



# Awards Arab World 2025

## International Strategy of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Capacity building and skills development in Africa
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Office of Admission and Registration; International Office
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>The Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport (AAST) has built a strong international strategy focused on meaningful partnerships, global outreach and innovation. Through collaborations with institutions such as the Tanzania Ports Authority, Nigerian maritime organisations, Djibouti's port sector and Sudanese universities, AAST has expanded its expertise in maritime, logistics and healthcare education. This global engagement has boosted AAST's reputation, attracting international students, enhancing financial sustainability and securing prestigious accreditations. The academy's adaptability allows it to navigate policy shifts, leverage technology and stay ahead in a changing world. With a focus on real-world impact, AAST continues to develop a strong brand, foster industry-driven learning and create seamless digital connections with partners worldwide. More than just an expansion effort, AAST's international strategy represents a commitment to shaping the future of education through collaboration, innovation and excellence in maritime, logistics and beyond.</p>



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## International Strategy of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	King Faisal University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	From innovation to global influence: KFU's patent ecosystem strategy
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	King Faisal University
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>King Faisal University's patent ecosystem initiative represents a transformative international strategy that has elevated the university to global prominence in innovation and intellectual property. In 2024, KFU ranked first globally in the number of US utility patents granted (631), surpassing world-renowned institutions. This achievement reflects a comprehensive international strategy built on fostering global partnerships, enhancing research commercialisation and promoting cross-border collaboration. Through its patent ecosystem, the university supports inventors with legal, technical and commercialisation guidance, while cultivating alliances with patent offices, investors and industries worldwide. The initiative has positioned KFU as a trusted innovation hub, opened new avenues for international funding, and increased its attractiveness to global faculty and researchers. This initiative is a cornerstone of KFU's institutional strategy to expand international influence through impactful innovation.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Al-Quds University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Passport-free Palestine – cross-border virtual education
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Ahmed Nada
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>“Passport-free Palestine” is a bold virtual mobility initiative by Al-Quds University that allows Palestinian students to participate in real-time, credit-bearing courses offered by partner universities around the world – without needing to leave the country. Designed by the International Relations Office, the programme overcomes geopolitical restrictions on student travel by offering synchronised virtual classes, shared assessments and cross-cultural engagement with peers from Europe, Asia and the Americas. To date, more than 80 students have completed 14 international courses, gaining global academic experience from within Palestine.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Kurdistan Technical Institute
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>The Kurdistan Technical Institute (KTI) established its centre of excellence (CoE) through a landmark partnership with I-Education (UK), delivering UK-accredited programmes and professional development in Kurdistan. This five-year renewable joint venture empowers KTI to align local education with global standards, offering innovative, job-ready training and digital learning. The centre of excellence has significantly boosted student enrolment, industry engagement and institutional revenue, positioning KTI as a regional leader in internationally recognised vocational education. With a curriculum co-developed by UK experts and real-time digital platforms enabling cross-border delivery, the centre responds to evolving workforce needs with adaptable, employer-driven programmes. This transformative initiative exemplifies effective international strategy and sustainable collaboration.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Palestine Ahliya University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Bridging borders through knowledge: the Arab Council for Academic Exchange
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Dr Imad Al-Zeer (president of the council and president, Palestine Ahliya University); Professor Amr Ezzat Salama (secretary general, Association of Arab Universities); Dr Ahmed Abdou (general manager of the council); Mohannad Rezeq (technical manager); Odnah Abu Damoos (communication and outreach manager)
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://aau.paluniv.edu.ps/">https://aau.paluniv.edu.ps/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>In recent years, Arab universities have faced growing challenges in building effective cross-border academic collaboration. Despite shared linguistic and cultural ties, institutional fragmentation, lack of structured mobility frameworks, and resource disparities have hindered integrated academic growth. In response, Palestine Ahliya University launched the Arab Council for Academic Exchange in 2024 to bridge these gaps through a unified platform for exchanging academics, researchers and administrators across Arab universities. The council is the first regional initiative to systematise academic and administrative exchange within a centralised digital framework focused on equity and sustainability. Despite challenges such as policy discrepancies and financial constraints among member institutions, the council implemented unified tools, technical support and pilot funding mechanisms. In its first year, it engaged 21 universities from 11 countries, facilitating 74 exchanges that led to joint research proposals, course development and institutional improvements. The council aims to expand, launch a fellowship programme and issue annual impact reports.</p>



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## International Strategy of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	KFUPM's strategic internationalisation journey
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	KFUPM Global Engagement
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://global.kfupm.edu.sa/">https://global.kfupm.edu.sa/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>In 2024, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM) launched a comprehensive global engagement strategy to elevate its international presence through focused efforts in partnerships, mobility and global visibility. The university signed more than 10 selective, high-impact agreements, including memoranda of understanding and student exchange partnerships with globally recognised institutions aligned with its academic and research priorities. KFUPM hosted more than 40 international university delegations and engaged with over 15 ambassadors in Saudi Arabia to explore and establish new collaborations. Outbound student mobility exceeded 260 participants, while inbound interest surged, with more than 600 international applications for semester-long and short-term study opportunities. Faculty mobility was strengthened through two flagship initiatives: the Ibn Sina Global Scholarship and Ibn Battuta Fellowships. Additionally, KFUPM participated in leading international conferences and expanded its digital reach by more than 40 per cent. This integrated global strategy is positioning KFUPM as a forward-looking institution driving research, innovation and global academic exchange.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Khalifa University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Khalifa University's institutional strategy and partnerships
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Khalifa University has adopted a strategic, results-driven approach to internationalisation, aligning global partnerships with academic excellence, research innovation and student development. Building on strong foundations in North America, the UK and Europe, the university has expanded its global reach to central and east Asia, forming collaborations with leading institutions such as Tsinghua University, the University of Tokyo and the Technical University of Munich. These partnerships have led to joint degree programmes, research laboratories and innovation centres in critical fields including artificial intelligence, aerospace, energy, and public policy. Industry collaborations with global companies such as Lockheed Martin and Thales provide students with hands-on experience while advancing applied research. Khalifa's initiatives also include cooperative education programmes with international universities and the launch of the region's first Polar Research Centre. The university's growing global reputation is reflected in enhanced academic offerings and research leadership.</p>



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## International Strategy of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	Al-Ahliyya Amman University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Navigating blue oceans: AAU's strategic international leap
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Sari Ahmad Hamdan; Dr Fayrouz Abusweilem; Reem Abed Manar Hamdan; Eman Altally; Khaled Alzoubi
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.ammanu.edu.jo/sdo/awardsstaff/navigating-blue-oceans-aaus-strategic-international-leap/">https://www.ammanu.edu.jo/sdo/awardsstaff/navigating-blue-oceans-aaus-strategic-international-leap/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Al-Ahliyya Amman University (AAU) has adopted the “Blue ocean strategy” to drive global innovation, inclusivity and sustainable development. By pioneering novel educational offerings and fostering a vibrant learning environment, AAU successfully attracts a diverse community of students and faculty from around the world. To date, the university has forged partnerships with 25 international institutions, facilitating academic exchange programmes and offering graduates competitive employment opportunities overseas. AAU’s commitment to global engagement is reflected in its improved international rankings position, alignment with the United Nations’ SDGs, and active student participation in global challenges. A 45 per cent surge in internationally co-authored research underscores this expanding academic impact. Targeted marketing at prominent education fairs has driven a 63 per cent rise in international enrolment. New programmes in dentistry, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity, designed in response to labour market needs, now account for 40 per cent of tuition revenue, reinforcing AAU’s financial growth.</p>