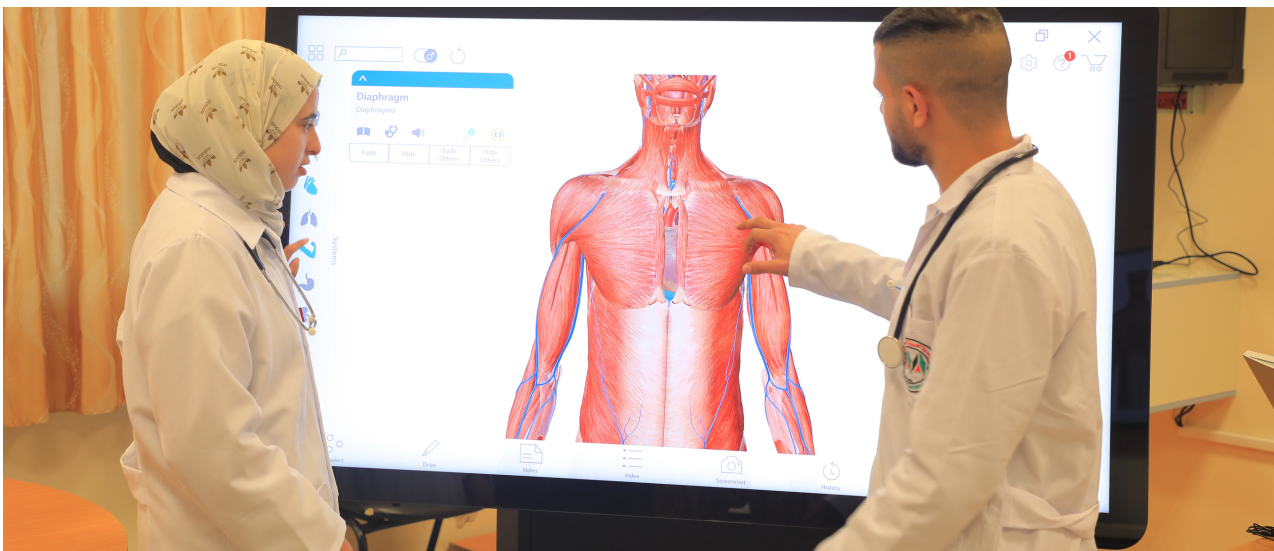


Building in edtech quality assurance using the Self-Review Framework.

Background

The Arab American University Palestine provides over 12,000 students with high-quality education, offering PhD, MA and BA programmes, in addition to intermediate, specialised and high diploma dentistry. The university has 16 faculties offering a wide range of academic courses. Around 40% of students are from Palestine, 55% from the Palestinian homeland and 5% from international countries.

Arab American University prides itself on providing a dynamic learning environment that inspires innovation and focuses on the success of its students. The university has developed a number of partnerships worldwide to enhance its offering on the international stage. By recruiting academics, scholars and researchers from all over Palestine and the world, the university is continuously enhancing its offering, particularly around science and technology.



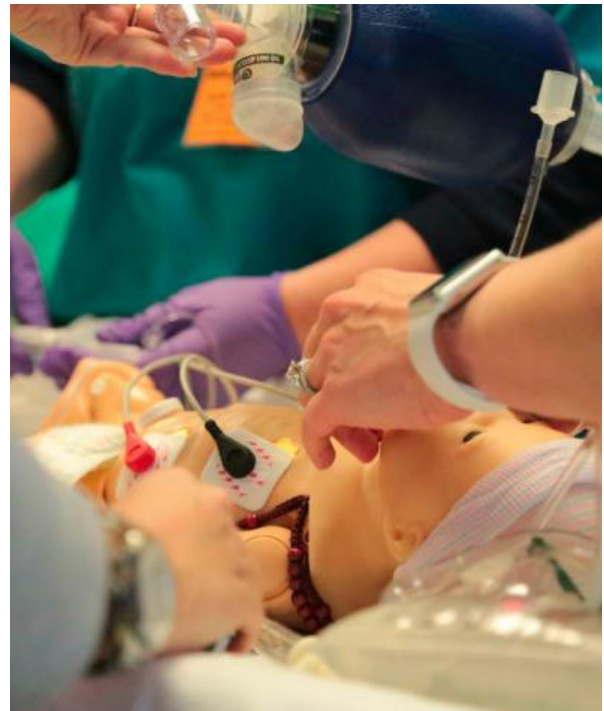
Improving and validating best practice

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Arab American University already had a strong remote learning infrastructure in place. However, during the pandemic, it was the first real test of remote learning on a much wider scale. The university wanted to find an accreditation that would allow it to review the use of education technology, encourage improvement and validate its commitment to learning and technology.

Through its international partnership with innovation and edtech enterprise Eummena, the university was introduced to Naace, as well as exploring a range of other options. Based on the reputation of Naace and the success educational institutions have experienced using the Self-Review Framework, the university adopted the framework as its chosen maturity model.

Experiencing success

Through its evaluation process, the Self-Review Framework has provided Arab American University with a much deeper understanding of how it uses education technologies.



Dr Ahmed Ewais, Associate Professor in Computer Science and Director of eLearning Centre at Arab American University, said: “The Self-Review Framework is a fantastic tool for evaluating our use of education technology and providing extremely valuable insights that will help us enhance what we offer even further.

“The process was straightforward and has allowed us to gather information from across the university and have a cross-faculty conversation about edtech. Naace has been extremely supportive in advising us along the way.”

In addition to highlighting areas of success, the Self-Review Framework has provided the university with more clear direction for next steps. The university sets out to further explore community solutions around e-learning, the expansion of its online course offering, streamlining administrative functions and further joining up of its edtech strategy across the whole organisation.



Arab American University has already begun planning how it can diversify its application of different technologies and use innovative techniques to improve the learning experience of students internationally. Examples of these applications include extended use of VR (virtual reality) and AR (augmented reality) in learning – the university recognises the need to bolster the skills of students using technology and the wider impact on academic attainment.

After successful completion of the Self-Review Framework, Arab American University has secured the NaaceMark and is the first university in Palestine to receive the international accreditation.

Creating stability and enhancing access to education

The situation around the world can be unstable due to the ongoing challenges of the pandemic as well as the wider political context. Arab American University is proud to offer an education that is flexible in its approach, providing high-quality face-to-face and remote learning.

Access to a quality education is extremely important and the university continues to strengthen its edtech infrastructure and strategy so that interruptions to learning are kept to a minimum.

Through using the Self-Review Framework, Arab American University is leading the way in ensuring student's learning experiences help them reach their full potential, no matter where they are.

