



الجامعة الأمريكية في رأس الخيمة
American University of Ras Al Khaimah

Media Report:
2009-2010

TheNational

26th May, 2009 – The National

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/uae-news/education/new-start-for-rak-campus>

New start for RAK campus

Daniel Bardsley
May 26, 2009



The new government college replacing George Mason University in Ras al Khaimah will have lower admission requirements and fees in the hope of attracting more students. Officials at the American University of Ras al Khaimah said they hoped relaxing minimum English standards would help the campus grow to as many as 5,000 students. There are just 118 students taking degree courses at George Mason's RAK campus, nearly three years after they were launched.

George Mason is pulling out after a disagreement over funding with the RAK government, which paid for the project and will pay for the new institution. The new university, which takes over the George Mason premises on June 1, will require prospective students to score 500 on the Test of English as a Foreign Language, compared with 570 for George Mason. The Virginia-based institution had a difficult time finding students with the requisite language skills, officials said.

But Prof Sharon Siverts, who will be president of the new university, said the other academic requirements would be the same as George Mason's. "We're very, very optimistic," she said. "All the faculty and staff remaining are very enthused about the new opportunity." She said Sheikh Saud bin Saqr, the Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Ras al Khaimah and the new university's chancellor, was "extremely committed" to the project.

Bachelor's degree courses will be offered in business administration, biology, and electronics and communications engineering, with more courses planned for 2010. Undergraduate course fees are Dh20,000 (US\$5,400) for each of the two terms per year, which Prof Siverts said was several thousand dirhams less than George Mason charged and significantly below the fees at some other universities in the UAE.

About 50 students are expected to continue from George Mason, and they will be awarded a degree from both the new university and George Mason. Many other George Mason students will transfer to the Virginia campus. Prof Siverts said about 30 new students were expected to join when term began in September, but that growth thereafter probably would be more rapid. The current facility has space for about 500 students, and Prof Siverts said a larger campus was planned for a site near Emirates Road in about five years to replace it.

"Ultimately, to be a strong university, you would want to be between 3,000 to 5,000 [students], where you could maintain academic integrity and quality," said Prof Siverts, a former vice president of George Mason's RAK campus and currently an associate provost for international relations for the university. "Higher education is a demanding environment, as there are lots of institutions trying to stretch their tentacles out," she added. "We have got local support and the opportunity to work with international universities all over the world."

American University of Ras al Khaimah plans to work with American universities to offer some of their courses, and eventually would like to secure US accreditation. It is also applying for a Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research licence and accreditation. In the holiday period, the campus, based in the former home of Ras al Khaimah Men's College, will be refurbished. Zubair Hanslot, academic director of the RAK branch of the University of Bolton, which has grown rapidly since opening last year and has more than 300 students, said a lower English requirement would help the new university grow, although there were potential drawbacks. The University of Bolton requires students to score the equivalent of 500 on the English exam.

"They may initially attract more students, but they may have a problem retaining those students and maintaining standards," he said. He said a high English score was less important for students in science and engineering courses, but could pose problems for those pursuing business degrees where more discussion was required. Mr Hanslot said the growth of the emirate meant the university's forecasts for expansion were realistic.

"When we have a recovery [from the recession], I don't see why they cannot attract thousands of students," he said. "In the long term, it's possible." George Mason University is not the first UAE branch of a foreign university to close. The University of Southern Queensland shut its Dubai Knowledge Village campus in 2005. dbardsley@thenational.ae



Professor Sharon Siverts will be the president of the American University of Ras al Khaimah.

Khaleej Times

15th September, 2009 – Khaleej Times

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/business/the-american-university-of-rak-and-land-department-sign-partnership-agreement>

The American University of RAK and Land Department Sign Partnership Agreement

Filed on September 15, 2009



RAS AL KHAIMAH — The American University of Ras Al Khaimah and the Ras Al Khaimah Land Department signed a partnership agreement, which will support the vision of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qassimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah to improve community service and education in the Emirate.

The partnership agreement was signed at the RAK Land Department, as part of a general awards and recognition meeting for their employees and management. Following the signing, short presentations were made by Robert Pinnell, Tariq Sullman, and Djamal Kellouche of AURAK, describing professional development, community service and academic programs available to RAK Land Department employees as a result of the partnership.

American University of Ras al Khaimah is a new university offering bachelor degree programs and is licensed by The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

24th November, 2009 – Emirates News Agency

<http://www.wam.ae/ar/news/emirates/1395240618969.html>

ولي عهد رأس الخيمة يستقبل عميدة الجامعة الامريكية برأس الخيمة

م 07:01:55 24/11/2009

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ولي عهد رأس الخيمة يستقبل عميدة الجامعة الامريكية برأس الخيمة

ولي عهد رأس الخيمة/استقبال

رأس الخيمة في 24 نوفمبر/ وام /
استقبل سمو الشيخ سعود بن صقر
القاسمي ولي عهد ونائب حاكم رأس
الخيمة بقصر الظيت اليوم السيدة
شرون عميدة الجامعة الأمريكية في
رأس الخيمة والهيئة الإدارية والتدريسية
بالجامعة وعددا من الطلبة والطالبات
الذين قدموا للسلام على سموه لتقديم
التهانى بمناسبة الذكرى الثامنة والثلاثين
لقيام دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة .

وتمن سمو ولي عهد رأس الخيمة حامل

اللقاء الجهود التي تقوم بها الجامعة

لتوفير السبل لمواكبة تقنيات العصر الحديث وتنمية قدرات طلابها في كافة المستويات والتخصصات العلمية الحديثة وتوفير الدرجات
العلمية المختلفة لهم .

17th December, 2009 – Emirates News Agency

<http://www.wam.ae/ar/news/emirates-economics/1395238113124.html>

دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية في رأس الخيمة تنظم ورشة حول تنمية القطاع السياحي

07:08:38 17/12/2009 م

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راس الخيمة / سياحة / ورشة

رأس الخيمة في 17 ديسمبر / وام / نظمت دائرة التنمية الاقتصادية في رأس الخيمة ورشة عمل بعنوان "الإستراتيجية الجديدة لتنمية القطاع السياحي في إمارة رأس الخيمة" بالتعاون مع الجامعة الأمريكية في رأس الخيمة بمقر الجامعة.

وتأتي هذه الخطوة في إطار التنسيق والتعاون المشترك بين الدائرة والجامعة الأمريكية والتي قدمها محمود أبو علي الخبير الاقتصادي بالدائرة ومدير مشروع الحفود والدكتور عبدالله حسن منسق برنامج إدارة الأعمال في الجامعة.

وتناولت الورشة عدة نقاط مهمة مثل مستوى أداء صناعة السياحة برأس الخيمة، ومفهوم نموذج عناقيد السياحة وتحليل نموذج الاماس وهيكل واستراتيجية التنافس بالإضافة إلى ظروف الطلب.. كما تم استعراض الخريطة الحفودية للقطاع السياحي بالإمارة.

وقال محمود أبو علي أن الدائرة تهدف من تنظيم الورشة إلى تبادل الخبرات بين الجامعة والدائرة والترويج لسياحة رأس الخيمة وتنقيف الطلاب حول السياحة ومفاهيمها وعوامل بنائها وأفاق تطورها لأنها تعد من ركائز التنمية الاقتصادية في أي دولة بعد الموارد الطبيعية.

حضر الورشة نائبة رئيسة الجامعة وعدد كبير من الأساتذة والطلاب.



24th February, 2010 – Emirates News Agency

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates/1395228579817.html>

Khalifa University hosts meeting of UAE academic

24/02/2010 05:12:22 PM



WAM Abu Dhabi, 24th Feb 2010 (WAM) -- Khalifa University of Science, Technology and Research (KUSTAR) has recently hosted a UAE Academic and Research Library Directors meeting at its Abu Dhabi campus. The event was held to discuss steps towards building cooperation among the librarians and their respective institutions to share resources, to advance research in the UAE and to promote networking amongst the participants.

KUSTAR hosted the meeting to facilitate an initiative which brings together like-minded professionals, encouraging collaboration with one another to further benefit academic professionals and the welfare of library users.

Dr. Mohammed Al Mualla, KUSTAR's Interim Provost, stressed the importance of hosting such events more frequently to enhance the academic community's offerings and to fulfill students' research requirements. "At Khalifa University, we aim to partner with educational institutions to foster research and innovation, and this initiative is just one of the many ways that KUSTAR is promoting a knowledge-based economy." This event provided further insight into ways to improve the country's educational and research bodies. It provided a platform for information exchange; among the topics discussed were: how librarians can work together to share resources, methods to negotiate joint purchases of library resources and databases, and steps to advance academic research in the UAE.

The meeting was attended by library representatives of several national academic and research institutions including: Abu Dhabi University, American University of Ras Al Khaimah, Khalifa University, UAE University, Zayed University, Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, and National Center for Documentation and Research. Other participating institutions include American University of Dubai, American University of Sharjah, Emirates College of Advanced Education, Higher Colleges of Technology, New York University - Abu Dhabi, Petroleum Institute, Sharjah University, and The National Library.

Khaleej Times

10th April, 2010 – Khaleej Times

<http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/general/rak-american-university-takes-applicants-on-campus-tour>

RAK American University takes applicants on campus tour

Filed on April 20, 2010



RAS AL KHAIMAH— Over one hundred students came through the doors of The American University of Ras Al Khaimah on Saturday when the university staged an Open Day featuring a free of charge fall application.

"We're extremely pleased with the high level of interest by secondary school students and their parents," stated university president Professor Sharon Siverts.

"Families see that AURAK provides robust accredited higher education, in addition to being an excellent value. The extraordinary number of applications demonstrates the need for university studies in this Northern Emirate."

In addition to completing an application for fall admission, students and families were taken on escorted tours of the campus by student ambassadors. Highlighting the tour were visits to the various labs where professors engaged secondary school students in hands-on experiments.

Another popular stop was the gym where visitors participated in a basketball free throw competition.

The new Student Centre was also an interesting stop for everyone and had parents commenting on the design and luxury of the building. It will feature wireless Internet throughout and offer students a number of services such as fast food, a bookstore, a copy shop and a mini-mart. Visitors also had a look at the new student residence halls that offer four-star luxury facilities with full balconies, kitchenettes and tiled bathrooms.

University professors, representing various disciplines, were popular figures meeting with visiting students and families regarding study options for a four-year Bachelor of Science degree available at AURAK.

Students also queried professors about career opportunities available in the region after graduation. With internships a part of each degree programme, the graduating student will be poised for an exciting career.



3rd June, 2010 – Emirates News Agency

<http://www.wam.ae/ar/news/emirates/1395240796923.html>

مدراء المكتبات البحثية والأكاديمية يبحثون تأسيس مشروع اتحاد لمكتبات الإمارات

07:55:24 03/06/2010

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مدراء المكتبات البحثية والأكاديمية يبحثون تأسيس مشروع اتحاد لمكتبات الإمارات

الوطني للوثائق والبحوث / اجتماع

أبوظبي في 3 يونيو / وام / استضاف المركز الوطني للوثائق والبحوث اجتماعا ضم عددا من مديري المكتبات البحثية والأكاديمية في الدولة لبحث خيارات مشروع تأسيس اتحاد لهذه المكتبات.

وتم خلال الاجتماع مناقشة طرق المشاركة في تشاطر المجموعات المكتبية وتوحيد فهرسها بهدف الانسهار في بوتقة واحدة للتعاون والمساهمة في بناء مجتمع المعرفة في الدولة والبحث عن أفضل السبل للحصول على المعلومات الإلكترونية.

وتهدف المؤسسات التي ستتنضم إلى مشروع الاتحاد إلى تسخير السمات من قواعد البيانات البحثية لخدمة جمهور المستفيدين فيها .

وتعود بدايات مشروع الاتحاد الي اتفاق تم توقيعه قبل سنوات بين الجامعات الأكاديمية الرئيسية في الدولة جامعة زايد وجامعة الإمارات وكليات التقنية العليا تم أخذ المشروع في النمو ليشمل بقية المراكز البحثية والأكاديمية.

وسيعمل اتحاد المكتبات على تدريب وتأهيل الموارد البشرية العاملة في حقل الوثائق والمكتبات والمعلومات لاستفادة من الإمكانيات المتاحة من المكتبات الأعضاء فيه.

وتشمل المؤسسات الأكاديمية والبحثية التي تسعى إلى تطوير وتنمية مشروع الاتحاد .. المركز الوطني للوثائق والبحوث وجامعة زايد وجامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وجامعة أبوظبي والجامعة الأمريكية في الشارقة ومركز الإمارات للدراسات والبحوث الإستراتيجية وجامعة خليفة وجامعة مصدر وكليات التقنية العليا والجامعة الأمريكية في دبي والمعهد البترولي والمكتبة الوطنية في هيئة أبوظبي للثقافة والتراث و الجامعة الأمريكية في رأس الخيمة وجامعة نيويورك في أبوظبي وجامعة الشارقة .

من جهة اخرى زار وفد يضم أكثر من مائة خبير ومتخصص من رابطة المكتبيين في أبوظبي المركز الوطني للوثائق والبحوث لاستفادة من تجربته في إنشاء مكتبة الإمارات المتخصصة والإطلاع على تخصصاته ومهامه ودوره في حفظ ذاكرة الوطن .

وإطلع الوفد الزائر على أساليب العمل اليومي في المركز كما شاهد فيلما وثائقيا عن نشوء وتطور الدولة بعد ان استمع من بعض مسؤولي الإدارات والأقسام في المركز الى تعريف بدور هذه الأقسام والإدارات بما فيها الأرشيفات العالمية وأنشطتها والجهود اليومية في مجال أرشفة تاريخ الإمارات ومنطقة الخليج وتوثيق تراثها وخدمة البحث العلمي ونشر الوعي المعلوماتي .