



Capability Statement

UOW in Dubai

The University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) was the first international and Australian university in the UAE, and is arguably Australia's most successful offshore higher education institution.

UOWD's programs are tailored to meet the demands and needs of today's global employment market. With the support of industry experts, it integrates real-world practices with theory to ensure that students are equipped to address complex business problems.

Established in 1993 as an English language centre, UOWD is now a highly reputable university with more than 3,500 students from 108 nationalities enrolled across 59 programs.

Programs include foundation courses, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees spanning 10 industry sectors, including engineering, business, IT, education studies, nursing, communications and media. In addition, UOWD College offers a wide range of general and pre-tertiary language courses and communication development programs. These programs are intrinsically linked to the development of the UAE.

UOWD integrates teaching, research, community and business linkages at global and regional levels to value-add economically, socially and culturally.

In 2018, UOWD celebrated its 25th anniversary and had its license renewed for a further five years until 2023.

FULLY-ACCREDITED PROGRAMS

UOW in Dubai is accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) as the first blended learning higher education institution in the region.

Commencing with five graduate programs, UOWD started implementing an institution-wide Blended Learning Strategy in 2019, with online initiatives incorporated into courses for the purpose of enhancing student learning experiences, introducing higher levels of engagement for students and to utilise Learning Management System (LMS) analytics to better appreciate how to provide students with more strategic support and direction.

The project was a response to the demands of the postgraduate market in the UAE. It comprises a range of technologies to support the online components of blended learning, coupled with condensed, intensive face-to-face teaching instances.

All academic programs at UOWD are accredited by the Ministry of Education – Higher Education Affairs through the Commission for Academic Accreditation. UOWD also holds an academic authorisation from the Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority.

In addition, all UOWD programs are quality assured by UOW Australia, which is registered with the Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency, the national regulator of the higher education sector in Australia.

As a dual-accredited institution, UOWD students are able to receive either UAE or Australian qualifications. UOWD degrees are recognised within the UAE, in the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) and internationally for further education and employment in the private and public sectors.

UOWD delivers an academic curriculum and teaching practices that reflect the quality and standards of UOW Australia, which is globally ranked among the top 200 universities and is among the world's top 1 per cent of institutions for graduate employment outcomes.



UNDERTAKING MAJOR TRANSFORMATION

UOWD's expansion mirrors the growth of the UAE population in general. UOWD has the experience and expertise to offer in many of the areas of interest to the UAE due to its understanding of the region, research strengths, and capacity to produce skilled human capital.

In response to an increasingly competitive market, UOWD has developed a transformation plan to increase student enrolments. As part of this, UOWD has an ambitious plan for the roll-out of new programs.

In addition to major revisions and the launch of several new programs that contributed to a 35 per cent increase in new student enrolments in 2019, UOWD received accreditation from its regulator, the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) for the Bachelor of Communications & Media, Master of International Relations and Master of Media & Communications programs.

In 2019, UOWD officially launched the Master of Educational Studies and took the lead in hosting the first inter-university workshop on Teacher Competencies in the UAE, supported by the CAA and the Ministry of Education.

New programs offered in 2019 included Bachelor of Communications and Media, Bachelor of Nursing (Conversion), and a new major in Big Data in Computer Science.

In 2019, UOWD College launched the computer-delivered International English Language Testing System (IELTS) and partnered with English Plus Language and Training Centre to deliver IELTS testing at Abu Dhabi. This is UOWD's second testing centre in Abu Dhabi. The College's Foundation Studies Program achieved an increase of 250 per cent in new students in 2019 compared to the previous year.

In anticipation of more student growth and to support contemporary pedagogy, UOWD developed a new state-of-the-art campus to begin operations at Knowledge Park in 2020.

DIVERSITY IN RESEARCH

UOWD's vision is to promote a culture of research, innovation and collaboration to bring sustainable benefits to business and society. As part of this, UOWD continues to invest in growing its international research profile through a range of initiatives including supporting interdisciplinary and inter-campus UOW/ UOWD research projects.

A recent example of this has been the Desert Rose collaboration, where students and staff from UOWD, UOW Australia, and TAFE NSW worked together to design a sustainable building for the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018. For this global competition, the design had to not only provide a home for occupants with age-related disabilities, but also consider cultural elements and Dubai's climate. The team was awarded second place from more than 28 education institutions around the world.

Research at UOWD maintains links with a wide range of organisations such as Maersk, ADNOC, Arabtec, Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Dubai Municipality, Dubai Quality Group, and European Foundation of Quality Management.

SIMULATION AND SMART SYSTEMS RESEARCH CENTRE

Through the Simulation and Smart System Research Centre, UOWD has become renowned for innovations that impact a variety of sectors, including health, education, urban planning, sustainability, engineering, and computing.

The Centre (S3) was established in 2014 and is focused on design and development of innovative hardware and software solutions in simulation and smart systems. The facility is the first of its kind in the UAE and houses state-of-the-art technology, including holography, smart sensor devices, simulation and haptic rendering software and hardware, and 3D modelling systems.

Research groups at the Centre focus on the application of technology to address lifestyle challenges that are particularly relevant to the UAE, such as healthcare, urban planning, transportation, energy use and security systems.

The three discipline areas are: Smart Systems, Robotics, Sensor Networks and Ubiquitous Research; Sound and Music Computing, Digital Signal Processing; and Information Retrieval and Artificial Intelligence.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INNOVATION

Support from industry partners helps students integrate real-world practices with theory, so they are equipped to address complex business problems.

UOWD's industry and business partners include Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, Australian Business Council Dubai, China National Petroleum Corporation, Dubai International Financial Centre, Dubai Courts, Dubai Police, Dubai Municipality, UAE Defence/Military, Dubai Quality Group, EHL Management Services, Emirates Islamic Bank, Emirates NBD, Emirates Pilots Club, Financial Audit Department of the Government of Dubai, Magrudy's Education Division, Majid Al Futtaim, Roads & Traffic Authority, Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration and Production, TECOM Investments ZTE Corporation and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

UOWD maintains a range of partnerships with academic organisations both in the GCC and internationally, including the BINUS University in Indonesia, Community Colleges for International Development USA, Emirates College of Technology in Abu Dhabi, Euro Jordanian Advanced Business Institute Jordan, Fast Lane, National Research Foundation, and the British University in Dubai.

UOWD's executive training courses and knowledge exchange programs offer the opportunity for business professionals to collaborate directly with the University to achieve their goals.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ALUMNI

The University is dedicated to engaging with its communities through public lectures, academic events and recreational events. Annual events include charity events, UOWD's Innovation Fair, Mathalon Competition, Industry Expert Lecture Series, Robotics Competition, and Tech-G Summer Camp for Girls.

UOWD's success is not only based on its academic excellence, but is largely due to its alumni who are doing remarkable work in the UAE region and beyond. UOWD has more than 10,100 alumni, many whom now occupy high-profile positions in public and private sector organisations both locally and across the globe.

UOWD has teamed up with Dubai Business Women Council for the first study of its kind in the region which will contribute to public policy initiatives aimed to heighten career leadership development opportunities among women in the UAE. A Women in Leadership Summit is held annually, and the UOWD-DBWC Women in Leadership series continues to be supported.

Another community partnership UOWD is involved in is supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) development in schools. Activities range from consulting and offering advice on curriculum development for teaching programming to running competitions that challenge students' knowledge, creativity and teamwork.

STUDENT MOBILITY INITIATIVES

A group of top achieving students from UOW spent a full semester at UOWD in 2019 as part of UOW's Global Leaders Development Program (GOLEaD). This experience included visits to industry and cultural centres in the UAE.

To further grow student mobility, UOWD's Faculty of Business inaugurated a unique summer study abroad business program in 2019 in Munich, Germany. This global program, in collaboration with Munich Business Academy (German incubator) and Hochschule der Bayerischen Wirtschaft University (HDBW), offered an opportunity to develop a holistic problem-solving approach in a global context.

UOW WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO DELIVER EXCEPTIONAL OUTCOMES

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