

Working in Partnership

The Arab Open University (AOU)



The Open University

The Partner

The Arab Open University's (AOU) headquarters are in Kuwait, with seven University branches in Kuwait, Lebanon, Egypt, Bahrain, Jordan, Oman and Saudi Arabia. 22 Arab countries eventually plan to be involved with the AOU.

Young people under the age of 24 make up more than 55% of the total Arab population, yet only 50% of high school leavers with appropriate qualifications are able to gain access to a university. A pan-Arab distance teaching institution increases access for this group. Distance education also provides a significantly increased opportunity for women to access higher education, particularly in those areas where a strict Islamic code is applied.



New graduates at The Arab Open University's first graduation ceremony in March 2007. Approximately 50 students successfully completed their qualification.

The Project

In partnership with the OU, the AOU established its headquarters and launched its teaching activities in October 2002. The AOU licenses three OU undergraduate and two OU postgraduate degree programmes and approximately 19,000 students have undertaken degree study with the AOU for an OU validated qualification in addition to a local AOU award. The OU assisted the AOU in building their e-library resources and setting up an online student environment. The OU continues to provide consultancy services including workshops focusing on the training and development of AOU academic and administrative staff in assessment strategy, supported open learning and course specific training. Learning materials are adapted for all territories to meet cultural and religious requirements.

The Aim

The AOU plays a key role in the development of human resources in all fields needed by the job market, as well as familiarizing students with modern technologies. The AOU teacher training programme aims to upgrade the skills of thousands of teachers in the Arab World.

The Benefits

- Quality distance education
- Upgrading teachers' skills
- Democratisation of education in the Arab World
- Enabling of Arab citizens, irrespective of age, gender, income, geographic location and employment to gain access to higher education
- Training students for the workplace

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