

Akkreditierungsagentur
im Bereich Gesundheit und Soziales
Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences



Assessment Report

for the Application of

Liwa College, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

**for the Accreditation of the Study Program “Respiratory Care”,
Bachelor of Science**

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1 Introduction

The Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Sciences (AHPGS) is an interdisciplinary and multi-professional organization. Its mission is to evaluate Bachelor and Master programs in the fields of health and social sciences, as well as in related domains such as medicine or psychology. By conducting accreditation and recommendation procedures, the AHPGS contributes to the improvement of the overall quality of teaching and learning. However, the higher education institutions remain responsible for implementing the quality assurance recommendations made by the AHPGS.

The AHPGS is listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) since 2009. Since 2004, the AHPGS has been a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). In 2006, the AHPGS joined the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). In 2009, the AHPGS also became a member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE) and since 2012 a member of the Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA). In 2023, the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) recognized the AHPGS as an agency with recognition status for 10 years.

In carrying out accreditation procedures, the AHPGS follows the requirements of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In the present case, the decision regarding the accreditation of the study program is carried out by the AHPGS Accreditation Commission based on the following accreditation criteria:

1. Program aims and their implementation
2. Structure of the study program
3. Admission and Feasibility
4. Examination System and Transparency
5. Teaching Staff and Material Equipment
6. Quality Assurance
7. Gender equality and equal opportunities

I. The University's application

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the University, namely the Self-Evaluation Report and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfill the assessment spheres as well as the AHPGS standards. With this information, the AHPGS produces a summary, which is to be approved by the University and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written review

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group assigned by the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS. This is done in order to verify the compliance of the study program with the applicable accreditation criteria. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site visit (peer-review)

The experts carry out a site visit at the University. During this visit, discussions are held with members of the University, which include University and department administration, degree program management, teachers, and students. These discussions provide the expert group with details about the study program beyond the written documents. The task of the experts during the site visit is to verify and evaluate the objectives of the program and its projected study results, its structure, staff, material resources, course of studies, methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality).

Following the site visit, the expert group evaluates the fulfillment of the criteria based on the results of the visit and the documents submitted by the HEI. This Assessment Report is based on the results of the visit, the written review of the study programs, and the documents submitted by the University. Finally, the Assessment Report is made available to the University for the opportunity to issue a response opinion.

The Assessment Report as well as the University's response opinion – together with the provided documents – is submitted to the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS accreditation decision

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS examines the documentation made available in the process of application, namely the University's self-evaluation report, its annexes, the Assessment Report, as well as the University's response opinion. These documents lay basis for the decision of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS regarding the accreditation of the study program.

2 Overview

2.1 Procedure-related documents

Liwa College delegated the task of accrediting the following Bachelor study programs to the AHPGS: "Emergency Medical Care", "Medical Laboratory Analysis", "Medical Diagnostic Imaging", "Respiratory Care", "Health Management", and "Applied Health Sciences in Health Information Management" as well as the diploma programs "Medical Laboratory Analysis" and "Health Management".

The Self-Evaluation Report for accreditation of the above-mentioned study programs (hereinafter the SER) of the Liwa College (hereinafter the College) was submitted to the Accreditation Agency in Health and Social Science (AHPGS) in electronic format on February 10, 2025. The decision regarding the accreditation of a study program is carried out by the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS. The contract between the College and the AHPGS was signed on January 28, 2025.

On May 27, 2025, the AHPGS forwarded the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter OQ) pertaining to the application for accreditation for the study programs to the College. On June 06, 2025, the College submitted the answers to the open questions and explanatory notes (hereinafter AOQ) to the AHPGS in electronic format.

The application documentation submitted by the Liwa College follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Along with the application request towards accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care", the following additional documents can be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the College are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Specific documents for the study program "Respiratory Care"

Annex	Description
01	Program Specification
02	Module Descriptions
03	Instructor CVs
04	Teaching Matrix
05	Internship Manual
06	Sample Course Experience Survey
07	Sample Course Review Report
08	Sample Program Review Report

09	Equipment List
10	Faculty Hospitals and Laps List
11	Faculty Improvement Plan 2024-2025
12	Faculty Strategy 2023-2028

Alongside the study-program-specific documents, the following documents pertain to all study programs submitted for external evaluation:

Annex	Description
A	College Catalog 2023-2024
B	College Strategy 2023-2028
C	College Research Strategy 2023-2028
D	Policies and Procedures Manual
E	Quality Assurance Manual
F	Students Orientation
G	Student Statistics
H	Alumni Satisfaction Survey 2023-2024
I	Sample Memorandum of Understanding
J	List of Books in AD and AA Campuses

The application, the open questions (OQ) and the answers to the open questions (AOQ) as well as the additional documents, build the basis for the present summary. The layout bears no significance, as it solely reflects the agreed standard between the AHPGS and the College.

2.2 Information about the College

Liwa College (LC) was founded in 1993 as the Emirates Institute of Technology (EIT) in Abu Dhabi and was recognized as a higher education institution in the same year. It was renamed Emirates College of Technology (ECT) in 2004 and became Liwa College of Technology (LCT) in 2019. In 2022, LCT was acquired by NEMA Education, and in 2023, it merged with Al Khawarizmi International College (KIC), adopting its current name, Liwa College (LC). The College operates two campuses, one in Abu Dhabi and one in Al Ain.

The College has four faculties: the Faculty of Business (FB), the Faculty of Media and Public Relations (FMPR), the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS),

and the Faculty of Engineering and Computing (FEC). The College offers a total of 24 programs, including 18 Bachelor's degree programs and six diploma programs. Planned expansions include a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and new Bachelor programs in Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy, along with specialized tracks in E-Commerce & Digital Marketing, Fintech & Finance, Artificial Intelligence, and Cloud Computing & Networks.

Faculties and Student Enrollment

- **Faculty of Business (FB):** 924 students (869 in Abu Dhabi, 55 in Al Ain)
- **Faculty of Media and Public Relations (FMPR):** 920 students (702 in Abu Dhabi, 218 in Al Ain)
- **Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS):** 975 students (679 in Abu Dhabi, 296 in Al Ain)
- **Faculty of Engineering and Computing (FEC):** 330 students (278 in Abu Dhabi, 52 in Al Ain)
- **Total Student Enrollment:** 3,149 students across both campuses

The College established its research unit in 2016 to support its research policy and strategy. The College is committed to fostering research and scholarly activities among faculty and students. The Strategy 2023-2028 prioritizes research expansion in medical sciences and applied research areas, aligning with UAE's National Strategy for Innovation and Abu Dhabi's strategic priorities.

2.3 Structural data of the study program

University	Liwa Collage
Faculty/Department	Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
Title of the study program	Respiratory Care
Degree awarded	Bachelor of Science
Form of studies	full-time
Organizational structure	The program runs on weekdays. A typical course includes 3 theory credits (45 hours) and 1 practical credit (30 hours) per semester (15 weeks), totaling 75 study hours. Distance learning is not available. Part-time students must take at least 3 courses.
Language of Studies	English
Period of education	5 years
Credit Hours (CH) according to the internal credit hour system	163 CH
Hours/CP	1 Theoretical CH = 1 weekly contact hour making a total of 15 contact hours per semester (15 weeks per semester) 1 Practical CH = 2 weekly contact hours making a total of 30 contact hours per semester (15 weeks per semester)
Workload	Total: 3,165 hours Theoretical: 1,725 hours Labs: 540 hours Clinical Practice: 900 hours
Credits for the graduation project	3 CH
Launch date of the study program	Winter semester 2019/2020
First accreditation	2019
Time of admission	Spring and fall semester (twice a year)
Number of available places on the program	40

Number of enrolled students by now	128
Tuition fees	54,000 AED or 12,700 € per year (incl. admission and registration fees, textbooks, labs, clinical practice, IT services, health services)

Chart 1: Structural data of the study program

3 Expert Report

The site visit was carried out on June 30 to July 01, 2025, according to the previously agreed schedule. Representatives from the head office of AHPGS accompanied the expert group.

The expert group met on June 29, 2025, for preliminary talks prior to the site visit. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation, as well as questions that had been raised prior. Furthermore, they prepared the plan of the site visit at the College.

During the site visit, experts conducted discussions with the College management, representatives of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, the chair, vice chair, and the teaching staff of the program "Respiratory Care", as well as with students currently studying in the program. Furthermore, they inspected the learning premises, such as lecture halls, seminar classrooms, library, and computer classrooms. Moreover, experts had the opportunity to examine the equipment and the capacity of the laboratories.

The Assessment Report is structured in compliance with the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The study program will be described and analyzed in a comprehensive manner below. The documents submitted by the College, the experts' feedback on the documents, the observations made during the site visit, the results of discussions with the representatives of the College and the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences serve as the foundation for the statements made in the Assessment Report.

3.1 Program aims and their implementation

In accordance with ESG 1.2 Design and Approval of Programs

The study program focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic or artistic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment and personal development.

Summary

The “Respiratory Care” program focuses on preparing students across cognitive, technical, and affective domains to become proficient healthcare professionals. It emphasizes foundational clinical skills, professionalism, ethical behavior, and a commitment to advancing the field through research. Students develop critical thinking and clinical competencies essential for delivering safe and effective respiratory care, aligning with standards set by the Abu Dhabi Department of Health (DOH), Ministry of Health, and international certification bodies. The program also instills professionalism in line with medical ethical standards and the cultural values of the UAE while promoting the importance of research in respiratory care.

The Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) cover a broad range of competencies. Students gain knowledge of medical terminology, human anatomy, physiology, and biochemistry with a focus on gas exchange processes. They learn to recognize and manage cardiopulmonary diseases and apply theoretical principles essential to respiratory care. The program trains students to perform diagnostic, therapeutic, and ancillary procedures, identify respiratory medications, and to understand the functions of respiratory equipment.

Further competencies include interpreting clinical data from physical assessments, laboratory results, imaging, and monitoring devices. Students are trained to apply scientific principles in respiratory care, select appropriate equipment, and adhere to institutional and ethical guidelines. They also learn to resolve clinical dilemmas in an ethical and professional manner. The program ensures that students can accurately perform diagnostic tests, interpret results, and develop patient-specific respiratory care plans. They acquire skills in using laboratory technology, maintaining safety in patient care, and conducting therapeutic procedures effectively. Communication skills are emphasized, enabling students to interact professionally with patients, families, and medical staff, both orally and in writing. They are also trained to document and manage clinical data proficiently.

According to the College, the demand for respiratory care professionals is steadily increasing, particularly with the growing focus on respiratory health and critical care in the healthcare sector. As respiratory conditions like asthma, COPD, and other pulmonary diseases become more prevalent, the need for trained professionals continues to rise. Graduates of the “Respiratory Care” program can pursue careers as respiratory therapists, pulmonary function technologists, and

respiratory care educators with further opportunities for specialization in neonatal or critical care. There is also potential for careers in research, healthcare administration, and policy-making related to respiratory care. Opportunities are available in a variety of settings, including hospitals, intensive care units (ICUs), pediatric and neonatal care units, sleep clinics, pulmonary function test (PFT) labs, and home care settings.

The College states that in the UAE and globally, professionals in respiratory care are in high demand, offering strong career prospects and job stability. The labor market for respiratory therapists (RTs) in the UAE in 2024 is experiencing steady growth, driven by a continued focus on improving healthcare services and infrastructure. Respiratory therapists are in high demand, especially as the population ages and the healthcare system expands to meet complex respiratory needs. The average salary for respiratory therapists in the UAE is around AED 150,000 annually, with variations depending on experience, qualifications, and location. In cities like Dubai and Abu Dhabi, respiratory therapists can earn more, with some reaching up to AED 17,000 per month.

Judgement

During the site visit, the Liwa College informed the expert panel that it has recently transitioned from a college to a university. This process was supported by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Commission for Academic Accreditation in Abu Dhabi. The change has direct implications for the design and approval of programs, as the institution now seeks to align its portfolio with the broader academic scope, research orientation, and qualification frameworks expected of a university. The experts congratulate Liwa College on this step. The experts highly recommend involving all stages of staff in this process in order to achieve a successful transformation. For the sake of consistency, the name Liwa College will continue to be used in this report.

The experts inquire about the possibilities of further education after the completion of the Bachelor program. The College is currently in the process of establishing a Master study program within the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. However, the decision on a specific field of study has not yet been made. The experts support this initiative.

From the experts' point of view the Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care" focuses on specific qualification objectives. These objectives cover professional

and interdisciplinary aspects and particularly refer to the domain of academic competences, competences necessary for a qualified employment, skills of social commitment, and personal development.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.2 Structure of the study program

In accordance with ESG 1.3 Student-centered Learning, Teaching and Assessment

The study program aims to provide students with specialized and interdisciplinary knowledge as well as professional, methodological, and general competences. The study program has a modular structure that is closely linked to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)¹ and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the modules contain all necessary information, as required in the ECTS User's Guide (particularly with regard to the details about learning content and outcomes, methods of learning, prerequisites for the allocation of ECTS credits, workload).

The combination and succession of the modules of the study program are consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier).

It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general.

The arrangement of internships in the study program allows acquisition of ECTS credits. Provided that the program offers exchange mobility gaps, they will be integrated into students' curriculum.

Study programs with special profile requirements (e.g. dual, part-time, occupational or distance learning study programs) comply with particular aspects that are considered as appropriate and proportionate. These particular aspects are continuously observed in the study program.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/docs/ects-guide_en.pdf

Summary

The “Respiratory Care” program contains 49 modules (courses) which equals to a total of 163 credit hours, out of which all modules are obligatory. Of these, 33 credits (eleven modules) are General Education courses shared by all programs at Liwa College. Basic Science (15 credits, five modules) and Basic Medical Science (21 credits, seven modules) are shared within the Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences. The remaining 94 credits (26 modules) are program-specific to “Respiratory Care” providing specialized training. There are between five and six modules offered in each semester, which is equivalent to 28 to 36 credit hours per study year. Each module has to be completed within its respective semester.

The list of modules offered:

Nr.	Title	Sem.	CH
ENG100	English I	1	3
BMS 110	Medical Terminology	1	3
BSC 121	Chemistry for Health Sciences	1	3
CIT 100	Introduction to Information Technology	1	3
MTH 105	Mathematics and Statistics	1	3
GEN100/ GEN101	Communication Skills in Arabic/ Communication Skills in Arabic for non-Arabic speakers	1	3
			18
GEN 105	Emirates Culture and Society	2	3
BSC 120	Physics for Health Sciences	2	3
BSC 122	Biology for Health Sciences	2	3
BMS 121	Human Anatomy	2	3
BMS 122	Human Physiology	2	3
BMS 123	Biochemistry	2	3
			18
BSC 220	Biostatistics	3	3
ENG 103	English II	3	3
GEN 102	Islamic Culture (Arabic / English)	3	3
GEN 304	Ethics	3	3
BMS 124	Introduction to Microbiology	3	3

RCM 211	Introduction to Respiratory Care Profession	3	2
			17
GEN 103	Logic and Critical Thinking	4	3
RCM 220	Cardiopulmonary Anatomy and Physiology	4	3
BMS 411	General Pharmacology and Toxicology	4	3
BSC 221	Research Methods for Health Sciences	4	3
GEM 201	Psychology	4	3
			15
GEN 302	Fundamentals of Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainability	5	3
BMS 410	Pathology	5	3
RCM 310	Respiratory Care Science I	5	4
RCM 311	Patient Assessment	5	4
HCM 323	Quality Management in Healthcare	5	3
			17
RCM 320	Cardiopulmonary Diseases I	6	3
RCM 321	Fundamentals of Polysomnography	6	3
RCM 322	Mechanical Ventilation I	6	3
RCM 323	Respiratory Care Science II	6	3
RCM 324	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice I	6	3
			15
RCM 410	Mechanical Ventilation II	7	4
RCM 411	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice II	7	3
RCM 412	Patient Care Management Seminar	7	2
RCM 413	Cardiopulmonary Diseases II	7	3
RCM 414	Pulmonary Function Diagnostics	7	3
			15
RCM 420	Multidisciplinary Respiratory Care	8	3
RCM 421	Pulmonary Rehabilitation and Home Care	8	3
RCM 422	Pediatric Respiratory Care	8	3
RCM 423	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice III	8	8
RCM 424	Neonatal Respiratory Care	8	3

			20
RCM 510	Clinical Simulation Seminar	9	2
HIM 423	Introduction to Healthcare Informatics	9	3
RCM 511	Essentials of Critical Care	9	2
RCM 512	Respiratory Care Seminar	9	2
RCM 513	Graduation Project	9	3
			12
RCM 520	Respiratory Care Clinical Practice IV	10	16
	Total:		163

Table 2: Module overview

The module descriptions cover the following aspects: module number and title, semester, credit hours, language, learning outcomes, content, and examination.

During year one, students in the “Respiratory Care” program begin by building a strong foundation in general education and basic sciences, covering subjects such as medical terminology, human anatomy, human physiology, physics, and chemistry. These courses provide the essential knowledge needed for understanding respiratory care. In year two, the focus shifts to respiratory-specific subjects like cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, patient assessment, and respiratory care science. Students are introduced to the fundamental concepts of respiratory therapy and begin applying this knowledge through hands-on laboratory sessions. In year three, students delve deeper into specialized topics such as mechanical ventilation, cardiopulmonary diseases, and advanced respiratory care techniques, including pediatrics and polysomnography. The final two years emphasize clinical practice through extensive clinical rotations and advanced courses in neonatal and pediatric respiratory care, as well as pulmonary rehabilitation. Students also work on a graduation project, applying research skills to address a relevant topic in respiratory care.

The program includes clinical practice courses throughout the study plan from year three to year five. Clinical practice is a critical part of the learning experience, structured across four key courses: RCM 324: Respiratory Care Clinical Practice I (3 CH), RCM 411: Respiratory Care Clinical Practice II (3 CH), RCM 423: Respiratory Care Clinical Practice III (8 CH), and RCM 520: Respiratory Care Clinical

Practice IV (16 CH). Each of these clinical courses provides students with hands-on experience in various healthcare settings. The time in the clinic is based on the contact hours required for each course. For Clinical Practice I, for example, 90 contact hours are required. Students must attend six hours of clinic (one day), every week, for 15 weeks in total.

The supervision of students during these clinical rotations is managed through a close collaboration between College faculty and clinical site instructors. College instructors ensure that learning outcomes are met by maintaining continuous communication with hospital-based supervisors and monitoring student progress through regular evaluations and feedback sessions (SER 4.1.4). Clinical instructors at healthcare facilities are experienced professionals with advanced certifications in respiratory care. The College faculty works closely with these clinical instructors through regular meetings to discuss student performance, address any challenges, and ensure that clinical objectives align with academic goals. Each student's progress is tracked through detailed clinical evaluations, case presentations, and practical examinations, such as Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs). The College has a list of hospitals for cooperation that can be found in Annex 10. The internship manual can be found in Annex 05. Clinical assignments are based on capacity, availability, and geographic preferences of the students.

According to the College, the program employs a diverse range of didactic methods to ensure comprehensive learning. Lectures provide essential theoretical knowledge, while seminars allow for interactive discussions on advanced topics. Practical exercises and project work are integrated to build hands-on skills in respiratory care techniques and patient management. Study groups encourage peer learning and collaboration, enhancing students' problem-solving abilities. Work placement phases are respiratory care clinical practice in the program, which offer real-world clinical experience, enabling students to apply their knowledge in various healthcare settings under professional supervision.

The program incorporates electronic and multimedia forms of instruction through the Blackboard learning platform. This platform provides students with access to lecture materials, videos, quizzes, and interactive simulations, enhancing the learning experience. Distance learning components, such as online discussion forums and virtual case studies, are integrated to facilitate engagement and collaboration outside the classroom. Additionally, Blackboard supports assignments, assessments, and feedback to ensure continuous learning and assessment progress. The

scope includes both theoretical content and practical case-based scenarios, allowing students to learn and review respiratory care concepts at their own pace.

The program integrates research into the curriculum through a variety of activities aimed at fostering critical thinking and evidence-based practice. Three key courses equip students with essential research skills: 1) Biostatistics (BSC 220), 2) Research Methods for Health Sciences (BSC 221), and 3) Graduation Project (RCM 513). These courses provide students with a solid foundation in research methodologies, culminating in the Graduation Project, where students undertake independent research on topics related to respiratory care. To further enhance research competency, journal clubs are incorporated, encouraging students to critically review and discuss current scientific literature, helping them stay up to date with emerging trends in the field. Pro-con debates are also utilized to develop analytical skills, engaging students in discussions on controversial topics and promoting the critical evaluation of scientific evidence.

According to Liwa College, the curriculum aligns with international standards and best practices, drawing from the guidelines of prominent health organizations such as the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) and similar global institutions. Students engage with globally relevant case studies, clinical practices, and treatment approaches for respiratory diseases prevalent in different regions. This global perspective equips graduates with the adaptability and skills required to excel in diverse healthcare environments, preparing them to meet international healthcare demands effectively.

The modules are only taught in English. Students have the option to study at other universities and transfer credits, as the courses are aligned with global standards and benchmarked against international curricula.

Liwa College currently doesn't have international cooperation in the study program "Respiratory Care".

Judgement

The Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care" has a course-based structure and a course-related examination system. Descriptions of the courses are embedded within the course specifications. The course specifications contain information on the module number and title, semester, credit hours, language, learning outcomes, content, and examination.

The curriculum is evidence-based and benchmarked against international guidelines, reflecting best practices in respiratory care education. Learning objectives are co-developed with clinical experts from affiliated hospitals, ensuring the alignment of academic content with real-world clinical requirements.

The experts discuss the contents of the curriculum with the dean and teaching staff of the study program and consider a module on healthcare systems to be a valuable addition to the curriculum to introduce students to structures, financial flows and regulations in different healthcare systems.

All modules are designed with clear connections between theoretical knowledge and clinical application. In most cases, a single lecturer delivers both components, ensuring consistency and coherence. Each syllabus provides detailed descriptions of learning goals, theoretical input, and related practical experiences. The College has established a comprehensive support system that accommodates students throughout their placements.

A standardized clinical internship structure is embedded in the program:

- 90 hours of clinical observation
- 90 hours of hands-on skills training
- 240 hours of practical hospital experience

This structure is applied uniformly across all students, ensuring consistency in exposure and competencies. These experiences are coordinated with hospital partners to support learning in real clinical environments. The arrangement of the clinical practice courses in the study program allows the acquisition of credits. However, the experts recommend expanding the options for clinical practice embedded in the curriculum.

In addition to the structured clinical practice embedded in the study program, students are required to complete a six-month internship in Abu Dhabi for the purposes of licensing. This licensing internship is not part of the academic curriculum but is mandatory for professional practice in the region. Students are expected to organize and complete this phase independently after graduation. The experts recommend providing support for students in organizing the internship.

Students complete a graduation project in small groups (2-3 students). These projects are designed to address clinically and socially relevant topics, demonstrating

critical thinking and application of knowledge. An example includes a project on daytime sleepiness and its implications for driving safety.

While only one group has completed the graduation project thus far (due to the program's recent inception), the format offers good potential for building academic and professional research capacity.

Liwa College explains, that they provide incentives for publication, such as salary-based rewards, encouraging faculty and students to contribute to the scientific community.

The experts acknowledge the very detailed course files with its contents and aims, which allows a high level of transparency. In the experts' opinion, the structure of the curriculum seems to make the workload manageable.

The combination and succession of the courses of the study program are consistent with the specified qualification objectives (described earlier). It is assured that students receive the support and guidance they need for the organization and accomplishment of assignments and the learning process in general.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the College has embraced distance learning strategies for theoretical components as a new teaching method. However, practical units remain in-person, as required by the hands-on nature of respiratory care.

Hybrid options are available upon request, particularly in cases of illness or personal hardship. At present, online guest lectures are not offered, though clinical speakers may be invited to the campus for face-to-face engagement. The program also accommodates part-time students, reflecting a flexible and inclusive approach.

The experts further discuss the College's internationalization efforts. The College explains, that so far, no structured international cooperation is in place, but will be worked on within the next few months. The students have the opportunity to organize and participate in an international exchange individually, but according to the students, that is challenging without agreements and cooperations. The experts recommend establishing partnerships with other institutions to offer exchange periods to their students and staff. International cooperation in research projects is also a great opportunity to integrate into the international scientific community.

International exchange could also be enhanced by establishing a mobility window for students and staff. The experts recommend expanding the possibilities of going abroad through short-term stays as well. Shorter periods abroad, for example within the scope of an internship or summer school, could be more attractive for students. Furthermore, the experts recommend finding creative ways of internationalization, for example, online conferences or guest lectures, to include their students in the international scientific community.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.3 Admission and Feasibility

In accordance with ESG 1.4 Student Admission, Progression, Recognition and Certification

The admission requirements and, if applied, student selection procedures are specified. They correspond to the standards of the study program.

Feasibility of the study program is guaranteed. The admis of student workload is appropriate.

Student support services, as well as specialized and general consultations, are provided by the University in a sufficient and appropriate manner.

As a whole, the organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program.

Summary

Admission criteria at Liwa College are guided by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR) Decrees in UAE:

High School Certificate/Equivalency:

- Applicants must have a recognized and official secondary school certificate or its equivalent showing successful completion of secondary education.
- Applicants from private schools will only be accepted if the school is licensed by the Ministry of Education in the UAE.

- Students with a UAE General Secondary School Certificate must have achieved a minimum score of 60%, in line with the regulations of the Ministry of Education.
- Students with Industrial, Applied Technology, Commercial, and Agricultural Secondary School Certificates and with a minimum score of 65% can be admitted to Liwa College programs.
- Applicants from foreign schools that follow systems of education applied in their native countries, which have two levels of secondary school education, must have completed the higher level of secondary education to be admitted

To be eligible for full admission to programs in the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, a student should:

- Meet the minimum average of 60% in the national secondary school certificate or its equivalent,
- Meet the minimum English requirement: Students with a minimum high school English score of 80 will be fully admitted and will be allowed to register directly in English 1. Students with high school English scores of less than 80 will be required to take a foundation English course during their first semester of study.

Students are admitted twice a year, aligning with the fall and spring semesters. For non-native English speakers, proficiency in English is required, demonstrated through tests such as IELTS or TOEFL.

According to the Transfer Admission and Credit Policy (Appendix D: Policies and Procedures Manual), candidates who have previously studied for at least one academic semester, or equivalent, at another College or University licensed by the UAE Ministry of Education or any internationally accredited Higher Education Institution may apply for admission to the College as a transfer student. A transfer student candidate must meet all admission requirements set by the College for the program as specified in the application. Transferred students are eligible to transfer a maximum of 50% of the credits required to finish their program of study. A minimum of 50% of the credit hours of the program must be earned through instruction at Liwa College. Students must spend a minimum of two regular semesters of study at Liwa College to be eligible to graduate.

The College has established a Deanship of Student Affairs responsible for planning and implementing academic and other support services for students. The Deanship of Student Affairs has ten supporting staff members, including full-time, professionally qualified counselors who provide personal counseling services.

Faculty members are expected to undertake a number of office hours per week. The responsibilities of an academic advisor include providing advisees guidance and updates about relevant policies and procedures. They also assist students in developing realistic goals and a planned progression of courses to meet degree requirements and, if applicable, maximize elective choices to enhance career educational or personal interests and encourage the advisee to review progress toward the goal of degree completion.

The Deanship of Student Affairs supports the students by providing career development services. The Career Development & Alumni Affairs officer in the department provides the following career services to students: employer talks, career fairs, internship programs, career management workshops, career counseling, etc.

Furthermore, the Deanship of Student Affairs Department at the College conducts orientation sessions for all newly admitted students at the beginning of each semester. In the orientation, students are informed about the College's academic and career advising systems. At the time of admission, the Head of Department assigns academic advisors to all new students. Students can also see the details about their advisors through the Student Information System (SIS). All full-time academic staff are involved in academic advisory duties. Each student must have a designated academic advisor on admission and throughout his/her study. The Head of Department allocates academic advisors during the admission phase, and every effort is made to ensure that students keep the same advisors during their whole academic journey.

Judgement

The admission policies and procedures, along with the requirements, are properly documented and made publicly available. The experts determine the admission procedures and requirements to be appropriate, as they correspond to the standards of the study program.

The experts draw attention to the relatively high number of exams to be passed during the study program. The College states that the system of midterm and final exams is determined by the government. In order to prepare students for the level

of difficulty and volume of exams, the type as well as the time of the different examinations is defined and communicated to the students transparently through the course syllabus at the beginning of each course. The experts confirm that the College takes good measures to guarantee the feasibility of the study programs despite the high workload. The organization of the education process ensures the successful implementation of the study program.

The experts inquire about possibilities for admission of professionals entering from other educational background or regions, so called bridging programs. According to the College, there are options for transfer students but currently no bridging programs. The experts recommend developing bridging programs for professionals entering from other educational backgrounds or regions.

On site, it became obvious that the teaching staff follows an “open-door-policy”. Orientation sessions for all newly admitted students are held at the beginning of each semester, which familiarizes them with available support services and general information about the College and the study program.

As another support mechanism, an academic advisor is appointed. Each faculty member is responsible for academic advising of up to 32 students. This advising structure provides students with personalized guidance throughout their studies. Additionally, break semesters are allowed, offering flexibility for students managing personal or professional challenges. The experts find the support services at the College to be good and conducive to the health and success of the student body.

The experts further inquire about the options for scholarships. In talks with students, they express a desire for better financial support, for example for exceptionally talented students. The experts support this wish and recommend establishing scholarships for different groups.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.4 Examination system and transparency

In accordance with ESG 1.8 Public Information

Examinations serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences. The requirements to students' performance in examinations are regulated and published. The frequency of examinations, as well as their organization, is appropriate.

The University guarantees that students with disabilities or chronic illnesses receive compensation with regard to time limits and formal requirements of the study process, as well as all final and course-related performance records.

Information concerning the study program, process of education, admission requirements and the compensation regulations for students with disabilities are documented and published.

Summary

The exam system is structured to align closely with the specific educational objectives of the department and inter-departmental goals. Each course's learning outcomes are directly mapped to relevant skills and competencies that students are expected to demonstrate by the end of the study program.

A mix of formative and summative assessments is available for every module. This includes quizzes, assignments/lab reports/case presentations, one written midterm exam, one written final exam, midterm and final practical assessments such as Objective Structured Clinical Examination, and practical skills demonstrations.

The assessments per module are listed in Table 6.1.1.1 in the SER. The theoretical modules typically include a midterm and final exam. There are up to six assessments per module. There are between 22 and 34 assessments per semester.

Midterm exams usually occur after the first half of the semester (typically during the 8th week) to evaluate progress, while final exams are positioned after all the course content has been delivered. The exact dates can be found in the academic calendar.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory, and unexcused absences will result in a zero grade. The passing grade for each course is set at 60%. In cases where students cannot attend exams due to valid reasons such as illness (verified by a Ministry of Health-stamped medical report), family death, accidents, or natural events, a re-sit may be arranged once appropriate documentation is provided.

According to Liwa College, the grading strategy comprises multiple components, which offers students several opportunities to enhance their performance. Examinations cannot be repeated in the event of failure. Students have to repeat the module.

The study program adheres strictly to national and institutional regulations concerning examinations, including guidelines for academic integrity, grading criteria, and student support. All exams are designed to ensure fairness and equity, with clear communication of assessment criteria provided to students at the beginning of each course. Regular reviews of the exam system are conducted to ensure alignment with evolving educational standards and regulatory requirements, thereby upholding the integrity and quality of the academic program.

The College states that cheating and plagiarism carry severe consequences, including a zero grade on the assessment, failure in the course, or even dismissal from the College.

The College publishes its College catalog every academic year. The catalog includes a brief profile of the College and its programs, available resources, cooperative relationships, admission and program completion requirements, policies related to registration, financial policies, student services, including role and responsibility, appeal process, information related to academic integrity, and other requirements. The catalog is publicly available for download on <https://lc.ac.ae/downloads/>. The College will archive and keep the catalogs available online for ten years.

According to the Students of Determination Policy, students have the right to request additional exam time, accompanied, if necessary, by a specialist shadow teacher, repeat coursework assessment, etc.

Liwa College offers student clubs and organizations, campus events, and celebrations. Additionally, the College offers for example leadership and development programs, sports, community service opportunities, cultural and artistic showcases and wellness and health activities.

Judgement

The College uses a continuous assessment process to ensure the quality of education for its students. The study programs have a course-related examination system. Its implementation, including the grading system, course load regulations,

repetition of courses and exams is regulated and transparent for the students. From the experts' point of view, the examination serves to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved. These examinations are focused on students' knowledge and competences.

Nevertheless, in the experts' opinion, the study program includes a very high number of assessments (between 22 and 34 per semester) which causes a high workload not only for students but also for the teaching staff. The transparent information of examination methods and of the examination schedule at the beginning of each term makes the high number of assessments during and at the end of each semester manageable. However, the experts recommend checking whether all assessments are essential or whether some assessments can be combined.

In talks with Liwa College, it became clear that the examination cannot be repeated. When students fail a module, they are required to repeat the entire module. Explanations and feedback are provided, and reassessment opportunities are available in cases of grading disputes. Nevertheless, the experts recommend creating options for the repetition of exams in particular cases like health issues.

Students are required to attend all clinical hours, with a maximum of 20 hours of justified absence permitted. All other hours must be completed in full to maintain academic and clinical standards.

Thus, the experts conclude that the examinations, although numerous, serve to determine whether the envisaged qualification objectives have been achieved or not and are focused on students' knowledge. The requirements for students' performance in examinations are regulated and published in the course syllabus. The organization of examinations is appropriate.

The College ensures that information about its activities, particularly the programs it offers, is easily accessible to prospective and current students, graduates, other stakeholders and the public. The published information includes detailed insights into the selection criteria for programs, intended learning outcomes, qualifications awarded, and the procedures employed for teaching, learning, and assessment. Furthermore, pass rates and available learning opportunities to students, as well as graduate employment information are shared.

Upon graduation, students are awarded a Bachelor graduation diploma. The experts recommend providing additional information with the graduation certificate:

To increase international comparability, the College could use the template for Diploma Supplements developed by the Council of Europe, European Commission and UNESCO.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.5 Teaching staff and material equipment

In accordance with ESG 1.5 Teaching Staff and in line with ESG 1.6 Learning Resources and student support

Professionalism and a sufficient number of human resources assure the successful implementation of the study program. Qualifications of the teaching personnel correspond to the requirements of the study program. Recruitment and appointment of teaching positions are appropriate. Interdisciplinary links to other study programs are taken into consideration.

Measures for the professional and personal development of the teaching personnel are provided.

Qualitative and quantitative sufficiency of the equipment and space resources assures the successful implementation of the study program.

Summary

The study program "Respiratory Care" is taught by four full-time faculty members belonging to the Department of Health and Medical Science: two associate professors, one lecturer, and one clinical instructor.

The respective workload is based on the faculty members' academic qualifications. Faculty members holding a Ph.D. are tasked with teaching 24 credit hours annually. Teaching staff with a Master's degree teach up to 30 credit hours yearly. The framework implements load deductions for faculty members engaged in administrative roles.

Since the teaching staff of the program also teaches in other programs of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, the student/teacher ratio is calculated for

the entire faculty instead of the program itself. Currently, the student/faculty ratio stands at 30:1.

The HR department of Liwa College works with department heads and deans of the respective study programs to identify needs and create clear job descriptions. Candidates are sourced through internal and external channels, with a recruitment committee conducting interviews. The selection process is standardized, and successful candidates receive offers contingent on background checks and medical clearance. The HR department assists with legal documentation and ensures new hires are integrated through an orientation program. Further information can be found in Annex E.

The College has an Academic Staff Professional Development Policy that describes the possibilities for staff development. The teaching staff of the „Respiratory Care“ program demonstrates a strong commitment to professional development through participation in various workshops and training courses. Examples can be found in SER 7.1.3.

The faculty members are supported by one lab technologist, one medical lab supervisor and two assistant lab supervisors.

Liwa College has over 100 classrooms and labs on two campuses, with capacity ranges accommodating an average of twelve to 65 students. Classrooms are equipped with modern technology that enhances teaching methods. This allows to deliver lectures and workshops in diverse formats, tailored to the needs of students in the framework of the curriculum (SER 7.3.1).

The Learning Resources Centre (LRC) in the Abu Dhabi campus is 935 sq. meters and contains 169 reading chairs, 34 reading tables, and 30 computers connected with high-speed internet to accommodate 185 students.

The library provides photocopying and printing services to the faculty members and students and allows them to copy materials within limits for their research and teaching purposes. In addition to more than 190 bookshelves, the College also has newspaper and journal racks to keep users abreast of the current developments in the field of their interest. The library's collection is growing by approximately 500 items per year to support the teaching and research of students and faculty members. The library subscribes to international databases and expects to add further electronic database subscriptions to support the program. E-resources are available 24/7 for its users through the LRC portal.

The opening hours of the Library Resource Center at the Abu Dhabi campus are as follows:

Monday to Thursday: 09:00 AM to 08:00 PM

Friday: 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM

Saturday to Sunday: 10:00 am to 07:00 PM

Overall, Liwa College has a total of 106 specialized lab and classroom spaces across both campuses. The list of labs at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences is detailed in Annex 10.

Judgement

New teaching staff is thoroughly briefed about the programs and their teaching responsibilities before they start teaching. Overall, the teaching and academic staff at Liwa College shows a very high level of commitment and potential for the execution as well as further development of the study program they are responsible for. The experts conclude that there is a strong corporate identity and positive group dynamics among the College and the faculty administration. All teaching staff are employed in 100% academic positions, and current regulations do not permit simultaneous clinical work. While this separation supports academic focus, stakeholders expressed a desire for greater flexibility, as continued clinical engagement could enhance teaching quality and relevance.

The experts find the number of human resources allocated to the program to be sufficient to carry out its functions. The teaching staff is well qualified and in possession of academic and technical credentials and experience adequate to their tasks.

A PhD is required for appointment as assistant professor. The College informs its employees about opportunities for personal and professional development transparently, and actively encourages their participation in workshops, training courses and conferences intended to improve their abilities, which is confirmed during the talks with the staff on site. Topics for educational training programs are freely chosen by individual staff members. Some training sessions are not free of charge, which may create barriers to participation; the College is encouraged to explore ways to offer essential training at no cost.

Salary levels are reported as adequate, and there are systems in place for performance-based promotions and bonus payments. Faculty members also receive partial support for pursuing doctoral studies while employed.

The experts visited the premises of the Liwa College, where the skills labs of the Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care" are located. The skills labs are equipped with all relevant devices. From the experts' point of view, the quality of the laboratories and clinical areas used to train students in the program is sufficient. In the long term, the equipment in the laboratories should be modernized and expanded.

As a whole, it was ascertained by the experts that the study program "Respiratory Care" has ample teaching facilities at its disposal.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.6 Quality assurance

In accordance with ESG 1.1. Policy for Quality Assurance and ESG 1.10 Cyclical External Quality Assurance.

In line with ESG 1.7 Information Management and taking into consideration ESG 1.9 On-going Monitoring and periodic review of programs

The University has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in education process, teaching and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program.

The results of the internal quality assurance management are applied for the continuous development of the study program. In doing so, the University takes into close consideration the quality evaluation results as well as the analyses of students' workload, their academic accomplishments and feedback from graduates.

Summary

Liwa College publishes a Quality Assurance Manual (Annex E) that documents the structure and design of the quality assurance framework covering academic and administrative units, integrated into one system that works to ensure that

institutional activities, programs, and services are continually appraised. The implementation of this QA framework supports a continuous improvement cycle based on a PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act) model of evaluation and use of results for action planning, which allows for “closing of the loop”. The framework also covers the activities of the quality assurance unit: Institutional Research & Quality Assurance Department (IRQA).

The Institutional Research and Quality Assurance (IRQA) office is positioned at the functional management level and reports directly to the College President. The structure reflects the four major functions required of a quality assurance/institutional effectiveness unit at a higher education institution: institutional research, risk management, quality assurance, and accreditation (SER 8.1.1).

All programs offered at Liwa College are evaluated on an annual basis. The evaluation of the programs is published in Program Review Reports which includes details of student enrollment, retention, graduation rate, the satisfaction rate of students with the delivery of the program, benchmarking with other institutions, and other details of the programs. The engagement of students and other stakeholders in the ongoing review and adaptation of study programs is a core practice that reinforces the quality and relevance of education. The effectiveness of the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences (FMHS) programs is assessed through structured direct and indirect assessment methods as outlined below:

Direct Assessment Methods are course review report and program review report. Indirect assessment methods are the course experience survey and the graduate student survey.

The external quality assurance process of IRQA at the College is based on the accreditation requirements of local and international accreditation bodies. The IRQA office at the College takes a leading role during the inspection/audit visits by local and international accreditation visits. The IRQA again leads in revising policies, practices, and other actions to align the operations of the College in compliance with the requirements of the accreditation bodies. Based on the guidelines and recommendations of the external accreditation bodies, Liwa College improves its strategy, policies, procedures, operations, and facilities, among other things.

The evaluation results from direct and indirect assessments and input from the Faculty Advisory Board are used to continuously improve study programs. Course review reports lead to adjustments in course content, teaching methods, and

student performance support. Program review reports inform curriculum updates to keep programs aligned with industry standards and global trends. Indirect assessments, such as student surveys, provide insights to enhance teaching quality, course structure, and skill development.

The Faculty Advisory Board, primarily composed of external industry partners and one alumnus, provides strategic guidance to ensure programs remain relevant and aligned with real-world needs. Their feedback helps integrate new technologies, refine assessments, and ensure workforce readiness.

Ensuring the practical relevance of study programs is a key priority according to Liwa College, accomplished through systematic feedback mechanisms and stakeholder involvement. Especially the Graduate Student Survey is crucial for evaluating the practical relevance of the study program.

	Number of applications	Number of students		Number of graduates
		Male	Female	
2024	26	1	18	13
2023	29	8	22	5

Judgement

From the experts' point of view, the College has a well-structured system of quality assurance spread across all of its units. The College has developed and documented a concept of quality assurance in the education process, teaching and research, which serves as the basis for the quality-oriented development and implementation of the study program "Respiratory Care".

The College maintains a strong internal quality assurance system. A standardized process of module-level feedback collection ensures that each course is critically reviewed by students and faculty alike. These evaluations feed into internal academic committees, which guide strategic improvements and pedagogical innovation. This process is embedded in a broader philosophy of continuous development and reflective practice, emphasizing the program's commitment to maintaining high standards of education and clinical preparedness.

The College consistently monitors and periodically reviews its programs to ensure alignment with established objectives, responsiveness to the evolving needs of students and society, and the facilitation of continuous program improvement.

These systematic reviews are integral to the College's commitment to maintaining the relevance of study programs and fostering a supportive and effective learning environment for students. The evaluation process encompasses various aspects, including the regular examination of program content in light of the latest research in the discipline, consideration of changing societal needs, assessment of student workload, progression, and completion rates, evaluation of the effectiveness of procedures for student assessment, collection of feedback on student expectations, needs, and satisfaction regarding the program, and examination of the suitability of the learning environment and support services for the program's objectives.

The College possess a robust data collection system and gathers comprehensive data on its study programs and other activities. The information gathered depends, to some extent, on the type and mission of the institution. Various Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are captured by the institution. A range of information regarding study programs and activities is consistently captured by the institution. Student progression, success rates, and dropout rates are inherent considerations in the institution's analytical processes. With an established feedback mechanism, the College regularly measures student satisfaction with their programs, the learning resources and the available student support. The College also actively tracks and analyzes the career paths of its graduates. The College seamlessly integrates the collected information into its existing internal quality assurance system. Mechanisms are in place to ensure that the perspectives of students and staff are considered in decision-making processes.

Regular program reviews and revisions are conducted, actively involving students and other stakeholders in the process. A Program Advisory Board, primarily composed of external clinical professionals, provides ongoing input into curriculum relevance and ensures that changes reflect evolving healthcare needs. The College demonstrates a strong commitment to quality enhancement using a standardized process of continuous reflection, including feedback on each module and internal committee review. This feedback loop promotes curriculum innovation and quality. Any actions planned or taken as a result of these reviews are communicated to all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, the College ensures the publication of revised program specifications, fostering transparency and keeping stakeholders informed of changes resulting from the systematic review process.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

3.7 Gender equality and equal opportunities

The University's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

Summary

The College is committed to promoting gender equality and equal opportunities for all students, staff, and stakeholders. This commitment is embedded in its core policies, ensuring a culture of fairness, respect, and inclusivity. The Academic and Administrative Staff Employment Policies emphasize merit-based recruitment and diversity, explicitly rejecting discrimination based on gender, race, nationality, or other attributes. These principles extend to the grievance policies, which empower employees to report discrimination, including gender-based grievances, fostering an equitable work environment.

The College's Code of Honor reinforces these values by mandating all employees to uphold non-discrimination based on ethnicity, religion, gender, and equality in all actions. The Diversity & Inclusion Policy and Fair Treatment Policy further affirm that diversity is a valued attribute of the College's culture. These policies promote an environment where individuals from various backgrounds—including those with different genders, abilities, and living situations—are respected and valued, ensuring a collaborative and supportive community. For students, the admission policy guarantees equal access to education, admitting candidates based solely on academic merit, regardless of gender, disability, or other personal attributes. This commitment is bolstered by the Students of Determination Policy, which provides detailed guidance on ensuring that students with disabilities have equitable opportunities to succeed academically.

Additionally, the Student Rights & Responsibilities Policy and Student Counseling Policy uphold the right of all students to be free from discrimination, including gender-based discrimination, and ensure access to professional, caring, and respectful support. In the academic realm, the Teaching & Learning Policy ensures that all students, including those with disabilities or exceptional circumstances,

receive equal access to high-quality education. The examination policy complements this by considering the needs of students with exceptional circumstances, including those in special living situations, to provide appropriate accommodation.

Finally, the Sexual Harassment Policy underscores the College's zero-tolerance stance against gender-based harassment, ensuring a safe and inclusive environment for all, regardless of gender identity. Collectively, these policies create a robust framework for promoting gender equality and equal opportunities, aligning with the College's mission to cultivate an inclusive and supportive community for all its members.

Several compensation measures for students with disabilities and chronic illnesses are applied to address scheduling and formal requirements within their study program. These measures are designed to ensure inclusivity and support throughout the academic journey. Key provisions include:

- Flexible examination arrangements: Students have the right to additional exam time, designated rooms, breaks during exams, and alternative formats like oral tests or essays. Exams can be conducted in quiet, distraction-free environments to accommodate specific needs.
- Classroom adjustments: Academic staff are required to make necessary adjustments, such as modifying seating arrangements, providing additional time for in-class assignments, and using assistive technologies or note-takers to support students.
- Individual education plans (IEPs): The student success team develops tailored IEPs for students, which may include modifications in scheduling or format for coursework and assessments.
- Support for attendance: the College acknowledges that chronic illnesses may impact attendance. Flexible attendance requirements and alternative methods for completing coursework are considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Accessible facilities: the College ensures that physical resources, such as classrooms and labs, are accessible and provides adaptive seating and assistive equipment as necessary.

- **Advisory support:** Academic advisors meet regularly with students of determination to ensure their specific needs are considered when scheduling courses or assessments.

Judgement

The College demonstrates its commitment to the provision of equal opportunities for all students and shows openness for diversity and social development. Overall, the experts conclude that the College's actions on the provision of gender equality and promotion of equal opportunities for students with particular living circumstances are implemented in a transparent manner.

Decision

From the experts' point of view, the requirements of this criterion are fulfilled.

4 Conclusion

On site, the experts find a well-structured Bachelor study program in "Respiratory Care", which is evidence-based and benchmarked against international guidelines. Clinical practice is a critical part of the learning experience and is organized between years three and five. All modules are designed with clear connections between theoretical knowledge and clinical application. The support for students during their practical phases is well-organized.

In addition to the structured clinical practice embedded in the study program, students are required to complete a six-month internship in Abu Dhabi for the purposes of licensing.

Based on the information from written documents and the results of the site visit, the experts came to the conclusion that the study program "Respiratory Care" offered at the Liwa College completely fulfills the above-described criteria. Hence, the experts recommended that the Accreditation Commission of AHPGS make a positive decision regarding the accreditation of the study program.

For the continuous development of the study program, the experts have outlined the following recommendations:

- All stages of staff should be involved in the transformation from Liwa College to Liwa University.
- A module on healthcare systems should be established.
- The options for clinical practice embedded in the curriculum should be expanded.
- Support for students in organizing the internship should be provided.
- Partnerships with other institutions should be established to offer exchange periods to their students and staff. International cooperation in research projects is also a great opportunity to integrate into the international scientific community.
- International exchange should be enhanced by establishing a mobility window for students and staff. The possibilities of going abroad through short-term stays, like internships, should be expanded.

- The participation in online conferences or guest lectures should further be supported.
- A bridging program for professionals entering from other educational backgrounds or regions should be established.
- Scholarships for different groups should be established
- It should be checked whether all assessments are essential or whether some assessments can be combined to reduce the number of assessments.
- Options for the repetition of exams in particular cases like health issues should be created.
- Additional information should be provided with the graduation certificate like a Diploma Supplement.
- Training sessions for staff should be free of charge, to reduce barriers of participation.
- The equipment in the laboratories should be modernized and expanded.

5 Decision of the Accreditation Commission

Decision of the Accreditation Commission September 25, 2025

This resolution of the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS is based on the University's application, as well as the expert review and the site visit covered in the Assessment Report.

The site visit of the University took place on June 30 to July 01, 2025, according to the previously agreed-upon schedule.

The accreditation procedure is structured according to the Accreditation Criteria developed by the AHPGS. The Accreditation Criteria are developed by the AHPGS in close accordance with the existing criteria and requirements valid in the Federal Republic of Germany and based on the "Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area" (ESG), established by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA).

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group regarding the Assessment Report.

The Bachelor study program requires the obtainment of 163 credit hours according the internal credit hour system. The regulated study period in the program "Respiratory Care" is five years. The study program comprises 49 mandatory courses, of which 26 are program-specific, 11 courses are shared by all programs at Liwa College and 12 courses are offered by the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. The language of instruction is English. The Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care" is completed with awarding of the academic degree "Bachelor of Science". Admission takes place twice a year. The first cohort of students was admitted to the study program in the academic year 2019/2020.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS considers that all Accreditation Criteria are fulfilled and adopts the following decision:

The Bachelor study program "Respiratory Care" is accredited for the duration of five years until September 30, 2030.

For further development and enhancement of the study program, as well as of the University as a whole, the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS supports the recommendation articulated in the Assessment Report.