Kuwait University Ranking in the Light of the International Universities Ranking Standards: An Analytical Evaluation Study

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Abstract: The aim of this study is to assess the current ranking of Kuwait University in the ranking of international universities compared to Arab and international universities. We can summarize the problem of the study in the following key question: How Kuwait University can achieve the criteria for international rankings of universities? To answer this question, first we discuss the international rankings of universities, and then we analyze the status of Kuwait University in these rankings -and its ranking compared to Arab universities- while discussing its strengths and weaknesses. The results of the study show that the ranking of Kuwait University is low and sometimes it was not included in these global rankings. Accordingly, the study recommends adopting practical mechanisms to enhance the ranking of Kuwait University by working on the implementation of international ranking standards, which will require dedicated funding and strong determination.

تصنيف جامعة الكويت في ضوء معايير التصنيف العالمية للجامعات: دراسة تحليلية تقويمية

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المستخلص: هدفت الدراسة إلى تقويم واقع ترتيب جامعة الكويت في تصنيف الجامعات العالمية مقارنة بالجامعـات العربيـة والعالميـة. وتلخـصت مـشكلة الدراسة في السؤال الرئيس الآتي: كيف يمكن تحقيق معايير التصنيفات العالمية للجامعات في جامعة الكويت؟

وللإجابة عن هذا السؤال درست وحللت التصنيفات العالمية للجامعات، ومن ثم حدد واقع ترتيب جامعة الكويت في تلك التـصنيفات وموقعهـا بالنـسبة للجامعات العربية، كما حددت نقاط القوة والضعف فيها.

وأظهرت النتائج تراجع جامعة الكويت أو تغيها عن هذه التصنيفات العالمية، وبناء عليه أوصت الدراسة باتباع آليات عملية تسهم في تغيير وتطوير ترتيب تصنيف جامعة الكويت وذلك بالعمل على تنفيذ معايير التصنيفات العالمية مع توفر الإرادة والرغبة الصادقة وزيادة التمويل.

الكلمات المفتاحية: معايير التصنيف، تصنيف التايمز (THE)، تصنيف شنغهاي (ARWU)، تصنيف كيو إس (QS)، تصنيف ويبومتركس.

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Introduction:

Higher education is witnessing a great interest in various countries in the world, for its role in meeting the needs of individuals and societies in an advanced and renewed era as a result of the development in knowledge and technology. It is one of the most important pillars of comprehensive development through its contribution to the preparation of technical, academic and professional staff for the various institutions, as well as its role in the development, use and spread of knowledge through scientific research and the development of specialists in their fields and the development of methods for the service of the society and the environment.

Most of the countries in the world, including the Arab countries, have adopted some policies aimed at developing their universities, with the goal of qualifying them to occupy a prominent position in the international rankings of universities. Some Saudi universities have succeeded in making an unprecedented leap in the international rankings. and constituted a bright spot for Arab universities worldwide, where ambitious plans and programs have been developed to improve the level of scientific research and improve their ranking in various global indicators (Al Seddiki, 2014).

Studies on the topic of international rankings are still limited, due to the novelty of the subject matter and the recent entry of Arab universities into the ranking competition. However, we can summarize some of these studies as follows:

Hassan Study (2006), examined the determinants of the competitiveness of Arab universities and the reasons for their low-ranking compared to international universities. He proposed solutions to this problem and proposed a strategy for the advancement of Arab universities.

The study of Sa'egh (2011) aimed at explaining the reasons for the entry of some Arab universities to these rankings and achieving some advanced ranks. This is attributed to their interest in international competition, which made them prepare for this by clear strategic visions. Also, the study tried to examine the reasons for the absence of other universities from the rankings, the most important of which is the weakness of scientific research, and its

focus on the theoretical and philosophical aspects that are far from the applied aspects at different social, economic and educational levels, where the research is done for promotional purposes only and may be a repetition of what others have done.

Saqr study (2011) aimed at surveying the opinions of (20) Arab academics in different Arab universities on the reasons for the decline of the ranking of Arab universities in the international rankings of universities. The study showed several results, the most important of which are: The lack of academic freedom in Arab universities came first, followed by weak budgets allocated to higher education and scientific research, and the young age of Arab universities in some cases, and that there are systematic and cultural reasons associated with the international rankings of the universities themselves, most notably the adoption of studies mainly written in English language by these rankings.

Al Hashem, Majali, and Al Shibli study (2012) aimed at providing a critical analysis of the results of the first twenty Arab universities based on the evaluation of Webometrics, and showed several results, the most important of which is that the effects of linguistic bias in the benefit of the studies written in English language.

Study of Ahmed and Tohami (2012) aimed at finding the reasons for the absence of Egyptian universities in the ranking lists. The study showed several results, the most important of which are: one of the mechanisms for developing the performance of the universities is enriching the university publications, increasing their size on the internet sites, activating the role of research centers in universities and activating the role of electronic websites in universities, And the establishment of research cooperation units with external institutions.

The study of Waih (2013) aimed at identifying the most prominent international rankings of universities and the criteria on which they were based. It also presented a critical vision for them. Then, it presented a set of proposals that could help improve the ranking of Arab universities in these rankings based on achieving the criteria of these rankings.

Al Seddiki study (2014) aimed at reviewing two models of ranking: Shanghai ranking and Webometrics ranking, and the rankings of the Arab universities according to them. It also included an analysis of nine principles that are considered landmarks for any university aspiring to join the elite international club. The study showed several results, the most important of which are: the current scientific gap between Arab universities and their counterparts in developed countries requires the concentrated efforts of various governmental and civilian institutions to reduce them.

The study of Hawala and Al Mutawalli (2014) examined the reasons behind the absence of Egyptian universities from most international rankings. The study proposed new standards of public and private universities that better fit the Egyptian universities.

Nasr, Rakha and Mustafa Study (2014) aimed at developing mechanisms to improve the ranking of Saudi universities in the international rankings of universities by surveying the views of faculty members at Saudi universities on the procedures that could improve the ranking of Saudi universities in the international arrangements for universities. A questionnaire was distributed to faculty members.

Abdul Aziz study (2015) aimed at clarifying the importance of international publication as a criterion for the ranking of universities internationally according to the recognized criteria for the ranking of universities in the world.

The study of Mazloum and Al Fihan (2015) aimed at developing mechanisms for the development of the University of Baghdad in accordance with QS standards, and a number of tools were used, including a checklist and interviews with a number of quality stakeholders at the university.

Hamdan study (2015) aimed to employ the model of research universities that aimed at exploring the governance of higher education in the Arab world, and the extent to which Arab universities attract talented students, academics and researchers, as well as having adequate funding. And then, studying the impact of these three pillars in the outputs of research universities, namely: The quality of scientific research, the quality of graduates, and the ability of universities to transfer technology and keeping it in the Arab world. The study has concluded that the universities that achieved the previous three pillars have been able to achieve excellence in the quality of their outputs.

The Study of Al Sharbini (2016) aimed at identifying the status of Arab universities in the international rankings of universities, their results and the challenges facing Arab universities. In light of the study of reality, a future formula was developed to improve the status of Arab universities in the context of international rankings.

The study of Bodyaf, Brahmia, and Hamouda (2016) aimed at examining the future of Arab universities in the light of international rankings. The study concluded that the international ranking may not reflect the level of universities and their real position in all areas and dimensions, because each ranking has its advantages and disadvantages. Arab universities can also catch up with elite universities in the world by collaborating with each other and benefiting from the experience of Saudi universities as they have registered a remarkable position and status in the rankings.

Al Abbad study (2017) aimed at determining the requirements for enhancing the competitiveness of King Saud University in the light of the standards of international rankings of universities. It also aimed to identify the obstacles to raising the competitiveness of the university and to propose a model for increasing the competitiveness of King Saud University in the light of the international ranking standards of universities. The study was also based on the analysis of the experiences of the leading model universities at the level of the global ranking such as Harvard University, which occupies the forefront of the ranking.

Due to the absence of a study examining the status of Kuwait University in the global rankings in the previous studies, this study contributes to this aspect to reveal the ranking of Kuwait University in these rankings compared to Arab universities in the light of the ranking criteria and examining the reasons of the absence of Kuwait University from those rankings.

The study Problem:
The global rankings of universities highly reflect

the quality of higher education, and vice versa, where the quality of higher education is one of the important factors that affect the university's ranking among international universities. Due to the absence of most Arab universities from international rankings or occupying low ranking positions, several recent studies investigated the causes of this low-ranking of the Arab universities and searched for mechanisms to address the obstacles while seeking to obtain advanced ranks in those rankings.

Kuwait University is considered one of the Arab universities that seek to obtain advanced rankings in the international rankings. Due to the lack of studies examining the actual status of Kuwait University in these rankings, this study has come to contribute to this field.

The problem of the study is summarized in the following key question: How can the criteria for international rankings of universities be achieved at Kuwait University?

The following questions stem from the key question:
Question 1: What are the global rankings of universities and what are their standards?
Question 2: What is the reality of the ranking of Kuwait University in these rankings and its location compared with the Arab universities and what are the strengths and weaknesses based on the ranking criteria?
Question 3: What are the mechanisms for enhancing the ranking of Kuwait University in the light of the ranking criteria?

Objectives of the study:
The present study attempts to achieve the following objectives:
1- To study the international rankings of universities and understand their standards.
2- To determine the reality of the ranking of Kuwait University in these rankings compared to Arab universities and identify its strengths and weaknesses according to the ranking criteria.
3- To propose several mechanisms for enhancing the ranking of Kuwait University in light of the ranking criteria.

Importance of the study:
The importance of the study is clarified in the following points:
- Identifying the difficulties facing Kuwait University in applying the ranking criteria of universities.
- Improving the ranking of the university according to the international ranking standards compared to Arab universities.
- Providing a database for the university to help in making decisions in accordance with the ranking criteria.
- Opening new horizons for researchers to conduct further studies and research in the field of the international ranking of universities and identify its aspects and the most important standards.

Study Approach:
The study is based on an analytical descriptive and corrective approach. Through which it is possible to examine the international rankings of the universities and their standards, and then study and locate Kuwait University and its ranking in these rankings compared to its counterparts from the Arab universities.

The focus of this study will be on the most important international rankings related to Arab universities, specifically focusing on the four ranking systems: Shanghai Ranking, QS Rating, Time Rating, Webometrics Ranking.

Based on the above, this study will include three topics:
1- the international rankings of universities and their criteria.
2- the reality of the ranking of Kuwait University in the international rankings
3- Proposed mechanisms for enhancing the ranking of Kuwait University in the light of the ranking criteria.

1. The international rankings of universities and their criteria:
The university ranking system is defined as an organized scientific method carried out by a university or institutions concerned with higher education and scientific research, on the basis of gathering information related to universities and research centers, whether this information was about

programs, courses, curricula, research activities or other indicators. So that this information is placed in a set of standards reflecting the competitive position of these universities and research centers (Geiger, 1993, pp. 26-29). The standards used in international rankings are defined as levels that relate to competencies that are required in all educational programs offered by the educational institution. These standards vary according to the rating agency; local, regional or international (Ahmed & Tohami, 2012, p. 127).

International rankings of universities are among the best measuring methods of university competitiveness, as they seek to rank universities worldwide in an objective and impartial framework. (Levin & Jeong, 2006, p. 22). International rankings are of great importance and have many advantages. The most important of these are the following: showing the university's international academic reputation, the creation of competition among universities, and the university's presence on the Internet (Ismail, 2015). It also provides universities with an opportunity to identify weaknesses and try to correct their mistakes and their path by learning from the performance of other universities. The ranking of the universities also helps to improve the performance of universities and to advise university

leaders on how to develop their universities and to transfer good university practices from all over the world, thus contributing to the dissemination of global university education (Rozman & Marhl, 2008). The importance of rankings cannot be ignored as an indicator and an important tool for monitoring new developments by universities.

The global rankings of universities vary according to their objectives, or the inclusiveness of their standards and their international reputation. So, this study will focus on the most important international rankings related to Arab universities, specifically, we will focus on four ranking models: Shanghai ranking ARWU, QS ranking, Times ranking, Webometrics ranking.

1.1 Shanghai Ranking "ARWU": Academic Ranking of World Universities:

This entire ranking depends on academic research. It is based on the examination of (1500) universities in the world out of the (12000) university registered in UNESCO that had the initial qualifications for competition but only published the list of the first (500) universities. The criteria of this ranking revolve around the quality of education, quality of teaching staff, scientific research, and academic achievement of the university, as shown in Table (1).

Table 1. Criteria used in Shanghai ranking, description, and proportions

Criteria	Indicator	Code	Weight
Quality of Education	Alumni of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Alumni	10%
Quality of Faculty	Staff of an institution winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals	Award	20%
	Highly cited researchers in 21 broad subject categories	HiCi	20%
Research Output	Papers published in Nature and Science*	N&S	20%
	Papers indexed in Science Citation Index-expanded and Social Science Citation Index	PUB	20%
Per Capita Performance	Per capita academic performance of an institution	PCP	10%
Total			100%

* For institutions specialized in humanities and social sciences such as London School of Economics, N&S is not considered, and the weight of N&S is relocated to other indicators.

* Source: http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU-Methodology-2018.html

Data sources in the Shanghai ranking:

This ranking is based on data from the following sites as shown in Table (2).

Table 2. Data Sources in the Shanghai ranking

Indicator	Data Source
Nobel laureates	http://nobelprize.org/
Fields Medals	http://www.mathunion.org/
Highly cited researchers	https://clarivate.com/hcr/
Papers published in Nature and Science	http://www.webofscience.com/
Articles indexed in Science Citation Index-Expanded and Social Science Citation Index	http://www.webofscience.com/
Others	Number of academic staff data is obtained from national agencies such as National Ministry of Education, National Bureau of Statistics, National Association of Universities and Colleges, National Rector's Conference.

* Source: http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU-Methodology-2018.html

1.2 QS University Rankings

This ranking is published through the British company "Quacquarelli Symonds" which produces an annual report of more than 30 thousand universities around the world according to academic and scientific standards. So that it highlights more than 800 of the world's top universities in the disciplines of Humanities and Arts, Engineering and Technology, Life Sciences and Medicine, Natural Sciences, Management, and Social Sciences. Based on six criteria related to higher education as in Table (3).

Table 3. Criteria used in QS ranking, description and percentage

Criteria	description and proportion
Academic reputation	Teachers and academics around the world are asked through mailing lists and questionnaires about their opinion of the universities that do the best research in their field. (40%)
Job reputation	Through questionnaires on companies to identify universities that offer the best graduates to the labor market. (10%)
Percentage of faculty members to students	Is clear and direct evidence of the University's commitment to the teaching and research process. (20%)
Quotation rate for faculty members	It is measured by published research of faculty members, and quotations per research. The index uses statistics collected over the past five years from the Scopus database. (20%)
Diversity of faculty members and students	The percentage offered by the university to international students around the world. (5%) The percentage offered by the university to foreign professors around the world. (5%)

Source: https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings/methodology

In order for the ranking criteria to fit in the Arab region, QS has started since 2014 with a special ranking of Arab universities. The methodology has been developed to reflect the specific challenges and priorities of Arab universities. It highlights 100 leading universities and developed nine indicators instead of six indicators, summarized as follows: academic reputation (30%). Job reputation (20%). Percentage of teaching staff to students (20%). Web Impact (10%): Reflects the presence of online universities taken from Webometrics. Percentage of faculty members with Ph.D. (5%). Quotation per sheet of Scopus (5%). The number of published researches per faculty member from Scopus (5%).

Percentage of international faculty members (2.5%). Percentage of international students (2.5%).

1.3 Times Higher Education World University Rankings (THE):

Published by the Times Higher Education magazine for the top two hundred universities in the world, and to increase the credibility of the magazine it relied on the Thomson Reuters database, which is the best in the field of research information and citations from various researches. The ranking consists of 13 sub-criteria, summarized in five areas: teaching, scientific research, scientific citation, industrial income of creativity and the international perspective as in Table (4).

Table 4. The criteria used in the ranking of the (Times) and description and proportion

Criteria	description and proportion
Teaching: Educational environment (30%)	It consists of five groups: 1 - reputable survey: the status of the institution from the point of view of (10000) scientists (15%), 2 - the ratio of students to faculty members (4.5%), 3 - Percentage of PhD students to bachelor students (25%), 4 - the number of PhD holders from faculty members (6%), and 5 - university income compared to the income of faculty members (2,25%).
Scientific Research (30%)	It consists of quantum, income, and fame. It is calculated by: 1 - Number of research versus number of faculty members (6%), 2. Income from research as an indicator of the continuation and excellence of research (6%), 3. The university's reputation among its peers and is measured by the excellence of its research work published in a periodical (18%).
Citation and Research Effect (30%)	Influence in research caused by the quotation of parts of published research. The number of times cited by published research. From Scopus.
Industrial Income of creativity (2.5%)	The ability of the university to help the industrial sectors with products, creative ideas, and consultations, and monitor the volume of knowledge exchange and the resulting revenues against the number of researchers at the university. (2.5%)
International perspective of universities (7.5%)	1. Percentage of international students to local students (2.5%), 2. Percentage of international professors to local professors (2.5%), and (3) the percentage of university publications in which participants from other countries participated as associate researchers (2.5%).

source: https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/world-university-rankings-2020-methodology

1.4 Webometrics Ranking of World Universities (Webometrics)

The project is being developed by Cybermetrics Lab in Spain (CCHS), which covers more than 27,000 universities every six months. It aims primarily at urging academic institutions around the world to offer scientific activities that reflect their outstanding scientific level on the Internet. It is not a ranking of universities, but a ranking for the universities websites. With four criteria of the university's website including impact, attendance, openness, and excellence, as in Table (5). It aims to urge institutions and scientists to have a web presence that accurately reflects their activities, uses English only, and has recently made a change to the relative weights of standards due to technology.

Table 5. Criteria used in Webometrics ranking, description and percentage

INDICATORS	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE	WEIGHT
PRESENCE	Size (number of **pages**) of the main webdomain of the institution. It includes **all the subdomains** that share the same (central/main) webdomain	*Google*	**5%**
VISIBILITY	Number of **external networks** (subnets) linking to the institution's webpages After normalization, the average value between the two sources is selected	*Ahrefs Majestic*	**50%**
TRANSPARENCY (or OPENNESS)	Number of **citations** from **Top 100 authors** (excl. 5 outliers) according to the source But see Transparent Ranking for additional info	*Google Scholar Citations*	**10 %**
EXCELLENCE (or SCHOLAR)	Number of **papers** amongst the top 10% most cited in 26 disciplines Data for the five year period **(2013-2017)**	*Scimago*	**35 %**

Source: http://www.webometrics.info/en/current_edition

List of criteria derived from global rankings:

In order to achieve the purpose of the study, it is necessary to arrange the different standards in one list while focusing on the important aspects of the international rankings, and this list consists of:

First: Distinguished faculty members: Faculty members who are Nobel or Fields medal Laureates, and members of the faculty who are most cited in their research.

Second: Outstanding students: Number of university alumni who are Nobel Laureates, or won the Fields medal in Math.

Third: Distinct scientific research: Research published in the Journal of Science or Nature journal, and research in the Scouts of Social Sciences or the reference scout of Expanded Science and Research published in the journal, the income obtained from research.

Fourth: High percentages: Percentage of faculty members to students, Number of PhD holders from faculty members, Percentage of PhD students to undergraduate students, Number of published research versus number of faculty members, university income compared to faculty members' income, industrial income of creativity and production of the revenues versus the number of researchers at the university.

Fifth: The university's performance and reputation: University's performance in relation to its size, academic, and functional reputation.

Sixth: International view: Diversity of faculty members, diversity of student nationalities, percentage of university publications contributed by participants from other countries as co-researchers.

Seventh: The website of the university: The number of pages of the university website, the number of external links that lead the visitor to the university's website, the number of quotations, research, studies and reports published electronically under the university website, the number of academic papers published in high impact international journals.

This list of global standards will be used to achieve the objectives of the study.

2. the reality of the ranking of Kuwait University in the international rankings

To study and determine the reality of the ranking of Kuwait University in the international rankings we must compare it to Arab universities that entered these international rankings since the academic climate and the circumstances are similar. So, this study will first identify the top universities in each ranking to clarify the nature of ranking, then we will compare the ranking of Kuwait University with the ranking of Arab universities, in order to draw conclusions that lead to the development of Kuwait University rankings in the future.

2.1 The ranking of Kuwait University in the Shanghai ranking compared to Arab universities:
2.1.1 The world's top universities in the Shanghai ranking in (2019):

The Shanghai ranking in (2019) shows the highest-ranked universities in the world as in Table (6).

Table 6. Top universities in the Shanghai Ranking of the year (2019) and their grades in the standards.

Ranking	The University	National level	Total	Graduates who are winners	Teaching members who are winners	Most cited	Published research	Research Scouts	University performance
1	Harvard University	1	100	100	100	100	100	100	78.2
2	Stanford University	2	75.1	45.2	88.5	73.3	79.2	76.6	53.8
3	University of Cambridge	1	72.3	80.7	99.8	53.9	58.1	71.9	58.9
4	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	3	69	72	83.6	49.2	69.4	65.2	68.1

Follow/ Table 6.

Ranking	The University	National level	Total	Graduates who are winners	Teaching members who are winners	Most cited	Published research	Research Scouts	University performance
5	University of California, Berkeley	4	67.9	67.1	78.4	58.7	68.5	64.7	57.1
9	California Institute of Technology	7	58.6	52.3	70.6	36.7	57.7	45.4	100
101-150	King abdulaziz university	1	-	0	0	48.1	11.3	45.8	16.8
151-200	King Saud University	2	-	0	0	40.2	4.4	45.5	16.6
201-300	King Abdullah University	3	-	0	0	23.2	14.7	30.4	19.8
301-400	Cairo University	1	-	18.6	0	7.3	2.1	37.8	19.7
401-500	King Fahd University	4	-	0	0	20.7	2.1	25.6	19.8

Source: (Academic Ranking of World Universities [ARWU], 2019)
http://www.shanghairanking.com/ARWU2019.html

Table (6) pointed out the following:
- The first university in the world is Harvard University which obtained full ratings in all standards, except in the performance of the university for its size.
- The highest-ranked universities in faculty members who are Nobel and Fields laureates are Stanford University, Cambridge University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California, Berkeley. Which demonstrates the keenness of the elite universities to distinguish their teaching staff.
- The California Institute of Technology received the full rating of the university's performance according to its size, making it the best in this field (outperforms Harvard University).

2.1.2 The top Arab universities in the Shanghai ranking in (2019) and the location of Kuwait University in it:
Only five Arab universities have entered the top

500 universities in the world in the ranking of Shanghai in 2019 as shown in table (6). While only eight universities ranked between (501-1000).

Table (6) shows the following:
- Four Saudi universities have achieved the top rankings for Arab universities and are as follows: King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University, King Abdullah University, King Fahd University.
- The number of Arab universities that entered the ranking of Shanghai is (13) university, only five of them entered the list of the best (500) universities in the world, and they are in the following order: King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University, King Abdullah University, Cairo University, And King Fahad University. Only eight universities were ranked between (501-1000).
- The top Arab university among the Arab countries is King Abdulaziz University, ranked

101-150 worldwide, and the highest rating (48.1) in the most cited in the indexes standard, followed by the criterion of the research published (45.8).

- The Arab universities included in the ranking obtained the highest estimate in the most cited criteria and research published in the indexes.
- Arab universities are free of faculty members who are Nobel laureates or Field prize winners.
- Arab universities are free of Nobel or Fields laureates students, with the exception of Cairo University.
- The Arab University, which included the teaching members who are most cited in their research is King Abdulaziz University.
- The Arab University, which has the highest estimate in the research published in the journals of science and nature is King Abdullah University.
- The Arab University, which has the highest assessment in the research mentioned in the

scouts of social sciences and the reference to the Expanded Science is King Abdulaziz University.

2.1.3 Kuwait University results in the Shanghai ranking and its strengths and weaknesses:

The results showed that Kuwait University did not enter the Shanghai Ranking of (2019), which indicates that it did not meet any of the six criteria of Shanghai: graduate winners, faculty members winners, most cited faculty members, research published in the Journal of Science and Nature, Research in the International Scouts, University Performance. This is the university's biggest weakness.

2.2 The ranking of Kuwait University in the ranking of QS compared to Arab universities:
2.2.1 The world's top universities in QS (2020):

The QS ranking in (2020) shows the highest-ranked universities in the world as in Table (7).

Table 7. The top universities in the world in QS ranking of (2020) and their degrees

Ranking	University	Total	citation	International students	International teaching staff	Percentage of teaching staff/students	Employer reputation	Academic reputation
1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	100	99.8	94.1	100	100	100	100
2	Stanford University	98,4	98.6	67.7	99.8	100	100	100
3	Harvard university	97.4	99.6	62.2	86.3	98.7	100	100
4	Oxford university	97,2	84.7	98.5	99.7	100	100	100
5	Institute of California	96.9	100	87.3	99.4	100	81.2	97.8
186	King Abdulaziz University	45.2	38.6	60.6	99	71.3	36.8	28.5
200	King Fahd University	44	40.1	21.8	100	85.2	20.1	26.8
244	American University of Beirut	38.7	15.2	64.6	90.2	63.1	52.9	24.6
268	Khalifa University of the Emirates	36.5	42.2	55.6	100	77.3	9.7	9.3

Follow/ Table 7.

Ranking	University	Total	citation	International students	International teaching staff	Percentage of teaching staff/students	Employer reputation	Academic reputation
276	Qatar University	35.8	14.3	98.3	100	66.4	28.3	16.9
281	King Saud University	35.2	15,9	11.3	91.5	69	16.8	28.3
329	Emirates University	32.4	11.8	48.4	100	58.1	27.2	20.4
371	American University of Sharjah	29.6	13.4	100	100	30.2	35.1	18.3
379	Sultan Qaboos university	28.9	11.2	7.6	100	74.5	14.8	12.1
395	American University of Cairo	28.4	5.7	3.8	93.9	43.7	37.4	24.6
801-1000	Kuwait University	-	-	32.2	48.4	-	-	-

Source: (QS Top Universities, 2019)
https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/world-university-rankings/2020

We can note the following from Table (7):
- The world's first university in the ranking is the Massachusetts Institute where it obtained full ratings in all standards except for citation and international students.
- Universities that have received full academic reputation ratings are Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Harvard University, Oxford University.
- Universities that have earned full ratings in the employer's reputation standard are Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, Harvard University, Oxford University.
- The universities that received the full assessment in the ratio of faculty members to students are as follows: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, California Institute, University of Oxford.
- The Institute of California obtained full estimates in the citation standard.
- The universities that received the full assessment

in the standard of international teaching members are as follows: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

2.2.2 The first Arab universities in the ranking of QS in (2020) and the location of the University of Kuwait according to it:

Some Arab universities have been ranked in QS in (2020). They were only (10) within (500) universities worldwide are shown in Table (7), Kuwait University ranked (801-1000), and were included in the last table for comparison.

We can note the following from Table (7):
- The best Arab university in the ranking was King Abdulaziz University, which ranked (186), its highest rating was in the criterion of international teaching staff (99).
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the academic reputation standard is King Abdulaziz University.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the

criterion of functional reputation is the American University of Beirut,

- The highest-ranked Arab university in the ratio of teaching staff to students is King Fahd University.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the citation standard is Khalifa University of the Emirates.
- The highest-ranked Arab universities in the standard of international teaching staff and received the full scores are King Fahd University, Khalifa University of the Emirates, Qatar University, UAE University, American University of Sharjah, Sultan Qaboos University.
- The American University of Sharjah received the full assessment only in the international students' standard.

2.2.3 Results of Kuwait University in QS ranking:
- In this ranking, no Kuwait University data appeared in all the standards except for international teaching staff and international

students.
- Kuwait University ranked (801-1000) in the ranking. Here, a significant decline in the ranking of Kuwait University in (2020) was observed, which wasn't in (2018), where it was ranked (651- 700) as we see in table (8).
- Kuwait University's scores of the international students' standard were (32.2) which is higher than the Arab universities within the (500) universities: King Fahd University, King Saud University, American University in Cairo, Sultan Qaboos University.
- Kuwait University has not achieved any QS standards except for the following two criteria: international teaching staff and international students. These two criteria have earned the university the rank (801-1000) and both are its strengths.
- The other criteria are weak points of the university which are: academic reputation, job reputation, the proportion of teaching staff to students and citations.

Table 8. Ranking of Kuwait University in QS Ranking (2012-2020)

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Ranking	601+		701+	701+	701+	701+	651-700	801-1000	801-1000

Source: (QS Top Universities. 2019)

2.3 Ranking of Kuwait University in the Times ranking higher education magazine compared to Arab universities:
2.3.1 The world's top universities in the Times ranking (2020):
    We can see the Times higher education ranking in (2020) of the world's top universities in Table (9).

Table 9. The top universities in the world in the ranking of the Times (2020) and their ratings

Ranking	University	Total	Education	Research	Citation	Industry income	International outlook
1	Oxford university	95.4	90.5	99.6	98.4	65.5	96.4
2	California Institute of Technology	94.5	92,1	97.2	97.9	88	82.5
3	Cambridge University	94.4	91.4	98.7	95.8	59.3	95
4	Stanford University	94.3	92.8	96.4	99.9	66.2	79.5
5	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	93.6	90.5	92.4	99.5	86.9	89

Follow/ Table 9.

Ranking	University	Total	Education	Research	Citation	Industry income	International outlook
201-250	King Abdulaziz University	-	29.5	16.5	96.4	78.9	93.1
251-300	King Faisal University	-	19.6	21.2	95	50.4	98.1
301-350	Emirates University	-	23.7	19.1	84.7	43.3	91.6
351-400	American University of Beirut	-	28.7	14.9	77.1	36.7	78.2
351-400	Jordan University of Science and Technology	-	15.8	9	100	40.2	62.3
351-400	Khalifa University of the Emirates	-	27.7	32.9	54	100	95.4
401-500	Aswan University	-	11.9	8.7	100	34.4	44.6
401-500	Mansoura University	-	19.1	9.2	88.1	39.6	44.3
401-500	Qatar University	-	19.6	27.2	64.7	49.3	99.6
801-1000	Kuwait University	-	19.1	9.9	31.7	37.4	69.9

Source: (The World University Rankings [The Times], 2019).
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/2020/world-ranking#!/page/0/length/-1/sort_by/rank/sort_order/asc/cols/scores

We can note the following from Table (9):
- The world's top university in the Times ranking is Oxford University, which has earned its highest rating in research and citation, and its lowest estimate in the industry income standard.
- The world's top university in the standard of education is Stanford University.
- The highest-ranked international university in the research standard is University of Oxford.
- The world's highest-ranked university in the citation standard is Stanford University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- The world's highest-ranked university in industry income standard is California Institute.
- The highest-ranked international university in the international outlook standard is University of Oxford**.**

2.3.2 The top Arab universities in the Times ranking in (2020) and the location of Kuwait University:

(31) Arab universities ranked in the top thousand universities in the world in the (2020) ranking, of which only seven are in (500) universities as shown in Table

(9). Kuwait university ranked (27) among the Arab universities that have been included in the ranking and were added at the end of the table for comparison.

We can note the following from Table (9):
- The top university among the Arab universities in the ranking is King Abdulaziz University, which got the ranking of (201-250), the highest rating was in the citation standard, then in the standard of the international outlook.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the standard of education is King Abdulaziz University
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the research standard is Khalifa University of the Emirates.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the citation standard is Jordan University of Science and Technology, Aswan University.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the industry income standard is Khalifa University of the Emirates.
- The highest-ranked Arab university in the international outlook is Qatar University.

2.3.3 Kuwait University results in the Times ranking:

- Kuwait University ranked 27th among Arab universities and ranked 801-1000 worldwide.
- The University of Kuwait scores were higher than the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) which ranked (351-400) in all the criteria except for the citation criterion, where Kuwait University scored (31.7), while the Jordan University of Science and Technology scored (100). This large difference between the two scores made Jordan University of Science and Technology rank (351-400) and Kuwait University (801-1000).
- There is a significant decline in the ranking of Kuwait University in 2020 from the years (2017) and (2018), as it was ranked (601-800) as can be seen from Table (10).
- Kuwait University scores were low in all standards except for the Standard of international outlook which its only point of strength.

Table 10. Kuwait's ranking for the years 2017-2020 in the ranking of the Times

Year	International Ranking	Education	Research	Citation	Industry income	International outlook
2017	601-800	18,1	8,9	28,3	37,1	69,4
2018	601-800	19,1	8,8	27,1	35,3	70,8
2019	801-1000	17,7	9,4	26	36,9	71,9
2020	801-1000	19.1	9.9	31.7	37.4	69.9

Source: ((The World University Rankings [The Times], 2019).

2.4 Kuwait University Rankings in the Webometrics Ranking Compared to Arab Universities:

2.4.1 The world's top universities in the Webometrics category (2019):

The Webometrics ranking in (2019) shows the highest-ranked universities in the world, as in Table (11).

Table 11. Top Universities in the Webometrics Ranking (2019) and their grades

Ranking	University	PRESENCE Rank	VISIBILITY Rank	TRANSPARENCY (or OPENNESS) Rank	EXCELLENCE (or SCHOLAR) Rank
1	Harvard university	1	2	1	1
2	Stanford University	12	3	2	3
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	4	1	4	8
4	University of Washington	17	5	55	10
5	University of California, Berkeley	52	4	3	17
415	King Saud University	691	1001	572	232
437	King Abdulaziz University	783	1803	659	102
494	King Abdullah University	1851	1307	189	296
2200	Kuwait University	117	9900	1431	1264

Source: (Ranking Web of Universities [Webometrics], 2019).
http://www.webometrics.info/en/world

We can note the following from Table (11):
- The highest-ranked university in the world in the Webometrics rankings (2019) is Harvard University which ranked first in all the standards except for the impact standard where it ranked the second after the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

2.4.2 The first Arab universities in the ranking of Webometrics in (2019) and the location of Kuwait University:

Seven Arab universities ranked among the highest one thousand universities in the world in the (2019) ranking of Webometrics, of which only three are among the 500 universities, as shown in table (11). This is the worst ranking of Arab universities between the other rankings, and Kuwait University ranked (117) among the Arab universities that have entered the ranking, and ranked (2200) among the universities of the world, and was added at the end of the table for comparison.

We can note the following from Table (11):
- Only three universities were ranked among the 500 best universities in the world and are King Saud University which ranked (415), King Abdulaziz University which ranked (437), and King Abdullah University which ranked (494).
- The first Arab university in the Webometrics category (2019) is King Saud University which

has received the highest rank in the standard of excellence (232) in the world.
- The highest-ranking Arab university in the impact standard is King Saud University ranked (1001) worldwide.
- The highest-ranking Arab university in the standard of research is King Abdullah University ranked (189) globally.
- The highest-ranking Arab university in the standard of excellence is King Abdulaziz University ranked (102) worldwide.

2.4.3 Results of Kuwait University in the ranking of Webometrics:
- Kuwait University ranked very low in this ranking, ranking 2200 globally, and this is the worst ranking Kuwait University has ever received.
- The above results indicate that Kuwait University has not achieved any of the standards of Webometrics ranking.
- Kuwait University rankings among the world are as follows: in the standard of presence (117), in the impact criterion (9900), in the research criterion (1431), and in the excellence criterion (1264), which means that the worst ranking of KU was in the impact criterion.

The results of this study can be summarized from the previous rankings as shown in Table (12).

Table 12. Results of international rankings compared with Kuwait University

Ranking	The world's first University	The first Arab University	Arab universities included in the ranking, within the 500 universities	Kuwait University
Shanghai Ranking (2019)	Harvard University	King Abdulaziz University was ranked at the world level (101-150)	5	Have not been included in the ranking and have not met any of its criteria.
QS ranking (2020)	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	King Abdulaziz University ranked worldwide (186)	10	Obtained the rank (801-1000) and achieved only two criteria (international teaching staff and students)
The Times Rating (2020)	Oxford University	King Abdulaziz University Ranking (201-250)	9	Received the rank (801-1000) and the best estimate in the International Standard.
Webometrics Ranking (2019)	Harvard University	King Saud University (415)	3	obtained the rank (2200) and did not meet any of the ranking criteria

Follow/ Table 12.

Ranking	The world's first University	The first Arab University	Arab universities included in the ranking, within the 500 universities	Kuwait University
The final result	The world's best universities are: Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute, Oxford University	Arab best Universities are: King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University	No Arab university has ever been included in any of the top 100 universities in the world	Kuwait University has achieved only one international ranking criteria: the International outlook

3 Proposed practical mechanisms for the development of the ranking of Kuwait University in light of the international ranking standards:

Arab universities can catch up with the best universities in the world by cooperating with each other and benefiting from the experience of Saudi universities. As noticed from the previous results that some of the best universities in Saudi Arabia are among the top (500) universities in the world, and they are: King Abdulaziz University, King Saud University, King Fahd University, King Abdullah University, King Faisal University. It is not difficult to achieve what Saudi universities can achieve in any other Arab university. The reason for the advancement of Saudi universities is the existence of a mass of efficient human resources committed to contributing to the advancement of knowledge through scientific research and the dissemination of its products globally. With high financial resources allowing the recruitment of expatriate teaching staff with high research capabilities and reducing the teaching burdens of teaching staff to allow them to carry out scientific research and develop special incentives to promote research and disseminate its results globally (Bodyaf, Brahmia & Hamouda, 2016). As well as the development of advanced research methodologies that conform to international standards, closer cultural cooperation with international universities, the conclusion of many scientific agreements and research partnerships with third parties, and communication with experts in many scientific fields to ensure quality, excellence and leadership in research programs with the aim of achieving an advanced position in international rankings. So Saudi universities have taken the place they deserve.

Despite the great criticism of global rankings and

standards, including the fact that they are more appropriate for English-speaking countries than others, which is the main reason for the absence of many Arab universities from entering the rankings, this does not prevent the overcoming of the difficulties and the entry into global competition until the emergence of Arab and international rankings and standards that are suitable for the Arab region.

From the results of the assessments of the Arab universities included in the rankings, including the Saudi universities, and from previous studies practical mechanisms can be provided for the university officials to develop the ranking of Kuwait University in the light of the ranking criteria (previously identified).

Practical mechanisms for the development of the ranking of Kuwait University:

Based on the criteria of the international ranking previously enumerated, decision-makers at Kuwait University can implement the following mechanisms to increase and develop the ranking of Kuwait University:

3.1 Selection of a distinguished university administration:

As the world's best universities are led by individuals who combine outstanding management skills with outstanding research experience, the university administration must have the following characteristics:

1- A strong will to achieve academic advancement and change.
2- A clear strategic vision for the University and its future based on aspirations. Accompanied by a clear strategic plan to translate that vision into effective education programs.

3- Strong leadership of the presidency of the university is an essential element in the upgrading of the university and its development. And thus, must be able to develop an appropriate vision for the future of the university and implement it in an effective manner.

4- Innovation and flexibility enable the university to make decisions and manage resources without being hampered by bureaucracy.

5- Adoption of global financial policies and practices. While meeting the budget requirements of the Strategic Plan and objectives.

3.2 Distinguished faculty members:

Kuwait University is able to increase the excellence of its staff members by using the following methods: contracting, promotion, material and moral support, training workshops and mandate. In order to push them to achieve the following:

1- Publication in the international journals accredited by the Scopus search engine, the publication in the international scientific journals ISI, which has a high impact factor, and the entry into the website of ISI Web of Knowledge (Thomson Reuters), which provides a database for research published in International magazines of science and humanities and their impact factor.
   Also using the "Journal Citation Reports" provides statistical information and the influence of journals, helping researchers find the best journals for each discipline.

2- Writing and publishing scientific research in English.

3- Participation in scientific forums and scientific communication with international scientists and universities.

4- To compete for global awards such as Nobel and Wilde and other international awards.

5- To have faculty members pages on Google Scholar to publish their research. As well as on the ResearchGate Research Portal. To increase the citation of their research.

6- To ensure the quality of research outputs and their association with productive institutions.

7- Allocate pages for faculty members on the university website to publish their resumes, research, activities, and translation in English.

8- Motivate faculty members to obtain patents, compose and translate academic books and references. And attending seminars and conferences.

3.3 Outstanding students:

Kuwait University can raise the profile of its students and graduates, using the following methods: programs and curricula, teaching methods, material and moral support, training workshops, attracting the distinguished ones. In order to push them to achieve the following:

1- To be distinct students, well-suited for the needs of the society and the requirements of the labor market. Able to think creatively and critically, build knowledge, develop it and produce new ideas through knowledge. Able to produce scientific research in various fields and scientific disciplines and using it to serve the Arab and global communities.

2- Competition for Arab and international awards, and obtaining patents.

3- Benefit from scholarship students in the world advanced universities to publish their dissertations with the supervisors in prestigious scientific journals and put the name of their university on the research and address, which contributes to raising the reputation.

4- Publish their research in international journals, and writing in English.

5- The allocation of pages to them on the university site to publish their curriculum vitae and publish their research and activities and translate them in English.

3.4 Distinct scientific research:

Kuwait University can increase the excellence of its scientific research and publications, using the following methods: promotion, contracting, material and moral support, training workshops. And doing the following:

1- To develop advanced research centers to work alongside the university to advance the scientific research message and to increase the production of scientific research in quality and quantity. It is also possible to establish partnerships with research institutions in Kuwait to increase scientific research.

2- Increasing the spending on scientific research, and increasing and attracting financiers both

from the state or private institutions[1] or from the waqf[2] institutions.

3- Support the scientific publication of research in international scientific journals, especially the ranking of the International Foundation for the ISI in the fields of science and nature and social and human sciences. And the adoption of research published in the international scientific journals approved in the Scopus search engine.

4- Providing scientific editing services, translation and documentation of scientific research for faculty members.

5- Publication of research in English in the prestigious scientific journals in the world, such as the magazines of nature and science, and in the global searchlights.

6- Put all scientific publications of the university on the Internet.

7- To ensure the quality of research outputs and their association with productive institutions in order to increase the income obtained from scientific research.

8- Dissemination of research and scientific articles, doctoral dissertations, master's and the results of scientific research and translation on the website of the university and in international forums to increase its spread globally and increase the quotation.

9- Communicate with Arab and international magazines, and link with Arab and international libraries.

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(1) Given Kuwait University's poor spending on scientific research in recent years, the university must find its own private sector sponsors. The state could impose a share of the net profits of private sector institutions as it does with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS). Which is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting progress and advancement in science and technology and strengthening public and private sector research capabilities, it's funded by private sector companies contributing 1% of its annual net profit to support the Foundation's activities. (Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences [KFAS], 2019).

(2) Waqf can be used to fund Kuwait University research, such as many international elite universities that support Waqf funding such as Harvard University (Wikipedia, 2019).

3.5 High percentages:

Kuwait University is able to enter the global rankings through attention and concern and work to increase the global rates in the standards of rankings such as:

1- Percentage of faculty members to students and this demonstrates the quality of the educational process and research of the University.

2- Percentage of Ph.D. holders of the teaching staff.

3- Percentage of doctoral students to undergraduate students to open postgraduate programs for master's and doctorate in all disciplines and partnerships with Arab and international universities.

4- Number of research versus the number of faculty members.

5- University income compared to the income of faculty members and this is an incentive for the university to seek various sources of funding to increase its income.

6- Industrial income of creativity and the resulting revenue in return for the number of researchers at the university, which means the ability of the university to assist the industrial sectors with products and creative ideas and consultations, and monitor the volume of knowledge exchange and the resulting revenues against the number of researchers at the university.

3.6 The university's performance and reputation:

Kuwait University is able to increase its performance, academic reputation and career through the following methods:

1- Documenting cultural cooperation, concluding scientific agreements and research partnerships with international universities, and communicating with experts in many scientific fields to ensure quality, excellence, and leadership in research programs. To increase the academic reputation of the university, a list of experts and academicians around the world can be collected and communicated to acquaint them with Kuwait University and its research activities.

2- Increasing the attractiveness of teaching members and international students distinguished, and increase joint research, because it increases the reputation of the

university and excellence.

3- Achieve a balance in scientific achievement between different academic disciplines, and enjoy academic freedom and independent administrative structures. Facilities with excellent equipment for teaching, research, management and student life.

4- Cooperation and partnership with the private sector, and the establishment of research partnerships with production institutions and industry. With the involvement of the private sector in the decisions of the university, and encouraging them to provide support to the university through the provision of practical training for students and provide external grants to students, and encourage them to invest in scientific research.

5- Gathering a list of recruitment agencies around the world for university graduates to submit to the international ranking institutions, which will be used by institutions to answer a questionnaire on the reputation of university graduates.

3.7 International outlook:

Kuwait University was able to enter the QS ranking of (2020) at (801-1000) due to two criteria only, international teaching members and international students, and the ranking of the Times of (2020) was ranked (801-1000) because of its assessment in the international outlook standard. Therefore, the university must take advantage of this excellence and increase its strengths in this field and it is available to it by increasing interest and work to achieve the following:

1- Attracting international students of excellence, talents and high skills and increase privileges to them.

2- Attracting international faculty members with a high scientific standing and increasing their privileges.

3- Holding cooperation agreements with international universities for joint programs and exchange of teaching staff and students.
And participatory research with Arab and foreign universities.

4- Allocate budget, prizes, support, and encouragement for joint research among faculty members and international teaching members.

3.8 The university's website:

According to the results of the Webometrics ranking of (2019), Kuwait University was ranked (2200), which is the worst ranking obtained by Kuwait University. This indicates that the reality of the Kuwait University website is not up to the reputation of Kuwait University and its scientific status internationally. Kuwait University should review its policy that has led to the deterioration of the university's ranking worldwide and take serious practical steps in dealing with this matter.

There are practical mechanisms that help university officials to change and develop the university's website in line with international standards, including mechanisms developed by the Webometrics ranking department on their website to help increase rankings in these categories:

1- The formation of a research and technical team to oversee the development of the university site, dedicating completely to perform this task, and which is working on the implementation of standards and ranking of Webometrics.

2- The university should choose a united institutional scope that all university sites can use, and it is very important to avoid changing the university's scope because it may create confusion that affects the site's visibility.

3- A large presence on the web can be done by a large group of authors, and the best way to do this is to encourage and support a large number of university scientists, researchers and graduate students as potential authors. The sources of external hosting are important for beneficiaries and increase the visibility of the site such as conference sites, software warehouses, scientific communities and publications, especially electronic journals.

4- Convert contents from paper format to web pages easily, and there are many activities that can be published such as historical sites, previous activities, reports, photo collections, and videos.

5- interest in publications of the university research and increase its size on the Internet and places of publication in international journals, increase the published research of deep impact and focus on it and the dissemination of scientific results in all scientific forums with their translation in

English.

6- Increase external connectivity with other sites, and it is weakened by poor design, limited information or few languages.

7- Versions in multiple languages, especially English, must be available because the website audience is global.

8- The formats of PDF, WORD must be used, and distant from the flash and Java.

9- Add the number of visits to the site, and most importantly the location and distribution and reasons for access to the site.

10- A copy of the old material must be kept on the site.

11- Use understandable addresses and a clear description to increase page visibility and site enrichment.

12- Keep the University's site search engine abreast with the global engines and the inclusion of sitemaps in the search engines, which facilitates the process of obtaining information. And spread in the global search directories with different rankings, leading to the spread of the site to researchers and interested.

13- activate the pages of members of the site, and administrative staff and the holding of workshops and organization of competitions for the best website, and provide doctoral and master's thesis and abstracts in both Arabic and English.

14- Activate university journals by encouraging the scientific publication of scientific research. Along with their translation and dissemination in international scientific forums.

Conclusion:

The aim of this study was to evaluate the ranking of Kuwait University in international rankings compared to Arab universities in light of the international ranking standards. The study showed the following results:

1- The best universities in the world are: Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute, University of Oxford.

2- The best Arab universities are: King Abdulaziz University, King Fahd University, King Saud University. The reason for the superiority of these universities is the result of strategic planning and a strong desire to enter the global rankings and compete for advanced ranks.

3- Kuwait University was absent from the rankings of Shanghai and WeboMetrics for (2019), and the decline of the ranking of the university to the rank (801-1000) in the ranking of QS and Times for the year (2020), and these serious results indicate the decline of the level of the University globally, It is important to address this issue, and to work hard to develop the rank of Kuwait University and work to increase the strengths and address the weaknesses, so as to return to the best universities in the world in a race against time.

4- Kuwait University did not achieve any of the criteria of QS except for the following criteria: International teaching staff and international students, which are the only ones that made the university eligible for the rank (801-1000), they are its strengths, with the absence of university data in that ranking in the remaining standards, resulting in a decline from previous years.

Kuwait University's rank in the Times rating was low in all standards except for the International Standard and this is the only point of strength. These two ratings show that Kuwait University has achieved only one criterion of all international rankings standards, the International outlook standard.

5- The estimates of Kuwait University in the ranking of the Times for the year (2020) came better than the estimates of the University of Science and Technology of Jordan, which ranked (351-400) in all standards except the criterion of citation, where Kuwait University received a score of (31.7), while the Jordan University of Science and Technology received a score of (100). This large difference between the two scores allowed Jordan University of Science and Technology to rank higher (351-400) and Kuwait University to rank lower (801-1000) in this ranking. This indicates that if Kuwait University worked to achieve the criterion of citation it would be ranked (351-400) in that ranking.

6- Practical mechanisms have been developed that contribute to the development and advancement of Kuwait University in international rankings. These mechanisms call for applying the standards of international

rankings. If there is will, desire, concern, and interest, as well as increased funding, the university can easily achieve these standards.

Recommendations:

This study recommends the need to work hard and compete in the entry of Arab universities in international rankings by taking the following steps:

1- To implement and execute all international ranking standards.

2- Increase the pressure to adopt the Arabic language in global rankings.

3- Call for the combined efforts of magazines and periodicals published in Arabic to reach the world by working together by addressing international databases for adoption in the global rankings.

4- Establishing an internationally accredited Arab database to arbitrate, classify and approve scientific journals for the purposes of scientific publication in Arab journals. As well as an Arab database of Arab and Muslim scientists and research productivity for them to be accredited within the list of academics who are asked to name universities that believe they produce the best work in their area of expertise.

5- Call for the establishment of a global ranking that would be fair to the Arab region, and the introduction of Arabic into other languages used in the ranking.

6- Call for the adoption of the Arab World Awards within the global awards approved in the international rankings.

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