

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**





## Message from **the President**

Since my appointment as President of American University of Sharjah (AUS) by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi in January 2023, I have been committed to leading the university to a position where it is recognized as an outstanding academic institution that contributes to the international academic landscape and excels in teaching, learning, research and creative work.

Having experienced firsthand the impact of AUS' work, I appreciate its importance to our economy, culture and industry. I have also had the opportunity to observe and reflect on the university's established status as a thriving academic institution where ideas, debate and research flourish in a harmonious multicultural environment. AUS graduates leave the university with a mastery of their chosen field and are able to engage effectively with society, communicate clearly and think critically.

By continuing to improve the quality of our work, we can better serve our community. This report provides a clear analysis of the strengths and opportunities of our academic departments and our institution and reviews the political, economic, social, technological, legal, environmental and financial issues that affect the university. Through this analysis, our future direction is assured by the soundness of our strategy and the clarity of our mission to expand the reach and impact of AUS.

The path to future success reaffirms our commitment to the vision of the university's founder, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi. With the support of the AUS Board of Trustees, Chancellor, faculty and staff, we will continue to emphasize our commitment to the community by building ecosystems and creating opportunities for growth, increasing the university's visibility, and placing greater emphasis on our activities in support of our students, graduates and society at large.

**Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi**

**President and Chairperson of Board of Trustees of American University of Sharjah**





## Message from the Chancellor

I am pleased to greet you as part of this first annual report of American University of Sharjah, as I join you as its seventh chancellor this fall. As will be evident from these pages, AUS already enjoys a national and international reputation for the extraordinary standard of innovation and educational excellence we have established, ever since our founding by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi in 1997.

We are undertaking vigorous growth now in several key dimensions, under the visionary leadership of our president Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi. We are building on the standard of excellence established by our four colleges, through expansion of the AUS academic portfolio to reflect modern technological advancements and market needs. We are growing the level of research intensity on our campus, with key aspects of this being the continued expansion of graduate offerings, cultivation of our research centers and active partnership with distinguished international partners. And perhaps most importantly, we continue to enrich the student experience for which AUS is already known and esteemed, not only benefiting those students already with us, but also growing our attractiveness to future learners.

Higher education must play a central role in shaping the strategies and solutions to address society's most pressing grand challenges. With this comes a responsibility to prepare our students for leadership and innovation on the world stage. As I write, the UAE prepares to host the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28) later this fall. It is notable that with this backdrop, we have numerous university initiatives, educational programs and campus activities, indicating a deep commitment to the most important societal issues of our time. Several such efforts are to be found in these pages.

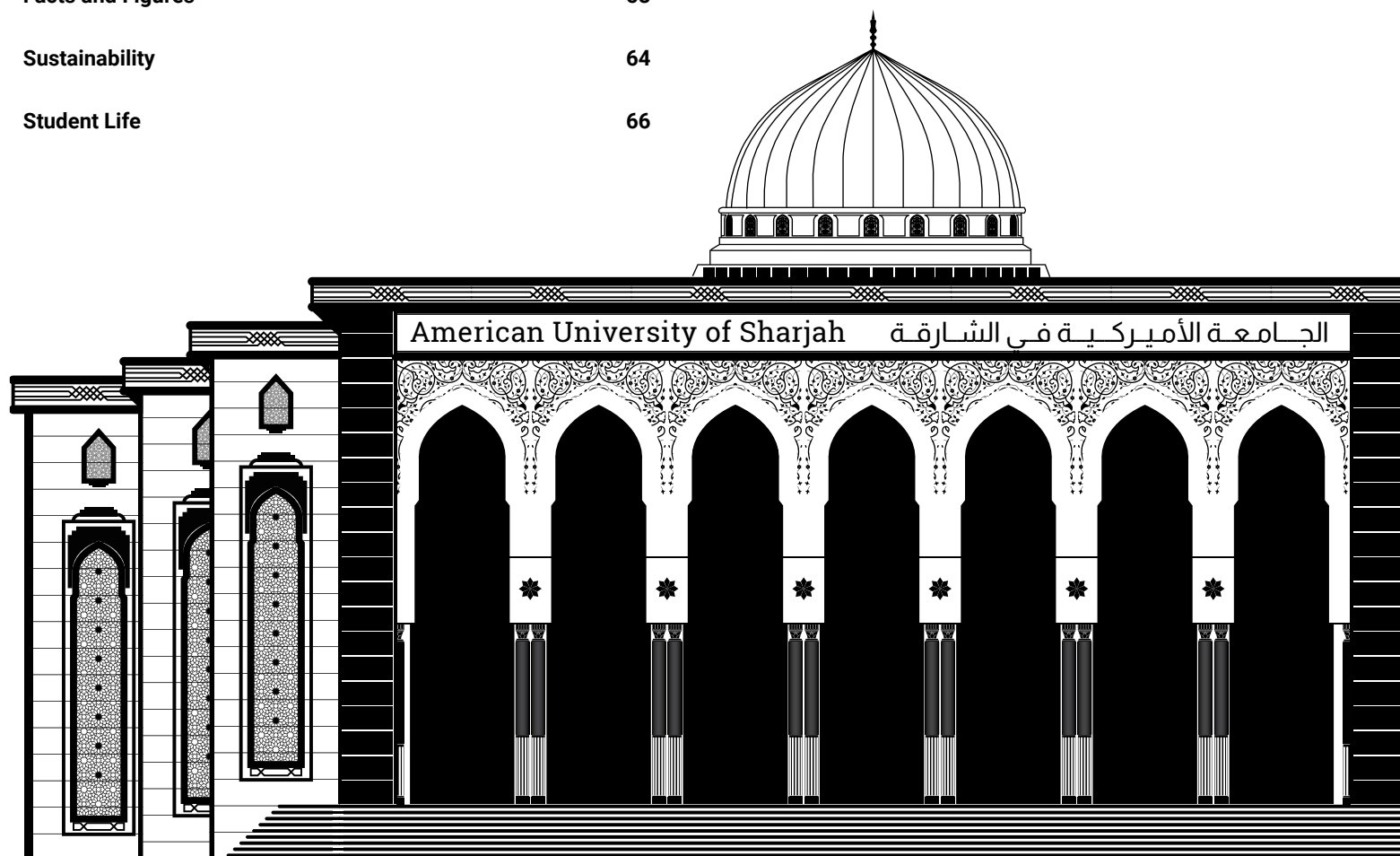
For all these reasons and others, I am incredibly inspired and humbled as I join the AUS community. I look forward to engaging with you as we embark on this next phase of our history together.

**Dr. Tod A. Laursen**  
**Professor and Chancellor**



Message from the President	3
Message from the Chancellor	5
<b>Overview and Strategy</b>	
AUS at a Glance	8
Vision and Strategy	10
Governance	14
Organizational Chart	15
Board of Trustees	17
<b>Achievements</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Colleges</b>	
College of Architecture, Art and Design	20
College of Arts and Sciences	24
College of Engineering	26
School of Business Administration	28
<b>Offices</b>	
Office of Graduate Studies and Research	31
Office of Undergraduate Affairs and Instruction	34
Office of Enrollment Management	36
Office of the Registrar	38
Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs	39
Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing	42
Office of Protocol and Security	46

Office of ICT and IT Security	47
University Library	48
<b>Licensing and Accreditation</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Rankings</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Facts and Figures</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Sustainability</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>Student Life</b>	<b>66</b>







# AUS at a Glance

American University of Sharjah (AUS) was founded in 1997 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. Sheikh Sultan articulated his vision of a distinctive institution against the backdrop of Islamic history and in the context of the aspirations and needs of contemporary society in the UAE and the Gulf region.

Firmly grounded in principles of meritocracy and with a strong reputation for academic excellence, AUS has come to represent the very best in teaching and research, accredited internationally and recognized by employers the world over for creating graduates equipped with the knowledge, skills and drive to lead the future.

AUS values learners not driven only by academic success, but by those that embrace our dynamic campus life and embody our ideals of openness, tolerance and respect. This combination of academic excellence and community spirit ensures AUS is filled with world-class faculty and students who are poised to become the leaders of tomorrow.

## AUS OFFERS



**28**  
undergraduate  
majors



**45**  
undergraduate  
minors



**16**  
master's degree  
programs



**4**  
PhD programs

through the following academic units: College of Architecture, Art and Design (CAAD), College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), College of Engineering (CEN) and School of Business Administration (SBA).





# Vision and Strategy



# Vision

American University of Sharjah (AUS) aspires to be globally recognized for outstanding and innovative teaching, learning, research and creative work that have a positive and distinctive impact on the region and beyond.

# Mission

American University of Sharjah (AUS) is a comprehensive, independent, non-profit, coeducational institution of higher education that promotes excellence in teaching, learning, research and creative work.

Based on an American model of higher education, integrating liberal arts and professional programs, and grounded in the context of UAE culture, AUS prepares engaged and effective members of society who display mastery in their areas of specialization, communicate clearly, think critically and solve problems creatively.

AUS fosters a community that celebrates diversity, and whose members are committed to the ideals of open intellectual inquiry, ethical behavior and civic responsibility.





# Institutional Values



## ***Transformative Student Experience***

We provide a rich, supportive environment for students to thrive in as they become outward-looking and responsible individuals ready to join the world.



## ***Inclusive Community***

We are a closely knit community that embraces its diversity and nurtures a sense of belonging.



## ***Intellectual Inquiry***

We value the creation of knowledge through curiosity, academic adventure and rigorous research.



## ***Environmental Care***

We seek to extend and strengthen our commitment to the care of the environment, through our academic programs and institutional activities.



## ***Active Engagement***

We contribute to the development of society by creating opportunities for collaboration and active engagement.



## ***Integrity***

We are guided by honesty, fairness, inclusiveness and genuine respect in our practices and policies.



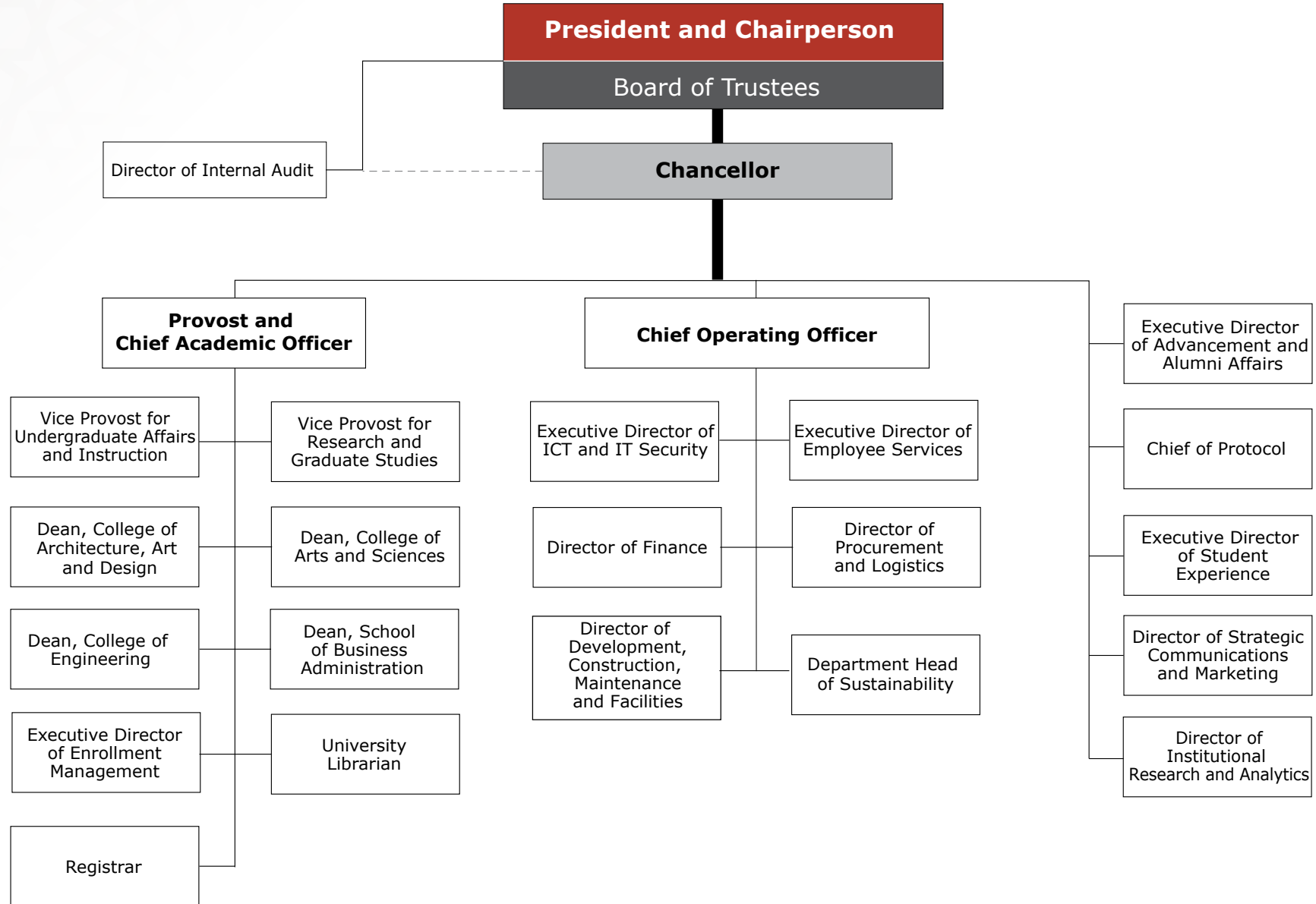
## ***Responsible Resource Management***

We are committed to the conscientious use of resources that maximizes potential in the present and ensures continuity into the future.



# Governance





# Board of Trustees

**H.E. Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi**, President and Chairperson of Board of Trustees of American University of Sharjah

**Mr. Abdulfattah M. Sharaf**, Chairman, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, Dubai, UAE

**Mr. Abhijit Choudhury**, Founder and CEO, Athena Advisory Limited, UAE

**Mr. Ahmad M. Abu Eideh**, CEO, Invest Bank, Sharjah, UAE

**H.E. Dr. Amal A. Al Qubaisi**, Former President, Federal National Council, UAE

**Ms. Bedour S. Al Raqbani**, Social Entrepreneur, Dubai, UAE

**Dr. Chaouki T. Abdalla**, Executive Vice President for Research, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA

**Dr. Daniele C. Struppa**, President, Chapman University, California, USA

**Mr. Mohamed A. Alabbar**, Founder and Managing Director, Emaar Properties, UAE

**Mr. Mohammed Alhuraimel Alshamsi**, Head, UK Investment Programme, Mubadala, UAE

**H.E. Dr. Nawal K. Al Hosany**, Permanent Representative of the UAE, International Renewable Energy Agency, Abu Dhabi, UAE

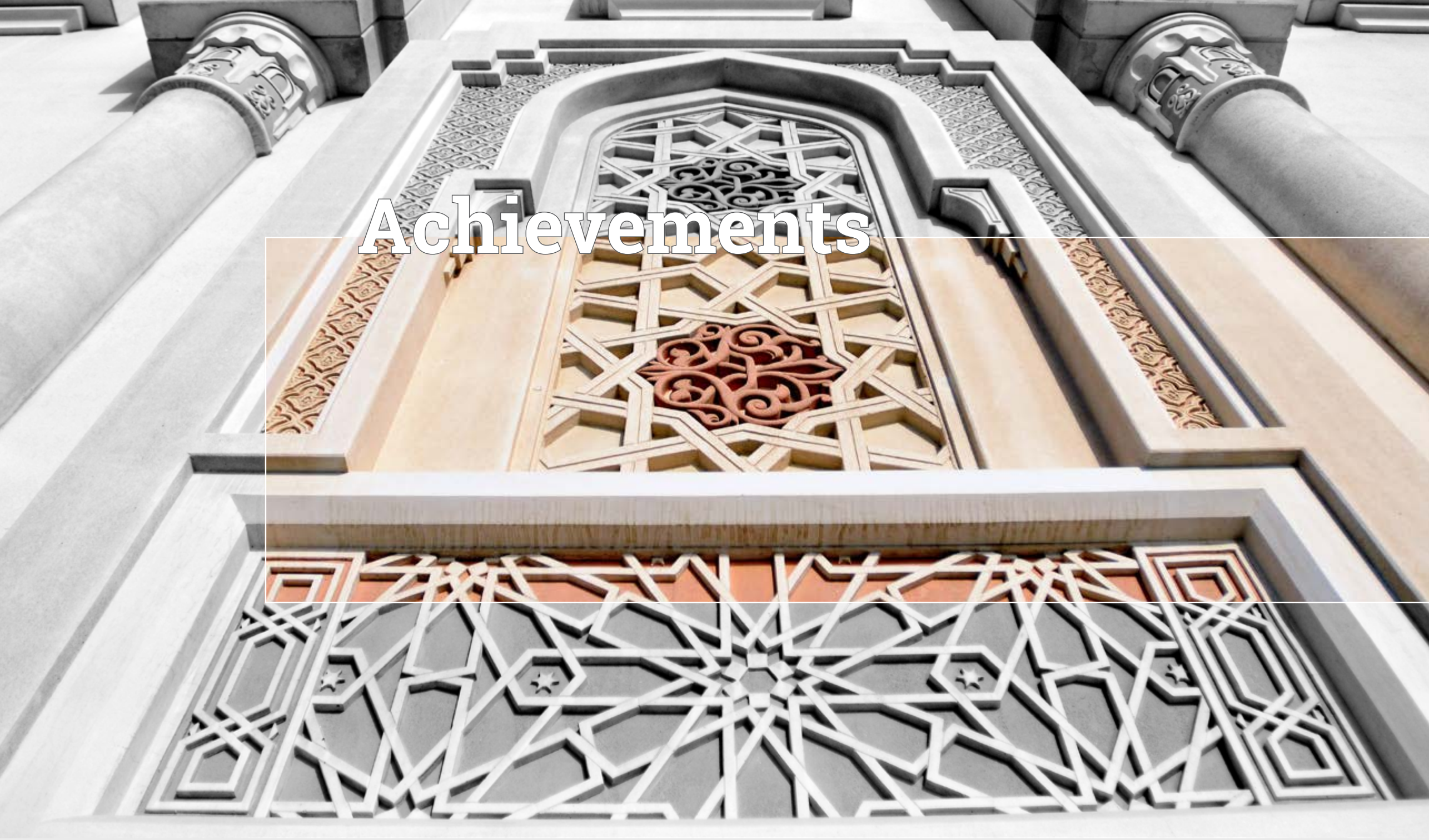
**H.E. Sheikh Sultan Sooud Al-Qassemi**, Founder, Barjeel Art Foundation, Sharjah, UAE

**Dr. Tod A. Laursen**, Chancellor, American University of Sharjah, UAE





# Achievements



## Colleges



CAAD



CAS



CEN



SBA





An overhead photograph of a student's workspace. A person is seated at a desk, working on a large sheet of paper. The desk is cluttered with various tools and materials, including a ruler, a protractor, a glue stick, a pencil, and a smartphone. A black bag is on the floor next to the desk. The background is a dark, textured surface.

# CAAD

College of Architecture, Art and Design

In Academic Year 2022-2023, CAAD continued to lead the broader region in terms of academic reputation and employer satisfaction with graduates.

## Curriculum

The curricula of all three degree programs in the Department of Art and Design underwent an overhaul during 2022–2023. This was based on surveys of academic best practices, input from current students and professionals (including alumni), and feedback from senior academics who served on the UAE Commission of Academic Accreditation's External Review Team. These changes better aligned the curriculum with emerging industry practices and technological advances, and resulted in a revamped senior year.

## Scholarly Work and Faculty Appointments

CAAD faculty had a productive and impactful year. Professor George Katodrytis and alumna Raghad al Ali collaborated with Sharjah's Contemporary Crafts Council—IRTHI—to reimagine the future of traditional UAE materials and crafts. Associate Professors Riem Ibrahim and Hala al-Ani explored the Arab histories that have shaped the field of graphic design. Associate Professor Gregory Spaw and University of Florida Instructional Assistant Professor Lee-Su Huang explored using industrial robots to form bundled and interwoven tubular structures with minimal falsework and scaffolding.

CAAD faculty were complemented by the appointment of Assistant Professor Joseph Graham, a scholar of drawing as representation and analysis, and four visiting assistant professors: Mohammed Balila (architect), Ali Matay (film-maker), Toros Mutlu (photographer) and Ioanna Papadapoulou (interior designer).

## CAAD at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition/Venice Biennial

CAAD was well represented at the 18th International Architecture Exhibition/Venice Biennial. Commissioned by the Salama bint Hamdan Al Nahyan Foundation, with support from the UAE Ministry of Culture and Youth, Associate Dean of CAAD and Associate Professor Faysal Tabbarah, an AUS alumnus, curated the exhibition *Aridly Abundant* for the UAE National Pavilion, working with a research team of exclusively AUS alumni. Architecture alumna Maryam Aljomairi, a doctoral candidate at Harvard Graduate School of Design, co-curated an exhibition on regional water scarcity and innovative ways of addressing it for the Pavilion of Bahrain.





## Student/Alumni Exhibitions, Awards and Grants

CAAD continued to leave its mark on the art and design scene in the UAE and abroad throughout this academic year. A number of CAAD students participating in regional and international competitions were awarded for excellence in design, particularly within the theme of sustainability. Awards included: Abu Dhabi Art 2022 Pavilion Prize; Outstanding Student Award for the 2022 Sharjah Sustainable Architectural Design; Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation (ADMAF) 2022 Total Energies Sustainability Design Award; Best Super Short Film nomination at the Student World Impact Film Festival; and Global Undergraduate Award (Global Winner and Regional Winner). Luxury accessory brand Montblanc commissioned artwork by visual communication student Rana Kassem for its Middle East retail stores in Ramadan 2023.

As part of the AUS Silver Jubilee Activities, CAAD alumni Eman Shafiq and Samrakshana Suresh won the competition to design the AUS Gratitude Park and Recognition Wall on campus to recognize contributions from alumni and friends of AUS.

## Outreach

Silver Jubilee celebrations included two symposia under the title *CAAD at 25. Taking Stock* reflected on CAAD's contributions to the growth and development of design professions and the creative economy within the UAE and the broader region. *Preparing for the Future* explored how design education can evolve to address future regional and global needs.

In a lecture, exhibition and workshop supported by the Abu Dhabi Music and Arts Foundation and the Swiss Embassy, award-winning Swiss graphic designer and educator Jiri Oplatek offered new insights into how traditional design principles intersect with contemporary techniques.

## Partnerships

CAAD students benefited from unique learning opportunities afforded by partnerships with external sponsors. Sponsored by master developer Arada and taught by Associate Professor of Architecture Jason Carlow, students researched and designed innovative and meticulously detailed cladding systems, *Thick Skins*, for a power substation operated by Sharjah Electricity, Water and Gas Authority (SEWA). Sharjah Art Foundation (SAF) partnered with Assistant Professor of Art and Design Dr. Christianna Bonin on a new curatorial course that immersed students in the Sharjah Biennial 15. Sharjah-based manufacturing company TransTech donated a 40-foot shipping container to a design-build studio taught by Associate Professor of Architecture Patrick Rhodes in which students began the process of transforming the container into a mobile classroom.



## Student Enrollment

A total of 641 undergraduate students and 25 graduate students were enrolled in Fall 2022. CAAD graduated 134 students in Academic Year 2022–2023.

## Future Plans

CAAD will continue to deliver a rich and stimulating learning experience for students. In Fall 2023, to highlight pressing sustainability, environmental and social issues, CAAD will present its inaugural film festival CAAD Kino under the theme “Earthscape Chronicles.” Curated by Film My Design, an alumna-founded festival based out of Cairo, the event will also culminate in an ADMAF-sponsored competition for multimedia design students to shoot and edit short films inspired by the theme. Also, CAAD will resume its semester abroad in Barcelona, unique in the region, for fourth- and fifth-year architecture students under the supervision of Associate Professor Gregory Spaw.

In Spring 2024, Assistant Professor of Art and Design Dr. Christianna Bonin will serve as curator for the 17th edition of Art Dubai Modern at Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai.

Finally, CAAD’s studio and teaching spaces will undergo a transformation that will enable new and emerging modes of learning, teaching and working. The first phase of this project is scheduled to be ready for Fall 2024.





A group of students in a media production studio. In the foreground, a student in a grey 'Fly Emirates' t-shirt is operating a camera on a tripod. Behind them, two female students in black hijabs and headphones are looking at the camera's monitor. To the right, another student in a green shirt and headphones is also visible. The background shows a modern studio environment with large windows and professional equipment.

**CAS**

College of Arts and Sciences

## Curriculum

In Academic Year 2022–2023, CAS established the Department of Psychology, with 178 students currently enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology program. It also announced the launch of its Master of Arts in International Studies program as well as a Korean Language Program in collaboration with (and funding from) the Korean Foundation.

The university has also approved new curricula in biochemistry and chemistry, and in environmental sciences and sustainability, pending accreditation from Ministry of Education's (MOE) Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA).

CAS hired 24 full-time regular and visiting faculty in psychology, theater, English, political science, history, anthropology, philosophy, sociology, Arabic and translation, biology, mass communication and mathematics.

## Research and Funding

CAS faculty received external funding of more than AED 3 million as part of their work as Principal Investigators (PIs) from US Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), UAE Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment (MOCCA), Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Polytechnic University of Cartagena (Spain Ministry of Education), Stevens Initiative Grant by the Aspen Institute, International Research Network for the Study of Science and Belief in Society, The Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (with the University of St. Gallen), Hong Kong Research Grants Council and Al Qasimi Foundation. They also received funding as co-PIs in the amount of AED 2.4 million from Sharjah National Oil Company (SNOC), Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA) and Zayed University Research Grant.

CAS faculty have also established new collaborations with researchers from top institutions such as Harvard University, Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, Caltech, Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics, University of Michigan, US Aerospace Research and Development Office and Polytechnic University of

Cartagena. CAS faculty produced more than 300 peer-reviewed publications in 2022–2023.

During the reporting period, CAS faculty have secured external teaching/research funding of AED 1.2 million from Stevens Initiative by the Aspen Institute.

## Facilities

The newly renovated state-of-the-art Humanities and Social Sciences Building (HSB), housing the Department of International Studies and the Department of Psychology, was opened, featuring smart classrooms, student spaces, an auditorium, psychology labs and research facilities.

## Student Enrollment

CAS continued to enjoy a steady increase in student enrollment (with a 28 percent increase in total undergraduate enrollment and a more than 59 percent increase in graduate enrollment since 2018). CAS also saw a notable increase in the number of its Emirati students (36 percent of CAS students are Emirati – higher than the AUS average of 27 percent).

## Outreach

More than 5,000 high school students participated in CAS events during the Academic Year 2022–2023, including the AUS Model United Nations, Environmental Day, Physics Day, Math Fest and Media Day.

## Future Plans

For Academic Year 2023–2024, CAS is planning to launch the AUS Materials Research Center (MRC), pending Board of Trustees approval; seek the professional accreditation of the US Academic Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) for the Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication program; and seek approval of the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) of the UAE Ministry of Education's Higher Education Affairs Division for the initial accreditation of the

Master of Arts in Media Studies and Practice.

In Fall 2024, CAS is looking to launch a Master of Arts in Media Studies and Practice program, pending the approval of the AUS Board of Trustees and the CAA. CAS is also looking to launch a PhD in Mathematics, pending CAA approval.





# CEN

College of Engineering



## Curriculum

CEN launched the CEN 2.0 initiative, which saw significant amendments to the college's undergraduate programs. The major revamp of the curricula followed a rigorous benchmarking exercise conducted by the college's seven undergraduate programs to ensure all programs are robust and better meet student and market needs. A key outcome of this exercise was the integration of data analytics, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and advanced technology throughout all four years of an undergraduate students' study at CEN.

In Spring 2023, CEN began accepting applications for the PhD in Biosciences and Bioengineering program, with the first cohort of students starting in Fall 2023.

## Research and Funding

Research productivity of CEN faculty increased by 30 percent in 2022 in comparison to 2021 in scholarly output. There was also a 13 percent increase in the number of articles by CEN faculty in research journals ranked in the first and second quartile (Q1 and Q2) of their respective fields in 2022 in comparison to 2021.

Six research clusters were also identified within CEN to highlight the core expertise of its faculty and open the door for collaborations with industry partners and international research centers.

The college also hired four visiting faculty members in computer science and engineering.

The college also signed an MoU with the Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences for research collaboration purposes.

## Student Enrollment

CEN saw the enrollment of 2,119 undergraduate students and 274 graduate students in Fall 2022. CEN also registered a student intake increase in Fall 2022 by 9 percent for undergraduate students and 29 percent for graduate students in comparison to Fall 2021.

## Outreach

CEN launched several initiatives to attract and recruit new students. It launched the Discover Engineering Campaign in Fall 2022, which included camps, workshops, open days and competitions. It also included the new CEN Shadow Program, which is the first of its kind in the UAE. The college held 42 events to which 3,800 school students applied and 1,800 were selected. The program was shortlisted for the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards for the Middle East and North Africa 2023.

The college also launched the AI Nukhba Program in which it collaborates with key industry partners to help its students complete an internship requirement of a minimum of 16 weeks. The AI Nukhba (Elite) Program is part of the college's commitment to helping its students make the most of their internship opportunities, equipping them with the requisite knowledge and skills and connecting them to corporate and industrial entities that match their majors. As part of this program, CEN signed several MoUs with industry partners such as Mindware, Schnieder Electric, Hikvision, Mea-Comm and Petrofac.

AUS has also signed an MoU with crypto exchange Bybit, which included a contribution of AED 1,000,000 to establish a scholarship fund that will support 20 computer science and engineering students to accelerate their academic and research career into fintech and blockchain at AUS.

As part of its outreach efforts, CEN hosted several competitions and international events, including the IEEE Student Day Competition, UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) Certified Reviewer Program and the Seventh International Conference on Water, Energy and Environment.

## Executive Programs

CEN launched three executive education programs in collaboration with Dubai Municipality as part of the "Careers of the Future" initiative. The courses were designed based on areas of municipal work including a 3D Printing Certificate Program, a Food Safety Analytics Certificate Program, and an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science Certificate Program.

The college also launched a joint Fire Safety Engineering Training Certificate Program with Sharjah Civil Defence.

## Future Plans

In Fall 2023, CEN is launching the Technology and Engineering Product Design Program (PDP) as part of the CEN Innovation Program to enhance engineering students' educational experience and strengthen CEN's community engagement. Serving as an incubator for student ideas, PDP helps students conceptualize, develop prototypes, receive financial planning training, including budgeting and sourcing, establish start-up trademarks and pitch their ideas to potential UAE and international investors. It also involves a series of workshops, seminars and consultations with business experts ensuring a comprehensive entrepreneurial learning experience. The program's three initial projects include a logistics intermediary application for cost-effective and secure courier solutions, a robotic approach to waste management and an academic management service.

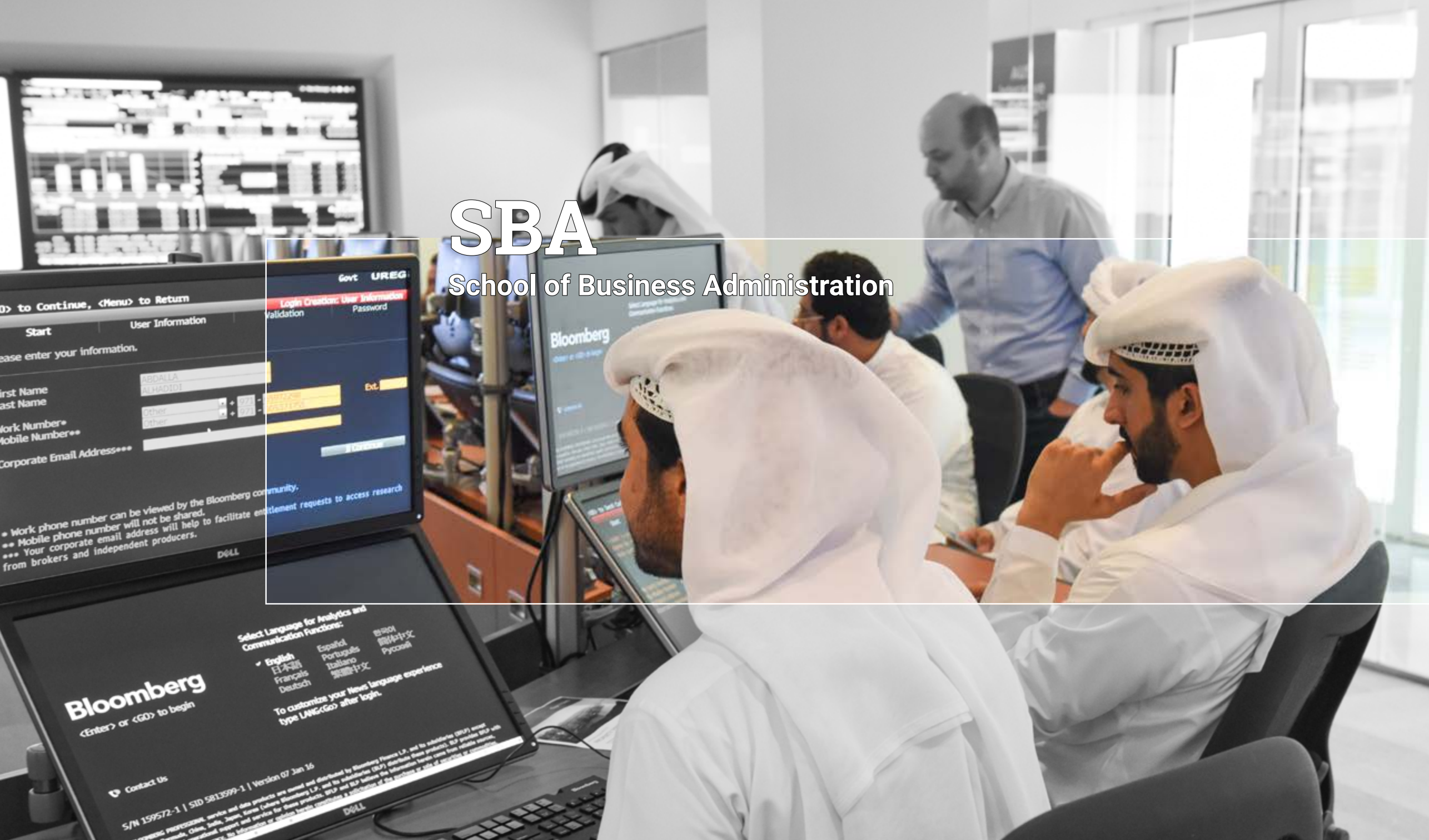
The college will be launching its first general education course in sustainable development in Fall 2023, open to all AUS students.





# SBA

## School of Business Administration





## Curriculum

SBA's first cohort of students registered in the dual PhD in Business Administration, Concentration in Finance, spent their Fall 2022 semester in the University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business as part of the program's objectives of offering students the opportunity to earn degrees from two well-respected institutions. SBA introduced two new courses in knowledge management and audit analytics, launched the minor in luxury marketing, revamped courses on forensic accounting and new product development, and received UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA) approval to launch a new major in supply chain management and a hybrid mode delivery for the school's flagship MBA program.

## Research and Funding

SBA received funding of AED 1.5 million from Al Ghurair Foundation to support faculty training in online education, preparation of proposal for a blended MBA program to CAA and preparation of a fully online STEM MBA in Business Analytics for Fall 2024. The grant enabled SBA to hire an instructional designer, and to create two brand-new state-of-the-art recording studios and online facilities to support online instruction.

SBA boasted an increase of publications in the top Scopus quartiles from 79 percent of total faculty publications to 90 percent this last evaluation window. It organized four research conferences across the school, drawing top researchers from around the world. Two of the school's faculty went on research sabbaticals in prestigious institutions that include University of Georgia and American University in Washington.

## Student Enrollment

SBA has experienced sustainable and continuous growth over the last four years in student enrollment. In Fall 2022, it recorded a significant increase of 7.7 percent in student enrollment over Fall 2021, and a 10.2 percent increase in Spring 2023 over Spring 2022. Fall 2023 observed the highest increase registered for the school in years (more than 13 percent).

## Student Experience

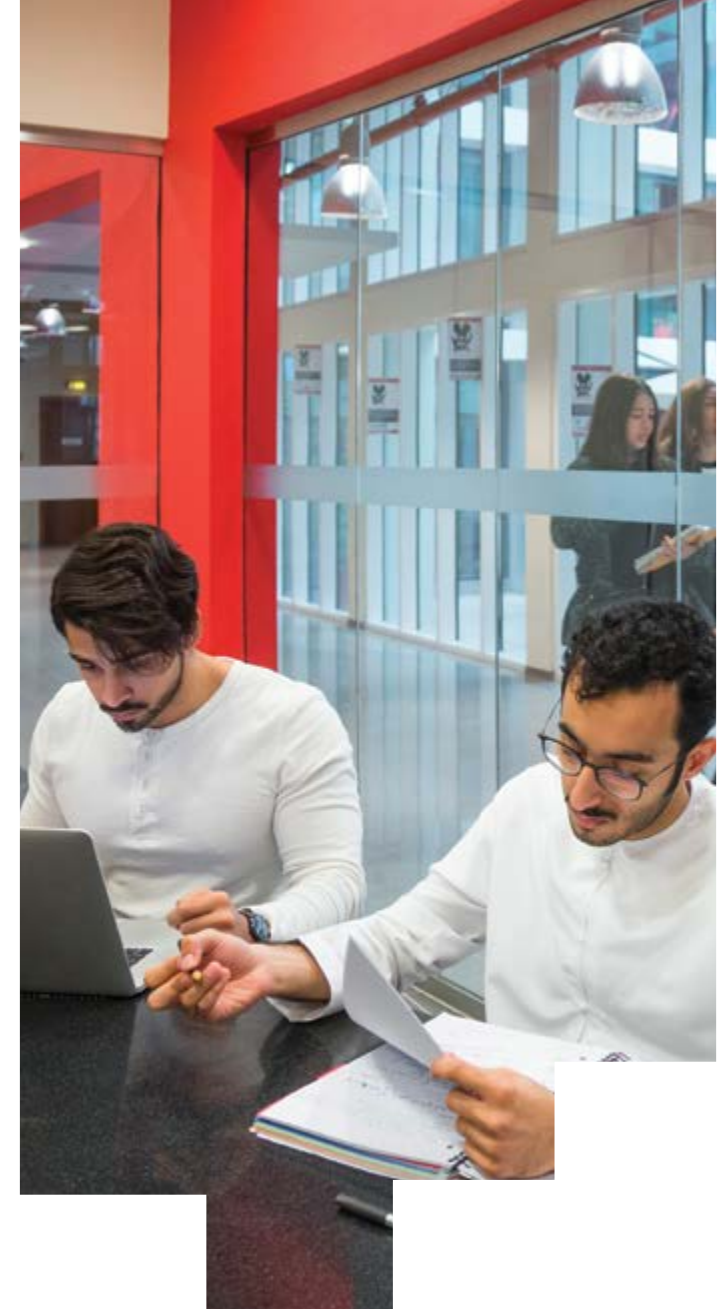
Beyond the classroom, SBA students were involved in the iLead career preparation workshops series, benefited from a very active co-curricular environment, and had a chance to go on a sustainability-focused study tour to Singapore. The school also organized recruitment competitions with several industry partners, and welcomed 71 guest speakers, including SBA alumni, who also helped arrange internship and placement opportunities for them.

## Outreach

In outreach, SBA developed several executive education programs to serve the community in Sharjah and the UAE. The school also welcomed 10 prospective high school student visits to SBA, organized a Nobel Laureate conference and the second economics policy conference in collaboration with the UAE Ministry of Economy and a consortium of universities in the UAE. SBA also focused on sustainability and streamlined all its processes including registration, advising and students' support services.

## Future Plans

SBA aims to launch a new Master of Science in Economics, Policy and Data Analysis and a Blended MBA program in Fall 2024.



# Offices



Office of Graduate Studies and Research



Office of Undergraduate Affairs and Instruction



Office of Enrollment Management



Office of the Registrar



Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs



Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing



Office of Protocol and Security



Office of ICT and IT Security



University Library



# Office of Research and Graduate Studies

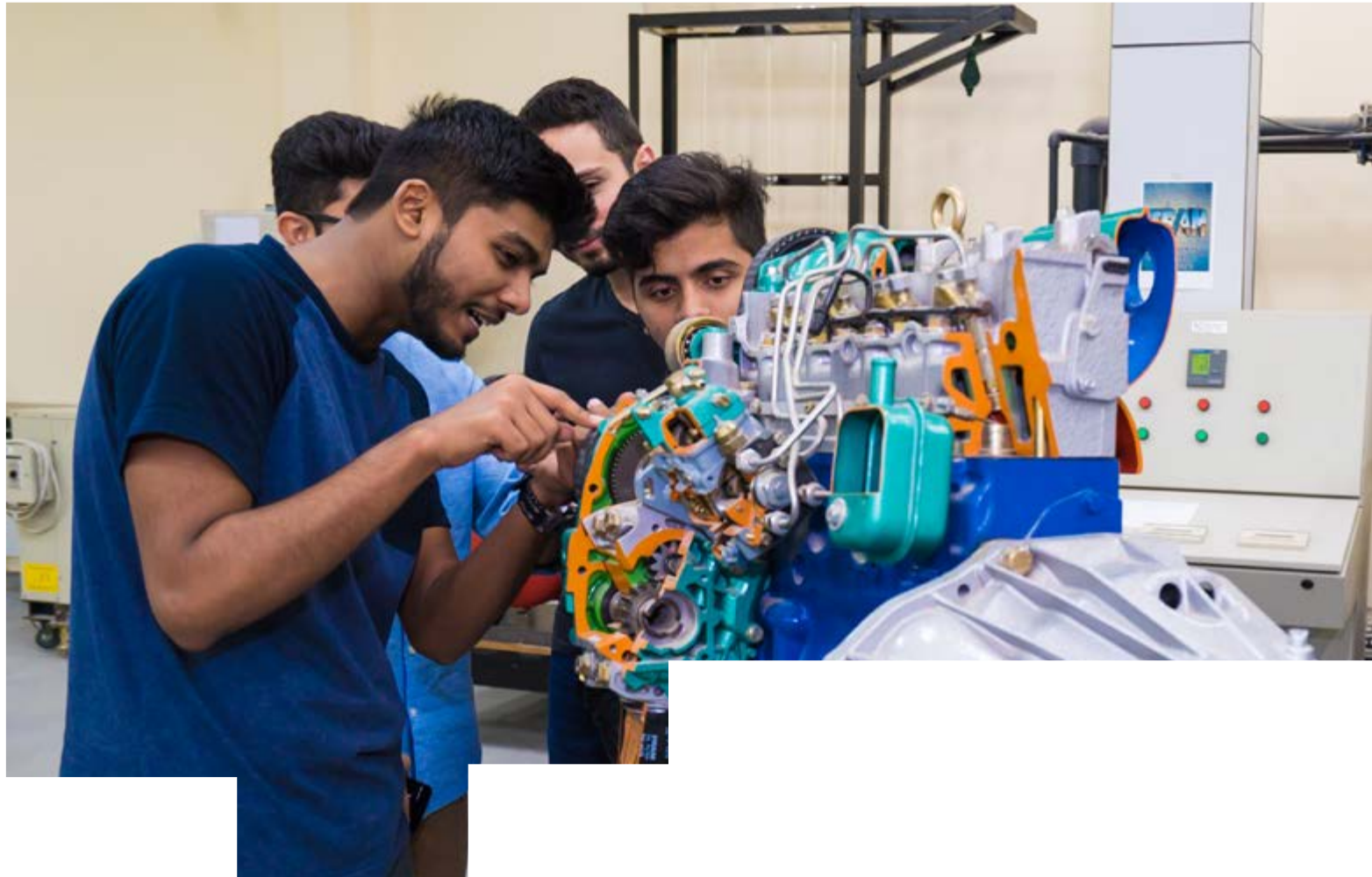
In Academic Year 2022–2023, AUS offered 15 master's degree programs and three doctoral programs in diverse fields. The Office of Research and Graduate Studies announced the introduction of the PhD in Biosciences and Bioengineering and the Master of Arts in International Studies, with the first cohort for each to begin their studies in Fall 2023. The office also secured approval from the Ministry of Education to offer the Master of Business Administration (MBA) program using a hybrid mode, with some courses offered online and some face-to-face.

The university witnessed good growth in doctoral programs, with an approximately 22 percent increase in the number of students compared to Fall 2021. The third cohort of PhD students graduated in Spring 2023.

The office engaged in discussions to establish dual degree graduate programs with international universities, registered a 17 percent increase in journal publications by graduate students compared to Fall 2021, and supported graduate student activities through the Graduate Students Association, a student-run organization that promotes graduate students' interests and organizes social and professional events to help graduate students succeed in their academic journey at AUS.

## Future Plans

The office is planning to launch new graduate programs, including a Master of Science in Machine Learning, which was approved by the Ministry of Education in Fall 2023; and a Master of Science in Economics, Policy and Data and a PhD in Mathematics in Fall 2023, pending final approval from the Ministry of Education. The first student cohort is expected to join in Fall 2024.





## Office of Research Services

Throughout the year, the Office of Research Services (ORS) provided high-quality support to campus research, creative activity and outreach initiatives.

### Internal Sponsored Faculty Research Grants

Out of 96 applications for internal sponsored faculty research grants, 65 were awarded after the review process. This is a success rate of 67.7 percent, down from 69.1 percent the previous year. However, the total value awarded was AED 24,870,950 in comparison to AED 21,905,027 the previous year—an increase of 13 percent in awarded funds.

### Open Access Program

More than 160 AUS faculty members submitted funding requests for publication under the Open Access Program (OAP), out of which 153 were funded. Open Access allows the community at large to read about research at no cost, without subscribing to traditional research journals. Compared to the previous year, there was an increase in requests by 38.79 percent and an increase of 39.09 percent of awardees. Awarded funds totaled AED 986,876, which is an increase of 38.85 percent when compared to the previous year. Funding was divided as follows: 74 percent of those awarded were for publications in Quartile 1 journals and 26 percent were in Quartile 2 journals, which is a jump in comparison to the previous year where 56 percent of funding went for publication in Quartile 1 journals.

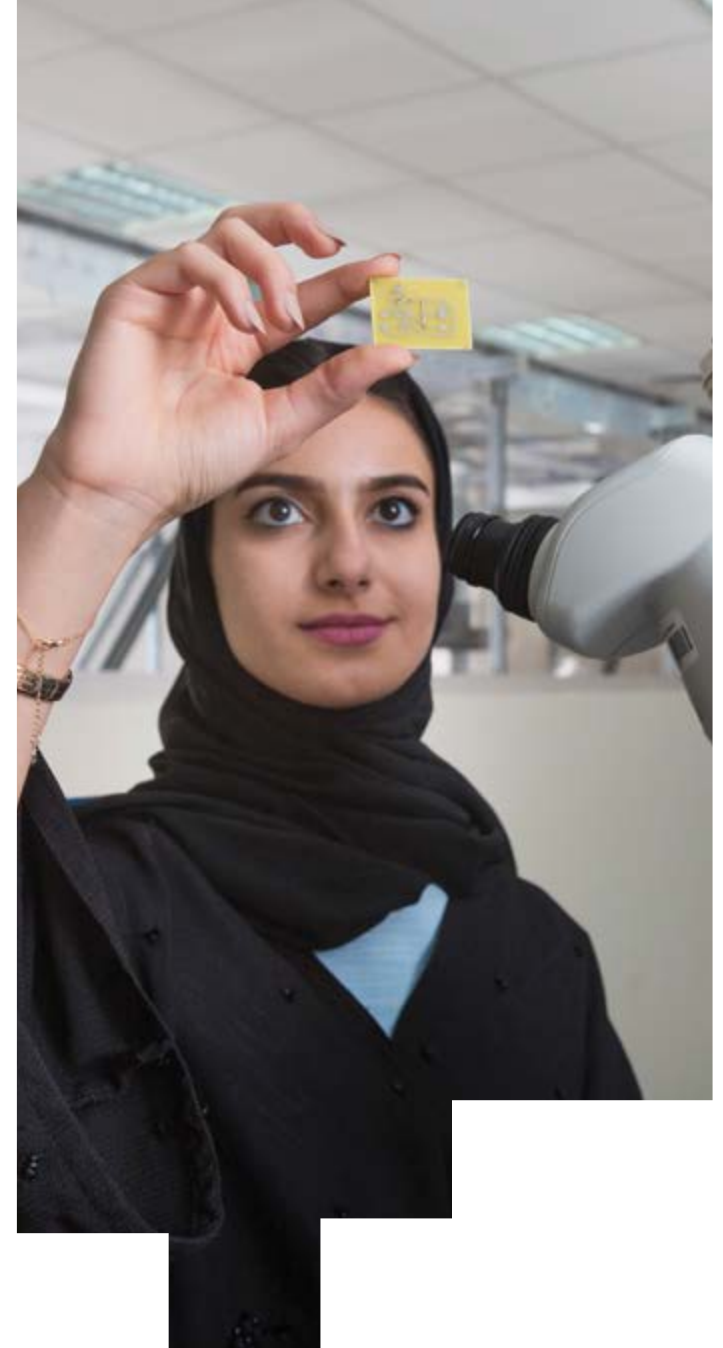
## External Sponsored Projects

Fourteen proposals were submitted, out of which 10 were awarded for a total value of AED 2,477,345, marking a 71.42 percent success rate. Most noteworthy is that two of the awards came from the Aspen Institute, an international non-profit organization.

### Institutional Review Board

ORS has formalized its institutional structure to be better aligned with international best practices related to research ethics procedures. In compliance with international research ethics standards and institutional requirements, AUS constituted an Institutional Review Board (IRB) to review all research protocols which involve human subjects. The review process now meets international standards of Exempt, Expedited and Full Board Review. Over the period of 2022–2023, the IRB received 100 applications, out of which 91 were approved.

To train members of the AUS community who are conducting research involving human subjects, or who are responsible for setting policies for such research, ORS launched the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program for faculty, students and staff free of cost. These online courses can be completed in a self-paced manner. Once a course has been completed with a passing grade, the learners can download the certificate online through their accounts.



# Research Statistics and Data

## Patents and Commercialization

- 1 patent filed in the US
- 1 patent granted in the US
- 1 patent under preparation

## Faculty Publication Productivity



Note: Scopus collects data by calendar year.

## Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI)



Note: Scopus collects data by calendar year. A publication with an FWCI value greater than 1 is considered to have an above-average impact in its field.

## 2022–2023 Publications by Journal Quartile



# Office of Undergraduate Affairs and Instruction

## Overview of Achievements

The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs and Instruction (VPUAI) led the Digital Services Taskforce that developed a strategic plan to incorporate artificial intelligence (AI) into student operations. The VPUAI also co-led the Student Success Taskforce, which initiated an in-depth analysis of student academic success to identify and address areas of concern.

The Office of the VPUAI also collaborated with the University of Exeter and QS to offer the Future 17 collaborative online international learning programs to AUS students.

## Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning (CITL) successfully hosted the Best Practices in Teaching and Learning Conference 2023, in collaboration with Khalifa University and Amity University, attracting 195 participants. CITL also partnered with the Sheikhha Nama Majid Al Qassimi Endowed Chair in Education Across Disciplines to co-organize a symposium on Education Bridging Disciplines, with a total attendance of 75.

## Academic Support Center

The Academic Support Center (ASC) made noteworthy progress by re-envisioning the First Year Experience program (FYE). This transformation resulted in a proactive and positive voluntary interaction between ASC and first-year students, leading to a highly successful engagement of 339 first-year students with FYE programs. Additionally, ASC provided critical support by assisting 38 students with an unprecedented total of 99 Academic Accommodation requests, enabling them to continue their studies at AUS.

## International Exchange Office

On the international front, the International Exchange Office (IXO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with McGill University and is currently in the process of drafting an exchange agreement. Furthermore, IXO expanded AUS' global reach by establishing a new bilateral exchange partnership with John Cabot University in Italy.





## Future Plans

The Office of the VPUAI is committed to expanding global academic interactions by seeking collaborative online international learning opportunities for students. The VPUAI and the Digital Services Taskforce will oversee the implementation of AI solutions for student services. Additionally, in collaboration with the Student Success Taskforce, evidence-based recommendations will be brought forward to enhance student success and their implementation will be overseen.

CITL plans to build on its successful conference by hosting the Second Annual Best Practices in Teaching and Learning Conference, in partnership with Khalifa University and Amity University. CITL also has plans to co-organize another Education Bridging Disciplines Symposium and initiate a significant project focused on establishing a virtual AI Hub.

ASC is poised to take proactive measures to support at-risk students who are currently in good standing, preventing them from reaching probation status. Additionally, ASC will expand its support services and outreach to the entire AUS student community through initiatives such as a revamped website, improved ASC Pop Up Kiosk presence, classroom visits and increased social engagement within AUS student activities.

IXO is dedicated to increasing study abroad participation by assessing existing programs, forging new partnerships and incorporating students' families into the decision-making process. IXO seeks to position AUS as a highly sought-after study abroad destination by providing high-quality programming for incoming study abroad students.



# Office of Enrollment Management

The Office of Enrollment Management (OEM) achieved a number of accomplishments over Academic Year 2022–2023 related to student recruitment, the Sharakah Program, External Sponsorship Program and more.

## Student Recruitment Academic Year 2022–2023

**6%** increase in total enrollment over Fall 2021

**24%** increase in recruitment campaigns and activities compared to Academic Year 2021–2022

**1,605** virtual activities




**503** in-person activities  
275 in the UAE | 228 across 11 countries



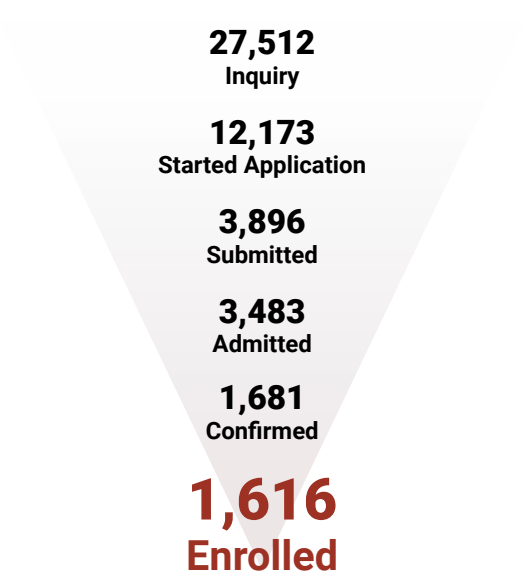
**239** activities for graduate programs



**1,869** activities for undergraduate programs



## Total Number of Leads by Funnel Stages for the Academic Year 2022–2023



## Sharakah Program

Sharakah partner schools remain an important source of prospective students. OEM increased the number of Sharakah partner schools from 99 to 137, translating to a 38 percent increase over Academic Year 2021–2022. The program signed its third regional Sharakah Memorandum of Agreement in Spring 2023 with Maarif Education in KSA, which covers 15 campuses. In addition, an MoA was signed with Emirates National Schools, which covers seven campuses in the UAE. More than 40 multidisciplinary activities for Sharakah schools were organized in collaboration with various departments across AUS, ranging from academic and athletic competitions to teacher training programs.

## External Sponsorship Program

AUS is proud to have some of the most successful organizations as partners in its efforts to ensure that talented and qualified students receive the quality education they deserve. Compared to Fall 2021, the number of external sponsors increased to 27 and the number of externally sponsored students increased to 987 in Fall 2022, an increase of 4 percent and 9 percent, respectively. New sponsorship programs included Mohamed Bin Khalifa Bin Salman Specialist Cardiac Centre, Emirates Airlines and the Knowledge and Human Development Authority in Dubai. More than 25 events for sponsors and their sponsored students were held on campus.

## Services Implemented

For improved efficiency, OEM automated operational processes across systems. The number of automations were 226 with Recruit-CRM; 124 with Zendesk Enterprise System; and 25 with Zapier Workflows Automation. In coordination with IT, OEM concluded Application Programming Interface (API) integration for admission data with the SEWA sponsorship application portal. OEM also launched an advanced contact center system (Ziwo), created 16 digital applicant dashboards for colleges and seven for various departments, integrated Ziwo Cloud Communication to the Infodesk communication platform, and transformed all forms and application files to a digitized process across departments.

## Achievement Academy

The Achievement Academy continued to provide opportunities for students to develop their English skills to maximize success in their university, personal and professional experiences. Students in the Achievement Academy Bridge Program (AABP) reported a very high level of satisfaction, with 93 percent of students stating that their learning experience was positive and that the course learning outcomes were achieved. All AABP students engaged with the AUS community through more than 25 extracurricular learning activities. The new course English for Emirati History was added to the AABP electives courses.

Through the Achievement Academy Outreach Program, more than 379 hours of English language training was delivered to the Department of Human Resources, Sharjah Private Education Authority and Port of Fujairah.

## Future Plans

OEM aims to develop a new three-year strategic plan for 2023–2026. Other plans include expanding its external recruitment areas, increasing the number of recruitment activities, and enhancing automation in the communications and admissions process across all the enrollment funnel stages.

Internally, OEM plans on utilizing the new Zendesk AI-powered features, skill-based ticket routing, real-time dashboards and improved messaging. Also, Recruit CRM will be integrated with Microsoft Power BI to enhance Recruit reporting and analytics, and there will be a focus on Recruit integrations using APIs with Hubspot and Zendesk communication platforms. To support the recruitment team's productivity, OEM plans on introducing the sales software SPOTIO.

Under the Sharakah Program, OEM is also working on signing five additional schools in the UAE in addition to the Islamic Educational College Schools in Jordan during Fall 2023.





# Office of the Registrar

## Overview of Achievements

The Office of the Registrar has facilitated several enhancements to the student experience, working in conjunction with the Office of ICT and IT Security. A change to the graduation application has allowed students to record the pronunciation of their name to ensure the correct pronunciation at commencement. A new feature now allows enrollment requests and academic transcripts to be ordered online. Significantly, in a government accelerator initiative, the Office of the Registrar collaborated with the Office of ICT and IT Security and the Ministry of Education (MOE) to implement the automated degree attestation process for graduating students. Once certificates are attested, graduates receive an email from MOE with the attested transcript and attestation certificates. AUS was also heavily involved in the testing of the initiative.

During the past year, the office was responsible for organizing the Honors Convocation, recognizing more than 400 students, and the Fall and Spring Commencements, which together saw 1,067 students receiving their diplomas.

Staff from the Office of the Registrar play key roles on various university committees, including the Student Success Committee, which identifies the key issues that affect student success. They are also represented on the Academic Operations Committee, Academic Affairs Review Committee, Honors Convocation Committee, Commencement Committee, Financial Grant and Scholarship Committee, Judicial Affairs Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.



# Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs

## A YEAR OF IMPACT



AED  
**1.8** raised in scholarships  
million

AED  
**4.5** raised in endowments  
million

AED  
**2** raised in corporate sponsorships  
million



# Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs

The Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs (OAAA) led and managed several advancement initiatives aiming to support students and alumni with educational and career advancements, while creating scholarship opportunities for students and expanding the outreach agenda of AUS.

## Silver Jubilee Initiatives

As part of the 25th AUS anniversary celebrations, OAAA managed and led numerous initiatives that aimed to make a positive impact on the AUS community as well as future AUS students. In Academic Year 2022–2023, the #AUS25for25 initiative successfully raised AED 800,000, supporting the equivalent of 25 scholarships for 25 AUS students. This scholarship fund now totals AED 1 million, with students starting to receive the scholarships in Academic Year 2023–2024.

A highlight of the celebrations was the collaboration with the Central Bank of the UAE to produce a commemorative coin. The quantities initially made available to alumni sold out within just 24 hours. Subsequently, the remaining coins were offered for sale to community partners and friends of AUS.

To further mark the 25th anniversary of the university, the Gratitude Park was commissioned to mark the occasion and pay tribute to the contributions AUS alumni and friends of the university have made to AUS, helping it to become one of the region's leading institutions.

## Advancement

Scholarship opportunities were enhanced thanks to a collaboration with Bybit to create a AED 1 million scholarship fund for fintech and blockchain students, including a hackathon sponsorship.

Further advancement initiatives led by OAAA included establishing AUS' first Advisory Council of Development and Outreach; organizing The Next Lap: Future of Knowledge and Education Forum, which provided a platform for policy and decision-makers, and high-profile speakers—including leading experts from academia, industry and government—to share their insights on the future of education and knowledge; holding a Corporate Appreciation Gala with more than 120 business leaders; and organizing stewardship meetings with endowed chair and professorship donors.

## Alumni Affairs

OAAA led alumni initiatives that welcomed more than 4,500 alumni back to campus. These included the AUS Alumni Silver Jubilee Reunion and the AUS Alumni Iftar. The office also managed the Alumni Association Council elections and supported regional and international Alumni Association Chapters with networking events that connected AUS alumni worldwide.





## Career Services

OAAA supported student and alumni career advancement by organizing the AUS Career Fair, which connected 1,700+ students and alumni with more than 80 organizations. Additionally, OAAA co-launched the inaugural Startup Career Fair with Sheraa and Crescent Enterprises, and conducted two editions of Job Search Preparation Day, offering mock interviews, CV workshops and company presentations.

## Future Plans

OAAA's future advancement plans include creating a culture of philanthropy within the community through launching new strategies and initiatives that target giving, for example, the AUS Giving Day and the AUS Benefit Suhoor; increasing the endowment fund and corporate sponsorships; and refining and enhancing stewardship offerings to boost future philanthropic contributions.

To further foster alumni relations, OAAA aims to create holistic programs focused on alumni engagement, including unified communication plans and online social media presence; to cultivate a culture of volunteerism among the alumni community through launching new initiatives such as the first AUS Alumni/Students Mentorship Program; and to reinforce the alumni association's engagement strategy to cultivate increased involvement and alumni pride, fostering a stronger sense of ownership.

Plans are also underway to restructure and expand the current career services offerings and to attract new employers by offering speaking engagement opportunities and career open days, bringing them closer to the university.



# Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing

## Content Creation and Public Relations

The content creation and public relations team, working with other parts of the Office of Strategic Communications and Marketing (SCM), is responsible for creating content for platforms that include the website, brochures, newsletters, press releases, digital and print ads, landing pages and more. The content team plays a role in supporting all university events by fulfilling their diverse content requirements and is also responsible for media relations.

External data generated from Talkwalker, a media analytics tool, for the reporting period indicate that AUS vastly outperformed its six main regional competitors in number of media mentions.

Reporting conducted internally demonstrates that AUS has also experienced a notable increase in media coverage from September 2021 to May 2022 compared to September 2022 to May 2023. For example, from September 2021 to May 2022, AUS press releases achieved 256 press mentions. In contrast, from September 2022 to May 2023, AUS press releases achieved 1,090 press mentions.



## Social Media

AUS has a presence on YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn, Snapchat and TikTok. Over the span of one academic year, AUS achieved remarkable milestones in expanding its brand presence and sentiment, as well as in engaging with its audiences on social media platforms. From July 2022 to July 2023, AUS witnessed an average growth increase of 10 percent in organic followership across multiple platforms.

On Facebook, there was a steady 1.55 percent increase in followers, indicating a positive trend in engagement and audience expansion. Instagram, on the other hand, saw a substantial 21.4 percent increase in followership over the course of a year, reflecting an effective content strategy and engagement tactics. LinkedIn also experienced impressive growth, with a 13.7 percent follower base growth during the same period, showcasing strong audience engagement and an increased outreach. X (formerly known as Twitter), indicated a positive 3 percent growth. These growth trends collectively demonstrate a promising trajectory for AUS' online presence and brand engagement across these social media platforms.

There was a significant improvement in audience engagement in the reporting period, particularly with Instagram, where SCM registered the highest engagement.

Audience Engagement on Instagram		
Overall Audience Engagement		
AY 2021–2022	AY 2022–2023	Percent Increase
83,206	127,407	53%
Average Number of Interactions per Post		
AY 2021–2022	AY 2022–2023	Percent Increase
492	574	17%





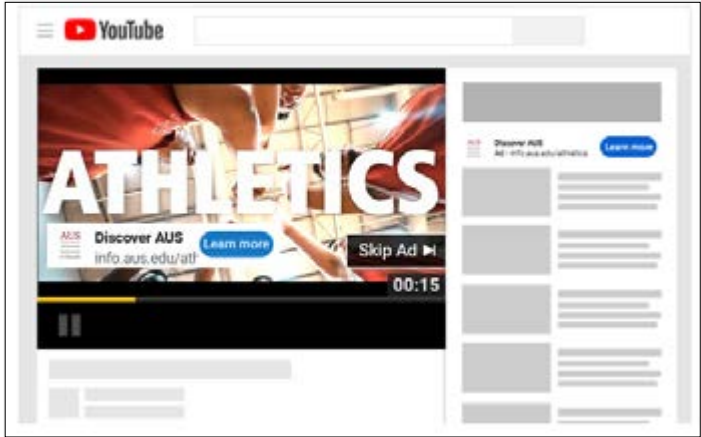
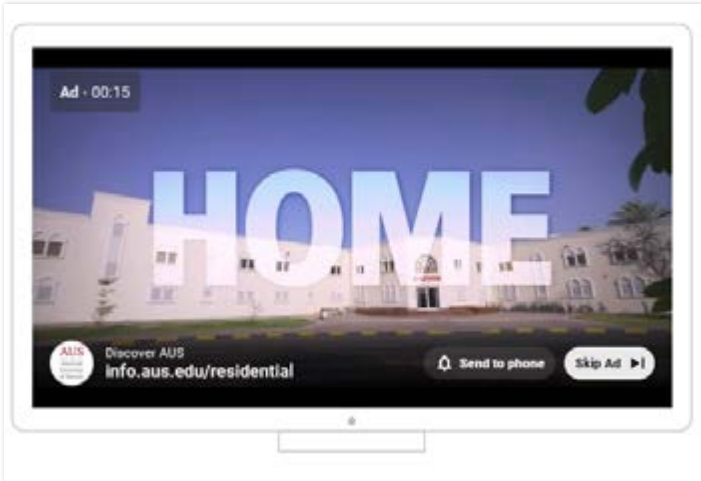
## Paid Digital Advertising

Paid digital advertising is one of SCM’s key lead generation and brand-building activities, and it is done through paid social media and Pay-Per-Click advertising (PPC). There are three broad paid social campaigns: one targeting high school students for prospective undergraduate programs, one targeting parents with high school-age children and one targeting prospective graduate students. PPC advertising is an internet advertising model SCM uses to drive traffic from a search engine, such as Google, to a campaign-specific AUS webpage. Once a prospective student or parent lead is gathered through these activities, SCM starts to nurture that lead through a series of specifically designed messages via our Customer Relationship Management System (CRM).

The number of leads generated for prospective students for Spring 2023 and Fall 2023 during the reporting period are shown below.

Leads Generated in AY 2022–2023			
Social Media Campaigns			
For Spring 2023		For Fall 2023	
100+ undergraduate	300+ graduate	500+ undergraduate	900+ graduate
Pay-Per-Click Advertising (PPC)			
For Spring 2023		For Fall 2023	
4,437 undergraduate	1,203 graduate	9,345 undergraduate	916 graduate

These leads were sent to the Office of Enrolment Management (OEM) for nurturing and conversion.



## Website

In Academic Year 2022–2023, the digital team worked on a major project to migrate the website from Drupal 7 to Drupal 10 (Drupal is the web content management system used by AUS). Once this migration is complete, the site will be optimized for user experience, with improved navigation, better functionality, faster loading speed, more modern design and more dynamic content displays. This migration will improve the website as a tool for student recruitment, as it will be better geared for capturing lead data, retargeting prospects and encouraging prospects to take the next step in the recruitment process.

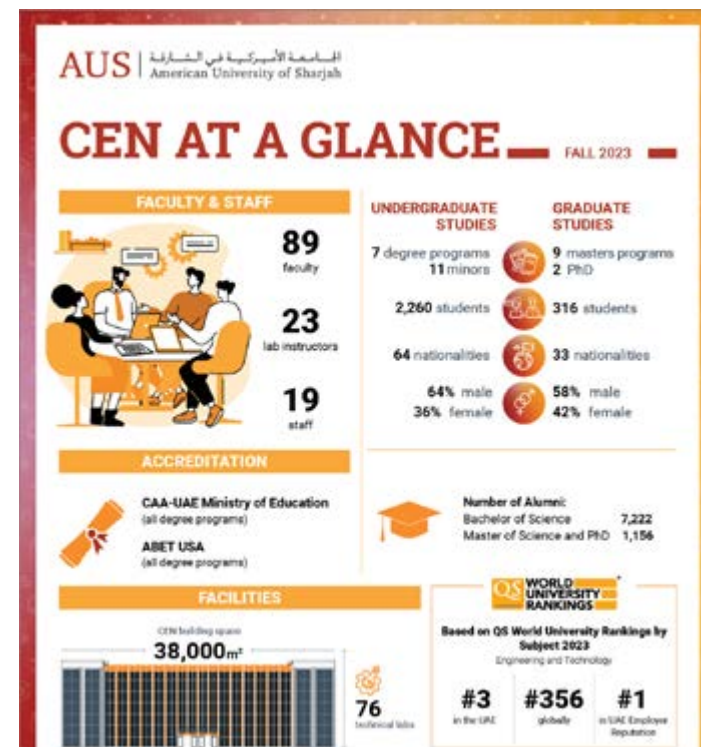
## Creative

The creative team works closely with all other functions of SCM to support their work generating leads and building brand visibility, including creating videos for use on paid and organic social media platforms, the website and web portals; taking and editing photographs of AUS events, university life, faculty and staff for use on social media, press releases, the website, brochures, CRM messaging and much more; creating digital and print collateral including the prospectuses, college/school brochures, program brochures, course catalogs, event promotional items and assets for many other aspects of AUS; creating design assets for the website; creating advertisements for use in print and digital newspapers and social media advertising; and managing the AUS brand guidelines to ensure a consistent visual image is portrayed.

## Events

SCM works with all the colleges/school and offices/departments to ensure all elements of their internal events are supported, as well as manages AUS' presence at the UAE-based external student recruitment events. SCM provided support to 388 in-person and virtual events in Academic Year 2022–2023, in comparison to 213 events in Academic Year 2021–2022.

The Events Team introduced a new automated process of receiving requirements from different stakeholders via an online portal that automates and streamlines communication channels within AUS departments. A fully embedded CRM covering all aspects of event management, from initiation to post evaluation, is being developed.



# Office of Protocol and Security

## Overview of Achievements

The Office of Protocol and Security achieved several significant milestones in Academic Year 2022–2023. These achievements include the successful advancement of projects such as the Campus-Wide CCTV and Control Room Project, which is in its final phase and collaboratively managed with design and procurement teams. Additionally, the implementation of the Security 360-Degree System, featuring 400 security tags across the campus, improved the efficiency of security tours, panic reporting and task monitoring for security personnel. The introduction of a real-time Security Online System and Security and Safety Online Requests Platform transitioned operations to paperless systems, enhancing communication and user experience. Furthermore, the Permit to Work System was introduced to ensure safety compliance for high-risk activities. The office has also developed a comprehensive online training program for lab safety, conducted emergency response drills and successfully audited and inspected all campus areas and buildings to enhance community safety, legal compliance and operational efficiency.

## Future Plans

In the upcoming academic year, the Office of Protocol and Security is committed to continuous improvement and efficiency through various plans, including subscribing to a service provider offering health and safety online training courses to enhance community awareness and compliance with regulations. The management and launch of the new Campus-Wide CCTV and Control Room Project will further improve operational efficiency and compliance. Additionally, the office will organize the 2024 Annual Security

and Safety Conference to position AUS as a leading institution in security and safety standards, practices and challenges in higher education on an international scale. These initiatives reflect the office's dedication to enhancing security, safety and compliance within the university community.

## Visa and Equalization Services Department

### Overview of Achievements

In Academic Year 2022–2023, the Visa and Equalization Services (VES) Department achieved significant milestones, including effective collaboration with Human Resources during the transition from Banner to Oracle Fusion, successful onboarding of new faculty, and processing of residency and Emirates IDs for new students. The department also assisted employees with applying for the Golden Visa and the Green Visa and worked on streamlining communication with inactive students through automated emails. The introduction of the New Candidate Form for obtaining initial government approval using Jotform—an online forms and applications builder—improved efficiency and accuracy. Collaboration with the Ministry of Education ensured alignment with the latest updates regarding the equivalency process.

## Future Plans

The department's future goals include a seamless transition to the Office of Protocol and Security, leveraging Oracle Fusion to enhance processes related to residency, Emirates ID and passport details. AUS' website will be updated to include Oracle steps for updating these details. Collaboration with the Office of Enrollment Management will further enhance and streamline the process for new students seeking residency through AUS. Continuous process enhancement remains a commitment, contributing to overall organizational goals by improving efficiency and productivity.





# Office of ICT and IT Security

## Overview of Achievements

The ICT team accomplished several significant milestones to enhance various aspects of university operations and services. An online scholarship application form was developed to streamline the scholarship application process for AUS students. In addition, the ICT team played a pivotal role in supporting the launch of One Stop - The AUS Solution Center, aimed at improving the overall student experience.

Recognizing the growing need for internet bandwidth, the ICT team collaborated with partners to increase capacity by more than double. This upgrade was crucial to meet the requirements of an increasingly connected community relying on bandwidth-intensive applications.

Furthermore, they introduced a Cloud-based Self-Service Online Forms Service, contributing to digital transformation efforts by converting paper forms to online versions in line with the university's focus on sustainability. In collaboration with the Finance team, the team has also enhanced online payment options, ensuring secure and convenient transactions for students.

A significant achievement was establishing a modernized cloud environment within Amazon Web Services (AWS). This initiative empowered AUS researchers by providing them with individual AWS accounts, enabling them to address a wide range of research computing demands efficiently.

The ICT team also worked closely with the Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs to implement an online application for alumni to purchase commemorative AUS Silver Coins.

In parallel, the ICT team embarked on a cloud migration project utilizing Azure Cloud in the UAE. They meticulously designed this cloud environment, incorporating modern principles, software-defined methodologies, and the highest security and management standards. They successfully established the foundational components and commenced data migration, with a significant portion scheduled for completion by December 2023.

Automation initiatives remained a focus, enhancing efficiency and productivity. The team also established a compact Azure Virtual Desktop environment for users, facilitating access to legacy forms.

Additionally, the ICT team participated in a government accelerator project with the Ministry of Higher Education to automate diploma attestation using Blockchain technology. The deployment of a cloud-based call center management solution optimized customer interactions and seamlessly integrated with the Office of Enrollment Management customer engagement platform.

To maintain the integrity of examinations while allowing device use, the ICT team initiated a secure, restricted wireless network pilot project, which continues to be enhanced.

The ICT team has also successfully completed the UAE CyberSecurity Council's cybersecurity assurance questionnaire and upgraded the storage system, improving performance and sustainability while achieving significant cost savings.

New security tools, including a Host Intrusion Detection System and a Windows event log fast forensics timeline generator and threat hunting tool, were implemented to enhance security operations.

Moreover, the team collaborated with various departments to migrate content to SharePoint Online, enhancing access to internal content.

In partnership with the AUS School of Business Administration, Campus Development, and the Procurement Department, the ICT team designed and implemented E-learning Recording Studios, further enriching educational resources at AUS.



# University Library



**951,371 ebooks**  
(33% increase)



**97,125 e-journals**



**111 databases**



**Over 1 million**  
database full-text downloads



## Overview of Achievements

Collaborations with international organizations saw the AUS Library raise the university's profile among regional and international audiences. The AUS Library co-hosted (with Zayed University Library) the International Association of University Libraries' (IATUL) 43rd Annual Conference and General Meeting in March 2023, attracting over 150 delegates from university libraries in 22 countries and featuring over 50 papers and presentations, including a closing speech by Her Excellency Sheikha Bodour bint Sultan Al Qasimi, President of AUS. AUS University Librarian Kara Jones also joined the IATUL Board of Directors, commencing a three-year term in January 2023. She has also been invited to serve a three-year term on the Institute of Physics Publishing MENA Library Advisory Board.

Librarians at AUS are actively working to support the AUS Strategic Plan Goal III, empowering faculty to deliver high productivity and quality in their research and creative work through various initiatives. These include 38 workshops, a book launch streamed across three continents, an interactive eight-module Research Impact Course, and multiple workshops for faculty on using ChatGPT. Additionally, AUS librarians and faculty launched the Community of Practice in Information Literacy (COP-IL), designed to help support faculty in further learning about, exploring and implementing teaching and assessment strategies in support of information literacy. Nine participants from the Department of English were the first graduating cohort in Spring 2023.

The AUS Library subscribes to a wealth of information resources in print and online to support teaching, learning and research. In Academic Year 2022–2023, database full-text downloads exceeded 1,000,000 for the first time. Additionally, by implementing Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA) packages for ebooks, the library has expanded the range of titles available to its patrons, particularly for research materials.

Renovations to the facility have taken place, which included replacing all the carpets and installing new laptop self-checkout

lockers that allow students to borrow a high-specification laptop for up to five hours on campus.

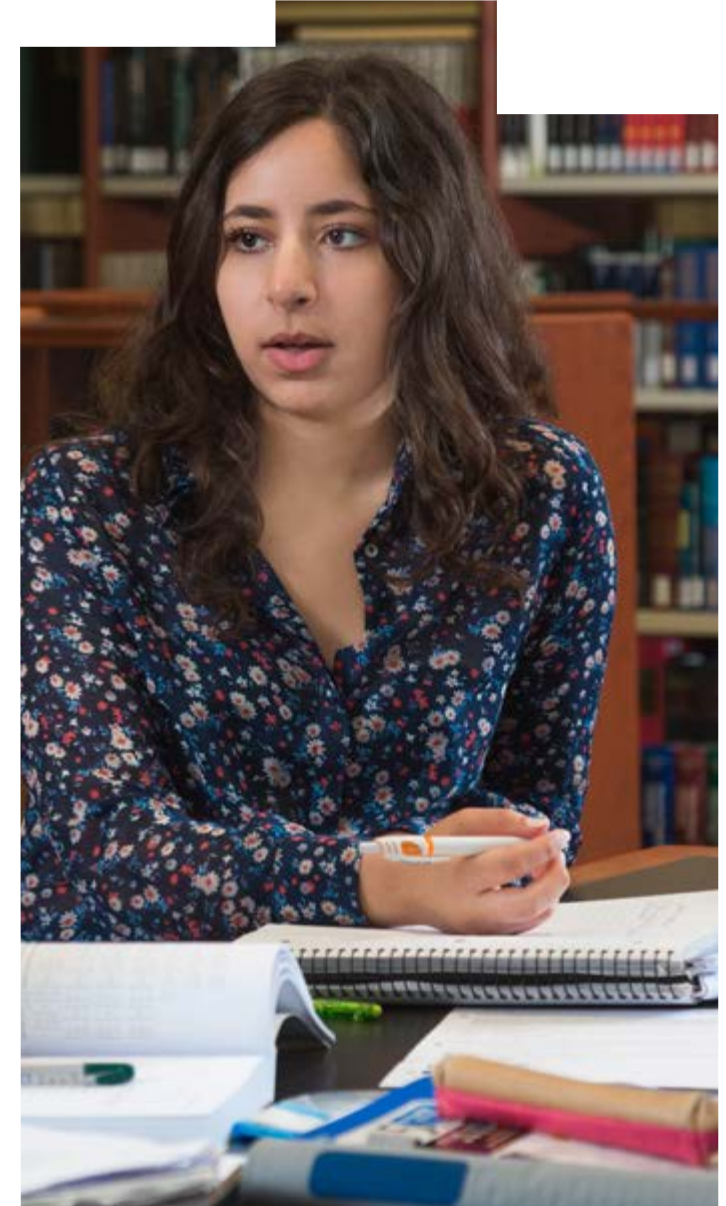
The Exit Student Survey 2023 showed that 96.7 percent of final year students (n=573) rated the AUS Library resources and services as satisfactory or very satisfactory.

## Future Plans

Library staff will deploy a Researcher Needs Survey to gain a deeper understanding of the needs profile of AUS faculty researchers to enhance library service provision. Other goals include investigating AI/machine learning based methods for the selection and acquisition of library books and ebooks, and working with the Academic Support Center and other campus departments for equitable provision of adaptive technology, accessible spaces and resources for all students, particularly students of determination and those with academic accommodations. Staff are also designing and delivering a new workshop series titled AI Amplified aimed to empower students with digital literacy skills.

In keeping with the university's values, the AUS Library plans on signing the internationally recognized Green Libraries Manifesto, indicating its commitment to making sustainable and environmentally friendly practices a priority in its decision-making processes.

AUS Library staff will participate in a number of international collaborations in 2024, including Special Interest and Working Groups for the international library consortium AMICAL, IATUL and global library organization OCLC.





# Licensing and Accreditation



## Licensing

AUS is licensed and its degree programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Education's Higher Education Affairs Division in the United Arab Emirates.

## Accreditation

AUS has been accredited in the United States of America by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (1007 North Orange Street, 4th Floor, MB #166, Wilmington, DE 19801 USA) since June 2004. The MSCHE is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the US Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).

The bachelor of science degree programs in chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering and mechanical engineering offered by the College of Engineering are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET <http://www.abet.org/>. The bachelor of science degree program in computer science offered by the College of Engineering is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET <http://www.abet.org/>. ABET is the global accreditor of college and university programs in applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology. AUS was the first university in the Gulf region and the second outside the United States to receive this accreditation.

The Bachelor of Architecture program of the College of Architecture, Art and Design is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) of the United States. This is the first program outside of North America to receive this prestigious accreditation. NAAB is the only organization authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture in the United States. The Bachelor of Architecture degree awarded by American University of Sharjah is recognized by the Government of India (Council of Architecture) under Section 15(1) of the Architects Act, 1972, which governs the registration of architects in India.

The School of Business Administration has been accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) since April 2011.



# Rankings





# QS World University Rankings



## UAE Rankings (2024)

- #1** in employer reputation
- #2** in academic reputation
- #2** for citations per faculty
- #3** in employment outcomes
- #3** in number of international students

## Global Rankings (2024)

- #2** in number of international faculty members
- Top 400** universities
- Top 25** percent of universities

## Arab Region Rankings (2023)

- Top 10** Arab universities every year for the past eight consecutive years
- ↑** Highest ratio for international faculty in the Arab region
- ↑** Highest ratio for international students in the Arab region



# QS World University Rankings



## QS World University Rankings by Broad Subjects (2023)

Arts and Humanities

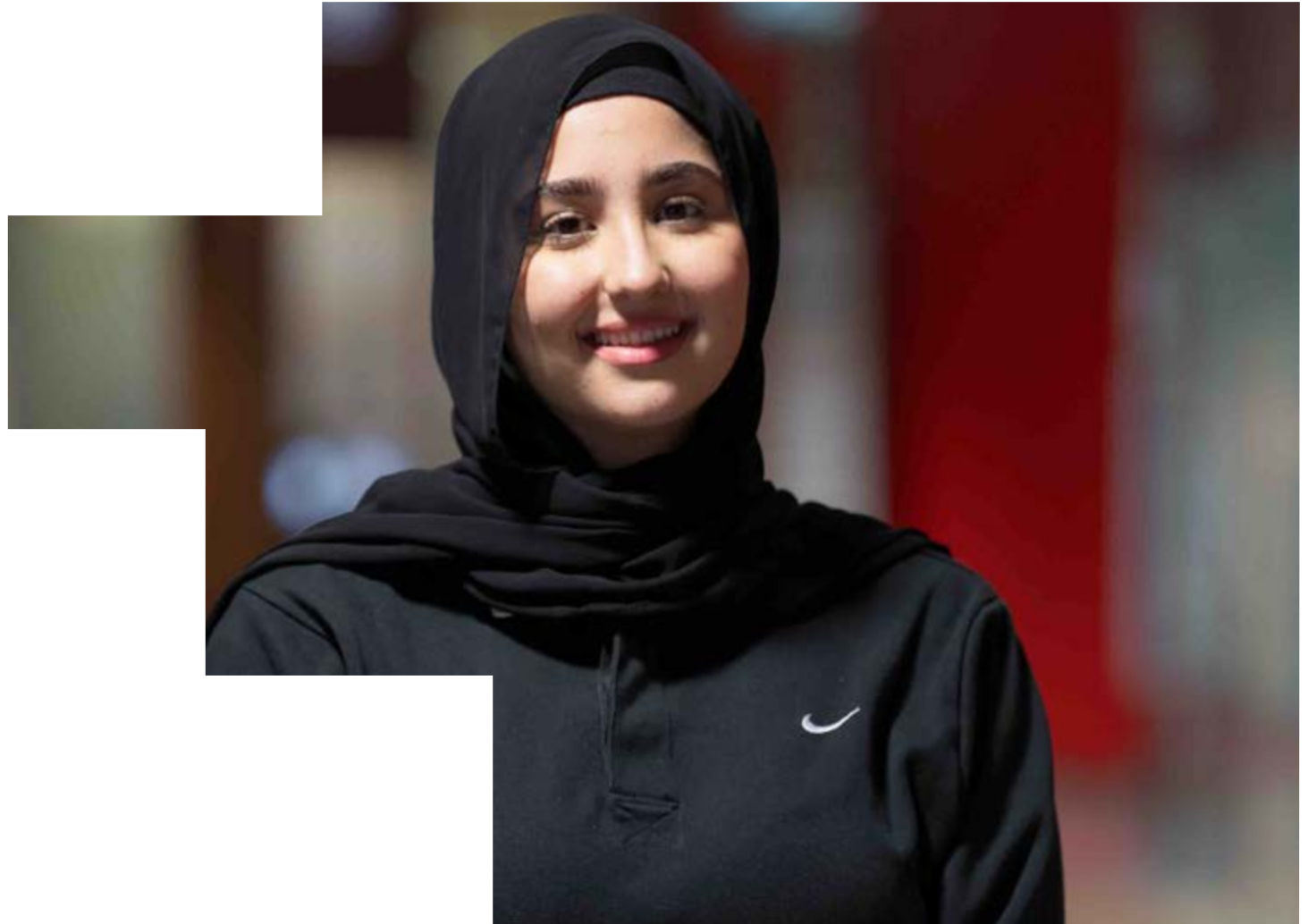
**#1** (tied) in the UAE

Engineering and Technology

**#3** in the UAE

Social Sciences and Management

**#2** in the UAE



## QS World University Rankings by Narrow Subjects (2023)

### Accounting and Finance

**#1** in the UAE  
Top 200 universities globally

### Architecture and the Built Environment

**#1** in the UAE  
Top 200 universities globally

### Art and Design

**#1** in the UAE  
Top 200 universities globally

### Business and Management

**#1** in the UAE  
Top 200 universities globally

### Chemical Engineering

**Top 3** in the UAE  
Top 400 universities globally

### Civil and Structural Engineering

**#1** (tied) in the UAE  
Top 200 universities globally

### Computer Science and Information Systems

**Top 4** in the UAE  
Top 450 universities globally

### Electrical and Electronic Engineering

**Top 3** (tied) in the UAE  
Top 300 universities globally

### Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering

**Top 2** (tied) in the UAE  
Top 300 universities globally

## Top Choice for UAE Employers

- Accounting and Finance
- Architecture/Built Environment
- Art and Design
- Business and Management
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil and Structural Engineering
- Computer Science and Information Systems
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Mechanical, Aeronautical and Manufacturing Engineering





# Times Higher Education (THE)

## Global Rankings

**Top 5** universities with the highest percentage of international students (2023)

**Top 250** young universities under 50 years of age (2023)

**Top 175** universities in emerging economies (2022)

**Top 175** universities in emerging economies (2022)

**Top 250** universities in Asia (2023)



## Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education

**Top 5** worldwide for community engagement in sustainability (2022)

[www.aus.edu/rankings](http://www.aus.edu/rankings)



## THE World University Rankings by Subject 2023

### Business and Economics

**#3** in the UAE and top 400 globally

### Engineering Studies

**Top 4** in the UAE and top 600 globally

### Computer Science

**#4** in the UAE and top 800 globally

### Social Sciences

**#5** in the UAE and top 500 globally

### Physical Sciences

**#5** in the UAE and top 800 globally

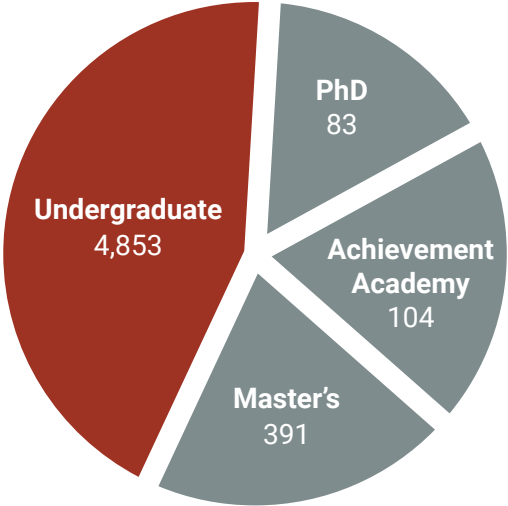


# Facts and Figures





Students



Total Enrollment

*\*Student headcount excludes all incoming IXO students and abroad - not exchange students  
Other nationalities combined accounted for 18%*

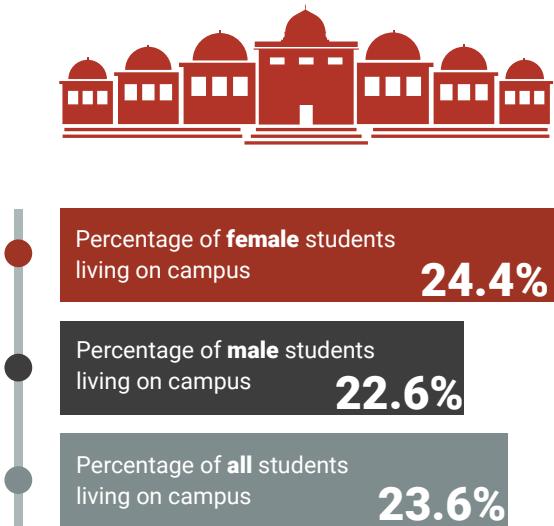
Gender of all students



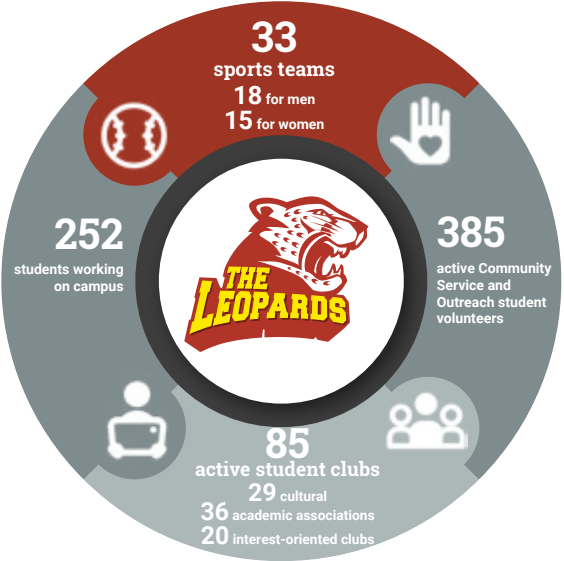
Fast Facts–Fall 2022



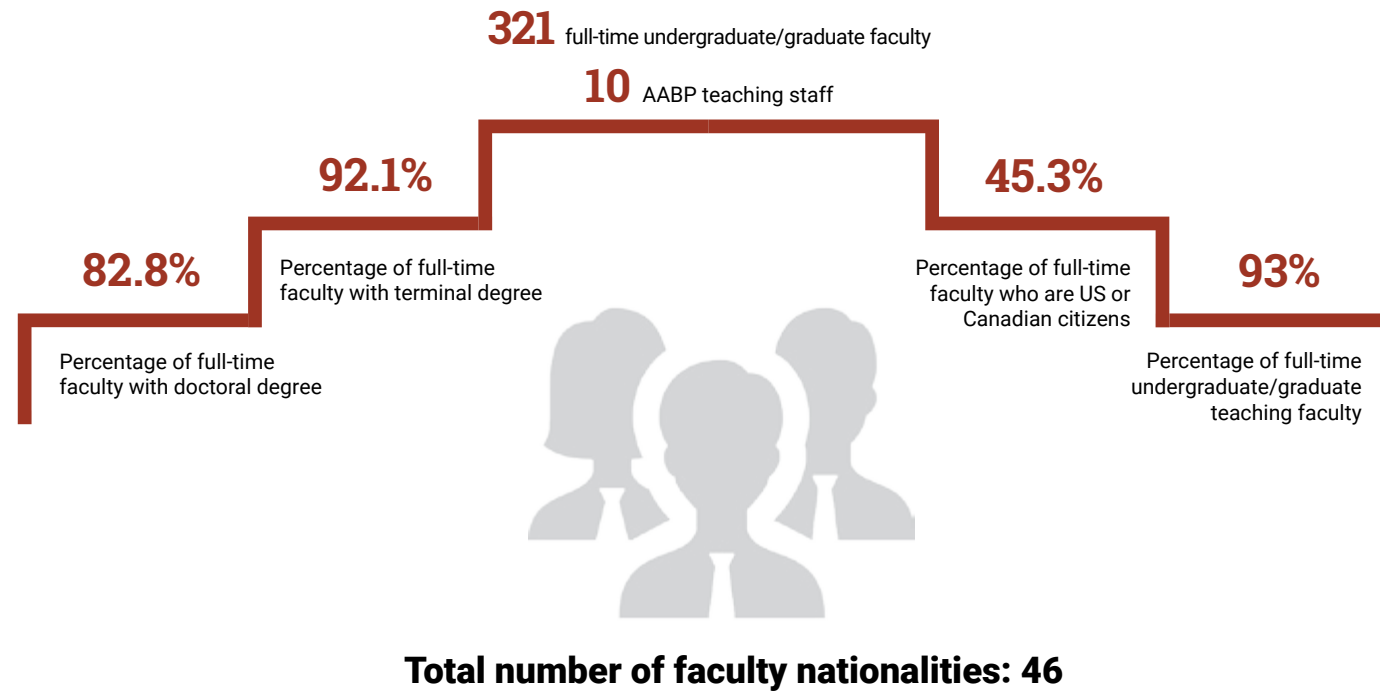
# Students Living On Campus



# Student Life

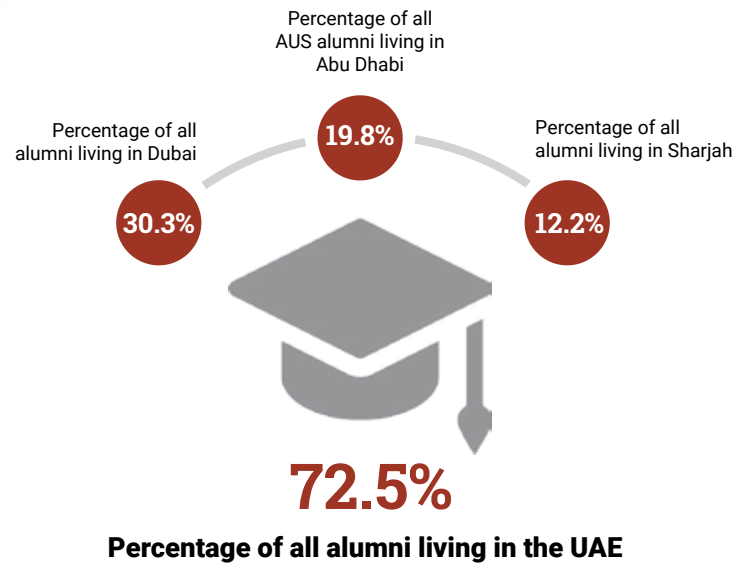


## Faculty








## Alumni



## Total Degrees Awarded (as of Fall 2022)

Bachelor's Degrees	Master's Degrees	PhD Degrees
16,612	2,194	8
		

**Total number of AUS alumni nationalities: 119**



Approximately

**2/3**

of students received a  
scholarship or grant

Approximately

**70%**



of new first-year students for Fall 2022 were offered  
a scholarship for academic achievement



# Sustainability





AUS is widely recognized for leading higher education sustainability and climate action in the region.

## Overview of Achievements

In August 2022, AUS was named one of the top five institutions worldwide for community engagement in sustainability, according to the 2022 Sustainable Campus Index (SCI) issued by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The SCI highlights innovative and high-impact initiatives from colleges and universities that submitted a report to AASHE's Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) in the most recent calendar year. AUS currently holds a silver rating in the STARS system.

Throughout the year, AUS Sustainability participated in a number of initiatives related to COP (Conference of the Parties), an international climate conference held each year by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In late 2022, AUS was invited by the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment to be a part of the country's official delegation to COP27, held in Egypt. AUS sent a delegation of four students to participate in the UN COP27 meetings, accompanied by selected faculty and staff members. Facilitating an event hosted by the UAE Pavilion at COP27, the AUS students presented on how sustainability competencies could be integrated into higher education learning. The group called for the establishment of a network to connect UAE students, faculty, alumni, industry and government to work together to ensure knowledge about sustainability was more integrated into university curricula, helping to embed UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals into higher education programs.

As a result, AUS was an inaugural member of the Universities Climate Network (UCN) in early 2023, which now comprises more than 30 UAE-based universities and higher education institutions facilitating dialogues, workshops, public events and youth participation in the lead up to COP28, which will be held in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, 2023. As a recognized leader in climate action, AUS is leading the UCN pillar on "Student Youth Engagement" and "Campus Carbon Neutrality."

Being the first higher education institution in the UAE to publish a climate action plan, AUS was invited to join the UAE Alliance for Climate Action (UACA), a domestic alliance of stakeholders led by Emirates Nature-WWF and to represent higher education on UACA's Advisory Committee. UACA is the flagship non-state actor program for the UAE in the lead up to COP28, which aims to increase momentum towards achieving net zero targets in line with science and the Paris Agreement.

In March 2023, AUS hosted the fourth annual Higher Education Climate Dialogue (HECD) Conference on campus in partnership with New York University Abu Dhabi. More than 150 attendees, including university students, prominent experts and government officials, gathered to prepare for meaningful engagement at COP28 and to discuss the UAE's path to net zero. The student team in charge of organizing HECD 2023 went on to successfully apply for AUS to be a co-host for COY18, held every year in the COP host country a few days prior to the start of COP. The Conference of Youth (COY) is the most substantial youth conference related to the multilateral UN climate processes. AUS students are working together with YOUNGO, the UNFCCC's youth constituency, to bring youth voices into the intergovernmental climate change policy process.

In April 2023, AUS' Head of Sustainability, Heather Rose Armour, was seconded to COP28 as Head of Education.

In preparation for COP28, AUS Sustainability collaborated with various entities to offer a series of initiatives and resources on campus. The Climate Change podcast and a dedicated COP 28 website were launched to help the community learn more about the university's climate change research and sustainability achievements. The COP28 Speaker Series brought climate action experts from around the world to the AUS campus to share their views and experience on specific issues related to climate change.

## Future Plans

In Academic Year 2023–2024, AUS Sustainability will work to maximize AUS' engagement at COP28. This will include hosting

a variety of climate-action related activities in collaboration with the Sharakah Schools Program; the Sharjah Research, Technology and Innovation Park; and Sheraa—three entities that AUS Sustainability aims to further strengthen its collaboration with in the coming year. AUS will also apply to become a recognized observer of future COPs as part of the RINGO network.

At the campus level, AUS Sustainability will set 2030 greenhouse gas emission targets in alignment with its Climate Action Plan and in keeping with its commitment to UACA. Additionally, a Green Living and Learning Community will be launched in the AUS residential halls, along with a weekly Manbat Farmers Market on campus in collaboration with Arada. These initiatives align with the office's key strategic priorities.





# ... Student Life



**81%**

of first-year students  
return to residential halls  
for a second year

**14%**

increase in student  
organizations

**3,000**

daily visitors at  
Global Day

**86%**

of students used  
Leopards Engage

**400**

athletes at Ramadan  
Sports Tournament

**3,190**

students attended  
OSA events





In Academic Year 2022–2023, the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) focused on celebrating the university's Silver Jubilee, hosting inaugural events, enhancing digital engagement, and improving support for students and their families while demonstrating the impact of OSA programs on the student experience.

### Silver Jubilee Celebrations

To mark the 25th anniversary of AUS, OSA distributed 1,000 cupcakes in the Student Center in commemoration of the very first day of classes at AUS, organized the Silver Jubilee Formation of students gathered on the AUS Main Plaza to form the number 25, and held a community partner appreciation event in the presence of AUS President.

### Inaugural Events, Projects and Programs

The inaugural AUS Leopards (Spirit) Day drew 465 participants with leopard plushies distributed and a new mascot costume unveiled. OSA also organized the Late Night Breakfast, which brought together 300 students as AUS kicked off its final exams. For football lovers, Student Athletics and Recreation collaborated with the Faculty Senate and Department of Facilities to create a dedicated FIFA World Cup Fan Zone outside the residential halls. It also organized its first-ever Ramadan sports tournament with 400 athletes from various UAE universities participating.

The number of student organizations increased from 85 in Spring 2022 to 100 in Spring 2023, marking a 14 percent increase.

Global Day, the most anticipated student two-day event of the year, attracted around 3,000 attendees each day, featuring five more cultural performances than the previous year.

Seventeen students participated in a peer mediation certificate program and noted how effective this training was for their personal development and how useful it is for their personal lives.

### Improved Student Support and Digital Enhancements

To further support the student experience, OSA launched the Leopards Engage platform, which allows students to register for events and activities, join clubs and learn about OSA programs. Using the system, students are also able to print their own co-curricular transcript to have a record of their participation. In its first year of use, 86 percent of students logged in to the platform, and 54 percent of those users were officers or members of organizations/clubs. Commuter students were more actively engaged than in the previous year, with 67 percent attending at least one event.

A Ministry of Education Student Experience survey said that 77 percent of AUS students reported being very satisfied or satisfied with social activities on campus, ranking higher than other factors.

OSA developed a sexual misconduct protocol to comply with UAE laws and support complainants. Reports of sexual misconduct remain low. The office also approved a plan to restructure Athletics and Recreation, dedicating a manager to women's sports teams to better meet the needs of female participants.

From Fall 2022, the number of followers to the Instagram account AUS\_OSA has increased by 1,500 followers, totalling 5,500. The highest-viewed video for Global Day had 15,000 views. The number of followers and engagement steadily increases every semester as OSA's nine student media ambassadors continue to produce videos that are well-liked and received by the community. This role gives students valuable practical media and leadership experience.



## Residential Halls

For the second year, 79 percent of first-time residential hall students found the living-learning community beneficial. Programs targeted first-year students, and resident assistants received specialized training for their unique needs.

OSA announced the Green Living Learning Community (GLLC) initiative, which is in partnership with an international studies professor in the College of Arts and Sciences and AUS Sustainability. The aim of the GLLC is to promote sustainability awareness among students. Thirty students signed up to be part of the program for Fall 2023.

The percentage of first-time students choosing to return to campus housing in the following fall increased from 74 percent in 2021–2022 to 81 percent in 2022–2023.

## Future Plans

One Stop - The AUS Solution Center, which was piloted with five main services, will expand under OSA to include additional services such as enrollment, visas, registrar services, on-campus employment, ID services and general knowledge about campus services, providing a central location for student and family support.

OSA and its campus partners will launch the Green Living Learning Community initiative in Fall 2023 as part of AUS' efforts to promote sustainable living on campus and spread awareness among students in the lead up to COP28, which will be held in November-December in the UAE.











