Title: Benchmarking Policy

Code: GU-PL37BM

Version: 3.1

Date of Issue: 2023

Effective Date: July 2023

Approval Authority: Board of Trustees

Document Owner: Vice President for Academic Affairs

Review: The policy is subject to a periodic review every 4 years or in a shorter cycle as per amendments of university policies and regulations

1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the benchmarking process at Gulf University as part of the quality assurance and development framework.

2. Scope

The document applies to all programs at Gulf University.

3. Acronyms

BQA	Education and Training Quality Authority
C-PRDC	College Program Review and Development Committee
GU	Gulf University
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
QADC	Quality Assurance and Development Centre
U-PRDC	University Program Review and Development Committee

4. Definitions

Benchmarking: Benchmarking involves comparing an institution's processes and practices against good practices in other Higher Education Institutions.

Course: A course is composed of teaching and learning activities which guide and support students towards the attainment of a set of learning outcomes. A course is the smallest unit of teaching and learning activities at Gulf University.

Program: A program is a carefully designed and structured series of teaching and learning activities which support and guide students towards the achievement of the intended learning outcomes set for it.

5. Policy Statement

5.1 GU ensures that benchmarking process supports and complies with the University's vision, mission, and strategic goals.

5.2 GU ensures that benchmarking process complies with regulations and requirements of BQA.
.

5.3 GU is committed to benchmark all of its programs against other comparable programs in good practicing local, regional, and international higher educational institutions.

5.4 GU benchmarking includes best practices benchmarking, program and course benchmarking, organizational benchmarking, data benchmarking and process benchmarking.

5.5 GU ensures that benchmarking activities are characterized by commitments to learn from best practices, identify gaps in current program(s), implement possible improvements arising from the benchmarking outcomes.

5.6 GU adopts both quantitative and qualitative approaches in its benchmarking activities through looking at practices, processes, approaches, and frameworks.

6. Responsibilities

Academic staff members are responsible for:

- Following this policy appropriately.

Heads of Departments are responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

Deans are responsible for:

- Ensuring that all Departments follow this document.
- Appropriate implementation of this document.

C-PRDC and U-PRDC are responsible for:

- Following this policy appropriately.

QADC is responsible for:

- Ensuring that all Departments follow this document.
- Appropriate implementation of this document.

Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for:

- Appropriate implementation of this document.

University Policy Development and Review Committee is responsible for:

- Systematic review of the effectiveness of this document as custodian.

7. Related Policies

- Policy of Mapping Programs to National Qualifications
- Program Design, Development and Approval Policy
- Program Review and Development Policy

8. Related Procedures

- Procedures of Mapping Programs to National Qualifications
- Program Design, Development and Approval Procedures
- Program Review and Development Procedures

9. Related References and Standards

BQA	Institutional Review Handbook
BQA	National Qualifications Framework Handbook
BQA	Programs-within-College Reviews Handbook