

## EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION DOCUMENTS

### **Bachelor of Law**

College of Law

Qatar University

Qatar

**March 2023**

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## **EVALUATION REPORT**

**Bachelor of Law**

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Qatar University

Qatar

**December 2022**

Qatar University has mandated the Hcéres to perform the evaluation of its Bachelor of Law program. The evaluation is based on the “External Evaluation Standards” of foreign study programs, adopted by the Hcéres Board on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

On account of exceptional circumstances, the organization of the evaluation was adapted (replacement of the physical onsite visit by the panel by a visit by videoconference), while remaining compliant with the fundamental principles of institution or study program evaluation: external evaluation standard applied, the self-evaluation report (SER) and requested annexes sent by the institution, panel of experts set up by Hcéres, collegial work by the panel, interviews with the institution and its partners by videoconference, report drafted and then sent to the institution in its provisional and then final version, response by the institution to the report by the panel. This specific procedure is in line with the official position defined jointly by EQAR and ENQA.<sup>1</sup>

On behalf of the experts committee<sup>2</sup> :

Johanna Guillaumé, President of the committee

For the Hcéres<sup>1</sup> :

Thierry Coulhon, President

In accordance with the decree n°2021-1536, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021,

<sup>1</sup> The evaluation reports "sont signés par le Président du comité". (Article 13) — “are signed by the President of the committee”(article 13).

<sup>2</sup> The President of Hcéres "contresigne les rapports d'évaluation établis par les comités d'experts" (Article 8, alinéa 8) — “countersigns the assessment reports made by the experts' committees” (article 8, alinea 8).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://enqa.eu/index.php/home/enqa-statement-on-covid-19-pandemic/>

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## I. STUDY PROGRAM IDENTITY SHEET

**University/institution:**

Qatar University

**Component, faculty or department concerned:**

College of Law

**Program's title :**

Bachelor of Law

**Year of creation and context:**

Qatar University was established in 1977. It was the first national institution of higher education in the country.

An appointed Board of Regents and the University President govern Qatar University.

Qatar University hosts ten Colleges: College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), College of Business and Economics (CBE), College of Education (CED), College of Engineering (CENG), College of Health Sciences (CHS), College of Law (LAWC), College of Medicine (CMED), College of Pharmacy (CPH), College of Sharia and Islamic Studies (CSIS) and College of Dental Medicine (CDM).

Qatar University offers 48 Bachelors, 32 Masters, 9 Ph.D. programs, 4 Diplomas, and a Doctorate of Pharmacy (PharmD).

Legal studies began in 1993. At that time, the Department of Legal Education was a part of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies. In 2006, The College of Law became a separate entity.

The College of Law is committed to providing its students with legal education. It offers a Bachelor's Degree of Law (LLB). Since 2015, it also offers two master's degrees in Private Law and in Public Law.

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

Qatar University chose to locate in the North of the capital Doha. Qatar University has one campus with two sections, one for male students and one for female students.

Given the health context, the visit to the campus was virtual. The facilities offered to students are very satisfactory: library, computer center, bookstore, medical clinic, mosque, cafeteria, sports facilities, food services, transportation, etc.

The whole campus is modern and offers students an ideal environment.

### PROGRAM DIRECTOR:

- Surname, first name: Dr Muna Al-Marzouqi
- Profession and grade: Dean of the College of Law, Assistant Professor
- Main subject taught: Maritime and Commercial Law.

## METHODS AND RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS ACCREDITATION(S)

### Methodology and agency

In 2016, the Hcéres accredited the Bachelor of Law for five years. In the same year, the College of Law was accredited for four years by the British Accreditation Council (BAC).

In 2016, the Hcéres made several recommendations:

- The number of students has grown exponentially, partly as an answer to the increasing needs of the Country. In that context, the College has changed its enrolment requirements. The College should take care to maintain a high standard of enrolment to be able to maintain its high standard of education.
- The clinical and practical teachings should not be limited to US and Common Law. It should include Qatari Law and practice.
- As far as the content of the classes is concerned, the framework set by the College should maintain sufficient freedom for instructors to adapt to the peculiarities of the students they have in front of them.
- The stability of Faculty members should be a central concern for the long-term policy of the College.
- The College should develop a tool to track systematically the professional career of *alumni*, including gender-based idiosyncrasies.
- The College should consider helping foreign students get a visa of sufficient duration to allow them to complete the program.
- Specific comment: in line with Qatari law and traditions, the College of Law gives a separate education for male and female students. The College should strive to maintain a fair and equal treatment for both groups of students. In particular, since female students are twice as numerous as male students, the efforts and means of the College should be allocated accordingly. In the same way, the pledge of the College to improve the number of female Faculty members has been duly noted and will be a matter of scrutiny".

## HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES DEDICATED TO THE PROGRAMS

### Human resources

#### Teaching staff:

The College of Law relies on 42 full-time faculty members. They can be professors (13), associate professors (10) or assistant professors (19).

The College also relies on 4 Clinical professors : 2 Clinical professors of law and 3 Clinical assistant professors of law.

The majority of the faculty members have a Phd and the majority of the faculty are male.

The College also relies on lecturers and professors assistants.

The number of full-time faculty members has increased steadily since 2015 and has stabilised.

Table 1 – Distribution of the faculty members according to genders

	Professors		Associate Professors		Assistant Professors	
Genders	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	11	2	9	1	16	3

Table 2 – Distribution of the PhD holders among the faculty members

	Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Total
Total	13	10	19	42
Phd	13	10	13	36

Table 3 – Distribution of the faculty members according to their position and specialities

	Professors		Associate Professors		Assistant Professors	
	Public	Private	Public	Private	Public	Private
Public law or Private law	5	8	3	7	5	14

The faculty is large and of high quality. It has a variety of profiles in terms of legal specialities.

The Faculty is also diverse in terms of nationality of the faculty members, or country in which they graduated. This diversity allows for rich teaching, particularly from the point of view of comparative law.

The administrative staff consists of 18 people.

## STUDENT POPULATION: EVOLUTION AND TYPOLOGY OVER THE LAST 4 YEARS

### Evolution of registered Bachelor students

	Total	Male	Female
Fall 2017	267	84	183
Fall 2018	243	61	182
Fall 2019	196	62	134
Fall 2020	204	53	151

The program student population is composed by a majority of Qatari students and a majority of female students.

From 2017 to 2021, there is a decrease in the number of enrolments : over the last two years it amounts to 22%.

Nevertheless, the number of students enrolled in the Bachelor program for the year 2021 is not indicated in the self-report. During the visit, the number of students admitted in the fall of 2021 was communicated: this number amounts to 4712 for all the Colleges of the University, including 247 for the College of Law.

The comparatively low number of students enrolled in the College of Law is a consequence of the University's strategic policy.

## II. ON-LINE VISIT DESCRIPTION

### COMPOSITION OF THE EXPERTS PANEL

- Johanna Guillaumé, Full Professor of Law, University of Rouen Normandy, Dean of the College of Law, Chair of the panel;
- Mathieu Cardon, Associate Professor of Law and Lawyer, University Jean Moulin Lyon 3;
- Guilhem Julia, Associate Professor of Law, Sorbonne University Paris Nord;
- Zakia Mestari, Phd student in Law, Toulouse Capitole University.

The Hcéres was represented by Michelle Houppé, Head of project in the Europe and International Department.

### ON-LINE VISIT DESCRIPTION

- Date of the visit:

The visit took place from Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> to Monday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Given the health context, the visit was held virtually through online meetings organised by Qatar University.

- Summary of the proceedings:

Before the visit was conducted, the self-assessment report had been received by the experts. A proposed planning for the visit was discussed and approved by the experts.

The e-visit went ahead according to the planning.

Meetings and visits were scheduled morning and afternoon for both days.

- Organisation of the visit:

#### **Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

- Opening session: Dean of the College of Law.
- Presentation of the Bachelor and Discussion: Dean of College (Dr. Muna Al-Marzouqi), Associate Dean for Research and Graduate (Dr. Nisrin Mahasneh), Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Dr. Aisha Al Ammari), Head of the Legal Skills

Department (Dr. Mohamed Mattar), Head of the Private Law Department (Dr. Imad Kattan), Head of the Public Law Department (Dr. Ahmed Hassanein).

- Virtual tour on the Campus.
- Bachelor Teaching Staff: Dr. Francis Botchway, Dr. Ioannis Konstantindis, Dr. Jon Truby, Mr. Saber Gdiri, Mr. Charles Schnurman, Dr. Mohsien Al-Marri, Dr. Hamad Alhbaby.
- Bachelor students.
- *Alumni* and Employers from Bachelor and Masters.

#### **Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

- Quality assurance: Head of the International Relations and Quality Assurance Committee (Dr. Mohamed Mattar), Dr. Andrew Dahdal, Dr. Rafael Brown, Dr. Faisal AlAhbabi.
- Closing session for the programs: Dean of College (Dr. Muna Al-Marzouqi), Associate Dean for Research and Graduate (Dr. Nisrin Mahasneh), Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Dr. Aisha Al Ammari,), Head of the Legal Skills Department (Dr. Mohamed Mattar), Head of the Private Law Department (Dr. Imad Kattan), Head of the Public Law Department (Dr. Ahmed Hassanein).

- Cooperation of study program and institution to be accredited:

The College of Law of Qatar University has been cooperative throughout the process.

The self-evaluation report was sent in advance, according to the agreed schedule. It was supplemented by documents in the appendix.

The Committee is absolutely satisfied that the conclusion reached is based on fair and full disclosure of all relevant information.

### **III. PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM**

#### **1 – PRESENTATION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM**

The College of Law offers an undergraduate degree program: the Bachelor of Law. This 4-year program does not offer any minor: it only offers major in Law.

To be admitted to the Bachelor of Law program, it is not enough to meet the minimum academic requirements (High school percentage requirements). Each college has its own capacity, so students are admitted according to the number of applicants and the capacity of the College of Law. The College of Law has chosen not to accept too many students.

Qatari students are in principle exempt from paying tuition fees. For those students who have to pay fees, Qatar University offers various financial aid/scholarship options to students. These financial aid packages take into account either the academic level of the student or the financial needs of the student if his/her financial situation prevents him/her from continuing his/her university studies.

The College of Law established three specialized departments: Private Law, Public Law and Legal Skills Department.

The Bachelor of Law program consists of core courses (required courses) and elective courses. The majority of the courses are taught in Arabic language, the remainder is taught in English. Most of the

courses are devoted to local law, but comparative law is also present, including in courses that are not specifically concerned with comparative law.

The College of Law offers graduates of the Bachelor of Law the possibility to continue their studies at Qatar University, enrolling either in a Master of Public Law or in a Master of Private Law. It is also possible for students to enter the job market once they have obtained their Bachelor's degree, as the programme includes a real professional dimension. Indeed, the program seeks to achieve a set of learning outcomes necessary for the practice of law.

A minimum of 123 credit hours are required to complete the major in Law, including the following:

- A minimum of 33 credit hours in core curriculum requirements.
- A minimum of 66 credit hours of major requirements.
- A minimum of 24 credit hours of major electives.

To graduate, students must complete all academic requirements of their program with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.00 on a 4-point scale.

## 2 - PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAM'S SELF-EVALUATION APPROACH

The self-evaluation report is 48 pages long. The report is supplemented by annexes, which are not always easily accessible.

The report on the Bachelor's degree is sometimes very similar to the reports on the Master's degrees, there is a lot of copying and pasting of text. It was therefore sometimes difficult to identify the specificities of the Bachelor's program. In this respect, the virtual visits and the discussions with the stakeholders were helpful.

# IV. EVALUATION REPORT

## 1 - AIMS OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

The Bachelor of Law at Qatar University aims to provide an education of excellence in law. The study program is built around a base of theoretical courses aimed at ensuring that students know the fundamentals of law and numerous practical courses allowing real practice and development of legal skills during the four years of the Bachelor's degree. The Bachelor of Law is experiencing a growing number of applications which makes admissions very competitive.

The Bachelor of Law aims at two goals, both well known by students. First, a professional purpose since graduates can enter the labor market both in the private sector (law firms, international companies...) and in the public sector (ministry of justice, district attorney, public agencies...). The skills acquired during the Bachelor are varied. They are both oral and written skills. Students learn legal reasoning through the study of real cases but also, in a more concrete way, to write contracts, legal briefs, etc. Graduates can therefore put these skills to immediate use in the job market.

The second purpose of the Bachelor concerns the pursuit of further academic studies. Graduates can apply for the two Masters (Private Law and Public Law) offered by Qatar University since 2015 for which the Bachelor of Law is a prerequisite. They are encouraged to do so. They are thus trained in the major exercises of legal methodology (comments, essays) which allow them to develop the fundamental legal skills which will be improved in the Masters.

The teaching staff make the syllabus of their courses available to the College of Law as well as to the students at the beginning of the semester. Students therefore have access to a summary of the content of the courses they will follow and are aware of the evaluation requirements, whether compulsory courses or elective courses. These courses are taught in Arabic and in English. Qatar

being an important international financial and trade hub, students are able to work in both languages, which opens up many opportunities for them. Similarly, the opening of the Bachelor to foreign law is right in line with Qatar being a very open market.

During the Bachelor of Law, students are already in contact with the practitioners thanks to an externship program supervised by Faculty members as well as Law clinics allowing them to develop their legal skills during the program. This externship program fosters many job opportunities and adds value for further employment in the public and private sectors.

**To conclude, the objectives of the training, both in terms of knowledge and skills to be acquired and in terms of opportunities, are defined and known by students who choose either to enter the labor market or to pursue in one of the two masters launched in 2015. The skills developed during the study program are in line with the socio-professional world the graduates are destined to integrate.**

## 2 – POSITION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

Independent of the College of Sharia and Islamic Studies since 2006, the College of Law has registered a steady growth of the number of students admitted in recent years, reaching 247 first-year admissions in fall 2021. From this perspective, the College of Law is not the primary component of Qatar University, compared to the other Colleges (number of students admitted in fall 2021: Arts & Sciences 1035, Business and Economics 844, Engineering 802, Sharia and Islamic Studies 753). Nevertheless, this policy of selecting a smaller number of students than the other components seems to be well assumed by the management. In fact, the level required for admission is a minimum average score of 70% on the general secondary education certificate, the objective being to set it at 75%; in any case, capacity is limited.

Apart from Qatar University, another public university offers a bachelor's degree in private law only, The College of Law of Lusail University in partnership with Hassan II University in Casablanca; however, unlike Qatar University where enrolment is free, admission to Lusail University is subject to tuition fees. Other Qatari institutions offer a bachelor's degree in law, but it is often paired with other specific training, such as the Department of Law of The Military College or the Department of Law of The Police College.

There does not seem to be any real competition in Qatar; moreover, there is no national ranking of the training with comparable diplomas. The main competing degrees should be specifically examined in the regional context of the Middle East and North Africa ("MENA"). Qatar University, not the College, appears ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> among universities in the Arab world according to the Times Higher Education ("THE") ranking. The College welcomes 13% of foreign students, mainly from the MENA region, including Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and United Arab Emirates... A significant proportion of the faculty members are either from other countries in the region or other parts of the world, or have received their academic training there; this important cultural richness is rendering the training offer appreciated and attractive.

To the extent that the study program under evaluation is an undergraduate degree, it is normal to note the absence of link between the program properly speaking and the existence of a scientific research activity; nevertheless, research is not ignored.

At the level of the teaching team, faculty members are encouraged to publish, particularly on topics related to Qatari legal issues. The College encourages the Faculty members to publish in journals notably indexed in Scopus. The University is providing financial incentives for qualified publications. It is worth mentioning a journal published by the University, The International Review of Law (IRL) which is a biannual, internationally peer-reviewed and open access law journal, first issued in 2012 under Qatar University College of Law and published by Qatar University Press (QU Press). The review is used by researchers at the College as a support for publications in Arabic, English, and French. At their level, the students of the program also carry out some research activities through certain elements of their training, notably through clinical programs. A course entitled "Legal Research & Writing" (I

LAWC 300 & II LAWC 310) and “Principles of Legal Research » appear to initiate the students to legal research.

The program provides students with opportunities for close ties with different categories of professional partners. First, all students are now required to complete a 120-hour internship amounting for 3 credits, usually during the second semester of their fourth year. It mostly takes place in a law firm, from a list of 200 pre-selected on the basis of pre-established criteria, or with a public administration, government authority or private institution. The report written by the trainee at the end of the internship gives rise to a formal presentation. Then, the members of the College of Law and their students are particularly involved in public interest missions. Furthermore, almost all Faculty members are consultants for a government department or agency depending on their area of expertise. In addition, the College of Law seems to have links with international organizations (World Bank Group, International Monetary Fund...). Eventually, *alumni* also regularly invited to speak at the College of Law, providing students with the viewpoint and experience of professionals.

The University and/or the College of Law claims to have a number of partnership or cooperation memoranda of understanding with foreign academic institutions. As examples, the one concluded with the National University of Ireland, University College Cork, the goal of which is to develop academic exchanges, and cooperation in areas of common interest, or another one concluded with the Boston University School of Law focused on the development of an educational training program on counter-terrorist financing (2018). Others are established with international organizations like the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2016. Partnerships with foreign universities are also based on the close relationship that individual professors may have with their university of training or origin (mainly from USA, Europe and MENA Region).

**To conclude, Qatar University is almost the only university in Qatar to offer such training. The College of Law assumes the choice of a low enrolment. The training is open to Qatari and foreign students, mainly from the MENA region. The Faculty is marked by its cultural richness, which is recognized and appreciated. Logically, since it is a bachelor’s degree, there is no true link between the study program properly speaking and the existence of a scientific research activity. Mainly through the mandatory internship (8<sup>th</sup> semester), the program provides students with links to professionals, including law firms, government authorities and private institutions. Through their faculty members, students are committed to serving the public interest, such as providing free legal assistance to underserved populations. The links with foreign academic institutions are made through partnership or cooperation memoranda of understanding with a few foreign academic institutions, and through the individual relationships of some members of the Faculty, characterized by its cultural heterogeneity.**

### 3 – STUDY PROGRAM TEACHING STRUCTURE

The program consists of core courses that are required and optional courses. Some of the required courses are not part of the major (33 credits hours), while others are part of the major (66 credits hours). Among the required courses that are not part of the law major, an important place is given to the teaching of languages, Arabic as well as English. In this way, the Law College gives students the opportunity to take full advantage of the legal subjects taught in English.

The elective courses (24 credits hours) offered to students are numerous and they respect the principle of progressive specialisation thanks to the system of prerequisites. The whole program and the elective courses offered to the students are very clearly accessible to the students, notably thanks to the study plan.

The law courses offered enable students to acquire the knowledge expected at the end of a Bachelor of Law degree, both in public and private law, both in domestic and international law. Most of the courses concern local law, but the knowledge of foreign legal systems by the faculty members (who are of foreign nationality or who have obtained their doctorate abroad) makes it possible to introduce a very interesting comparative law dimension into the courses. Knowledge of foreign legal

systems enhances the employability of graduates, especially in the private sector.

The academic courses are complemented by practical teaching, which enables students to acquire the skills relevant to legal practice. For example, students follow a course on "Legal research and writing". In addition, students apply the knowledge acquired during the academic courses. The practical dimension of legal learning is particularly strong:

- The Law clinic allows students to deal with "real" cases ;
- The "Legal labs" provide the opportunity to teach some courses in the degree program (Introduction to Law, Criminal Law, Commercial Law, Criminal procedures, Civil commercial procedures and Contracts). These practical courses are given in small groups of students and aim to improve the practical skills necessary for the legal profession.
- The compulsory internship, which allows students to experience the job market, is also a key element of the program.

Special mention should be made of the existence of an original department: the Legal Skills Department. This department is responsible for teaching fundamental aspects of legal practice: students learn to read court decisions, to understand and analyse legal texts, to identify the competent court, to identify the relevant legal rule, etc. The "Legal labs", the internship, the Law clinic, in other words the practical dimension of the teaching of law falls within the competence of this Legal Skills Department. The College relies on 5 Clinical teachers: 2 Clinical professor of law and 3 Clinical assistant professor of law, teachers who are specifically assigned to the Legal Skills Department.

In addition to legal knowledge and skills, the program allows students to acquire an English language level. Indeed, in addition to the English language courses (Core curriculum program), part of the legal teaching is done in English, including the legal skills courses:

- for required courses: 66 credit hours, 57 are taught in Arabic and 9 are taught in English ;
- for elective courses: students must choose 8 courses from two lists of courses. In one list the courses are taught in Arabic, in the other they are taught in English.

The system therefore allows the student to choose not only the law courses, but also the language of instruction. The opportunity for students to study in English is particularly appreciated by students, as English language skills are valued in the job market, especially in the private sector (especially in the international trade and arbitration sector) and also, albeit to a lesser extent, in the public sector. This competence offered to students enrolled in the bachelor's degree is a strength of the program.

The Bachelor of Law Moot Court program is particularly interesting because it allows students to put into practice the academic knowledge and various practical skills acquired during the training by participating in regional and international competitions.

The aims of the program, the study plan for the Bachelor of Law, the graduation requirements and the learning outcomes are clearly defined.

**To conclude, the program enables graduates to acquire the legal knowledge expected at the end of a Bachelor of law degree. It enables students to have a thorough knowledge of local law. The knowledge acquired allows graduates to continue to the master level or to enter professional work. Indeed, beyond academic knowledge, the program allows students to acquire practical legal skills, as well as additional skills of reasoning, writing and critical thinking. In addition to the academic and practical dimensions, the program also offers an international dimension, with comparative law and English. This dimension is particularly interesting from the point of view of the labour market, especially the private sector.**

## 4 – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The Bachelor of Law program relies on the three departments of the College of Law: the public law department, the private law department and the legal skills department, one-of-a-kind in Arab universities. There is not a specific management committee or council dedicated to the Bachelor of law program. However, the Bachelor management seems to be correctly covered thanks to the different committees at the College of Law level.

The Dean and the College council are in charge of the connection between the College level and the University Level.

Nevertheless, the Bachelor management organization seems a bit complex because of the many committees. It is difficult to identify the committees whose functions are sometimes crossed. Moreover, there are many differences between the list of the committees mentioned in the self-evaluation report and the description given by the College of Law members during the visit. It is also regrettable that the Faculty does not seem to be well informed about the management organization. It appears that many teaching members are not concretely involved in the different committees.

The teaching staff includes some law practitioners and displays a remarkable richness regarding its multiple origins. The courses are provided by teachers coming from different countries such as Qatar, Jordan, but also UK, USA, or Australia. The differences of cultures and trainings are very beneficial to Bachelor students because it stimulates their open-mindedness. For instance, in addition to Qatari law courses, Common law and French law courses are provided to students.

Knowledge assessment is possible thanks to communication tools and various kinds of exams. Teachers provide different types of exercises, in accordance with the needs of the students. The communication of the courses objectives is provided thanks to the syllabi. Regarding the students assessment, a review process is implemented; it allows the students to take a look at their evaluation. The students can also evaluate each course thanks to a precise and anonymized evaluation class form.

Concerning the communication between the students and the teaching staff, the Blackboard tool offers many educational opportunities and was very effective during these last two years of pandemic. The College of law reaction to COVID pandemic was very quick and effective. As a result, the teaching and the communication with students have not been stopped during the pandemic.

The graduates monitoring is ensured at the level of the University thanks to an “*Alumni group task*”. This task relies mainly on the *Alumni* association whose members are invited to the Annual University congress. At that time, the graduate students share their professional experiences and opportunities with current students, specifically regarding the externship program. An improvement could consist in the implementation of a permanent graduates monitoring process.

The quality of the Bachelor of law program is evaluated by the Quality assurance committee on the basis of a self-assessment evaluation. Created in 2016, following the previous Hcéres accreditation, this committee has been recently modified to take into account the international standards of quality, especially standards regarding ethics and non-discrimination. This committee takes place at the level of the University but all the College of law committees are involved in the Bachelor of law quality evaluation.

**To conclude, the management of the Bachelor of Law program is handled by a complex but comprehensive committee organization. The teaching staff is very involved in the content of the courses and very concerned about the students' interest. However, this staff should be more involved in the management process.**

**The diversity of the teaching staff is very beneficial to the Bachelor of Law program. The quality of the Bachelor of Law programs is evaluated by the Quality assurance committee in accordance with the international standards of quality and ethics.**

## V. CONCLUSION

### STRENGTHS:

- Diversity of faculty members (country/university of PhD, nationality) which gives rise to a cultural richness that is reflected in the teaching, particularly in comparative law.
- English language courses and the law courses taught in English.
- Availability of teachers to students.
- The existence of the Department of Legal skills.

### WEAKNESSES:

- No institutional method of monitoring Bachelor of Law graduates: there are no official statistics concerning the professional integration of graduates or their further studies.
- Complex management structure.

### RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE INSTITUTION

Overall, the recommendations of the previous evaluation by Hcéres have been taken into consideration.

Following the recommendation of the previous evaluation by Hcéres stating that “The College should take care to maintain a high standard of enrolment to be able to maintain its high standard of education”, the panel noticed it is respected. In fact, to be admitted to the Bachelor of Law program, it is not enough to meet the minimum academic requirements, also because the capacity is limited.

Another recommendation concerned the stability of Faculty members. To date, this point does not raise any question: the teaching staff is large and of high quality; it offers a variety of profiles in terms of legal specialities; many of them have been teaching at Qatar University for many years.

The College of Law is strongly committed to achieving excellence in the Bachelor in Law program. However, there are still areas for improvement.

For these different reasons, the panel of experts makes the following recommendations:

- The management structure is complex and not all faculty members are familiar with it. In order to make steering effective, it would therefore be beneficial either to simplify the existing structure or to provide more information about the existing structure.
- There is very good communication within the College of Law, between teachers and students. This facilitated communication and the availability of the faculty members allowed for a very good management of the health crisis. But there is no institutional monitoring of graduates, i.e. a structure that sets up a process to monitor graduates at specific times, in order to assess their professional integration within a predefined framework (nature of employment, level of employment, remuneration, etc.). A more institutionalized follow-up would make possible to ensure a good adaptation of the curriculum to the needs of the job market. This work is done generally at the university level, but the results are not precise enough for law graduates.

The place of English language, in particular through law courses in English, is a strong point of the program. In order to further develop the international dimension of the program, the College of Law could continue to develop international partnerships. For example, it would be interesting to consider the opportunity for students to spend a semester in a foreign university or to do an internship abroad.

Enhancing the international dimension of the program - which already exists - would better prepare students for a professional life or further studies abroad or for the practice of law in relation to foreign legal systems.

## VI. COMMENTS OF THE INSTITUTION



### The Bachelor's Program Report

According to Qatar vision 2030 "Qatar aims to build a modern world-class education system that provides students with high quality education, comparable to offered anywhere in the world. The system will provide citations with excellent training and opportunities to students to develop their full potential, preparing them for success in a changing world with increasingly complex technical requirements. The system will also encourage analytical and critical thinking, as well as creativity and innovation. It will promote social cohesion and respect for Qatari society's values and heritage, and will advocate for constructive interaction with other nations"

For achieving the goals of legal education, Qatar University College of Law adopts the international standards embodied in the academic accreditation provided by the French Agency for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES).

We are pleased that the HCERES Report identifies the positive elements of our bachelor's program, including the facilities we offer to our students, which the report describes as "satisfactory", providing "an ideal environment for learning."

The Report also recognizes the "high quality" of our faculty, its "diversity" that "allows for rich teaching," "remarkable richness," including "cultural richness." Indeed, we choose a faculty that reflects the four main members of the legal family, the civil law traditions, the Anglo-American law, Islamic law and mixed jurisdictions. As acknowledged by the Report, we incorporate comparative models of law into our curriculum. We also offer a specific course on the Anglo-American legal system. This is one of the numerous elective courses that are available for our students under what the Report eloquently describes as an application of the "principle of progressive specialization." I might add here that while the bachelor's degree does not entail a "minor", it allows for three specialized tracks in Commercial Law, Criminal Law and Lawyering skills. This third track is designed to encourage our students to practice the legal profession as lawyers. We are now considering a fourth track to cover courses taught in the English language. We would like to encourage our students to study more courses in the English language. Offering law courses in English was identified by the Report as one of the strengths of the bachelor's program. The Report explicitly states, that "Qatar being an important international financial and trade hub, students are able to work in both languages (Arabic and English) which opens up many opportunities for them."

There has been a considerable shift in our teaching methodologies towards experimental education. The Report thoroughly highlights this new development referring in particular to the law clinics, the moot courts, the legal labs and the mandatory Externship Program, the four major components of the Legal Skills Department, which the Report describes as "an original department," and "one of a kind in Arab universities." The Report concludes that "the practical dimension" of the bachelor's program "is particularly strong" since "the students are already in contact with the practitioners" and they "learn legal reasoning through the study of real cases," which enhances the "employability of graduates" in the job market.

I have to concur with the findings of the Report and its recommendations. Our College of Law should develop at the college level a better system of alumni relations, or as the Report calls for the "implementation of a Permanent Graduates Monitoring Process." We are also paying more attention to the international aspects of our program. We agree that we need to increase our partnerships and collaborations with foreign academic institutions. Currently, we are finalizing Fulbright Scholarships with the United States and negotiating academic exchange initiatives including visiting professors and study abroad programs.



Dr. Talal Abdulla Al-Emadi  
Dean of College of Law  
Qatar University



تليفون: ٤٤٠٣٥٢٥٤ - ٤٤٠٣٥٢٥٤ فاكس: ٤٤٠٣٥٢٥٤ (+٩٧٤) ص.ب: ٢٧١٣ - الدوحة - قطر  
Tel.: (+974) 4403 5252 - 4403 5254 Fax: (+974) 4403 5253 P.O.Box: 2713, Doha - Qatar  
E-mail: law@qu.edu.qa Web: www.qu.edu.qa



International evaluation and accreditation

## ACCREDITATION DECISION

**Bachelor of Law**

College of Law

Qatar University

Qatar

**March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023**

## SCOPE OF THE ACCREDITATION GRANTED BY HCÉRES

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

The Accreditation Commission issues an opinion about the accreditation of the program after examining the file. The Hcéres President takes the decision based on the Commission's opinion and the final evaluation report of the program. This accreditation decision, taken in plenary session, is the result of a collegial and reasoned process.

The decision issued by Hcéres regarding the accreditation of the program corresponds to the awarding of a label to the evaluated entity.

This decision is independent of the accreditations carried out by the French State and therefore does not entail recognition in France of the Institution's diplomas.

## **Decision No.2023- 14 on the accreditation of the Bachelor of Law delivered by Qatar University - College of Law - Qatar.**

### **The President of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education,**

Considering the Research Code, in particular Articles L. 114-3-1 to L. 114-3-6;

Considering the Decree No. 2021-1536 of November 29<sup>th</sup> 2021 on the organisation and operation of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the Council's deliberation of October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 on the evaluation of foreign study programmes - external evaluation reference framework;

Considering the Decision No. 2023-9 of March 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 on the international accreditation procedure of the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education;

Considering the agreement No.20210309 – Qatar University with the Qatar University for the evaluation/accreditation of the Bachelor of Law ;

Considering the opinion issued by the Accreditation Commission of March 20<sup>th</sup> 2023,

### **Decides:**

#### **Article 1**

Noting that the Bachelor of Law delivered by Qatar University meets the four accreditation criteria, voted by the council of the High Council on October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, as follows:

#### ACCREDITATION CRITERIA 1: AIMS OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

The objectives of the training, both in terms of knowledge and skills to be acquired and in terms of opportunities are defined and known by students who choose either to enter the labour market or to pursue in one of the two masters launched in 2015. The skills developed during the study program are in line with the socio-professional world the graduates are destined to integrate.

#### ACCREDITATION CRITERIA 2: POSITION OF THE STUDY PROGRAM

Qatar University is almost the only university in Qatar to offer such training. The College of Law assumes the choice of a low enrollment. The training is open to Qatari and foreign students, mainly from the Middle East and North Africa ("MENA") region. The teaching team is marked by its cultural richness, which is recognized and appreciated. Logically, since it is a Bachelor's degree, there is no true link between the study program properly speaking and the existence of a scientific research activity. Mainly through the mandatory internship (8<sup>th</sup> semester), the program provides students with links to professionals, including law firms, government authorities and private institutions. Through their faculty members, students are committed to serving the public interest, such as providing free legal assistance to underserved populations. The links with foreign academic institutions are made through partnership or cooperation memoranda of understanding with a few foreign academic institutions, and through the individual relationships of some members of the Faculty, characterized by its cultural diversity.

#### ACCREDITATION CRITERIA 3: STUDY PROGRAM TEACHING STRUCTURE

The program enables graduates to acquire the legal knowledge expected at the end of a Bachelor of law degree. It enables students to have a thorough knowledge of local law. The knowledge acquired allows graduates to continue to the Master level or to enter professional work. Indeed, beyond academic knowledge, the program allows students to acquire practical legal skills, as well as additional skills of reasoning, writing and critical thinking. In addition to the academic and practical dimensions, the program also offers an international dimension, with comparative law and English. This dimension is particularly interesting from the point of view of the labour market, especially the private sector.

#### ACCREDITATION CRITERIA 4: STUDY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

The management of the Bachelor of Law program is handled by a complex but comprehensive committee organization. The teaching staff is very involved in the content of the courses and very concerned about the students' interest. This staff should be more involved in the management process. The diversity of the Faculty is very beneficial to the Bachelor of Law program. The quality of the Bachelor of Law program is evaluated by the Quality assurance committee in accordance with the international standards of quality and ethics.

#### Article 2

The Bachelor of Law delivered by the College of Law of Qatar University is fully accredited for a period of 5 years as from the present decision.

#### Article 3

The decision is accompanied by the following recommendations and comments :

The Accreditation Commission stresses that the steering might be improved and involve the relevant representatives of the training program.

The Accreditation Commission draws attention to the following points:

- The management structure is complex and not all faculty members are familiar with it. In order to make steering effective, it would therefore be beneficial either to simplify the existing structure or to provide more information about the existing structure.
- A more institutionalized follow-up of the professional integration of the graduates would ensure a good adaptation of the curriculum to the needs of the job market.
- In order to further develop the international dimension of the program, the College of Law should continue to develop international partnerships and student outgoing mobility.

#### Article 4

The Director of the Europe and International Department is responsible for the execution of this decision, which will be published on the Hcéres website.

Paris, March 28<sup>th</sup> 2023



2 rue Albert Einstein  
75013 Paris, France  
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

The President  
  
Thierry COUHON



2 rue Albert Einstein  
75013 Paris, France  
T. 33 (0)1 55 55 60 10

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