

# Graduate Attributes

## King Saud University



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## Statement of His Excellency the Vice-Rector for Planning and Development

Through the Deanship of Development and Quality, the University Secretariat for Planning and Development thrives to implement the standards of national and international academic accreditation and develop strategies for employing those standards to support the distinction and pioneering of academic programs and realize the mission and vision of the University KSU2030.

From this stance, the University Secretariat for Planning and Development, in cooperation with the Secretariat for Educational and Academic Affairs and the Secretariat for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research, has created the Graduate Attributes at King Saud University through the analysis and review of the current attributes, and the development of a general and unified framework, while harnessing the local and global reference comparisons in this regard. These attributes would include the scientific and aptitude skill set that graduates should acquire across all academic programs (Scientific, Health, and Humanitarian) and degrees.

In addition, the Graduate Attributes at King Saud University will enrich the competitive capabilities of the university's graduates across local and international levels, contribute to the development of academic programs, and enhance the university's reputation at local and international levels as well as graduating alumni with a skill set that meets the orientations of the labor market in the Kingdom.

Finally, I would like to thank His Excellency, the Rector of the University for his support and rigorous efforts. The same gratitude is also extended to the honorable members of the committee for their fruitful endeavors. May Allah guide our country, our university and its associates, and all Saudi universities in general, for the good and benefit of all. .

**Prof. Dr. Ali bin Mohammed Masmali**







## Statement of His Excellency the Dean of Development and Quality

King Saud University is witnessing immense development in all academic, research, and educational levels. This developmental mobility is further fuelled by the university's commitment and adoption of all-new standards for national and international academic accreditation alike.

Within this framework and with the guidance and support of the University Secretariat for Planning and Development, the deanship worked in cooperation with relevant authorities, to prepare the Graduate Attributes at King Saud University as one of the requirements for programs and institutional accreditation from the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) in the Kingdom.

In the context of the foregoing, graduate attributes in all academic programs (scientific, health, and humanitarian) and degrees have been finalized to ensure a pioneering achievement in all academic systems of the university that support the educational movement in its various activities. The preparation stage included many procedures for preparing graduates' attributes, including defining the methodology and conducting benchmarking comparisons at the local and global levels.

The distinction in developing Graduate Attributes at King Saud University called for perusing the requirements for national, institutional, and program accreditation in any given field, in addition to evaluating the skills of KSU graduates, which are considered as one of the employment requirements in many of the Kingdom's institutions and ministries. References and pillars for preparing these attributes were distinguished, including but not limited to, Saudi Vision 2030, the policies of the Ministry of Education, the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), and the study of some specialized bodies such as the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties, the Saudi Council of Engineers, and the Saudi BAR Association, in addition to the job classification guide at the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development in the Kingdom.

Finally: I thank everyone who contributed to preparing the Graduate Attributes at King Saud University, and I pray to Allah that all academic programs prosper upon these attributes and be applied to bring distinction and leadership for KSU graduates at local and international levels.

**Dr. Mubarak H Alkhatnai**

### Executive Summary

We herein aim to present the Attributes of King Saud University graduates and align them with the learning outcomes of the academic programs. This guide is based on the strategic plan of King Saud University and its future aspirations, following the directions of Saudi Vision 2030, and meeting the requirements of the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as identifying these attributes at the institutional level and NQF.

### Preface

Institutions of higher education were devoted to set the attributes of their graduates since these attributes forge their identity, serve as a starting point for building academic programs, and stand to define the most significant turnout “The Learner”. Given the importance of identifying these attributes, the academic accreditation institutions have been directing and urging universities to identify and oversee these attributes, including the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) in the Kingdom. In its standards, the Commission mandated universities to define the attributes of their graduates and make these aligned with the learning outcomes to be considered as the main focus in accreditation.

Since graduate attributes are a basic springboard for building learning outcomes in academic programs and given their importance, the process of building general attributes for King Saud University graduates was based on analyzing the current status quo, (local, regional, and global reference comparisons) as well as the university’s strategic plan and related documents.

### The Importance of Graduate Attributes

Graduate attributes are greatly significant since they:

- Represent a directive for the academic programs at King Saud University in building their learning outcomes;
- Contribute to the development of study plans and directing them towards the purpose of these attributes;
- Guide academic programs in developing curriculum contents;
- Serve as a directive for teaching strategies and assessment methods in academic programs; and
- Help in directing faculty members in employing modern teaching strategies.

### Development Methodology of Graduate Attributes

The descriptive-analytical model was used by looking at the strategic plan of the university and its main pillars, Saudi Vision 2030, and identifying, analyzing, and categorizing graduate attributes in the academic programs at King Saud University. This is in addition to extrapolating graduate attributes in some Saudi and international universities that the strategic plan of the university has taken as references, and analyzing the said attributes according to influences, percentages, and frequencies.

### Objectives of Graduate Attributes

The objectives of building Graduate Attributes for King Saud University can be divided into two parts:

#### General Objectives

- Establish the distinct image of King Saud University graduates.
- Forge the identity of King Saud University graduates.
- Direct academic programs towards the identity of its graduates.
- Improve the quality of educational performance and continuous development.

#### Sub-Objectives

- Improve the quality of academic program turnouts based on the Graduate Attributes.
- Develop study plans according to the Graduate Attributes in the academic programs.
- Properly plan for the quality of educational processes in a manner befitting the reputation of a pioneering university.
- Provide graduates with the necessary skills according to the Graduate Attributes and as per requirements of the labor market in the Kingdom.

## Procedures and Stages of Preparation

- Using the descriptive-analytical model, and relying on the main pillars of the strategic plan of King Saud University.
- Analyzing the current position of the Graduate Attributes in the university's academic programs, this included bachelor's programs in health, science, and humanities, as well as drawing conclusions from it.
- Evaluating the current stance of master's and doctoral programs based on the study conducted by the Deanship of Graduate Studies at the university and then drawing conclusions from it.
- Conducting reference comparisons with local, regional, and international universities approved by the KSU2030 strategic plan as a reference comparison.
- Extrapolation of a number Exploring of relevant documents, including the Education Policy, Saudi Vision 2030, the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), the Education and Training Evaluation Commission (ETEC) standards, evidences issued by relevant bodies in the Kingdom, and the job classification guide at the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.
- Concluding twelve attributes for King Saud University graduates, in terms of general attributes suitable for all university programs in all disciplines and at different levels, and flexible attributes that can be modified according to future aspirations and developments and of a degree of importance.

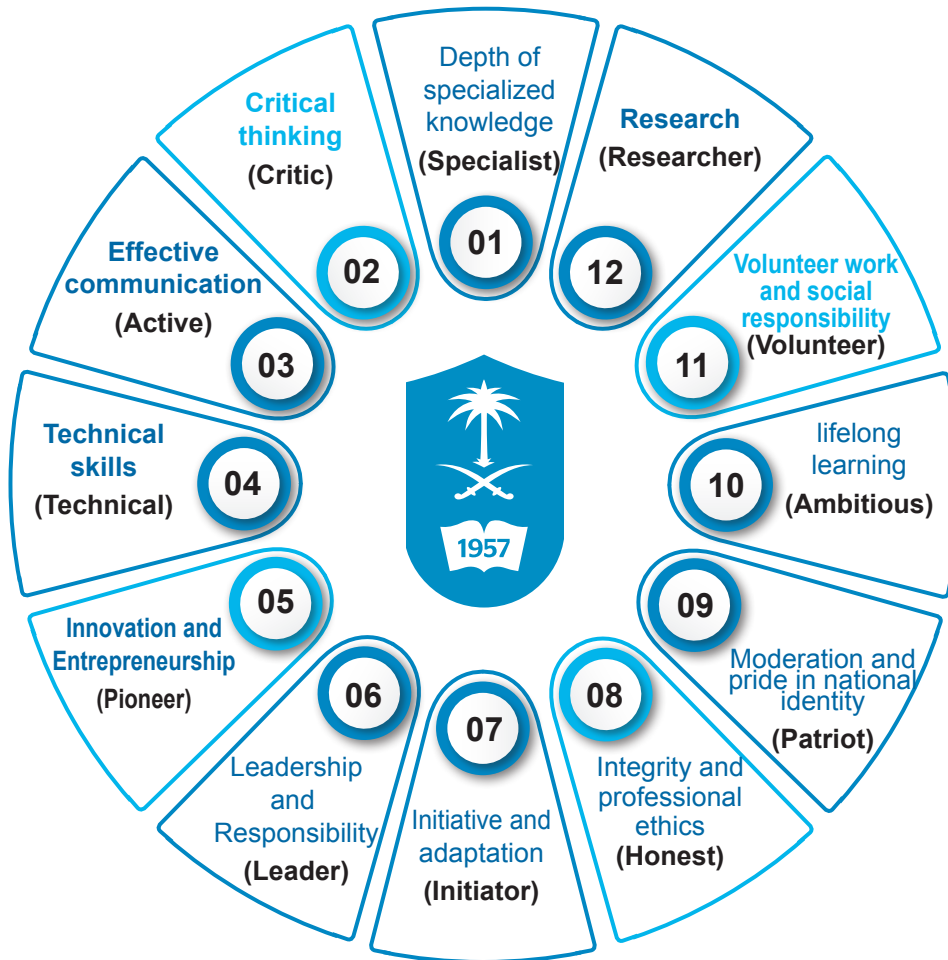
### Benchmarking

Developing Graduate Attributes was based on references, including:

- Saudi Vision 2030
- The New University system
- Education policy in KSA
- Graduate Attributes of the university's postgraduate programs
- KSU2030 strategic plan
- National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
- Reference comparisons (local, regional, and global)
- Specialized bodies such as the Saudi Commission for Health Specialties, (SCHS) the Saudi Council of Engineers, and the Saudi Lawyers Association
- Job Classification Manual at the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development.

The following table shows details of each attribute in terms of description and how it is being represented in the academic programs:

### Graduate Attributes of King Saud University



### Graduate Attributes of King Saud University

N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
1-	Depth of specialized knowledge (Specialist)	King Saud University Graduates are distinguished by deep knowledge of concepts, terminology, and theories according to academic levels.	<p>Graduates should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Be aware of specialized concepts, terminology and theories, and deep as well as accurate knowledge of the field</li> <li>- Recall the concepts and facts related to the specialty</li> <li>- Understand the concepts and terminology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- Education policies</li> <li>- University strategic plan KSU2030</li> </ul>
2-	Critical thinking (Critic)	King Saud University Graduates are distinguished by the ability to apply theories, analyse data related to specialization, interpret and criticize them scientifically, and employ them in finding solutions to problems and challenges facing developments in various development fields.	<p>Graduates should be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply specialized theories</li> <li>- Interpret concepts and theories</li> <li>- Compare specialized concepts and theories</li> <li>- Criticise specialized concepts and theories</li> <li>- Analyse and interpret data and information</li> <li>- Rectify specialized concepts and theories</li> <li>- Propose solutions to problems and challenges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- University strategic plan KSU2030</li> <li>- National Qualifications Framework.</li> </ul>



## Graduate Attributes of King Saud University

N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
3-	Effective communication (active)	King Saud University graduates are distinguished by the ability to communicate effectively with others in various fields: in the academic field, virtual, or actual work environment.	Graduates should be able to: Effectively communicate in Arabic and one of the modern languages in various fields: in the academic field or the premise of a virtual or actual work environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- University strategic plan KSU2030</li> <li>- National Qualifications Framework</li> <li>- Saudi employment skills (Qiyas)</li> </ul>
4-	Technical skills (Technical)	King Saud University graduates are distinguished by the ability to optimally employ all kinds of technology in providing specialized and functional skills and investing in technical developments in the digital world: such as artificial intelligence, in various fields.	Graduates should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Optimally employ all kinds of technology in providing specialized and functional skills</li> <li>- Invest in technical developments in accelerating the digital world in various fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education policies</li> <li>- Saudi employment skills (Qiyas).</li> <li>- University strategic plan KSU2030</li> </ul>

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N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
5-	Innovation and Entrepreneurship. (Pioneer/Innovator)	King Saud University graduates are distinguished by innovation, entrepreneurship, project management, and the ability to strive to realise the modernity that contributes to addressing challenges and developing the work system in various fields.	Graduates should be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Create solutions and develop ideas</li><li>- Entrepreneurship and Project Management</li><li>- Use everything up-to-date that contributes to addressing challenges and developing the work system in various fields.</li><li>- Put forward innovative scientific ideas in their field of specialization.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li></ul> The university's strategic plan KSU2030. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Saudi employment skills (measurement).</li></ul>

## Graduate Attributes of King Saud University

N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
6-	Leadership and Responsibility (Leader)	The King Saud University Graduates are distinguished by leadership, responsibility, and taking appropriate decisions in various fields.	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leadership and responsibility</li> <li>- Managing work teams in various fields</li> <li>- Take appropriate decisions in various fields.</li> <li>- Manage work environments according to international specifications and standards.</li> <li>- Establish realistic and achievable career goals.</li> <li>- Developmental leadership within the work environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- National Qualifications Framework</li> <li>- Saudi employment skills (Qiyas)</li> </ul>
7-	Initiative and adaptation (Initiator)	KSU graduates are distinguished by the ability to take initiative and adapt to bring about desirable change in diverse environments and to adapt to cultural and social diversity.	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss specialized issues</li> <li>- Work professionally in various fields</li> <li>- Take initiative and adapt to bring about desirable change in diverse environments</li> <li>- Adapt to cultural and social diversity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- The National Qualifications Framework</li> <li>- Saudi employment skills (Measurement)</li> </ul>

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N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
8-	Integrity and professional ethics (Honest)	KSU graduates are committed to integrity and professional ethics in various fields.	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply standards of integrity, transparency, and ethical behaviour in various academic and professional fields.</li> <li>- Self-censorship</li> <li>- Adherence to professional ethics in various fields</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>-University strategic plan KSU2030</li> </ul>
9-	Moderation and pride in national identity (Patriot)	King Saud University graduates are distinguished by moderation and pride in the national identity in word and deed	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <p>Achieve the principles of moderation and fairness. Pride in national identity and commitment to achieving it in word and deed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reinforce the values of honest citizenship in daily practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- Education policies</li> </ul>
10-	Lifelong learning (Ambitious)	KSU graduates are distinguished by lifelong learning	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Self-development and continuous learning continuously responding to personal development</li> <li>- Searching for knowledge in its various sources</li> <li>- Find tools for continuous learning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Saudi Vision 2030</li> <li>- Education policies</li> <li>- University strategic plan KSU2030.</li> </ul>

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N	Graduate Attributes	Description	Learning outcomes to be represented in academic programs	The basis for selecting the attributes
11-	Volunteer work and social responsibility (Volunteer)	King Saud University graduates are distinguished by volunteer work and social responsibility.	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participate actively in various community activities</li> <li>- Employ professional and research activities in community service.</li> <li>- Contribute to directing society towards achieving social and development goals</li> <li>- Interact positively with individuals of different cultures within the community.</li> </ul>	Saudi Vision 2030 University strategic plan KSU2030
12-	Research (Researcher)	The King Saud University graduates are distinguished by their ability to apply the original scientific research procedure in order to achieve the knowledge economy.	<p>Graduates should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Follow the scientific method in research work.</li> <li>- Apply the basics of scientific research.</li> <li>- Conduct original and distinguished scientific research in the field of specialization in accordance with the directions of the Kingdom.</li> <li>- Participate in research projects in the field of specialization.</li> <li>- Produce scientific research and publish it in approved publications.</li> </ul>	Saudi Vision 2030 Education policy University strategic plan KSU2030.

## Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Attitude</b>	The hypothetical cognitive structure reflects an organization of an individual's opinions, beliefs, and behavior. It is a mental and psychological structure brought about by experience. It is a structure characterized by stability and relative stability that directs the behavior of individuals close to or away from an element of the environment. It is a coherent organization of concepts, beliefs, habits, and motives with respect to a specific thing, and it represents the basis of a person's "view" in relation to a specific thing.
<b>Professional Ethics</b>	It means promoting professional ethics such as moderation, and flexibility - excellence and discipline - fairness and transparency - determination, perseverance, and determination - working hard. (Human capabilities document)
<b>Autonomy</b>	Immanuel Kant defined autonomy as the moral right that a person has, or the ability we have to think and make decisions that provide a degree of control and power over events that unfold in an individual's daily life.
<b>Sustainable development contribution</b>	Developing skills and honing talents to produce quality initiatives, realizing the importance of benefiting from different competencies in development paths, seeking to take care of public health, and applying the principles of security and safety in protecting and developing the environment and solving its problems.
<b>lifelong learning</b>	From HarperCollins Dictionary: (Social Sciences/Education) Lifelong learning is the provision or use of both formal and informal learning opportunities throughout people's lives in order to foster the continuous development and improvement of the knowledge and skills needed for employment and personal fulfillment.

Term	Definition
<b>Self-esteem</b>	<p>Smith and Mackie (2007) Self - esteem as a “ Self-concept is what we think about the self; self-esteem is the positive or negative evaluations of the self, as in how we feel about it.”</p> <p>It is self-confidence and striving to raise it to its fullest potential, contentment and tranquillity, a sense of success and distinction, and an outlook on life and the future with optimism and ambition.</p>
<b>Quality of life</b>	<p>World Health Organization defines the quality of life: individual’s perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards, and concerns. Quality of life is seen as multidimensional and includes emotional, physical, physical, and social well-being.</p>
<b>Scientific Passion</b>	<p>Passion is defined as a strong tendency towards knowledge in itself, in which a person invests his time and effort, believing in the importance of this science or out of love for it.</p>
<b>Cognitive Curiosity</b>	<p>Curiosity or inquisitiveness is defined as the need for understanding and knowledge and the desire to discover and know the facts of things. At the same time, it is a state of mind, internal motivation, instinct, and behavior, and it is present in children at the beginning of their upbringing, humans in general, and animals.</p>
<b>Value</b>	<p>It means ethics and good behavior at a personal and professional level. It is a set of basic principles that constitute the human personality and regulate human behavior as they determine the relationships of individuals with each other.</p>

**Graduate Attributes of King Saud University**

Term	Definition
<b>Responsibility</b>	A person’s commitment to what he says or does. Responsibility is a state in which a person is entitled to be held accountable for his actions and is bound by their various consequences.
<b>Good Citizenship</b>	Belonging to and being proud of the homeland in all its acquirements, preserving its gains, being aware of rights and duties, adhering to laws and regulations, and observing public morals/public taste.

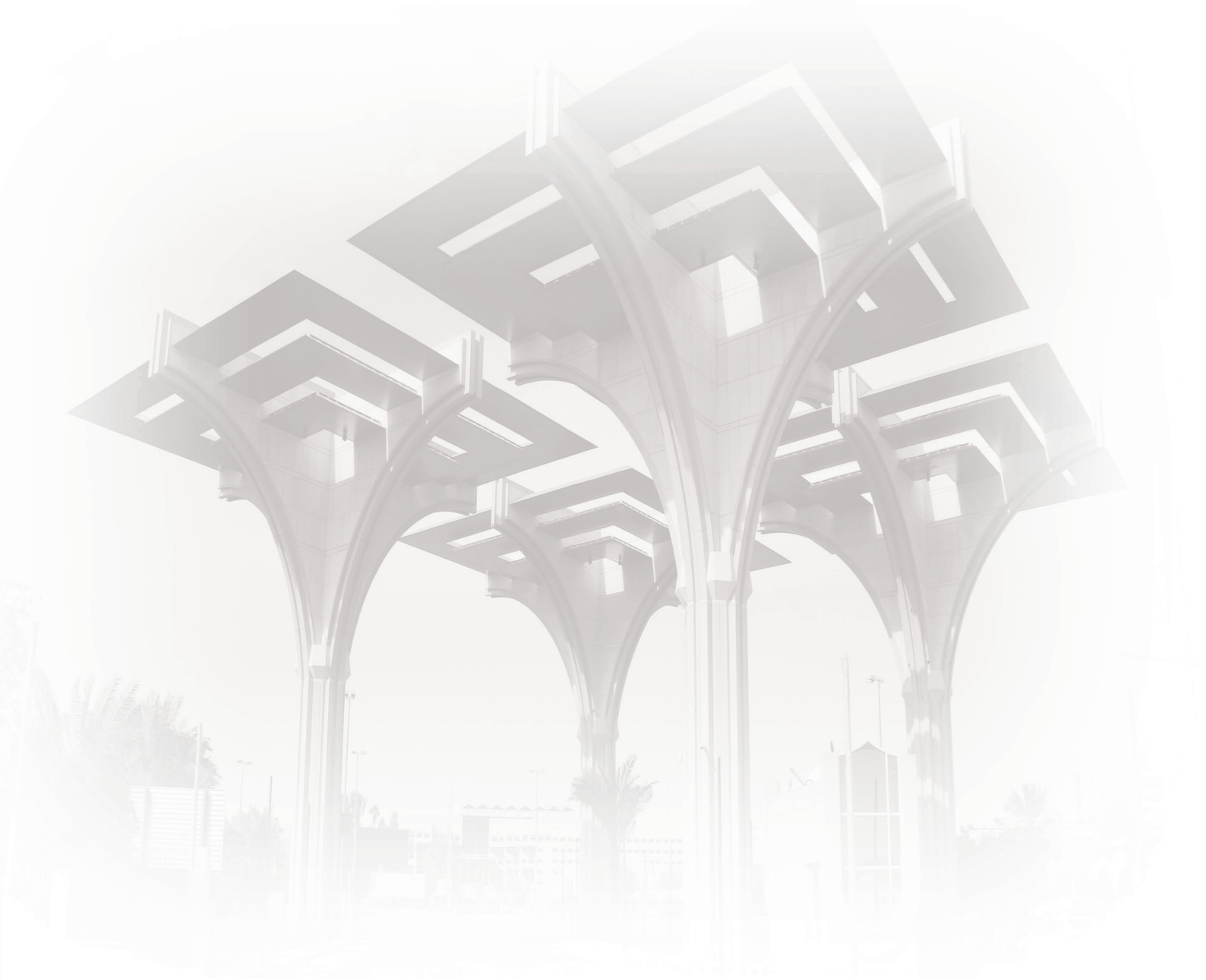


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