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Welcome to Al Yamamah University

Introduction

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always accorded higher education the greatest importance and provided it with significant levels of support in order to build an educated society, equipped with knowledge and ready to keep pace with all modern developments. The government’s decision to authorize the opening of private colleges and universities as a complement to public institutions marks a key milestone in a series of positive developments within the Saudi educational sector. Al Yamamah University (formerly Al Yamamah College), which admitted its first cohort of male students in September 2004 (1425/1426H) and female students in September 2006 (1427/1428H), proudly holds a place at the forefront of the Kingdom’s private educational institutions.

From the outset, Al Yamamah has aspired to provide an environment that would be highly-conducive to its students’ academic progress: a center of excellence developed with attention to the highest standards of local and international accrediting agencies, offering innovative programs taught by well-qualified faculty members. Building upon its initial success as a single college offering instruction in business administration, Al Yamamah began to expand by adding its College of Computer and Information Systems (CCIS) and opening the Women’s College, which offers female students the same degree programs made available to males.

In 2008, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, may Allah protect him, issued a royal decree approving the elevation of Al Yamamah College to university status, culminating eight years of planning and hard work to establish a distinctive, modern Saudi educational institution that provides both undergraduate and post-graduate education in English.
Message from the President

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Al Yamamah University. We constantly strive to open the door of opportunity to our students and are committed to doing our utmost to help you achieve your goals throughout your studies and in your future careers.

At Al Yamamah University, we are dedicated to helping you succeed and reach your full potential, but this requires hard work and self-discipline on your part. Let us work together, then, to nurture your passion for learning and discovery, with the shared aim of contributing to the betterment of society.

We invite you to read this booklet carefully. It contains important information about the university, its academic programs and available concentrations, as well as the range of services offered on both the men’s and women’s campuses.

Professor Hussein Alfreih
A New Vision for Learning

Al Yamamah University carefully develops its degree programs with consideration to professional skills that are projected to be in high-demand as the Kingdom continues its economic development. We are proud to offer a distinctive academic environment, enriched with a range of cultural, social and sporting activities that are viewed as vital complements to classes and lectures. Our approach to education is student-centered. Students are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning in order to develop discipline and self-reliance. At the same time, our academic advising program provides assistance and guidance to help them take full advantage of the university’s academic resources.

Today’s Students, Tomorrow’s Leaders

Al Yamamah University is intent on preparing its students to assume leadership positions in the emerging global business environment. We devote particular attention to equipping our students with the knowledge and skills that are necessary for success in today’s fast-paced world. With this in mind, classroom instruction is supplemented by activities designed to help students prepare for a smooth transition into the professional workforce. We aim to produce graduates who possess vital skills in communications and critical thinking—team players, who are fully capable of continuing their development as self-directed learners, and who demonstrate the capacity for reflection, analysis and continual improvement. Undergraduates at Al Yamamah are required to complete the cooperative education program, which consists of a minimum of 440 hours for four-month five hours a day of supervised internship at a company or professional organization. This experience is designed to help students gain a broader understanding of the workplace and of career options within their chosen fields, while developing the skills necessary for success in a competitive professional environment.
Vision Statement:
Al Yamamah University aspires to be the foremost Saudi educational institution, renowned for its effective preparation of creative and entrepreneurial professionals who are consistently in high demand by leading public and private sector organizations.

Mission Statement:
Al Yamamah University provides academic instruction and professional training of the highest standard that impart to its students a life-long dedication to learning and self-development, while enabling rising generations to shape a future marked by positive social and economic progress.

University Values:
* Faithfulness to our religious, ethical and cultural heritage.
* Support and encouragement of scientific research.
* Creativity and Innovation.
* Integrity and Transparency
* Professionalism and Dedication to Continual Improvement

Accreditation
Al Yamamah was authorized in September 2008 by the Ministry of Higher Education to operate as a private university under the Private Universities Act. Degrees awarded by Al Yamamah University are accredited by the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education and recognized by public as well as private sector institutions Local And international.

The College of Business Administration has been a member of the International Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) since 2005 and has been working towards accreditation in accordance with international procedures. Similarly, the College of Computer and Information Systems (founded 2008) is pursuing membership with the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

Driven by its own commitment to promote quality education, the university is determined to continue meeting the highest standards in this area as a leading institution of higher education.
The Academic System

Al Yamamah University operates on the credit hour system. The academic year is divided into fall and spring semesters—each 17 weeks long—in addition to a summer term lasting eight weeks.

The English Language Orientation Program

Al Yamamah University’s English Language Orientation Program aims to develop students’ English skills in preparation for their academic coursework which is taught in English.
Following admission into the university, students take an English placement test in order to determine their appropriate level. English Language Orientation Program are eight levels of instruction, each is eight weeks long. In each level, students have 20 class hours a week, during which they study two subjects: Communication (Speaking & Listening) and Reading & Writing.
In addition to the Orientation program aimed at fresh students, students of the College of Business Administration and the College of Computer and Information Systems are required to complete three and two English courses, respectively, designed to help them develop advanced writing skills.
For the purpose of delivering these courses, Al Yamamah University has entered into a partnership with INTERLINK Language Centers, which is based in the USA and provides English language training at four universities there. The agreement includes the following:

1. To open Saudi INTERLINK Language Center (SILC) at Al Yamamah University and provide instruction for all English courses.
2. To provide highly qualified English teachers who are native speakers.
3. To design curricula that address the needs of students in Saudi Arabia.
4. To provide English language classes to customers from outside the university.
5. To become a certified language center to provide TOEFL Test.
The College of Business Administration

The college offers bachelor’s degrees in business administration with the following concentrations:

Accounting
This concentration is designed to equip students with up-to-date knowledge and skills in the field of accounting. It combines a strong general background in business administration with training in the professional competencies required for a career in accounting. Graduates are in high demand in the Saudi labor market, since virtually every business entity needs accounting services.

Marketing
Marketing is a vital business function in a free market economy that communicates the value of a company’s products or services to its customers. Professionals in this field devise marketing strategies and oversee their implementation. Students pursuing the marketing concentration acquire a solid grounding in business administration in addition to extensive knowledge in marketing and are prepared for related careers in any industry.

Quality Management
Despite the growing importance of quality management in all professional organizations, this concentration is not widely offered at educational institutions within the GCC countries. Today’s businesses rely upon quality management as an essential discipline that is vital to their continued success, as consumers are increasingly sensitive to quality when making purchasing decisions. This concentration prepares students for careers as quality managers, specialists or consultants.

Finance
Financial management is an essential function in any business setting. Students pursuing this concentration acquire skills and knowledge that will assist them in the work of planning, organizing, directing and controlling the financial activities of an enterprise. Graduates will be prepared for a related career in corporate finance departments or financial institutions such as local and international banks, investment funds and government lending funds.
Insurance
YU is the first university in any GCC country to offer a bachelor’s degree program with a concentration in insurance. Since the promulgation of health, property and motor vehicle insurance laws in Saudi Arabia, there has been a constant and increasing need for well-trained insurance professionals. Graduates are prepared for career opportunities with insurance companies as well as with enterprises that utilize insurance services, such as hospitals, factories and government agencies.

Management Information Systems
Fast-paced developments in the computing industry and the resulting reliance of businesses upon information systems have resulted in an increased demand for professionals in the field of management information systems. This concentration prepares students to work as management information systems specialists. It equips them with knowledge and skills in database design and management, system analysis, project management and quality assurance. Graduates will be prepared to work in the field of management information systems in any kind of organization.

Family Business and Entrepreneurship
The majority of small and medium businesses in Saudi Arabia and a significant number of its larger companies are family owned. This concentration examines a range of critical issues confronting family-owned enterprises owing to changes in the local business environment as a result of globalization and the increased market presence of multinational corporations. Coursework prepares students to operate family businesses and to meet the challenges that develop over time as management responsibilities are gradually transferred from one generation to the next.

Real Estate
This concentration has been developed to prepare students for a wide range of professional opportunities in the construction and real estate sectors. Coursework provides insight into the Saudi real estate market along with training in real estate development, finance, valuation and management.

The Department of Law
Al Yamamah University’s Department of Law offers an LLB degree program, leading to a qualifying law degree for academic and professional purposes. The program is designed to ensure that graduates acquire both the legal knowledge and skills required to apply the law in practice. It equips students with essential professional capabilities and an introduction to the legal work environment. Upon their completion of the common core curriculum, students choose to follow one of two major specialties:

Public Law
The branch of law that governs relationships between individuals, whether persons or corporate entities, and the government and those relationships between individuals which are of direct concern to society. Some examples include constitutional law, administrative law and criminal law.

Private Law
The branch of law that pertains to relationships between individuals or private relationships between individuals and companies, rather than their relationships with the government. Examples include contract law, the law of obligations, property law and family law.
The College of Computer and Information Systems

The college offers bachelor’s degrees in computer and information systems with the following concentrations:

Networking and Security
This specialization is one of the most important specializations in the field of computing and information systems, due to the increasing need for complex network design and the security of large networks, including enterprise and next generation networks.

Programming and Databases
Despite being one of the classic specializations in the field of computing and information systems, it is in high demand in the labor market, due to the constant need for designing and implementing operational databases as well as for storing and retrieving data within them.

Graphics and Multimedia
Al Yamamah is one of the first universities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to offer the Graphics and Multimedia concentration. Students pursuing this concentration acquire knowledge and practical experience in using computers to create graphics and multimedia, such as movies and creative advertisements.

Electronic Commerce
As the number of Internet users increase, new trends have emerged and the Internet has become a convenient environment for conducting business. This concentration covers electronic commerce (e-commerce) equipping students with the technological knowledge and skills required to develop e-commerce system, set up the underlying system infrastructure, and maintain data integrity and security.

Software Engineering
This concentration covers all steps of software engineering: analysis, design and implementation, testing and finally deployment and enhancement.
The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences currently:

The Department of General Studies

Undergraduate degree programs at Al Yamamah University all include specified general education requirements. This department offers coursework in Arabic and Islamic studies as well as other subjects from the humanities and social sciences in fulfillment of program requirements or as electives.
The College of Engineering and Architecture

The College of Engineering and Architecture aspires to train architects, interior architects and designers, who can lead their professions into the digital age while respecting the local heritage. The college offers two related degree programs. Students may pursue studies leading to the bachelor of architecture with specializations in architecture, building science and technology, or environmental design; or a bachelor of science in interior architecture, with specializations in interior architecture, furniture design or lighting design.

Program graduates will be well-equipped to work in the international sector of the construction industry and will become excellent candidates for employment in both local and international architectural and design firms.

The Department of Architecture

The department aims to educate students in the fundamentals of the art and science of architecture with particular emphasis upon developing the traits of innovation, creativity and critical thinking as they apply to the built environment. It offers coursework that provides students with the professional skills required for careers in architectural design, building science and technology, project management and environmental design.

The Department of Interior Architecture

Interior architecture is an interdisciplinary field that combines elements of interior design and architecture. Focusing primarily upon existing structures, it explores creative approaches to the reuse and transformation of interiors utilizing new materials, technologies and techniques. The department of interior architecture assists students in exploring the interaction of people and enclosed space in order to design and redesign interiors that are more functional, safe and attractive. Specialties in interior architecture, furniture design and lighting design prepare students for a variety of creative career opportunities in architectural and specialized design firms and related industries.
Master's programs
The college of business administration offers Master’s degrees in with the following concentrations:

1- Executive MBA (EMBA).
2- Master of Human Resources (HRM).
3- Master of Business Administration (MBA).

All our master’s programs are accredited by the ministry of higher education. They provide curricula that go in line with the latest methodology and are affiliated with American, British, and German universities. Graduates can receive the master’s degree in business and diplomas in finance and marketing from those universities.

Deanship of Continuing Education And community service
The deanship of continuing education provides a wide range of programs including short training courses for those who desire to develop and improve their skills and acquire new modern ones. It also provides diplomas in the following majors:

1- Human resources.
2- Insurance.
3- Banking.
4- Tourism.
5- Medical Secretary Diploma.

Faculty Members
Recognizing that its faculty members are the key to a university’s character and success, Al Yamamah seeks to attract faculty candidates who are distinguished by academic excellence and a dedication to teaching. In line with our strong institutional commitment to English as the language of instruction, experience in an English-language environment and well-developed communications skills are vital considerations in our faculty hiring decisions. Meanwhile, all of our English language instructors are highly-qualified native speakers from the USA, Canada, the UK, South Africa and Australia.

Academic Advising and Guidance
Academic advising is one of the most important resources available to university students. Academic advisors play a critical role in directing students in selecting appropriate courses, following the study plan and choosing an appropriate concentration. They also offer advice and do all they can to help students adjust to university life with ease.
Academic Collaboration Agreements with International Partners

With the aim of promoting academic cooperation and to facilitate the exchange of information and expertise, Al Yamamah University has signed collaboration agreements with a number of universities around the world, including:

1- DePaul University - USA
2- Grenoble Graduate School of Business – France
3- Washington State University – USA
4- University of Canterbury – New Zealand
5- The Ludwig Maximillian University of Munich - Germany
6- Kookmin University – South Korea
7- INSEEC – France
8- De Montfort University – UK
9- University of Turin – Italy
10-University of California at Irvine – USA

The agreements cover the following areas:

1. Curriculum design for a number of academic concentrations
2. Promotion of co-op and summer study abroad programs
3. Facilitating the admission of YU alumni as graduate students in collaborating universities
4. Exchange of information and expertise between faculty members
5. Development of joint training programs and conferences
6. Exchange of academic resources such as books, reports and periodicals
7. Development of dual degree programs (University of Canterbury, Grenoble Graduate School of Business and Furtwangen University)
Admission

To be admitted to Al Yamamah University, freshman students must meet the following criteria:

- The student must have a high school certificate or equivalent from a school in Saudi Arabia or abroad. (Completion of the science track is required for admission into the College of Computer and Information Systems.)
- The certificate should not be more than five years old.
- The student must not have been expelled from another college or university.
- The student must enroll on a full-time basis.
- Enrollment as part-time student may be accepted with the employer’s approval.
- Must meet any other requirements requested by the University.

How to apply

Candidates for admission to Al Yamamah University should complete the application form available on-line at www.yu.edu.sa and submit the print-out along with all required documents to the admissions office.

Required Documents

1. Completed electronic application form (printed out)
2. Original high school certificate or equivalent
3. Recent score of the general aptitude test (Qudurat), administered by the National Center for Assessment in Higher Education (Qiyas)
4. Photocopy of the applicant’s civil identification card (personal identification card for Saudis and residence permit (Iqama) for Non-Saudis)
5. Three recent passport-size photographs
English Placement Test

Before the beginning of each semester, new students are required to sit for an English placement test. Based upon the results, students are assigned to classes at levels corresponding to their proficiency. Applicants with a TOEFL score of 513 or more (CBT 183, iBT 65), or with an IELTS Band of 5.5 or more (with a minimum of 5 in each part of the test) will be exempted from the placement test. These test scores should be no more than three years old if the official language of the applicant’s country of residence is not English.

Scholarships

There are several scholarship programs that Al Yamamah students can apply for. Each program has its eligibility requirements.

1. The Local Private Colleges and Universities Scholarship Program:
The Scholarships offered by the Ministry of Higher Education. Every academic year, the Ministry of Higher Education offers full scholarships to a number of male and female students and provides recipients with grants that nearly cover their tuition costs. Al Yamamah students are eligible to apply for this scholarship program.

2. Charity Fund Scholarship Program:
The charity fund program gives full scholarship on specific conditions announced every year for limited categories of this society such as those registered in the social security program or charity organizations sons and daughters of martyrs for diploma and bachelor’s programs.

3. Al Yamamah University Scholarship Program:
The Al Yamamah University Scholarship Program rewards high achievement among YU’s non-Saudi students by providing recipients with grants of up to 100% of their tuition costs. Grants are sponsored by a number of businessmen as well as leaders in the education sector, one of whom is Sheikh Mohammed bin Ibrahim Al Khudair.
University Life

Academic pursuits are just one aspect of the student experience at YU. The university organizes a variety of intellectual, cultural and social activities each year and offers a wide range of student clubs that cater to all interests. Students are encouraged to be active in clubs and extra-curricular activities devoted to the arts, sports, academic and career interests, as well as volunteer community service projects. Participants benefit from new friendships and valuable opportunities for recreation, self-development, creative expression and social responsibility.

Campus

Al Yamamah University is located north of Riyadh, on the Al-Qassim Highway, and occupies an area of 160,000 square meters. It was designed in accordance with the latest standards for educational institutions and includes separate facilities for its male and female students. The men’s campus consists of the central academic building (including both faculty and administrative offices), the grand auditorium, main library, sports club, a number of outdoor courts and a mosque. The women’s campus provides outstanding modern facilities for all academic, administrative and recreational activities in one all-inclusive building.

Classrooms

Classrooms are designed to optimize the learning process and are well-equipped with all facilities that students need during lectures.
Research Centers

SABB Investment Research Center
In collaboration with the Saudi British Bank (SABB), Al Yamamah University is the proud home of the SABB Investment Research Center, which has separate branches. The SABB Investment Research Center aims to assist students and faculty members—especially from the College of Business Administration—by providing them with real-time access to both local and international financial markets. It provides training and hands-on experience in the use of sophisticated financial software applications that allow students to apply their theoretical knowledge and develop their professional skills.

Center for Business and Applied Research (CBAR)
The Center for Business and Applied Research was established in 2012 in order to encourage faculty research and scholarly production while strengthening the links between teaching and research at the undergraduate level. CBAR seeks to forge collaborative partnerships with participating universities, government agencies and the business community to create opportunities for sponsored research programs aimed at fostering business development, while making contributions to the economic, social and cultural development of the country and the region.

Microsoft Innovation Center
Al Yamamah University is pleased to host Saudi Arabia’s only Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC). These are state-of-the-art technical facilities designed and operated with the goal of facilitating collaboration between government, academic and industry participants on innovative research, technology and software solutions. There are currently more than 90 such centers world-wide, working to promote advances in technology while stimulating local software economies through skills and professional training, industry partnerships and innovation. Students in the College of Computing and Information Systems benefit from access to specialized technical training as well as MIC sponsored industry events throughout the year.

The Main Library
Al Yamamah University’s main library is located on the men’s campus, with a branch serving the needs of the women’s college. The library provides information and resource materials to the YU community in a timely and efficient manner and features group study rooms. The main library occupies 1,500 square meters. It has the capacity to store up to 35,000 volumes and can accommodate as many as 200 users at any one time. Resources are primarily in Arabic and English with an emphasis upon the various branches of business administration and computing and information systems. Holdings include books, periodicals and reports as well as a range of digital and on-line media and database resources. Facilities include computers connected to the internet in addition to a wireless network. Library services are made available to Al Yamamah’s community free of charge. This service is available for students and faculty 24/7 through the internet to browse thousands of electronically - available periodicals and books. With the efforts of the Ministry of Higher Education for providing vast electronic services to all the academic institutions in the Kingdom through SDL, Currently YU Library is subscribing number of databases through the Saudi Digital Library on a yearly basis which will give an opportunity to access large number of journals, books and other information resources in different field of interest including Engineering & Architecture and Law etc. as the Library is committed to providing access to information in a variety of formats.
Sport Club

The university encourages students, faculty and staff to pursue and attain a healthy lifestyle by integrating body and mind through recreation and sporting activities. For that purpose, the campus houses a sports club with courts for volleyball, basketball and handball, along with a bowling alley, as well as a fully equipped gym area. In addition, the outdoor sporting facilities include a soccer field, and tennis and basketball courts, suitable for hosting public sporting events. The club supervises the university’s soccer and basketball teams, which participate frequently in tournaments organized by the Ministry of Higher Education.

Information Technology Services

Al Yamamah University’s Information Technology Center (ITC) plays a key role in facilitating the educational process. Each YU student receives an email account and technical support for his/her computer. Students are also provided with access to an on-line system for course registration and tracking their academic progress, as well as the university’s learning management system through which they can contact faculty members, submit homework and track lectures. In addition, YU provides free internet access via wireless networking throughout the campus.

Student Lounge and Dining Area

Al Yamamah University aspires to provide students with all services they need on campus. For this, the Men’s Campus houses a student lounge in the hall of the library building, where students can sit, relax, study, browse the internet or watch television in their free time. It also houses a number of restaurants and cafeteria that offer a variety of foods and beverages.
Women’s College Campus

From its inception, Al Yamamah University has been committed to providing female students with educational opportunities that prepare them for their vital role in the emerging Saudi labor market. The women’s college is the fruit of that commitment, with a state-of-the-art campus featuring modern facilities—both academic and recreational—that are fully equivalent to those enjoyed on the men’s campus.
Academic Facilities

Academic facilities at the women’s campus are designed to provide a stimulating environment that facilitates learning. The campus features technology-equipped classrooms, lecture halls and computer labs in addition to the SABB Investment Research Center.
Women’s College Library

The women’s library occupies 1,200 square meters and holds a wide collection of books. It is equipped with computers and wireless internet and features group study rooms where students, faculty members and administrative staff can study, read and research.
Student Lounge and Food Court

Our well-furnished lounge and food court features a number of carefully selected restaurants and cafeteria. Students, faculty members and staff can enjoy a variety of foods, snacks and beverages in a friendly and relaxed ambience. Wireless internet is available in the area, so students can study or browse the web in their free time.
Sports Club

Not overlooking the importance of physical fitness for girls’ overall well-being, Al Yamamah University’s women’s campus features a modern sports and recreation center, including an exercise studio and recreational facilities including regulation bowling lanes. These mirror YU’s commitment to provide the best possible resources for all of its students to reach their full potential.
“I express my pleasure in seeing this project becoming a reality. Al Yamamah University is one of the few models that should be emulated when setting up private institutions of higher education in Saudi Arabia. Its approach to establishing such an institution has been unique and it has incorporated all the components necessary for success when planning such institutions. The academic programs, e.g., the Insurance and Quality Management, offered by Al Yamamah University, are new, not previously offered in the Kingdom. The linkages with the job market through cooperative education, a practical curriculum and strong English language skills are vital in today’s higher education. And, finally, I say that cooperation with well-known and established universities internationally is one of Al Yamamah’s most attractive features, one that we in the Ministry of Higher Education support and encourage.”

Dr. Khald ibn Mohammed Al Aneary
Minister of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia

“I commend you, the founders of Al Yamamah, and your colleagues for having taken the initiative to open Al Yamamah University. We think that your innovative programs and the Bachelor of Business Administration curriculum designed by Simon Fraser University of Canada are very strong. They will prepare your students well to engage in international business. Your beautiful new facilities provide an excellent setting to pursue your mission. We are proud that Valparaiso University is among the first universities to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Al Yamamah University. We look forward to continued cooperation and a mutually beneficial relationship with Al Yamamah in the years ahead.”

Dr. Alan F. Harre
Former President of Valparaiso University in the USA

“We had a unique experience dealing with Al Yamamah University. Their graduates have proven highly proficient in carrying out the tasks assigned to them in our company. This surely reflects the university’s high academic standards and well-designed curricula. In addition, the graduates, who are employees working with us now, have remarkably advanced English Language skills”

Ali Ward Bin Zouman
General Manager of Century 21 Saudi Arabia Co.

“The knowledge and skills I acquired at the university had a positive impact on my entering the job market. The most prominent feature of the university is the educational atmosphere, which focuses on treating everyone as one family. The staff members teaching me were excellent mentors to me.”

Abdullrah Al Salash
Al Yamamah University Graduate – Quality Management Concentration