

Welcome Note from the Student Council President

Hello everyone,

My name is Fizza Zain. I am majoring in International Business and I am very glad that I am part of RUW. Lately, I got an opportunity to participate in an Online Intercultural Event that took place on the 20th of February 2021 with the other universities in the US, Korea, China, and Japan. This is the second time I participated in this event and it was an amazing experience as I got to interact with other students and know about their cultures. This time our topic was on dating and wedding cultures where I presented the wedding Culture of Pakistan as being a Pakistani student and showing the diversity in Bahrain along with the other RUW students who Represented Bahraini culture. It was a great opportunity to get to know and talk to students from different countries and cultures especially in these times of COVID-19. I am glad and thankful to RUW for providing students with these online opportunities.



RUW Mission
To offer our students a rewarding and challenging multi-cultural learning environment that cultivates strong, well-rounded personalities, encourages leadership, and builds character, social consciousness and community. To realize our commitment to teaching, learning, research and service through the activities of all members of the University community.

RUW Vision
"The Royal University for Women will become the regional leader in academic excellence for women. Programmes and practices that meet international standards will prepare our graduates to become leaders who are engaged members of their society demonstrating initiative & life-long habits of learning and individual development. The RUW graduate will be creative, confident and forward thinking."

MBA
RUW Announces the start of admissions of Master of Business Administration (MBA) PROGRAMME

For more information visit RUW website: www.ruw.edu.bh

Royal University for Women, the Supreme Council for Women and ESCWA to establish a Women's Research Centre



The Royal University for Women (RUW), the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) agreed to establish the RUW Women's Research Centre. The three parties agreed upon several priority areas for cooperation to contribute towards the development of the scientific, intellectual, and cultural arenas of human sciences related to women issues in the Arab region. During the first phase, they will work on the development of the guiding principles and the framework of the Centre to ensure its sustainability and resilience.

Royal University for Women is the only higher education institution in Bahrain, that is solely dedicated to women empowerment through higher education. RUW has had a long and fruitful collaboration with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) which resulted already in many successful research and community projects over the last decade. SCW welcomed this cooperation of establishing the RUW Women's Research Centre, that will be the research arm of SCW, in line with the council's most important objective to conduct research on women studies that will support the formulating policies related to women. ESCWA appreciated this cooperation of establishing a research Centre on women studies in a renowned academic institution such as the RUW and said that it is not an easy task; however, through this partnership, they will be able to overcome all the obstacles and challenges and successfully carry out the tasks entrusted to this Centre.

Mr Fahad Al Zamil, Chairman of Board of Trustees expressed his pride in this cooperation and said that "RUW is the only women's university in the Kingdom of Bahrain offering high quality programmes, with a vision to become the regional leader in academic excellence. RUW also encourages and fosters its faculty to conduct high impact research. This collaboration of RUW with SCW and ESCWA will add a global dimension to research related to Women Studies." He further added that "RUW is very excited to work in partnership with SCW and ESCWA, where they will provide the strategic vision in setting up of the RUW Women's Research Centre. RUW would strive the Centre to be an interdisciplinary research unit, focusing on women's issues including leadership, equality, and representation and to instill social consciousness about a gender just society."

The Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Royal University for Women, Mr. Essa Najibi, stated that the RUW Center for Women's Studies project is one of the aspirations that became reality to emphasize the scientific and developmental field of the women's life. This project is envisioned with a cooperation between the Royal University for Women, the Supreme Council for Women and ESCWA, as a culmination of relentless efforts aimed at enriching the scientific community with research related to women and adding scientific value to women's issues in the region. Mr Najibi pointed out that this cooperation will contribute to setting up the first phase of establishing the center, which will result in an effective framework of research and studies on women.

The Chairman of the Academic Committee at the Royal University for Women, Dr. Aref Al-Ashban, explained that the empowerment and advancement of women have always been the primary goal of the Royal University for Women since its establishment. He added that it will in turn act as one of the tools for empowering women to harness all the possibilities available to invest in research on women and to develop the knowledge and add to the cognitive field through providing quality research. Dr Aref emphasized on women being one of the tributaries of development and a strategic partner in nation-building, is being the driving force behind the university's vision and mission to be the leading university regionally and internationally for academic excellence for women.

The Acting President of the Royal University for Women, Dr. Mona Suri, expressed her deep pride in this achievement and stated that initiation comes from the role of the three institutions to support and enhance the status of women. Dr Suri explained that the center will be vital with its scientific contributions that improve women and their capabilities and enhance their national and international presence in all areas to ensure sustainable development and to achieve the fifth goal of the sustainable development goals that is focused on achieving gender equality and advancement of women.

Royal University for Women organizes a dialogue with women parliamentarians and Shura Council Member



As part of its annual tradition in celebrating the National Action Charter of the Kingdom of Bahrain. The Royal University for Women organized a dialogue hosting Shura Council member H.E Ms Fatima Abdul Jabar Al Kooheji, and parliamentarians including H.E Deputy Ms Zainab AbdulAmeer Ebrahim, H.E Deputy Ms Sawzan Mohammed Kamal, and H.E Deputy Ms Masooma Hasan AbdulRahim, for a talk about Bahraini women participation in the National Action Charter, the legislative life and the decision making in the parliamentary – Nuwab Council and Al-Shura Council. The dialogue was moderated by Dr Samar Al Bargouthy, Associate Professor at the College of Business & Financial Sciences and witnessed the attendance of more than 100 students from different colleges of the university.

The Acting President of the Royal University for Women, Dr Mona Suri, delivered a welcoming speech in which she congratulated all Bahrainis and welcomed the speakers participating in the event and highlighted that the Kingdom of Bahrain, since the establishment of the National Action Charter 20 years ago has witnessed women empowerment and advancement in its best initiatives and actions and that RUW is proud of holding this annual celebration despite the circumstances of COVID-19 which made it happen virtually instead.

The dialogue started with H.E Ms Zainab Abdulameer, a parliamentarian in the Nuwab Council, who explained that currently she in Cairo representing the kingdom of Bahrain as a parliament in the Arabian Parliament, which is one of many indicators on Bahraini Women empowerment within the rights and opportunities given to her through the National Action Charter. Ms AbdulAmeer said that the National Action Charter included unprecedented initiatives that aimed to empower and advance Bahraini Women, starting with having six Bahraini women as members in representing the National Action Charter project in the year 2000, and then voting for this project on 15 & 14 February 2001 which had 49% representing the Bahraini women participation.

H.E Ms Fatima Abdul Jabar Al Kooheji, member of the Al-Shura Council added that the National Action Charter highlighted that the family is the basis of the society and the goodness of the family results in the goodness of the society overall, which is driven by morals, religion, faith and the love of the country and nation. This all resulted in having rules and regulations that protected and assured the rights of women and children. She lauded that the National Action Charter is a milestone in the national history of the Kingdom of Bahrain and a qualitative leap that transformed the work in all fields with granting freedom, equality and political rights and became a strong base for building the modern state and investing in the Bahraini people as they are the key to the country's success.

H.E Dr Masooma Hasan AbdulRahim also mentioned that Bahraini women, during the prosperous era of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, marked themselves in many fields already and her empowerment was completely shown during the current COVID-19 circumstances and explained that for the goal of assuring the health and safety of the society and for the love of their country, we remember the medical staff who have put themselves in the frontline during this pandemic.

H.E Ms Sawzan Mohammed Kamal highlighted the times that were pre-the National Action Charter and explained that the political life experience was initially practised in 1973 and it was stopped for some certain circumstances in 1975 to be resumed partially again through the creation of the Al-Shura Council in 1992 and then to be finally formed in its completed way as of what we are witnessing today through the National Action Charter and the Reform Project of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, in which it envisioned the democratic life practised fully and the progress of the national development.

RUW Alumna wins first place in the 12th batch of the Lawyers Training Program

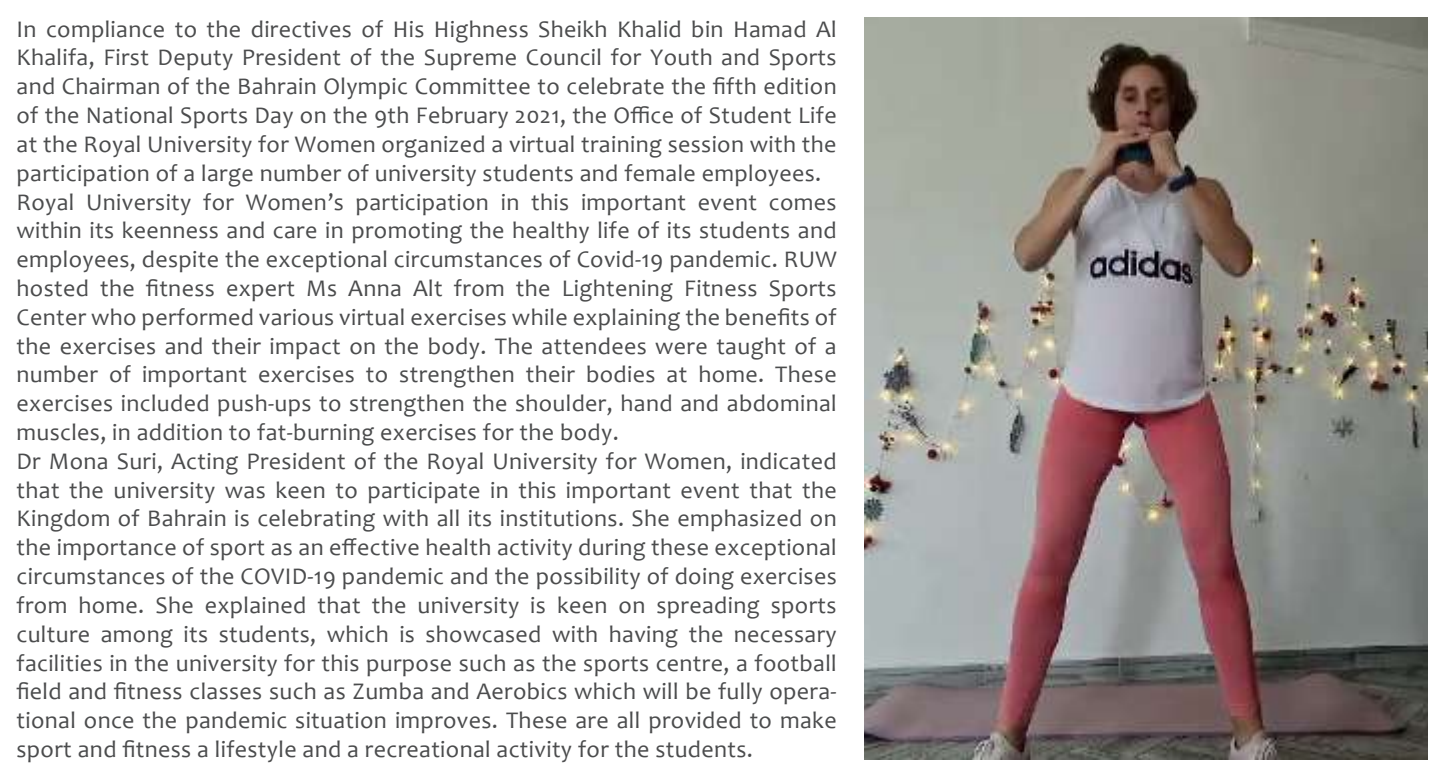


An Alumna from the College of Law at the Royal University for Women, Ms Sara Jassim Ali, has succeeded in winning the first place in the 12th batch of the Lawyers Training Program that was organized by the Judicial and Legal Studies Institute, Ministry of Justice. Ms Sara Jassim expressed her gratitude and joy in achieving this milestone and emphasized on the importance of hard work and continues of learning to achieve such success. She stressed that "Success is not an accident, it is a hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love what you are doing".

The Acting President of the Royal University for Women, Dr Mona Suri, congratulated Ms Sara on this achievement and on her previous achievement in 2017, when she won Her Royal Highness Princess Shaikha Sabeeka Bint Ebrahim Al Khalifa Award for best research in Women and Law. Dr Mona highlighted that RUW alumnae have always been ambassadors of excellence and reflected RUW in their workplaces with exceptional talents and skills wand wished her more success and to all RUW alumnae in their careers.

The Dean of College of Law at the Royal University for Women, Dr Pasquale Borea, extended his congratulations to the alumna and stressed that the College of Law at RUW and its academic and student body celebrate once again the achievements of its brilliant graduates. He highlighted that the success of the RUW Law graduates in the work environment is the best testimony of the quality of the RUW Law programme, its academic team and its students.

Royal University for Women Celebrates the National Sports Day Virtually



In compliance to the directives of His Highness Sheikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy President of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports and Chairman of the Bahrain Olympic Committee to celebrate the fifth edition of the National Sports Day on the 9th February 2021, the Office of Student Life at the Royal University for Women organized a virtual training session with the participation of a large number of university students and female employees. Royal University for Women's participation in this important event comes within its keenness and care in promoting the healthy life of its students and employees, despite the exceptional circumstances of Covid-19 pandemic. RUW hosted the fitness expert Ms Anna Alt from the Lightening Fitness Sports Center who performed various virtual exercises while explaining the benefits of the exercises and their impact on the body. The attendees were taught of a number of important exercises to strengthen their bodies at home. These exercises included push-ups to strengthen the shoulder, hand and abdominal muscles, in addition to fat-burning exercises for the body.

Dr Mona Suri, Acting President of the Royal University for Women, indicated that the university was keen to participate in this important event that the Kingdom of Bahrain is celebrating with all its institutions. She emphasized on the importance of sport as an effective health activity during these exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic and the possibility of doing exercises from home. She explained that the university is keen on spreading sports culture among its students, which is showcased with having the necessary facilities in the university for this purpose such as the sports centre, a football field and fitness classes such as Zumba and Aerobics which will be fully operational once the pandemic situation improves. These are all provided to make sport and fitness a lifestyle and a recreational activity for the students.

Royal University for Women launches a series of workshops with professional certificates



The Royal University for Women (RUW) announced the launch of a series of workshops with international professional certificates in cooperation with the Pearson Institute in the United Kingdom and the Italian Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with the approval of the General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council. These workshops come within the framework of continuing education at the university, which aims to provide employees, business owners and recent graduates with accredited international certificates and the necessary skills to increase work efficiency, productivity and self-development.

The Director of the Centre for General Studies at the Royal University for Women, Dr. Humam El-Agha, explained that the series of workshops include professional certificates, including the Pearson Certificate in Career Readiness, the Pearson Certificate in Leadership, and the Pearson Certificate for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Dr. El-Agha mentioned that the three workshops will be fully provided online, starting 6th of March 2021.

Dr Al-Agha added that the Royal University for Women, in cooperation with the Italian Embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain, will offer Italian language courses for beginners – physically face to face - at the Grazia Dileta Centre for Italian Language and Culture, located on the university campus in Riffa. The Italian Language courses will be available for beginners in two Levels: Italian Language Level 1: A1.1 CEFR Level and Italian Language Level 2: A1.2 CEFR Level. The first level will start on March 06, 2021 and the second level will start on May 15, 2021.

Royal University for Women is the only university in the Kingdom of Bahrain and the region that contains a specialized center for Italian language and culture, which was inaugurated in October 2019 and receives all those interested in learning the Italian language of both genders. This comes within the university's cooperation with the Italian embassy in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The certificate will be awarded by the Royal University for Women with the recognition of the Italian embassy. Those wishing to register for the workshops to contact the Centre for General Studies as soon as possible due to the limited seats in these workshops and review all the information related to them by visiting the university's website www.ruw.edu.bh and its social networking sites, as all workshops are provided for both genders.

Royal University for Women participates in coaching sessions with International Coaching Federation

The Royal University for Women (RUW) signed a letter of agreement with International Coaching Federation (ICF), a non-profit organization dedicated to professional coaching, for pro bono coaching projects that included the 'Ignite Initiative', which uses the collective power of ICF Chapters, Members and Credential holders to accelerate the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Through this endeavour, RUW along with ICF will address the Institutional goal of Quality Education represented by the Sustainable Development Goal Number Four: (SDG#4) which is to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" and shall increase the impact of it by achieving another goal on the College level which is to develop career development goals for all faculty members.

RUW hosted ICF Bahrain Chapter for an informative Ignite project Kick-off call for 18 faculty members that were nominated by RUW to provide information about Coaching and its benefits as they will be participating in the Ignite Coaching initiative starting February 21st till August, 2021. Each member will benefit from 8-10 individual sessions in this period with their respective coach.

WVU and RUW fully engaged in their partnership despite the pandemic



Article by: Director of RUW International Office, Dr. Vivien Exartier

With the outbreak of COVID 19, university collaborations across the world were first put on hold. How would a visiting professor or an exchange student manage to travel with closing borders and aircraft on the ground? How would a new program be developed with no access to infrastructure and empty campuses? But with resilience and outside the box thinking (with a little bit of help from technology), universities reinvented their partnerships. They started embracing virtual reality and soon realized that opportunities had not disappeared but had actually expanded! Higher Education in general became very agile and succeeded in getting 10 people together from different departments to talk about collaboration plans on time and all in the same virtual room. In less than six months, RUW and WVU managed to engage in collaboration at College and School level, to organize ten co-lectures with more to come, organized a virtual student exchange to 'replace' the annual RUW student group visit to WVU in January and the hosting of WVU students at RUW in March, completed benchmarking on 5 policies, and initiated cooperation on accreditation and research. The strategic partnership with WVU has always been a pillar of RUW development and those challenging times certainly showed that this gold and blue pillar is rock solid!

The digital shift to the legal sector during the Covid-19 pandemic

Article by: College of Law student, Ms Maryam Al Khalifa

As the coronavirus pandemic persists and perseveres the world has no option but to adapt. Socially distancing gatherings and all non-essential services were closed at some point to realize the "new norm". Thus, a dire need for a viable replacement to keep these services ongoing and prevent detrimental effects was paramount. A cost and time effective solution that many have benefited from is to switch to an online setting. Many commercial businesses had already established an online presence way before the pandemic hit. Hence, this solution was perfectly fitting. However, other sectors have never had to experience a fully digital setting and were now being catapulted right into it. These sectors include banking and finance, law and education. Such sectors are indispensable in order to curtail covid's effects. The legal sector had some digital legal presence preceding the pandemic, such as online dispute resolution or robot arbitrators/mediators though they were not preferred. The transition to a fully online presence was not without obstacles due to strict confidentiality rules and the sensitive nature of the field. Consequently, the availability of effective technological tools became essential to remote hearings. Such necessary requirements could result in an unfair trial as many of these technologies are not readily available to all. This gave rise to establish rules that regulate remote hearings. Accordingly, The International Chamber of Commerce have released a guidance note on possible measures aimed at mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. To that end, the Korean Commercial Arbitration Boars' have released the "Seoul Protocol" which regulates video conferencing in international arbitration.

Yara Al Khan returns as Fashion Design Alumna guest speaker



Fashion Design Alumna Ms. Yara Alkhan, was invited as a guest speaker for the Fashion design programme. All fashion Design students from the Foundation diploma and final - fourth - year attended the session. Ms. Yara, an RUW year 2020 graduate, has established her fashion brand and is currently working as the RUW College Liaison Officer. She shared her journey in RUW and explained how she overcame the challenges she faced in her work on the final major project due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Participation of Foundation faculty team members in webinar organized by Pearson

The foundation faculty team of CAD attended the orientation webinar on Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Art & Design, organized by Pearson. The online training oriented through non subject specific changes from the QCF and focus on the new PSA's, controlled environment , holistic approach and how to deliver the New BTEC International Level 3 which will be implemented in academic year 2021-22.

Dr Amine Moulay publishes a research



Dr. Amine Moulay from the College of Art and Design published a research work titled " Insight into the issue of under-utilized parks: what triggers the process of place attachment? ". The paper was published online in the International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development, on 15 Feb 2021. The Royal University for Women congratulates Dr. Amine for publishing this research and highly values the academic faculty contributions in the research field.

Two students - entrepreneurs featured in Just Meet Up Session



College of Business and Financial Sciences at RUW continued with the Just Meet Up sessions throughout February 2021. These sessions provide an informal networking platform to the CBFS students, where they can freely share their views, opinions, experiences and questions with each other and with faculty members. The February sessions covered topics of entrepreneurship and featured two CBFS students who started their own business. Ms. Fatema Alsammak, a current student in the Banking and Finance program who launched a successful business of Home-made granola made a very interesting presentation about her journey as an entrepreneur. Branded as Tamy's Granola she promotes her brand using Instagram and has good following. Her presentation motivated other students to follow her footsteps and embrace entrepreneurship. Ms. Noor Alkhunaizi, an HR major presented her Abaya business. She uses Instagram for marketing and has over 9K followers. Her incredible designs had the audience in awe of her entrepreneurial foresight. Ms Alkhunaizi said "sharing my experience in CBFS Just Meet Up Session was very wonderful, I got support and encouragement from students. It was a very helpful and spontaneous discussion." She explained that in the future she plans to launch her website and also expand her presence to the entire Middle East market.

A nice face-to-face moment: Semester 2 Orientation for CBFS students



The College of Business and Financial Sciences hosted a face-to-face socially distanced Orientation session for new students. Acting President Dr. Mona Suri welcomed the students and asked them how they learned about RUW. Dr. Mona shared her enthusiasm to see 'faces' on campus again. Dr. Arpita Mehrotra, Acting Dean of the College introduced the College, the programs, the curriculum and the learning opportunities for the next four and half years. The four bachelors of the College were introduced by the program coordinators: Dr. Mathias, for Marketing, Dr. Debashish for Human Resources, Dr. Vivien for International Business and Dr. Elizabeth for Banking and Finance.

Director of Admissions and Registration virtually visits 1st year CBFS students



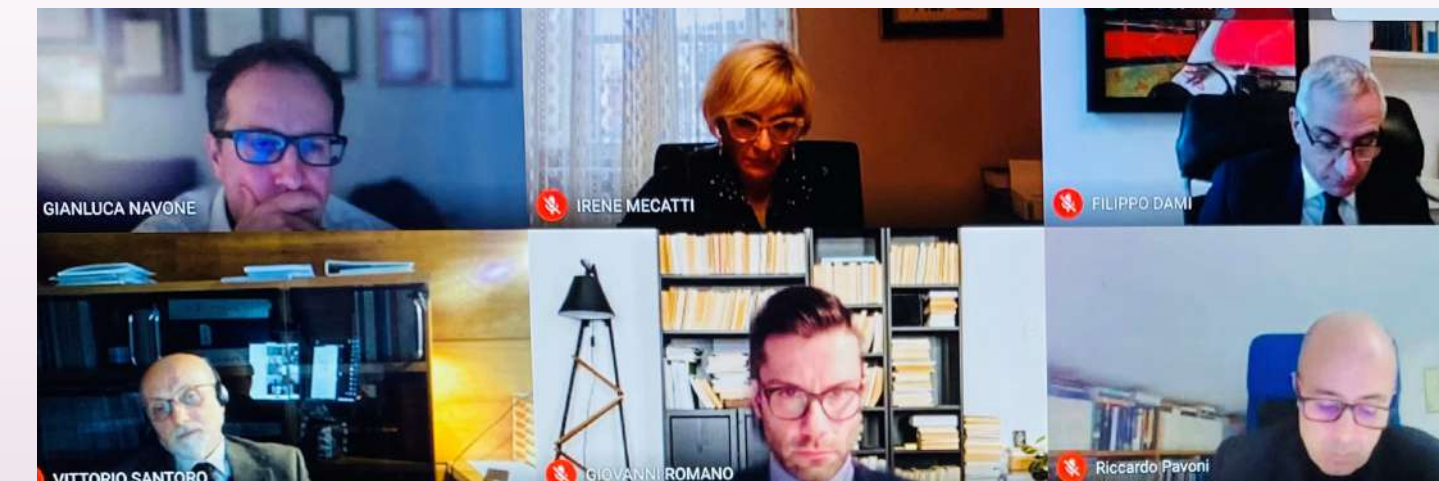
The Director of Admissions & Registration Mr. Sami Moh'd Dagash interacted with first year students in the February 21 Just meet up session. Mr. Sami highlighted the important aspects of student academic journey such as attendance, understanding academic plan, checking official communication regularly, be ware of the academic During the meeting, Mr. Sami spoke about the features of the Learning Management system (Moodle) and gave a chance for the students to Ask questions and raise their concerns.

A combined classroom from the USA to Bahrain - Joint live classes held between RUW and WVU students



As part of the partnership between Royal University for Women and West Virginia University, USA a series of joint classes were held between LAR 131 Effective Communication students from the Royal University for Women and Business Communication students from West Virginia University. This was facilitated through the International Affairs Office directed by Dr.Vivien Exartier and the Centre for General Studies. Both classes were led by Dr.Susan Lantz, Teaching Associate Professor at WVU and Sh.Dwa Al-Khalifa Lecturer at the Centre for General Studies at RUW. The two sessions were held on February 3 and February 23 with each class tasked to complete projects that reflected topics on cross-cultural communication, business etiquette, cultural diversity and cultural norms. Reflecting on the experience Sh.Dwa stated "the students really benefited, I could see them interact with their American counterparts and share stories and experiences. They were delighted afterwards and kept on re-stating the facts and cultural aspects they learned from the American students". The series of classes witnessed a high number of participation and interaction during the sessions where students participated in breakout rooms as well as creating digital storytelling entries. In addition, a task involved creating business etiquette infographics that were shared within the breakout rooms and formed part of a comparison discussion. This activity is part of a long-term relationship between Royal University for Women and West Virginia University.

Participation at Kick-off Meeting of the EU Research Grant Jean Monnet



Dr Maria Casoria delivered a speech at the kick-off meeting of the bi-annual European Union Research Grant Jean Monnet awarded to the Department of Law at the University of Siena, Italy, which was held remotely on 22nd and 23rd January 2021. As a member of the research group on "European Legal Strategies for Payment Systems in the Open Banking Age", Dr Maria discussed the legal issues stemming from the relationship between competition law and open banking in the European Union also in a comparative perspective with the Bahraini legal framework. This was only the first of a series of research events where Dr Maria will be sharing her scholarship on the antitrust profiles connected to the spread of digitalisation in the banking and financial sector with a network of academics and legal practitioners coming from different universities and public authorities across Europe.

Status of the international recruitment market: A virtual ICEF event

Director of International Office, Dr Vivien Exartier, attended the first virtual MENA event organized by ICEF. ICEF is a network of quality student recruitment agents that organizes networking events between higher education institutions including market intelligence briefings for various geographic zones throughout the year. Dr Vivien Exartier met with existing partners and new ones from key GCC markets and potential ones in North Africa. 2020 was certainly a case study of challenges for student mobility and the event was a good opportunity to hear about current trends and emerging markets for student recruitment.

Student Orientation Semester 2 AY 2020-21



Office of Student Life held Student Orientation for Sem 2 AY 2020-21. The new joiner with their parents attended the event on campus. The main purpose of the orientation day was to establish personal contact with students and to provide assistance to the new students during their transition to University. The Orientation program included a welcome note by Acting President Dr Mona Suri and covered topics as Student Life, Student Council, Library and Registration which was followed by a campus tour. New joiners were oriented to RUW rules and regulations and university life in general.