

Arab Open University Policy on Dissemination of Information

Policy Title:	Arab Open University Information Dissemination Policy
Version Number:	3
Executive Owner:	AOU President
Approving Authority	University Council # 75, March 2022
Policy Review:	Quality Assurance Accreditation, Academic and Institutional Standards Committee (QAAAIS)
Policy Implementation:	AOU HQ and AOU Branches
Policy Monitoring and Compliance:	VPPD Office HQ Branch Rectors Quality Assurance and Accreditation Units at AOU Branches
Next Review Date	2025

***Note:** A policy can be reviewed before the designated review date should there be a need to.*

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Policy Statement:

AOU is committed to have a clear policy on information dissemination. Dissemination of information involves targeted distribution of information to a specific audience and hence it is of extreme importance to ensure that there is selective dissemination of information. Information dissemination must be done with total awareness of the environment around so as to reduce inequities in the availability of information for stakeholders and all key players. It is essential that Arab Open University devises a clear policy on University Publication and dissemination of information at all levels. The policy design may consider the following:

Classifying Information

- University Publications
- Website
- University Policies
- Classified Information
- General Information (announcements, events, holidays, decisions)

How to Treat Different Types of Information?

- Information for internal dissemination vs. information for public dissemination must be treated separately from each other and the information crafted must keep the targeted audience in mind.
- Information needing prior approval vs. impromptu information concerning university matters.
- Information for mass media.

Procedures

Dissemination of any information should strictly comply with the Information Dissemination Policy.

- All University publications produced either at the branch level or at the headquarters should be duly quality checked and approved by the respective committees at the branch or at the HQ before dissemination.
- All University's official publications and information must be accurate, consistent, legally compliant, current and accessible to the stakeholders.
- The publications must clearly have a content owner with clearly defined roles towards formulating, organizing and maintaining the accuracy of the information.
- All existing and new publications to be reproduced in either Arabic or English must ensure in all fairness the accuracy of information and must be verified for any distortion before being publicized.
- Information to be displayed on the University/branch website needs prior approval from relevant authorities at the HQ or branch.
- Displayed policies need to be formally approved before publicizing on the website and there needs to be a clear decision on who should be able to view the content.
- Information considering a policy change or update must be appropriately emphasized and clearly communicated to all stakeholders.
- All internal information concerning academic or administrative affairs should be disseminated with the prior approval and knowledge of the concerned deans / Heads of departments at the branch level / or deans, administrative officers or the Vice Presidents concerned at the HQ Level as may deem appropriate.
- Information dissemination should adhere to proper channels of communication.
- While releasing news to the press (print or visual media) at the Branch level, a copy could be sent as news about the branch to the Department of Public Relations and Media at the HQ.
- In case of having issued any information towards publicity to external audience, the concerned branch or department shall be responsible for the information and would be liable to appropriate actions in case of breach of

university policy on information dissemination, confidentiality and policy on professional code of conduct.

- University employees shall at no point give their personal opinion to media as an official University positions. The university employees must be judicious in communicating with media on any sensitive information and as far as possible must decline from commenting.
- Universities employees when asked to comment on events organized by the University that may be newsworthy may do so only in and with the full knowledge of the concerned department organizing the event or in coordination with the public relations and media officer.