

KING FAISAL UNIVERSITY

King Faisal University was established in 1394H (AD 1974) to provide graduate and undergraduate education in the Eastern Province, mainly in the life sciences, medicine, veterinary science and agriculture. It is planned to locate the main campus at Al-Hassa with another site in Dammam, and to establish the College of Agriculture at Hofuf. At present, most of the University buildings are in Dammam.

The main colleges at present are those of Medicine, Agriculture, Veterinary Medicine and Animal Health, and Architecture and Planning.

College of Medicine

A seven-year program leads to the degree of Doctor of Medicine; four years of premedical and preclinical sciences; two years of clinical training and a year's internship. The college accepts both men and women medical students; 60 students enrolled in the men's department in 1395 (1975), after intensive courses in written and spoken English at American Universities. A second group of 60 students has entered for the year 1396/1397 (1976-1977).

The women's department of the Medical College is physically separate and complete in itself, having its own accommodation, catering facilities, library and language and scientific laboratories; closed circuit colour television is available for certain lectures. The curriculum itself does not differ at all from that offered to men students. Thirty women students have enrolled in the Medical College.

College of Agriculture

Agriculture is an important aspect of the development of the Kingdom. The College of Agriculture has therefore been established at Hofuf, an oasis town that is one of the present centers of agricultural production in the Province. A four year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Science is offered in the third and fourth years, students chose between the following majors:

- Crop production and protection
- Food technology and dairy science

- Agricultural economics
- Soil science and agricultural engineering
- Animal and poultry husbandry

The intention is for each student to spend the summer sessions at the Agricultural Research and Training Center, except for the third summer, which is to be used to gain practical experience on a farm in the Kingdom or elsewhere. Forty-seven students were accepted at the Dammam Campus in 1975-76; in the academic year 1976-77 the College will transfer to its permanent site at Hofuf.

The College of Veterinary Science and Animal Health

The College will train professional veterinarians and offer specialist training courses and also sponsors research. It comprises at present five main divisions and a Veterinary Field Research Center.

College of Architecture and Planning

The Eastern Province, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in general, are undergoing very rapid and extensive development at this time. The College of Architecture and Planning exists to assist in this process by training professionally qualified architects, by raising professional standards, and by encouraging research related to building technology and planning.

The College has departments of Architecture, Architectural Planning, Building Technology, Engineering Sciences and Human Studies. There are currently some 120 students enrolled in the College.

The University is named after H.M. King Faisal, whose personal interest in the project has been continued by H.M. King Khalid. The development of the University is at present at an early stage, but like the Eastern Province generally, it can look forward with confidence to a future of growth and expansion. The King Faisal University will before long be able to offer to the Eastern Province instructional and research facilities in the life sciences paralleling those offered in the physical sciences by the University of Petroleum and Minerals (see AJSE Vol. 1 No. 1, page 50).