

## SYRIAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY- WORKING IN CONJUNCTION WITH EDEXEL AND GREENWICH UNIVERSITY



recognised degrees. SVU-designed programs are all created in collaboration with well-known institutions worldwide. The Arabic Higher National Diploma in e-Business (HND) for instance is produced in collaboration with the finest Arab professors (from renowned and accredited Arab universities) and the British institution EDEXCEL which is the official body awarding HNDs worldwide. Upon completion of their HND programme, SVU students can continue their studies for a Bachelor degree at Greenwich University.

In December 2005, the university embarked on an adventurous programme designed to offer training courses in education to teachers living in remote areas. The current number of teachers' taking this course is 1700 from all over Syria. This

18-month postgraduate diploma is a new experience for both schoolteachers and the SVU. In 2006 the SVU took the initiative and launched its own undergraduate degrees - Bachelor in Information Technology (BIT) and Information Systems Engineering (ISE).

Being the very first Arab institution of its kind, the SVU offers students a wide range of support services to help them achieve more during their studies. They offer a Preparatory Year that comprises remedial courses in English and introductory courses in IT skills.

There are 15 SVU tele-centres distributed across Syria and one in Dubai. Students can study at anytime and anywhere, thanks to the SVU flexibility in delivering the materials to its students, who

no longer need to travel to distant places to obtain a degree. Students can attend live sessions from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Europe and Canada, or they can enjoy viewing recorded sessions.

The number of students at SVU is growing. 60% more students studied with SVU in 2006/7 compared with previous years. The culture of e-learning certainly seems to be spreading fast. The SVU also offers working adults the opportunity to build on their present knowledge and work experience. Although SVU bachelor degrees usually take four years to obtain, the study period can be extended to up to 10 years. This allows employed students to maintain a balance between their jobs and their studies. Undoubtedly, the SVU has opened doors to life long learning in Syria and in the whole region.