

big story

University of Bahrain hardly has the infrastructure to support the rapidly increasing strength, say students



An aerial view of the university.

30,000 and growing!

● It's overcrowding everywhere, be it parking lots, queues for registration, graduation hall, restrooms and cafeterias.

It was learnt that as many as 7,503 high school graduates applied for 44 undergraduate programmes in the year 2017.

TDT|Manama
Thamer Tayfour

Wembley in England is one of the biggest stadiums in the world with a total capacity of 90,000 and if all University of Bahrain (UoB) students are taken there to watch a football match they would fill one third of seats.

Yes, the total number of students at UoB has reached a whopping 30,000, first time since its founding in the year 1984 and the students here say they are "suffocating" with the existing infrastructure hardly supporting the huge number.

According to them, it's overcrowding everywhere, be it parking lots, queues for registration, graduation hall, restrooms and cafeterias.

Student Salman Hamad finds delay in graduation as one of the main reasons behind this overcrowding.

"Students suffer from overcrowding well before choosing a specialisation. Many students often fail to get their first or even second choice of specialisation, forcing them to enroll for other subjects before getting transferred to the specialisations they want. This naturally leads to a delay in their graduation," he explained.

He said "battling the crowd" is one of the toughest things at the university. "I live in Muharraq. There is always a huge traffic congestion while trying to enter the university premises through the eastern gate. It's very difficult to find a parking place and one can't even think of parking the car faraway and walking at least a kilometer to reach classes especially during the summer."

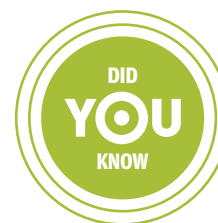
Student Salah Emad conducted a survey on Twitter in which he sought the opinion of students over taking a public bus to the university against private car to beat traffic congestion and parking issues. About 1,300 took part and 53 per cent of them agreed on boarding a public bus to reach the university.

Student Salah Emad feels it's high time the university changes its admission system.

"As the number of students applying for programmes is quite large, it is difficult for many of them to find the right specialisation. The system allows only 25 or 30 students in each section, and this leads to delayed graduation by one or two semesters.

"During the registration time, we even find it difficult to choose convenient timings. Sometimes it is very difficult to get back to the university after three hours for a single session. I live close to the university and have no problem with timings. Thank God I am not living in Muharraq or Manama."

Fawaz Ahmed is a student at the Fac-



University	Strength
Harvard	20,324
Cambridge	21,656
Oxford	23,195
Karachi	28,500
JNU, India	7,304
Peking	32,777

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SALMAN HAMAD

The system allows only 25 or 30 students in each section, and this leads to delayed graduation by one or two semesters.

SALAH EMAD

My brother tells me that when he was here in 2008, the number of students in the arts college was only 1,000. As of now, the number is more than 4,000.

FAWAZ AHMED



Parking space crisis haunts every student at the university.



Students walk through one of the corridors of the university.