

Statute Regulating Foreign Universities' Branches

Statute Regulating Foreign Universities' Branches issued by the Council of Universities Affairs, Resolution No. (4/16/45) in its (Sixteenth) meeting, held on 14/02/1445.

Statute Regulating Foreign Universities' Branches

Article 1

The following terms and phrases used herein shall have the meanings assigned thereto unless the context requires otherwise:

The University System: The system of universities issued by Royal Decree No. (M / ٢٧), dated ٢/ ٣/ ١٤٤١ H.

The Statute: The Statute regulating the branches of foreign universities.

Executive Rules: The executive rules of the Statute regulating the branches of foreign universities.

The Council: The Council of Universities' Affairs (CUA)

Minister: The Minister of Education, Chairman of the Council of the Universities' Affairs

General Secretariat: The General Secretariat of the Council of Universities' Affairs

The Committee: The permanent committee to study requests to establish foreign university branches.

Foreign University: An academic institution (university, college, institute, or a similar institution) established outside the Kingdom.

University branch: An entity affiliated with the foreign university and established inside the Kingdom and owned by it through a statutory entity established in the Kingdom.

College: An academic institution consisting of one or more academic departments belonging to a general academic field.

Basic Statute: A legally sanctioned document endorsed by the foreign university including the name of the branch, its headquarters, identification of the legal entity, organizational structure, rules, procedures, and its administrative, financial, and academic policies.

License: A document issued by the General Secretariat - after the approval of the Minister- granting permission to the branch of the foreign university to commence its operations.

Statutory Entity of the University Branch: The entity that owns the foreign university branch within the Kingdom.

Article ٢

The purpose of the Statute is to oversee and govern the establishment of branches of foreign universities.

Article ٣

The establishment of foreign universities branches aims to contribute to the development of the university education and scientific research system in the Kingdom, diversify university education options` within the Kingdom, and provide educational programs aligned with the needs of development and community service. This is within the framework of the educational policy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article ٤

The application for the establishment of a university branch must be formally presented by the foreign university or its authorized representative to the General Secretariat, accompanied by the requisite supporting documentation including the following:

١. Information about the foreign university, including its name, headquarters, establishment date, specializations, points of strength, and its other branches it may have, if any.

- ϣ. A study that clarifies and proves the feasibility of the branch's establishment.
- ϣ. The Basic Statute of the university branch.
- ξ. A document providing a comprehensive overview of the colleges, departments, institutes, research units, and academic specializations constituting the university branch.
- ο. The proposed date of the commencement of study at the university branch.

The Minister has the authority to include additional requirements or grant exceptions to the requirements stipulated in this Article.

Article Ϟ

The committee is formed in the General Secretariat by a decision of the Minister. The issued decision establishing the committee specifies the arrangement of its operations as well as its secretariat. The committee shall be entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing requests for the establishment of university branches and presenting its recommendations to the Council.

Article ϗ

The approval for establishing a foreign university branch shall be in accordance with the Universities' System and any amendments thereto.

Article Ϙ

Upon receiving approval to establish the university branch, the owner of the university branch is obligated to formally submit an application to the General Secretariat in order to obtain a license. The university branch shall not commence its operations prior to the issuance of the license by the General Secretariat. The specific requirements and procedures for obtaining the license are determined by the executive rules.

Article ٨

The General Secretariat shall be entrusted with the following tasks:

١. Reviewing the submitted applications for obtaining, renewal, or modification of licenses as well as putting forth recommendations for approval to the Minister.
٢. Reviewing applications for establishing, termination, or merging colleges or similar entities and recommending their submission to the Council.
٣. Recommending the approval of the appointment of the first official for the university branch and submitting the recommendation to the Minister.
٤. Authorizing the inclusion of additional academic programs in the license of the university branch.
٥. Authorizing the holding of academic events within the university.
٦. Authorizing amendments to the academic system.
٧. Overseeing the operational performance of the university branch.

The General Secretariat is entitled to request assistance and support from public or private entities to execute specific tasks and procedures.

Article ٩

The first official at the university branch in the Kingdom shall be accountable to the Minister.

Article ١٠

Education is delivered in the official language adopted by the foreign university, unless the approval to establish the branch explicitly permits the provision of education in a different language.

Article ١١

The academic diplomas granted by the university branch to its graduates must be officially issued and certified by the foreign university, bearing the name of the branch.

Article ١٢

All staff of the university branch are subject to the provisions outlined in the Labor Law of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article ١٣

The university branch shall provide the requisite financial guarantees as stipulated by the executive regulations of the Statute.

Article ١٤

The university branch is obligated to regularly provide the General Secretariat with the specified data, documents, and information in accordance with the executive regulations. This includes the information, documents, and records of all enrolled students and graduates. The executive regulations of this Statute shall determine the procedures for handling these materials under various circumstances, including instances of the university branch's inactivity or cessation of operations.

Article ١٥

١. The university branch is obligated to maintain an annual budget and periodic financial records in accordance with the accounting standards in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
٢. The annual financial statements of the university branch are audited by an external auditor licensed to work in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article ١٦

The General Secretariat shall determine the financial compensation for the services provided to the university branch such as the issuance, renewal, and amendment of licenses.

Article ١٧

The university branch is mandated to adhere to and maintain the quality standards established for all its academic programs by the Education and Training Evaluation Commission in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Article ١٨

A university branch shall suspend its operations, modify its Basic Statute, or transfer its ownership without obtaining prior approval from the Council.

Article ١٩

In situations where a university branch encounters academic, administrative, or financial challenges, the Council retains the authority to implement requisite decisions and measures to ensure the continuity of students' studies.

Article ٢٠

١. Without prejudice to any more severe penalty stipulated by law, the following penalties shall be applied to violators of the regulations, rules and standards regulating branches of foreign universities - established by the Council or the Minister:
 - a. Issuance of a written warning;
 - b. Temporary reduction of admission numbers in one or more academic programs for a specified period of one or more semesters; and
 - c. Suspension of admission into one or more programs for a stipulated duration, extending across one or more academic semesters; or
 - d. Revocation of the license.
٢. The executive rules shall determine a classification system for violations based on their severity or frequency. Accordingly, the appropriate penalty from the options listed in Paragraph (١) of this Article shall be determined individually for each violation.
٣. The classification encompasses violations that the university branch is obligated to rectify within a specific timeframe or restore the situation to its original state prior to the violation, at the university branch's own expense. In case the specified period expires without the university branch fulfilling its obligations, a new violation shall be incurred.
٤. The executive rules shall determine the procedures for examining violations and appeals along with the authority to enforce the penalties outlined in this Article.

Article ٢١

The Council shall oversee the academic, financial, and administrative governance and performance of the foreign university branch.

Article ٢٢

Unless otherwise specified in the Statute, the prevailing rules, regulations, and decisions in effect in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia shall be applicable.

Article ٢٣

The courts in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have jurisdiction to adjudicate any dispute involving the university branch or any of its employees as parties.

Article ٢٤

The Minister shall enact the executive regulations for this Statute within (٦٠) days of the Council's approval, and the foreign university Council may endorse its own executive regulations in a manner consistent with this Statute and its executive regulations, without conflicting with them.

Article ٢٥

The Council has the right to interpret the Articles in this Statute.

Article ٢٦

This Statute shall be published in the Official Newspaper, and shall be effective from the date of its publication.