Executive Summary

**Initial Institutional Licensure
Symbiosis International University Dubai (SIUD)**

Dubai

6-9 May 2024

An External Review Team (hereafter ERT) visited the Symbiosis International University Dubai (SIUD) from the 6th of May 2024 to the 9th of May 2024, to evaluate the Application for Initial Institutional Licensure (hereafter *Application*) of SIUD's Branch campus. The exit interview was held on 9th May 2024.

Prof. (Dr.) S. B. Mujumdar, a renowned Professor of Botany, established Symbiosis, in 1971 to help foreign students, then studying in India. The Institution is founded on the Vedic principle Vasudhaiv Kutumbakkam '*The World is One Family*'. The name of the Institution fittingly captures the quintessence of the relationship with international students, a mutually beneficial bond between Indian and the International student community.

Symbiosis International University (SIU) is registered as a Trust under the Bombay Public Trusts Act 1950 and as a Society under the Societies Registration Act 1860 in the State of Maharashtra, India. It is the sponsoring body of SIU.

SIU was granted "Deemed to be University" status by the Government of India vide Notification No. F.9-12/2001- U-3 dated 06.05.2002. Since then, the University has grown in leaps and bounds into a large multi-disciplinary university offering quality education in undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programs under eight faculties: Law, Management, Computer Studies, Medical & Health Sciences, Media & Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences, Engineering, and Architecture & Design.

The main campus of the university is nestled on a 400-acre terrain near the city of Pune, Maharashtra, India. The university has four Branch Campuses (Off-Campus Centres) spread across different parts of the country: Bengaluru, Karnataka; NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh; Hyderabad, Telangana; and Nagpur, Maharashtra. There are 40 Constituent Institutes, 12 Research Centres, 12 Support Departments, and 10 Departments of Skills and Continuing Education.

The university has been awarded Category-I status by University Grants Commission, Government of India, and 'A++' grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), India. It has been ranked 32nd in India by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2023, and 10th by Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievement (ARIIA) 2021.

Internationally, the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking 2023 has ranked the university amongst the top 1000 Universities in the World, and 23rd in India. THE World University Rankings 2023 by Subject has ranked the university in the 401-500 band in Social Sciences, in the 501-600 band in Business & Economics, in the 501-600 band in Accounting & Finance, in the 401- 500 band in Computer Science, and in the 601-800 band in Engineering. QS World University Rankings has ranked the university amongst the top 261-270 in QS Asia University Rankings 2024, and 53rd in QS Asia University Rankings 2024 – Southern Asia.

The documentation sent to the ERT prior to the visit (the Applications) was largely complete and of a reasonable standard. The ERT thanks the staff of SIUD for their work in this onerous task.

The ERT needs sight of detailed program budgets so they are satisfied that a variety of stipulations are met.

The ERT have highlighted issues with the formulation and articulation of program and course learning outcomes. In particular, the use of appropriate action terms in both is essential as this will lead to courses with content and assessment formulated at the correct level as determined by QF*Emirates* which are contextualized to the UAE.

Course syllabi will require some attention to meet the requirements of the *Standards*. Careful consideration of the requirements set out will lead the SIUD team to create a first class set of course syllabi that not only meet the requirements but may enhance the delivery and administration of the courses and programs.

The ERT met some proposed new faculty who appeared enthusiastic and positive about working for SIUD. The ERT, however, require a 4-year hiring plan for the baccalaureate programs and a 2-year hiring plan for the MBA program.

The ERT commends the enthusiasm and quality of the staff and alumni that they have met.

The ERT makes its requirements in a spirit of constructive engagement, with the aim of ensuring that the *Standards* are met, and to aid SIUD in its desired objective to license the institution and accredit its programs.