



Damascus University

Introduction, Challenges, and development

Fadi Al Shalabi

Director of International and Cultural Relations

Council of Mediterranean Universities

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Damascus University

Established in 1923

The university consists of:

- 22 Faculties (Damascus: 16, Dara'a:3, Sweida: 3)
- 5 Higher Institutes
- 1600 Academic Staff
- 120 000 Students (regular learning)
- 60 000 Students (open learning)

Faculties of Damascus University

Faculty of Medicine	Faculty of Sciences	Faculty of Human Sciences (Dara'a)
Faculty of Dentistry	Faculty of Human Sciences	Faculty of Education (Dara'a)
Faculty of Pharmacology	Faculty of Economics	Faculty of Economics (Dara'a)
Faculty of Civil Engineering	Faculty of Political Sciences	Faculty of Human Sciences (Sweida)
Faculty of Architecture	Faculty of Law	Faculty of Education (Sweida)
Faculty of Mechanical&Electrical Engineering	Faculty of Islamic Studies	Faculty of Agriculture (Sweida)
Faculty of IT	Faculty of Education	
Faculty of Agriculture	Faculty of Fine arts	

The Higher Institutes at Damascus University

The Higher Institute of Administrative Development

The Higher Institute of Research and Earthquake Studies

The Higher Institute of Laser Studies

The Higher Institute of Languages

The Higher Institute of Translation and Interpretation

Damascus University has seven big hospitals in all medical fields

Numbers of Academic staff and Students at the Faculties of Damascus University

Faculty	NO of Academic Staff	No. of Students
Faculty of Medicine	233	4671
Faculty of Dentistry	67	1539
Faculty of Pharmacology	47	1848
Faculty of Civil Engineering	122	2458
Faculty Architecture	33	1036
Faculty of Mechanical&Electrical Engineering	190	6166
Faculty of IT	13	1212
Faculty of Agriculture	142	2663
Faculty of Sciences	162	8053

Numbers of Academic staff and Students at the Faculties of Damascus University

Faculty	No. of Academic Staff	No. of Students
Faculty of Human Sciences	254	41975
Faculty of Economics	86	11474
Faculty of Political sciences	22	751
Faculty of Law	52	14396
Faculty of Islamic Studies	36	9286
Faculty of Education	73	8250
Faculty of Fine Arts	51	921
Faculties of Dara'a	-	648
Faculties of Sweida	-	705
Total	1580	118052

Number of Academic Programs

Field	BA	MA	PhD
Medical Sciences	3	34	14
Eng. Sciences	31	39	12
Basic Sciences	18	13	8
Human Sciences	28	43	18
Fine Arts	5	5	/

The Challenges

As most of the academic institutions all over the world have challenges, Damascus University has the following :

- Too many students especially in the theoretical faculties.
- The members of academic staff have done their higher study in different countries.
- The Quality assurance process is still in its first steps

The Challenges

- Members of academic staff are not fully dedicated to teach and to do scientific research at Damascus University.
- They work at other Arab and Foreign Universities
- The Student- teacher ratio is not suitable at many faculties especially in the human sciences and Islamic studies.

The steps of Development

- Horizontal Expansion: New branches have been opened in Dara'a and Sweida to form cores of independent universities in the future.
- Build new buildings: 183473 sq. m will be in service in the next three years.
- The issuance of the new Universities' Regulation Law, its executive text, and its financial decree.

The steps of Development

- Appoint and send more teacher assistants to get their MAs and PhDs to cover the new departments and requirements of the university.
- Establish a Center for Quality Assurance that is currently doing the following:
 1. Develop the university's mission statement.
 2. Develop strategic objectives out of the mission.
 3. Start the process of self evaluation.
 4. Participate in international quality assurance projects

The steps of Development

- Create joint postgraduate programs with international universities. These programs aim at covering the needs of the labour market. We have 8 programs so far.
- Establishing new faculties and departments like the faculty of tourism and the departments of Spanish language and literature and the German language department.
- Establish a general committee for scientific research (on the national level)

The steps of Development

- Have more financial resources through the open and parallel learning systems.
- Build partnerships with prestigious international universities.
- Activate the work with the international organisations like UNESCO and CMU
- Strengthen the links between the university and the society.

Proposals Of Damascus University

- Taking into our considerations the aims of the CMU and especially inspiring closer relationships among the people of the Mediterranean basin and also to set up permanent links among our universities, Damascus University suggests the following:

Proposals Of Damascus University

1. Summer course for a period of 2 weeks under the title

“Impact of the Arabic and Islamic Culture on the Mediterranean Area”

2. A workshop on the topic of:

“Bologna Process and the Mediterranean Universities”

“Impact of the Arabic and Islamic Culture on the Mediterranean Area”

- Choose three Mediterranean cities (Damascus, a city in Tunisia, and a City in Spain) to make a comparative study among them in terms of archaeology and architecture focusing mainly on the common features of the Umayyad influence.
- Students are invited to participate in this course from all Mediterranean universities.

“Impact of the Arabic and Islamic Culture on the Mediterranean Area”

- We also suggest that the students visit the other two cities to do the practical side.
- Damascus University is ready to host 30 students for the period of the course providing them all the needed facilities.
- We suggest that this event becomes an annual tradition with a different topic every year. These groups will be cores for future cultural dialogue.

“Bologna Process and the Mediterranean Universities”

- Syria, like all other countries can't stay isolated from the developments in Europe.
- There is a growing need to adapt our systems with the regulations of Bologna Process.
- There has been a conference entitled *“Syria Towards Bologna”* last February and we will have one in June on the *“Internationalisation of the Syrian Higher Education”*.

“Bologna Process and the Mediterranean Universities”

- What has been done in this field is not enough.
- We would like to invite experts from both sides of the Mediterranean to discuss the adaptation of Bologna Process and its consequences.
- See the experiences of the countries which have applied its regulations.
- This will be a perfect opportunity to discuss our project regarding the implementation of a Mediterranean higher education area.



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Thank You