Grant Thornton

20 YEARS IN BAHRAIN AND BEYOND

Bahrain Industry Report

Education Sector

December 2025

Foreword

We are pleased to present our latest Educational Sector report, designed to provide valuable insights for our clients. Our team regularly publishes sector-focused reports, sharing our perspectives on the Educational landscape, with a particular emphasis on Bahrain.

Education has long been the cornerstone of Bahrain's national vision and progress. Bahrain stands out for its robust and inclusive education system, which emphasizes both accessibility and quality.

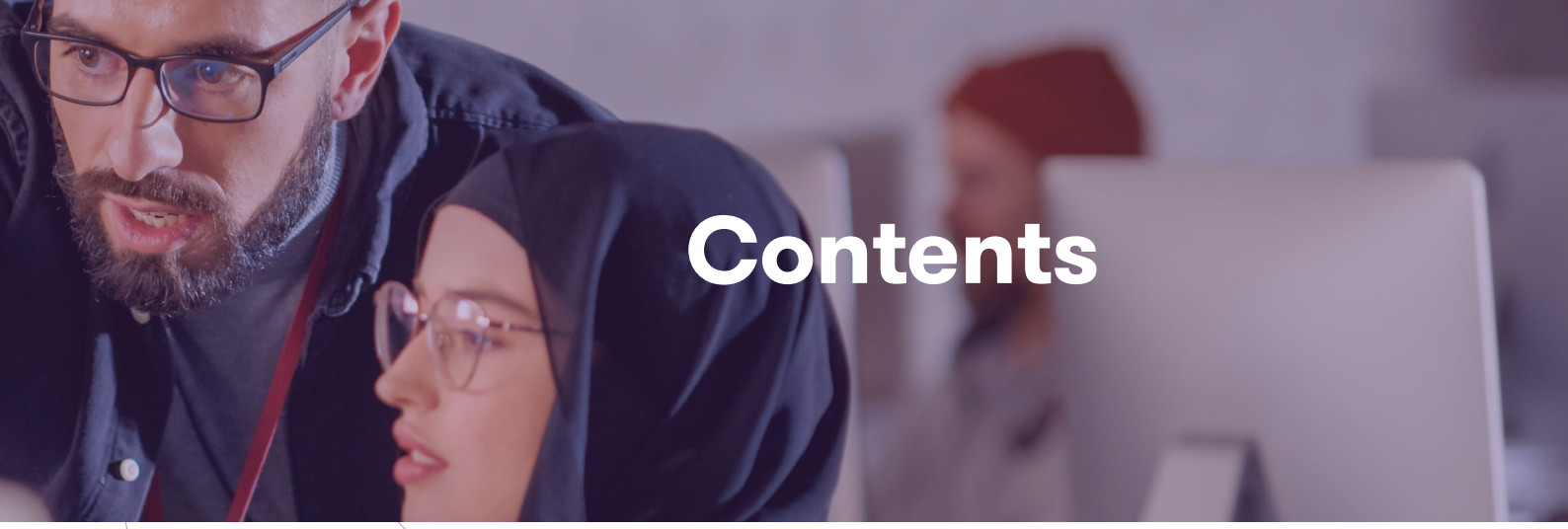
The Kingdom's education system is designed to adapt proactively to global changes, offering state-of-the-art facilities and digital tools that align with international standards in teaching and learning. It promotes the development of specialized higher education and executive training programs. Several universities in Bahrain deliver courses in advanced fields like cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity, while also establishing innovation labs to nurture talent.

With its well-established education system and vibrant, business-friendly economy, Bahrain offers an appealing environment for international investment in the education sector.

We look forward to staying engaged with industry leaders and clients in the region and keeping you informed with relevant insights and sector developments.

20 YEARS IN BAHRAIN AND BEYOND

Grant Thornton Bahrain



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Overview: Education Sector

Schooling is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 to 14 years spanning primary and intermediate education with free education being provided to both local and foreign nationals in public schools.

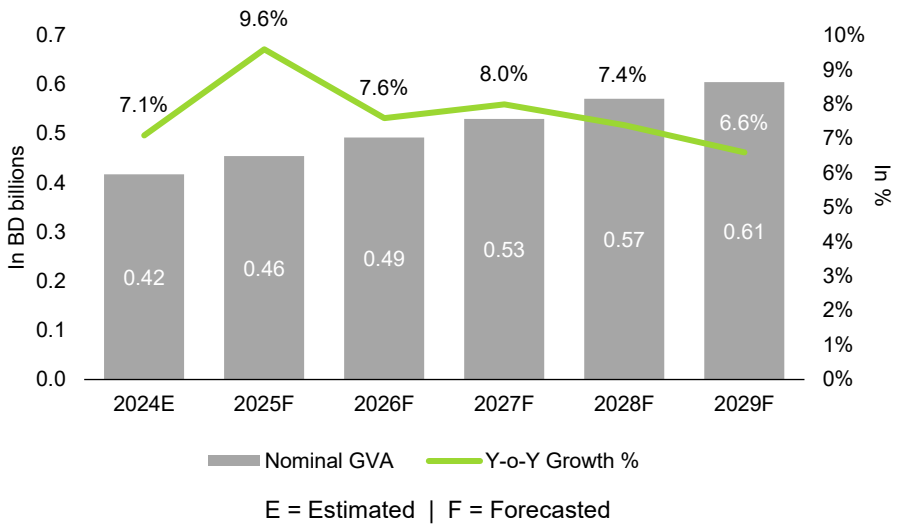
54.7%

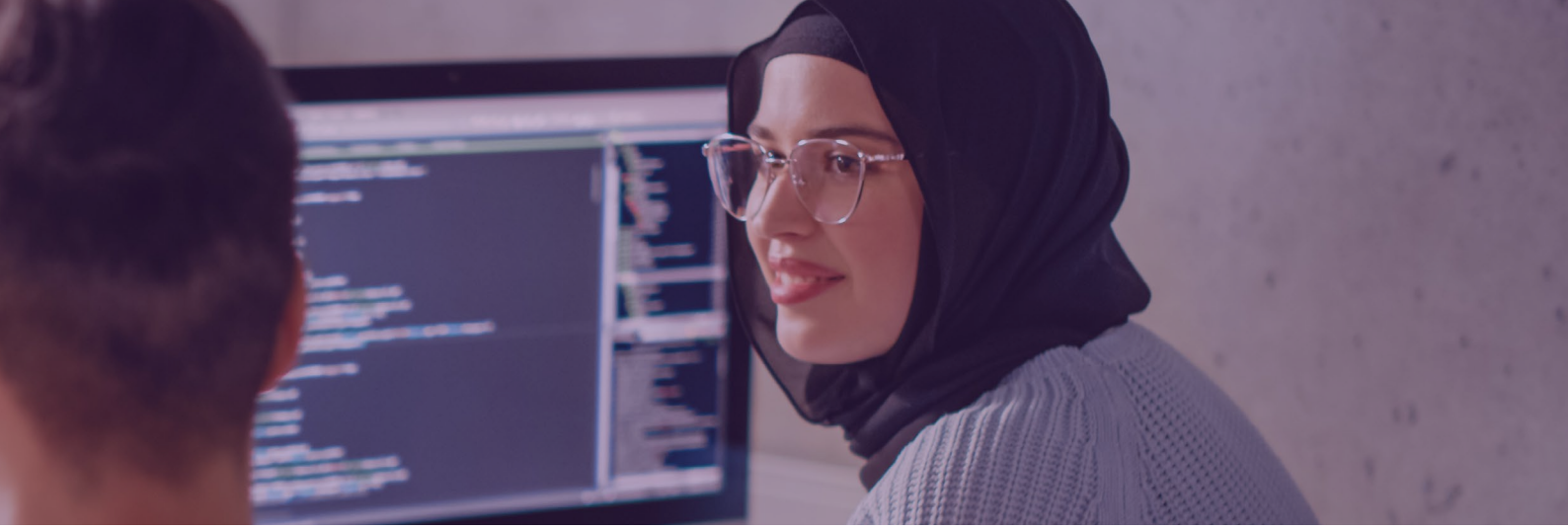
On an average, 54.7% of Bahraini labour force possess secondary education or higher qualification. Towards this, Bahrain government is promoting vocational training at the secondary school level to increase practical skills base and employability.

A low legal working age of 15 contributes to lower enrolment rates in tertiary education. Authorities are attempting to improve the quality of the local universities and form partnerships with foreign institutions.

The education industry in Bahrain is in high demand and requires increased investment and resources to support its continued development.

Education Industry – Gross Value Added





Market Highlights

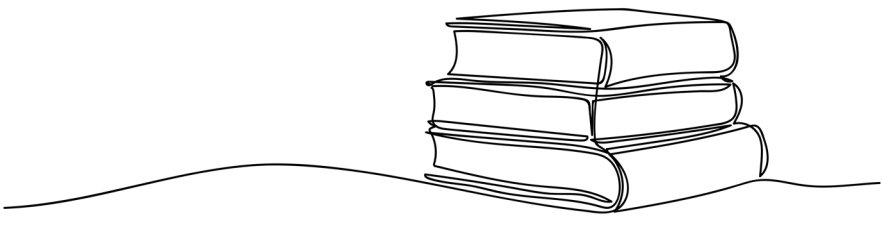
Bahrain's education sector benefits from growing K–12 enrolments especially in private schools, and ongoing reforms to enhance teaching quality and infrastructure.

Bahrain ranks fifth in MENA region for private education demand, with private schools expected to account for 43.7% of primary and 29.8% of secondary enrolment in 2025.

Main goal for tertiary education in near future is to improve the quality of education, qualification and skills of the teaching staff and improve the management systems in universities.

A distinctive feature is orientation in teaching students for employment in private sector and entrepreneurship. Labour Fund (Tamkeen) was created to offer training programs that aid in stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation.

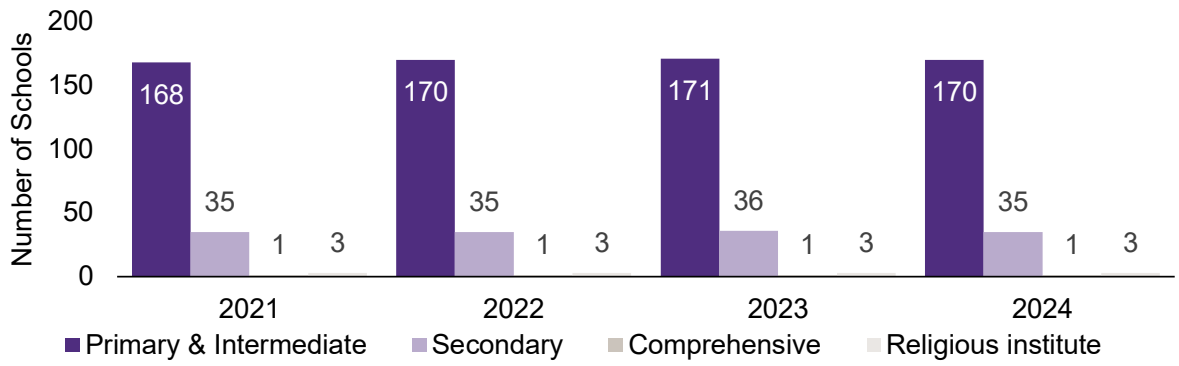
Economic diversification has created demand for new industries and skill professionals, leading to the rise of new universities and expanded educational offerings within the tertiary sector.



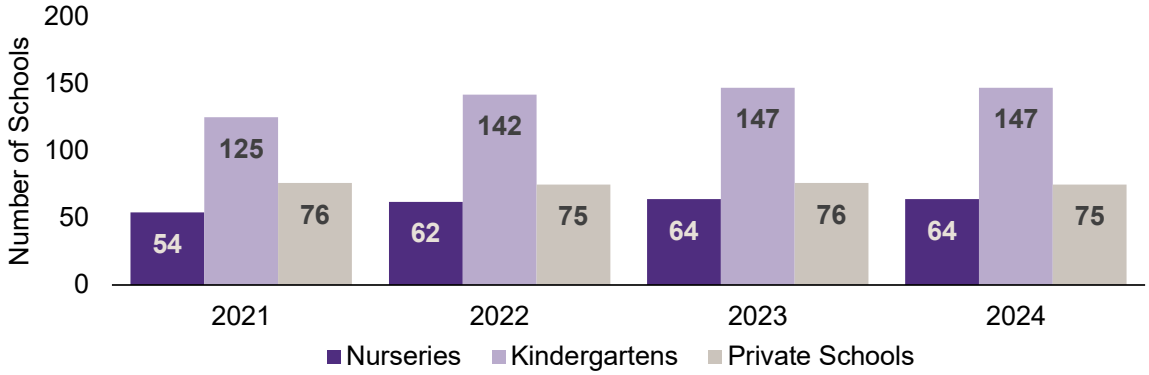
Sources: BMI, Government of Bahrain

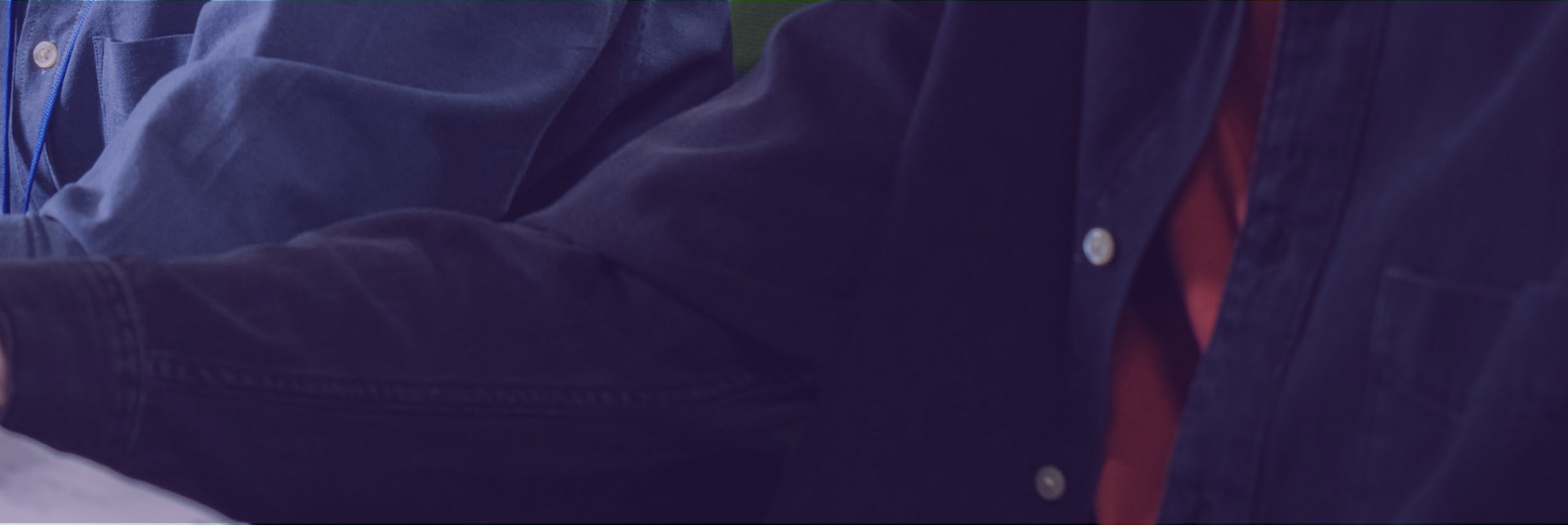
Overview: Education Sector

Number of Government Schools in Bahrain

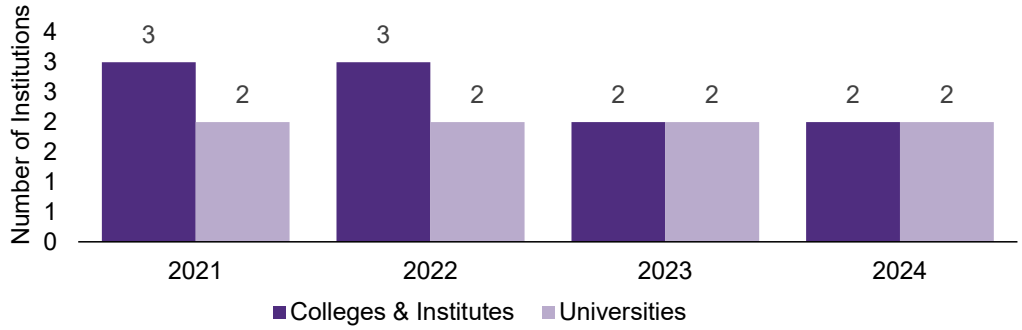


Number of Non-Government Schools in Bahrain

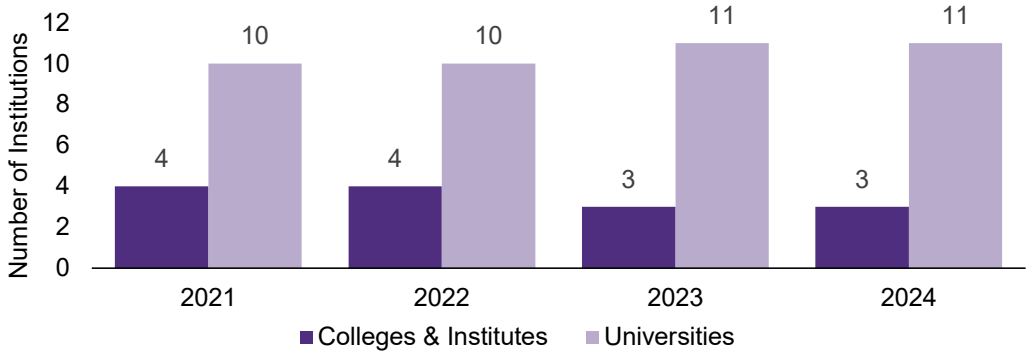




Number of Government Higher Education Institutions in Bahrain



Number of Private Higher Education Institutions in Bahrain



Number of Students

In #

		2023		2022	
Education level		**Male**	**Female**	**Male**	**Female**
Primary	**Private school**	24,245	21,954	22,912	20,811
	Government school	35,588	35,878	35,513	35,787
Intermediate	**Private school**	9,059	8,053	8,617	7,481
	Government school	19,601	19,647	19,936	19,794
Secondary	**Private school**	6,908	6,226	6,599	6,035
	Government school	21,431	19,553	22,030	20,174
Higher Education	**Private institution**	6,838	6,908	7,436	7,114
	Government institution	15,515	24,838	14,996	24,546
Total		**139,185**	**143,075**	**138,039**	**141,742**

Sources: Bahrain Open Data Portal

Market Highlights

Primary and Secondary Level Characteristics

	Primary Level		Secondary Level	
	Net Enrollment Rates (%)	Pupil-To-Teacher Ratio	Net Enrollment Rates (%)	Pupil-To-Teacher Ratio
Bahrain	92.9	13.2	96.4	10.2
MENA Average	91.7	40.5	86.8	13.6
Global Average	93	19	86.9	13

Education Levels Outlook

Primary Education:

Enrolment in the primary schools is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 0.7% from 119,362 in 2025 to 122,827 in 2029. Of this, private schools are expected to make up for 43.4% of primary enrolment in 2025, rising to 49.3% by 2029.

Secondary Education:

Enrolment in secondary schools is estimated to increase from 135,871 in 2025 to 199,825 in 2029 at an average annual growth rate of 8.1%. Of this, private schools are expected to constitute 29.8% of secondary enrolment in 2025 rising to 32.9% in 2029.

Teritary Education:

Tertiary school enrolment is expected to rise at an average annual growth rate of 1.9%.

Among the three education levels, secondary education sector is estimated to have the highest growth in enrolment rates of 8.1% from 2025 to 2029.

Collaboration with Foreign Institutions

The Royal Medical Services (RMS) in Bahrain has entered an exclusive agreement with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland to offer residency and fellowship programmes in surgery for its resident physicians.

The Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance offers programmes in banking, accounting, insurance and Islamic finance in collaboration with universities in US and UK.

The British University of Bahrain (BUB) is in partnership with two British universities, the University of Salford and the University of Manchester. BUB offers courses from these universities in engineering, the built environment, computer science and business.

The Euro University in Bahrain which was approved in 2022 by the Ministry of Higher Education, hosts academic programmes from the University of London.

From 2024, the University of Strathclyde in Bahrain offers courses in business, engineering, humanities and science in partnership with the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

Sources: BMI, University of Strathclyde Bahrain, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

Competitve Landscape

Education sector key data – Kingdom of Bahrain

Particulars	Attributes
Total number of schools (2024)	495
Total number of students in schools (2023)	228,143
Total number of higher education institutions	18
Total number of students in higher education institutions (2023)	54,099

Sources: Bahrain Open Data Portal

Recent Trends

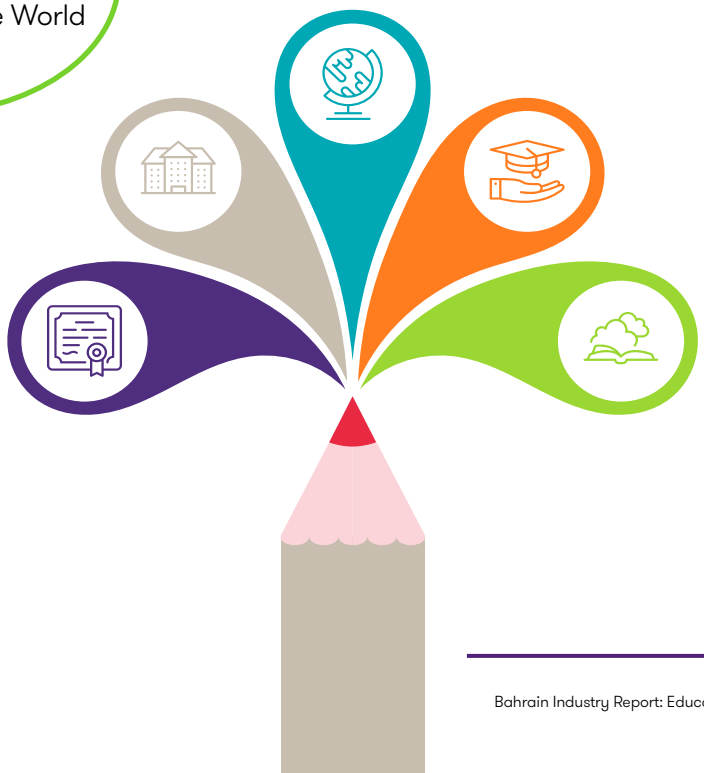
In March 2023, Bahrain's Education Ministry introduced its 2023–2026 strategy to enhance service quality, institution performance, curricula, teaching methods, and workforce efficiency.

Widespread adoption of new EdTech-enabled learning techniques and use of artificial intelligence in content delivery and virtual reality are expected in the future.

Bahrain is developing a future-ready workforce by prioritizing digital and STEM education and reskilling to address the global talent gap.

In April 2024, Tamkeen and Bahrain Polytechnic launched the second phase of the Cloud Innovation Center, a program designed to strengthen cloud computing skills among Bahrainis.

In January 2025, the Bahrain Labour Fund (Tamkeen), introduced the Bahrain Skills and Gender Parity Accelerator aimed at closing gender skills gap in collaboration with the World Economic Forum (WEF).



Sources: BMI

Glossary

Terms	Description
%	Percentage
&	And
#	Number
~	Approximate
BD	Bahraini Dinar
BMI	Business Monitor International
BUB	British University of Bahrain
CAGR	Compounded Annual Growth Rate
Edtech	Education Technology
Grant Thornton or GT	Grant Thornton Advisory W.L.L.
K-12	Kindergarten through 12th grade
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
RMS	Royal Medical Services
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathemat
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States of America
WEF	World Economic Forum
Y-o-Y	Year-on-Year

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11 Partners

8 Nationalities

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40% Professional positions held by women

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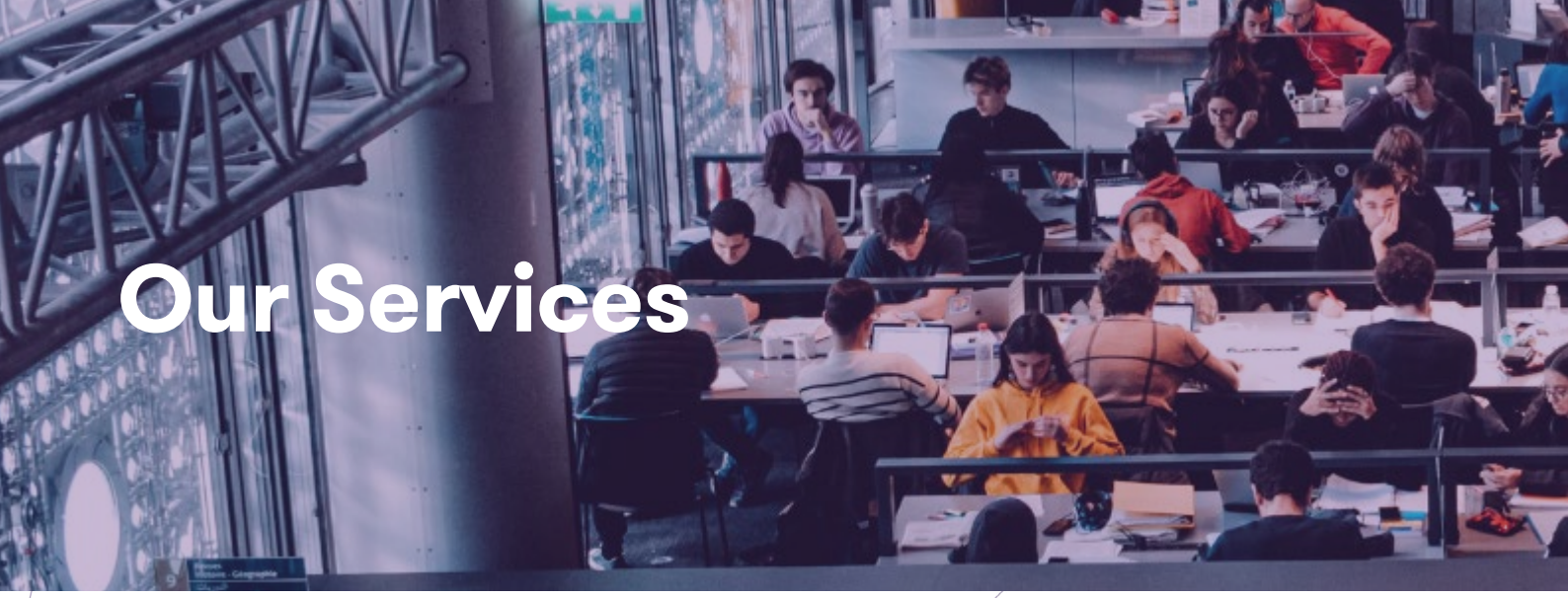

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- Financial statement compilations
- Financial statement reviews
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- Statutory certification for government levy and import duty exemptions
- Implementation and reporting on controls
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- Governance
- Business process improvement
- Forensic investigations
- Data analytics
- Quality assurance review
- Regulatory compliance
- Policies and procedures

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- M&A Advisory
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- Valuations
- Debt advisory
- Due diligence
- Business planning
- Feasibility studies

Technology Advisory

- Technology advisory and strategy
- Technology adoption
- Technology effectiveness review
- Information protection and Cyber security
- Asset management
- Policies and procedures
- ISO 27001, ISO 22301 and PCI
- DSS Certification Program
- Knowledge development
- IT Governance and management
- Project management

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- Global compliance and reporting solutions (GCRS)
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- Payroll and personnel administration
- Human Resources Solutions

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- Preparation and submission of returns
- VAT Technology advisory
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- Base Erosion Profit Shifting
- Economic Substance Requirement
- Transfer Pricing
- Proposed Taxes

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- Legal document preparation and services thereafter
- Secretarial services for board meetings
- Trademark and Intellectual property registration
- Liquidation of MOICT and CBB licensees
- Regulatory advisory for CBB licensing, IPO and rights issue

For Further Details, Please Contact:

Jassim Abdulaal
Managing Partner
Email: jassim.abdulaal@bh.gt.com

Jatin Karia
Senior Partner
Email: jatin.karia@bh.gt.com

Ali Abbas Salman
Partner - Audit & Assurance
Email: ali.abbas@bh.gt.com

Mohammad Nomaan
Partner - Advisory
Email: mohammad.nomaan@bh.gt.com

Our team is ready to support you.

www.grantthornton.bh

Our Office

PO Box 11175
12th & 14th Floor, Al Nakheel Tower
Seef District
Kingdom of Bahrain
T: (973) 17500188 | F: (973) 17500199

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