

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES



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*The GCC countries are undergoing major socio-economic transformations in their economy, and society as they strive to achieve the strategic vision for GCC countries. AGU will invest in knowledge infrastructure, innovation, interdisciplinary learning, and research to improve its competitive advantage.*

## KNOWLEDGE CREATION FOR GCC DEVELOPMENT

**Principle 1** - The university shall continue to contribute to knowledge creation and policy advice for global organizations, GCC secretariat and national governments in GCC to promote regional integration.

An innovative university is characterized by its capacity to harness external knowledge and to contribute to regional integration. AGU is ranked among the top universities in the GCC in terms of knowledge production. AGU is keen to be exemplary as a regional model for education and learning.

The university has pioneered interdisciplinary programs in medicine, education, natural resources management and innovation management that have contributed to shaping the regional identity for research in GCC. This collaborative research approach contributed to enhance co-creation of knowledge. The plan further calls for harnessing the diversity of students and staff to provide a rich environment for social interaction, learning and reflection.

AGU is a respected consultant and advisor to many international, regional and national entities in public health, resource management, technology and education. The strategic plan calls to strengthen and

promote AGU scientific chairs to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building and innovative research.

The PhD programs at AGU provide a fertile environment for creating new knowledge with innovative business models, new paradigms for learning through partnerships with global entities, including the private and public sector. King Abdulla Medical City will also offer ample opportunities for medical education, research and services. Additionally, this plan also calls for the high visibility of AGU in global, regional and national arenas. This can also be attained through strategic partnerships with the public and private sectors and with increased AGU alumni networking.

The strategy aims to enhance the research infrastructure of AGU and to promote interactive and web-based learning that would help recognition of the AGU brand as a center for innovative learning and practice.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES (CONTINUED)

## FOCUS ON INNOVATION FOR COMPETITIVENESS

**Principle 2** - Innovation is a key driver for socio-economic development and prosperity. The plan calls to instill a culture of organizational learning to foster an enabling environment for innovation.

In the 21st century, globalization and technology are drivers for creating new business models in education and research. It is imperative for universities to be open to new ways of teaching and learning. The new models of innovation including open and user innovation offer new horizons for introducing new platforms for organizational learning and reflection. This strategic plan calls for the adoption of new models of innovative learning by harnessing technology.

The capacity of any organization to manage knowledge and to capture the value of research is vital to unlock the human potential. Universities are well-positioned to be incubators for innovation. This strategic plan calls to enhance and mainstream innovation, quality, research and partnerships. It furthermore affirms AGU's commitment to nurture an institutional ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship.

The intellectual assets of universities are founded on their value proposition and their ability to respond to market demands and to contribute towards job creation and sustainability. The alignment of the strategic directions of AGU with regional development plans is critical for adding value to the society and the economy. The plan thus calls for strategic alignment of AGU programs and research agendas in key areas including, health, climate change, business, education, biotechnology and innovation. The plan calls to harness Al-Jawhara Center for research and consultations.

The core competencies of AGU should be harnessed to ensure the provision of an enabling environment for attracting and retaining talent to enrich experiential learning and evidence-based research. An important role for AGU will be to contribute to the corporate-social responsibility by working on initiatives related to social development.



## GUIDING PRINCIPLES (CONTINUED)

## SYNERGY

**Principle 3** - Interdisciplinary research is crucial for addressing regional needs and priorities. It is imperative for AGU to ensure synergy among colleges and to foster innovation.

AGU has a legacy of being a committed contributor in the GCC for aiding in policy advice and strategic planning for natural resource management, education and medicine. The global and regional challenges ranging from climate change, desertification, marine pollution, water scarcity, coupled with unemployment, necessitates the adoption of innovative programs across disciplines to support public health, education, business and technological innovation. AGU's strategic plan calls to address the GCC needs and priorities through integrated models of learning and research.

As a regional university, AGU has a mandate and a mission to promote relevant regional programs to address the GCC Visions 2030 and to contribute to global sustainable development goals. The plan envisions that the synergy among research programs will play a key role in knowledge creation. Interdisciplinary research in health, education, environment and green technologies offer opportunities for creation of knowledge which will shape a new research agenda for the GCC.

The MBA program in French Arabian Business School (FABS) at AGU is a good model for consolidating partnerships between academia and industry. This program provides strategic exposure of the management

innovations in the field of aviation and public-private partnership. Moreover, the PhD program in innovation management in collaboration with Boston College is founded to promote an alliance for R&D. The current strategic plan calls to enhance the science-policy and academia-industry interfaces to ensure relevance and sustainability of education.

The GCC challenges in the domains of water, energy and food require a new focus on this nexus to ensure prosperity and sustainability. AGU's strategic plan calls for a consolidated research agenda to address these critical resource challenges.

The AGU's medical college and biotechnology research groups are working on public health, bioinformatics and personalized medicine. The medical college is a pioneer in developing problem-based learning in medical education. The current strategic plan calls to enhance synergy in research to achieve innovation in health.

Furthermore, the strategic plan aims to strengthen the interface between academia and industry to support clean technologies. The plan also calls for AGU to transcend the conventional models of learning and research by enhancing interdisciplinary and industry-based research.

