



# Awards Arab World 2025

## Leadership and Management Team of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	Ajman University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Senior Leadership Team Propels Ajman University to Soaring Excellence, Influence, and Impact
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Dr Karim Seghir; Dr Khaled Assaleh; Dr Abdulhaq Al-Nuaimi; Dr Mustahsan Mir; Rabi Al Khofash
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>AU's transformation from historic to pioneering began in 2017 with a new Chancellor's arrival and a new Cabinet's formation. They established a "stakeholder compass" for purpose-driven and evidence-based excellence globally. Energized by an ambitious Strategic Plan and a new "Make It Happen" motto, AU went from unrealized potential to global recognition. In eight years, AU achieved 19 international accreditations for programs from prestigious accrediting bodies and debuted in THE 2025 World University Rankings among the top 401-500 institutions. AU is also the first private, non-profit university in the Arab region to receive international accreditation from WSCUC in USA.</p> <p>How exactly did leadership make it happen?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tracking accountability and alignment</li><li>• Data-driven decision-making</li><li>• Investments in professional development and teamwork</li><li>• Increasing research and innovation capacity</li><li>• Fostering social impact and inclusion</li></ul> <p>Today, AU is a regional leader in social impact, youth empowerment, and transformational change.</p>



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## Leadership and Management Team of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	An-Najah National University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	RISE Team (Research, Innovation, Sustainability and Excellence)
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Waleed Sweileh (dean of scientific research); Dr Nidal Dwaikat (vice-president for planning, development and quality); Dr Abdulsalam Khayyat (vice-president for academic affairs); Professor Abdelhaleem Khader (director of interdisciplinary research); Alaa Yassin (chair of university ranking division); Fadia Hashaikeh (chair of international research projects); Lubna Kino (IT specialist)
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>An-Najah National University's RISE Team (Research, Innovation, Sustainability and Excellence) exemplifies transformational leadership, visionary strategy and global ambition. Established in 2020, RISE has redefined institutional excellence by doubling research output, advancing interdisciplinary innovation, embedding sustainability across all operations, and launching pioneering start-ups that deliver real-world impact. Through bold initiatives such as the Innovation Park, the Technology Transfer Office, the Interdisciplinary Research Unit and the Sustainability Office, RISE forged a model in which academic achievement, entrepreneurship and societal responsibility converge. Its leadership has propelled An-Najah's ascent in international rankings, including the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and Arab University Rankings. By fostering global partnerships and aligning research with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, RISE has future-proofed the university's growth. Today, the RISE Team stands as a beacon of innovation, resilience and excellence – positioning An-Najah as a transformative force reshaping the future of higher education across the Arab world and beyond.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	University of Anbar
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	University of Anbar: from the ashes of conflict to a green hub of innovation and sustainability
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Mushtaq Talib Salih; Professor Farhan Dawood; Assistant professor Omar Khaldoon Abdulrahman; Dr Majid Sabbar Mohammed; Dr Ahmad Sh. A. Lafi
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://sdg.uoanbar.edu.iq/CMS.php?ID=177">https://sdg.uoanbar.edu.iq/CMS.php?ID=177</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>The University of Anbar's leadership team has played a pivotal role in rebuilding and transforming the university after it was devastated in 2014 when Islamic State occupied the region. Following the campus' liberation in 2017, the team launched a phased recovery and transformation plan to restore infrastructure, research capacity and institutional resilience. Working with consulting engineers and securing funding from federal and international sources, they rebuilt 43 structures and modernised classrooms and labs with smart technologies. Sustainability became a core focus, with initiatives such as the "Anbar Green Oasis", solar power integration and water recycling systems. These efforts earned the university recognition in international sustainability rankings. The leadership also prioritised academic development, conducting 148 training workshops and tripling Scopus-indexed research output by 2024. Through the "Study in Iraq" programme, the university now hosts students from 46 countries. The leadership team's efforts have positioned the university as a national model of resilience, sustainability and innovation.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Benha National University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Benha National University: model of leadership governance, transparency and sustainable development
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Dr Doaa Akl (dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration)
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Founded in 2022, Benha National University (BNU) has adopted governance and transparency as a leadership approach. Through a transparent, competitive process, the institution ensures that all 12 academic leadership posts are filled (ie, president, vice-president and deans). BNU empowers women: women represent 25 per cent of deans and women occupy the posts of vice-chair of the board of trustees and university general secretary. With a vice-president in charge of employment, entrepreneurship and innovation, the university's leadership is closing the distance between academics and business and graduating future-ready professionals who can compete in the ever-changing labour market. The university council comprises business and professional experts, guaranteeing stakeholder inclusion. Sustainable development goals are present in our curriculum and policy. BNU provides healthcare for every student and social scholarships for those with disabilities, students who have lost guardians, and others. To guarantee gender equality, the university has embraced a staff and student code of ethics.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	Al-Quds University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	Leading against the odds – strategic leadership and institutional resilience at Al-Quds University
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Ahmed Nada
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>In one of the most complex geopolitical contexts in the world, the senior leadership of Al-Quds University has redefined what effective university governance means. Through visionary planning, cross-functional integration and community-centred innovation, the leadership team has led institutional transformation across digital education, financial sustainability, internationalisation and student equity. From launching Palestine’s first university-based sustainability road map to pioneering virtual global classrooms and expanding outreach to marginalised communities, the senior team has steered the university towards inclusive excellence. This is a story of leadership in not just management, but also in mission.</p>



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## Leadership and Management Team of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	ESLSCA University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	
<b>URL</b>	
<b>Submission</b>	<p>ESLSCA University’s senior management embodies the “Open Governance, Lasting Impact” strategy, redefining leadership in Egyptian higher education. Its collaborative and transparent approach empowers faculty, staff and students through an open-door policy and bottom-up decision-making. Pioneering cross-functional teams accelerate strategic initiatives by 20 per cent compared with sector averages, effectively addressing challenges such as digital transformation and curriculum innovation. ESLSCA’s leadership prioritises societal impact initiatives such as “SHE Leads”, offering exclusive scholarships, exemplifying its dedication to women’s empowerment and equal opportunities. Integrating government and NGO representatives into the board of trustees aligns the university with national development goals. Anticipating sector disruptions, ESLSCA’s leadership has engaged with the government by offering a fully funded MBA programme for government officials (valued at €4 million, with more than 1,700 participants to date) and a collaboration with the Baseera Foundation and Western Michigan University for a low vision and blindness specialist diploma, promoting social integration.</p>



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## Leadership and Management Team of the Year

<b>Institution Name</b>	German Jordanian University
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	The Vanguard Leadership Award
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Alaaldeen Al-Halhouli (president); Professor Malek AlSharairi (vice-president); Professor Iyas Khader (vice-president for academic excellence); Professor Rami AlAzrai (dean of scientific research); Professor Samer Alabed (accreditation and quality assurance department director); Dr Osama Saadeh (president adviser for sustainability); Dr Nidal AlShawawreh (dean of innovation technology transfer and entrepreneurship); Karma Kanaan (quality assurance administrator)
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.gju.edu.jo/">https://www.gju.edu.jo/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>In 2024, the German Jordanian University (GJU) demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation and impact in higher education. Honoured with the Medal of Independence, First Class, by His Majesty King Abdullah II of Jordan and ranked second in the Distinguished Public University Award issued by the King Abdullah II Centre for Excellence, GJU continues to excel. It became the first Jordanian university to achieve both ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 21001:2018 certifications. It earned global recognition by claiming the Outstanding Contribution to Entrepreneurialism honour at the THE Awards Arab World 2024 and securing AWS Academy accreditation. The university launched the Technology, Research and Innovation Park and expanded academic programmes. Financially self-reliant, GJU strengthened sustainability through solar energy and other green initiatives. It enhanced student recruitment, improved its QS ranking by 20%, and expanded partnerships to more than 5,000 industry collaborators. With increased research output, global accolades and a vibrant campus culture, GJU stands as a model of excellence and forward thinking in public higher education.</p>



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<b>Institution Name</b>	University of El Oued
<b>Submission title or project name</b>	
<b>Nominee / key personnel</b>	Professor Omar Ferhati; Professor Bachir Mennai; Professor Ferhat Rehouma; Dr Fouad Med Ferhat; Professor Ammar Zaabi
<b>URL</b>	<a href="https://www.univ-eloued.dz/en/">https://www.univ-eloued.dz/en/</a>
<b>Submission</b>	<p>Under rector Professor Omar Ferhati, the University of El Oued's leadership team has transformed the institution into a model of innovation and quality in Algeria. Its strategic framework, built on six core pillars, has driven key achievements. It expanded access to education by establishing medicine and veterinary programmes in a remote region, enhanced teaching quality through faculty development and technology, and advanced research and innovation, notably through the House of AI and the "5+5" programme. It also strengthened community engagement and promoted sustainability, achieving a number one national ranking in green metrics. The team's creative management includes an incubator programme for research and university-industry partnerships. The team's commitment to its students and its community has made the University of El Oued a leading institution, demonstrating exceptional leadership.</p>