

PHAROS UNIVERSITY IN ALEXANDRIA

(Establishment and Development)

Establishment and Development:

Pharos University in Alexandria (PUA) is situated in the heart of Alexandria, in Smouha District, about 3 km from the main campus of Alexandria University and the ancient Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and 4 km from Downtown. PUA stretches over 200,000 square meters. It was established as per Presidential Decree No. 252 of 2006, which makes it the first private university in Alexandria. On Sunday, October 6, 2006, PUA started providing its services as per the resolution of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Affairs, and the President of the Supreme Council of Universities No. 2300 of 2006. At first, PUA included seven faculties, namely the Faculties of Pharmacy, Engineering, Financial and Administrative Sciences, Legal Studies and International Relations, Languages and Translation, Dentistry, and Tourism and Hotel Management.

Later, Republican Decree No. 302 of 2009 was issued adding four more faculties. Studies in these faculties began as per the resolution of the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the President of the Supreme Council of Universities No. 331 of 2009. These faculties were the Faculties of Physical Therapy, Allied Medical Sciences, Mass Communication, and Arts and Design.

However, the Cabinet issued a resolution whereby the name of the Faculty of Allied Medical Sciences was changed into the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Technology. On July 26, 2020, the Technology Education Committee approved the by-laws of PUA's Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Technology. Further, on April 1, 2021, the Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research issued Resolution No. 1172, by which the Committee approved was issued to begin the bachelor's level studies at PUA's Faculty of Computing Sciences and Artificial Intelligence, starting from the first semester of the academic year 2021/2022.

As is the case with private universities, the bachelor of sciences or bachelor of arts degrees awarded by PUA are equivalent to their counterparts awarded by Egyptian universities subject to the Universities Regulation Law No. 49 of 1972 and its executive regulations.

In addition, PUA is a member of the Association of Arab Universities, the Mediterranean Universities Union, and the Francophone Universities Agency. Upon establishing, PUA's followed the latest international standards and equip itself with the highest level of advanced educational laboratories. Furthermore, PUA has signed various cooperation agreements with advanced European and American universities to benefit from their modern teaching methods, achieve continuous development in various sciences, and apply of international quality systems. PUA also allows the exchange of students and faculty members with these universities to benefit from their experiences and achieve further development.

Power Campus system:

Lately, PUA has been paying great attention to academic advising due to its great significance in many ways that directly benefit its students. Academic advising falls within the duties of the faculty member and teaching assistants, and is one of the activities complementary to their teaching, research, and administrative tasks. This system allows the student to register and pay fees online from anywhere according to the announced schedule, and awaits confirmation of registration from the academic advisor. It also helps in overcoming conflicts in different academic schedules, monitoring attendance and absence, and monitoring grades scored in various courses.

Blackboard Platform

Blackboard is among the most famous and effective e-learning systems in the world for managing education, following-up on students, and monitoring the efficiency of the educational process. This is due to the wide range of services it provides to the educational process. These services include announcements and real-time communication between course professors and students, and instant and non-instant feedback and support to students. In addition to providing the student with various learning resources, creating electronic portfolios, and facilitating browsing academic content through mobile applications or website. Moreover, it allows to hold virtual classes with interactive tools such as writing on the electronic whiteboard, recording lectures, giving assignments, tests, and polls, and receiving answers and comments on them. PUA has trained faculty members,

teaching assistants, and students on how to use the platform. PUA also linked registration through Power Campus to the Blackboard electronic platform. Thus, students registered with Power Campus system are automatically added to the Blackboard platform.

Remark Office:

PUA provided Remark Office program for automatic correction of written tests using the latest American technologies. The program follows the highest standards of accuracy and quality in electronic correction and analysis of questionnaires. The program allows to extract all the necessary reporting results for measuring, testing, and analyzing student results, and managing hundreds of test papers effortlessly in no time. Thus, avoiding human errors, extracting all the necessary reports to evaluate the quality of the test, and analyze the performance of students.

Moreover, PUA's teaching, learning, and evaluation strategy is based on the application of modern effective education methods, active self-learning, and community service-oriented learning. As well as evaluating students' activity in effective learning in educational sessions. PUA developed this strategy to implement it in all its faculties. It follows-up such implementation through a committee formed from various faculties tasked with following-up on the implementation of interactive education. This system aims also to motivate students to attend lectures, increase their ability to understand and achieve, and continuously monitor their performance. In addition, faculty members present exercises for the students in the lecture to answer, and their grades are included in the grades of the year's work.

Further, PUA's various faculties apply diverse teaching and learning strategies Evaluation. These strategies are consistent with the nature of PUA's various programs. These strategies include – but are not limited to – conventional methods such as lectures, exercises, and practical experiments. In addition to unconventional methods of interactive learning such as cooperative learning, e-learning, and brainstorming. As well as self-learning such as reports, presentations, applied projects, and experiential learning such as simulation models, field visits, community research projects, and summer field training. Finally, indirect education such as applied exercises, case studies, home testing, flipped classroom, distance learning, and hybrid learning.

Also, community research projects are used as one of the learning methods in various courses every semester. This came into effect as per decision of the Vice President to train students in

research projects of a societal nature, which are applied throughout the university. Accordingly, PUA's faculties compete every semester to win an advanced position through identifying a social problem, and a proposing a solution to it. Such solution, however; must include set goals and justifications, target group, sources of the information needed, recommendations, and implementing what can contribute to solving such problem.