

A faint, light blue line-art illustration of a mosque's architecture is visible in the background on the left side of the page. It shows a large dome with a patterned surface, a series of smaller domes or arches below it, and minarets at the base.

Research and Scholarly Activities

2022 - 2023

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1. Background

The University of Khorfakkan (UKF) was established in 2022 as a non-profit institution of higher education under the auspices of the Government of Sharjah and the wise leadership and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah, and President of the University of Khorfakkan. The University is fully licensed by the UAE Ministry of Education.

In addition to the currently offered programs in the branch, UKF will establish a new college under the name of “College of Marine Science and Aquatic Biology”. It is planned that this college will represent a national hub for issues related to Marine Science and Aquatic Biology, such as coastal zone management, marine engineering, fisheries and aquaculture, etc.

2. UKF Vision, Mission, Goals and Values

2.1 UKF Vision

UKF vision is to become a leading institute for arts, sciences, marine, maritime research, innovation, and education programs amongst universities, research institutes, and industry.

2.2 UKF Mission

The mission is to enhance, facilitate and deliver internationally recognized, cross-disciplinary and high-impact research and education in arts, sciences and marine sciences, and ocean engineering.

2.3 UKF Goals

- 1 Promote excellence in teaching, with state-of-the-art infrastructure, through enhancing learning for all academic programs and extra-curricular activities.
- 2 Advance scientific research and scholarship at UKF to international level
- 3 Promote the personal, social, academic, and career growth of all students in their chosen careers and professions.
- 4 Contribute to the socio-cultural, scientific, and economic progress of society through social responsiveness and effective engagement.
- 5 Recruit and retain talented and diverse students, scholars, and staff and create the proper environment that nurtures innovation, creativity, and the pursuit of knowledge.
- 6 Develop effective and efficient academic and administrative processes that promote and support excellence in teaching, research, and service to the community.

2.4 Core Values

The core values of the University of Khorfakkan are:

- **Integrity:** UKF adheres to the highest ethical principles and work with integrity, and accountability to create trust and credibility.
- **Inclusiveness:** UKF welcomes and values each other and embrace the diversity of ideas and people.
- **Innovation and creativity:** UKF works without bounds to improve lives through creativity and innovation in the pursuit of academic excellence.
- **Transparency:** UKF is committed to effective communication, through a variety of communication methods, with all our stakeholders (staff, students, alumni, partners, vendors, and the local and international community needs).
- **Excellence:** all UKF activities are conducted according the highest international standards.

3. Research and Scholarly Activities

3.1 Strategy and Policies

The University of Khorfakkan considers research and scholarly activities as a priority area of its strategic goals.

The main aims of the research and scholarly activities are to:

1. Support research management and dissemination,
2. Support and reward researchers, while engaging students,
3. Establish sustainable dynamic priority research areas in service of the community,
4. Expand and equip state-of-the-art research facilities, and
5. Communicate more effectively with society to increase local, regional and international relations in a bid to foster research and innovation through greater collaboration.

3.2 Goals of Research Strategy

Goal 1: Advance scientific research and scholarship at UKF to international level

Objective 1.1: Provide critical mass of human resources for quality research

Strategy 1.1.1: *Allocate appropriate time for research by providing time release for faculty, hiring full-time research associates and graduate students.*

Strategy 1.1.2: *Promote faculty development by supporting multiple conference participations, increasing number of summer visits, and organizing training workshops.*

Strategy 1.1.3: *Recruit and retain highly visible and productive faculty.*

Objective 1.2: Provide sufficient Funding

Strategy 1.2.1: *Facilitate spending of approved research funds*

Strategy 1.2.3: *Increase research budget for funding internal grants*

Strategy 1.2.4: *Facilitate securing external funding*

Objective 1.3: Increase the level of research support to faculty

Strategy 1.3.1: *Recruit motivated staff with experience in administration of sponsored research projects.*

Strategy 1.3.2: *Mentor, train and support junior faculty in writing grant proposals and managing funded projects.*

Strategy 1.3.3: *Enrich libraries with online full databases and specialized scientific periodicals*

Strategy 1.3.4: *Provide specialized technical staff*

Goal 2: Develop the necessary infrastructure needed for research

Objective 2.1: Establish specialized research labs/Research Chairs in strategic areas to serve the community

Strategy 2.1.1: *Identify strategic areas to serve the community*

Strategy 2.1.2: *Identify founding sources*

Strategy 2.1.3: *Select and establish the Research Chairs*

Strategy 2.1.4: *Establish specialized Research Labs.*

Goal 3: Expand graduate studies programs to establish more relevant specialties and higher degrees with international quality

Objective 3.1: Introduce new quality M. Sc. and Ph. D. programs in various disciplines to serve the needs of the local and regional market

Strategy 3.1.1: *Introduce/establish programs that have high employment potential*

Strategy 3.1.2: *Propose new guidelines that encourage faculty to publish with students*

Strategy 3.1.3: *Establish and maintain strategic alliance with reputable universities for graduate programs*

Strategy 3.1.4: *Activate relevant MOUs signed with other entities*

Strategy 3.1.5: *Propose attractive package for graduate scholarships to attract top local and international students*

Strategy 3.1.6: *Use marketing strategies to advertise the graduate programs*

Goal 4: Recruit, retain talented and diverse students, scholars and staff and create the proper environment that nurtures innovation, creativity, and pursuit of knowledge.

Objective 4.1: Recruit and retain highly quality faculty with teaching experience

Strategy 4.1.1: *Recruit and retain high quality faculty with teaching experience*

Strategy 4.1.2: *Ensure all programs have enough staff covering all ranks (junior (assistant professors) to senior (professors))*

Strategy 4.1.3: *Introduce incentives and special awards for high achievers*

Objective 4.2: Provide high standards of educational opportunities to all students

Strategy 4.2.1: *Establish a rigorous recruitment program, especially at the post-graduate level, and eventually extending to undergraduate levels, with proactive faculty involvement.*

Strategy 4.2.2: *Provide a strong staff support for recruitment activities, including outreach to community colleges, sponsored visits by prospective students to the College, and scholarship awards.*

Objective 4.3: Attract top quality students

Strategy 4.3.1: *Increase the number and amount of undergraduate scholarships and discounts available for students*

Strategy 4.3.2: *Increase support for post-graduate programs by offering competitive scholarships, institutional funds or fellowship support*

Strategy 4.3.5: *Introduce attractive programs that cater to the needs of the community and the job market*

Objective 4.4: Provide career advices through regular fairs at schools

Strategy 4.4.1: *Holding career fairs at local high schools*

Strategy 4.4.2: *Conduct regular visits to local high schools*

Strategy 4.4.3: *Host regular career fairs and open days on UKF campus*

3.3 Support for Research and Scholarly Activity

3.3.1 Research Support

The Office of the Vice chancellor for Academic Affairs funds seed, competitive and collaborative grants covering topics in the areas of UKF interest. In addition, researchers are encouraged to secure research grants from major national and international research funding agencies. The University may provide a number of Graduate Research Assistantships for students pursuing their Master or Doctorate studies. Research grants, including:

- Seed Research Grants are provided to newly-appointed faculty members to commence their research activities at the University.
- Competitive Research Grants are provided to researchers on a competitive basis following a process of review and evaluation of research proposals by peers.

- Collaborative Research Grants are grants jointly funded by the University and public and private organizations. They are awarded on a competitive basis following a process of review and evaluation of research proposals by peers.
- Research Visits Grants are provided to researchers to conduct research at recognized external scientific organizations to enhance external collaboration and build the capacity of university researchers.
- Summer Stay Research Grants are provided to researchers to work on a full-time basis on their university funded research projects during the summer semester.
- Extra Conference Participation Grants are provided to researchers to present the results of their university funded research projects in well-reputed conferences.
- Researchers' hosting grants are meant to host distinguished researchers from external scientific organizations in order to enhance cooperation with these institutions, benefit from their expertise and transfer knowledge.
- Students' Research Projects are provided to graduate and undergraduate students at the University to conduct research projects under the supervision of University Researchers.

The library will subscribe in major journals and databases in each discipline.

3.3.2 Research Facilities

The University of Khorfakkan has enough space to accommodate research and educational labs and software. UKF will have a collaboration agreement with the University of Sharjah to support research. Following are useful links to the most important facilities provided to Faculty members and Researchers at UKF in collaboration with the University of Sharjah:

- Labs (<https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Administration/CL/Pages/default.aspx>)
- iThenticate (<http://www.ithenticate.com/>)
- Scopus
(<https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Research/researchers/Pages/SCOPUS.aspx>)
- Library (<https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Libraries/Pages/default.aspx>)
- Funding Opportunities Research Database
(<https://www.sharjah.ac.ae/en/Research/researchers/Pages/FOSD.aspx>)

3.4 Collaborative Research and Scholarly Activity

Collaborative research, therefore, can be defined as research involving coordination between the researchers, institutions, organizations, and/or communities. This cooperation can bring distinct expertise to a project.

Research is frequently undertaken through the collective efforts of many individuals, and it often results from researchers who work together from different academic departments. It is also increasingly common for multiple institutions to work together on projects. Yet

collaborative research can pose many ethical challenges, largely because of the number of people, institutions, and resources involved.

The University of Khorfakkan encourages collaborative research between its researchers and researchers from other institution and within the different disciplines of the university.

3.5 Expectations for Research and Scholarly Activities

According to the university bylaws, the annual evaluation of each faculty member is based on teaching, research and community service. Regarding the research, a minimum of two publications (two journal papers or one journal paper and one international conference paper) is required from each faculty.

3.6 Research and Scholarly Activity Outputs

Research output means the results generated by a given action to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other results and processes.

Some examples of outputs of research to be considered include:

- ☐ books—authored research
- ☐ chapters in research books—authored research
- ☐ journal articles—refereed, scholarly journal
- ☐ conference publications—full paper refereed.
- ☐ original creative works, such as media work
- ☐ live performance of creative works
- ☐ recorded/rendered creative works
- ☐ research reports for an external body
- ☐ portfolio.