



مجلس التعليم العالي
Higher Education Council

Research Task Force:

Terms of Reference

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Background

The Higher Education Council has a mission to change the future of higher education in Bahrain and improve the quality of applied research by bridging the gap between universities and industry. A modern knowledge economy will not be possible to achieve without a strong higher education system and a strong university-industry partnership.

Several key challenges currently exist not least a lack of funding centrally in addition to limited research capacity. Most research conducted lacks context and relevance to both industry and society, which therefore creates little impact or commercialization opportunities.

HEC is looking for the most capable research minds in Bahrain to propose solutions for some of the current challenges facing the higher education system in Bahrain in supporting research at a national level. The expected outcome will be a joint delivery plan with the Higher Education Council. The work of the taskforce is an opportunity for the leaders of research and HEC and other stakeholders to develop a sustainable research ecosystem as the HEC attempts to future proof Bahrain's economic and social development.

The results from the 2014-15 global competitiveness index is a key indicator that measures Bahrain's maturity

Parameters	Rank out of 144
Capacity for innovation	65
Quality of scientific research institutions	102
Company spending on R&D	85
University-industry collaboration in R&D	90
Government procurement of advanced tech products	23
Availability of scientists and engineers	58
PCT patents and applications per million population	69

HEC Key Areas of Work

The HEC programme of activities for the period 2015-2017 is building on the strategic objectives of our national research strategy. Our integrated programme of work at HEC supports research development and innovation at a national level through the following key areas of work:

- Creating a national research fund through industry, government agencies and wider
- Co-ordinate with universities to help build their skills in order for them to improve their research output and quality
- Ensure a pipeline of highly skilled researchers for sustainability through ensuring appropriate post graduate pathways
- Support research in context of the GCC and internationally
- Publicize the research agenda to the public and wider

Role and Responsibilities of the Research Task Force

The RTF will draw upon the experience, knowledge and skills of its members to help deliver on the five key areas of work listed above through the expected key actions:

- Supporting the HEC by stimulating new ideas providing up to date information on major developments locally and internationally
- Help HEC to develop a national impact assessment system for research
- To advise on how to improve the research ecosystem within Bahrain
- To support HEC in identifying post graduate pathways that will fit with the strategic aims of the National research strategy
- To promote joint research activity through developing new collaborations both in Bahrain and internationally
- Work with researchers and universities to build capacity and skills through training and mentoring on such topics as current research methodologies
- Review of Universities research plans and provide feedback, or in some cases advise universities in the development of their plans
- Peer review
- Engage with professional organizations and networks and develop sustainable strategic links
- Provide advice and training on grant writing and management for researchers

Membership

- The research task force is formed by invitation from the General Secretary of the HEC
- Members are invited as representatives of an organisation
- Members will be appointed for one year which is renewable
- The members of the TF will appoint a chair for one year which may be renewable depending on the views of members
- Secretary to RTF will be the office of the General Secretary of the HEC
- The Secretary will keep members informed as to how their ideas and recommendations are impacting on the higher education sector

Meetings

The RTF will meet formally every 2 months at times agreed by the members. Other informal meetings may be arranged as appropriate.



الأمانة العامة لمجلس التعليم العالي

General Secretariat of the Higher Education Council