

BEST PRACTICE 1: Internal Quality Assurance Framework & Guidelines for Assessment (IQAF)

Objectives of the practice:

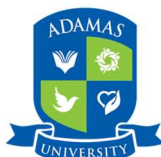
In the context of Adamas University's vision and mission, Internal Quality Assurance Guidelines for Assessment at the University provides a framework within which its schools can examine and enhance the quality of teaching, learning, and assessment, ensuring that they achieve this aspiration of excellence. The IQAF Framework is designed to improve performance and achieve sustainable growth, operating in accordance with industry and regulatory standards, which will satisfy all stakeholders and expectations thereby, protecting the reputation and standing of the Adamas University with the present and future students and stakeholders. The Adamas Internal Quality Assurance Framework is structured to ensure the schools conduct all of their activities efficiently and effectively, with appropriate governance maintaining Quality while complying with all relevant government and statutory regulations. Through IQAF implementation, Adamas University is committed to ensuring effective Academic governance and quality assurance across the Schools, Departments, and Support Offices of Adamas University.

Purpose:

This Internal Quality Assurance Framework will contribute to the development of an Institute-wide culture of ongoing quality assurance and quality improvement. This will be achieved through a whole-of-organization approach to linking strategic principles and direction with planning and quality management, supported by a Regular Annual Academic Audit for Self-Evaluation of Schools and Departments of Adamas University and benchmarking of the schools with International and National Standards.

Mission:

1. Periodic assessment of Schools of Adamas University or Units thereof, or Specific Academic Programs and Projects.
2. Stimulate Academic Environment for Promotion of Quality of Teaching and Learning and Research in Schools of AU.



3. To encourage self-evaluation, accountability and autonomy, and innovations in Schools of AU
4. To undertake quality-related research studies, consultancy, and training programs.
5. To collaborate with other stakeholders of higher education for quality evaluation, promotion, and sustenance.

Scope:

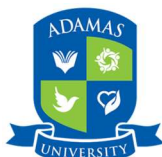
This Quality Assurance Framework will apply to all Schools and Departments, all Employees and all functions of the Institute.

1. Contributing to National Development
2. Fostering Global Competencies among Students
3. Inculcating Quality System in Academics
4. Promoting Quality Culture
5. Quest for Excellence

Context:**Feature:**

The IQAF focus of assessment is on quality culture of the University in terms of quality initiatives, Quality Sustenance and Quality Enhancement, as reflected in its vision & mission statements. It's an criteria-based assessment on five-point scale. The six criteria represent the core areas of functions and activities of Adamas University Schools. In the framework not only the academic and administrative aspects of schools functioning are considered but also the emerging issues of higher education have been included. Evaluation criteria of Times Higher Education Rankings, NAAC, QS I gauge ratings/ Rankings, Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award, Shanghai Rankings, National Institutional Ranking Framework – NIRF, UGC guidelines, ISO 21001 Educational organizations — Management systems for educational organizations were referred while developing the framework.

Under each Criterion, key Meso Indicators (KIs) are identified. There are 18 Meso Indicators which are further delineated as 123 micro indicators which are meant to elicit responses from the schools. Since students are the major stakeholder of any higher education institution, a separate criterion on Students' perception of the school is included.



Challenging Issues:

All indicators for marking are to be backed up by documentation and evidence. The major challenging issue in the implementation of IQAF is to streamline the documentation system of different processes which will bring consistency among the different divisions of the University. Another issue is accessing and compiling huge datasets of the University.

Practice:

The Internal Quality Assurance Framework (IQAF) includes defining the evaluation objectives and procedures, establishing an audit team from schools and support offices, assembling the relevant documentation from schools, analyzing the documentation, identifying quality and performance issues, and making recommendations for improving quality and performance.

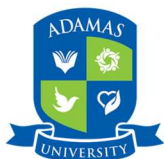
The evaluation of IQAF is based on 6 major criteria namely:

- Criteria 1 Curricular Aspect and Academic Governance**
- Criteria 2 Teaching, Learning, and Evaluation**
- Criteria 3 Research and Innovation**
- Criteria 4 Faculty, Student Quality, and Intellectual Capital**
- Criteria 5 Internationalization**
- Criteria 6 Placement, Internship, and Industry Connect**

A 3-day training session for auditors was conducted to enable them to meet the standards of the code of conduct and to maintain integrity, professionalism, and transparency throughout the audit process.

For AY 2020-21, the Internal Quality Assurance Framework (IQAF) audit was conducted from 25th November 2021 to 10th December 2021. The schedule of the audit of Schools was as under:

Date	Day	Name of the School
25-Nov-2021	Thursday	School of Law and Justice (SOLJ)
1-Dec-2021	Friday	School of Life Science and Biotechnology (SOLB)



02-Dec-2021	Tuesday	School of Pharmaceutical and Technology (SOPT)
03-Dec-2021	Friday	School of Engineering and Technology (SOET)
06-Dec-2021	Monday	School of Education (SOE)
07-Dec-2021	Tuesday	School of Basic and Applied Sciences (SOBAS)
08-Dec-2021	Wednesday	School of Business and Economics (SOBE)
09-Dec-2021	Thursday	School of Media and Communication (SOMC)
10-Dec-2021	Friday	School of Liberal Arts and Cultural Studies (SOLACS)

Evidence of Success:

Audit reports were prepared based on the findings and observations of the Audit team on the audit evidence obtained from the school. A CGPA grade card was issued to all Schools based on the final scoring received under each criterion based on the IQAF audit. The best school was announced based on the score.

The publication of the results of the audit inspection leads to greater awareness amongst the stakeholders about the quality issues and the areas of improvement across all University schools, including the centralization of systems and processes.

The IQAF implementation helped Adamas University to have a strategic benchmarking in terms of continuous improvement of the academic quality of each school. The framework had inculcated competition and constant comparison among the schools and it has become a tool for motivation to change and improve the quality.

Resources Required:

The implementation of the IQAF required manpower for the creation of a pool of auditors from schools and support offices to conduct the IQAF audit.