Decision of the FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes

111st Meeting on 28 June 2019

Project Number:	16/106
Higher Education Institution:	Sultan Qaboos University (SQU)
	College of Law
Location	Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Study Programme:	Bachelor of Law (LL.B.)
Type of Accreditation	initial Accreditation

The FIBAA Accreditation Committee for Programmes has taken the following decisions:

According to § 12 (2) in conjunction with § 16 (1) of the "Special Conditions for awarding the FIBAA Quality Seal for Programme Accreditation "FIBAA Programme Accreditation"", the study programme is accredited.

Period of Accreditation: from June 26th, 2019 until the end of spring semester 2024

The FIBAA Quality Seal is awarded.

Assessment Report

Higher Education Institution (HEI):
Sultan Qaboos University (SQU)
College of Law
Muscat, Sultanate of Oman

Bachelor study programme:
Bachelor of Law

Qualification awarded on completion:
 Bachelor of Law (LL.B.)

General Information on the study programme

Brief description of the study programme:
The Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) programme equips students for a career in law through solid theoretical foundation of legal concepts and legal reasoning combined with practical applications and implementation. Students are provided with the necessary academic and practical skills, and professional training to immediately start a career in law in Oman and the Arab region.

Type of study programme:
Bachelor programme

Projected study time and number of ECTS points assigned to the study programme:
4 years, 126 US credit hours

Mode of study:
full-time

Didactic approach:
Study programme with obligatory class attendance

Double/Joint Degree programme:
no

Scope (planned number of parallel classes) and enrolment capacity:
One at a time, about 40 students

Programme cycle starts in:
both fall and spring semester

Initial start of the programme:
1997

Type of accreditation:
Initial accreditation

Procedure

A contract for the initial accreditation of the Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) was made between FIBAA and the College of Law of Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) on 24 October 2017. On6 January 2019, the HEI submitted a self-evaluation report, which included a detailed description of the programme and further documents in order to prove that the criteria for programme accreditation were met.

At the same time, FIBAA appointed a review panel. The HEI agreed with the chosen experts. The panel consisted of:

Prof. Dr. Adelheid Zeis
Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences, Germany
Professor of Public Law, especially Municipal Law and General Administrative Law (Public law, especially budgetary law / Public accounts and corporate law of public enterprises)

Prof. Dr. Christian Joerges
University of Bremen / Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany
Professor of Law and Society (Europeanization of Private and Commercial Law, Transnational Risk Regulation, new forms of Governance in Europe, Anti-liberal Traditions in German and European law)

Dr. Hussain Al Salmi
German University of Technology in Oman (GUtech), Muscat, Sultanate of Oman
Deputy Rector for Administration & Finances, Doctor of Philosophy (Manchester University) Master of Laws (LLM), International Law and Legal Studies, International Human Rights, Constitutional Law

Julia Titze LL.M. (Com.)
Vonovia Modernization GmbH, Dortmund, Germany
Consultant to the Director, operational compliance officer, privacy coordinator (Business law, corporate development, compliance, data protection, innovation management, internal communication)

Susanna Bonacina
University of Regensburg, Germany
Student Bachelor of Law

FIBAA project manager:
Nora Winckel

The assessment is based on the self-evaluation report, amended by further documents, requested by the panel, and a site visit. The site visit took place on 8/9 April 2019 at the HEI's premises in Muscat. On end of the on-site visit the panel gave a short feedback on its first impressions to representatives of the HEI.

The assessment report based on this was delivered to the HEI for comment on 9 June 2019 The statement on the report was given up on 12 June 2019, it has been taken into account in the report on hand.

Summary

The Bachelor of Law (LL.B.) offered by Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) fulfils without exceptions the FIBAA quality requirements for bachelor programmes and can be accredited by the Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA) for five years starting on June 26th, 2019 and finishing in the end of spring semester 2024. The programme is in accordance with the national and the European Qualification Frameworks and the European Standards and Guidelines in their applicable version valid at the time of opening of the procedure, and with the Bologna declaration.

The quality requirement that is not fulfilled – Internationality of the student body (chapter 3.4.2) – is not an asterisk criterion and therefore does not lead to a condition. The measures the HEI takes to solve the identified problem are to be considered during the re-accreditation.

The panel members identified several areas where the programme could be further developed:
- Logic and conceptual coherence (see Chapter 3.1),
- Integration of theory and practice (see Chapter 3.1),
- Methods and scientific practice (see Chapter 3.1),
- Study and exam regulations (see Chapter 3.2),
- Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (see Chapter 3.3) and
- Skills for Employment/ Employability (see Chapter 3.6).

The measures that the HEI takes in order to implement the recommendations of the panel members are to be considered during the re-accreditation.

There are many criteria in which the programme exceeds the quality requirements:
- Positioning of the study programme within the HEI`s overall strategic concept (see Chapter 1.3)
- Student support by the faculty (see Chapter 4.1),
- Programme director (see Chapter 4.2),
- Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty (see Chapter 4.2),
- Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (see Chapter 4.4.),
- Career counselling and placement service (see Chapter 4.5),
- Programme description (see Chapter 5.3) and
- Information on activities during the academic year (see Chapter 5.3).

The Access to literature (see Chapter 4.4) is exceptional.

For the overall assessment of the programme, please refer to the quality profile at the end of this report.

Information

Information on the Institution

Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) was established as the only fully state-owned university in November 1980 by the Royal Decree number 44/81, issued on 17th May 1981. Study courses commenced in 1986, organised in Colleges of Medicine and Health Sciences, Engineering, Agriculture and Marine Sciences, Education, and Science.
Today, SQU has in addition the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Economics and Political Sciences, Law and Nursing.

The College of Law (CL) was established in 1997 and is managed by the department of private and of public law. Beside the LL.B., it offers four master programmes in the fields of Commercial Law, Criminal Law, Private and Public Law.
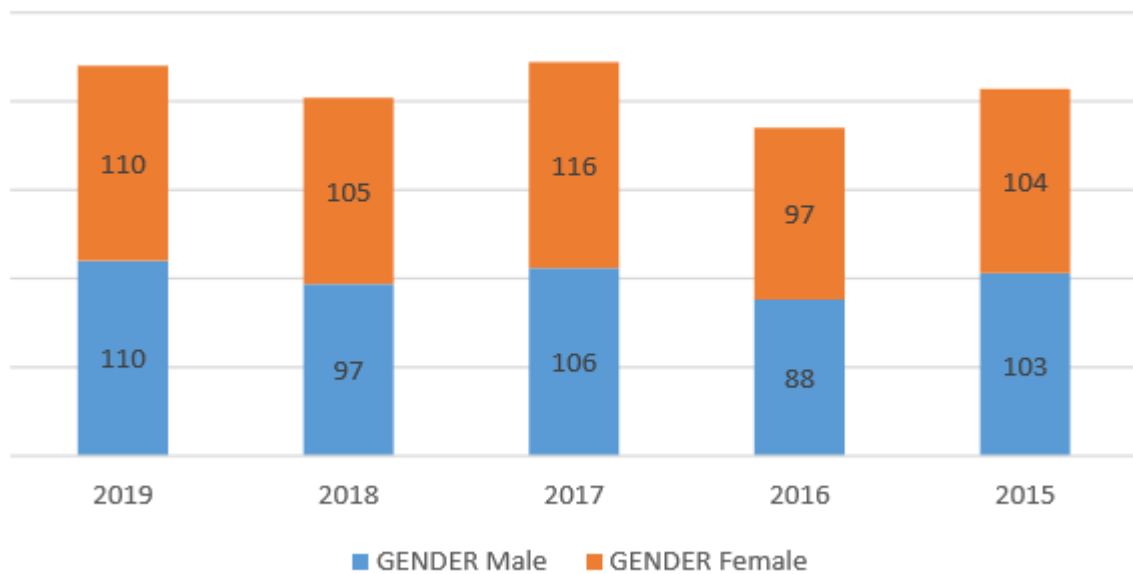
statistical data and evaluation results

The programme, founded in 1997 has undergone extensive reviews and was revised in 2007. From 2016-2020, the College of Law runs an academic review process to keep in line with the needs of the society. The average study time is about 4 years

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF ADMISSION, WITHDRAWAL, TRANSFER AND GRADUATIONS (AY 2003-2017)

COHORT	Admitted		Transfer			**Withdraw	Continued	Graduates	Curntly Active	Attrition %
	*Act.	+Curntly﹨	In	Out	Net					
2017	222	222	0	0	0	0	222	0	222	0%
2016	178	178	0	0	0	1	177	0	177	-1%
2015	206	206	0	0	0	16	190	0	190	8%
2014	208	210	4	2	2	17	193	0	193	7.20%
2013	200	219	23	4	19	31	188	12	176	6.00%
2012	200	221	22	1	21	33	188	138	50	6.00%
2011	200	222	34	12	22	41	181	164	17	9.50%
2010	163	196	36	3	33	24	172	169	3	-5.50%
2009	162	187	31	6	25	11	176	176	0	-8.60%
2008	162	192	36	6	30	10	182	181	1	-12.30%
2007	148	184	41	5	36	17	167	167	0	-12.80%
2006	116	117	8	7	1	0	117	117	0	-0.90%
2005	122	124	4	2	2	0	124	124	0	-1.60%
2004	178	180	2	0	2	0	180	180	0	-1.10%
2003	174	174	0	0	0	0	174	174	0	0.00%
Grand Total	2639	2832	241	48	193	201	2631	1602	1029	0%

Student Profile by Gender during the last 5 years

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
GENDER Female	110	105	116	97	104
GENDER Male	110	97	106	88	103

■ GENDER Male   ■ GENDER Female

Appraisal

The curriculum development is a dynamic process and the curriculum reflects the market needs and job requirements. That is why CL reviews the curriculum periodically in order to match the market needs. The up-to-date programme enhances the students' skills and competencies and exposes them to the real work environment and improves their chances of finding appropriate jobs.

Programme Description and Appraisal in Detail

1. Objectives

1.1 Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk-Criterion)

The Bachelor programme equips students for a career in law through solid theoretical foundation of legal concepts and legal reasoning combined with practical applications and implementation. Students are provided with the necessary academic and practical skills, and professional training to immediately start a career in law in Oman and the Arab region. The Programme Learning Objectives are:
- Providing the local, regional and international labour market with qualified graduates to work in different legal domains
- Raising the level of scientific research and support it to serve the Omani society
- Providing consistency between academic programme objectives and outcomes with graduate's attributes and the national qualifications framework.
- Enabling students to acquire intellectual, technical and communication skills, and life –long learning education
- Enhance the ethical, national, and professional values of the law student
- Enhancing the practical aspect of theoretical legal knowledge acquired by students from the programme,
- Enabling students to prepare legal scientific research according to the known scientific research methods

The Bachelor of Law program has been developed in line with the Omani Standard Classification of Education (OSCED) Framework 2009.

Appraisal:

The qualification objectives of the programme are plausibly described and the profiles of the programmes` graduates in the field of law and its societal context are convincingly explained by CL. In the view of the expert panel the programme embraces academic proficiency, comprehensive employability, as well as the development of the individual student's personality. The programme objectives combined with individually chosen qualifications and skills in various elective fields correspond with the aspired bachelor level at graduation. The programmes objectives are also in line with the national Omani higher education requirements.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.1* Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

1.2 International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)

CL believes that international orientation of the programme curriculum has an utmost importance for the students' future employability in international organisations and perhaps global market.

Besides the objective on achieving work possibilities for graduates in the Omani job market, the programme also aims at preparing the students with the necessary skills to work abroad in other Arabic countries. This can be seen in the international content and the corresponding course materials as well as in the use of English as teaching language.

Moreover, the students gain international insights by participating in moot courts.
- The first one (17-21 April, 2016) was under the supervision of College of Law, SQU with the participation of different Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, UAE, and Qatar).
- The second one (29/4-1/5 ,2016), held in UAE (Mohamed bin Maktum competition) with the participation of many Arab Countries, (Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, Tunisia, Libya, Kuwait, Oman, Algeria).
- The third one (2-6 April, 2017) was under the supervision of International Law College, Kuwait, with the participation of different Arab countries.

CL regularly organises workshops and international conferences with participants from Oman and abroad.

At last, the educational background and the professional experience of the academic staff of the Law College is supposed to help future graduates gaining multicultural perspective. In addition to that, some faculty members are involved in consultancy and training with some local and international organisations.

Appraisal:

The programme design appropriately takes into account various international aspects, especially regarding the differences and the basis of legal systems in the Arabic region. The international content as well as the possibilities of student exchange and the other international activities (Moot Courts and Conferences) clearly promote the graduates' employability in an international context (see also chapter 3.4).

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.2* International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

1.3 Positioning of the study programme

SQU is the only fully state-owned university in Oman. As part of it, CL has a unique selling position in the education of law in the region. It offers over 20 years of experience with an academic staff that has a big variety of knowledge and experience, young and enthusiastic academicians as well as well-experienced and solid professors. CL began to implement legal education in Oman and is still developing it further with a strong connection to the state bodies in the field of law and with the legal community in the whole Arab world. CL has established over the years strong connections with the legal community inside and outside Oman. Another advantage, CL is among few faculties of law in Oman that have an Advisory Board Council composed of members from the legal community and policy makers in Oman.

The solid education and good connections of CL can be seen in the graduate`s success in the job market: Graduates of the programme work as Magistrates, Legal consultants at banks and public corporations, Officials at ministries and public services, Diplomatic and consular representatives, Lecturers at Universities and Law colleges, Notary, in the Private sector or as Lawyers. CL states, that the bachelor programme responds to the market needs

which are continuously changing. A Faculty Council, in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, discusses periodically the emerging employment needs in the market and the necessary amendments to the programme curriculum.

SQU follows a "Strategic Plan 2016-2040" which aims among others
- to produce quality graduates equipped with critical thinking and professional skills to enable them to pursue successful careers,
- to conduct internationally recognised research of impact on the socio-economic development of the country and to contribute to knowledge and
- to enable students achieve excellence through an enriching experience.

Appraisal:

The reasons given for the positioning in the educational market of this study programme are plausible.

Regarding the competitiveness of the programme's graduates on the job market the panel has no doubt that they can compete successfully on the job market in Oman as well as in other Arab countries. The future fields of employment for graduates are described plausibly for the programme. The graduate' profiles correspond to the foreseeable demand.

CL builds among the other colleges of SQU part of the full education idea of the University. Aiming to serve the Omani society with high qualified graduates in law to nurture a stable Omani law society is in the view of the panel a core part of the faculty's strategy.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1.3 Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1 Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			X		
1.3.2 Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability")			X		
1.3.3 Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept		X			

2. Admission

The admission to undergraduate programmes for the applicants who have Omani citizenship relies on the legal regulations Royal Decree No. 104/2005 and on the regulations and decisions of the Higher Education and Admission Center (HEAC) in cooperation with the University, which sets some prerequisites for the programme, the applicants are interested to sign in. Omani students are placed into the programme based on their General Education Diploma GED results. After that they entry the College to pass the placement into the General Foundation Programme GFP .

Applicants have to register on the website of HEAC once a year with

- Application Form,
- General Education Diploma,
- Original copy of Certificate of Examination Results (if any),
- The passport including the applicant's photo,
- A passport photo.

CL requires:

Minimum Requirement for major subjects
General Education Diploma and equivalencies The student Must study following subject (Islamic Culture, Core Arabic Language and Core English language) and score: Minimum of (65%) in each of them
GCE Certificate The student Must study following subject (Islamic Culture, Arabic Language) and score: Minimum of (C) grade from (A-level)
International baccalaureate Diploma (IB) The student Must study following subject (Islamic Culture, Arabic Language) and score: Minimum of (4) points from (HL) or Minimum of (5) points from (SL)

The procedure consists of nationwide university entrance examinations, held once a year and administered by HEAC with each university. It consists of a written exam, which has to be passed with an GPA of 2.5. Usually, students start with The General Foundation Program (GFP), which sets the national standards for entrance into undergraduate programmes. It is comprised of English, Math and IT courses. It is a mandatory introduction for study in all the University colleges and administered by the Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS).

Placement tests are administered after the orientation period of two weeks at the beginning of the Fall Semester, this decides, if students have to pass the GFP or not. Exit exams on the GFP are administered as entry requirement for the undergraduate programs. This procedure is ruled by HEAC and organised by SQU.

Upon successful completion of the GFP, the student will have the knowledge of English on the level that will enable them to easily follow the lessons given in their field. In terms of international standards, the language skills in English correspond to IELTS 4.

Prospective students are provided with orientation at the beginning of Fall Semester. Discussed, among others, during the orientation are:

- Placement tests and the GFP

- Admission to the Undergraduate Programs

- Academic Advising

The admission procedures are posted in the SQU website for local and international students. Results are communicated through a standard control sheet for acceptance or denial of applications to the program. The whole procedure as well as support during the GFP is guaranteed by the Admission Centre of SQU.

Appraisal:

The state given admission and placement requirements for applicants are clearly defined by law. The HEI covers all need for information on its website in terms of registration process after the placement declaration. Also, the formal admission requirements and the procedure for international students are comprehensible and clearly published on the website of SQU.
As the programme is undergraduate, a specialised selection procedure is not necessary.
Standardised language tests during the GFP or the placement test or proven results of international recognised language tests ensure that the students enrolled are able to successfully complete the study programme partially in English. From the panel's point of view, the student`s language proficiency became clearly evident during the interview with students during the on-site visit. Nevertheless, the panel encourages CL to strengthen the English language skills of the students during the programme, so that they end their studies with better and more specialised English they started with.

Throughout its website, CL provides all necessary information for prospective students. Events like campus days and school meetings ensure the personal contact to prospective students beside the usual contact possibilities (e-mail, telephone). In the opinion of the panel, the Centre for Preparatory Studies offers adequate services to interested persons from abroad also personally with needed information or personal help.
The admission decisions are based on transparent criteria and are communicated in writing.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
2.1*	Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.2	Counselling for prospective students			x		
2.3*	Selection procedure (if relevant)					x
2.4(*)	Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					x
2.5*	Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.6*	Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

3 Contents, structure and didactical concept of the programme

3.1 Contents

To graduate, students must complete a total of 126 Credit hours. These credit points are divided into Compulsory law courses **(87)** (they cover all the foundational topics of a legal education), Elective law courses **(27)** (Students are offered a choice among courses that cover various topics including advanced professional skills. Elective courses are taught either in Arabic or in English depending on the topic) and Compulsory as well as Elective non-law courses (such as language classes Arabic and English) **(12)**.

Course Code.	Title of Module / Course Unit	Credit Points per Semester								Workload		Method of Teaching	Form and Duration of Examinations	Weight of Final Exam
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	Hours in Class	Hours Self-Study	i.e. lecture course, seminar		
M1	**Module 1: Semester 1**	15								270	80			
HIST1010	Oman & Islamic Civilization or Islamic Culture	2								45		L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
SOCY1005	Omani: State & people	1								45		L/T/S		50%
LANC2007	English Language For Law(1) **	3								45		L/T/S		50%
PRLW1007	Introduction to Law	3								45		L/T/S		50%
PULW1009	Theory of State and Political Institutions	3								45		L/T/S		50%
ARAB1021	Arabic Language for Law**	3								45		L/T/S		50%
M2	**Module 2: Semester 2**		15							225				
PULW1010	Principles of Economy		3							45		L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PRLW1008	Sources of Obligations*		3							45		L/T/S		50%
PULW1006	Constitution of Oman		3							45		L/T/S		50%
PULW1012	Principles of International Public Law		3							45		L/T/S		50%
	University Courses		3							45		L/T/S		50%
M3	**Module 3: Semester 3**			17						270				
PRLW2001	Regulation and Proof Obligations*			3						45		S/T	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PULW2007	International Organizations			3						45		S/T		50%
PULW2003	Administrative Law			3						45		S/T		50%
PRLW2005	Principles of Commercial Law			3						45		L/T/S		50%
	College Elective			3						45		L/T/S		50%
	University Elective			2						45		L/T/S		50%
												L/T/S		

Code	Course	S1	S2	S3	S4	S5	S6	S7	S8	Hours	Teaching	Exam	%
M4	**Modul 4: Semester 4**				17					270			
PULW2002	Criminal Law(Public Law)*				3					45	L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PRLW2004	Law of Civil and Commercial Procedures*				3					45	L/T/S		50%
PRLW2006	Personal Status(1)				3					45	L/T/S		50%
LANC2008	English Language For Law(2) **				3					45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective				3					45	L/T/S		50%
	University Elective				2					45	L/T/S		50%
M5	**Modul 5: Semester 5**					17				270			
PRLW3001	Personal Status(2)					3				45	L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PULW3003	Criminal Law (Special Part)					3				45	L/T/S		50%
PULW3005	Public Finance and Tax Law					3				45	L/T/S		50%
PULW3007	Sale and Lease Contracts					3				45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective					3				45	L/T/S		50%
	University Elective					2				45	L/T/S		50%
M6	**Modul 7: Semester 6**						15			225			
PULW3002	Administrative Judicature*						3			45	L/T/S	Exam	50%
PRLW3004	Labor and Social Insurance Law						3			45	L/T/S		50%
PRLW3006	Commercial Companies						3			45	L/T/S	Exam	50%
	College Elective-(A)						3			45	L/T/S	Paper (120 Min)	50%
	College Elective-(E)						3			45	L/T/S	Exam	50%
M7	**Module 8: Semester 7**							15		225			
PRLW4001	Real Rights*							3		45	L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PRLW4003	International Private Law*							3		45	L/T/S		50%
PRLW4005	Maritime Law*							3		45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective-(A)							3		45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective-(E)							3		45	L/T/S		50%
M8	**Modul 8: Semester 8**								15	225			
PULW4002	Penal Procedures Law								3	45	L/T/S		50%
PRLW4004	Fundamental of Islamic Scholars								3	45	L/T/S	Exam Paper (120 Min)	50%
PRLW4006	Bank Operations-Trade Bills-Bankruptcy								3	45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective-(A)								3	45	L/T/S		50%
	College Elective-(E)								3	45	L/T/S		50%
Total		15	15	15	17	17	17	15	15	1780			

The students choose their electives in the beginning of each semester under the guidance of their Academic Advisor, usually a professor of the college. The latest list of College Electives comprises the courses

Code	Title	Credits	Pre-Requisite
PULW2101	International Laws of Seas	3	PULW1012
PULW2102	Special Penal laws	3	PULW2002
PULW2103	Money and Banking	3	PULW1010
PULW2104	Crimes against State's Security	3	PULW2002
PULW2105	Constitutional Judicature	3	PRLW2004
PULW3102	Environment Law	3	PULW2003
PULW3104	Crimes of Public Authority	3	PULW2002
PULW3106	Practical Studies (1)	3	PULW4002
PULW4102	Comparative Law	3	PRLW1007
PULW4104	Law of Tourism	3	PRLW1007
PULW4105	Public Function	3	PULW2003
PULW4108	Settlement of International Disputes	3	PULW2007-PRLW2004-PULW1012
PRLW2106	Nationality and Foreigners Status	3	PRLW4003
PRLW2107	Investment Law	3	PRLW3006
PRLW2108	Judicial Organization	3	-
PRLW2109	Dyatt & Urush	3	PRLW2001
PRLW3108	Insurance Contract	3	PRLW1008
PRLW3110	Consumer Protection law	3	PRLW3007
PRLW4101	Forced Execution	3	PRLW2004
PRLW4103	Law of Electronic Transactions	3	PRLW2001
PRLW4104	Air Law	3	PRLW2005
PRLW4105	Practical Studies (2)	3	PRLW2004-PRLW3001
PRLW4106	Guarantee Contract	3	PRLW4001
PRLW4108	Practical Studies (3)	3	PRLW2004-PRLW3004
PRLW4110	Final Project ++	3	-

in Arabian language and the courses

Course Code	Course Title	Cr.	Pre-req.
PULW3101	Human Rights	3	PULW1012
PULW3103	International Humanitarian Law	3	PULW1012
PULW3112	International relations	3	PULW1012
PULW4107	International Economy	3	PULW1010-PRLW2005
PULW4109	Criminology	3	-
PULW4112	International Penal Law	3	PULW2002-PULW1012
PRLW3105	Law of Intellectual Property	3	PRLW2005
PRLW3112	Law of Oil and Gas	3	PULW2003
PRLW3114	Law of Capital Market	3	PULW1010-PRLW2005
PRLW3116	Commercial Contracts	3	PRLW2001-PRLW2005
PRLW4111	International Trade Contracts	3	PRLW3116
PRLW4116	Law of Arbitration	3	PRLW2004
PRLW4118	Final Project++	3	-

in English language.

The programme, following the Omani Qualifications Framework, aims to provide students with the study of principles and regulations which are recognized in the form of legislation or

customs and policies recognized by judicial decision – with the narrow fields of courses that develop skills in

- analyzing the role of the law in social, economic and political areas
- applying the knowledge and skills gained in order to practice law
- interpreting and analyzing the differences between laws of Oman and other countries.

Classroom teachings use variety of evaluation methods such as presentations, in-class exercises, assignments projects and case studies to provide students with the opportunity to apply theoretical concepts to real legal problems. In addition, every year, the college provides training opportunities and organises several field trips to legal institutions such as courts, Criminal Investigation Department (Criminal Laboratory) or the Muscat Stock Market to help students developing a practical understanding of the legal profession and to get accustomed to the working conditions and locations. The college participates in international competitions such as the Moot Court for students to showcase their knowledge and skills.

Interdisciplinary thinking is embedded in the curriculum through compulsory and elective courses (e.g.: Economics of money and banking, Sources of Obligations, Personal Status, Theory of State and Political Institutions and Principles of Economy). The teaching stuff is composed of different specialisations and the college maintains a great closeness to the College of Economics and Political Sciences.

This influences also the implications of ethical issues in the programme. The identification and reflection of ethical aspects are clearly stated in almost every course description, especially in the business law and politics courses. Moreover, classical courses as for example Intellectual Property Rights, Legal Profession Ethics and Human Rights teach the students ways of ethical thinking and acting.

Students are provided with the necessary knowledge and skills to engage in scientific work through the courses Research Methodology, Practical Studies 1-3, Law of Electronic Transactions and the Final Project. Moreover, all courses comprise typical legal examinations which are prepared by each instructor with the necessary methods of examining a legal matter.

Depending on the intended learning outcome of the course, different assessment methods like quizzes, teacher-made exams, presentations, case studies, homework and classroom discussions are used. Every course has a Final Written Exam (50%) and a Mid-Term Exam (20-25%). The remaining 25-30 % are covered by continuous assessments. In the final year, students pass a graduation project, e.g. a joint exercise between a student and a faculty member or a group or both. Methodology appropriate to the discipline is utilized in a clear investigative problem which is then carried out. On completion of the study the students are required to present their results to faculty members and their peers.

Appraisal:

The curriculum adequately reflects the qualification objectives of the bachelor programme. The content of the courses that is described in the course descriptions and the student handbook is well-balanced, logically connected and oriented towards the intended learning outcomes. The electives enable students to acquire additional competences and skills. Anyhow, the panel recommends to set Methodology in Research as compulsory in the first three semesters.

The degree and programme name "Bachelor of Law" correspond to the contents of the curriculum and the programme objectives.

Theory and practice are sufficiently combined throughout the curriculum. Theoretical questions are explained by means of practical examples. Especially the part-time lecturers bring their practical experience with up-to-date knowledge of recent developments in the field of law into the programme. The panel very much appreciates the offer of moot courts to the Bachelor students. Nevertheless, to stress the employability of the students, the panel recommends to offer an internship to the students by using and also strengthening the contacts to the law society of Oman.

The programme's content also promotes interdisciplinary thinking. Ethical implications (for example those of economical or juridical ways of thinking and acting) are appropriately communicated.

Methodological competences and scientific practice are trained in the Bachelor programme. Hence, the students are equipped with the necessary skills for research oriented work and for applying those skills in the respective vocational fields. The panel has seen a variety of examinations and discussed the system of continuous assessment of the students' progress during the studies. The examination comply with the subject matter to be tested. The level of performance in examinations is aligned with the learning outcomes of the courses. The requirements are in line with the Bachelor level. Anyhow, as there is no thesis, the panel recommends to shift from multiple choice and essays to solving law cases. In combination with putting the course Methodology in Research as compulsory, the students could prove their academic level more easily and oriented on the specific field of law.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.1 Contents					
3.1.1* Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.2* Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.3* Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.4 Interdisciplinary thinking			x		
3.1.5 Ethical aspects			x		
3.1.6* Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.7* Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

3.2 Structure

Projected study time	4 years
Number of Credit Points (CP)	126 credit hours
Workload per CP	45
Number of modules	42
Time required for processing the final thesis and awarded CP	No final thesis

Each academic year consists of two academic (fall and spring) semesters, each regular semester lasts about 17 weeks with the last 2 weeks devoted to final exams.

Exam	Schedule
Mid-Term	7th – 8th Week
Final Exams for University Requirements (Mandatory and Elective Courses)	15th Week
Final Examination for Major and Minor Courses, College required courses	16th – 17th Week

HEI in Oman are free to implement the American credit hour system or the European credit point system. The Bachelor programme follows the credit-hour system of the United States. For instance, the implementation of the credits, workload, grading and other educational characteristics are all in accordance with the American credit-hour system. The Bachelor programme offers a four years education with a total of 126 credit hours. The distribution of the credit hours in a total is as follows:

Work Load in Hours

Types of Courses	Medium of instruction		Contact Hours (CH)	Self-Study Hours (SSH)	
	Arabic (Requirement & Elective)	English (Requirement & Elective)		Minimum (1CH:2SSH)	Maximum (1CH:3SSH)
University	6	6	12	360	540
College	75	39	114	3,420	5,130
Total	81	45	126	3,780	5,670

The total attendance time consists of 90 hours. The self-learning time spent by the student for preparing homework, assignments, and exam preparation constitute of 3,780-5,670 hours. These calculations are based on the assumption that for every hour of course instruction, students should spend 2 to 3 hours per week in study and preparation outside of class.

The Bachelor programme's Academic Advising Students Handbook as well as the Undergraduate Academic Regulations include a detailed description of the structure of the programme including (among others): information about mission, vision, strategic goals, departments, the curriculum, the objectives and learning outcomes, information on the degree, information about the core courses, elective courses and University's requirements, information about the involved faculty members, their specialisations and research activities.

It also contains course specifications of every course which include (among others): course title, credit hours, academic level and term, objectives and learning outcomes, teaching and learning methods, literature recommendations, and information on examinations.

The Bachelor programme does not include an internship, nor a final thesis. After finishing all courses the graduates receive their diploma supplement which includes all examination results and the GPA. A relative grading is possible but not obligatory part of the diploma supplements.

The Undergraduate Academic Regulations contain information about the credit-hour-system, the admission, the semester schedules, the prerequisites for graduation, the tuition fees, the evaluation and grading, course transfer as well detailed information about the examination system.

Regarding course transfer in undergraduate programmes SQU has the following regulations:

Transfer Credit (TC) is credit awarded in course(s) for which the applicant possesses post-secondary qualifications (such as successful completion of a college, university or recognized professional association course). It is only awarded after the assessment, which is done by the appropriate course Head of Department and course coordinators, and is deemed that

10

the work covered is equivalent in content or objectives to the corresponding course(s) of study at Sultan Qaboos University. In order to be considered for Transfer Credit, the grade earned in the previous institution must be sufficient to ensure continuing progress here at Sultan Qaboos University; thus a minimum 'C' grade equivalent to 2.00 on a 4.00 point scale is required. Credits awarded through this status are counted towards the degree but are not graded.

If a student wishes to register in a course for which he/she has already received transfer credit in order to earn a grade in the course, the original 'TC' will remain valid until the formal withdrawal period ends, after which the grade earned will take precedence.

Student's attendance must be at least 80%. SQU offers their students a study plan online and contract sheets which allow students as well as teaching staff to keep track of their progress in line with the structural requirements of the programme.

According to its own statement, SQU is committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination in all of its activities, and in respect of all students, staff and relationships with the wider community.

The age distribution of students in the programme varies. In addition, SQU does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, economic class, or religious affiliations. The programmes are open to all students whether national or international, female or male, lower middle or upper classes, young or old, and whether married or single.
SQU allows students with disability as well as students with some specific health conditions for extra time during assessments and allocate some people to write on behalf of students who have writing problems.

Appraisal:

The structure of the programme follows the credit system of the United States. The regular size of three credit hours per course, which represent courses with a total workload of nine hours per week, corresponds to the American system. The programme structure supports the smooth implementation of the curriculum and helps students to reach the defined learning outcomes. The programme consists of courses and assigns credit hours per course on the basis of the necessary student workload. The course descriptions provide detailed descriptions of intended learning outcomes and the information defined by the ECTS Users Guide.
There are legally binding study and exam regulations which contain all necessary rules and procedures and take into account national requirements. Furthermore, the ratio of core

courses and elective courses as well as University courses and major courses are, according to the panel, weighted in a balanced manner.

The workload is also about evenly spread over the six semesters. The structure therefore helps to set the objectives of the student workload and the students to acquire the competences related to the specific intended learning outcomes of their chosen major. Due to the fact that there are no courses with a duration extending over two semesters, the student's mobility is offered. In the view of the panel the structure of courses and workload in the programme is comprehensible and appears reasonable to enable the students to achieve the intended learning outcomes of the programme in due time.

The necessity of a relative grading has been discussed during the on-site visit. As a consequence, SQU already added a respective regulation in its Student Guide, which meets the international requirement. SQU offers to add the relative grade on individual demand of the particular student.
Examination regulations exist and regulate the structural requirements for the programme.
SQU has formulated detailed regulations regarding the recognition of course achievements and credit transfer from other HEIs. Even Oman has not ratified the Lisbon Convention, the panel noted that SQU is on the way to follow the Convention's rules. Therefore, the panel recommends implementing the rule that in case SQU does not accept the achieved learning outcomes of an incoming student, SQU has to prove that the achieved learning outcomes are substantially different from the learning outcomes of the corresponding SQU course.

There are several aspects that promote the feasibility of the programme. The admission requirements ensure that students who are enrolled satisfy the necessary English level requirement. Subject-specific and general support is provided to the students. The feasibility of the study programme's workload is ensured by a suitable curriculum design, by a plausible calculation of workload, by an adequate number and frequency of examinations, in addition to appropriate support services as well as academic and general student counselling (see below). Altogether, the panel comes to the conclusion that the student workload seems feasible in due time. This has been additionally evidenced during the on-site visit by alumni as well as by faculty and the Dean.
The HEI ensures gender equality and non-discrimination. Students with disabilities are provided with respective affirmative actions.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2	Structure					
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.2*	Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.3*	Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.4	Equality of opportunity			x		

3.3 Didactical concept

The course instructors usually use many different teaching and learning methods. They are described in the course outline which is distributed to the students in the first lecture, so students can understand the logic of the programme and position themselves as active and affective learners. The courses comprise a combination of:

- lectures
- practical training,
- data shows and PowerPoint,
- case studies,
- project work,
- presentations and
- group discussions.

The responsible lecturers for each course have developed descriptions of the courses which contain its aim, the basic literature and applied teaching methods. The students receive this information in the beginning of the semester. Additional materials like lecture notes, textbooks and other materials for preparing the student's self-study time are presented by the lecturers during their courses or online via the student's portal moodle.

The programme hosts a variety of guest speakers from different universities, institutes and from different public and private sectors to deliver seminars, workshops or to join the classes to share their work experience with the students. The college hosts these activities throughout the year. The College of Law also has a tradition to invite a prominent person from the parliament or ministries to deliver a lecture on the "Open Day", in every starting academic year.

Appraisal:

The logic of the teaching methodology of the Bachelor programme is adequate to lead students to the final qualifications. The methodology is described and explained in a logical and transparent manner. A diverse range of methods is used on the programme and tailored to the specific courses in the field of law. Besides forms of written examinations projects, presentations and discussions are used as part of the curriculum and are aimed at developing the students' skills regarding the demand of the lawyer's profession. The panel as well as the students appreciate the use of moot courts and encourage the university to develop it further by e.g. making it even more interactive.

The accompanying course materials are oriented towards the intended learning outcomes and correspond to the required Bachelor level. They are user-friendly and encourage students to engage in further independent studies. The materials are electronically accessible on the student's internet portal.

The panel appreciates that guest lecturers are invited and contribute to the students' qualification process with their special business experience. Lecturing tutors are not necessary as every student has contact to his Academic Advisor.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.3	Didactical concept					
3.3.1*	Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.2*	Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.3	Guest lecturers			x		
3.3.4	Lecturing tutors					x

3.4   Internationality

The Omani law system is comparable to most of the Arabic law systems. The international focus of the programme reflects in various international and intercultural aspects. This includes among others the modules:
- International Private Law
- Law of Arbitration
- International organisations
- Commercial companies
- Principles of International Private Law
- Maritime Law

Moreover, the students have the option to select elective courses, which also reflect international contents such as
- International Economics
- International Humanitarian Law
- International penal law
- International relations
- International trade contracts
- International Law of Seas
- Settlement of international disputes

International conferences and seminars are arranged to expose students to different cultures:

TABLE 9: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Date	Conference Details
April 2018	Law and Socio Economics Transformations
Mach 2015	Traffic accident symposium (its causes and effects and means of prevention)
Dec. 2013	"Human Rights and Its Protection at the National and International Levels
Mach 2011	"Legal aspects of informatics between theory and practice"
Mach 2010	Unified Principles of International Commercial Contracts (2010) in light of international conventions and national legislations

The programme uses both Arabic and English as medium of instruction, 31 % of the courses are taught in English. Additionally, students have the option to take foreign language courses as electives. Moreover, the use of English literature and databases provide the students with the necessary skills.

At present the numbers of international students are very low, only two students were from abroad. In contrast to this, the teaching staff in the programme represents 10 nationalities: Canadian, Egyptian, Sudanese, Iraqi, Jordanian, Australian, Tunisian, Moroccan, Libyan and Algerian. The majority of them graduated from international recognized Universities, e.g. HEIs in Europe, Australia, USA and Canada.

Appraisal:

International contents are sufficiently part of all curriculum. Internationally oriented students are thus prepared for the challenges in an international working environment. The students are enabled to act in an intercultural environment especially through practical examples in cases and projects.

The international composition of the faculty (teachers with international academic and/or professional experience) promotes the acquisition of international competences and skills. This was confirmed by the CVs of the teaching staff.

At present, the student body at CL is rather national, which is in line with the objective to serve the Omani law society.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.4 Internationality					
3.4.1* International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.4.2 Internationality of the student body				x	
3.4.3 Internationality of faculty			x		
3.4.4 Foreign language contents			x		

3.5 Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)

Communication and public speaking skills are integrated into the programme through the English courses as well as in every specialised law course due to the didactical use of case studies and presentations. Projects allow students to develop teamwork, cooperation and conflict-handling skills. The students also attend the monthly internal seminars organised by the office of the Assistant Dean for Training and Community Services. The college usually encourage students to participate in local and international conferences.

Appraisal:

The above mentioned acquired skills act as a common factor for all the required courses in the curriculum. In particular, the course "Personal development" is a special profile element of the curriculum to improve generic competencies and skills. The students acquire communication and public-speaking skills as well as cooperation and conflict handling skills in accordance with the course descriptions. This is supported by means of suitable didactical and methodological measures.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.5* Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

3.6 Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)

The programme is designed for comprehensive training of future lawyers. The curriculum of the programme is constantly monitored by an Advisory Committee whose members are from the legal community of Oman. Their role among others is to provide the dean with advice on the emerging needs of the job market for lawyers in Oman and the Arabic region. Besides disciplines which are mandatory, the curriculum offers elective courses, which allow students to gain a deeper understanding on relevant areas according to their individual interests. This approach allows the students to develop the skills, which the student finds most interesting and promising, in accordance with the plans of his future career.

Appraisal:

The promotion of employability is ensured through the integration of theory and practice in the courses and through the promotion of multidisciplinary competences and skills. The employability also benefits from the influence of the Advisory Committee on the development of the programme.

For a more practice-orientated approach the panel recommends to strengthen the legal drafting in Arabic language, e.g. by drafting contracts, legal opinions or court decisions for given circumstances. As the labour market is internationalizing the panel members recommend in addition to the admission requirements in English language, to push the English language speaking skills of the students on a long run. Last but not least, the panel recommends the implementation of an internship which allows the students a first experience in their future profession.

|		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.6*	Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

4. Academic environment and framework conditions

4.1   Faculty

The following table shows the structure and number of the faculty of CL which is involved in the teaching of the programme:

Faculty

Table 11: College of Law Academic Staff Profile AY 2018-2019

Title	Number of Staff	Percentage
Professor	2	5%
Associate Professor	6	15%
Assistant Professor	26	65%
Lecturer	4	10%
Teaching Assistant	2	5%
Sub-Total	40	100%
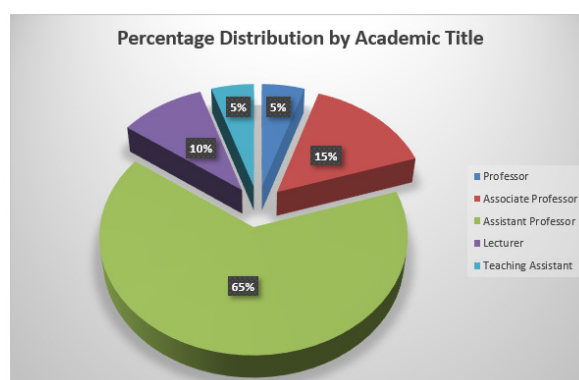
The procedure of appointing a new faculty member to a position is performed considering CL's professional requirements by the college recruitment committee, which conducts interviews with each faculty position applicant to ensure that he also has adequate pedagogical skills and qualifications. However, the final decision on whether to take the applicant on board is made by the dean of CL. SQU is responsible of verifying the authenticity of the documents submitted by candidates and implement the whole recruitment procedure.

SQU encourages faculty to actively engage in a variety of professional workshops, meetings, and conferences world-wide, which could benefit them in their teaching and research capabilities. Faculty members are given financial support covering transportation, full board accommodation, and registration fees for the particular event.

Applicants applying for "Professor", "Associate Professor" or "Assistant Professor" must have a Master and PhD degree and have spent at least 5 years outside higher education after attaining their PhD. Furthermore, Professors and Associate Professors shall have published a valuable scientific achievement leading to knowledge progress.

The minimum requirement for part-time lecturers is to hold a Master degree in their respective field of teaching. He shall have at least one published research paper or accepted to be published in the field of his specialization.

CL pays attention to the development of junior instructors that start as teaching assistant and eventually can get a part-time or full-time position. The teaching assistants are current or previous students that have strong academic credentials.

The majority of the teaching staff has obtained professional practical legal experience by working in the public and private sectors as lawyers, judges, legal consultancies, etc.

Cooperation between the academic staff in the college is institutionalized through departmental councils, joint committee work and multi-group coordination. In addition, the

faculty also collaborates with each other in the college in organising conferences, seminars and training programmes in the college. Topics during the meetings are the further development and improvement of the existing modules or developing new ones, based also on the evaluation results or the feedback of the Advisory board. Every specialist in his field discusses his ideas with the faculty to build joint decisions in the end.

Regular supporting and consulting of students is compulsory to all faculty members. This takes place through office hours. Each full-time faculty member is expected to allocate a minimum of two office hours per week. Part-time lecturers are available before their courses and always stay longer after their courses for answering individual questions by the students. Both, full-time and part-time faculty is also available via e-mail. A faculty academic advisor is assigned to every student during the orientation week. The academic advisor provides students with the necessary guidance related to their courses, study plan and helps students cope with their studies. The academic advisors are responsible for monitoring the academic progress of the students, and maintains a record of student's files. This is guaranteed by the electronic university system. A student with a GPA less then 1.99 is automatically "case" of the Academic Advisor, for example.

Appraisal:

The structure and number of teaching staff correspond with the programme requirements. A list of all involved lecturers shows the availability of the required capacity to implement the programme. According to the CVs the academic ability and qualification as well as the practical experience of the teaching staff is in line with the requirements of the programme for teaching. The staff's pedagogical/didactical qualifications are in line with their tasks and have been verified. Altogether, SQU follows a very clear strategy when appointing new lecturers. A special focus is given to the academic qualifications which results in the high amount of PhD holding teaching staff. The personal development of the lectures is ensured via regular workshops (e.g. regarding new teaching methods) and via possibilities of attaining conferences in Oman and abroad.

Internal collaboration and coordination is ensured by the dean and the assistant dean and can be seen clearly in the meetings of the teaching staff.

As affirmed by students of the Bachelor programme during the on-site visit, the counselling of students by teaching staff is intensive. Student support is an integral part of the services provided by the faculty. The lecturers are available for the students inside and outside specified office hours and e-mails are answered fairly quickly. Hence, the students are "fully content" with the support they receive and the Open Door Policy of the CL. The panel very much appreciates the awareness of the teaching staff by using the electronic system.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.1 Faculty					
4.1.1* Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.2* Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.3* Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.4 Practical business experience of faculty			x		
4.1.5* Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.1.6* Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		X			
4.1.7(*) Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					X

4.2 Programme management

The CL is headed by the College Dean who is a faculty appointed by the University and responsible for the programme management. The Dean is responsible for the prudent management of the academic, administrative and support units in support of the programme delivery. Decision-making are shared with the faculty through committees. His assisting staff is figured out in the table below:
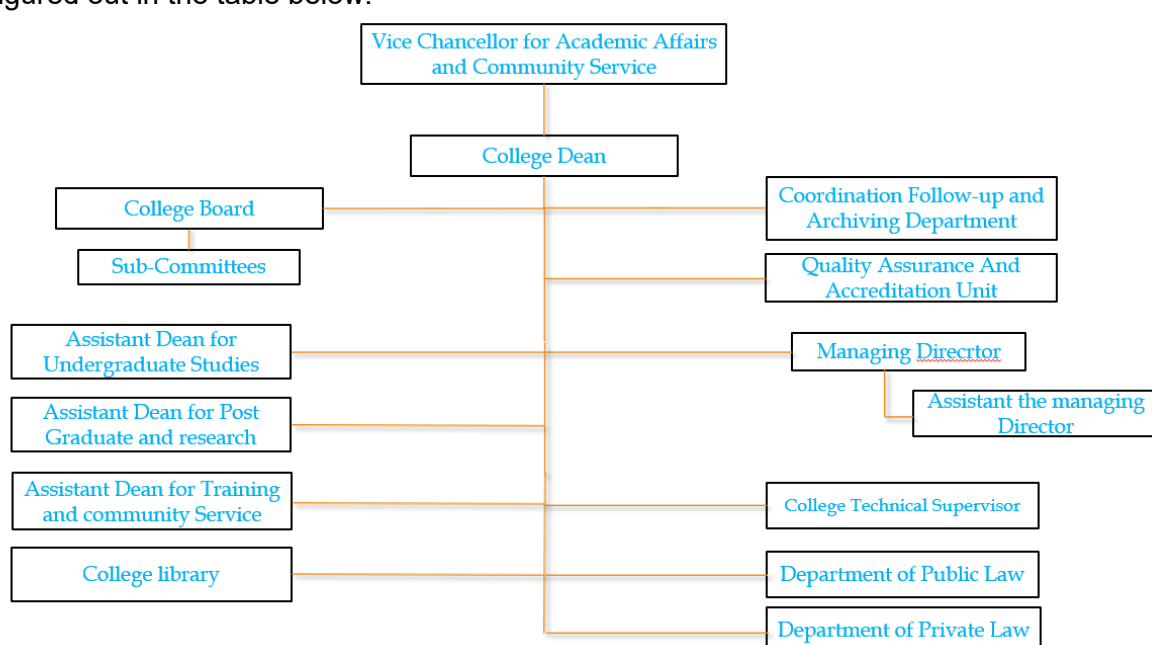
Moreover, CL built a College Advisory Board which is composed of distinguished members of the legal community. It helps the College understand the needs of the legal professions and of the society. It also helps nurture a strong relationship with them.

Teachers and students take part in the decision-making process which affects their area of activity as well. Faculty members can freely discuss with the Dean different issues related to their courses and activities. Students are involved in the decision-making process by participating in liaison committees and attending joint meetings with the Heads of Departments and the Dean. This allows students to raise issues related to their own interests and ensures more transparency. Student representatives participate as active members of the University Student Advisory Board.

All students have access to the SIS system through the Deanship of Admission and Registration. The system provides students with full details of their academic requirements, passed and failed courses, and their credit hours, attendance statistics, and a complete academic plan. The SIS system facilitates students' automatic selection of courses to study, adding and dropping of courses, management an auditing of student study plan and schedule, and information about examination and their grades and cumulative GPA. It also provides information on the support available to students such as academic counselling,

department-specific academic counselling, office hours of faculty members, and different types of online communications between instructors and students.

Appraisal:

In the view of the panel, the Dean successfully takes initiatives to promote the systematic development of the study programme in a manner which includes all relevant groups.

The opportunities of electronic service-support are used and supplement personal one-on-one counselling. The HEI offers the administrative staff opportunities for continuous professional development, hence, the administration is able to act as a service provider for students and faculty.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.2 Programme management					
4.2.1* Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)	x				
4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty	x				

4.3 Cooperation and partnerships

CL holds cooperation with various universities abroad, as there are:

Country	University/ Institute
France	LOA with University of Pierre Et Marie Curie (UPMC)
Germany	MOU with RWTH Aachen University
	LOU with Freie University Berlin
	Agreements with Christian-ALbrechts-UniVERSITÄT zu Kiel (CAU)
Sweden	LOA with Karolinska Institute
Switzerland	LOI with World Trade Organization (WTO)
	EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH
UK	University of Strathclyde
	LOA with University of Southampton
New Zealand	MOU & LOA with The University of Auckland
Canada	LOI with University of Western

At the time being, theis cooperation does not have a direct impact on the study programme as there is no exchange of students or study time abroad. The cooperation is used to develop further the programme`s content and as a think tank for the academic staff.

As there is no foreseen internship in the study programme, CL does not have any cooperation with companies, which impact directly the development of the students. The Advisory Board of CL consists of representatives from the legal community. The responsibilities of the Advisory Board is to raise issues from the legal environment that are relevant to education in the field of law. From that perspective, they provide suggestions in terms of curriculum development of the programme, employability, and quality assurance. Moreover, the contact to the legal community is used by the Career Service (see Chapter 5.3.1).

Appraisal:

Cooperation with Higher Education Institutions and other organisations are described and actively pursued. Overall, the does not have adirect impacton the programme. Nevertheless, it promotes the development of the students' skills throughout the Advisory board.. The cooperation with companies, so far, is suitable for the programmes' needs: The recommendations are used with regard to the programmes' objectives and content. The panel recommends to use the contacts to the legal community also to serve as an internship platform for the students during their study time.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.3 Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1(*) Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation programmes)			x		
4.3.2(*) Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)			x		

4.4   Facilities and equipment

The CL is situated in a main building of the SQU. The building has dozens of classrooms in different sizes. The classrooms are equipped with modern multimedia facilities (projectors, whiteboards, and multimedia devices). The University offers free access to a high speed Wi-Fi connection so that students can work there with their own laptops. The building is equipped with elevators. In addition the college has its own computer laboratory which is usually utilised for training sessions and has a room for MOOT court.
IT and learning resources are provided to the programme through the Center for Information Services (CIS) and the Center for Educational Technology (CET), these include:

SQU portal	Employees and students can access specific dynamically updated information, target for their needs
Computer labs	There is an extensive network of computer laboratories in academic areas. The CIS provides the technical support
e-mail	e-mail services is available for more than 20,000 users (including about 15,000 student accounts)
Internet and internet access	CIS/SQU web resources can be accessed from on and off campus
Student information System (SIS)	SIS provides a number of student academic information services
On-line Learning	WebCT and Moodle are supported by the CET and CIS

The SQU main library is a six-floor building located east of the campus, and is the largest library in the country, it is accessible online at http://www.squ.edu.om/libraries . It hosts:

Category		No.	Total
Books(2018)	Printed	220,225	437,271
	Electronic	217,016	
Electronic Periodicals (2018)		40,588	40,588
Theses (2018)	Printed	5,763	2,575,763
	Electronic	2,570,000	
Databases (2018)	Arabic	7	43
	English	36	
AV media (2018)		8,581	8,581

The Library hosts numerous resources to support the Law programme. Databases for the students are: Science Direct, Springer Link, Wiley Online Library, JSTOR; Taylor & Francis Journal and Cambridge Journals.

Important databases in the field of law, such as Lexus Nexus and DAR ALMANDUMAH, are available for the students from on and off campus. During the final exam weeks, the library is opened 24/7. Academic staff is there to advise the students during the opening hours. Moreover, the online presence offers a detailed guide through the library.

Appraisal:

During the on-site visit, the panel visited class rooms, computer labs, which all are equipped with state-of-the-art technology, as well as the room for the moot court, which reminds of a court room. It has to be pointed out that the students of CL are offered a perfect learning environment.
This impression was only exceeded as the panel entered the library which is organised by qualified staff that guides the students and which is equipped with an impressive offer of

literature for the study programme (available in English and Arabian language, electronically and printed). In the view of the panel, the college`s aspiration to provide Omani society with highly qualified graduates in the field of law is reflected and clearly promoted by this library equipment. Not only that the students have full access to the typical law literature of the Arabian world, they are also connected to the international scientific law databases. Teaching and library staff encourage the students to use them and support them with great effort of time and financial background of the university.

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.4 Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1* Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.4.2* Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)	x				

4.5. Additional services

In 1999, SQU established the Student Counselling Centre. The centre provides a comprehensive programme of support services to assist students at SQU in their adjustment to the demands of University environment. Their services are designed to enhance a student's educational experience by supporting his development. It is a member in the International Association of Counselling Centres. Additional support is provided through the following offices:
- Deanship of Student Affairs
- Deanship of Admission & Registration
- Centre for Educational Technology
- Language Centre
- Centre for Career Guidance
- Student Counselling Centre
- Independent Learning Centre

Taking care about graduate careers and employability is one of SQU's objectives, which requires the University to provide Omani society with highly qualified graduates, taking into consideration the changing needs of the labour market and the nation's policies and strategic orientation to the development of human resources. The University Council provides guidelines on the Colleges' annual intakes based on job market projections. The Centre for Career Guidance (CCG) has been established to guide students to plan their career paths successfully, develop links with different labour sectors and build connections with its alumni. The CCG organises workshops, seminars and training courses to develop students' knowledge to enable them to identify, assess and understand their competencies, interests, personal characteristics, career choices and the job market. In this regard CCG organises the annual employment fair to allow employers to know better SQU academic programmes and majors and interact with students and staff. The annual Employment Fair of 2015 had 62 companies participate and more than 1600 job opportunities were announced.

The college has a close link with its graduates. CL holds about 90 % email- addresses and telephone numbers of their graduates. Regular meetings are conducted where alumni are invited to several CL activities. Some of the graduates who held leading position are usually invited to deliver lecture and seminars.

Appraisal:

Career counselling and placement services are offered to the students and graduates to promote their employability. In the view of the panel, CCG organises the counselling as well as the placement services on a very individual basis, taking into account the interests of their students. The personal training of the students prepares them for the annual Employment Fair, where they can present themselves to potential future employers.

An alumni organisation has been set with the aim of developing an alumni network and promote contacts between alumni and current students. Regular meetings do take place and the alumni are invited to several activities of the HEI.

Apart from administrative support, counselling and welfare services are an integral part of the HEI's services and are offered on a regular basis.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.5	Additional services					
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service	x				
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			x		

4.6   Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)

Education at SQU is free for all Omani citizens, SQU is completely state financed. Male students are entitled to monthly grant by the Omani Government to cover accommodation and subsistence outside the campus. Female students who live 100 km outside the College are entitled to free full-board accommodation within the campus. Students living within the 100 km radius of the campus are entitled to free meals and transportation. Scholarships are available for students from the countries of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), brotherly and friendly countries, and non-Omani SQU staff children.

Appraisal:

The study programme is funded for the entire accreditation period so that students will definitely be able to complete their studies.

|		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

5. Quality assurance and documentation

Quality assurance at SQU is built within the University's mission, policies, practices and strategic plan that all aim at a continuous improvement process. This applies to all individuals, departments, and academic and non-academic units. In that sense, quality assurance is everyone's responsibility and is not limited to one entity or a group of individuals. Quality assurance and the development of programmes of CL is understood can be given as follows:

- Providing efficient learning and teaching activities
- Increasing the overall research performance
- Providing the highest student quality experiences.

Responsible for the Quality assurance at CL is the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Unit which aims that all process of the administration in CL follow that cycle:
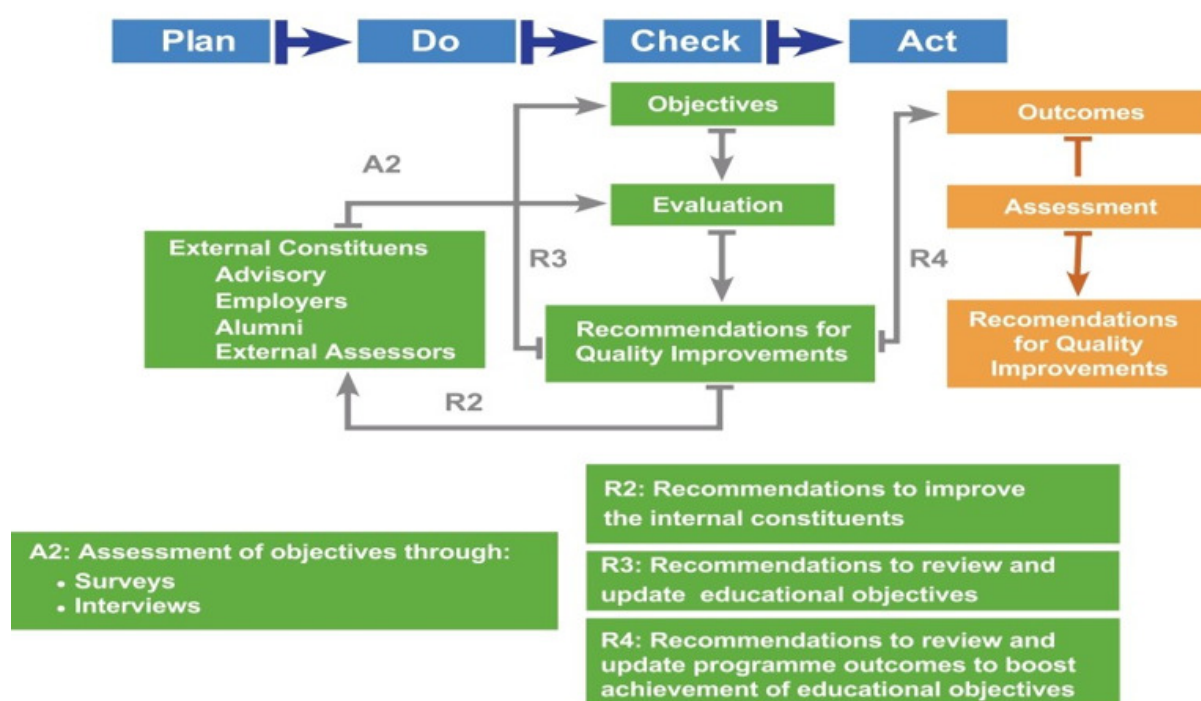
Student evaluations, known as the Course and Teaching Survey (CTS), to evaluate courses and teaching are conducted during the 12th and 13th week of each regular semester. A 5-point Likert Scale is used and questionnaires are delivered online to the students. In their evaluations, students can write their anonymous review of the course and give their feedback on the course quality. This evaluation provides feedback to CL on how the content and the structure of the courses are perceived by students and how they assess the quality of the faculty. Additionally, students answer open questions on which aspects they like and dislike about the lectures as well as give suggestions how CL can improve the courses' contents.

Each faculty receives their individual reports and evaluation results for every course, while the Heads of Department (HoD), The College Dean and all other responsibles are provided with comprehensive summaries. Faculty performances, which are not meeting the required target of 2:00>, are discussed by the HoD with the individual faculty.

The Faculty of Law provides a questionnaire regarding the working conditions and facilities to the teaching staff. The results of the questionnaire are analysed and presented to the Dean who is expected to be responsible for solving problems that may arise within the faculty.

Evaluations by the alumni, employers and third parties and feedback from graduates are collected annually through questionnaires and interviews. Comments received already formed the basis for improving the programme.

The study programme's content, and curriculum have been documented both in printed and digital form: such as the catalogue, Student`s guide and the University website. Those documents are dynamic ones since CL updates their contents whenever the need arises. The CL students have access to all information they are in need of by accessing the University website or obtaining the SQU catalogue and Student's Guide. The examination rules are published in detail in the SQU Student's Guide, which can be found online. The course syllabi are given to the students at the beginning of the semester and uploaded in 'Moodle' as well as the study and examination regulations. The activities, which take place in the academic year, are regularly documented, the respective information is published online.

CL publishes a yearly report based on a compilation of the Department's Annual report. This report includes detailed information about activities, achievements and initiatives in teaching and learning, research and community services within the College.

Appraisal:

A quality assurance and development procedure, which systematically and continuously monitors and develops the quality of the programme with respect to its contents, processes, and outcomes, is currently modified as evidenced during the on-site visit. (Re-) starting in 2018, the system will take into account the evaluation results and the analysis on student workload, success rate, and graduate employment. Faculty members and students participate in the respective procedure to plan and assess the quality assurance and development procedures. Responsibilities are clearly defined.

Evaluation by the students and quality control by the faculty is carried out on a regular basis and in accordance with a prescribed procedure; the outcomes are communicated to the students and provide input for the quality development process. During the on-site visit, the panel has learned that CL doesn`t evaluate the workload of the students in the questionnaire so far. The background for this is the fact, that the contact to the students is so close that it didn`t seem to be necessary (compare chapter 3.2. and 4.1). Based on the discussion during the on-site visit, CL establishes from now on a mandatory pen-paper questionnaire, also sent via e-mail before the examination, for every course. Students have to mark, whether the number of hours estimated for the workload has been exceeded or not. The data will be collected and summarised in graphs. It will be used for the further development of the study programmes and in case of substantial differences to the estimated workload, CL will react in their proven manner dealing with complaints of the students. The panel had no doubt that the workload is feasible for the students. Nevertheless, it appreciates that effort, as it creates a substantial basis to reflect the quality of the study programme. The collected data will be assessed during the re-accreditation.

External evaluations of graduates and employers are carried out random based regularly. The outcomes are communicated and provide input for the quality development process.

The study programme is described in detail. This documentation is constantly updated and easily accessible for interested parties both in print and in digital form, which ensures a high level of transparency. Press relations and network communication are actively maintained. In its annual report the HEI presents a summary of the activities of the academic year.

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1	Evaluation by students			x		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty			x		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			x		
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year		x			

Quality profile

HEI: Sultan Quaboos University, College of Law

Bachelor: Bachelor of Law (LL.B.)

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
1	**Objectives**					
1.1*	Objectives of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
1.2*	International orientation of the study programme design (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
1.3	Positioning of the study programme					
1.3.1	Positioning of the study programme in the educational market			x		
1.3.2	Positioning of the study programme on the job market for graduates („Employability")			x		
1.3.3	Positioning of the study programme within the HEI's overall strategic concept		x			
2	**Admission**					
2.1*	Admission requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.2	Counselling for prospective students			x		
2.3*	Selection procedure (if relevant)					x
2.4(*)	Professional experience (if relevant; Asterisk Criterion for master programmes that require professional experience)					x
2.5*	Ensuring foreign language proficiency (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
2.6*	Transparency and documentation of admission procedure and decision (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.	**Contents, structure and didactical concept**					
3.1	Contents					
3.1.1*	Logic and conceptual coherence (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.2*	Rationale for degree and programme name (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.3*	Integration of theory and practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.4	Interdisciplinary thinking			x		
3.1.5	Ethical aspects			x		
3.1.6*	Methods and scientific practice (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.1.7*	Examination and final thesis (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2	Structure					
3.2.1*	Modular structure of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		

	Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
3.2.2* Study and exam regulations (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.3* Feasibility of study workload (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.2.4 Equality of opportunity			x		
3.3 Didactical concept					
3.3.1* Logic and plausibility of the didactical concept (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.2* Course materials (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.3.3 Guest lecturers			x		
3.3.4 Lecturing tutors					x
3.4 Internationality					
3.4.1* International contents and intercultural aspects (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.4.2 Internationality of the student body					x
3.4.3 Internationality of faculty			x		
3.4.4 Foreign language contents			x		
3.5* Multidisciplinary competences and skills (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
3.6* Skills for employment / Employability (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4. Academic environment and framework conditions					
4.1 Faculty					
4.1.1* Structure and quantity of faculty in relation to curricular requirements (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.2* Academic qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.3* Pedagogical / didactical qualification of faculty (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.4 Practical business experience of faculty			x		
4.1.5* Internal cooperation (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
4.1.6* Student support by the faculty (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.1.7(*) Student support in distance learning (only relevant and an Asterisk Criterion for blended-learning/distance learning programmes)					x
4.2 Programme management					
4.2.1* Programme Director (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.2.2 Process organisation and administrative support for students and faculty		x			
4.3 Cooperation and partnerships					
4.3.1(*) Cooperation with HEIs and other academic institutions or networks (Asterisk Criterion for cooperation			x		

		Exceptional	Exceeds quality requirements	Meets quality requirements	Does not meet quality requirements	n.r.
	programmes)					
4.3.2(*)	Cooperation with business enterprises and other organisations (Asterisk Criterion for educational and vocational programmes, franchise programmes)			x		
4.4	Facilities and equipment					
4.4.1*	Quantity, quality, media and IT equipment of teaching and group rooms (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
4.4.2*	Access to literature (Asterisk Criterion)	x				
4.5	Additional services					
4.5.1	Career counselling and placement service		x			
4.5.2	Alumni Activities			x		
4.6*	Financing of the study programme (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5	**Quality assurance and documentation**					
5.1*	Quality assurance and quality development with respect to contents, processes and outcomes (Asterisk Criterion)			x		
5.2	Instruments of quality assurance					
5.2.1	Evaluation by students			x		
5.2.2	Evaluation by faculty			x		
5.2.3	External evaluation by alumni, employers and third parties			x		
5.3	Programme documentation					
5.3.1*	Programme description (Asterisk Criterion)		x			
5.3.2	Information on activities during the academic year		x			