

5.3.1 Heliopolis University for sustainable development

Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development

- Establishment of a private university in Egypt



Introduction The challenges of the 21st century – such as climate change, resource scarcity, population growth, extreme poverty, etc. – need innovative solutions, in order to find new, prospective answers for the big problems of our time. The Heliopolis University for Sustainable Development (HU) dedicated its existence to this challenge. In this manner, the Heliopolis University is the first university in the world that declares sustainable development to be its overall guiding principle.

Vision The Heliopolis University contributes to the sustainable development in all different aspects of our society.

Concept The HU is based on a renewed understanding of the university concept, in which **teaching, research and practice** build a unified whole.

- Interactive learning methods and study programs following the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), enabling mobility of the students and researchers
- Participation in interdisciplinary research on a national and international level of both, professors *and* students
- Integration of the „practical experience“ enabling the discovery of its inherent future potentials

This concept implies two fundamental opening processes of the university:
The opening to the *outside*, to the societal practice as well as the opening to the *inside* to the inventive sources of knowledge and intentional processes.

Aims

- Graduates with a social entrepreneurship spirit
- Competent graduates for new, sustainable job profiles
- Interdisciplinary research competence of graduates and researchers

Market opportunities for graduates The market for sustainable, green products and services is growing worldwide in developed as well as developing countries. The job opportunities and the demand for professionals are already huge and will even grow bigger in the future. Especially in Egypt with its enormous potential for green technologies and base-of-the-pyramid solutions, there is a need for entrepreneurs who are able to actually realize these new ideas and shape a new responsible competitiveness.

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Faculties

The faculties and departments of the HU show the desired consonance of disciplines, which is regarded as indispensable for having a broad influence on the sustainable development of society.

- >Sustainable Engineering
 - Renewable Energy, Water, Mechatronics, Sustainable Architecture
- >Sustainable Business & Economics
 - Sustainable Management, Sustainable Economics
- >Pharmacy
- >Physiotherapy
- >Nursing
- >Sustainable Agriculture & Food Sciences
 - Organic Agriculture, Food Processing
- >Social Sciences & Humanities
 - Languages, Political Sciences, Pedagogy, Sociology
- >Media & Communications
 - Journalism, Radio & TV, Public Relations, Advertising
- >Applied Arts
 - Music, Theatre, Eurhythm, Graphic Design

The **Foundation Program** as an overlapping part of every Bachelor program consists of subjects to stimulate the students' thinking and perception ability including natural and social science, humanities and arts courses.

Bachelor and graduate (Master, PhD, MBA) programs are developed and implemented together with international partner universities. Especially the Bachelor programs in pharmacy, water management and mechatronics have been developed within the framework of European Tempus projects.

Languages

The HU strives to deliver a truly intercultural educational experience. Thus, it will foster the learning and use of foreign languages, specifically English and German. However, English shall be the standard language of study and official communication (except in language classes).

Partnerships with Universities

International partnerships and cooperation play an important role for the exchange of ideas, students and professors as well as for the mutual development of study programs and research projects. Already we are working in international research cooperation with different universities on projects in the fields of biodynamic agriculture, renewable energies, water, mechatronics, medicine and pharmacy. The focus lies on applied research, most of the projects are financed through EU-funds. Based on this network, HU signed 24 Memorandums of Understanding over the last 5 years with high-ranked, international universities and hence agreed on different cooperation forms starting

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from student exchange programs up to jointly create and develop study programs.

Particular close partnerships exist with:

- University of Graz (Austria), in the field of pharmacy
- TU Graz (Austria), in the field of renewable energies
- Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences (Germany), in the field of arts
- Liverpool John Moores University (UK), in the fields of environmental engineering and water management
- Bochum University of Applied Sciences (Germany), in the field of Mechatronics

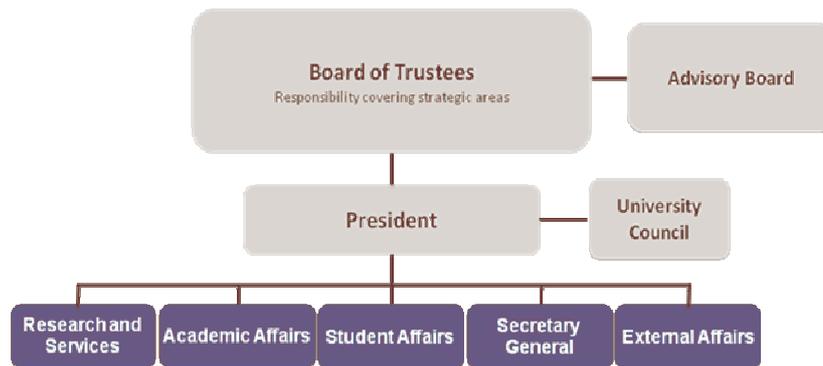
Apart from that, HU is host of the “Regional Center of Expertise for Education on Sustainable Development Cairo” and hence closely associated with the United Nations University in Tokyo.

Accreditation	HU is striving towards the accreditation of all its’ study programs through the European agencies ASIIN and ACQUIN, which is fostered through the cooperation with already accredited partner universities.
Corporate Network	HU builds strategic alliances with Egyptian and international industry partners, in order to guarantee a close link between research and practice. HU is representing the Egyptian higher education institutions in order to establish together with the United Nation Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and 10 selected African universities a global network of “University Chairs on Innovation”. The purpose of the “Chairs on Innovation” is to establish an institutionalized linkage between universities and enterprises.
Form of Organization	HU is a private non-profit university, completely independent from the government. It was established according to the Egyptian law for private universities and officially accepted by the Presidential Decree Nr. 298/2009 in August 2009.
Founding Institutions	<p>HU was established by the SEKEM initiative, which is working in the field of sustainable development of humans, the earth, and the society in Egypt since 1977. 2003 the founder of this initiative Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish received the Alternative Nobel prize for his work, furthermore he has been recognized as “Outstanding Social Entrepreneur” by the Schwab Foundation. In 2008 he received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.</p> <p>The founding institutions of HU are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEKEM Development Foundation, working in the fields of education (kindergarten, school, therapeutic pedagogy), vocational training, adult education, research and medical prevention ▪ Abouleish Foundation, responsible body of the Heliopolis University

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The **SEKEM Holding**, consisting of 9 companies in the fields of biodynamic agriculture, organic food, textiles, pharmaceuticals and renewable energies is supporting the HU with financial assistance, an international partner network and continuous cooperation in research and teaching.

Governance Structure



Core Establishment Team

Board of Trustees:

- Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Abouleish, President of the BoT
- Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Sherif, Executive Director of the BoT and former President of different Universities
- Dr. Kadria Ali Abdel-Motaal, Director General of SEKEM Development Foundation
- Prof. Dr. Marcello da Veiga, Rector of the Alanus University
- Samir Shalaby, Assistant of the BoT
- Svenja Bromberg, Assistant of the BoT

Advisory Board:

- Univ. Prof. Dipl. Eng. Dr. Hans Suenkel, Rector of the TU Graz
- International Relations:
- Dr. Eng. Hani Sewilam, Director Int. Relations

University Market in Egypt

Looking at the numerous development needs and the population growth of Egypt, its university market holds a huge potential. Today, the university market already has to serve 2.4 million students with an annual growth rate of 2%. Most of these students are attending the biggest 20 drastically overloaded public universities. Private universities choose consciously to have a limited capacity, resulting in higher quality of education. Therefore they are only able to serve about 3% of the whole market today.

Students

The final number of students will be 5000 which will be reached after 10 years. To assure the quality of graduates, the HU will choose its students following an elaborate selection process.

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Tuition Fees As a private university, HU will charge fees from 1,900 up to 5,000 Euro per academic year, depending on study program and faculty. In comparison with the rest of the market, HU lies in the sound center field, but clearly below the price leaders of the market “German University in Cairo” with a maximum of 8,700€, as well as “American University in Cairo” with up to 11,000 Euro annually. Every year scholarships to the amount of at least 10% of the total receipt of tuition fees will be assigned. In addition, the “Student Loan” system that will be developed together with local banks will enable every student, who successfully went through the selection process, to undertake his or her studies at HU.

Campus A campus will be constructed outside of Cairo where students and professors can live and learn together, so that new thinking can unfold and evolve. Apart from the buildings for teaching and research the campus will include a library, a cultural center with a concert hall, a gallery as well as a living area with urban and recreational facilities.

Official Opening **September 2011**, with Bachelor programs in Engineering, Sustainable Business & Economics, Pharmacy and Sustainable Agriculture & Food Sciences

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