



Launch Date: June 2020

Partner:  UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

# The University Consortium for Quality Online Learning (UCQOL)

UCQOL is the first regional initiative that was launched to support a group of universities to cooperate and collaborate to strengthen their online programs and make them more accessible for youth. The Consortium in the UAE was launched in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Education and nine leading universities in the UAE to develop high-quality, market-driven, and accredited online programs.

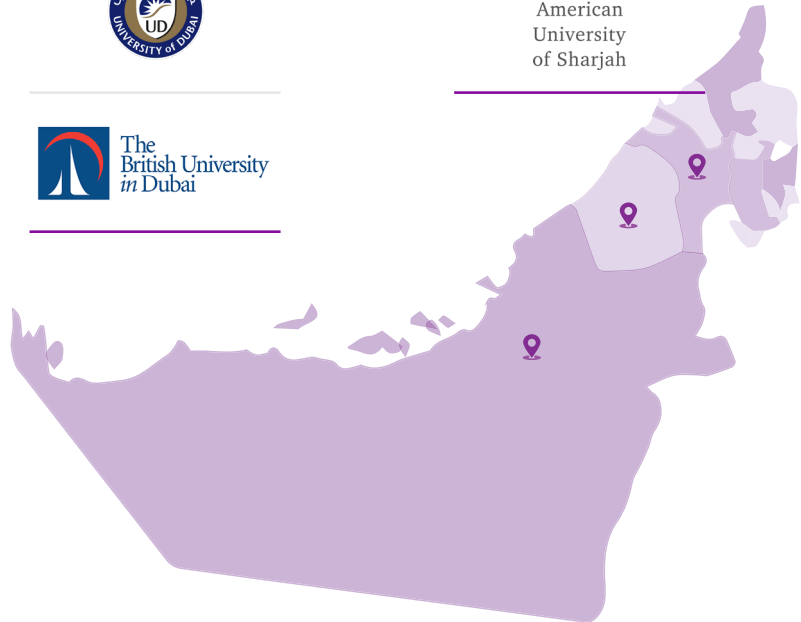
## Abu Dhabi



## Dubai




## Sharjah




## The University Consortium for Quality Online Learning (UCQOL)

---


By expanding the network of higher educational institutions in the region that incorporate high-quality online learning as part of their systems, UCQOL seeks to:




Make high-quality accredited online programs available to a wider pool of students



Cultivate public-private partnerships



Build capacity of leading UAE universities in online learning



Serve as a model in online learning for other countries

## The University Consortium for Quality Online Learning (UCQOL)

---

UCQOL has 4 Phases:

### Phase 1 2021

#### Capacity Needs Assessment

- Identified universities' strengths and opportunities for implementing high-quality online courses
- Highlighted system gaps
- Provided recommendations for internal best practices

### Phase 2 2021-2023

#### Training & Capacity Building

- Provide faculty and Staff with intensive training and workshops
- Refine programmatic launch processes
- Universities to further adopt quality standards and advanced tools to support and create online courses

### Phase 3 2022-2023

#### Online Program development & Accreditation

- Subject-specific webinars and events to build universities' capacities.
- Accreditation applications through the UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation
- Approved courses and programs to be launched

### Phase 4 Ongoing

#### Online Program Evaluation/ Project Expansion

- Evaluation of developed programs
- Expansion of the consortium across the UAE and MENA region
- Knowledge sharing and consultation opportunities between consortium members.

## The University Consortium for Quality Online Learning (UCQOL)

---

UCQOL has supported ecosystem-level efforts by providing university capacity building through different avenues. In 2022, UCQOL:

- Trained almost **100** faculty
- Dedicated over **1,300** hours of professional development design sprints/workshops
- Convened relevant stakeholders such as **CAA, UCQOL** teams, and online learning experts
- Supported universities to launch **8** blended courses, impacting **8000** students
- Conducted **field work**, holding comprehensive in-person course production visits
- Issued **1 grant** to the American University of Sharjah

### American University of Sharjah

The Foundation collaborated with AUS to help deliver high-quality online education to graduate students across the Middle East. The Foundation awarded an institutional grant to AUS, which has committed to start working towards a hybrid Master of Business Administration (MBA) and a fully online MBA in business analytics. These initial steps toward high-quality online programs at the university will serve as a model for the rest of the university.

