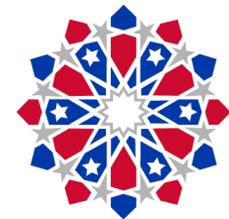


Reimagining Quality Assurance in the “New Normal” **an HEI perspective**

A joint INQAAHE and ANQAHE webinar
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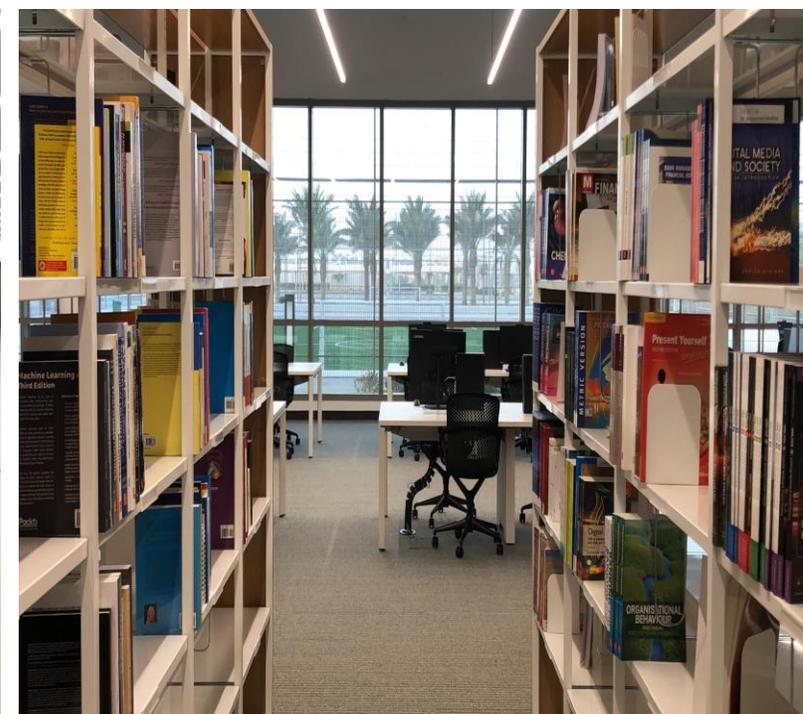
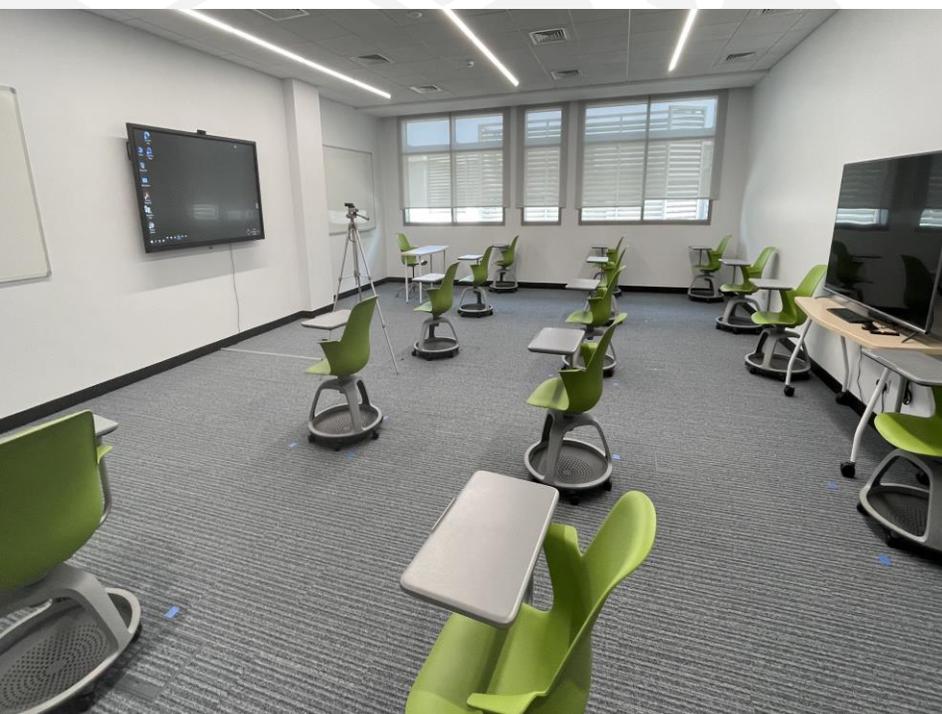
AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BAHRAIN

The American University of Bahrain - AUBH



- AUBH was licensed by the Higher Education Council on 21 Feb 2019.
- The University accepted its first cohort in Fall 2019, where 73 students enrolled in six programs.
- Currently there are 281 students enrolled in 10 undergraduate programs.
- AUBH is also licensed to offer 3 masters programs.

AUBH state-of-the-art campus built over 75,000 square meters, offers open structures and incorporates innovative and ergonomic design in its education and social spaces, enhancing the learning and developmental experience.



Starting with a Pandemic

- AUBH enrolled its first cohort in September 2019.
- In February 2020, Bahrain enforced remote learning for all education levels.
- The “New Normal” is AUBH’s establishment experience!



The Journey

Since establishment, AUBH has invested in displaying most of its educational material on an online learning management system, (Moodle initially and Canvas since September 2020). This has enabled the University to move smoothly to remote learning in response to the measures taken by Bahrain to combat the COVID pandemic.

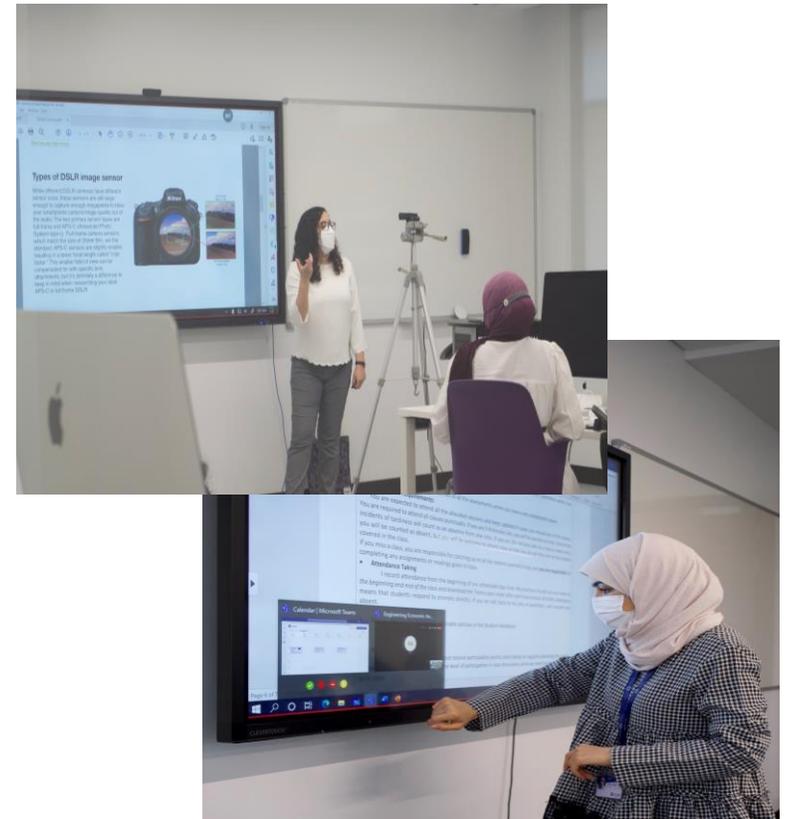
Realizing that COVID is not an “episode”, the main target was to ensure that the learning process does not get interrupted, and that academic integrity is maintained to our best

- Invest in Infrastructure (LMS and Classrooms).
- Invest in proctoring systems.
- Invest in training.

Adapting to a fluid situation

The University's long-term planning and risk assessment has also enabled it to move seamlessly between dual-mode and fully online teaching and learning as the COVID pandemic situation eased or intensified

- From Fall 2020, courses are offered in dual modality and students may elect to take a class either on-line or in person.
- Faculty take attendance and note the modality of attending.
- Classrooms have been refurbished with the necessary equipment to support dual modality delivery.
- Adjacent classrooms have been connected via the Internet, for simultaneous use, to maintain required social distancing.
- End of course survey filled by students was revised to better apply to the new way of learning.
- Policies and procedures were revised in response to measures taken due to the COVID pandemic.



Assessment

As the teaching mode moved to online, continuous discussions and follow-up sessions were conducted to exchange experience in utilizing a range of assessment tools that are more suitable to the situation, ensure the integrity of the examinations and support faculty members with issues as they arise.

Pre- and post-assessment moderation provided a tool to ensure the rigor of the assessment.

The University responded swiftly by contracting online proctoring company. The first utilization of the online proctoring system was in April 2020.

Students may access the online exams using their devices, and upon request, the IT Directorate provides students with laptops as loan.

In case students faced any technical issues that affect their connectivity during the full duration of the exams, an incident report is shared with the Registrar's office who will coordinate with the IT Directorate to mitigate the incident and provide replacement test where needed.

COVID as a Learning Opportunity

There is evidence that faculty are more open to utilization of diverse teaching and learning pedagogies and assessment methods.

As the mode of delivery has changed due to the COVID pandemic, there has been high realization of the features available on the LMS.

Recognizing the need to further harvest this appetite for change, AUBH established the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence (CTLE) in September 2020.

The Center has offered faculty led workshops, training and discussions and hosted training on teaching and learning, assessment, proctoring, portfolio development, LMS resources, etc.

Teaching audits conducted by the Center should increase in faculty's comfort level with the use of LMS that the new hy-flex classrooms offered an innovative teaching and learning experience for both students and faculty.



AUBH First Conference

24 -26 May 2021

**“Innovative Teaching & Learning
conference: Lessons from Covid-19”**

- The main aim of the conference was to bring scholars, researchers, educators, students, professionals, and other groups interested in learning and teaching to present their work on the developments in educational sciences.
- In addition to keynote speakers and research papers, the Conference included the following sessions:
 - Online learning from students’ perspective, where a panel of students representing different universities shared their experience of learning online.
 - A panel discussion among presidents of national and international universities to discuss challenges and share their experience since the pandemic.
 - A competition on creative teaching where faculty shared creative teaching and/or assessment methods used in their virtual classrooms.
 - Risks emerging from the shift in teaching and assessment modality and how internal and external QA practices responded to them.
 - Strategies and practices implemented to support the mental health and wellbeing of students during the time of isolation and wellbeing.
 - A workshop on engaging students online.

Challenges



Students' engagement/participation.



Class observations



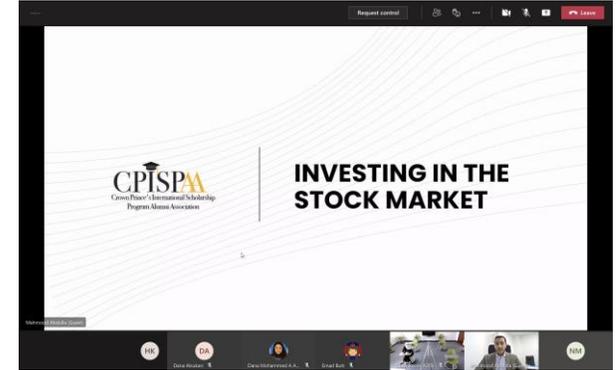
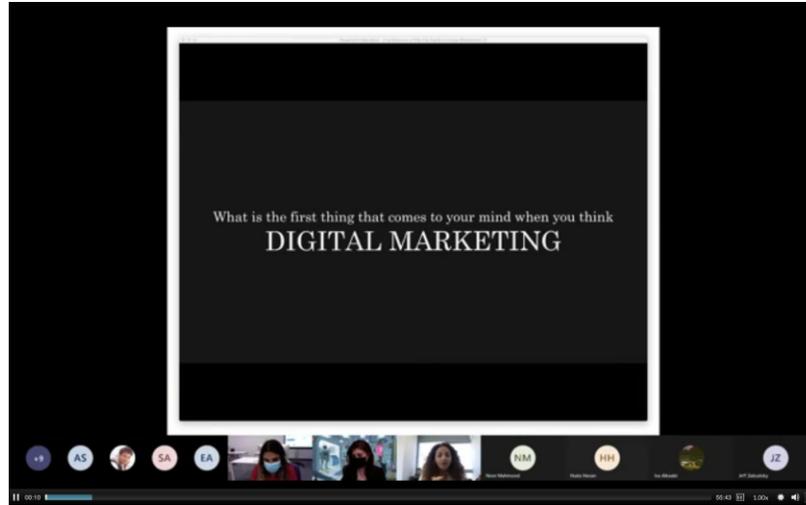
Assessment rigor/integrity



Course material

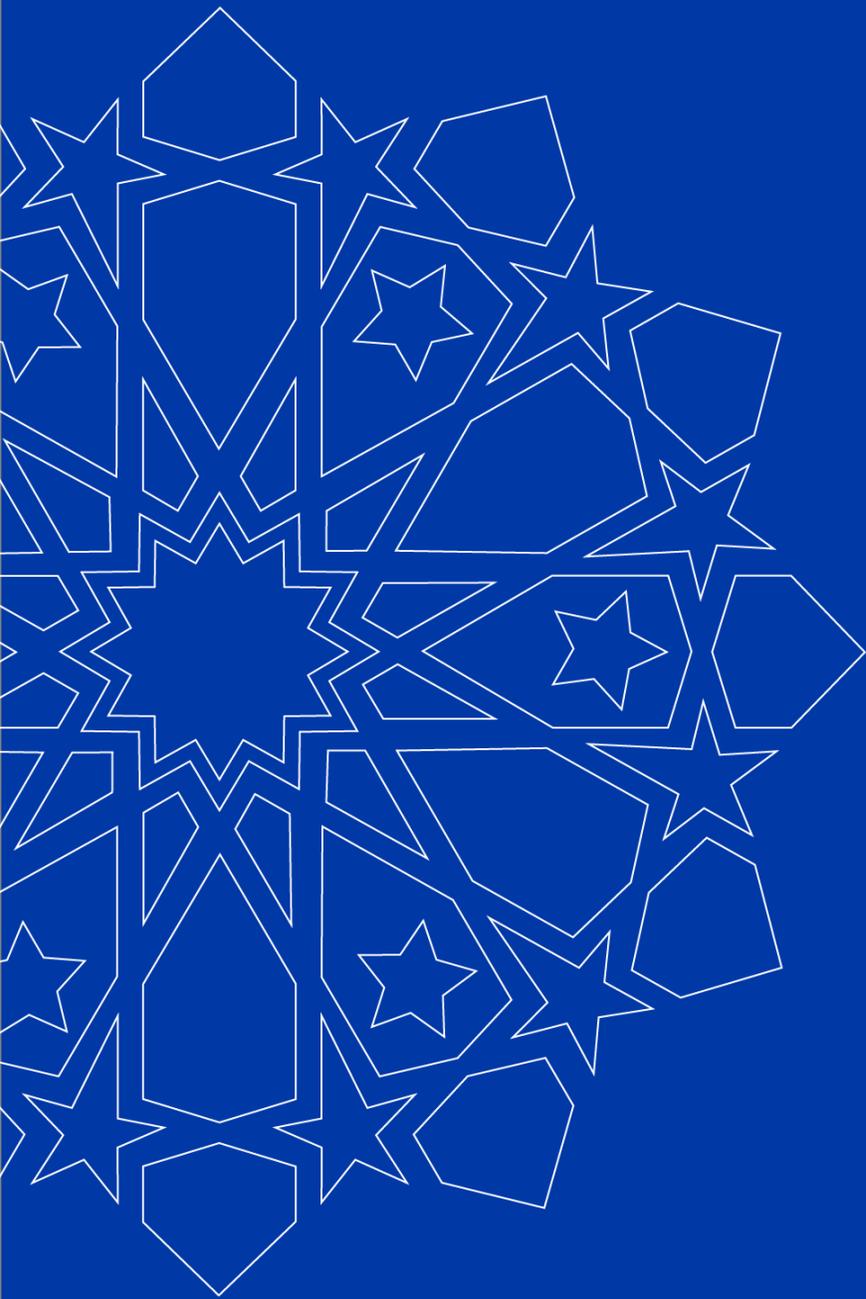


Practical components



Holistic University Life Experience





Thank You



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