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Europe and International Department

EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS

Bachelor of Political Science

**King Saud University
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

OCTOBER 2018

Rapport publié le 12/12/2018

High Council for evaluation of research and higher education

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International evaluation and accreditation

EVALUATION REPORT

Bachelor of Political Science

King Saud University
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

August 2018



The King Saud University (KSU) has mandated the Hcéres to perform the evaluation of its Bachelor of Political Science. The evaluation is based on the "External Evaluation Standards" of foreign study programs, adopted by the Hcéres Board on October 4th, 2016. These standards are available on the Hcéres website (hceres.fr).

For the Hcéres¹ :

Michel Cosnard, President

On behalf of the experts committee² :

Philippe Didier, President of the committee

In accordance with the decree n°2014-1365, November 14th, 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "contresigne les rapports d'évaluation établis par les comités d'experts et signés par leur président." (Article 8, alinéa 5) — "countersigns the assessment reports made by the experts' committees and signed by their president" (article 8, alinea 5).

² The evaluation reports "sont signés par le président du comité". (Article 11, alinéa 2) — "are signed by the president of the committee" (article 11, alinea 2).

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I. STUDY PROGRAM IDENTITY SHEET

University/institution:

King Saud University

Component, faculty or department concerned:

College of Law and Political Science

Program's title :

Bachelor of Political science

Training/speciality:

Bachelor of Political science

Year of creation and context:

King Saud University was established in 1957. A department of political science was set up in 1972, one of the first departments of the University. The department was part of the College of Commerce alongside the department of economics, the department of business administration and the department of political science.

In 2006, a full College of Law and Political Science was established with 5 departments. In 2010, they were reduced to three: public law, private law and political science.

The Bachelor of Political Science program was created in 1972.

It is open only to male students.

Site(s) where the program is taught (Town and campus):

The program is offered in Riyadh (KSA).

Program director:

- Surname, first name: Pr Abdullah Jabre Alotaibi
- Profession and grade: Head of the Department of political science, Professor
- Main subject taught: Political science.

METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS ACCREDITATION(S)

Methodology and agency

A previous evaluation was carried out by the then-AERES in 2012. It was performed according to the AERES standard practice: a self-assessment report was sent by the College and was followed by an on-site visit by an expert committee.

Results

The 2012 report found:

Strengths:

- integration into the job market, network of former graduates, attentiveness to the socio-political context, commitment to giving an international outlook to the degree
- analytical dimension, brainstorming, ability to summarize, valued by students and employers
- diversity of subjects and exercises available, real and satisfactory ability to provide and offer factual knowledge
- diversity of partners institutions and contacts
- modern, comprehensive teaching tools.

Weaknesses:

- problems of progressiveness – no choice for students, limited and late specialization, no possibility of choice or links between specializations
- documentary resources: incomplete, outdated reference exclusively in Arabic.
- Language problem: no language classes apart from the refresher year
- Variability in the way professors apply the students grading criteria
- No level of path managers
- High number of councils and committees with no managers or coordination
- No formal guidance provided for specialization, mobility or integration in the job market
- There is a great deal of data, but it is usually not presented as aggregate data.

Based on its analysis, the report made 5 “compulsory recommendations” (and 14 “desired recommendations”):

1. Forge effective progressive links between modules and levels ;
2. Enable flexibility of learning paths and students' possibilities of choice ;
3. Present a range of modules that can cover the whole discipline ;
4. Encourage more theoretical and analytical knowledge in parallel to the factual knowledge that is primarily taught ;
5. Develop teaching in English.

The program was issued a grade “B”.

HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE PROGRAM

Human resources

	Male	Female
Professors	2	0
Associate professors	6	0
Assistant professors	5	3

Buildings and equipments

The campus is modern. It is in accordance with the number of students. It offers a pleasant working environment.

The premises have adapted to accommodate students and staffers with special needs.

	Male campus
Offices*	90
Computers	104
Support staff	55
Classrooms** ***	54
Conference rooms and event rooms	3
Computer labs	4
Remote teaching studio	9
Library****	1
Instructor lounge	3
Infirmary	1
Canteen	1
Refreshment bar	2
Play room	1

* Offices are for instructors but some are for student clubs and societies.

** Classrooms are fitted with a computer, a projector and a smart whiteboard.

*** Among the classrooms, several are specifically devoted to exams. They are fitted with closed circuit cameras for monitoring students. In addition to the rooms listed, there exist a mock courtroom and a mock UN security council-style room.

**** The library is specific to the College and is dedicated to Law and Political science. It is spacious and pleasant. The book collection is mainly Arabic. The book collection in English (and even more for French books) is limited and seems outdated.

Students have access to online resources both national and international (Saudi Digital Library, Lexis-Nexis...)

STUDENT POPULATION: EVOLUTION AND TYPOLOGY OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS

years	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	Total
students	221	347	432	507	576	2083

II. ON-SITE VISIT DESCRIPTION

COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERTS PANEL

- Philippe DIDIER, Professor at Paris Descartes University, Chairman of the committee
- Mathieu Cardon, Associate Professor at Jean Moulin University in Lyon
- Johanna Guillaumé, Professor at the University of Rouen, Dean of the Faculty of Law
- Maxime Touchais, PhD student at Paris Descartes University

The Hcéres was represented by Martin Lebeau, scientific advisor.

ON-SITE VISIT DESCRIPTION

- Date of the visit:

The visit took place on Sunday April 8th and Monday April 9th, 2018.

- Summary of the proceedings:

Before the visit took place, the self-assessment report had been received by the experts on February 14th, 2018. A proposed planning for the visit was given on March 19th. It was discussed and approved during a preparatory meeting, held in Paris at the Hcéres headquarter on March 21st, 2018.

On site, the visit went ahead according to the planning.

Meetings and visits were scheduled from 8:30 to 18:00 for both days.

All meetings were held in the male campus. During plenary meetings, an audio connection was established with the female campus through which female staff and students could take part in the discussion.

- Organisation of the visit:

Sunday April 8th:

- Meeting with the Dean and members of the Faculty council
- Meeting with the Head and members of the departments of law
- Meeting with the Head and members of the department of political science
- Meeting with several alumni and employers
- Meeting with students

Monday April 9th:

- Visit and meeting with the quality office of the College
- Meeting with faculty members from the Law and political science department, the heads of department being absent

- Tour of the College building for male students (including teaching rooms, library, exam rooms, conference rooms, staff offices, club and societies offices, teaching room connected to the female campus for class taught by male professors ...)
 - A tour of the female campus was given to Pr Johanna Guillaumé alone during which she could meet with female students, instructors and staffers in person. [the on-site visit being shared with the accreditation of the Bachelor of Law, part of the visit was devoted to the female campus while of course they were not relevant to the Bachelor of political science]
 - In camera meeting with the Dean.
- Cooperation of study program and institution to be accredited:

The College of Law and Political Science of King Saud University has been forthcoming during all the process. The self-assessment report was sent in advance, according to the agreed-on schedule.

During the visit, no request from the committee has been denied. The committee was denied access to no places, no documents or no persons.

Some follow-up questions and additional documents were asked during the visit and they received speedy answers.

The committee is confident that the conclusion it has reached is based on a fair and full disclosure of all relevant information.

- People met:

From the College:

- Dr Mufleh bin Rabiean Al Qahtani, Dean of the College of Law and Political Science, Chairman of the Saudi Human rights society.
- Dr Abadallah Al Ghamedi, vice-Dean for academic affairs
- Dr Adel Abdelkrim, vice-Dean for higher studies
- Dr Abdelaziz Al Hamoudi, vice-Dean for quality assurance
- Dr Othman Taher Talbi, Chairman of the Department of private law
- Dr Abadallah Al Musfer , Chairman of the department of public law
- Faculty members
- Students

From outside the College:

- Mansour Abdallah Al-ossaimi, Committee of Experts to the Council of Ministers
- Abdelwahab Nedjr Al-Otaibi, Law firm
- Khaled Abdelrahmane Al-Fakhiri, Human rights society
- Said Nacer Al-Kahtani, Agricultural Development Fund
- Fayçal Nacer Al-Adiyani, law firm
- Khaled Abdelatif Abid, Ministry of Trade and Investment.

During the visit, the committee proceeded to the evaluation of both the Bachelor of Law Program and the Bachelor of Political science. As a result, some meetings and visits were common to both program while other were specific.

The current evaluation report has been written contemporaneously with the evaluation report of the bachelor of Law. It addresses issues relevant to both programs in the same way. However, issues specific to one program are dealt with specifically.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

King Saud University is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the Kingdom. It is located in Riyadh. Even if the College of Law and Political Science was formally established in 2010, its roots date back more than 40 years.

The Bachelor of Political Science is a four-year program which aims at giving a general education on political science.

After graduating from the program, students are expected to be able to join the job market. They can work for the Government or for a private firm.

If they wish so, students can further their education by joining a Master's degree program.

To be graduated, student must complete 9 levels of courses, roughly equivalent to 9 semesters, which are delivered on-site. Additional work at home is required. Subjects are taught through lectures, discussions and other interactive exercises. The program includes internships and training in real-life conditions.

The content of the curriculum has been set by mixing foundational subjects which are the core of political science according to standard international practice and more technical subjects identified by representatives of the socio-economic world.

The acquisition of knowledge and skills is monitored through a strict examination protocol.

The program is open only to male students.

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM'S SELF-EVALUATION APPROACH

The program has a strong commitment to quality assurance. The College relies on a Quality Bureau which monitors key indicators of performance.

The self-evaluation report which was sent to the expert committee describes the objectives of the program, its positioning, its structure, including its curriculum, and its management.

It is based on qualitative and quantitative elements which are documented either in the report itself or in its annexes (26). The main report is 77 pages long.

IV. EVALUATION REPORT

1- AIMS OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

Standard 1-1: The study program has explicit objectives with regard to knowledge and skills to be acquired

The Bachelor of Political Science program offered by King Saud University is a degree aimed at giving general knowledge in the field of political thoughts, institutions, and international relations. In essence, the program is mainly oriented towards the hard core of political science but also integrates related disciplines essential to the understanding of contemporary political systems. Thus, students can take some courses in law or sociology studies to complete their political knowledge (principles of law, public international law, political sociology, ...). In addition to the theoretical learning, the program intends to give students professional skills. Indeed, some tools are specifically designed to develop these areas of competence (simulated international organization for instance).

The program follows the requirements set by the National Framework for Higher Education Degrees issued by the Saudi Higher Education Ministry. As such, the program sets its learning outcomes in accordance with the learning outcomes required by the national framework. The syllabus of each course, which is available at all moments to students on the support management system, must state how the course implements the five kinds of learning outcomes set by the National framework.

The objectives of the program are made known through the website of the University. A syllabus is sent at the beginning of each class, summarizing the objectives in terms of knowledge and skills. The document is written by professors and follows guidelines set by the College.

Discussions with students reveal that they were well informed of these objectives and that they made a knowing choice. Their professional aspirations match with the studies they have chosen.

Standard 1-2: Outcomes in terms of job opportunities and further studies are explicitly stated

Once graduated from the bachelor's degree, graduates can follow two paths: pursue their studies at the master's level or leave studies to enter professional life.

Those who would like to pursue their studies can apply for a master's degree at KSU. The Master of Political Science degree of KSU is not part of the current accreditation process and will not be discussed. Graduates can also apply for a master in another university in Saudi Arabia or abroad.

The degree aims at preparing student to hold any position in the field of political science (diplomat, government counsellor, civil servant, ...), and, as a matter of fact, graduates find a job at the end of their studies. In the Saudi job market, not having a master is not an issue to find a job.

King Saud University gives useful information to help student enter the job market. In addition, meetings between students and professionals, such as the career week, are regularly set up by the College.

As a result, it appears that students and other stakeholders are aware of the outcomes in terms of job opportunities and further studies.

2 – POSITION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

Standard 2-1: The study program states its position in the local, regional, national or international environment, as applicable.

Only two universities, both of them state universities, offer a Bachelor's degree program in political science in the whole Kingdom. In addition to its privileged location for this specific discipline, i.e. Riyadh, the political science department of KSU has been created first. The department of political science of the Faculty of Economics and Administration (FEA) of the King Abdulaziz University (KAU) in Jeddah was established later in 1983; however, the KAU's political science training is identified as being truly competitive for KSU.

Understandably, the KSU program is opened to students from everywhere in the country. A large number of higher civil servants and political authorities have taken this training. Except the traditional international rankings, not always useful, it is difficult to assess the positioning of the program in the regional context of the Gulf countries.

In addition, the College faces competition from other scientific disciplines. Political science studies are not students' first choice; for instance, they prefer medical studies. Nevertheless, competition is seen as stimulating: it encourages initiatives to constantly improve training and program, and it encourages a resolutely practical approach to teaching.

Some of the courses proposed are opened to students from other departments.

The strategic plan of the College for the years 2012-2017 confirms the will to establish, through the signing of agreements, an effective local partnership with public or private institutions. These partnerships aim to provide students with opportunities for continuous learning, complementary training or cultural programs. They also allow the University to offer ongoing services to the Community, through students, which is an important concern. Among the partners contributing to achieving the objectives, in cooperation with the College, are several ministries (Foreign Affairs, Civil Service...), but also the Consultative Assembly ("Majliss Choura"), the Committee of Experts to the Council of Ministers and the National Human Rights Association. These partnerships create a true interaction between the institution and society.

Standard 2-2: There is a clear link between the study program and research.

In contrast to the Law Department, the Political Science Department appears to offer lately a Doctoral research program. Nevertheless, 60 % to 70 % of students want to find a job after the completion of their Bachelor's degree program.

For those who want to further their studies, and perhaps go on a Ph.D. in this matter, introductory courses to scientific research have been introduced into the curriculum of undergraduate students mainly through two courses: - "The Research Methods" ("292 Pol") offering students of the 3rd semester the rudimentary skills to carry out research on main themes of political science, and especially - "Graduation Project" ("499 Pol"), during the 9th semester, giving rise to the elaboration of a research thesis closing the Bachelor's degree program.

"To raise the level of scientific research and post-graduate studies while linking them to issues of general interest and strengthening applied scientific research" is the fourth strategic objective of the College's five-year plan (2012-2017). To promote scientific production, grants and bonuses, conditional on the signature of a contract or the respect of conditions, are allocated by the College and by the University to research centres and to professor-researchers, or even to Master students.

The College also publishes some of the works carried out by its professors, or those from other local or regional universities, in the Journal of Law & Political Science (King Saud University Press), only written in Arabic.

At the College level, research chairs and scientific associations confirm this commitment to promoting research: the Chair of Peace Studies, the Gulf Centre for Arab Studies and the Saudi association of political science.

It is noteworthy that research is also intended as an instrument of the mission of service to the Community, a mission that the University holds dear.

From an institutional standpoint, the organizational chart of the College does not permit a clear identification of the body in charge of scientific research, which could be more clearly specified. The College has a budget of more than 85 000€ to support research works.

The College underlines the administrative difficulties and slowness in the organization of international conferences or colloquia.

Amongst the national evaluation criteria set by the Saudi accreditation agency, one criterion is exclusively dedicated to research. Similarly, one of the annual evaluation criteria for instructors obviously concerns their research activities.

The variety of academic backgrounds of instructors (Ph.D., particularly in Europe, the United States, North Africa, the Near and Middle East, etc.) contributes to the development of a scientific production of quality, but also rich in terms of thought and method.

Standard 2-3: The study program explicitly states its relationships with businesses, associations and other cultural or industrial partners, including international partners.

The College maintains close links with - public institutions (Committee of Experts to the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Trade and Investment, Ministry of the Interior, etc.), - private entities and - representatives of civil society. The presence of former students among their representatives is at the origin of privileged relations.

Together with the partners, in particular through the Advisory Council, the College ensures that the content of training is adapted to changes in the labour market and thus properly meets the demand. The current expansion of Saudi diplomatic and consular representations abroad is in fact perceived as an interesting perspective for student's professional opportunities. The socio-economic representatives note the increase in the number of courses and observe favorably the constant evolution of courses' content for a greater adequacy with the practice.

In 2013, the College created an Internship Committee to strengthen links with institutional partners and contribute to improving professional training. The head of the Centre for Training and Legal Consultations also oversees the question of professional success.

The internships are organised in coordination with the College, on the basis of a memorandum of understanding concluded between the host entity and the representative of the College, and give rise to an evaluation grid. Students also prepare an internship report that is evaluated. The partners observe the efforts made during the one-semester internships carried out by the students, which meet the demand in a satisfactory manner. The partners believe that the trainees have received practical training and have sufficient knowledge. Most internships lead to recruitment proposals. In this context, employers most often claim to favour an application from a KSU graduate student over one from another university, even if he is ranked lower in his promotion.

In addition to the links between the College and its partners through the Advisory Council, actors from the socio-economic world regularly consult their former professors.

Standard 2-4: The study program explicitly states the added value of its partnerships with foreign higher education institutions.

Cooperation and partnership agreements with foreign universities and institutes are signed at the level of the University, acting on behalf and for the benefit of all Colleges. In this regard, agreements have been made with French universities since 2008 (Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, Université Paris Descartes, Institut d'études politiques de Paris); however, their actual benefit for the College could not be assessed.

In the same way, the actual results of agreements signed with US or British Universities such as the one signed with Indiana University, remain to be seen. The College acknowledges the insufficiency of its international partnerships as a weakness.

KSU students do not seem to have the opportunity to spend a year in exchange during their Bachelor program (see also standard 3-7) . Therefore, potential mobility is only considered at the end of the program, in particular in direction of European and American universities. In this context, the setting up of a Campus France Agency in Riyadh helps students wishing to continue their studies in France.

3 – STUDY PROGRAM TEACHING STRUCTURE

Standard 3-1: The structure of the study program is adapted to the different student academic pathways.

The program is structured in 9 levels. Each level is divided in 5 subjects, each of which is given 2 or 3 credit hours depending on the subject.

Each credit hour corresponds to one-hour attendance per week for 15 weeks (length of the semester).

As a result, to complete the program, students must attend: 142 (number of credit hours for the whole program) x15 (length of the semester)=2130 attendance hours.

The first two levels (semesters) are common to all programs offered in the University. They act as a refresher course for basic knowledge and skills in math, computing, oral and written communication, research and English language.

The following 7 levels are specific to each program. The Bachelor of Political science program requires the completion of 81 credit hours (27 subjects) in Political science subjects as well as the completion of 2 credit hours outside the legal field. Additionally, 6 elective credit hours (two subjects) must be chosen from a list of subjects set at University level.

"intro to Political science 101-Pol" is a prerequisite for a large number of courses but beside this compulsory introductory class, there are very few prerequisites. As a result, students are free to tackle most courses in the order they want.

To complete the program and get the degree, students must pass all 142 credit hours. There is no make-up exam and students failing a subject must attend again the whole class. No compensation is available between subjects.

The organization of the program is coherent and ensures a progressive acquisition of knowledge and skills.

The elements of the program are made known to students through leaflets and through the website of the College. The Academic Guidance Board offer individual guidance to students. A comprehensive syllabus is prepared for each subject and is available to students.

The program is devised primarily as an initial education preparing for the job market. However, it can be joined as part of continuing education. Specific requests are processed by the Academic Guidance Board.

Students with special needs benefit from the "Universal Accessibility" program that exists at the level of the University. For example, visually impaired students are provided with an assistant to help them take the exam.

Standard 3-2: The content of the study program is consistent with the requirements of the socioeconomic world.

The department of Political science emphasizes practical knowledge and skills in order to promote the professional integration of its graduates.

The content of the program is devised after a SWOT analysis and with the input of outside stakeholders (employers, public authorities ...) through the Advisory Board to the College council.

The content of the program is reviewed every four years in order to take into accounts changes of the job market.

The current curriculum has been set in 2017 and will be effective with the start of the second semester of the academic year 2017/2018. As a result of the input of the Advisory Board, two new classes have been added: "Political violence and terrorism 428-Pol" and "National security 326-Pol".

The current list of subjects is primarily focused on State international relations, especially in the Arabic and Gulf context. Large swaths of Political science are not discussed (political economy, political sociology, public policies ...). The scope of the degree is narrow and students graduating from the degree are specialist in the field of Diplomacy rather than generalist with an understanding of all aspects of Political science.

Students are also informed of the evolution of the job market through a career week which is organized once a year.

The Bachelor of Political science contains subjects that relate to foundational issues of research. They are found either during the first level ("learning, researching and thinking skills" class #140 APP) or during the advanced levels ("research methodology 292-Pol"). A compulsory thesis exists at the 9th level (Research Project 499-Pol).

Classes are taught in Arabic. Foreign student may receive additional training in Arabic before or during the program.

All students must attend two compulsory classes of general English during the first year.

Standard 3-3: Projects and internships are a key teaching tool, with specific support mechanisms.

Internships are part of the elective classes available during the 9th level. The learning outcomes of each internship are agreed on with the Instructor in charge of the class. At the end of the period, students must write a report which is assessed and graded by the instructor.

A new process is planned to allow student who have completed 107 hours to take an internship.

Beside internships, the program includes projects which can be taken before the ninth level. Each semester the Internship Board sets a planning of mock cases which are offered to students to take. They result in live exercises in the security council room.

Standard 3-4: The study program allows students to acquire additional skills that are useful for employment or further study.

The program is mainly focused on the acquisition of knowledge and skills related to the field Political science.

Additional skills are garnered by cases, conference training, field visits and courses given by speakers from the professional world.

Standard 3-5: The study program encourages the use of digital technologies and other innovative teaching methods.

Classes are taught in groups of around 40 students. For subjects in which more than 40 students are enrolled, additional groups are set up. For foundational subjects at the start of the program, it means that the same subject may be taught by many different instructors. Homogeneity is achieved through the syllabus which describes precisely (up to a weekly schedule of topics that must be dealt with) the content of the class and through the supervision of the chief instructor in charge of the subject who coordinates the work of all instructors (see standard 4-1).

For their classes, instructors enjoy the technological equipment all rooms are fitted with (computer, projector, SMART whiteboard). Wifi is available everywhere. Students and instructors have also access to a Learning Management System where syllabuses, additional readings ... may be made available.

At all times, students can access information about their courses or their academic status through support management systems (Edugate, SAMER).

Classes are carried out as a mix of lectures and interactive discussions with students. Critical thinking and argumentative skills are considered by most instructors as a central piece of their teachings. Mock cases allow instructors to give students burn more hands-on approach to issues.

Standard 3-6: The study program offers specific tools for successful program completion.

The first year of the program acts as a refresher year for students starting the program. They are given a general basis for higher studies which is not specific to the College but which is shared by all Colleges of the University.

Instructors are to maintain office hours and can answer questions or offer help to students. At the start of each academic year, the Academic Guidance Board welcome students. It explains the curriculum for each year introduces the heads of the different departments and services.

Academic Guidance Committees are in place to help students who experience disappointing results. A list of students with the general average below 3/5 is drawn on each semester and is referred to the Academic Guidance Board. Each student is to receive a specific support tailored to his needs. It may include additional teaching hours.

Students who experience serious personal issues (academic failure, social and psychological distress, ...) can be referred to the University guidance board for professional help.

Students with outstanding results are rewarded as well. The prestigious 'Dean's list' is publicly displayed on the premises and students may be called to sit on the different boards of the College as representatives of the students. Students who have made it to the Dean's list also enjoy rewards and the support of the College to carry out personal projects.

Standard 3-7: The study program prepares students for the international environment.

Classes are taught in Arabic. Foreign students may receive additional training in Arabic before or during the program to help them cope with the issue.

All students must attend two compulsory classes of general English language during the first year.

The previous evaluation has listed the scarcity of foreign language classes as a weakness of the program. If some changes have been made, the previous assessment is still valid. It appears that the lack of foreign language skills curb students' ambitions to pursue their studies abroad.

Outbound student mobility is limited. Most students stay with the College. However, some may be admitted to other Gulf universities on an individual basis. Inbound student mobility is also limited but the College hosts about some students from outside the kingdom, mainly from Africa and Asia.

The College benefits from the agreements the University has signed with foreign institutions. However, in practice, those agreements have not resulted in foreign students or foreign academics coming to the College or the reverse.

The exchanges with foreign universities, even Gulf universities, is hindered by the lack of mutual recognition of credit hours completed by students in another university.

4 – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

4-1: The study program is implemented by a formally identified teaching team.

The College of Law and Political Science is well structured.

It is headed by a dean. There are several consultation bodies. First, the College council headed by the dean, composed of vice-deans, department heads and three members of the teaching staff. Then, an advisory council of the College, which includes external members. This council makes it possible to make the link between the College and the professional world, in particular by proposing

changes in teaching with a view to the future professional integration of graduates. Finally, there is also a students' advisory council, whose composition and role are not clear enough.

The College is composed of three departments: two law departments and one political science department. The political science department is headed by a professor and composed of all the teachers in the department. This council plays an important role since it chooses the course coordinators, it proposes the evolution of the study program, it requests the recruitment of teachers and establishes the profile of the position.

In the political science department, there are six committees that oversee the Bachelor's degree: committee for higher education, committee for the development of quality and academic accreditation, committee for seminars and scientific communication, committee for nominations and grant holders, committee for study programs and books and committee of course coordinators. Each committee is run by an academic rapporteur. The role and objectives of some these committees – expect the committee of course coordinators – are not clearly defined.

At the last evaluation, in 2012, there were 21 professors for 221 students enrolled (2012/2013): 6 professors, 4 associate professors and 10 assistant professors. For the year 2016/2017, the number of students enrolled has increased significantly to 576. Yet the number of teachers has decreased. Indeed, the political science department has 16 professors (13 male professors and 3 female professors). However, it can be noted that in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017, the number of new students enrolled decreased.

Professors are divided into professors (2), associate professors (6) and assistant professors (5). A significant number of these professors are contractual. The teaching team is completed by external speakers from the professional world, thus allowing students to have practical lessons. Most professors obtained their doctorates abroad, especially in the United States, and some of the professors are non-Saudi by nationality. This diversity is presented as a strong point of the program.

There is remarkable coordination among the members of the teaching team. When a course is divided into several sections, the Department appoints a course coordinator. There is a committee of course coordinators within the Department: this committee works collectively to define the course content, the objectives to be achieved for each course and the examination content. This collective work ensures homogeneous training for students.

For new teachers, there is mandatory training in teaching methods, assessment methods and computer technology.

4-2: Knowledge is assessed according to specifically stated methods communicated to students

The evaluation of knowledge is carried out according to precisely established methods known to the students. There is indeed a regulation relating to studies and examinations which sets out precisely the rules of validation of the diploma. These regulations are presented to students at the beginning of the first semester.

Knowledge testing procedures are developed by professors. However, the Department may make proposals to improve evaluation methods. Indeed, at the end of each semester, the coordinating professor of the course writes a report which specifies in particular the methods of examinations, the success rate and which is accompanied by copies of students as an example. Thanks to this report, the evaluation methods can be improved.

4-3: The study program works to monitor skills acquisition

There is a course specification for every course. Each course specification sets out the aims of the course, the skills and knowledge a graduate from that course will possess, and how it is taught and assessed.

For each course specification, the course coordinator defines course learning outcome. And for each course learning outcome, he also defines an assessment method and a teaching method. When preparing the examination topic, the course coordinator should specify for each question what course learning outcome is concerned: this ensures the results obtained for each objective and for each student.

There is also a skills booklet that allows students to record all the skills acquired during their training.

4-4: Student numbers and the different enrolment regimes for the study program are clearly identified

The number of students enrolled has increased significantly since 2012.

To be able to enroll in the political science College, it is necessary to do a preparatory year: a preparatory year in human science or a preparatory year in science. Achieving the preparatory year is not enough, as a minimum result must be obtained (at least 4,5/5). There is therefore a selection system whose criteria are clearly defined.

This selection system has made it possible to reduce the number of new students enrolled since 2015/2016. Since the number of teachers has decreased, it is indeed important to ensure a sufficient supervision ratio for the quality of teaching. But, despite this selection system, the number of students enrolled each year is well above the number expected by the College. Certainly, this demonstrates the strong attractiveness of the political science program. But it is not certain that the teaching team is sufficient given the sharp increase in the number of students.

4-5: The study program has comprehensive information on graduate outcomes

The program lacks an established, comprehensive and systematic system to track the students and to know their position after graduation. However, alumni are very involved in the working of the program and the College. Alumni do stay in contact and because of the high position they hold, they are a powerful network that benefit the College.

Internship placement is made easier because of the alumni. Likewise, alumni who hold positions in official bodies often refer questions to the College or ask for reports on new and difficult issues.

4-6: The study program is based on a publicly available quality assurance and ethics policy

The College has a quality unit that plays a key role in developing an enhancement strategy. It has developed several evaluation methods: evaluation of teaching by students, evaluation of courses by instructors, evaluation of courses by graduates, evaluation of graduates by employers. These various evaluations are analyzed by the quality unit, which can then formulate prospects for improvement to the department.

It is also the quality unit that analyses the course reports written by the course coordinators at the end of each semester. This report, which includes various elements – course identification and general information; objectives; course description (syllabus, list of topics); courses learning outcomes; learning resources, exam subjects, best and less good marks, etc. –, helps to improve the course content and examination procedures.

The work of the quality unit is remarkable. However, the lack of data on graduates is regrettable: indicators concerning proportion of graduates who continue their studies and graduate employment rates are lacking.

V. CONCLUSION

The Bachelor of Political science program of King Saud University is one of the most prestigious university programs in the Kingdom.

The program has a forty-year history and has been given adequate means. The overall working conditions of students are good. A choice has been made to focus the program on one aspect of Political science. It seems that currently this choice fits the needs of the Saudi job market.

The program is a bachelor program. As such, it is not meant to be an advanced research program. However, the Bachelor of Political science program of King Saud University offers a balanced content which includes foundational knowledge and skills as well as more advanced technical subjects. It offers both academic and professional-like training. Students who graduate from the program are well equipped to become effective professionals and either join the job market or enter into the field of research in a master's program.

Outside stakeholders are part of the periodic review process and their input is effectively taken into account.

The program is managed according to the latest international standard. It is strongly committed to a culture of quality assurance.

The program has faced a large increase of enrolled students. There are twice as many students than there were five years ago. Hiring of staff has not kept the same pace.

The program still exhibits some weaknesses that were highlighted in the last accreditation. Foreign languages are still not taken seriously enough in the curriculum. The library does not seem to have improved to a material extent since the last accreditation process.

The choice to have a narrow scope for the program may hinder students who wish to further their education in foreign universities where Political science is understood more broadly.

STRENGTHS

Strengths that were identified in the previous report and which are still relevant

- Funding of the program which gives adequate means
- Commitment of the College and all Faculty and staffers to improving the degree, particularly by keeping it in line with the needs of the job market.
- Impressive organization of the quality unit
- Comprehensive organizational structure.

Additional strengths that have been identified in the current report

- Critical thinking, that is the ability to have a well-argued reasoning, is gaining ground.
- The periodic review process, held with the advisory board, has proven to be effective and has led to actual amendments of the program.
- The quantitative analysis of students' results and achievements has been improved.
- New faculty has been hired.

WEAKNESSES

Weaknesses that were identified in the previous report and which are still relevant

- Foreign languages are limited to a lesser role in the curriculum.
- Documentary collections are limited, especially for foreign books.

Additional weakness that have been identified in the current report

- While there seems to be a willingness on the part of the College to foster links with foreign universities, it has not resulted in effective exchanges of students and or faculty, even at the regional level.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INSTITUTION

- Improve the weight allocated to foreign languages in the curriculum
- Improve the content of the library. The policy on quality assessment which has been developed for the program could be expanded to the management of the Library (for example, compliance with ISO standards on library management could be introduced).
- Maintain high standard of recruitment for new faculty
- Develop foreign exchanges of students and faculty.

VII. COMMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION

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كلية الحقوق والعلوم السياسية
مكتب العميد

From
Dr. Mufleh bin Rabeen Al-Kahtany
Dean of College of Law and Political Science
King Saud University
Riyadh, 12371
Saudi Arabia
To
Mr. Michel COSNARD
President of HCERES
2 rue Albert Einstein
75013 Paris
La France.

Date: September 20, 2018

Regarding: Response to Evaluation Report of Department of Political Science

Dear President Michel Cosnard:

First of all, the faculty-members and staff of College of Law and Political Science would like to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Expert Panel for its efforts in preparing this evaluation report and constructive feedback. They also would like to especially thank the committee members for their professional work during their visit to our college between April 8 and 9, 2018.

The meeting with the committee members was definitely fruitful and helpful for the faculty-members and staff of The College, who are in charge of running the political science study program. Such meetings were very important due to the following factors:

- 1- The meeting helped to demonstrate and enrich the information that the evaluation report contains.
- 2- The interview the committee members held with the chairman and faculty-members of Department of Political Science showed the strong will that faculty-members and staff working at The Political Science Department have. Such enthusiasm will result in adopting the best academic standards in order to increase and improve the quality of the educational program offered to the students in the near future.



3- The evaluation report highlighted the progresses and developments that The Department of Political Science has made over the past few years. This was a result of collective efforts that the study The Department has taken in order to meet the old recommendations, issued by the former committee of experts during the evaluation of the AERES in 2012.

The Department of Political Science and The College is mindful (taking into consideration) about the committee members' comments and constructive criticism in the current evaluation report. The comments would encourage The faculty-member and staff of The Department to do its utmost in order to develop and improve the political study program's effectiveness and efficiency.

In terms of responding to constructive criticisms that committee mentioned in its current evaluation report, we firmly believe that it would be necessary to provide the following clarifications:

1 -Adopting Foreign Language Teaching and Learning into the Curriculum:

The Department of Political Science fully understands the importance of teaching foreign language courses in the Bachelor Program. In fact, this point has been discussed between the leadership of The College and students on different occasions. Due to the interests showed by the students for the implementation of some foreign language courses, the leadership of The College will submit in the near future a proposal to the Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at King Saud University. The proposal will seek the approval of the Vice-Rector of Academic Affairs to introduce new courses that will be taught only in foreign languages such as English and French into the curriculum of the Bachelor Program. These courses will be part of the second and third semester.



2 -Criticism of the Management of the library and its Documentary Collections:

King Saud University's officials, including the Vice-President and managers of libraries, supported the needs of The Library of College of Law and Political Science by allocating additional funds for the library's annual budget. This fund will be used to purchase library material and to enrich educational resources that will help students in their academic studies and research.

It is worth it to mention that The Library of College of Law and Political Science has computers that contain modern software. Such software provides access to students to reach King Saud University Central Library's resources so that students can request books that were not available within The Library of College of Law and Political Science. The Library of College of Law and Political Science has software used to track items owned, orders made, and students who have borrowed books or items.

Moreover, the Library of College of Law and Political Science has modern equipment that are available for students to use for free, such as photocopiers, color printers and scanner. We are underway to improve The Library in order to enhance the educational environment for all students.

3 -Criteria Considered in the recruitment of Faculty-Members:

One of the most important goals of Department of Political Science is to ensure quality of teaching, by hiring well-known and respected professors. In doing so, The Department of Political Science has recently adopted high standards and requirements for hiring new faculty-members. For example, The Department requires that applicant must have work experiences and published articles in well-respected journals in order to review and accept them



applications. This requirement aims at attracting professors of demonstrated intellectual and academic excellence from all over the world.

Regarding criticism of our current faculty-members, we would like to mention that some of our faculty-members have been hired once they graduated from our college. This happened because we had a strategic plan to send them to study at top universities across the globe. Most of our young faculty-members graduated from well-respected universities, such as Harvard University, Berkeley University, Georgetown University and Oxford University. We expect them to be good scholars and researchers in the upcoming years. Therefore, we think we succeeded in implementing our strategic plan.

In order to improve the academic skills of our faculty members, we require that professors at The Department to devote part of their time for the community service. They have also to work with both private and public entities to obtain practical skills. This helps to apply theoretical knowledge in actual work, which will result in improving quality of teaching. The Department also hosts the visiting scholar and visiting researcher program, which accommodates a small number of political scholars and researchers from around the world. Finally, The Department has recently adopted academic standards to assess faculty-members annually to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of their academic work.

4 -Partnership with Foreign Education Institutions:

King Saud University has already established global partnerships and fostering relationships with other institutions across the globe. King Saud University's partnerships with foreign universities provide a huge amount of opportunities for students and staff alike. King Saud University's international cooperation with other institutions offers research opportunities, cultural awareness, international experiences including study abroad programs



and staff and student exchanges. In terms of teaching, King Saud University's international cooperation enhances curriculum development and formed degrees in collaboration with partner institutions. The Department of Political Science has enabled some of its former students to obtain admission to pursue their graduate studies from foreign universities located in France, United States and England.

You can find more information about King Saud University 's partnerships with foreign institutions by visiting: "International Cooperation & Scientific Twinning Department" Please click the link below for further details:

<https://icstd.ksu.edu.sa/en>.

In conclusion, we hope this response clarifies any confusion or misunderstand about some criticisms that the evaluation report concludes. Once again, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to the experts, the chair of the committee and the representatives of HCERES for their efforts and devoted time. The committee members' constructive criticism will be taken into consideration by The Department of Political Science Department. We will always be grateful for the committee members' insights. We are looking forward to meeting you again in the near future.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions. Otherwise, I hope that we can work together successfully again another time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mufleh bin Rabean Al-Kahtany
Dean of College of Law and Political Science



ACCREDITATION DECISION

Bachelor of Law

King Saud University
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

October 2018

SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCERES

HCERES has built its evaluation process based on a set of objectives that higher education institution study programmes must pursue to ensure recognised quality within France and Europe. These objectives are divided up into four fields among which are the accreditation criteria.

As for the "External Evaluation Standards", the accreditation criteria have been specifically designed for foreign programmes. The accreditation criteria were adopted by the Board on June 2016 and are available on the HCERES website (hceres.fr).

The accreditation committee, meeting his accreditation decision, has wholly taken into account the final evaluation report of the study programme. This accreditation decision is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The accreditation decision issued by HCERES shall not grant any rights whatsoever, whether in France or abroad. The decision on training programme accreditation confers an accreditation label and does not infer recognition of the accredited qualifications. The HCERES accreditation process therefore has no impact on the qualifications recognition process in France.

FULFILLMENT OF ACCREDITATION CRITERIA

FIELD 1: AIMS OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Accreditation criterion

The objectives of the study programme with regard to knowledge and skills to be acquired are clearly defined and communicated. Students and other stakeholders are aware of outcomes in terms of job opportunities and further studies.

Assessment of criterion

The objectives of the program are clearly set. The program aims at giving a general legal education which gives students the ability either to join the job market or to further their education in a master's degree program are clear: the program aims at giving a general legal education which gives students the ability either to join the job market or to further their education in a master's degree program.

Those objectives are made available to students in a clear and accessible way.

FIELD 2: POSITION OF THE STUDY PROGRAMME

Accreditation criterion

The study programme has set a comprehensive positioning suited to its objectives and including a clear link with research, scholarly partnerships and/or with the economic and social world, national and/or international partnerships.

Assessment of criterion

The program curriculum takes into account knowledge and skills that are required in the field of law practice. Students are also introduced to more advanced research tools and skills.

The program is a bit defective in that it lacks a strong commitment to the teaching of foreign language. In the same line, the program lacks partnership with foreign institutions. Those which exist have not produced effective results.

FIELD 3: STUDY PROGRAMME TEACHING STRUCTURE

Accreditation criterion

The study program includes a set of teaching units that are coherent, gradual and adapted to all kind of students. The study program allows students to acquire additional skills that are useful for employment or further study.

Internships and projects are included in the study program curriculum. So are Information and Communication Technologies in Education (ICTE) and education innovations. The study program prepares students for the international environment.

Assessment of criterion

The curriculum is thorough. After a refresher year, it offers a gradual deepening of knowledge and skills. It includes both academic and practical skills.

Internships are included as well as mock trials.

FIELD 4: STUDY PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Accreditation criterion

The study programme is implemented by a formally identified and operational teaching team including stakeholder and student participation. It is carried out by an educational team which benefits from clear and

up-to-date data. Methods for checking knowledge are explicitly stated and communicated to students. Teaching and practical professional units are expressed in terms of skills. Anti-fraud measures have been implemented.

Assessment of criteria

The management of the program follows the latest international standard. It is well structured with a strong commitment to quality assurance.

Processes are in place and are documented.

FINAL ASSESSMENT

Considering the accreditation criteria analysis detailed above, the accreditation committee issues the following decision:

"Five-year unreserved accreditation decision: 2018-2023"

and draws attention to the following points:

- It is important that the bachelor's staff and the College of Law pay more attention to foreign languages in the curriculum and to develop foreign exchanges of students and faculty.
- A particular attention must be paid to hire more female faculty to cover all topics of the curriculum, at least one female full professor.

SIGNATURE

For HCERES and on behalf of



Michel Cosnard
Président



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Michel COSNARD,

Président

Date: Paris, October 29th, 2018

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