

# King Abdallah University of Science and Technology now open



*Saudi Arabia has set up a new research university, a multibillion dollar co-educational venture built on the promise of scientific freedom. The King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) - complete with state-of-the-art laboratories, the world's 14th fastest supercomputer, and one of the biggest endowments worldwide - is now open.*

The campus is built along the Red Sea coast about 80km north of the commercial centre of Jeddah.

Saudi officials have envisaged the postgraduate institution as a crucial part of the kingdom's plans to transform itself into a global scientific hub - the latest effort in the Gulf region to diversify its economic base.

### *'Mixed-gender' classes*

The new university will not require women to wear veils or cover their faces, and they will be able to mix freely with men.

They will also be allowed to drive, a taboo in a country where women must literally take a back seat to their male drivers.

### *'Scientific agenda'*

The 71 faculty members include 14 from the US, seven from Germany and six from Canada.

The university is being launched at a time when oil producing countries have been increasing their push to focus on education and development programmes aimed at boosting economic growth.

Saudi officials have said they are committed to spending \$400bn over the next five years on various development and infrastructure projects.

KAUST is committed to attracting high-caliber students, and providing a stimulating, rewarding, and challenging environment in which to live and learn.



You can apply to KAUST through the KAUST Fellowship <http://www.kaust.edu.sa/admissions/admissions.html>

#### Degree Programs and Fields of Study

- *Applied Mathematics and Computational Science (AMCS)*
- *Bioscience (B)*
- *Chemical and Biological Engineering (CBE)*
- *Computer Science (CS)*
- *Earth Science and Engineering (ErSE)*
- *Electrical Engineering (EE)*
- *Environmental Science and Engineering (EnSE)*
- *Materials Science and Engineering (MSE)*
- *Mechanical Engineering (ME)*

<http://www.kaust.edu.sa/>