جامعة الإمام عبدالرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

كلية علوم الحاسب وتقنية المعلومـات
College of Computer Science and Information Technology

College of Computer Science and Information Technology

Faculty Handbook

2023-24

Faculty Handbook 2023-24

Foreword

This is the faculty handbook of the College of Computer Sciences and Information Technology (CCSIT) at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University. It contains comprehensive information on the general guidelines, roles and responsibilities, city details, lifestyle and some other information useful about life at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. For detailed information on the specifics of the academic guidelines, please refer to your Academic Department.

The authors have done their best to ensure this document is up to date. However, in case any new changes are needed, please let us know and we will include them in future versions.

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Acknowledgements

We acknowledge that some content of this handbook is similar to that found in the faculty handbook for the College of Nursing at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University. We would also like to acknowledge that some of the images and general information we have listed in this handbook is taken from external sources like the university website.

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations

CIS	Computer Information Systems Department
CS	Computer Science Department
CYS	Cyber Security & Digital Forensics
CCSIT	College of Computer Science and Information Technology
IAU	Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University

Figure 1. Location of Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is located in the Eastern Province of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Figure 2. The new campus at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University

History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia, officially known as the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, is the largest Arab state in Western Asia covering a land area of approximately 2,150,000 km². It forms the major part of the Arabian Peninsula, and is the second-largest country geographically in the Arab world. It is bordered by Jordan and Iraq in the north, Kuwait in the northeast, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates in the east, Oman in the southeast, and Yemen in the south. It is the only nation with both a Red Sea coast and a Persian Gulf coast.

Figure 3. Saudi Arabia and its borders (Source: worldpress.org)

Saudi Arabia formerly consisted of four distinct regions: Hejaz, Najd, the eastern region including Al-Ahsa and the southern region including Asir. When the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was founded in 1932 by Abdul Aziz Bin Saud, he united the four regions into a single state through a series of conquests beginning in 1902 with the capture of Riyadh, the ancestral home of his family, the House of Saud. The country has since been an Islamic monarchy governed by Shariah law. Saudi Arabia is also known as "the Land of the Two Holy Mosques" in reference to Al-Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi in Medina, the two holiest places of worship in Islam. The Kingdom has a total population of 28.7 million, of which 20 million are Saudi nationals and 8 million are foreigners.

Saudi Arabia is the world's second largest producer of oil and its largest exporter. It controls the world's second largest hydrocarbon reserves. Backed by its fossil fuels, the kingdom is categorized as a high-income economy with a high Human Development Index (HDI), and is the only Arab country that's part of the G-20 group of major economies. Saudi Arabia is considered a regional and middle power. In addition to the GCC, it is an active member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and OPEC.

Other information about Saudi Arabia

- **National Day:** Saudi Arabia celebrates its National Day on September 23 every year to commemorate the unification of the Kingdom and its founding by His Majesty the King Abdul Aziz bin Abdul Rahman Al Saud, who announced the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1932 (1351 A.H.).
- **Founding Day:** This is in commemoration of the enthronement of Muhammad bin Saud as the emir of the oasis town of Diriyah in 1727 following the death of his father Saud al-Muqrin, the eponymous ancestor of the al-Saud family.
- **Basic Law of Governance:** The constitution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is based on the Holy Quran and Sunnah and all legislative systems have been derived from these two sources. The regime in Saudi Arabia is a monarchy. There is a cabinet of ministers with King exercising complete executive and legislative power of the state. The Shura Council expresses opinion on the state of public policies referred to it by the Prime Minister.
- **Currency:** The basic currency unit is the Saudi Riyal which is convertible into foreign currencies and consists of 100 Halalas. One US dollar is equivalent to 3.75 Riyals. It is a fixed exchange rate determined by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency.
- **Calendar:** Saudi Arabia depends on the Hijri Calendar which began upon the migration of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Medina. Hijri year consists of 354 days and 12 months.
- **Public or Official Holidays:**
1. Weekend: Friday and Saturday
2. Eid Al-Fitr Holiday
3. Eid Al-Adha Holiday

4. National Day: September 23

5. Founding Day: February 22

■ **Flag and Logo of the Kingdom:** The flag of Saudi Arabia is rectangular; its width equals two-thirds of its length. It has a green background and the logo of the kingdom which consists of two crossed swords and a palm tree in the middle. The swords symbolize power & the palm tree symbolizes vitality, growth and prosperity.

History of the Eastern Region

Figure 4. Clockwise from top left, the Eastern province region map, the aerial view of the city of Dammam, the road to Dhahran city, and night view of Al Khobar (source: Wikipedia.org)

The most important ancient civilizations of the Eastern Region were the Mesopotamian civilization of the 5th millennium BC, the Akkad Empire of about 2360 BC, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Kassites, the Assyrians and the Persians. Since the Eastern Region lies along the coast of an important trade route, the region has always been an important focus for the major civilizations and some historical sites remain today to remind us.

Dammam is the capital of the Eastern Province, Saudi Arabia. Dammam is the largest city in the Eastern Province, and the fifth largest in Saudi Arabia, after Riyadh, Jeddah, Mecca, and Medina. Dammam, before the discovery of oil, was a small fishing and pearl gathering settlement. It became the administrative and industrial centre and neighbouring Al-Khobar, which achieved fame as the site of the first jetty for loading oil to be taken to Bahrain for refining, is now the commercial centre. Dhahran came into existence in 1933 with the discovery of oil and the later construction of ARAMCO's administrative headquarters.

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University

Figure 5. Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, the new campus.

The Royal Decree No. A/18/1, dated 15/9/1430H, corresponding to 5/9/2009 separated King Faisal University (KFU) into two independent universities and Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University opened its doors to women and men. Almost four decades later this academic institution has grown into a leading research university with 21 colleges spread throughout the Eastern Province and a student population of over 45,000.

As a preeminent research-based institution, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University continues to grow and develop, with a focus on continually assessing and improving its curricula and expanding its academic capabilities in all disciplines, while at the same time engaging the public in addressing environmental and community challenges.

The vision of Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is to be a leading University achieving distinction nationally, regionally and internationally. Its mission is providing creative knowledge, research, and professional services with effective community partnerships. Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University achieves its vision and mission by following a group of values including Loyalty, Excellence, Teamwork, Transparency, Diversity, Creativity and Social Responsibility.

The university has several education tracks or sectors. Each track has its own group of colleges as follows:

Health	Engineering
College of Medicine College of Dentistry College of Nursing College of Applied Medical Sciences College of Clinical Pharmacy College of Public Health and Health Informatics	College of Architecture and Planning College of Design College of Engineering
Sciences & Management	**Arts & Education**
College of Applied Studies and Community Service College of Business Administration College of Computer Science and Information Technology College of Science Community College - Dammam Community College - Qatif	College of Arts College of Education – Dammam College of Education – Jubail College of Sharia and Law

Table 1. The education sectors at Imam Abulrahman Bin Faisal University

College of Computer Science and Information Technology

The College of Computer Science and Information Technology (CCSIT) at the Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University is one of the largest colleges in the University. Since its establishment in 2010, the College has been committed to providing its students with an innovative and state-of-the-art computer science curriculum.

The College of Computer Science and Information Technology (CCSIT) at Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) is committed to provide quality education in Computer Science and Information Technology domains. CCSIT occupies Building A-11 for

male students and Building 650 for female students on the University campus in an enclosed suite. Since its establishment in 2010, CCSIT has been committed to providing its students with an innovative and state-of-the-art computing curriculum lined up with ACM & IEEE guidelines. In order to meet the growing demand in the job market CCSIT offers four Bachelor-degree programs and two Master program as shown below:

1. Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science (BS in CS)
2. Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Information Systems (BS in CIS)
3. Bachelor of Science degree in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics (BS in CYS)
4. Bachelor of Science degree in Artificial Intelligence (BS in AI)
5. Master of Science in Computer Science (MS in CS)
6. Master of Science in information Systems and Data Analytics (MS in CIS)

Different sets of elective courses are available in all the programs which allow students to choose from a set of advanced topics which include: Data Mining and Warehousing, Modeling and Simulation, Expert Systems, Advanced Programming Languages, Advanced Software Engineering, Knowledge Management and Information Retrieval, Multi-Agents, Computer Vision and Computer Graphics, Advanced Operating Systems, Mobile Application Programming, Distributed Systems, Computer Networks, Multimedia Security, Ethical Hacking and Digital Forensics, Cyber Warfare and several other courses that focus on the latest trends in the field. The vision, mission and the values of CCSIT are:

Vision

To be a leading computing College at national, regional, and global levels.

Computer Science Department

The department of Computer Science (CS) is committed to provide a high quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and maintain excellence in research programs in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The department offers two programs: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Master of Science in Computer Science.

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

The program of Computer Science (CS) has been providing its students with the latest computer science curriculum since its establishment in 2010. The program qualifies its students for a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science, to meet the demand in the job market for accomplished computer science professionals.

Mission

To offer a quality education in the various domains of computer science and prepare students for both their professional careers and lifelong learning by enhancing their problem-solving skills and instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards serving their community, society and the nation in a professional manner.

Program Educational Objectives

The graduates of Computer Science program will:

1. Apply computing knowledge and skills to design and implement solutions in computer science domain.
2. Contribute effectively as an individual, team member and leader.
3. Demonstrate ethical and social values in their professional practices.
4. Engage in lifelong learning, higher education, career growth, and community service.

Student Outcomes

Graduates of the program will have an ability to:

1. Explain the fundamental concepts and theories of computer science and related fields.
2. Analyze a complex computing problem and apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.

3. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the Program's discipline.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
5. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
6. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
7. Apply computer science theory and software development fundamentals to produce computing-based solutions.

Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS)

Mission

Create a strong foundation for a cutting-edge computer science industry and serve the community and the nation by qualifying skilled leaders and specialists in the field of computer science and by conducting productive applied research.

Program Educational Objectives

1. Apply advanced computing knowledge and critical thinking skills in solving real-world problem.
2. Demonstrate ethical and social values in their professional practices.
3. Engage in lifelong learning, higher education, career growth and community services
4. To prepare qualified specialists in research, invention, and creativity to create IT projects with strategic and national significance.

Student Outcomes

1. Demonstrate the core body of knowledge of Advanced Computer Science
2. Analyze a complex computing problem and apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
3. Design, implement and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of program disciplines.

4. Apply research in specific computer science disciplines in order to identify, analyze and solve related problems.

5. Develop effective communication skills in a variety of professional contexts.

6. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgement in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.

7. Act responsibly in personal and professional relationships and in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.

Computer Information Systems Department

The department of computer Information science is committed to provide a high quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and maintain excellence in research programs in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The department offers two programs: Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Science and Master of Science in Information Systems and Data Analytics.

Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems

The Department of Computer Information Systems (CIS) is committed to providing its majors with a solid foundation in research and analyses; an expertise in designing systems, as well as creating and protecting databases and networks. The Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems is a rigorous program that prepares its graduates for not only a professional career in the business world, but its graduates are also well equipped to tackle the academic challenges of graduate study.

Mission

Provide quality education in Computer Information Systems that prepares students for the technical and management challenges of professional life to better serve local as well as national communities.

Program Educational Objectives

Graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems will demonstrate the following four career and professional accomplishments:

- Strong practitioners of computer information systems knowledge in diverse user environments.
- Valued contributors, applying the highest standards of professional and ethical conduct while working individually or within a team.
- Ambitious lifelong learners motivated to engage in professional growth and higher-level studies.
- Entrepreneurs and enthusiastic leaders of technology-based businesses.

Student Outcomes

Graduates of the program will have an ability to:

1. Define fundamental concepts and theories from information systems and related fields.
2. Analyze a complex computing problem and to apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
3. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
5. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
6. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
7. Support the delivery, use and management of information systems within an information system environment.

Master of Science in Information Systems and Data Analytics (MISDA)

Mission

Provide cutting edge Computer Information Systems and Data Analytics curricula and conducive research environment to equip graduates with the required knowledge and skills to excel in professional and research careers as well as community engagement.

Program Educational Objectives

1. Computing practitioners applying highest professional and ethical standards in delivering state of the art solutions in emergent Computer Information Systems domains.
2. Critical thinkers and problem solvers committed to design and deploy novel information system solutions in emergent research areas for social and economic development in knowledge-based economy.
3. Motivated life-long learners conducting research of highest standards to contribute in Computer Information Systems body of knowledge.
4. Entrepreneurs contributing to the social and economic uplift of the society in line with national vision 2030.

Student Outcomes

1. To enhance adequate knowledge and understanding of Data Analytics.
2. Outline state-of-the-art solution supported by academia and industry.
3. To Illustrate the impact of computing resources on solving real-world problems.
4. To utilize the latest advancement in Data Analytics.
5. Demonstrate the ability to perform literature reviews for the latest topics in Analytics.
6. Explain current trends in the discipline and develop required skills for the advancement of the profession.
7. Evaluate alternative designs and solutions related to Data Analytics.
8. Perform in-depth study and analysis of the problems in Data Analytics.
9. Develop effective communication skills.
10. Collecting and synthesizing information

11. Formulating effective communication among stakeholders during information system design process.
12. Develop effective self-learning and self-development skills.

Networks and Communications Department

The department of Networks and Communications is committed to provide a high quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and maintain excellence in research programs in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The department offers one program which is Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics.

Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics

The program of Cyber Security and Digital Forensics is committed to providing its majors with a solid foundation in reliable and secure exchange of digital information, which is vital to most human activity, from banking, medicine, infrastructure management to strategic assets. As the use of information and communication technology expands, so does the likelihood of cyber threats. The Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and Digital Forensics program is aimed at preparing its graduates to tackle real threats that have the potential of derailing our daily life and compromising national and global security. The program is also aimed at providing more job opportunities to the graduates, and to be leaders in the emerging discipline of cyber security & digital forensics.

The CYS program is a traditional, four-year on-campus, daytime program. Traditional in-class delivery methods of teaching, such as lectures and laboratories, are followed. The CYS program is based on the term system. The program consists of a total of eight terms, which are referred as levels. The first two years are called general years. Each academic year comprises of two terms and an optional summer term. The duration of each term is 18 weeks, including final exams. The summer term is two months in duration.

Mission

Providing students with quality cybersecurity and digital forensics education to inspire discovery, lifelong learning and professional services with community engagements.

Program Educational Objectives

Graduates of the program will:

1. Have a successful career in practicing the knowledge and skills of cybersecurity and digital forensics for solving problems and designing appropriate solution following the best practices.

2. Contribute effectively in the profession of cybersecurity and digital forensics as an individual, team member and leader.

3. Engage actively in lifelong learning, career growth, and community services.

4. Demonstrate ethical and social values in their professional practices.

Student Outcomes

Graduates of the program will have an ability to:

1. Describe the fundamental concepts of computing, computer information systems, cybersecurity, and related fields.

2. Analyze a complex computing problem and to apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.

3. Design, implement and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the program's discipline.

4. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.

5. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.

6. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.

7. Apply security principles and practices to maintain operations in the presence of risks and threats.

Computer Engineering Department

The department of Computer Engineering is committed to provide a high quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and maintain excellence in research programs in the kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The department offers one programs which is Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence.

Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence

The Program of BSAI is focused on artificial intelligence education, research, and professional services which is aligned with mission of the college. The program enables students for professional careers to address the needs of the industry, academies, research and contribute to the community. The mission of BSAI program is also aligned with IAU mission and objectives as BSAI aims to be a leading program in the region. IAU in its mission emphasizes the need to flourish creative knowledge, research, and professional services. It also aims to excel in theoretical and applied research with a focus on contributing back to the society or community. BSAI program also inspire discovery, lifelong learning and professional services with community engagements for the socio-economic uplift of the community. BSAI program prospers social and ethical values of our students so that they learn to serve local community and professional societies and contribute to the discipline in general. The College aims to teach quality education to the students by focusing on creativity, research, and community partnership. These are also the hallmarks of BSAI, as the program focuses on enabling students to contribute to the society by practicing profession skills for the benefit of the community as an individual, team member and leader.

Mission

"Providing quality artificial intelligence education, research, and professional services for the socio-economic uplift of the community by preparing students for professional careers and lifelong learning".

Program Educational Objectives

Graduates of the program will:

1. Demonstrate expertise in Artificial Intelligence tools and techniques to meet the industry needs pertaining to devising cutting-edge solutions.
2. Cultivate the culture of innovation and research in Artificial Intelligence, data science, and related disciplines.
3. Contribute to humanity using Artificial Intelligence knowledge while working individually or within a team.
4. Demonstrate ethical conduct and ability for lifelong learning.

Student Outcomes

Graduates of the program will have an ability to:

1. Understand and explain the fundamental concepts and theories of computer science and related fields.
2. Analyze a complex computing problem and apply principles of computing and other relevant disciplines to identify solutions.
3. Design, implement, and evaluate a computing-based solution to meet a given set of computing requirements in the context of the Program's discipline.
4. Communicate effectively in a variety of professional contexts.
5. Recognize professional responsibilities and make informed judgments in computing practice based on legal and ethical principles.
6. Function effectively as a member or leader of a team engaged in activities appropriate to the program's discipline.
7. Apply computer science theory and software development fundamentals to produce computing-based solutions.
8. Apply Artificial Intelligence principles and techniques for problem solving and decision making.

Employment contract

The employment contract establishes the terms and conditions applicable to the appointment. The contract terms comply with the regulations set by the General Directorate of Human Resources at IAU. For further information on the employment contract, please refer to [Regulations and Manuals](https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/administration/directorates/general-directorate-of-human-resources/regulations-and-manuals) [1].

Health Insurance

Insurance is obligatory in KSA. As government employees, IAAU faculty and staff and their families are eligible for free medical treatment at King Fahd Hospital of the University.
A list of Private & Governmental Health Care Facilitates are given in Appendix 1.

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[1] https://www.iau.edu.sa/en/administration/directorates/general-directorate-of-human-resources/regulations-and-manuals

Services

Banking

Saudi Arabia has a mainly cash economy, with scarcely any use of cheques, but with the usual ATM (cash machines), Bank cards, etc. Salaries are paid directly to a bank account so opening an account is an essential operation. An account can be opened at any bank once you have your Iqama.

To open a bank account, you will need:

1. Copy of Iqama
2. Identical copy of passport
3. Letter from the University
4. Salary

The National Commercial Bank (Al Ahli Bank) has a branch inside the IAU Campus. It offers most banking services: checking and savings accounts (due to Islamic law there is no interest but there can be dividend payments), telex transfers, bank drafts, traveller's checks and credit card applications. There are many other banks to choose from. You can ask around as views and opinions vary. A list of Banks in Al Khobar, Dhahran & Dammam are given in Appendix 4.

Shopping

Bargaining

In independent shops, try bargaining. You may find that sometimes the price gets cheaper as you prepare to leave. If you are there early in the morning, you can try for a "First Customer" special discount.

Kitchenware

The kitchens on faculty accommodation are provided with basic equipment. The cheapest place to buy kitchen equipment is the 'Ten Riyal Stores.' There are hardware stores all over the city. A popular big hardware and household goods store is Saco which is on Pepsi Road

just east of Abdulaziz Blvd. It has a wide variety of patio, kitchen, electrical, and hardware supplies.

Clothes

There are plenty of clothing stores in Al-Khobar and Dammam. There is also a new three-story mall called Al-Khobar Plaza about three blocks west of King Khaled Street that caters mostly to women and children. Johara Centre is more reasonable than the others. It is located on the right side of Dhahran St. as you face the Gulf, opposite the clock tower. British Home Stores has two shops in Al-Khobar, one in Al Rashid Mall Ground floor, and a smaller one near Tamimi Safeway on the Corniche. Both have Mothercare branches attached. There are clothing stores, especially sportswear, at several locations along King Khaled Street.

The Al-Thuqba market is less exclusive than Al-Khobar, but it is cheaper and often carries the same goods. Fewer expatriates are seen in Al-Thuqba. For cheap but lower quality clothing try Happy Corner, a covered market area over several blocks across Dhahran Avenue from the clock tower at the end of King Khaled Street. The variety of clothing available reflect the dress customs of the Kingdom, i.e., rather conservative for women but less so for men. However, good quality clothing can be bought at similar prices to what one would pay in the UK or the US.

Tailors for males and females are available around the city. Most of the tailors can produce clothing made-to-measure copied either from an existing piece you have or just from a picture. Ask around to find the best places and prices. Always ensure to get an itemized receipt for all purchases.

Al Rashid Mall

This is the large, white, fort-like building you can see from the campus. It is a very extensive and expensive shopping centre with international brands such as JC Penney, BHS, etc. The prices tend to be higher than elsewhere but it has some useful stores and is air-conditioned. Stores include British Home Stores, Mothercare, Body Shop, Next, Benetton, Early Learning Centre, Toyland, Al Jarir Bookstore (ask for 10% discount with your ID card), a US crafts

store, designer boutiques, gift stores and a branch of Souks supermarket. On the top floor are computer stores, entertainment arcades and various fast food outlets like McDonalds, Baskin Robbins, etc. A list of shopping centres is given in Appendix 6.

Restaurants

There is a wide range of eating places in Al-Khobar, Dhahran and Dammam, suitable for all tastes and budgets. A list of restaurants is given in Appendix 5.

Recreation

Beaches

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University Beach

The University has a private beach on a sizeable dune-fringed inlet of the Arabian Gulf, known as Half Moon Bay. Facilities for faculty and staff members and their families include a family swimming beach, changing rooms with showers and toilets and shaded picnic areas (some with tables, benches and barbecue grills. Please contact the recreation centre at IAU to know the beach hours because they occasionally change especially during the month of Ramadan and the Eid holidays following Ramadan and Hajj. The beach facility is run by the Directorate of Recreation Centre.

The following are the beach regulations:
1. Ensure that your car has a IAU security sticker.
2. ID cards or beach passes must be shown at the gate. These are also required for your dependants.
3. Faculty and Staff are not allowed to use the Student Beach and vice-versa.
4. All cars must be parked in the designated spaces.
5. No vehicles are to be driven on the beach or sand dunes.
6. The beach and shelters should be kept clean. All trash must be placed in the bins provided.

7. Visitors must respect prayer times.

8. Observe the beach closing time. Advise the gateman if you intend to spend the night at the beach.

9. No bicycles are permitted at the beach.

10. You may bring guests to the beach but you should pay for the guest at the gate. Guests at the beach must be accompanied by their hosts.

11. Boats cannot be taken to or left at the beach unless they are registered with the Saudi Coast Guard.

12. Beach safety is clearly important, especially for families. There is no rescue service, nor are there lifeguards on duty.

13. The shelf from shallow to deep water is very steep. While in the water, it is not always possible to see this very steep slope. Therefore, if you, your family or guests are not strong swimmers, stay close to shore.

14. Ensure that your guests are aware of the safety regulations. Their safety is your responsibility.

Public Beaches

There are many miles of public beaches in the eastern province. The city of Al-Khobar is upgrading its beachfront to include playground equipment. The beaches are well used, especially on weekends. At Half Moon Bay, about a half-hour drive away, there are playgrounds, picnic shelters, fast-food stands, toilets and an amusement park. At most of these beaches, you can drive almost to the water's edge. At more remote places, a four wheel-drive vehicle may be required. For ladies, Western-style swimwear is best reserved for the University beach. Driving over sand dunes is not permitted. For those interested in dune driving, it is advised to go out to more remote areas. Three-wheeled 'all terrain vehicles' are illegal and their import has been prohibited.

Sports Facilities in Dammam

The City of Dammam has lots of sports facilities; these include the following:

Name	Venue
Prince Mohamed bin Fahd Stadium	Centre of Dammam
Lighting Prince Gallawy Stadium	Al-Khobar – Al- Raka
Green Hall Sports City	Between Dammam and Al Khobar
Al Etifaq Club	Mutlaq Dist., Dammam
Al Faisal Sports Center	Mutlaq Dist., Dammam
Al Huda Sports Club	Tarut Island, Dammam
Al Nahdhah Sports Club	Mutlaq Dist., Dammam
Al Yaqezah Sports Center	Khobar City, Dammam
Energy Sport Center	Bareed Dist., Dammam

Places to Visit

ARAMCO

The ARAMCO Exhibit has the best museum in the Kingdom. The centre is a comprehensive layperson's guide to the oil industry with an emphasis on the technical side. It's also fun, especially for kids, with lots of buttons to push, user participation displays and quizzes.

Bani Khaled Village

The remains of settlements from 3,000 BC and the ruins of the mosque, which contains semicircular arches and is within a 19th century fortress, are located at Bani Khaled village, northeast of Al-Jubail.

Dammam

The Regional Museum of Archaeology & Ethnography is located at the railway crossing on 1st Street near the Dammam Tower. It is on the 4th floor and is open Sunday to Thursday from 7:30 to 2:30pm. The collection includes Stone Age tools, pottery (mainly Hellenistic

and early Islamic) and examples of Bedouin crafts and traditional dress. The museum also issues permits for the main archaeological sites of Qatif, Tarut Island, Thaj and Al-Hina. A passport or Iqama is needed for permits which can usually be processed the same day.

Hofuf

The town of Al-Hufuf is at the centre of the Al-Hasa oasis, which is one of the largest in the world. Because of the extensive and lush oasis, it is one of the world's leading areas for date production. The souk is well worth a visit and is one of the few places where genuine handmade Arabian coffee pots can be bought as well as Bedouin weavings and silver jewellery. Its advisable to go there early like 6.00am to enjoy the camel market and then to visit the caves.

Qasr Ibrahim

This well-preserved fort in Hofuf is was almost entirely built by the Ottomans, with the first fort on this site built in 1688-89. The mosque inside was built circa 1566. The present fort dates from the beginning of the 19th century, and an Ottoman garrison occupied it until 1913. A permit should be obtained to visit the fort.

Jawatha Mosque

Built in the village of Kailabiyah, about 12km northeast of Hofuf, is the site of the Jawatha Mosque, the third holiest site after Mecca and Medina. Built at the time of the Bani Abdulqai tribe, which lived there before and early in the Islamic period, this mosque is believed to be the first mosque built in Eastern Province and is where Friday prayer was first performed by Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him) for only the second-time outside Medina. However, the original mosque no longer exists.

Qatif

Qatif is 13 km north of Dammam and one of the centres of the Eastern Province's large Shiite community. Qatif was first settled around 3500 BC and before the discovery of oil it was the main settlement on this part of the coast. The town has both an excellent fruit and vegetable market and fish market. The fortified quarter of old Qatif, Al-Qalah, was partly

inhabited until the mid-1970s. The first fort on this site was built circa 3rd century BC, though the oldest building now standing is a 14thcentury mosque. Some of the existing houses date back 400 years. The Al-Shamasi House was built around 1910 and has been restored by the government as an example of typical Eastern Province architecture. Both the above sites require a permit, which is issued by the Dammam Museum.

Safwa

The Jawan Tomb is about 2 km north of Safwa and dates to the fourth century AD, the Hellenic Greek period. The ruins were discovered in 1986 by a group of people on a desert picnic and may well be older than any church now existing in Europe. Little is known about this church, but it was probably connected to one of the five Nestorian bishoprics, which existed in this part of the Gulf in the 4th century. Permits are not available to visit the site, but it can be seen from outside the perimeter fence.

Tarout Island

The island is worth a visit, particularly the old fort and the village of Dareen.

Thaj and Al-Hina

The ruined fortresses of Thaj and Al-Hina lie in the desert about 100 km west of Dammam and are a short distance off the old road to Nuraiyah. A permit from the Dammam Museum is needed to visit these sites. Thaj, the larger of the two sites, was occupied between 300 and 100 BC and was in ruins by the 6th century. In those times, the city was surrounded by a lake.

Appendices

Appendix (1)

List of Health Care Facilities in the Eastern Province

Name	Address, Telephone
Al Mana General Hospital	PO Box 311, Khobar 31932; phone 03-898-7000, 03-864-2330; fax 03-898-0694;
Al Mouasat Hospital	PO Box 2366, Dammam 32263; phone 920004477.
AlSalam Hospital	King Faisal Bin Abdulaziz, Khobar 34227; phone 920020005; outpatient clinic
Gama Hospital	King Fahd Road, Alqashlah, Dhahran, 34232; phone 920033175; outpatient clinic:
John Hopkins Aramco Healthcare Dhahran	8131 Medical Access Road No. 1, Gharb Al Dhahran, Dhahran 34465;Phone: 8003054444 outpatient clinic:
Mohammad Dossary Hospital	4th Street Al Khobar Al Janubiyah, Khobar 34621; Phone: 0138011910;
Royal Commission Hospital	Al Lulu Road, Fanateer, Al Jubail, 31961, Phone: 013 346 4000..

Appendix (2)

Dealer Name	Contact
Honda	857-4720 / 857-4730 / 857-3695 / 895-1962
Hyundai	826-8677 / 842-3936 / 842-4814
Isuzu	864-1507 / 864-1510 / 894-3334
Mazda	857-6657 / 857-6467
Mitsubishi	857-2045 / 857-1807 / 842-6558
Nissan	895-3584 / 832-4300 / 832-3322 / 832-2233
Suzuki	826-4707
Toyota	834-0547/ 834-6512 / 834-7378
United Arab Motors (Chrysler-Jeep)	857-9666 / 857-7085 / 857-7179
Volvo/Renault	857-1900 / 857-2595

Appendix (3)

List of Schools

School	Phone	City
British International School	8825425	Alkhobar
International Schools Group, Dhahran Academy	3300555	Dhahran
International Indian School Dammam (IISD)		Dammam
Creative Academy		Dammam
Al-Andalus Private School	7452035	Taif
Dhahran Ahliyya Schools (DAS)	8915151	Dhahran
Al Hussan Schools and Institutes	8587566	Alkhobar

Appendix (4)

List of Banks in Al – Khobar, Dhahran & Dammam

Al Khobar	
Bank Name	Telephone
Al Jazira Bank	864 9914
Arab National Bank	894 0712
Al Rajhi Banking & Investment Corp.	864 1234
Riyadh Bank	898 1808
Saudi American Bank	894 1414
Saudi British Bank	864 9307
Saudi Cairo Bank	894 6956
Saudi French Bank	895 4040
Saudi Hollandi Bank	864 9140
Saudi Investment Bank	894 4777
The National Commercial Bank	895 4864
United Saudi Commercial Bank	894 8222

Dhahran	
Bank Name	Telephone
Saudi American Bank .	891 3938
Dammam	
Bank Name	**Telephone**
<u>**Saudi British Bank**</u>	833 1745
Al Bank Al Saudi Al Fransi	827 1588
Saudi Hollandi Bank	834 0000
Saudi Cairo	833 0177
The National Commercial	833 1188
United Saudi Commercial	833 0515
Arab National Bank	834 4123
Saudi Investment	834 2020
Al Rajhi Banking & Investment Corp.	834 0993
Saudi American Bank	833 7282
Riyadh Bank	833 3645

Appendix (5)

List of Shopping Centers

List of Shopping Malls in Eastern Province

Mall	City
Marina Mall	Dammam
Al Othaim Mall	Dammam
Al Dareen Mall	Dammam
Al Waha Downtown Mall	Dammam
Al Fanar Mall, Rakah	Dammam
Al Rashid Mall	Khobar
Mall of Dhahran	Khobar
Venecia Mall	Khobar

Appendix (6)

List of Restaurants in Al – Khobar, Dhahran & Dammam

Al-Khobar				
Restaurant Name	**Cuisine**	**Location**	**Telephone**	
Al Andalusia	Arabic	Corniche 16th St.	895 1642	
Al Bustan	Indonesian	King Fahd St.	864 9886	
Al Rammah	Pilipino	Dhahran St.	898 4998	
Bangkok	Far Eastern	King Faisal St.	894 7560	
Baba Habbas	Seafood	Corniche	894 4568	
Chinese Restaurant	Chinese	Mansoor St.	898 7336	
Darin Sea Food	Sea Food	4th St. Akrabiaya	864 0237	
Domino's Pizza	Fast Food	28th St.	864 9314	
Grill Restaurant	Chinese	Dhahran St.	864 8865	
Gulf Royal	Chinese	18th St.	864 7898	
Hardees's	Fast Food	Dhahran Rd	895 3103	
House of Indonesia	Indonesian	King Abdul Aziz St.	864 2494	
Kabana Restaurant	Pakistani	AbdulMohsinRd	898 7392	
Lina Rooftop	French	Algosaibi Hotel	894 2466	
La Fonda	Mexican	16th St	894 3228	
Labnani	Lebanese	Gulf Meridian Hotel	864 6000	
Quick Meal	Fast Food	Madinah St	864 8133	
Oasis Coffee Shop	Snacks	Al Gosaibi Hotel	894 2466	
Pattaya	Far Eastern	Prince Bander St.	895 5136	
Pizza Pizza	Italian	Dhahran Rd.	864 3588	
Pizza Hut	Fast Food	Corniche	899 2828	
Pattice France	Fast Food	Corniche	895 3060	
Shang Hai	Chinese	Al Batha Hotel	895 1001	
Sizzler	Fast Food	Dhahran Rd.	895 3103	
Sanbook	Seafood *****	Tammimi Safeway	894 8889	
Shakey's Pizza	Fast Food	King Abdul Aziz Rd.	895 0982	