

Prof. Maher Omar

Professor and Director of the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education

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Highlights

Prof. Maher Omar is a distinguished Professor of Geotechnical Engineering and the Director of the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education (ILHE) at the University of Sharjah. He has held several senior academic leadership positions, including Chairman, Associate Chair for Academic Affairs, and Acting Dean, reflecting a sustained record of institutional leadership and governance. He earned his PhD from Southern Illinois University and has established an extensive scholarly profile, with over 140 publications spanning geotechnical engineering, sustainable development, and higher education leadership. His contributions have been recognized through multiple honors, most notably the University of Sharjah's Special Award for Outstanding Services in Teaching and Learning. Prof. Omar has been instrumental in advancing the University's strategic transformation, particularly in leading digital innovation and shaping post-COVID teaching and learning frameworks. Through his leadership at ILHE, he has spearheaded major institution-wide initiatives and contributed to the development of pioneering graduate programs in higher education leadership. His work is characterized by a devoted commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and the advancement of higher education standards across the region.

Educational Background

- 1995 **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Engineering Science** (Geotechnical Engineering)
Southern Illinois University, USA
- 1992 **Master of Science (MSc) in Civil Engineering** (Geotechnical Engineering)
Southern Illinois University, USA
- 1990 **Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Civil Engineering**
Southern Illinois University, USA

Research (Recent Publications)

- Almarzooqi, A. Y., Arab, M. G., **Omar, M.**, & Alotaibi, E. (2026). ML-Driven Decision Support for Dynamic Modeling of Calcareous Sands. *Machine Learning and Knowledge Extraction*, 8(3), 68.

Honors and Recognition

- 2021 **University Annual Incentive Award**
Special Award for Outstanding Services in Teaching & Learning in Addition to the Leadership Role in the University
- 2018 **University of Sharjah Annual Incentive Award for Distinguished Faculty Members**
Teaching Category
- 2015 **University of Sharjah Annual Incentive Award for Distinguished Faculty Members** – University and Community Service Category
- 2014 **University of Sharjah Annual Incentive Award for Distinguished Faculty Members** – University and Community Service Category

- Aderibigbe S., Omar M., Elmehdi H. et al. Professional staff adaptation to work platforms enabled by digital technologies for operational resilience and sustainable transformation in higher education. *Discov Sustain* (2026). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43621-026-03178-w>
Semiyu Aderibigbe, Maher Omar, Hussein Elmehdi, Laura Colucci-Gray, Khaled Hamad, Abdallah Shanableh, Hussain AlOthman, Wiam Elshami, Mohamed Hassan T
- Elbaz, Y., Arab, M. G., Naeem, M., **Omar, M.**, & Junaid, M. T. (2026). Production of Eco-Friendly Desert Sand Bricks Using Alkali-Activated Binders. *Journal of Materials in Civil Engineering*, 38(2), 04025530.

Teaching/Developing Courses

- Geotechnical Engineering 1
- Foundation Engineering
- Foundation Engineering 2
- Statics
- Mechanics of Materials
- Environmental Geotechnology
- Soil Improvement
- Soil Dynamics
- Advanced Soil Mechanics
- Rock Mechanics
- Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering
- Advanced Foundation Engineering