

Fact Sheet: Campus Development

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) is situated on the eastern shore of the Red Sea at Thuwal – approximately 80 kilometers north of Saudi Arabia’s second-largest city, Jeddah – and approximately an hour north of Mecca in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The site is in a unique coastal location comprising a total area of more than 36 million square meters, with the university campus occupying more than 16 million square meters on land and the remaining area consisting of a vibrant offshore ecosystem that will be a sanctuary and one of the new University’s research areas of interest.

Part of the University’s mission of environmental stewardship is not only reflected in the choice of its location, but also in the campus master plan. The physical campus and its operations will minimize the environmental footprint through efficient use of water, electricity and other resources, and through reuse and recycling. Construction will be carried out with care to preserving the environment. A signature part of the campus will be a marine sanctuary and research facility around a unique coral reef ecosystem.

Campus Planning

For more information
visit the KAUST
Web site at:
www.kaust.edu.sa

The development of the University has been entrusted by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to His Excellency Minister Ali Ibrahim Al-Naimi, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of Saudi Arabia. Minister Al-Naimi has, in turn, drawn on Saudi Aramco, the world’s largest producer of petroleum, to provide leadership for the development of both the campus and the initial organizational and academic management of KAUST.

As the world’s largest integrated oil company, Saudi Aramco is experienced in delivering mega-projects and in setting up and maintaining secure, independent, self-governing international communities in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere. HOK, a leading architectural firm, is the consultant for planning and construction of the campus.

The campus master plan calls for development of state-of-the-art academic and research

facilities, residential neighborhoods and supporting commercial and recreational facilities. A canal will bisect the campus, contributing to the attractive coastal focus. When students are not actively engaged in their studies and research, they will have access to beautiful beaches, a marina, parks and other recreational amenities.

The first phase of campus construction will include three areas: the academic and research core; residential and commercial center; and the initial phase of the Research Park and Innovation Center.

Campus laboratories and research facilities are being created in flexible building shells with interchangeable modules for different laboratory types and the research associated with them, allowing faculty being recruited to have the opportunity to customize space unique to their research.

Residential areas will include schools for the children of faculty, staff and students, and community shopping and recreational amenities such as a golf course, yacht club and marina. In the second phase, a hotel and conference center will be built to accommodate international visitors and scientific meetings. Upon completion, the campus community is expected to number approximately 20,000, including students, faculty, staff and their families.