



Awards Arab World 2025

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Taiz University
Submission title or project name	Empowering deaf education: leveraging AI for an efficient bidirectional real-time Arabic Sign Language translator
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Mogeab A. A. Mosleh (principal investigator and lead AI developer, AI and NLP researcher); additional key teams: researchers with graduate students act as computer vision specialist, linguistic dataset curator, educational technology integration. Project developed in collaboration with institutions in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, including Prince Sattam Bin Abdulaziz University, the Deaf Institution of Yemen, and local schools (Al-Nahda, Al-Shaab).
URL	https://taiz.edu.ye/MogeabMosleh/arsl
Submission	In response to the lack of inclusive educational tools for deaf and hard-of-hearing students, our institution developed an AI-powered Arabic Sign Language (ArSL) translation system. This real-time, bidirectional tool enables seamless communication between sign language and spoken/written Arabic, enhancing accessibility, participation and learning outcomes. Built with speech recognition, NLP, gesture recognition and 3D avatars, it empowers students to engage independently in class. Piloted in 2024, the tool improved comprehension (by 85 per cent), learning outcomes (75 per cent) and classroom engagement (95 per cent). It also fostered problem-solving and communication skills, while 90 per cent of teachers adapted strategies to better support deaf learners. Integrated into learning systems and training programmes, the tool aligns with UN SDGs 4 and 10, promoting quality education and reduced inequalities. Scalable and open for regional collaboration, this project offers a transformative model for inclusive, tech-driven education across the Arab world.



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Institution Name	An-Najah National University
Submission title or project name	Najah2Twin: transforming campus life through a smart digital twin ecosystem
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Eehab Hamzi Hijazi; Dr Khalil Ibraheem Issa
URL	https://roomguide.najah.edu/
Submission	<p>An-Najah National University's Najah2Twin project is transforming campus operations through an innovative smart campus digital twin. By integrating geographic information systems (GIS), building information modelling (BIM) and internet of things (IoT) technologies, Najah2Twin creates a dynamic, real-time digital replica of the university's infrastructure and operations. The platform enhances operational efficiency, reduces energy and maintenance costs, improves safety and supports sustainability by optimising resource management. It also enriches the academic environment by offering students and researchers a live model for innovation in smart city technologies and sustainable development. Future plans include integrating artificial intelligence for predictive analytics, augmented reality (AR) for immersive campus experiences, and mobile applications for intuitive navigation. Najah2Twin not only addresses institutional challenges but also sets a benchmark for how universities in the Arab region can lead digital transformation, foster sustainability and elevate academic excellence through advanced, future-ready technological ecosystems.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Arab American University
Submission title or project name	Transforming higher education through digital innovation: the impactful journey of the E-Learning Center at the Arab American University
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Ahmed Ewais (director of the E-Learning Center)
URL	
Submission	<p>The E-Learning Center at the Arab American University is leading Palestine's digital transformation in higher education through immersive virtual reality (VR) integration, innovative pedagogy and cross-sectoral impact. Beyond its traditional LMS and support roles, the centre has embedded VR into academic courses in medicine, nursing, engineering and sciences, offering students practical, simulated learning experiences. It established mini-VR labs, created custom modules and overcame local infrastructure limitations through strategic faculty support. Internationally, the centre has led projects such as TESLA (Erasmus+), NursingXR (with Virginia's Shenandoah University) and E-Pal. As the first NAACE-accredited centre in Palestine, it champions global digital standards. It also supports national capacity by hosting high-stakes governmental and public sector e-exams, serving thousands. With future plans incorporating AI, learning analytics and gamification, the centre is positioning itself as a regional hub for educational innovation. AAUP's E-Learning Center exemplifies how digital technology can enhance education, strengthen institutions and promote development.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	National University of Science and Technology
Submission title or project name	Artificial intelligence-powered web interface for training undergraduate medical students in clinical diagnostic reasoning
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Prashanth Gowda Parameshwara
URL	https://aidres.atlaspx.com/auth/login
Submission	<p>Diagnostic errors remain a significant challenge in healthcare, with the Institute of Medicine report highlighting thousands of preventable deaths annually. These errors often stem from deficiencies in clinical diagnostic reasoning (CDR), yet traditional curricula offer limited practice in hypothesis-driven decision-making. To address this, we developed AIDRES (Artificial intelligence for diagnostic reasoning skills), an NLP-enabled web platform simulating authentic clinical workflows and integrating CDR workshops and formative assessments into rotations. Our mixed-methods project included defining a CDR framework and surveying students, building a client-server chatbot despite budget constraints via FAIMER networks, and deploying AIDRES in undergraduate and postgraduate settings, including a multicentre case-control study in India. Undergraduates using AIDRES improved script concordance test scores significantly, and postgraduates demonstrated meaningful gains, with learners reporting enhanced critical thinking and confidence. This scalable innovation has the potential to reduce diagnostic errors, catalyse longitudinal impact studies, and advance medical education globally.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Benha National University
Submission title or project name	SAMU (Smart Academic Management Utility)
Nominee / key personnel	Project developed by a team from Benha National University's Faculty of Engineering: Professor Mohamed Said Mohamed Abd-Elghaffar (dean of Faculty of Engineering); Dina Hosny Soliman El-Naggar (teaching assistant and student activity coordinator); Adham Abdelkader Abdelkareem Ibrahim (leader); Pierre Samir Ezzat; Kirolos Tamer; Abdelrahman Nayef; Salah Tamer; Mohamed Hesham
URL	
Submission	<p>SAMU (Smart Academic Management Utility) is a multifunctional mobile application developed to enhance the academic and campus experience for university students. It features a smart attendance system that verifies student presence using location, biometric data, lecture timing and a QR code – ensuring accuracy and reducing administrative burden. SAMU also includes an AI chatbot that advises students on course selection based on their academic records, helping them to make informed decisions and improve performance. Additionally, the app streamlines campus life with a food ordering system connected to university restaurants and an emergency button that instantly shares a student's location with campus security for rapid response. Developed by a student team and recognised with second place in a competitive hackathon, SAMU showcases how digital technology can drive efficiency, safety and engagement in higher education. Its modular design makes it scalable and adaptable for institutions across the region.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	The University of Jordan
Submission title or project name	AI-powered portal for quality management in higher education
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Nathir Obeidat (university president); Dr Amira Masri (vice-president for quality and accreditation); Dr Dima Suleiman (project director); Arwa alsan'i (software development manager); Dr Wael Al-Azhari (director of accreditation and quality assurance centre); Ahmad Kheraisat (software developer); Isra'a Abu Zaid (software developer); Fadi Qattoush (software developer); Dr Ruba Obiedat (chatbot supervisor); AbedAlRahman Sbeih (chatbot developer); Marian Indrawes (chatbot developer); Lojain AlMoghreby (chatbot developer); Fares Ata (chatbot developer); Dr Loai Alnemer (Information Technology Centre director); Reem Al Qudah (director, accreditation department)
URL	https://eservices.ju.edu.jo/capacity_ju/
Submission	<p>The University of Jordan has developed a smart, AI-powered portal to improve academic quality management, strategic planning and accreditation readiness. This innovative platform connects directly to the university's registration, HR and quality assurance systems, providing reliable real-time data for decision-making. It features automated capacity planning to assess programme compliance with enrolment and staffing requirements, and uses predictive analytics to forecast retirements and support long-term recruitment planning. The portal includes dynamic dashboards and customised reports, streamlining communication and accelerating governance processes. A key addition is UJ ScholarBot, an AI-powered multilingual chatbot that allows academic staff and administrators to easily retrieve information through a conversational interface. This cost-effective and scalable solution overcame technical integration challenges. The portal reduces the administrative workload, improves efficiency and uses AI to enhance academic quality and institutional performance.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Nile University
Submission title or project name	InCampus Presence Management Project, Nile University
Nominee / key personnel	Ahmed Abo Bakr Ali (Nile University chief information officer)
URL	
Submission	<p>Nile University's InCampus Presence Management Project integrates AI-powered facial and number plate recognition with wi-fi analytics to map real-time and historical campus presence. This innovative system optimises network bandwidth, enhances academic scheduling, and supports research on space and time utilisation. The initiative improves operational efficiency, reduces unnecessary movement and enriches student and faculty experience. With its scalable and replicable framework, strong privacy safeguards and cross-department collaboration, the project exemplifies how digital transformation can deliver measurable impact across administrative, academic and research functions in higher education.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Mohammed V University of Rabat
Submission title or project name	Digital management for PhD students
Nominee / key personnel	Ismail Kassou; Mohammed Dafir Echcherif El Kettani; Mustapha Ennekhaoui; Hind Messaoudi; Loubna Rachidi; Malak Tazi
URL	
Submission	<p>Since 2023, Mohammed V University of Rabat has digitised its doctoral process, thus meeting national requirements for online registration. This digital system covers the entire doctoral journey, from the preselection of candidates to the issuance of diplomas. Three main platforms have been established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online pre-registration platform• Online re-registration platform• ETU platform. <p>This digital transformation addresses several challenges, including data accumulation, the complexity of archiving and the security of personal data. The roll-out began at the start of the 2023-24 academic year. In 2024, this initiative had several significant impacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More national excellence scholarships awarded to the university• Faster processing of application files• Follow-up of joint supervision (cotutelle) thesis• Quick identification of potential patents• Follow-up of indexed papers and students' publications.