**Al-Baha University**

**AL-BAHA UNIVERSITY** is a Saudi academic establishment supervised by the Saudi Ministry of Higher Education was established in 2006 in the city of Al-Baha the capital of Al-Baha province. The university was named after the name of the region "Al-Baha".

It is a public multi-disciplinary teaching university serving the diverse Saudi citizens. The university seeks excellence and innovation in the field of higher education, scientific research and community service. The university is committed to provide opportunities for higher education without discrimination, and preparation graduates to be good citizens and active in their community. The university creates the suitable place and environment to develop the student's abilities, personalities and refine their talents in an Islamic environment.

The university is looking forward to become one of the most important institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It will soon complete its physical and technical infrastructure and will add further developments which are underway for the shining future of the university.

**THE MISSION** of the university is to provide distinguished and comprehensive higher education, research, community service and lifelong learning environment, through utilization of the available resources to ensure the best results. *The university is bilingual, with teaching provided both in Arabic and English.*

**The University Today**

Today, Al-Baha University is home to fourteen academic colleges comprises around 60 departments in four campuses, enrolling approximately 22,000 students and having more than
1000 academic and professional staff members. At present, the university offers over 50 undergraduate programs and 11 different postgraduate programs (8 Master and 3 Graduate Diploma).

Al-Baha University undergraduate courses and programs are offered by various faculties at Al-Baha Campus and affiliated colleges in the four districts of Almandaq, Almikhwah, Baljurashi and Qilwah.

In addition, Al-Baha University was the pioneer in Saudi Arabia to offer Bridging program in different fields of study, and in introducing the Blended developed off campus learning program in different undergraduate courses.

**The University Town**

The main Campus (the university town) enjoys a prime location at Alaqiq (north of Al-Baha city) about 35km away from the center of Al-Baha city. The main campus spread over a vast area of 6.7 km². The new location speaks Al-Baha University future greatness as a multidiscipline institution that actively encourages a broad diversity of faculty and staff.

The university has another four campuses in Almikhwah, Almandaq, Baljurashi and Qilwah districts.

**Academic Collaboration**

The university realize its mission to provide the different faculties and staff members the opportunity to expand their “international perspectives and cross-cultural competence … through building academic relations”. These relations will bring distinguished institutions, scholars, or experts experiences to the university to make developments in all aspects such as curriculum development, and innovative methods of infusing international materials and ideas into courses.

The collaboration program operates within the context of the university plan to support the achievement of the University's strategic plan objectives and contributes to the university's domestic and global positioning by building a
network of carefully managed strategic alliances with other leading universities around the world.

Al Baha University has many academic cooperation agreements with different American Universities aiming of developing postgraduate programs at Al Baha University, exchanging students, and members of the teaching staff.

Al Baha Has signed some collaboration agreements with Ohio University, Florida Atlantic University to develop postgraduate studies the field of education and MPA programs. In addition, an agreement has been signed with University of Connecticut aimed at designing four Al-Baha University the existing undergraduate Engineering programs.

At the beginning of the year 2011, Al-Baha University signed a distinguished academic cooperation agreement with Uppsala University – Sweden aiming at developing postgraduate programs and opening joint Master degree programs in the field of basic sciences (Computer Science, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology).

**Academic Calendar**

Generally the first semester starts on the beginning of September and ends by the mid of January. The second semester starts on the beginning of February and ends by the end of June and the Summer session starts on the beginning of July till the end of August. There are two main holidays for students and faculty during the year: Eid Al-Fitr holiday and the other Eid Al-Adha holiday. Also, there is Mid-year break for faculty and students for nearly 15 days after the first semester.

**Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology**

In the year 2011 the university council proposed the establishment of a faculty to be called the Faculty of Computer
Science and Information Technology, and was approved by the honorable royal decree No. 72745 dated 18/11/1432H. The college began to admit students in the first semester of the academic year 2012-2013.

The decision of establishing this college is considered as great development and a challenge to Al Baha University. This Faculty is considered a flower that has grown in difficult environments and resolved to progress in spite of all challenges and difficulties. The university is working hard in compliance with determined scientific and administrative conditions to achieve the desired objectives of this faculty.

The Faculty of Computer Science & Information Technology seeks distinction through academic collaboration with many excellent local and international universities for the exchange of experiences. Moreover, the faculty will recruit and attract distinguished and dependable staff members to graduate highly qualified graduates.

**Vision**

The college endeavors to be recognized locally, regionally and internationally as a model of professional education for the computing industry. This will be through by the deployment of expert faculty and top-tier facilities. The faculty will be leader in computer education, scientific research and community services.

**Mission**

The Faculty of Computer Science and Information Technology will educate knowledgeable, self-directed, adaptable, reflective and highly trained computing specialists who will be prepared to fulfill the KSA’s existing and developing needs.

**Academic Programs Offered:**

- Computer Engineering,
Al-Baha: The Fog City

"Al-Baha", the Arabic word means: *The open space or the courtyard.*

Al-Baha is located in the south-west of Saudi Arabia between Latitude 19/20 and longitude 41/42, and it represents a central cite between the famous beautiful tourist areas in the south of the kingdom. The area of Al-Baha Province is about 36,000 km² with a population of about 450,000. In General, Al-Baha province is divided into two main sectors separated by a huge rocky slope. To the west lies the coastal plain which is known as "Tohama", and to the east lies the Alsarawat mountains known as "Alsurat". The area falls within the coastal and mountainous terrain.

Al-Baha city is the capital of Al-Baha Province and considered one of the most beautiful cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Al-Baha is famous for its virgin charming nature and its breezing climate. It enjoys two seasons during the year: the winter and spring only. During winter the degree of cold sometimes reaches zero. While, during summer the temperature is 29 °C at day time and 19 °C at night. During winter when it rains, the mountains become greenery and prettified with wonderful waterfalls. Also, during this period Al-Baha is characterized by foggy climate.

Al-Baha city is considered a tourist resort for those who are looking for moderate climate. And during summer it becomes very tourist-crowded from both inside and outside the kingdom, to spend the summer in its touristic areas and to enjoy its nature, climate and varied topography. The *Pearl of Resorts* is the name given to Al-Baha by the fascinated visitors who become acquainted with the city.

Al-Baha area is distinguished by containing different important summer fruits products, such as: Pomegranate, Figs,
Prickly pear, Peach, Apricot, Apples, Pears, Grapes (black, red, green), Almonds, Bananas, … etc. Furthermore, the area is very famous for the presence of the original high quality bee honey with different types, such as "Sidr Honey". Annually there is a special festival for honey held in Al-Baha during summer.

**Culture and Contemporary Life**

The city's mountainous allure has attracted residents and tourists alike. The mountains rise up to more than 2200 meters above sea level. The city has many public dining restaurants and some upscale and fast food dining restaurants. Some good hotels build on the hills of Al-Baha, where you will have the complete overview of the city. The airport is situated in an ideal area (Alaqiq) that takes you 45 kms. from the downtown Al baha.

The famous welcome of Al-Baha people is "**MARHABA HAIL ADD ALSAIL**". The culture of the region is reflected by the city's small size and it is distinguished by its homogenous population characterized by a high degree of cultural homogeneity and by an equally high degree of social stratification. There are three main tribal groups constituting the Al-Baha area population: Ghamid, Zahran and Bani Umairah. The social life of the inhabitants of the region is based on Sunni Islam. In Al-Baha social habits and customs are clearly observed and are considered sometimes as mandatory law. The values and attitudes govern relations within the family and relations of the family with the rest of society.

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