

## INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

### UNIVERSITY OF RIYADH

The University of Riyadh was established in 1377H. (A.D. 1957). The first academic studies were in the Faculty of Arts, where there was an initial enrollment of 21 students (including three aliens); eight staff members shouldered the teaching responsibilities. On opening day, the University occupied only an insignificant part of the University Street building where the Faculty of Science is housed today.

In 1379, the Faculty of Science was established at the University, with 10 students initially enrolled. In 1380 the Faculty of Commerce with 83 students was added, and in the same year the Faculty of Pharmacy was established in association with the Faculty of Science.

Simultaneously, in the year 1380H. (A.D. 1960), Royal Decree No. 112 (later amended in 1387) was issued approving and sanctioning the University

Regulations. The most important article included in these regulations was the establishment of a Higher University Board which was given certain authority and powers.

Amended Decree No. 112 annexed to the University both the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Pedagogy; both of these had previously been operating under the supervision of the Ministry of Education in close cooperation with UNESCO.

At present, the University consists of the eight Faculties: Arts, Science, Commerce, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Pedagogy, Engineering, and Medicine. Table 1 lists the Faculties associated with the University of Riyadh and gives the fields of specialization in each Faculty. These faculties comprise more than eighty distinctive fields of specialization.

*Table 1: Faculties and Specializations at the University of Riyadh*

<b>FACULTY OF ARTS</b> Arabic Language English Language History Geography Information through Mass Media Journalism Broadcasting Television Public Relations Sociology Social Services	<b>FACULTY OF SCIENCE</b> Physics Chemistry Botany Zoology Geology Mathematics	<b>FACULTY OF COMMERCE</b> Economics Political Science Accounting Industrial Management Law Finance Sciences Mathematics	<b>FACULTY OF PHARMACY</b> Pharmaceutical Chemistry Organic Chemistry Pharmacology Analytical Chemistry Pharmaceuticals Pharmacopea
<b>FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE</b> Agricultural Economy Rural Sociology Food Industries Plant Pathology Animal Products Agricultural Engineering Soil and Land Reclamation Agricultural Products Veterinary Medicine	<b>FACULTY OF PEDAGOGY</b> Islamic Culture Pedagogy Teaching Methods and Curriculum Psychology  Branches for most of the Departments in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences	<b>FACULTY OF ENGINEERING</b> Mechanical Engineering Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Architecture Chemical Engineering Petroleum Engineering	<b>FACULTY OF MEDICINE</b> Physiology E.N.T. Aural Surgery and Otology Internal Diseases Forensic Medicine Gynecology (Surgery and Delivery) Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic Surgery General Surgery Public Health and Preventative Medicine

The number of students (of both sexes) enrolled in the University has increased from 21 students in 1377-78, the first academic year following the establishment of the University, up to 7000 students in the academic year 1394-95.

Table 2 shows the rapid increase in the number of students through the past sixteen years.

*Table 2.*

*Enrollments at University of Riyadh, 1377-1395*

ACADEMIC YEAR	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
1377-78	21
1378-79	64
1379-80	211
1380-81	541
1381-82	783
1382-83	985
1383-84	1032
1384-85	1194
1385-86	1349
1386-87	1365
1387-88	1829
1388-89	2195
1389-90	2894
1390-91	3067
1391-92	3782
1392-93	4369
1393-94	5745
1394-95	6980

In the course of time, the activities of the University became widely diversified, not only in the academic fields but also in the spheres of scientific and social research. Since its inauguration, the University has assumed a significant leadership role and has participated in solving many problems in agricultural, industrial, and other fields, benefiting individuals, organizations, institutions, and factories. The University additionally has contributed to a variety of research work related to the environment and the community.

The University has organized and participated in a considerable number of literary, scientific, and social conferences. The University Regulations emphasized

the responsibility of the University in furnishing all possible means to propagate and spread university education and higher studies in various literary and scientific fields, as well as all specialized activities that place stress on Islamic studies and related research work. These University Regulations also emphasized the University's role in the encouragement of the advancement of knowledge through scientific research. The importance was highlighted by the establishment of a Scientific Board to undertake the coordination of research work and scientific studies.

The Arabic language is the formal teaching language in the University, but it is permissible to teach certain courses and subjects in foreign languages. The Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Engineering, for example, teach some of their courses in English.

The University has its own budget comprising the grant assigned in the State Budget. The University Budget for the academic year 1394-95 was 371 million Saudi Riyals, whereas it was only five million Saudi Riyals at the time of inauguration in the academic year 1377-78.

The Minister of Higher Education is ultimately responsible for the University and he shoulders the responsibility of supervising its activities. The University has authorities and powers that are vested in the Higher Board of Universities, the Rector of the University, and the University Board. Management and administration in each Faculty are the responsibilities of each Dean and the appropriate Faculty Board (comprised of the Dean and the Heads of Departments).

During the history of the University, the teaching staff has been considerably increased. In the first academic year 1377-78, there were only nine staff members, but the rapid development and growth of the University which has accompanied the establishment of new faculties has resulted in an increase to 566 staff members in the academic year 1393-94, as illustrated in Table 3.

*Table 3.*

*Saudi and Foreign Teaching Staff Members  
from the Academic Year 1377-78  
until the Academic Year 1393-94*

<b>Academic Year</b>	<b>Saudi Staff</b>	<b>Non-Saudi Staff</b>	<b>Total</b>
1377-78	1	8	9
1378-79	1	16	17
1379-80	5	30	35
1380-81	13	61	74
1381-82	15	77	92
1382-83	28	66	94
1383-84	26	80	106
1384-85	19	93	112
1385-86	30	100	130
1386-87	54	125	179
1387-88	48	175	123
1388-89	30	163	193
1389-90	105	208	313
1390-91	126	242	368
1391-92	154	308	462
1392-93	173	351	524
1393-94	178	388	566*

*\* This Number includes 17 staff members (9 Saudi Nationals and 8 non-Saudis) who are commissioned to teach at the University.*

It is noteworthy that the University is now planning to establish a vast new campus, a facility that will be under rapid construction as soon as all technical studies are completed. The campus will be fifteen kilometers away from the western part of Riyadh, on the road leading to the historical city of Der'ieh. Ceremonies associated with placing the foundation stone were held Rabei Awal, 1396 (March 1976).