23290097

Europcar

Branches:

Seeb International Airport

Tel: (+968) 2452 1369

Muscat Holiday Inn

Tel: (+968) 2488 4093

Sur Beach Hotel

Tel: (+968) 2554 0735

Hilton Hotel Salalah

Tel: (+968) 23212460

Salalah Airport

Tel: (+968) 99341814

Hertz Rent-A-Car

Branches:

Wattayah, Muscat

Tel: (+968) 2456 6208

Seeb International Airport (24 hours)

Tel: (+968) 2452 1187

Six Rent A Car

Branches:

Crowne Plaza

Tel: (+968) 2456 1427, 2456 0100 ext. 3202

Seeb International Airport

Tel: (+968) 2451 0224

Salalah

Tel: (+968) 23290908, 23294665



Essential Information

Police/Fire/Accident 9999

Regional Police Headquarters

Muscat Governorate 24 560 021
 Musandam Governorate 26 730 299
 Dhofar Governorate 23 219 399
 Al Buraymi Governorate 25 650 199
 Al Batinah Region 26 840 096
 Al Dahkiliyah Region 25 425 099
 A'Sharqiyah Region 25 540 599
 Al Wasta Region 23 436 099
 Coastguard Headquarters 24 714 888
 Dir. Gen. of Passports 24 510 571

Embassies – Call 1318
 24 600 100

Government Hospitals

Royal Hospital, Muscat 24 579 000
 Al Nahda Hospital 24 831 255
 Khoula Hospital 24 563 625
 Sultan Qaboos Hospital Muscat 24 413 355/
 24 415 747
 Sultan Qaboos Hospital Salalah 23 216 000

24 Hour Pharmacy 24 70 2542

Flight info. Muscat 24 519 223 or
 1101

Domestic flight information 24 519 230

Omantel Call Centre 1300

Omantel GSM Help line 1234

Nawras Call Centre 1500

Weather Forecast 24 519 113

Internet Enquiries 1313

Directory of Enquiries 1318

International 1319

Oman Air Offices 24 707 222

Salalah office 23 292 777

Oman Air Call Center 24 531 111

AAA Car Breakdown Services 24 605 555

Coach Services:

Comfort Line (MCT-Dubai) 24 702 191
 Oman National Transport Co.
 Muscat 24 708 522
 Salalah 23 292 773
 Gulf Transport Salalah 23 293 307

Courier Services:

Aramex 24 563 668
 DHL 24 563 599
 Federal Express 24 833 311

Ministry of Tourism Call Center 800 777 99

Useful Websites:

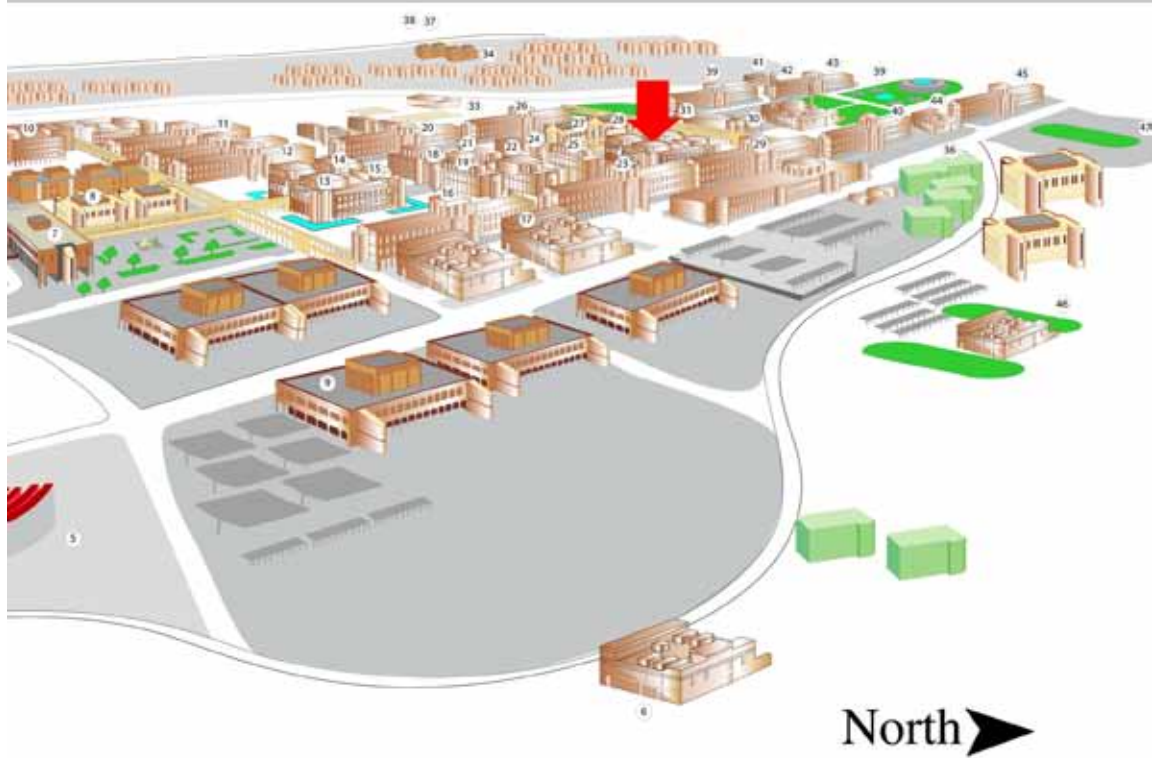
Ministry of Tourism www.mot.gov.om
 Royal Oman Police www.rop.gov.om
 Ministry of Information www.omannet.om



We aim to help postgraduate students achieve their academic aspirations, and to provide them with the practical skills which are needed in their pursuit of upgrading their knowledge.

*Deanship of
Postgraduate Studies*





- 17. College of Engineering Annex
- 18. Common Teaching Block D
- 19. Common Teaching Block C
- 20. College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences
- 21. Lecture Theatre (1)
- 22. Lecture Theatre (2-5)
- 23. College of Science Labs
- 24. Common Teaching Block B
- 25. Common Teaching Block A
- 26. College of Education
- 27. Deanship of Student Affairs
- 28. Cultural Center and Conference Hall
- 29. College of Science
- 30. Student Clinic
- 31. Commercial Center
- 32. Plants Garden

- 33. Females Sports Complex
- 34. Staff Culb
- 35. University Mosque
- 36. Student Services Center
- 37. Dental Clinic
- 38. Staff Clinic
- 39. Common Teaching Block E
- 40. Common Teaching Block F
- 41. Counseling and Guidance Center
- 42. Information Center
- 43. College of Commerce and Economics
- 44. Admission and Registration Deanship
- 45. College of Arts and Social Sciences
- 46. Males Sport Complex
- 47. Agricultural Experiment Station

