



**Dhofar
University**
Vision for the Future...



OCTOBER 2023

FOUNDATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER





New beginnings offer a fresh outlook. What lies ahead may have many unknowns, but in that distant horizon are opportunities and the promises of significant accomplishments. It is without question that Dhofar University has made substantial and meaningful improvements in areas of institutional and academic excellence, as well as in student experience and academic achievement. This continued progression is a testament to the focus, dedication, and unwavering belief that the best version of DU is yet to come.

In this issue, we look at how the FP fits within DU's own vision of the future, and how the FP has shaped and prepared students for their studies moving forward. Our goals and accomplishments all contribute to this tremendous effort.

Like the sun rising over a distant eastern horizon, the start of a new academic year is full of anticipation and hope. Whether individually or collectively, there are goals that we have all set for the betterment of our students and our university. So, we keep our eyes on that distant horizon, in our minds a clear focus of a vision for the future, as we walk forward.

Editorial Staff

WELCOME

EDITORIAL TEAM

Erica Bailey

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FP CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

- November 16
Last Day of FP Classes - Term I
- November 29 - 30
National Day (*tentative*)
- December 10
Start of FP Term II
- January 11
The Sultan's Accession Day (*tentative*)
- February 6 - 8
College Registration - Spring Semester
- February 8
Al-Israa wal Meraaj (*tentative*)
- February 22
Last Day of FP Classes - Term II
- February 25
Teacher Day
- March 10 - 14
DU Student Week



OTHER EVENTS



Arabic Class for Non-Native Speakers - June 2023



IELTS Teacher Training Workshop - October 2023



New Student Orientation - September 2023

The *Future* of the Foundation Program

Universities spend a lot of time preparing students for a bright future – and Dhofar University is no exception. With that in mind, we sat down with Dr. Syed Ahsan Jamil, Deputy Vice Chancellor, to discuss how the Foundation Program gives students their first step into the university experience and how it shapes their future at DU.

“The Foundation people have to really migrate and transform most of the students to become acquainted to the university environment coming out of the schooling system,” says Dr. Jamil about how the FP impacts students.



“The FP plays a very pivotal role in preparing the foundation for most of our students. It takes a lot of effort and time to be able to ensure that there’s a smooth bridge that lets them cross over from the school into a university.”



Math • IT • English

Working Together to Succeed

Teachers of the FP join with other college faculty members to provide our students with the essential skills needed to succeed at DU. "I believe that the FP has a great role to play in the future," adds Dr. Jamil. "Students must take advantage of the Foundation Program [and] this is really a kind of exercise for them to know how university education is."



Dr. Syed Jamil

Deputy Vice Chancellor

"I think the Foundation Program's basic objective and goal - which is defined by the government itself - is to provide a kind of holistic development and prepare the students for the colleges."

Not only do students learn valuable skills in English, mathematics and computer sciences, they get a chance to be a part of a cohort of other students across all disciplines and majors. According to Dr. Jamil, this is a "golden chance" for students to build valuable friendships and gain different perspectives. Improving "study skills and getting adapted to the university system also adds another feather in the cap," he shares. "This is something really noteworthy and good from the point of view of the students themselves."

In the end, Dr. Jamil wants students to use their time in the Foundation Program wisely. "My advice for the students is to put your head down," he advises. "Enjoy the time, study and put up your skills. The environment is supporting, the teachers are supporting...and, of course, together we succeed."

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Getting students ready for their degree program is the cornerstone of what the Foundation Program works hard to achieve. For students who have recently completed the FP, we asked them to look back and reflect on their experience as they begin their freshman year in different college programs across campus.



”

The Foundation Program at Dhofar University contributed greatly to my academic and educational foundation. My skills have developed through it, such as reading, writing, and speaking skills, and it has strengthened my self-confidence by speaking in front of the teacher and answering questions in the various courses that I have successfully passed. My passing would not have happened without the skilled teaching staff and the style of explanation that made learning easy.

-Mana Ali Jaboob, CCBA

“I benefited a lot from the Foundation Program and it helped me in many ways. For example, I can talk in front of a large number of people and I can work in a team easily. The Foundation Program at Dhofar University always urges students to speak and also develop other skills such as writing and reading.”

-Hamza Ahmed Alzadjali, CAAS



”

FP changed my personality 180°! I was an introvert, but now I am the one who knows everyone! Participation in many activities when I was an FP student helped me improve my pronunciation and social skills, too.

”

-Noor Mohammed Bait Suwailam, CAAS

Foundation Program

Our Goals

Each department looks ahead



ENGLISH

Department

The English department plans on seeking out international accreditation, while working towards enhancing exit exam standards to align with IELTS requirements. In addition, the goal to increase Omanization continues to move forward. And, as always, continued work on cultivating teaching and learning.



MATH

Department

The Math team hopes to include a focus on not just theoretical knowledge, but also practical applications of mathematics, ensuring that students are able to use applied math in their lives. Encouraging research and supporting teacher training within the department will be a priority to develop the teaching process.



IT

Department

The future goal of the IT unit is to include different teaching methods based on pedagogical innovation. Teaching IT skills to students can be challenging, therefore applying different modes of teaching like gamification and project-based learning can raise the overall achievement and form a generation of tech savvy students.

SUMMERTIME ADVENTURE

Hayoun Eun
FP English Instructor



Seoul SOUTH KOREA

"In July, I recharged myself by visiting my hometown, Seoul, South Korea. In August, my family and I fulfilled my long-time dream of driving through some European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and Turkey. It was an incredible experience that left me feeling inspired and grateful."

- Hayoun Eun



Rothenburg GERMANY



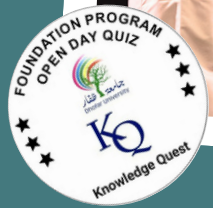
Rigi SWITZERLAND



Ephesus TURKEY



Venice ITALY



CONGRATS!!



Open Day

2022/23

