

STATEMENT OF CORE COMPETENCIES

1. Purpose

The curriculum at ADA University is based on a set of core competencies that ensure it serves the University's mission and strategic goals. Specifically, they guide teaching and learning at ADA University and are designed to equip students with the qualifications needed for academic, professional and personal success. The purpose of this statement is to specify and define these competencies and to provide a coherent and systematic framework for Schools and programs as well as a clear and transparent point of reference for teachers, (current and prospective) students, and the general public.

2. Scope and Recommendations

This statement applies to the entire curriculum at ADA University. It provides a framework for School missions as well as for teaching, learning and assessment at both the program and course level.

Core competencies serve as guiding principles for the development, implementation and review of all programs at ADA University. Schools and their faculty are responsible to ensure that these competencies are systematically reflected on the level of programs. They will do so by defining program learning outcomes, which are informed by and align with the core competencies outlined in this document. For details, see the University's *Core Competence and Learning Outcome Specification Policy*.

3. Definition

In accordance with the *European Reference Framework* of 2007, *Competence* is defined as "a combination of knowledge, skills and attitudes". *Core Competencies* are general statements of qualities that a student is expected to demonstrate upon graduation, and this regardless of a specific degree program.

4. The University's Core Competencies

4.1 Education at ADA University is based on the following core competencies:

- a. Competence 1: *Information and Digital Literacy*
- b. Competence 2: *Critical Thinking*
- c. Competence 3: *Problem Solving and Creativity*
- d. Competence 4: *Communication*
- e. Competence 5: *Collaboration and Leadership*
- f. Competence 6: *Ethical Awareness and Civic Engagement*
- g. Competence 7: *Global Awareness*

4.2 Competence 1: *Information and Digital Literacy* describes the ability to acquire and organize new and relevant information. It involves identifying appropriate resources and effectively using digital technologies. This competence furthermore involves employing digital technologies productively and in a deliberate, safe and ethical manner for purposes such as communication, collaboration, or the creation of new content.

- 4.3 Competence 2: *Critical Thinking* describes the ability to independently evaluate information and draw objective conclusions based on well-founded arguments and/or criteria. It involves inquiring into the accuracy and relevance of information, making reasoned judgements, and reflecting on one's own views and assumptions.
- 4.4 Competence 3: *Problem Solving and Creativity* describe the ability to identify, describe and analyze problems, develop appropriate and innovative solutions, and adapt them to changing conditions. This includes using prior experience and knowledge, exploring alternative ways, being flexible and open to new ideas, and considering the consequences of different solutions.
- 4.5 Competence 4: *Communication* describes the ability to engage effectively in formal and informal exchanges with others by oral, written and non-verbal means. It involves listening actively to others, considering one's own behavior, adapting one's communication style, and exchanging information in a respectful and socially acceptable manner.
- 4.6 Competence 5: *Collaboration and Leadership* describes the ability to constructively cooperate with others to achieve a common goal. This involves creating positive relationships, respecting and reconciling different opinions, appreciating the contribution of team members, and sharing responsibilities. Effective leadership builds on these collaborative abilities, and it involves taking the initiative, motivating others, modeling behavior, setting ethical standards, and assuming responsibility for individual and collective goals and outcomes.
- 4.7 Competence 6: *Ethical Awareness and Civic Engagement* describes the ability to reflect on moral values and issues and identify matters of public concern. This includes identifying and assessing ethical issues, forming sound moral arguments, and making choices while considering their implications for others and the community. It also involves acting in the public interest and developing and implementing solutions to matters of public concern, either individually or collaboratively.
- 4.8 Competence 7: *Global Awareness* describes the ability to interpret and assess issues in a global context, understand and respect diverse cultures and perspectives, and engage effectively with individuals from different backgrounds. This involves recognizing the interconnectedness of the world, considering the global implications of actions and events, appreciating cultural diversity, as well as the capability to communicate and collaborate across national and cultural boundaries.