



Awards Arab World 2024

Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Lebanese American University
Submission title or project name	Digitalising Strategic Planning
Nominee / key personnel	Provost Office Team
URL	https://www.lau.edu.lb/about/strategic-plan/
Submission	<p>In a bold move to accurately track the evolution of its five-year Strategic Plan (SP), the Lebanese American University (LAU) adopted a fully digitalised process. One major problem with SP implementation and reporting is the inherent difficulty in acquiring and compiling data from different university units and schools to capture progress on the SP.</p> <p>The LAU SP software is a cloud-based multi-tenant solution, using Microsoft Office 365 database technology to store and manipulate SP data. It includes a fully digitised version of the SP, from pillars, goals, actions, action steps, to status reporting, statistical reporting, allocated budgets, supporting documents and reporting comments. It provides a battery of automated reports describing yearly, aggregated and cumulative SP targets, action steps and action items, allowing for each unit and school, and for the Provost's Office, to have full visibility on every aspect of the SP.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	ESLSCA University
Submission title or project name	ESLSCA AI Assistant Admission Chatbot
Nominee / key personnel	
URL	
Submission	<p>ESLSCA University has developed an AI-powered solution called "ESLSCA Assistant Admission Chatbot" (EAAC) to streamline the admission process. This solution was created by a cross-functional team comprising the Digital Transformation and Technological Advancement Department, School of Computing and Digital Technology, students, and top management.</p> <p>The EAAC uses AI to automate and streamline various tasks within the admission process using advanced technologies like Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning. Its key features include a chatbot that interacts with prospective students, guiding them through the application process and providing updates on their application status. The EAAC also performs document processing, extracts and verifies information from application documents, screens applications, and manages communication with applicants.</p> <p>The implementation of the EAAC has resulted in a more efficient admissions process, with faster processing times and improved communication with applicants. The EAAC has also freed up staff time, enabling them to provide personalised support to students.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	American University of Sharjah
Submission title or project name	Empowering Academic and Administrative Experiences through Technology
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Fadi Aloul; Dr Assim Saghayroun; Dr Lotfi Romdhane; Dr Imran Zualkernan; Dr Raafat Aburukba; Dr Mostafa Shaaban, College of Engineering
URL	Attached
Submission	<p>The American University of Sharjah (AUS) team is pioneering the digitisation of academic and administrative processes through innovative AI and digital services. Key projects include personalised learning experiences with AI integration, a centralised Graduate Portal enhancing efficiency and collaboration, streamlined course registration processes, and automated exam scheduling for improved student experiences. Additionally, a web portal facilitates student internships, bridging academia and industry seamlessly. These initiatives showcase AUS' commitment to technological innovation and student-centric approaches.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	University of Warith Alanbiyaa
Submission title or project name	The National Centre for the Assessment of Medical Competencies
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Ibrahim Saeed Al-Hayawi, University President
URL	https://nacmc-iq.org/
Submission	<p>The University of Warith Al-Anbiyaa is known for its innovative use of digital technology, enhancing functions across leadership, management, teaching and research. Key initiatives include establishing the National Centre for the Assessment of Medical Competencies which provides training for medical students, improving practical skills through simulation software. Recognised at the Iraq Education Exhibition and Conference, the university's digital OSCE (Observed Structured Clinical Examination) management system in Libya revolutionised medical assessments, enhancing efficiency and accuracy.</p> <p>Overcoming cultural and financial barriers, the university's initiatives are scalable and replicable, offering valuable insights for the education sector. This recognition highlights the university's commitment to excellence and innovation in higher education.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Abu Dhabi University
Submission title or project name	EmoAI: Diverse Distant-Students Deep Emotion Recognition and Visualization
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Mohammed Ghazal; Eng. Abdalla Gad; Eng. Maha Yaghi; Eng. Marah Alhalabi; Ala'a Harb; Dr Ghassan Aouad; Dr Hamad Ebrahim Ali Odhabi; Mr Stephen D'Cunha; Ms Merlyn Kulapurath
URL	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0045790623003877
Submission	<p>The "Diverse Distant-Students Deep Emotion Recognition and Visualization" project initiated by Abu Dhabi University aims to revolutionise distance learning by identifying and analysing the emotional dynamics of culturally diverse students in online lectures. We have curated a unique dataset showcasing emotions relevant to lectures among Arab students. Through advanced face-detection algorithms, we have developed an emotion recognition model that ensures robustness against visual noise. We have achieved accuracy rates of 86.29% on a specialised dataset of Arab student emotions and 98.84% on the CK+ benchmark dataset, surpassing state-of-the-art methods. The scalability of our project is demonstrated by the positive engagement of over 250 participants in its pilot phase.</p> <p>The project's modular architecture and cloud-based infrastructure ensure its applicability across various educational formats, including large-scale lectures. Moreover, our system's integration into a user-friendly dashboard respects cultural sensitivities and privacy concerns, providing educators with real-time emotional insights to adjust teaching strategies dynamically.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	An-Najah National University
Submission title or project name	Transforming Education and Innovation Through Immersive Revolution: The Virtual Reality Centre at NVAR
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Allam Mousa
URL	https://www.najah.edu/en/research/scientific-centers/artificial-intelligence-and-virtual-reality-research-center/
Submission	<p>Establishing the Virtual Reality Centre (NVAR) at An-Najah National University is a pioneering advancement in education, research and community service within Palestine. This innovative initiative leverages immersive technology to enhance operations, aiming to boost performance and relationships with stakeholders. By serving a diverse range of groups and providing comprehensive training, the centre equips individuals with essential skills for success in the digital era. Collaborations with industry leaders ensure proficiency in cutting-edge technologies. The centre's impact is evidenced by training over 300 staff and 1,500 students, creating thousands of lessons, and fostering engagement through AI integration.</p> <p>Despite challenges, the centre extends its influence through virtual exchange and practical training, with a focus on education, research, virtual exchange and capacity building. Positioned at the forefront of innovation, the NVAR centre is set to transform education, research and community service in the region.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	Al-Ahliyya Amman University
Submission title or project name	From Local to Global: The Transformative Mission of the Hourani e-Learning Centre
Nominee / key personnel	Mr Ashraf Nairoukh; Ms Aleen Jack; Mr Wael Anabousi; Mr Ahmad Al Shalabi; Ms Maison Othman; Ms Rasha Hijaz; Ms Arwa Abu Hakmeh; Ms Rula Al Anbusi
URL	https://www.ammanu.edu.jo/hec/
Submission	<p>The Hourani e-Learning Centre (HEC) at Al-Ahliyya Amman University is diligently working towards the launch of Al-Ahliyya Amman Virtual University, aimed at extending education opportunities to marginalised groups in the Arab region using Arabic as the language of instruction. This strategic initiative seeks to provide eager learners with limited access to education, catering to their diverse needs through various teaching strategies. Moreover, the HEC's investment in high-tech tools and extensive training for its team and academic staff ensures proficiency in delivering engaging online education. Furthermore, the centre aims to boost societal engagement and academic growth through scholarships, workshops, research collaborations and training opportunities.</p> <p>Looking ahead, once this mission is achieved, we envision expanding globally, establishing a sustainable impact and empowering communities worldwide through learning, thereby opening doors to a brighter future for all.</p>



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Technological or Digital Innovation of the Year

Institution Name	The University of Jordan
Submission title or project name	From Siloed Data to Tech-Driven Excellence: UJ's Course Portfolio Platform Revolutionises Quality Assurance
Nominee / key personnel	His Excellency Professor Dr Nathir Obeidat, President; Professor Dr Faleh Sawair, Vice President for Global Rankings and International Accreditation; Professor Dr Inaam Khalaf, Vice President for Quality and Accreditation and Strategic Plan Affairs; Dr Marwan Al-Tawil, Director of Information Technology Centre; Ahmad Hussien Kheraisat, Assistant Director for Technical Affairs; Miss Arwa Alsan'i, Project Director and Software Developer
URL	https://eservices.ju.edu.jo/ujcoursefile/
Submission	<p>The University of Jordan (UJ) faced challenges with scattered data and manual processes in quality assurance. Traditionally, course coordinators manually submit course portfolios each semester. Challenges included aligning course learning outcomes (CLOs) with programme goals and ensuring compliance with the Jordan National Qualifications Framework. To address these issues, UJ's Information Technology Centre developed an innovative Course Portfolio Platform. Key features include integration with existing systems, automated data population, streamlined programme-course alignment, enhanced transparency, and comprehensive reporting for decision-making. The platform has already proven its worth. It played a key role in achieving EVALAG and AACSB accreditations for UJ's schools.</p> <p>Initially launched in selected schools, its success led to university-wide adoption, now implemented in all 20 schools at UJ. Despite our limited resources and the need for diverse discipline-specific customisations, the UJ team continues to enhance the platform. Furthermore, they provide comprehensive workshops to facilitate instructors' transition to the new platform.</p>