# Table of Content

1. Postgraduate Studies ............................................................................................................... 8  
1.1 Dean’s foreword ............................................................................................................. 10  
1.2. Dean’s Objectives ........................................................................................................... 11  
1.3. Academic Programs ......................................................................................................... 11  
1.4. Postgraduate .................................................................................................................... 11  
1.5. Scholarships ..................................................................................................................... 14  
1.6. Skills programs ............................................................................................................... 15  
2. Research ............................................................................................................................... 16  
2.1 Dean’s foreword ................................................................................................................. 18  
2.2. Funding and research areas ............................................................................................. 19  
  2.2.1. Introduction .............................................................................................................. 19  
  2.2.2. Internal Grants .......................................................................................................... 20  
  2.2.3. Joint Grants ............................................................................................................. 21  
  2.2.4. His Majesty’s Trust Fund (HMTF) Grants .............................................................. 21  
  2.2.5. The research council (TRC) Grants .......................................................................... 22  
  2.2.6. Consultancy Services (CS) ...................................................................................... 23  
  2.2.7. External Grants (EG) .............................................................................................. 23  
2.3. Research Output .............................................................................................................. 24  
  2.3.1 SQU Publications Indexed in Scopus and Web of Science ......................................... 24  
2.4 Benchmarking .................................................................................................................... 26  
2.5 Conference Attendance .................................................................................................. 27  
2.6 SQU Journals .................................................................................................................. 29  
2.7 Outreach activities .......................................................................................................... 29  
2.8 Intellectual Property Activities ....................................................................................... 30  
  2.8.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................... 30  
2.9 Research awards ............................................................................................................ 31  
  2.9.1 Introduction ............................................................................................................... 31  
  2.9.2 Best Researcher Awards ........................................................................................... 31  
  2.9.3 Best Paper Awards .................................................................................................... 31  
  2.9.4 Conferences, Symposia and Workshops .................................................................... 32  
  2.9.5 All event organized DVC-PSR office ...................................................................... 32
## Abbreviations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>College/Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAMS</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>College of Agricultural and Marine Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CASS</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>College of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CED</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>College of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEPS</td>
<td>U</td>
<td>College of Economics and Political Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COE</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COL</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>College of Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMHS</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>College of Medicine and Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CON</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
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<td>COS</td>
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<td>College of Science</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>The Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EBR</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Environmental and Biological Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDR</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Educational Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENR</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Energy and Non-Renewable Resources Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FR</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fundamental Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSR</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICR</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Information and Communication Systems Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRR</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Industry-Related Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHR</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Life and Health Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Material Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CS</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Consultancy Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVCPSR</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Deputy Vice- Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>External Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMTF</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>His Majesty’s Trust Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IG</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Internal Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JG</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>Joint Grants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQU</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sultan Qaboos University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQUH</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sultan Qaboos University Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRC</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Water Research Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EMC</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Earthquake Monitoring Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRC</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Humanities Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OGRC</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Oil and Gas Research Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OSC</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>Omani Studies Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSGISC</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>Remote Sensing and GIS Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DVC Structure
As the national university of the Sultanate of Oman, SQU has been committed to fulfilling its critical role in the education, research and social and economic development of the nation. Over the past decade, SQU has made significant progress in becoming the country’s major research institution for disseminating research knowledge, providing effective advice and producing quality manpower. This is reflected in the university’s research mission - to develop a research culture and capacity, generate knowledge and find solutions for strategic issues in Oman.

This report presents the postgraduate and research achievements of SQU during the year 2015 and 2016. It sheds light on research funding, output, support, and awards. It concludes with research reports from the colleges and research centers.

SQU continues to provide the resources needed to increase the postgraduate programmes, particularly the doctoral programmes, through state-of-the-art facilities, scholarships and bench fees. We are delighted to see increasing numbers of postgraduate students, particularly international students, applying for our postgraduate programmes. The postgraduate programmes have been regularly scrutinized to ensure that they meet international standards.

The university has made good progress in implementing its research strategy in terms of developing research regulations, expanding research funding, promoting research centers and chairs, increasing research collaborations and enhancing research output.

SQU maintains its annual Internal Grants system and additional amounts were allocated to the colleges to account for the increase in their staff. We are pleased to observe more faculty members applying for His Majesty’s Trust Fund, which was established to support strategic research that addresses the needs of the country. We are proud of the number of projects awarded to our faculty members by TRC. More faculty members are engaged in procuring External Grants and Consultancy Services.

We are committed to supporting the growing number of conferences, symposia, and workshops held at the university, as well as the rising number of faculty members attending conferences abroad. The academic publications of the staff in SQU journals and recognized international journals and conference proceedings have been increasing annually.

I wish to thank all staff for their great efforts and commitment to raising the university’s research profile so that we can fulfill His Majesty’s aspirations and become an internationally recognized research-intensive university.

H. E. Dr. Ali Saud Al Bemani
Vice Chancellor Sultan Qaboos University
Foreword by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor
for Postgraduate Studies and Research

Like previous versions, the 2016 edition of the Postgraduate Studies and Research Report highlights some of Sultan Qaboos University’s most notable recent achievements in the areas of research and postgraduate studies. As many readers are already aware, research and postgraduate studies have been highlighted by SQU’s Strategic Plan 2016-2040 as key domains for the university’s continuing development in serving Oman and its people. It is for these reasons that research and postgraduate studies receive high levels of support across the university.

One of the most immediate examples of this support is the well-developed research and postgraduate studies infrastructure that SQU can boast, with this being second to none among higher education institutions in Oman and among the best that can be found across the entire Arab Gulf.

This infrastructure includes advanced laboratories and scientific equipment that are found in the 9 colleges, in addition to 13 dedicated research centers, including the recently-established Sustainable Energy Research Centre, the Nanotechnology Research Centre and the Medical Research Centre. This is in addition to the university’s diverse array of academic expertise, postgraduate programs, research networks, and funding opportunities that have contributed to its standing as a regional leader across many fields of scientific endeavor.

Since the last edition of this booklet, the university’s academic journals have also continued to increase their international visibility and impact. While all six of the university’s journals are now indexed in EBSCO and J-Gate, which is one of the most comprehensive databases of global e-literature in the world. A great deal of work has also gone in to applying for indexation in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Scopus, and Web of Science. The application process for these indices is generally very involved; however, we remain confident that the excellent work done with these journals by their editorial teams will ensure their acceptance within the near future.

By working together to support postgraduate studies and research at SQU, everyone at the university can be assured that they are contributing to Oman’s continued social and economic progress and advancement, both now and into the future.

Dr. Rahma Al-Mahrooqi
Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Postgraduate Studies and Research
Sultan Qaboos University
Chapter 1

POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

Deanship of Postgraduate Studies is seeking like other units of Sultan Qaboos University to provide the best services to university students in masters and doctoral levels. The present report provides a presentation of the achievements of the deanship in the academic year 2016 and the work of developmental efforts in improving postgraduate studies at the university.

- 94 Postgraduates Programs
- 619 Enrolled Students
- 365 Graduated Students
- 141 International Students
- 80 Scholarships
Deanship of Postgraduate Studies

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies takes an overall responsibility for the administration of postgraduate doctoral, master’s and diploma programs at Sultan Qaboos University (SQU). The Deanship aims to support these programs and ensure world class training and a quality experience for all postgraduate students.

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies facilitates and supports postgraduate programs by administering postgraduate academic regulations, providing a range of scholarships, marketing programs through advertisements, informative brochures and booklets, offering a range of workshops that develop faculty and student skills-relevant to research, publication and professionalism, and coordinating the defense/examination of theses.

Doctoral programs are offered in 34 different specializations from six colleges namely; Science, Engineering, Agricultural & Marine Sciences, Medicine & Health Sciences, Education, and Arts and Social Studies. Doctoral programs are research-based with the option of a limited course work and currently close to 148 students are pursuing their doctoral degrees at SQU.

Master’s programs have been running at the university since the early nineties with a total of 62 different programs across nine colleges. Master’s programs are available in four options: by thesis, by coursework and thesis, by coursework, and by coursework and comprehensive examination. Currently, over 1,260 master students are enrolled at SQU.

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

Prof. Abdullah Khamis Ali Ambusaidi
Dean of Postgraduate Studies
1.2 Deanship’s Objectives

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

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

1.4 Postgraduate Programs

Sultan Qaboos University offered in the academic year 2015-2016 programmes at the master’s level, and 32 program at the Ph.D. Colleges of arts and Social Sciences and the College of Education offered the largest number of programmes as shown in figure 1.1:

![Figure 1.1: Number of Academic Programs by College in 2016](image)

Sultan Qaboos university’s postgraduate programmes attract a large number of applications. This gives a good indication of the quality of the programmes offered. In the academic year 2015-2016, the deanship received 2334 postgraduate applications as shown in figure 1.2. The college of education received the largest number of applications (672 applications) which represents (29%) of the total number of applications followed by the college of Economics and Political Science (16%) and college of Engineering (15%). Figure 1.3 presents the total number of students admitted to each college in the academic year 2015-2016. It is obvious that the acceptance rate varies between the different colleges. The highest acceptance rate was observed in the college of Agricultural and Marine Science (44%) followed by college of Science (38%). Economics and Political Science has the lowest acceptance rate which is around 18%.
Postgraduate studies and research report

Figure 1.2: Number of postgraduate applications for the academic year 2015-2016

**College of Agricultural & Marine Sciences**
- Master: 29
- Ph.D: 8
- Diploma: 17

**College of Arts and Social Sciences**
- Master: 88
- Ph.D: 13
- Diploma: 4

**College of Economics and Political Science**
- Master: 69
- Ph.D: 10
- Diploma: 56

**College of Education**
- Master: 191
- Ph.D: 7
- Diploma: 72

**College of Engineering**
- Master: 85
- Ph.D: 40
- Diploma: 73

**College of Medicine and Health Science**
- Master: 20
- Ph.D: 21
- Diploma: 68

**College of Science**
- Master: 73
- Ph.D: 5

**College of Nursing**
- Master: 36
- Ph.D: 5
- Diploma: 608

**TOTAL ADMISSION**
- Total: 897

Figure 1.3: Number of postgraduate students admitted by colleges in the academic year 2015-2016
Figure 1.4 shows the actual number of postgraduate students enrolled in different programs at SQU. It is clear that the number of students registered for these different courses were noticeably lower than the actual number admitted by the different colleges (see figure 1.3). For example, out of 201 students accepted by the college of Education in its different programs, 154 students were only enrolled. The college of Law, College of Arts and Social Sciences, and College of Engineering received the highest enrollment rate with 88%, 100% and 86% respectively.

Figure 1.5 demonstrates the total number of students (both masters and PhDs) that graduated in the academic year 2015-2016. The College of Education has the highest number of graduates 38%, followed by the Colleges of Arts and Social Sciences 21% and Science 13%.

Figure 1.4: Number of postgraduate students enrolled by colleges in the academic year 2015-2016 (ALL Cohort)

Figure 1.5: Number of graduates in the academic year 2015-2016
In academic year, 2015-2016, a total number of 141 international students were enrolled in different colleges as shown in Figure 1.6. The College of Engineering enrolled 49 international students while the College of Arts and Social Sciences enrolled 8 students.

Figure 1.6: Number of International students enrolled in programs for the academic year 2015-2016 (All Cohort)

1.5 Scholarships

Sultan Qaboos University annually offers a numbers of master and Ph.D. scholarships. Figures 1.7 and 1.8 present the distribution of these scholarships among colleges for the academic year 2015-2016. The College of Arts and Social Science and the College of Science acquired the highest number of master's scholarships while Ph.D. scholarships were more or less evenly distributed between the colleges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Name</th>
<th>TOTAL APPROVED</th>
<th>TOTAL AWARDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Agricultural &amp; Marine Sciences</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Social Sciences</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Economics and Political Science</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Engineering</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Law</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Medicine and Health Science</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Science</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.7: Number of Master Scholarship for the academic year 2015-2016
1.6 Skills Programs

The Deanship of Postgraduate Studies offers a range of skills programs for SQU students, academics, and researchers. These skills are conducted in both Arabic and English and they are needed for the development of postgraduate students. Figure 1.9 lists the programs and the number of participants in each program for academic year 2015-2016. New skills programs were introduced in Spring 2016 (see Figure 1.10).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>AR</th>
<th>ENG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basics of Academic Writing</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>134</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of research tools</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latex program</td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic of communication skills</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to define your thesis (Theory &amp; Practical)</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodology of scientific research</td>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EndNote program</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to choose your research topic, and write a good research plan and abstract.</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to avoid plagiarism</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills to use electronic information sources search engines</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing the chapter of literature review</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal writing</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical inquiries and research design</td>
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<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thesis writing</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big data (Big challenges &amp; big opportunities)</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designing online questionnaires</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation in academic writing APA style</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of the interviews</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Statistical package for the social sciences, SPSS</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced level in the data analysis using SPSS</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research ethics</td>
<td>25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlas.ti for qualitative data analysis</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.9: Programs and workshops offered in the academic year 2015-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>AR</th>
<th>ENG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodology of Scientific Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of research tools</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research ethics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1.10: New programs and workshop offered in Spring 2016
Chapter 2

RESEARCH

The Deanship of Research at Sultan Qaboos University oversees the scientific research policies and activities of the university. It ensures that the research policies and procedures serve the needs of researchers and that they are clear, transparent and effective. Moreover, the Deanship of Research has been keen to promote the research culture and productivity through strategic planning and policy formulation in relation to building research capacity, monitoring research training, activities, and innovation.

789
Published papers

502
Conferences attendance

17
Media Production

127
Research projects

4
Granted Patents

3,068,082
Total research budget in OMR
Dean of Research’s Message

The Deanship of Research oversees scientific research policies and activities. It ensures that the research policies and procedures serve the needs of researchers and that they are clear, transparent and effective. It administers all types of research grants including strategic (from His Majesty’s Trust Fund), internal, external (including grants from The Research Council), joint, and consultancies. It also supports research innovations, technology transfer and the protection of intellectual property. The publication of scholarly books and scientific journals, the administration of conference attendance and the linking of scientific research to society also fall under the responsibilities of the Deanship of Research.

The Deanship works closely with the university Research Board, the university Academic Publications Board, the colleges Assistant Deans of Postgraduate Studies and Research, the university Research Centers and the funding agencies and organizations in order to fulfill its mission. I hope this booklet will provide clear information about scientific research at Sultan Qaboos University.

Dr. Yahya Al-Wahaibi
Dean of Research
2.2 Funding and Research Areas

2.2.1 Introduction

The Research Department is responsible for the financial and administrative management of the research projects funded by internal and external research grants including the strategic projects funded from His Majesty’s Trust Fund. The following sections report some statistics about the research projects funded in 2016 under each of the funding schemes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scheme</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total Budget OMR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HMTF Projects</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>378,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint Projects</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>105,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IG Projects</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>530,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRC Projects</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>689,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CS Projects</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>1,100,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EG Projects</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>268,365</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,072,562</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2.1 Funding and research area summary 2016
2.2.2 Internal Grants

Internal grants are derived from the university’s annual budget and other internal resources, as well as unconditional research donations made to the university by outside bodies, without stipulating specific restrictions on the research topic. In 2016, internal grants (IG) were awarded to 84 projects with a total value of OMR 530,309 and 59 IG funded projects completed.

- Science-based colleges received 69.5% the total budget
- 5.08% of the total number of projects supported by internal grants in 2016 are in the materials research theme.
2.2.3 Joint Grants

The university may allocate a budget to match funds from other institutions to form a Joint Grants Fund to jointly support a research program. This type of research grant is governed by a signed research agreement with the other institution. In 2016, seven joint projects were awarded in collaboration with United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) with a total budget of OMR 105,000 in 2016 as shown in figure 2.5.

SQU has participated in the GCC Research Program which was established in Doha in May 2016. The program aimed to coordinate, refine and enhance collaboration between the GCC universities in all aspects of academic life. SQU managed to jointly fund 3 projects through the GCC Research Program:

1. Project one: A Novel GelMA Hydrogel-based microfluidic blood-brain barrier prototype for in vitro studies of cancer metastasis with Qatar university and the American University of Sharjah.
2. Project Two: With Kuwait University and Nizwa University on Biotechnological applications of marine biofilms developing on solid surfaces in the Arabian Gulf.
3. Project Three: Sexual stage specific protein genes of Theileria Istoquardi: a putative target for transmission-blocking intervention and markers for transmission dynamics with King Abdullah university of Science and Technology (KAUST).

2.2.4 His Majesty’s Trust Fund (HMTF) Grants

The generous funds donated by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos are used to support long-term, multidisciplinary strategic research projects of 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.

In the year 2016, a total of 17 strategic research proposals were submitted. Based on the recommendations of external and internal referees and the Research Board, 5 proposals were awarded with a total grants of OMR 378,600 as shown in figure 2.6.
In 2016, a total of 7 HMTF funded projects were completed and final reports were submitted. Figure 2.7 details the completed projects in 2016.

2.2.5 The Research Council (TRC) Grants

The Research Council projects are funded through Open Research Grants or Strategic Grants. Open Research Grants are funds for academic research. While, Strategic grants support strategic research activities and aim to gain or consolidate leadership in key areas. They must relate to themes identified by the Research Council.

The Research Council awarded a total of 5 projects with total amount of RO 689,650 in 2016. Most of this went to science-based colleges which received 89% of the total grants as illustrated in figure 2.8.
2.2.6 Consultancy Services (CS)

Industry and business from the private and public sectors stand to benefit from university’s know-how and technical facilities through consultancy activities sponsored by them. This typically involves applied research for problem solving and knowledge sharing.

In 2016, twenty-two agreements were signed with a total amount of OMR 1,100,638. Most of this amount was obtained by the research centres and the College of Engineering in energy and non-renewable resources research and environmental and biological research.

![Figure 2.9: Consultancy Services at SQU in 2016 (by College/Centres)](image)

**Figure 2.9: Consultancy Services at SQU in 2016 (by College/Centres)**

![Figure 2.10: Consultancy Services at SQU in 2016 (by Theme)](image)

**Figure 2.10: Consultancy Services at SQU in 2016 (by Theme)**

2.2.7 External Grants (EG)

External grants are received from national, regional and international sponsors, to support academic research in certain specific fields.

In 2016, researchers at SQU acquired external grants with a total amount of RO 268,365. The Colleges of Medicine and Health Sciences, and Agricultural and Marine Sciences received these funds as presented in the figure 2.11.

![Figure 2.11: External Grants at SQU in 2016](image)
2.3 Research Output

2.3.1 SQU Publications Indexed in Scopus and Web of Science

Academic publishing is an important academic aspect, given a great deal of attention by universities since it is the main instrument of disseminating knowledge to the community. It is also a significant indicator of their scientific richness and research efforts. The quality and quantity of the university’s publications are used to determine its international reputation.

This section documents SQU publications in internationally recognized publication databases such as Scopus and Web of Science. All papers published in Arabic and in international journals and conferences proceedings published in non-indexed journals and not featured. Therefore, Arabic publications from humanities-based colleges may not be included.

The total number of SQU publications appearing in Scopus-indexed journals is featured in Fig. 2.12. This number continued to increase from 2012 to 2016. The number of publications increased steadily from 688 in 2012 to 800 in 2013 before reaching 910 in 2015. Despite a number of economic challenges facing the Arab Gulf region during the time, SQU managed to publish 879 papers in Scopus-indexed journals during 2016. Fig 2.13 shows that the published articles and conference paper were the vast majority of SQU papers featured in Scopus indexed journals. Figure 2.14 indicates that medicine and engineering papers accounted for the highest number of SQU’s academic publications.
Figures 2.15 presents the number of refereed research publications produced at SQU that appeared in Web of Science indexed journals for the period from 2012 to 2016.

Fig. 2.16 illustrates SQU's overall research performance output by counting number of published papers, citations and viewed counts in the year 2016, according to the Scopus database. The share of SQU publications that are in the top 10% of journals Percentile is 20.8% publication.

The number of citations is used internationally as an indicator of scientific output quality and influence. SQU publications received 1520 citations with a view count of 14,140 viewed in 2016. The average number of Scopus views per publication is 16.1, and the Field-Weighted Views Impact of SQU publications is 1.36, which indicates that the publications have been viewed more than would be expected based on the world average for similar publications.
2.4 Benchmarking

The research productivity of SQU is compared with research and academic organizations in Oman and with some GCC universities using Scopus data. Fig. 2.17 compares SQU publications obtained from Scopus against other institutions in Oman for the year 2016. In this regard SQU outperformed other institutions.
Fig. 2.18 compares the research output in terms of the number of publications of six GCC public universities using the Scopus database. Sultan Qaboos University is ranked number 3 in terms of publications after Qatar and KFPUM universities.

2.5 Conference Attendance

Sultan Qaboos University supports its staff to participate in conferences and scientific meetings in various parts of the world by providing them with financial support and facilitating travel arrangement. Participation in such events is an opportunity to learn about the latest scientific developments and offers a chance to be in contact with counterparts from around the world to exchange ideas and engage in scholarly dialogue.

The Conference Central Budget is the principal source of funding to support conference attendance. The total expenditure from the Conference Central Budget is OMR 189,723 (Fig. 2.19).
The Conference Central Budget is the principal source of funding to support conference attendance. The total expenditure from the Conference Central Budget, is OMR 189,723 (Fig.2.20).

Figure 2.20 Distribution of conference attendance approved for SQU units and colleges in by participation type 2016

Figure 2.21 Distribution of conference attendance approved for SQU units and colleges in 2016
2.6 SQU Journals

Refereed academic journals are an essential component of higher education institutions and research centers. Such journals contribute immensely to the generation of knowledge, facilitate its exchange among researchers and stakeholders, and constitute one of the main benchmarks for assessing the quality and quantity of academic output. It is through academic publications that universities and research centers show their excellence and strengthen their presence in global scholarship communities. Such platforms provide great opportunities for researchers to publish their work and interact with the international academic community.

Figure 2.22 Number of SQU referred academic journal papers issued in 2016

2.7 Outreach activities

The Outreach section under the Department of Academic Publication and Outreach handles the role of publicizing SQU’s research activities and achievements through internal and external media. Fig 2.23 illustrates these outreach activities.

Figure 2.24 number of the outreach activities
2.8 Intellectual Property Activities

2.8.1 Introduction

Sultan Qaboos University supports its faculty and staff in obtaining commercial development of intellectual and other property resulting from their research. Fig 2.24 shows intellectual property activities in terms of patent applications, copyrights and trademarks for SQU between 2004 to 2016.

![Figure 2.24 Number of IP activities at SQU](image)

Patent applications that has been received are in the following areas: electrical engineering, communication engineering, mechanical engineering, nanotechnology, food technology, earth science, chemistry, pharmaceutical, medicine, and teaching tools.

Areas of the copyrighted materials are: software, mobile applications, educational technology tools and educational materials.
2.9 Research awards

2.9.1 Introduction

In recognition of its staff’s research quality and productivity, every year the university offers the Best Researcher Awards and Best Paper Awards during the University Day celebration. The colleges nominate their candidates after a thorough selection process by the College Boards and the College Research Committees. SQU also supports research awards to students through their colleges. Moreover, faculty members, researchers, and students receive research awards from regional and international research organizations reflecting the quality of their research performance.

2.9.2 Best Researcher Awards

In 2016, seventeen faculty members won the best researcher award.

2.9.3 Best Paper Awards

Sultan Qaboos University honors the author(s) of the best paper from each SQU journal during University Day. The Editorial Board of each SQU journal makes the selection of the winning papers. In 2016, the best paper awards were given to four papers as shown in Figure 2.26.

Figure 2.25 the list of best researcher award

Figure 2.26 Best Paper Award for 2016 (University Day – 2 May 2017)
2.9.4 Conferences, Symposia and Workshops

SQU organized and hosted a total of 11 conferences in 2016, covering a wide range of topics in the sciences and humanities. Some information about these conferences is given in Figure 2.28. SQU offers substantial funding for these events which is supported by additional funds from The Research Council (TRC) and other public and private sector organizations.

2.9.5 All event organized by DVCPSR office

In addition to the research support provided by the university through hosting conferences, symposia, and workshops, publishing refereed journals and books and support to attend conferences abroad, the DVC’s office organizes different events as illustrated in figure 2.28. The university strives to engage relevant governmental and private organizations in these scientific events in order to disseminate research findings and innovative knowledge to the community.