

EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS

Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice

College of Criminal Justice

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences
(NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

June 2025

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International evaluation and accreditation

EVALUATION REPORT

Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice

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(NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

March 2025



The NAUSS has mandated the Hcéres to perform the evaluation of its Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice. The evaluation is based on the "External Evaluation Standards" of foreign study programmes, adopted by the Hcéres Board on September 18th 2024. These standards are available on the Hcéres website ([hceres.fr](https://www.hceres.fr)).

In the name of the expert committee¹:

Philippe Lagrange, President of the committee

In the name of Hcéres¹:

Coralie Chevallier, President

The High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres) is an independent public authority. It is responsible for evaluating higher education and research institutions, research organisations, research units, and training programmes.

¹In accordance with articles R. 114-15 and R. 114-10 of the Research Code, evaluation reports are signed by the chairman of the expert committee and countersigned by the President of Hcéres.

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I. STUDY PROGRAMME IDENTITY SHEET

- University: NAUSS
- Component, faculty or department concerned: Criminal Law Department
- Training/speciality: Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice
- Year of creation and context: 2022
- Site(s) where the programme is taught (Town and campus): NAUSS University Campus, Ryad, Saudi Arabia

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

- Surname: Prof. Mohamdain Abdulkader
- Profession and grade: Associate Professor
- Main subject taught: Criminal Law

METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS ACCREDITATION(S)

The university's full institutional accreditation was received in 2024 and will be valid until 2031. The accreditation was delivered by the Saudi Education and Training Evaluation Commission

HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE PROGRAMME

- Human resources

The courses are delivered by faculty members affiliated with the Criminal Law Department. The academic staff comprises 26 members (8 full professors, 8 associate professors, 10 assistant professors). These scholars originate from nations within the Arab region (Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Yemen) or Europe (France).

- Material resources

Educational activities are conducted at the NAUSS premises. Students have access to adequately equipped instructional facilities. A specialised library focusing on safety-related topics is available, offering an extensive collection of documentary resources. Electronic resources are comprehensive. Several communal areas have been established. Students also have access to athletic facilities. Accommodation and dining services are provided.

STUDENT POPULATION: EVOLUTION AND TYPOLOGY OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS, including number of graduates

Statistics on enrolled students and their enrolment bases

Academic Year	Self-funded Students		Sponsored Students		Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
2022-2023	0	0	7	2	7	2
2023-2024	6	2	11	1	17	3
2024-2025	3	2	6	1	9	3

Number of applications, number of students enrolled (for each year)

Academic Year	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of Applicants	9	911	221
Number of new students admitted	9	19	12

Statistical report on the progress rates of students of the HDHRCJ program two consecutive years

Year of Graduation	Semester	acceptance			Failed and withdrawn				Graduates			% of Graduation		
		male	female	Total	male	female	Total	%	male	female	Total	male	female	Total
2022/2023	The first	7	2	9	1	0	1	11.11	6	2	8	85.71	100	88.89
	Second	6	2	8	0	0	0	0.00						
2023/2024	The first	16	3	19	2	0	2	10.53	13	3	16	81.25	100	90.63
	Second	14	3	17	1	0	1	5.26						

II. COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERTS PANEL

Chairman:

- Philippe LAGRANGE, Full Professor in Public Law, University of Poitiers

Academic Experts:

- Philippe BONFILS, Full professor in Criminal Law, Aix-Marseille University
- Nicolas HAUPAIS, Full professor in Public Law, University of Paris Saclay
- Raphaëlle PARIZOT, Full professor in Criminal Law, University of Paris 1

Student Expert:

- Gustave BERNARD, Sciences Po Lyon

Hcéres was represented by Professor Evelyne LANDE, Scientific Advisor at Europe and International Department.

III. EVALUATION PROCESS

VISIT DESCRIPTION

- Date of the visit: 27th of January to 30th of January 2025
- Summary of the proceedings
For each program: institutional meetings; presentation of the College and its program; meetings with teaching staff, students, management, alumni, and stakeholders (questions and answers); and campus visits.
- Organisation of the visit: see table
- Cooperation of study programmes and institutions to be accredited: the university and the College organised the visit so that the committee could meet all stakeholders (institutional staff, teaching staff, students, management, alumni) and visit the premises. Everything possible was done to respond to the requests of the committee's experts. The committee was assisted by a translator who translated between Arabic and English.
- Any problems: no

PEOPLE MET

January, Monday 27th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Institutional meeting: presentation of the College of Criminology Dean of the Criminology College Consultant of the vice-president for academic affairs Head of criminology department and director of criminology program Head of scientific research and partnership committee at the Criminology College Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminology College Head of Programs and Courses plans Committee at the Criminology College Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee of the Criminology College Head of Counselling and Alumni Committee at the Criminology Department
10h00-11h00	Managers of the Master of arts in Criminology Head of Criminology Department & Director of Criminology Program Dean of Admissions and Registration Director of Students Affairs Head of E-learning Department Head of Professional Development Director of Partnerships and International Cooperation Department Regional Centre of Expertise on Drugs and Crime

11h15-12h15	Teaching Staff of the Master of arts in Criminology: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course: tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree 7 professors met
12h15-13h15	Students of the Master of arts in Criminology: 9 students met (4 in the first year and 5 in the second year)
14h15-14h45	Top management of NAUSS: President Vice President Vice President for External Resources Vice President for Training
14h45-15h45	Alumni from the Master of arts in Criminology: 6 graduated students met online among them 2 from Saudi Arabia, 2 from Kuwait, 1 from Jordan, 1 from Tunisia
16h00-18h00	Campus visit: Documentary resources, IT equipment, group work rooms, lecture theatres and amphitheatre, students' facilities, teachers' offices, clinic, sport equipment.
19h00-21h00	Debriefing Master of arts in Criminology – first conclusion

January, Tuesday 28th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Institutional meeting: Presentation of the Criminal Justice College Deputy dean of the Criminal Justice College Head of Criminal Law Department Director of Criminal Law Program Director of Human Rights Diploma Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee at the Criminal Justice College Head of Counselling and Alumni committee at the Criminal Justice College Head of Programmes and courses plans committee at the Criminal Justice College
10h00-11h00	Managers of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences – 7 people met Criminal Law Programme directors (3 people) e-learning Department Director of counselling and advertising unit Director of Language Centre Director of the Arab Centre for Technical cooperation in the immigration and borders management
11h15-12h15	Teaching Staff of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course: tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree 7 professors met
12h15-13h15	Students of the Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences: 7 students met (2 in the first year and 5 in the second year)
14h15-15h15	Academic partners involved in the 3 programmes evaluated- 5 people met online from: The Arab Centre for technical cooperation in the immigration and borders management (UN body) Tunis El Manar University Hassan I University Princess Noura Bin Abdulrahman University
15h15-16h00	Non-academic partners involved in the 3 programmes evaluated – 3 people online: Assistant public prosecutor for investigation Representative of the general intelligence presidency academic education General manager of the internal audit at the oversight and anti-corruption authority
16h30-18h00	Debriefing Master of Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences – first conclusion

January, Wednesday 29th

Hour	Interviews
09h00-10h00	Managers of Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice (5 people met) Consultant of the vice president for Academic Affairs Human Rights Program director Head of Scientific Research and Partnership Committee of the Criminal Law Department

	Head of Counselling and Alumni Committee at the Criminal Law Department College Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminal Law Department
10h00– 11h00	Teaching Staff of the Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice: representative panel of teaching and research staff in the course: tenured, contract and part-time lecturers from various disciplines, not including those responsible for the degree 7 professors met
11h15– 12h15	Students of the Higher diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice: 7 students met
14h00– 15h00	Alumni from Higher diploma in Human Rights (1 person met) and Criminal Justice and from Master Criminal Law & Criminal Sciences (6 people met) – partly online
15h00– 16h00	Quality Assurance – 4 people met: Head of Quality Assurance and Academic Accreditation Department Head of Measurement and Evaluation Unit Head of Quality Assurance Committee at the Criminal Justice Consultant of the Institutional Accreditation
16h30– 18h00	Debriefing Higher diploma in Human Rights – First conclusion

January, Thursday 30th

Hour	Interviews
09h00– 12h00	Finalising reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diagnosis/evaluation - Conclusion - Strengths and weaknesses - Recommendations
14h00– 16h00	Closing session Vice President Dean of the Criminal Justice College Dean of the Criminology College Head of Criminal Law Department Head of Criminology Department Program Coordinator Criminal Law Director Human Rights Director Supervisor of Quality Assurance Unit Consultant of the Institutional Accreditation Consultant of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

IV. OVERALL PRESENTATION

1 – PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The Naif Arab University of Security Sciences (NAUSS) is an Arab organisation with legal personality and diplomatic status, serving as the academic body of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior, which comprises 22 Arab countries. The establishment of NAUSS reflects the collective commitment of Arab nations to combat criminal activities and bolster criminal justice systems. Initially founded as a training and research centre, it was subsequently redesignated as an "academy", and later as a "university" in 2004. The university campus is situated in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice is a component of the NAUSS's academic policy, aligning with the scientific programme of the Arab Council of Ministers of the Interior. The primary objective of this programme is to enhance the leadership capabilities of personnel engaged in security matters and equip them with the skills necessary to identify and address potential threats and challenges they may encounter in their professional roles.

The programme adopts a multidisciplinary approach, integrating legal, political science, criminological, administrative, and social science perspectives. It is designed for both professionals already engaged in their careers and students undertaking initial training. This Higher diploma constitutes an integral part of the training curriculum offered by the Criminal Law Department.

Security and law enforcement operations function within a legal framework in which respect for human rights plays a fundamental role. The integration of human rights considerations into public policies and the activities of governmental entities is crucial, and this programme addresses that necessity. It aims to provide a comprehensive approach, encompassing both theoretical and practical dimensions, to critically examine human rights issues within the context of criminal justice.

This programme is specifically designed for individuals who are already in the workforce or have limited access to training opportunities. It targets a select cohort of students, offering personalised academic support, and culminates in the award of a postgraduate diploma. Established for the 2022-2023 academic year, the programme holds significant potential for future expansion.

2 - PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME'S SELF-EVALUATION APPROACH

The self-evaluation report was prepared with the support of the quality assurance team and validated by an independent expert's report. Formally, it takes the form of a substantial document (55 pages) with highly useful appendices. These documents are accessible to committee members via a secure platform dedicated to this evaluation.

3 – FOLLOW-UP OF THE PREVIOUS HCERES RECOMMANDATIONS

The Higher Diploma is being assessed for the first time by Hcéres.

V. EVALUATION REPORT

FIELD 1- TRAINING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION

The curriculum is consistent with the global education strategy. The Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice aligns with NAUSS's mission to educate high-level executives in the field of security across the Arab world. Furthermore, it supports the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's higher education strategy to achieve excellence in education and research. NAUSS operates under the primary supervision of the Arab Interior Ministers Council and serves as a platform for cooperation among Arab League states in the field of security.

The programme's objective is to cultivate specialised professionals in the field of human rights. It was developed to respond to a specific request from the Saudi Ministry of the Interior, conveyed through the Arab Council of the Ministers of the interior. In a domain where the observance of human rights is paramount, it is essential for administrations, judicial bodies, and security services to have access to high-level expertise in these matters. In this context, the Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice complements NAUSS's existing academic offerings in criminal law, alongside the specialised Master of Arts in Criminology and the Master in Criminal Law and Criminal Sciences. Together, these programmes encompass all legal and political aspects of criminal law, promoting a culture of human rights within security operations in countries affiliated with the NAUSS programme. This programme is unique within the Saudi academic landscape.

The Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice is highly multidisciplinary, encompassing elements of law, political science, and philosophy. It is accessible to candidates with diverse academic backgrounds, fostering an environment that facilitates a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues in the context of criminal law and security.

The programme was established at the behest of individuals involved in security matters, owing to the increasing significance of human rights concerns. This connection with the relevant sector is evidenced by collaborations with employers in the security and justice domains and facilitates effective professional integration.

The programme is an integral component of NAUSS's international strategy and cooperation efforts. Although theoretically open to students from across the Arab world, in practice, the student body consists exclusively of Saudi nationals, with no international students currently enrolled. This limited international appeal can be attributed to the foreign applicants' preference for master's programmes and the availability of equivalent courses in other NAUSS-affiliated countries. The programme was developed through benchmarking with foreign universities offering similar courses.

Research collaborations have been established at the local level with the College of Law at Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University and at the international level with institution such as The Cybercrime Centre at Korea University, the Department of Law at Boston University, and the Department of Law at Ain Shams University. Higher Diploma students participate in summer schools at these institutions. Additionally, NAUSS has established affiliations with the International Organization for Migration.

Collaborative relationships with key stakeholders have enabled the Higher Diploma programme to organise events with a significant international dimension. Notably, the programme has focused on the implementation of international human rights treaties in partnership with the Saudi Commission on Human Rights.

The programme has been established through collaborative efforts with institutions and stakeholders. Sustainable relationships are maintained with these partners, ensuring optimal alignment between training and the sector's requirements. The programme is an integral component of the University's strategic plan, implemented at the behest of the Ministry of the Interior. It has garnered participation from all relevant stakeholders. Connections with the socio-economic sector are particularly well-established. These manifest in the form of field visits and collaborative partnerships. NAUSS possesses the capacity to mobilise its affiliations with the Headquarters at the national level. At the international level, there exists potential for further development and enhanced cooperation throughout the Arab world through the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC) and the Arab Council of Ministers of Justice.

The programme, as a Higher Diploma completed in one year following a bachelor's degree, does not aim to prepare students for doctoral studies, despite including methodological research training and the production of minor research papers. However, it benefits from the expertise of instructors who have been integrated into scientific and consultancy programmes upon request. Numerous partnerships have been established with institution such as the National Human Rights Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Public Prosecutions, General Directorates of Prisons, and Human Rights Commissions.

In conclusion, the Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice programme demonstrates a strong commitment to enhancing the integrating human rights into security-related activities, where they can exert a significant influence. The programme addresses a clear demand from stakeholders seeking to enhance

expertise in these critical areas. Its structure effectively supports the achievement of the objectives it sets to accomplish.

FIELD 2 – PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

The programme fosters a human rights culture within the domain of criminal law by adopting a multidisciplinary approach. With two semesters covering one academic year, the curriculum is based on a thorough needs analysis and benchmarking against similar courses, ensuring its relevance and quality. The programme consists of nine modules, which are delivered in Arabic by university faculty.

Students come primarily from institutions directly involved in human rights issues (Public Security Directorate, Saudi Ministry of Interior, and the General Directorate of Prisons). Although open to students from other NAUSS-affiliated countries, there are no international students enrolled at present.

The programme is typically funded by the students' respective administrations, though the option for self-funding has been introduced and is expanding, with eight self-funded students enrolled in 2023-2024.

The programme employs a multidisciplinary approach. It demonstrates considerable coherence and encompasses a wide range of human rights issues within the security domain (including philosophy, comparative law, women's and children's rights, Islamic law, international human rights law, criminal law, respect for rights in prosecutions, and national and international human rights organisations).

The programme is receptive to innovative pedagogical approaches, incorporating diverse instructional methodologies. Furthermore, it implements mechanisms to sustain competencies post-graduation. The programme combines traditional classroom instruction with self-directed learning methods. The integration of e-learning platforms enhances student engagement, providing additional avenues for interaction and diverse forms of assessment. The programme actively incorporates innovative pedagogical methods based on autonomy and interaction, such as Flipped Classroom and Project-based Learning, designed to develop practical skills through real-world scenarios to the programme's annual evaluation reflect positive feedback, with a high student satisfaction rating (4.4/5 in 2023), though a slight dip was noted in 2024 (7.3%).

Field visits play a key role in the programme, with opportunities for students to gain first-hand exposure to security institutions in Riyadh and throughout Saudi Arabia. These visits are formalised with collaborative initiatives from other programmes within the Criminal Law Department, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience. The programme evaluates these activities annually, and expanding the scope of field visits to an international audience may become essential for broadening the learning experience.

Additionally, the alumni association plays a critical role in fostering lifelong learning. It serves as bridge between current students and graduates, facilitating participation in scientific events that support ongoing professional development.

The programme's facilities are top-notch, with well-equipped classrooms that support collaborative and interactive learning. Students benefit from access to a specialised library focusing on criminal law, security, and human rights, ensuring they have the resources they need to succeed academically. Overall, the programme offers a well-rounded educational experience that is both pedagogically innovative and supportive of student development beyond graduation.

The programme offers international perspectives and incorporates a diverse range of international dimensions. The programme is delivered in Arabic, but to enhance student mobility and facilitate communication with foreign universities, students are encouraged to improve their English language proficiency. A language centre is available to support this effort.

The programme includes aspects of international human rights law and comparative law, as well as courses on international criminal law and the involvement of international organisations in the protection of human rights. As a result, the international dimension is emphasised throughout the curriculum. This focus allows students to consider opportunities for studying abroad and pursuing international careers. Some students, currently employed by local entities, are highly motivated by these prospects.

In conclusion, the Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice programme provides comprehensive training in human rights, distinguished by its multidisciplinary approach, which sets it apart from similar courses. It complements the other offerings of the Department, particularly through its thematic approach. Furthermore, it aligns fully with the University's pedagogical innovation process.

FIELD 3 – STUDENTS' PATHWAY

The programme maintains a high standard of student recruitment, benefiting from substantial demand and selectivity, despite the absence of international students. It provides excellent guidance for students throughout their academic journey, with the university's information systems playing a key role in enhancing its visibility and attractiveness for both prospective students and newly admitted students. The system offers a comprehensive overview of the programme, contributing to its appeal for students and employers alike. It also provides substantial assistance in areas such as counselling, orientation, and mental health support, ensuring a high level of student support. The university's social media presence further boosts the programme's attractiveness, while the information systems offer ample guidance on university services, demonstrating a commitment to quality student support. Elevated student satisfaction, as evidenced by a score of 4.38/5 regarding skill development through the programme, further validates its efficacy in student guidance.

The rigorous selection process underscores the programme's high quality, with an admission rate of only 5%. The fact that the number of applicants exceeds available positions, even after the introduction of application fees, attests to its appeal. However, the programme's attractiveness to international students remains limited, due in part to stringent conditions of affiliation with partnered security agencies and relatively restrictive scholarships. These elements should be modified to improve the integration of international students, and establishing dedicated scholarships for them would help facilitate this process. The inclusion of international students is crucial for the programme to align fully with the university's strategy and identity as a specialised institution within the Arab Interior Ministers Council (AIMC).

While the programme collects data on its appeal across different demographic groups (men/women, self-funded/on grants, Saudi/international), it has yet to conduct a comprehensive analysis of various student categories, particularly international students. This is an area for further developments to enhance the programme's inclusivity and visibility on a global scale.

Students gain significant benefits from the personalised guidance offered by their academic advisors, a key factor in the notably high completion rate. The high completion rate, which stands at 90% and is publicly available on the university's website, can be partially attributed to the tailored guidance from academic advisors, as well as to the curriculum development measures implemented by the programme. Each student is assigned an academic advisor at the start of the academic year, who provides ongoing guidance, particularly during periods of academic difficulty. Regular office hours, which are readily accessible through the university's information systems, offer students convenient, personalised access to their professors for academic support. In addition, the programme consistently monitors and analyses trends in students' academic performance across courses. Based on the average results of the cohort, course content is adjusted as necessary to ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the curriculum in subsequent academic years.

The programme is specifically designed for nominated students to meet the requirements of key stakeholders. However, the recent establishment of the Higher Diploma limits the availability of long-term statistics regarding graduate employment. Furthermore, the small number of students who are not nominated by their employers makes statistics on professional integration relatively insignificant. The limited number of alumni also presents challenges in fostering a meaningful student-alumni relationship, despite the university's robust alumni association. Consequently, it is essential for the programme, in collaboration with the alumni association, to strengthen its partnerships as it evolves, particularly as it continues its strategy to recruit self-funded students. These self-funded students face challenges in their professional integration due to the absence of an internship component. It is therefore recommended that the Higher Diploma be incorporated into the university's 2029 strategy to include internships across all programmes. The Higher Diploma has received notably high satisfaction ratings from employers, who have expressed general satisfaction with a score of 4.26/5. This indicates that the programme is effective in facilitating quality integration into the labour market.

In conclusion, the programme demonstrates considerable appeal to both prospective students and employers, who recognise its value in the labour market and its academic rigour. The learning environment supports student success by offering individualised supervision. The programme also provides a thorough analysis of labour market demands, effectively illustrating the professional integration rate of its graduates.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that the programme enhance its appeal to international students by establishing a dedicated scholarship. Furthermore, the implementation of an internship policy would increase the programme's attractiveness to self-funded students, further preparing them for professional opportunities in the field of human rights.

FIELD 4 – ACADEMIC PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Higher Diploma is delivered by a cohesive faculty accessible to students. It comprises distinguished professors from diverse academic institutions. The curriculum is taught by faculty members from the NAUSS Criminal Law Department, with academic staff representing a range of nationalities and holding postgraduate degrees from prestigious universities in France, the United States, Egypt, and other Arab countries.

Programme management responsibilities are clearly delineated, encompassing the Programme Director, the Head of the Scientific department, and the Dean. These administrative roles are supported by several committees (Quality Assurance Committee, Plans & Programmes Committee, Guidance & Alumni Committee, and Scientific Research & Community Partnership Committee), all of which contribute to the effective governance of the programme. Furthermore, comprehensive quality assurance mechanisms have been implemented, ensuring the continuous evaluation and enhancement of the educational provision.

The programme benefits from the quality of the administrative and academic structures established at NAUSS, fostering an environment that is particularly conducive to academic engagement. The institution provides an exemplary professional setting, supported by a dedicated administrative team and a comprehensive suite of instructional technologies. Scholarly resources are readily accessible, particularly through digital platforms. Notably, satisfaction ratings for material study conditions have shown a consistently positive trend, with a remarkably high score of 4.13 out of 5 recorded for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Students receive individual monitoring, with specific mechanisms in place to support those experiencing academic difficulties. Monthly one-to-one meetings are conducted to discuss students' future academic trajectories. These meetings are arranged proactively, without requiring students to request them or demonstrate any particular difficulty. Additional consultations are organised as needed, and psychological support is available. Furthermore, specialised facilities and equipment are provided to accommodate individuals with disabilities and medical conditions.

The programme is subject to rigorous evaluation procedures that contribute to its continuous enhancement. It is integrated into broader evaluation and improvement policies through structured consultation mechanisms. The programme is incorporated into consultation mechanisms that contribute to refining the quality of training and defining the requisite skills for the job market. A Student Advisory Council has been established, comprising representatives from all university programmes, students, and faculty members, and is chaired by the Vice-President. Additionally, an Academic Advisory Committee brings together representatives from the university and employers involved in fields relevant to the courses offered. Proposals put forward by the Student Advisory Council have led to several enhancements in the quality of training courses, particularly in improving student support for e-learning systems and developing platforms to facilitate document accessibility.

Courses are assessed using a rigorous methodology. Multiple questionnaires, tailored to each course (including the Course Quality Questionnaire, Educational Programme Quality Questionnaire, Scientific Supervision Quality Questionnaire, and Guidance Questionnaire), are based on models developed by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission. These are administered at the end of each semester. The results from the past two academic years indicate a consistently high level of student satisfaction, with scores of 4.24/5 in 2022-2023 and 4.19/5 in 2023-2024. Additionally, ongoing monitoring and evaluation systems are also implemented.

The programme implements rigorous selection and assessment procedures that support its continuous improvement and contribute to its reputation. It is actively promoted to key stakeholders, including students and employers, via its website, meetings with industry representatives, and dedicated presentation sessions.

The programme adheres to transparent and well-defined recruitment procedures, which have achieved a high level of satisfaction. Drawing on the insights gained from the initial two years, the selection process has been refined to enhance the pre-selection of applications and manage the high volume of submission more effectively, thereby improving the efficiency of the application review system.

The programme cultivates an academic ethos grounded on scientific integrity and ethical principles. Students are made aware of these issues throughout their studies and receive dedicated instruction in research methodology. The originality of their work is verified using advanced computational tools.

In conclusion, the Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice aligns comprehensively with NAUSS' commitment to academic excellence. Students benefit from the guidance of a highly qualified academic faculty and receive personalised supervision, alongside extensive administrative and logistical support from the University.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice programme represents an innovative addition to Saudi Arabia's higher education landscape. It offers both theoretical and professional training in a field where there is significant demand for expertise. The programme benefits from the high-quality teaching staff and infrastructure provided by NAUSS.

The curriculum is designed to adopt a global perspective on human rights issues, responding to the needs of local stakeholders. As a relatively new programme in the Saudi university system, it aims to establish itself over the long term, necessitating gradual modifications and refinements.

Students engage in an academic environment that is particularly conducive to their progress. They come from diverse professional and educational backgrounds, fostering an atmosphere of intellectual stimulation and mutual enrichment. Supervised and instructed by a responsive, high-calibre teaching faculty, they also benefit from NAUSS's advanced infrastructure, including interactive classrooms and extensive scholarly resources. In addition to formal instruction, students have the opportunity to supplement their learning through independent research in the library. Throughout their academic journey, they receive close individual monitoring and support.

Although students and alumni have expressed a high level of satisfaction with the programme, areas for improvement have been identified, particularly in the internationalisation of student recruitment. Furthermore, some students and alumni have proposed the possibility of transforming the diploma into a master's degree, which would require an additional year of study. This modification could potentially enhance research in the field and broaden the programme's academic scope. It may be worthwhile to consider this possibility for discussion in the medium term.

The Higher Diploma in Human Rights & Criminal Justice, in its current configuration, is successfully fulfilling its intended objectives.

STRENGTHS

- Significant consideration of stakeholders
- Substantial involvement of a high-calibre academic team
- Personalised multidisciplinary approach
- High-quality working environment

WEAKNESSES

- Limited international appeal due to insufficient connections with NAUSS partners, which restricts the number of nominated students from Arab countries, or the constraints imposed by the current one-year format
- Lack of academic international partnerships

Recommendations

Notwithstanding the undeniable strengths of the Higher Diploma, several areas for improvement have been identified:

Opening of the Higher Diploma to more international Students

The recruitment process could be expanded to include international students, thereby aligning with NAUSS's international policy. Targeted initiatives to promote the Higher Diploma in participating countries, aimed at prospective audiences, could be introduced. Additionally, the provision of scholarships might enhance the programme's attractiveness. If the current diploma structure -a one-year programme that does not confer a master's degree- is a limiting factor for including students from NAUSS partner institutions, a comprehensive strategic evaluation should be undertaken.

Integrating Supplementary Scientific Events and Roundtable Discussions

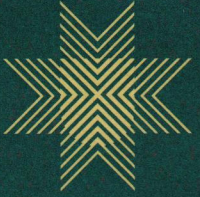
In addition to field visits, the curriculum could be enriched by organising scientific events and round-table discussions on campus. Such initiatives would complement students' academic experiences, foster closer ties

with industry practitioners, and contribute to NAUSS's overarching policy of advancing research in the field of security.

Developing Academic Partnerships

Strengthening connections with foreign universities -from member countries of the Arab League and beyond- could further enhance the programme. Focusing on specific thematic areas, particularly in the field of human rights, appears especially conducive to fostering academic exchanges and the establishing cooperative endeavours.

VII. COMMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION



Professor Thierry Coulhon
president of the Border of the French High Council for Evaluation of Research
and Higer Education (Hcéres)
France, Paris

Subject: Comments of Human Rights and Criminal Justice Program

Dear Professor Thierry Coulhon,

The HD in Human Rights and Criminal Justice team, sincerely appreciates the esteemed panel for its thorough evaluation and valuable recommendations. NAUSS remains committed to upholding academic excellence and institutional quality in all aspects of the program.

Regarding the recommendation to expand international student admissions, we recognize the importance of diversity and inclusivity, which align with the university's goal of attracting more international students. In this context, NAUSS has adopted key initiatives in its 2029 strategy, including:

- Developing Effective Educational Partnerships to offer joint programs and facilitate faculty and student exchanges, fostering greater academic mobility and collaboration.
- Enrichment Activities represented by making roundtable discussions and field visits, inviting experts, delivering specialized training, and organizing knowledge-sharing platforms, including summer schools.
- Strengthening Practical Training and Professional Development Pathways to ensure internship opportunities for students across various sectors—particularly benefiting those who are not employed or sponsored—enhancing career readiness and professional growth.

Based on current efforts and the aforementioned initiatives; an international student has already been admitted to the program for the 2025–2026 academic year, and we anticipate more international student admissions for the next academic year.

Your Sincerely,

Prof. Tareq S. Alrayes

Vice President

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences

ACCREDITATION DECISION

High Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice

College of Criminal Justice

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

June 2025

SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCERES

Hcéres has based its evaluation process on a set of objectives that higher education institution study programs must pursue to ensure recognised quality in France and Europe. These objectives are divided into four areas common to both the evaluation framework and the accreditation criteria.

The Accreditation Commission issues an opinion on the accreditation of the program after examining the application. The Hcéres President takes the decision based on this opinion and the final evaluation report of the program. This accreditation decision, taken in plenary session, is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The decision issued by Hcéres regarding the accreditation of the program corresponds to the award of a label, on behalf of Hcéres, to the evaluated entity.

This decision is independent of the accreditations carried out by the French State and therefore does not entail recognition in France of the diplomas delivered by the institution.

Decision n° EI-2025-11 on the accreditation of the High Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) - Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education,

Considering the Research Code, in particular Articles L. 114-3-1 to L. 114-3-6;

Considering the Decree No. 2021-1536 of 29 November 2021 on the organisation and operation of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the Board's deliberation No. 2022-5-02 of 29 September 2022 on the accreditation criteria for international study programmes (Except for doctorates/PhDs);

Considering the Decision No. 2023-9 of 16 March 2023 on the international accreditation procedure of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the agreement No. DEI_2024_CONV 7_ Naif Arab University for Security Sciences - for the evaluation/accreditation of High Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice ;

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission on June 27th 2025,

Decides:

Article 1

Having determined that the High Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia meets the four accreditation criteria, voted by the Board of the High Council on 29 September 2022, as follows:

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 1: TEACHING POLICY AND CHARACTERISATION

The Advanced Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice programme demonstrates a strong commitment to the integration of human rights into security-related activities, where they can have a significant influence. The programme responds to a clear demand from stakeholders seeking to strengthen their expertise in these key areas. Its structure effectively supports the achievement of its objectives.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 2: THE PEDAGOGICAL ORGANISATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

The Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice programme offers comprehensive training in the field of human rights, distinguished by its multidisciplinary approach, which sets it apart from similar courses. It complements the department's other offerings, particularly through its thematic approach. It is also fully in line with the university's pedagogical innovation process.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 3: STUDENTS' PATHWAY

The programme has considerable appeal for both prospective students and employers, who recognise its value on the job market and its academic rigour. The learning environment promotes student success by providing individualised supervision. The programme also provides an in-depth analysis of labour market demands, effectively illustrating the professional integration rate of its graduates.

Nevertheless, it is recommended that the programme increase its attractiveness to international students by setting up a specific scholarship. In addition, the implementation of an internship policy would increase the attractiveness of the programme for self-funded students, better preparing them for professional opportunities in the field of human rights.

ACCREDITATION CRITERION 4: MANAGEMENT AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

The Postgraduate Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice is perfectly aligned with NAUSS's commitment to academic excellence. Students benefit from the guidance of a highly qualified faculty and personalised mentoring, as well as extensive administrative and logistical support from the university.

Article 2

The High Diploma in Human Rights and Criminal Justice delivered by Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is accredited for a period of five years from the date of this decision.

Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations:

Notwithstanding the undeniable strengths of the Higher Diploma, several areas for improvement have been identified:

Opening of the Higher Diploma to more international Students

The recruitment process could be expanded to include international students, thereby aligning with NAUSS's international policy. Targeted initiatives to promote the Higher Diploma in participating countries, aimed at prospective audiences, could be introduced. Additionally, the provision of scholarships might enhance the programme's attractiveness. If the current diploma structure -a one-year programme that does not confer a master's degree- is a limiting factor for including students from NAUSS partner institutions, a comprehensive strategic evaluation should be undertaken.

Integrating Supplementary Scientific Events and Roundtable Discussions

In addition to field visits, the curriculum could be enriched by organising scientific events and round-table discussions on campus. Such initiatives would complement students' academic experiences, foster closer ties with industry practitioners, and contribute to NAUSS's overarching policy of advancing research in the field of security.

Developing Academic Partnerships

Strengthening connections with foreign universities -from member countries of the Arab League and beyond- could further enhance the programme. Focusing on specific thematic areas, particularly in the field of human rights, appears especially conducive to fostering academic exchanges and the establishing cooperative endeavours.

Article 4

This decision will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, June 30th 2025



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Coralie Chevallier
Présidente

President

signed

Coralie Chevallier

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