

## University Community Engagement Policy

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Policy Author	University Council
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# University Community Engagement Policy

## Definition

Community engagement is a fundamental component of Al Yamamah University's (YU) mission and vision. This policy underscores the importance of community engagement and outlines the university's commitment to fostering strong and mutually beneficial partnerships with local, national, and global communities. YU recognizes that community engagement enhances the educational experience, advances research and scholarship, and promotes the well-being of our society.

## Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the significance of community engagement at YU and establish a framework for its practice. This policy applies to all members of YU's community, including students, faculty, staff, and administration. It encompasses engagement activities with local communities, academic institutions, nonprofit organizations, businesses, government and agencies.

## Definition of Community Engagement

Community engagement at YU encompasses a broad spectrum of activities, including but not limited to:

1. Service Learning: Incorporating community service into the curriculum to enhance academic learning.
2. Research Collaborations: Partnering with communities to conduct research that addresses local and global challenges.
3. Outreach and Public Service: Providing resources, expertise, and support to address societal needs, such as educational programs, and community development initiatives.
4. Cultural and Artistic Engagement: Promoting cultural understanding and artistic expression through events, exhibitions, and performances that engage diverse audiences.



**5. Economic and Entrepreneurial Initiatives:** Supporting local economic development and fostering entrepreneurship through partnerships with businesses and industry.

## **Rationale for Community Engagement**

YU recognizes the following key reasons for the importance of community engagement:

- 1. Enhanced Learning:** Community engagement provides students with real-world experiences, enabling them to apply classroom knowledge to practical situations. This fosters critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and a deeper understanding of social issues.
- 2. Research Advancement:** Collaborative research with communities allows YU to address complex societal challenges more effectively, generate innovative solutions, and contribute to the body of knowledge.
- 3. Community Well-being:** YU recognizes its role as an anchor institution within the community, and through engagement, it can contribute to improved quality of life, economic vitality, and social cohesion in the surrounding areas.
- 4. Global Perspective:** Community engagement extends beyond geographical boundaries, providing opportunities for international collaborations and promoting cross-cultural understanding.

## **Principles of Community Engagement**

YU is committed to the following principles in its community engagement efforts:

- 1. Reciprocity:** Engagement should be a mutually beneficial partnership where all parties involved contribute, learn, and grow.
- 2. Inclusivity:** Engagement efforts should be inclusive and respectful of diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and cultures.
- 3. Sustainability:** Engagement initiatives should have a lasting positive impact on communities and foster long-term relationships.
- 4. Ethical Conduct:** Engagement activities must adhere to ethical standards, respect community autonomy, and protect the rights and dignity of all individuals involved.

## **Implementation and Oversight**

1. YU shall establish an Office of Community Engagement responsible for coordinating and supporting community engagement activities across the university for all types of community engagements.
2. Each academic department and administrative unit shall develop and maintain a community engagement plan that aligns with the university's mission and this policy.
3. The university shall establish mechanisms for assessing the impact and effectiveness of community engagement efforts and make necessary adjustments to enhance their outcomes.

## **Reporting and Accountability**

YU shall regularly report on its community engagement activities and their outcomes to the university community and relevant stakeholders.

## **Review and Revision**

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure its relevance and effectiveness. Any member can make recommendations for revisions to the university community and will be considered through the appropriate governance processes.

## **Exceptions**

The University Council reserves the right to decide on any situation/circumstance outside of the conditions stated in this policy.

## **Authorization**

This policy was authorized by:



University President

Date: 8-10-2023