



الجامعة الملكية للنساء
ROYAL UNIVERSITY FOR WOMEN

Annual Report 2020-21





His Royal Highness

Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa

The Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander
and Prime Minister



His Majesty

King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

The King of the Kingdom of Bahrain



Her Royal Highness

Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

President of the Supreme Council for Women



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Welcome Note from the President

It is with great pride that I present the Royal University for Women (RUW) Annual Report 2020 – 2021. This Report offers us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements for the year and thank all those who made those achievements possible.

As a university dedicated to the advancement of women, our role today is more important than it has even been before. The changing economic, education and health landscapes globally demand that women play a more active role in our societies and here at RUW we ensure that all our graduates are global citizens competing internationally.

This Report provides an insight into major accomplishments, future plans and distils the cumulative testimony of the efforts made by the university at various levels towards enhancing the development of an institutional culture that fosters productivity, creativity, and academic excellence in fostering student success, supporting alumnae achievements and realising university goals and objectives. It entails our performance against strategic objectives and highlights key milestones we have reached during the academic year 2020-2021.

As a new president trying to develop an understanding of the higher education system in Bahrain, as well as establishing a broad network, I have been impressed with the warmth of welcome, appetite for collaboration and genuine support for our vision of advancing opportunities for women. These last few months have also re-enforced for me the positive position, standing and reputation that RUW has and one which we are very proud of, and will do everything possible to nurture.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the students and alumnae, Government and Higher Education regulatory bodies, industry, and philanthropy and at all levels of communities. In addition, I wish to note and appreciate the support we have had from our academic partners as well as the Supreme Council for Women. I would also like to acknowledge the continuous and ongoing support and commitment of the University's Governance Boards who, in carrying out their fiduciary responsibilities, actively promote the interests and mission of the University by providing strategic direction and valuable resources for the advancement of teaching, research and outreach services, all of which are essential characteristics of any leading institution.

I wish to end by thanking my predecessors in this role – Dr. Mona Suri and Dr. David Stewart who both held Acting President positions and contributed to the development of the university during very challenging global times. The successes and achievements we report on here are largely due to their efforts.

Professor Yusra Mouzughhi
President





Royal University for Women (RUW)

RUW provides an exceptional learning experience for women. The university focuses on the empowerment and advancement of women through higher education. Therefore, we aim to prepare outstanding women leaders and empower them to be effective participants in sustainable development in their communities. We work on enhancing the critical and creative thinking of our students in an educational system specifically designed with women in mind. Our students are exposed to theoretical learning, practical training and we link them with the labour market and encourage their research contributions. RUW graduates will be equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to become effective global citizens who contribute to sustainability locally and internationally.

Our Vision:

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 and life-long habits of learning and individual development. The RUW graduate will be creative, confident, and forward thinking.

Our 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 realise our commitment to teaching, learning, research, and service through the activities of all members of the University community.

RUW Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021:

Throughout the year, all activities have been guided by the RUW Strategic Plan for 2016-2021. This plan, approved by HEC, is in full alignment with the RUW Mission and Vision and Bahrain 2030 Vision, the HEC Higher Education Strategy, and the HEC Research Strategy. The next strategic plan 2022 - 27 is being devised and until then the existing plan will continue.



RUW Core Values



Integrity

We act in an honest, fair, transparent, and ethical manner to create a culture of trust and equality evident in all University activities and decision making



Commitment

We accept responsibility to work diligently, be accountable for our work, and honor our commitment to fulfill the mission and vision of the University



Respect

We embrace our differences and treat others collegially with civility, openness, and professionalism in all interactions, activities, and decision making



Diversity

We acknowledge and honour the fundamental value and dignity of all individuals and create a culture which respects diverse traditions, heritages, experiences, and perspectives



Excellence

We strive for excellence in teaching, research, and service and to uphold the highest standards of intellectual inquiry and academic freedom



Learning

We value education that balances theory and practice, develops critical thinking, emphasises active learning, and fosters responsibility and the desire for the lifelong pursuit of learning, and is career oriented



Innovation

We foster a culture of creativity and ingenuity which encourages research, forward thinking and entrepreneurship



Engagement

We engage with all stakeholders of the university in the creation and dissemination of knowledge on local, national, and international levels

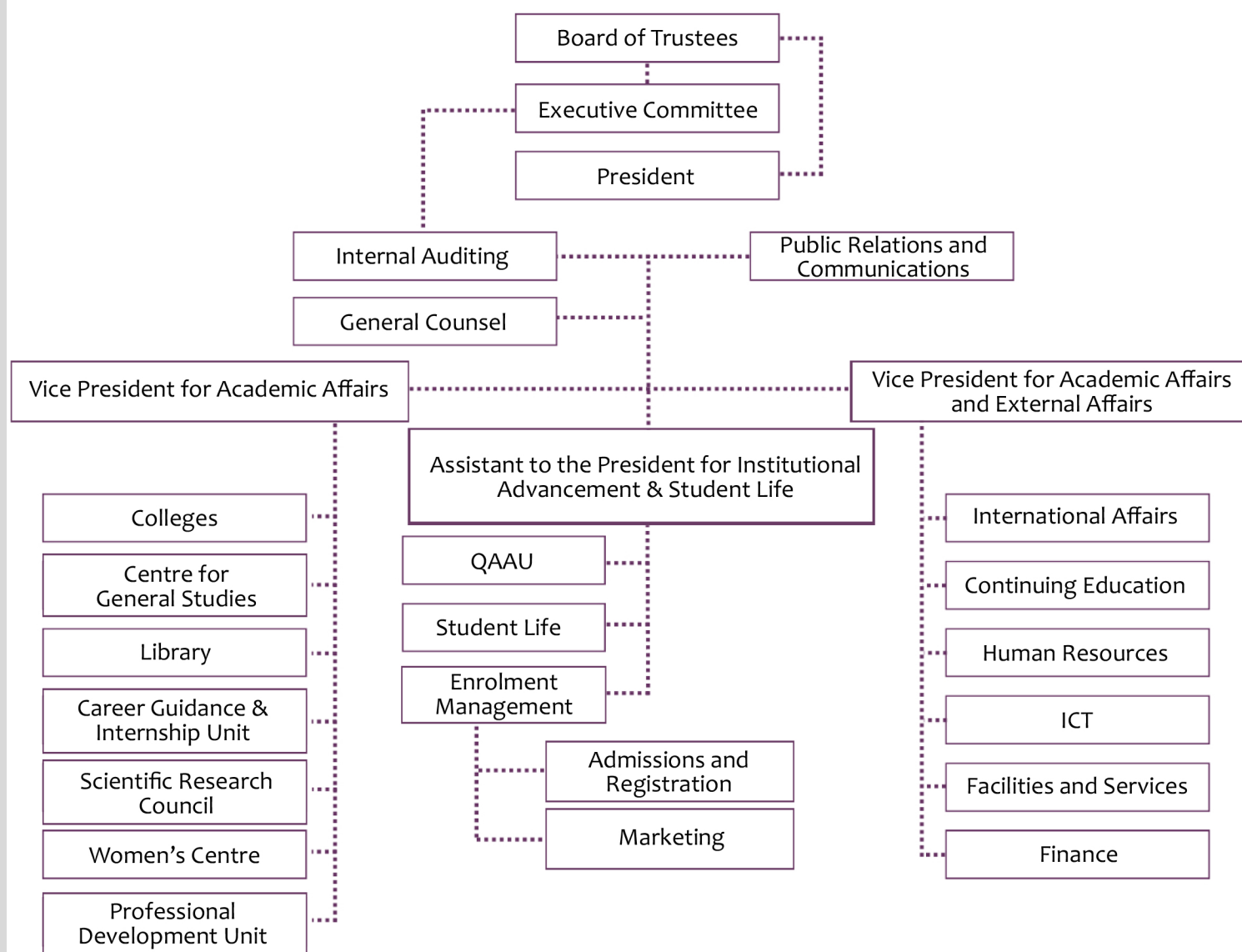


Governance

RUW is an international university that brings a world of experiences and opportunities to its students, with a leading governance that places the students as it's number one priority.

Effective governance was carried out through the institutions' appointed committees which met and discussed all aspects of the University's operations. Meetings of the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, Academic Committee of the Board, University Senate, Executive Leadership Team, Deans' Council, and all College Councils were held at regular intervals throughout the Academic Year (AY) 2020-21.

RUW Organisational Chart





Board of Trustees

Based on HEC approval dated 05 July 2016, for the formation of the Board of Trustees for (AY) 2020-21, the RUW Board of Trustees was formed with the following members:



Mr. Fahad Abdulla Al-Zamil
Chairman



Dr. Gordon Gee
Member



Dr. Aref Abdulla Al Ashban
Member



Dr. Maha Baker BinBakr
Member



H.E Mrs. Hala Al Ansari
Member



Dr. Basmah Al-Zamil
Member



Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Jumaan
Member



Mr. Essa Mohammed Najibi
Member



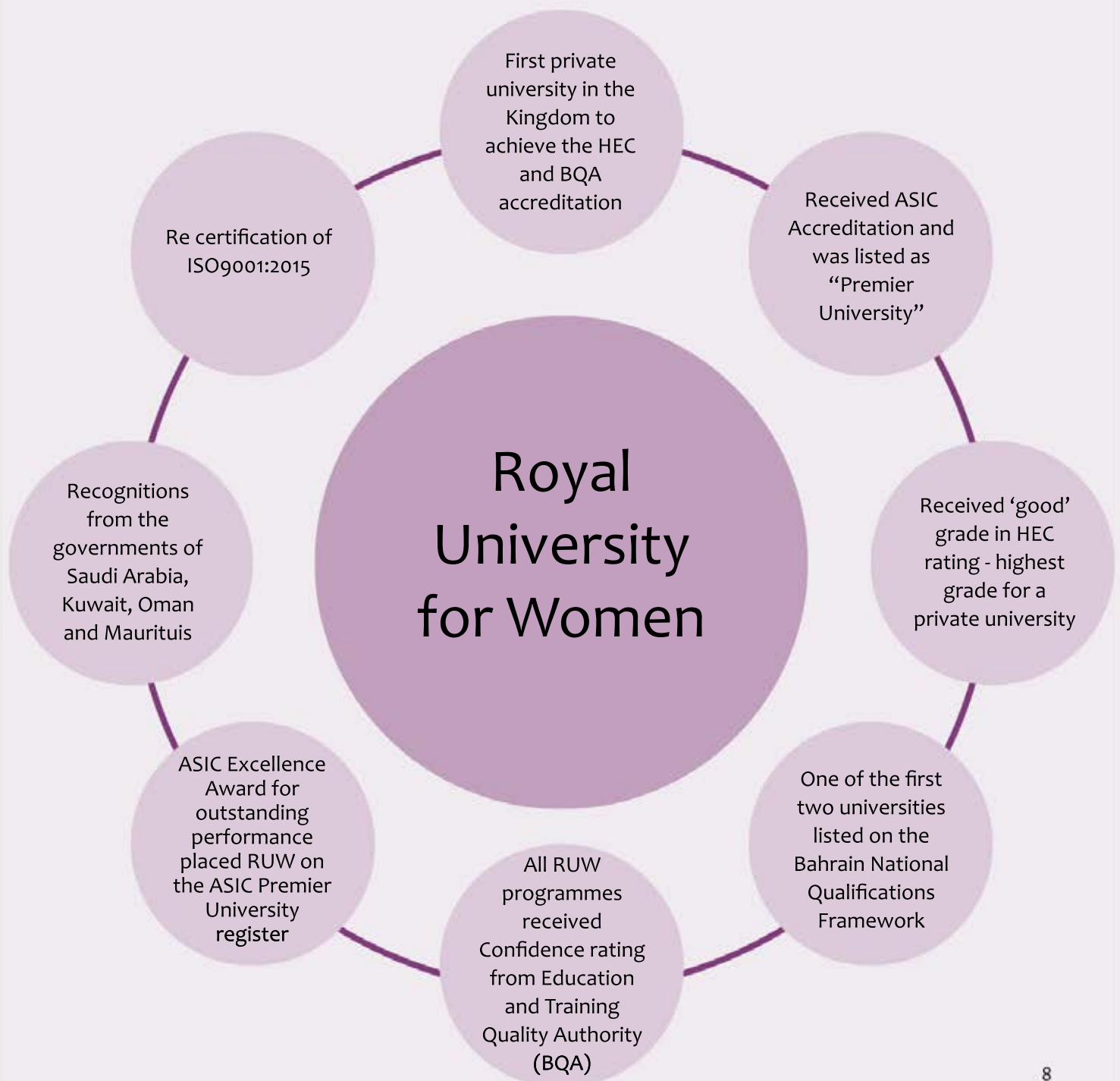
Professor Yusra Mouzughi
RUW President



RUW: Commitment to Excellence

A Strong Base of Recognitions and Accreditations

RUW has a solid base of local and international accreditations and recognitions that reflect the strength of its academic programmes and the educational outcomes.





State-of-the-Art Campus

RUW provides its students with the facilities and services to ensure safe and rewarding learning experience. In AY 2020/2021 RUW students led on the renovation of the RUW Student Centre putting their own touches on the student zone where they can gather, dine, and relax in a friendly atmosphere.



RUW Library

The Library at RUW plays an important role in providing ready information resources and services to students, faculty and staff for study and research purposes. The Library offers two types of resources for researching which are physical (books, newspapers etc..) and electronic platforms (E-library and E-books). The research room is equipped with 29 computers and private study/research areas.





Health & Well-Being

At RUW, we take care of our students in every way possible. Ensuring a healthy physical and mental state is critical to academic success and therefore provisions are made for nursing facilities as well as social care to provide advice on a broad range of issues related to social adjustment, physical abuse, support to students with special needs and other student requests.

Sports Centre

RUW Sports Centre is designed to meet the student health and fitness needs. The centre is equipped with modern sports equipment, halls for fitness training, an Olympic size heated swimming pool, and a multi-purpose stadium with 600 seats for practicing various sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, tennis, and all in the privacy of a women only setting.



Residence

RUW offers student dorms with spacious and comfortable rooms designed specifically for a student friendly environment. There is 24-hour on-site supervision through a Residence Manager (Dorm Mother) and round the clock CCTV surveillance. Students are free to come and go as their timetables permit and curfew timings are published in the Student Handbook. A full-time Resident Manager attends to the needs of the students. Kitchen facilities on each floor of the Residence are available to resident students as well.





RUW and Higher Education Council (HEC)

The advancement of women through Higher Education



RUW praises the key role the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Higher Education Council (HEC) plays for the betterment of the educational system in the Kingdom of Bahrain. The University truly appreciates the guidance and leadership provided by HEC and MoE in the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the effectiveness of the online education and the continuity in teaching and learning in the best interest of the student.



Collaboration and Linkage with Industry

Closer look on workforce experience



Despite the challenging times, RUW continued to raise its profile, increasing recognition within the community, through active community engagement, expanding internship opportunities and development of undergraduate research. Colleges virtually connected with their advisory committees, and industry members to support them through various projects.



Cooperation ties with Supreme Council for Women

Common mission, empowerment of women



Nationally, RUW continued to work closely with the Supreme Council for Women (SCW) and one of the main deliverables of this collaboration is a joint research project on the “Impact of COVID on Women”, the outcomes of which will be disseminated in suitable publication outlets. In line with the Bahrain Vision 2030 and the HEC Research Strategy, to strengthen our research base, RUW established the “RUW Women’s Research Centre”. The centre was established in consultation with the SCW, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA) and aims to become the regional think tank for women studies.

The Role of Women in Transforming the International Profile of the Kingdom of Bahrain

RUW organised the virtual event "The Role of Women in Transforming the International Profile of the Kingdom of Bahrain" where it hosted several graduates working in the diplomatic field to talk about their work experience and the prominent opportunities and challenges they faced during their work. The event also included the honouring of the distinguished students who achieved academic excellence during the academic year 2019 / 2020.

RUW organises a dialogue with Women Parliamentarians and Shura Council Members





As part of its annual tradition in celebrating the National Action Charter of the Kingdom of Bahrain, RUW organised 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 Sawsan 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.

Building Bridges between University Competencies and Professional Workforce

RUW organised its annual career fair virtually via Zoom platform and witnessed the attendance of many students from the different colleges of the university. This year's fair was shifted to virtual platforms following the precautionary measures of the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the ease of attendance of all students.

Participating companies from different sectors of the labour market attended the virtual event, including Bahrain Petroleum Company (BAPCO), Zain Telecommunication, Obai & Hill Public Relation and Advertising Agency, Al Qaod Consultancy Firm and many other entities who provided insights, internship, and job opportunities to the students.



Annual student debate with West Virginia University



RUW virtually held the Annual Student Debate with its strategic partner, West Virginia University (WVU) in the United States of America. This event showcases RUW's commitment to its mission to provide students with robust global learning experiences. This virtual event witnessed the attendance of more than 200 students, faculty members, and members of the community.

Restructuring the Future of Fashion

RUW in collaboration with WVU, worked on a collaborative project for fashion design titled “Restructuring the Future of Fashion” under the patronage of the first lady of WVU Mrs Laurie Erickson.

The aim of this project was to highlight the transformation of fashion design in the digital age by hosting a digital fashion showcase. Designs in the fashion show were the outcome of student projects at RUW and WVU – Fashion, Dress, & Merchandising Departments. RUW students showcased their skills in designing the contemporary version of traditional costumes and styling it along with traditional accessories. The students also expressed their pride in participating in such a successful event which witnessed more than 1000 viewers.



Global Partnerships

RUW's programmes, which were originally developed in collaboration with McGill University in Canada and Middlesex University in the UK, are accredited by the Higher Education Council in Bahrain as well as Accreditation Service for International Schools, Colleges, and Universities (ASIC) UK, and are delivered from the University's College of Art & Design, College of Business & Financial Sciences, College of Law, and the Centre for General Studies by a diverse and experienced faculty.

Through the University's collaborative worldwide partnerships, RUW students receive vast global learning experiences and the opportunity to earn an international degree. The University's private sector partnership network offers graduates vast practical experiences and career prospects.

RUW's International partners includes:

- West Virginia University (WVU), United States of America
- University of Huddersfield, United Kingdom

Student's Achievements

- RUW team of students (Hassad) won the Best Company and Best Team awards at INJAZ Bahrain competition 2021 thereby qualifying for the INJAZ AL Arab competition.
- RUW Trade Quest team secured Third position in the prestigious Trade Quest Competition 2020 in the University category, organised annually by Bahrain Bourse.





Student's Achievements

RUW success achievers

The comprehensive educational experience provided by RUW meets all the needs of the students' academic, social, and recreational needs. Therefore, RUW encourages its students to participate in the various activities and competitions held nationally and internationally which support forming their personalities and leadership skills. These efforts resulted in placing RUW students among the top participating student teams in Bahrain with winning two prominent competitions in Bahrain.

RUW Students Win Third Position in Bahrain Bourse's Tradequest programme 2020

RUW team won the 3rd place in 2019/2020 Trade Quest competition organised by Bahrain Bourse and were awarded a cash prize of BD 2000. This achievement is a translation of the team's hard work and efforts, alongside a reflection of the successful mentoring received and the support witnessed from the College of Business and Financial Sciences of RUW.

The students dealt with endless practices and group discussions. They also learned how to carefully investigate the markets and stocks. Team members were Fizza Zain Ul Abidin, Ghaida Abdulbari Saif, Hanin Badr Bahaysami, Hind Isa Al-Hadhrami, Jessica Loraine Suresh, Maryam Moosa Al-Doseri, Reem Shawqi Al-Sada and Sumera Mohammed Salim.

Hassad Team shines in the INJAZ Bahrain Young Entrepreneurs Competition 2021

RUW, represented by the "Hassad" team, won first place in the Injaz Bahrain Young Entrepreneurs Competition for 2021 for the universities category, where the team won the "Best Company of the Year 2021" and "Most Popular Team" awards for its idea of giving back to earth and agriculture, to achieve its vision of making the environment of the Kingdom of Bahrain greener. Qualifying the team to participate in the regional level of the competition. The company's vision is to foster and encourage a greener and healthier environment through the "Hassad Greenhouse" - a portable, mobile greenhouse. The Hassad Greenhouse allows customers to learn more about plants facilitating a and helping to nurture a lifelong talent for agriculture and planting. The students behind this winning idea were Reem Sayed Mufeed as the CEO, Monwah AlFadhel as the Marketing Director, Shahad Al Morohen as the Human Resources Director, Fatema AlSammak as the Finance Director, Shereen Ali as the Sales Director, and Deema Al-Olayan as the Product Development Director.



Student Council Members AY 2020-21



Fizza Zain Ul Abidin
President



Nicole Joan Saldanha
Vice President



Basma Seyadeeh
Student Support Officer



Noor Mahmood
Activities Officer



Ahad Ali Es'haqi
Treasurer



Fatima Mohammed
Secretary

College Representatives



Esraa Alalawi
College of Art and Design



Shahad Almorohen
College of Business and
Financial Sciences



Maryam Ghuloom
College of Law



A Year of Success

RUW witnessed numerous achievements and events that were celebrated by the students and staff. These are the results of the brilliant hard work of a team assured that RUW leads the way:

Quality Achievements

During the AY 2020-21, many academic milestones were accomplished which includes:

- NQF Validation for Bachelor of Business in Marketing and Bachelor of Architectural Design after visits held on 1st and 7th December 2020, respectively.
- RUW received the ASIC Inclusivity Award for the promotion of UN Sustainable Development Goal 5, Gender Equality on 31st March 2021.
- College of Business and Financial Sciences submitted self-evaluation reports for 4 programmes on 20th June 2021.
- MBA programme launched AY 2021-22 and cohort 1 successfully recruited.

Academic Faculty

A Campus of International Competencies

RUW is proud of its highly qualified and multicultural complement of faculty who range from over twenty countries including France, Egypt, UK, Germany, India, Iran, Iraq, Italy, and Jordan to name a few.

Professional Development Planning





The Academic Vice President oversees all academic professional development activities at RUW. To enhance the quality of teaching and professional development planning, an academic professional development plan is annually prepared both at college and university level, based on university needs and faculty requirements.

As the COVID 19 pandemic continued, a comprehensive Professional Development Plan at university level was prepared keeping in mind the technical and academic training for online learning.



Workshops

A series of workshops was organised for all RUW faculty members as detailed below:

Organiser	Title of workshop
WVU	WVU Hybrid teaching fall training
Organiser	Title of workshop
Pearson	<p>Professional Leaders of Learning Course for RUW</p>   <p>4 modules of Asynchronous online teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Innovative Learning Methodologies - Engaging Learners Virtually - Design Thinking in Education - Assessment Design
Organiser	Title of workshop
Centre for Learning Innovation and Customised Knowledge Solutions	<p>Quality and Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Online Learning</p> <p>Objective:</p>  <p>&</p>  <p>'In-house' Webinar on Quality and Quality Assurance for Online Learning</p> <p>To identifying the broad range of understanding, knowledge, and skills that support academic advising in online environments. Participants will be acquainted with different strategies, tools, and techniques to enhance their advising practices and consider how technology may be exploited to offer a better and more personalised advising experience</p>



Organiser	Title of Workshop
<p>The International Coaching Federation (ICF) Ignite Coaching Initiative</p>	<p>ICF Ignite Pro Bono Coaching Sessions Objective:</p>  <p>To spread awareness about coaching and its positive impact to ignite humanity locally and globally. Through pro bono coaching projects, the Ignite Initiative uses the collective power of ICF Chapters, Members and Credential holders to accelerate the United Nations (UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.</p>

All faculty members continue to pursue completion of their Higher Education Academy Fellowship to enhance the teaching and learning process and RUW continue to absorb the financial aspect of the fees. To date, 10 faculty members achieved their Fellowship including one faculty member achieving Principal Fellow.



Research

RUW values the importance of research and the need to build the culture of research in the region. Our focus is on enabling our academics as well as our students to do meaningful, impactful research that makes a real difference to our societies, both locally and internationally. As COVID 19 restrictions continued, all research activities remained online.

RUW Scientific Research Council (SRC)

The SRC has undertaken multiple tasks related to streamlining research initiatives at RUW and implementing the HEC Scientific Research regulations. The Council has been very proactive with the establishment of a e-newsletter (published on the RUW Website, circulated to employers and Advisory Board members) showcasing faculty and student research, research forum presentations and research of note in the region.

Research Forum

Research Forum was established in AY 2012-13 at RUW and is under the supervision of the Office of the Academic Vice President where the goal is to build on the research reputation of RUW. This forum provides an excellent opportunity for faculty members to showcase their research work. Members can present their research in the Research Forum during student activity hour and invite their students to attend as a motivation for research projects and initiatives. As Covid continued, all forums were held virtually.



List of Presenters at Research Forum AY 20-21

- Speaker :

Dr. Maria Casoria

Topic for discussion:

Beyond Tradition: Rethinking the concept of Abuse of Dominance Through the Lens of Personal Data Protection



- Speaker :

Dr. Nehal El Naggar

Topic for discussion:

A Critique of the Global Entrepreneurship Monitor.



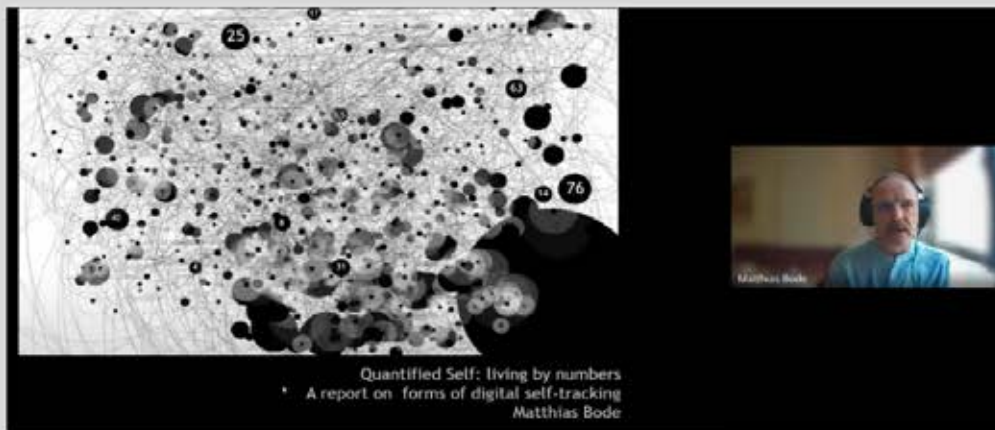


- Speaker :

Dr. Matthias Bode

Topic for discussion:

Quantified Self: a report on forms of digital self-tracking.



- Speaker :

Dr. Debashish Sengupta

Topic for discussion:

Mask buying behavior: A study of evolving motives from safety to fashion to statements.



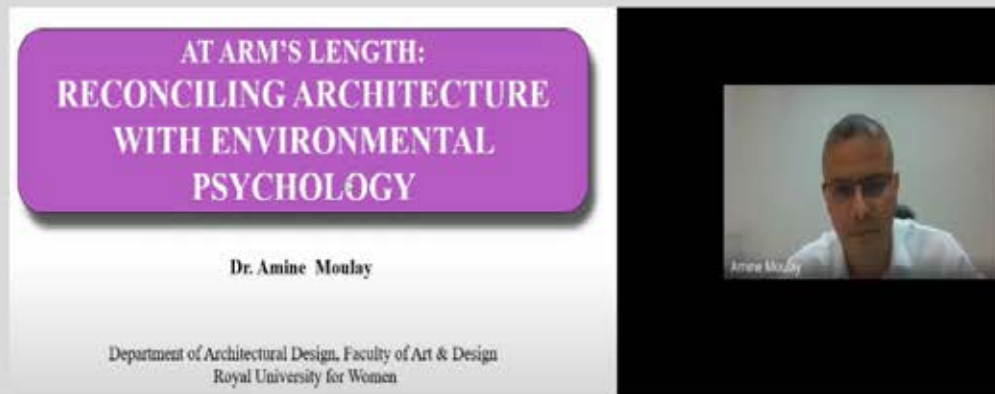


- Speaker :

Dr. Amine Moulay

Topic for discussion:

At Arm's Length: Reconciling Architecture with Environmental Psychology.



- Speaker :

Dr. Akeel Noori

Topic for discussion:

Concept of the Traditional Islamic City.





- Speaker :

Dr. Matthias Bode

Topic for discussion:

Failure: Perspectives and Prospects in Marketing and Consumption Theory.





Conclusion

RUW's commitment to the advancement of women, the enhancement of skills and employability of its students, and to the creation of innovative ways to serve the Kingdom of Bahrain and its vision will continue to be our foremost goal. The Academic Year 2020-21 has been challenging due to the global pandemic, but it has also been a year of achievements and success. RUW students, faculty and administrative staff ensured that the teaching and learning structure of the university was not adversely affected.

We are extremely proud of our students and all their achievements that reflected the structured method in which the university is following aiming to develop the community and serve the Kingdom of Bahrain in the greatest way. RUW has an incredible ability to embrace challenges and transform them into opportunities for improvement. A note of deep gratitude is owed to our respected Board chairman and Members for their continued support and to our staff for their loyalty and belief in our mission.