جامعة الشارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

University of Sharjah Strategic Achievements

What we have achieved
so far together

2019-2023

Making
A Difference
Together

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Over the past twenty-five years, the University of Sharjah has risen to the highest heights in human endeavour and honour, while its institutes and buildings have risen together.

Our alumni are leading many organisations throughout the world – our graduates are highly sought-after leaders, and our entrepreneurs are contributing to industry and society in many ways.

We must consider the impacts and changes to our environment; we must prepare our students of today for uncertainties of tomorrow.

We provide the very best possible environment to nurture our children to be the leaders of the future, through providing them knowledge, skills, abilities and experiences, linking members of academia with members of industry, members of our community and of our government, we can and must, all ensure the students of today make a difference for tomorrow.

We will shape our strategies, goals and objectives to meet their challenges. We will ensure that our students, and graduates make a difference and succussed.

His Highness Sheikh
Sheikh Sultan Bin Ahmed Al Qasimi
Deputy Ruler of Sharjah,
President of the University of Sharjah.

CHANCELLORS MESSAGE

As we review the achievements of the University of Sharjah over the past 25 years and the strategies developed, we must consider what is needed for the next decade and how much we have changed since our formation in 1997. We are now the number one university within the UAE – what must we do to ensure this continued success.

Since its inception 25 years ago, the University of Sharjah (UOS) has made tremendous progress, including its now ranking among the top 300 universities internationally, fifth in the Arab world, first in the UAE and 68th internationally in the area of research citation as confirmed by Times Higher Education (THE).

As we begin our journey towards the next six-year strategy, taking us to 2030, we anticipate a major transformation to meet the future expectations of our community and the future needs of our students.

These objectives require the efforts of the entire University of Sharjah community to ensure a positive outcome for our students and a bright future for the Emirate of Sharjah and UAE. This means Continuing to work together, not as 13 separate colleges, three research institutes and individual support departments but as a single university, making a difference together. Together, we will ensure the continuation of high-quality education, sound research output, excellence in community service and the employability of our students.

Professor Hamid M. K. Al Naimiy
Chancellor of the University of Sharjah

University of Sharjah Strategy

2024 – 2030

Developing more strategic international collaboration leadingto important partnerships and resulting in joint graduate programs, joint research projects, collaborative labs and centers and greater employment opportunities for graduates.

Developing more partnerships with the UAE public and private sectors and industries.

Focusing on multidisciplinary graduate programs and research.

Future Objectives

By 2030
25% of our
scientists, scholars,
researchers,
educators and
academic leaders
will be **Emiratis.**

By 2030 we will be **within the top 200** global universities, maintaining our number one status within the United Arab Emirates.
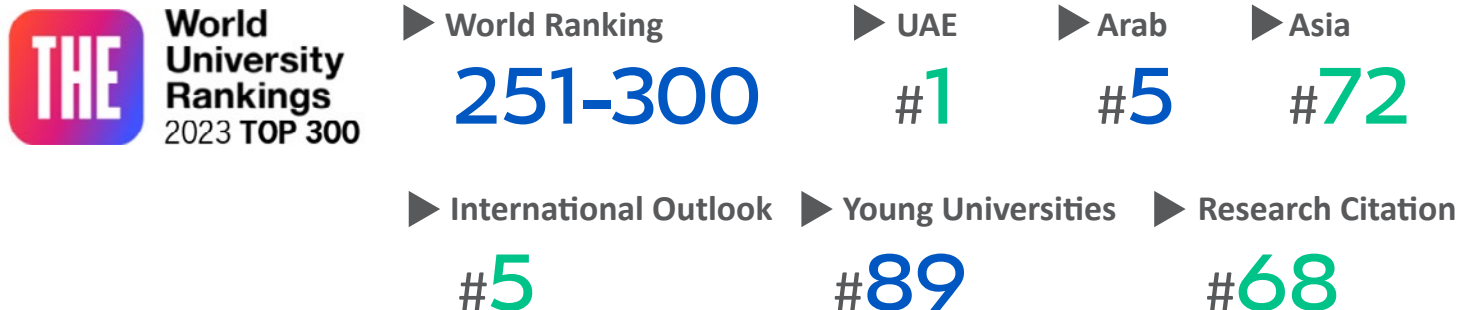
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By 2030 we will be the **number one institution** with regards to research **collaborations with corporate industry** within the UAE, developing patents, commercialization and research that matters to society.

We will leave no graduate behind.

We will be known as an institute that has **fully digitally transformed** and has embraced advanced technology in all areas from research, teaching and administration.

THE World University Rankings 2023 TOP 300

▶ World Ranking
251-300

▶ UAE
#1

▶ Arab
#5

▶ Asia
#72

▶ International Outlook
#5

▶ Young Universities
#89

▶ Research Citation
#68

World top 2% Scientists from UoS (Career Impact) in their fields

7 MEDICINE

8 ENERGY

10 SCIENCE

15 ENGINEERING

4 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE & IMAGE PROCESSING

International Accreditations

AACSB ACCREDITED

acejmc — Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

ABET

FACULTY & STAFF FIGURES

710 Academic

180 Professors

1,644 Non-Academic

123 Academic Degree Programs

Doctorate Programs	Master's Program	Bachelor	Professional	Colleges
16	47	57	3	14

STUDENT FIGURES

18,464 Total Students

15,536 Undergraduate

2,928 Postgraduate

40,000+ Total Alumni

"The University of Sharjah seeks to serve the current and future needs of our community and beyond offering innovative academic and professional programs designed for today's diverse and dynamic modern world."

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi,
Member of the Supreme Council, Ruler of Sharjah

Towards achieving the aspirations of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qasimi, the University of Sharjah takes on various delivers projects that serve our students, faculty, community, and humanity as a whole. These projects are specifically selected, managed, and handled based on the University's strategic goals, SPIRIT. This document represents a progress update of the University of Sharjah SPIRIT Strategy from September 2019 – September 2022.

Since the launch of the University of Sharjah Strategy, all Colleges, Departments, Centers and Institutions have Strategic Performance Scorecards, which link operational targets to strategic objectives and organizational goals.

The progress of all strategic performance scorecards and strategic initiatives are reviewed twice a year (Half-year-review and end-of-year-review). Each year since the launch of University of Sharjah SPIRIT Strategy a Strategic Conference has taken place for all University of Sharjah employees. The last strategy conference took place in December 2022 with a theme covering "Employability and a Sustainable Future for the University of Sharjah", with over 1100 participants from academia and industry attending.

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الطلبة
Student

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IMPROVE THE DINING HALLS FOR THE STUDENTS

Students' dining halls have been significantly developed since UOS opened in 1997. Over 700 seats are now available in innovative, collaborative, and creative male and female dining halls. This provides students a vibrant experience through their digitally enhanced multifunctional spaces.

Students can eat, work, socialize and play. With access to more nutritional options such as salads, fruits, and detox smoothies. A plan is also in place to cater to students with food allergies such as gluten and lactose intolerance.

STUDENT FORUMS

As a passionate initiative of His Highness- the ruler of Sharjah- and towards the objective of a new and enhanced experience for our students and the university community in general, two forum buildings have been constructed and opened in 2021, strategically located next to the library and to the dining hall buildings. These two structures stand out with their contemporary architectural style, and in a welcoming gesture, as you access the women's and the men's colleges.

The open space underneath the tent-like roof, is intended as a flexible multiuse facility, furnished to cater for not only gatherings, group studying, exhibitions and conferences, but also students' social interaction with each other, and with faculty, staff, and alumni.

CORRIDORS

Students can now move around the entire university comfortably regardless of weather conditions. A two-phase initiative that links all colleges through an air-conditioned corridor developing and consolidating the identity of ONE University and not 14 individual colleges.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP AND FACULTY ADVISING CHAMPIONS

The Institute of Leadership in Higher Education at the University of Sharjah joined the Global Community for Academic Advising NACADA. Through its world-class training using experts in advising, NACADA is leading workshops in all aspects of student advising for Faculty at the University of Sharjah in collaboration with the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education.

The trained Faculty, known as Student Advising Champions, will directly support Faculty and students in developing sustainable mechanisms for students to succeed in every aspect of their academic journey at the University.

IMPROVE THE EXISTING SYSTEMS TO SUPPORT THE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Resource center has been awarded the Khalifa Award for Education 2022, for its academic and social support for students with a disability. People with disabilities are an integral part of our people that is why we dedicate effort and resources to make their lives easier. Improvement started in the classrooms, students' rooms within the dormitories, parking, washrooms and will be continued to enhance accessibility through outdoor landscape areas and to all buildings.

UPGRADING THE LIBRARIES TECHNOLOGY

UOS libraries have majorly enhanced the innovation goal at the University of Sharjah. They had delivered many projects that improved the experience of our students, researchers, and faculty. Digital Repository which was launched in 2019 provided a convenient, high quality search engine to help students find resources efficiently. Another major project achieved by UOS libraries is the Digitization Project where the aim was the conversion of difficult to access print resources to digital formats, which has made many resources accessible to anyone at the University. Furthermore, UOS libraries have created off-campus Access to users through RemoteXs, which provides secure 24/7 access to the online resources of the University.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS & DESIGN LIBRARY

The College of Fine Arts and Design Library has transformed from a 285 m2 to a large innovative, creative and collaborative 410 m2 area. The new concept design includes a special collections room, two group-meeting cubicles, various modern seating areas, and state-of-the-art computer stations. This is a new home for new ART!

CAR PARKING

The University of Sharjah has grown very quickly. The number of students has increased significantly as such our new five multi-story parking structures have been developed with 710 additional parking to accommodate student's needs. Further parking spaces will be available by spring 2023.

IMPROVE THE DORMITORIES EXPERIENCE

The Women Dormitories building (M33C) was recently added to the Medical Campus, consisting of 66 rooms with double and triple setup, with study rooms and in-house services and amenities, TV lounge, multi-purpose room, laundry rooms catering for around 144 female students.

COMPLETE WAYFINDING SYSTEM, INCLUDING DIGITAL AND PHYSICAL SIGNAGE

University of Sharjah is in the process of developing the wayfinding and signage project in alignment with the new branding. The project will enhance and create a cohesive impacting navigational experience for our community, while maintaining the brand image of the University. The type of signs covered are: Directional, Identification, Regulatory and Informational.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)

As an essential student support service, the Student Success Center (SSC) will provide professional academic support to students. The center aims to improve the students' experience by providing the needed support, and help students define and achieve their individual academic goals, contributing to achieving maximum success throughout their academic journey.

To accomplish these goals, the Center will provide student advising, counseling, tutoring, group workshops, online support, peer-to-peer advising, and specialized programming year-round, which is available to all students in all colleges and at all levels of achievement and study.

Given the benefits of full engagement in the learning community, future expansions include upgrading the Center to serve as an academic and social hub where students can meet and engage in activities designed to guide and develop students through various aspects of academic life on campus. All-in-one (one-stop-shop) state-of-the-art facility that consolidates students' services, including departments and units that contribute directly or indirectly to those services with redesigned processes and workflows, based on new integrated digital system.

Enhancing UOS Branches

UNIVERSITY OF KHORFAKKAN

The University of Khourfakkan started as a branch of University of Sharjah on 10 September 2007, planning started in 2021 for it to become an independent University. The University of Khorfakkan started its first semester in Fall 2022.

The University is an autonomous, academic corporate body enjoying financial and administrative autonomy owned by the government of Sharjah. The University enjoys a state-of-the-art infrastructure for teaching, research, innovation, and community service. In addition to the currently offered programs in the branch, the University of Khorfakkan is planning to offer new programs in the marine sciences and ocean engineering fields. In addition, UoK will establish a new college named "College of "Marine Sciences and Technology".

It is planned that this college will represent a national hub for issues related to marine science and technology, such as coastal zone management, marine engineering, fisheries, aquaculture, etc.

UNIVERSITY OF KHALBA

The University of Khalba started as a branch of University of Sharjah on 28 February 2011, in 2021 planning started for it to become an independent University. Following its fellow the University of Khorfakkan, the university will start its first semester in Fall 2023. The university will house the new College of Sports Sciences.

UNIVERSITY OF AL DHAID

The University of Al Dhaid started as a branch of University of Sharjah on 17 December 2015, in 2022 planning started for it to become an independent University following the steps of Khorfakkan and Khalba former branches.

The plan is for the first semester to start in Fall 2024. Plans include three major projects at the University of Al Dhaid, the College of Agriculture Sciences, the College of Veterinary Medicine, and a Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

أسرة الجامعة
People

P

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HEALTH & SAFETY

Ensuring the wellbeing, workplace safety and healthcare needs for all the university community is of paramount importance to the University. The environmental, Health and Safety Management Section was established, to ensure health and safety protocols are in place; ensuring all University of Sharjah employees work in an environment where their wellbeing, workplace safety and healthcare needs are achieved is paramount to the strategy.

Access to affordable quality healthcare for all University's employees and their families has been achieved. As from January 2023 – the University of Sharjah Health Care policy will include all UOS employee families regardless of their circumstances.

HR STRATEGIC REDESIGN PROJECT (PREVIOUSLY HUMAN RESOURCE TRANSFORMATION)

The HR Strategic Redesign Project was launched by the Human Resources Department to drive the transformation of the HR function and build its readiness to support the University's strategic plan and deliver the People's agenda.

The scope of the Redesign Project entailed transforming the role of HR from an operational / transaction based function to a strategic function and business partner. The transformation roadmap was developed to include two phases: building the basics to maximize HR's operational effectiveness and customer orientation and then graduating to being a strategic partner and business advisor. Using the three business transformation drivers' framework (Process, People and Technology), the HR Redesign Project covered the three key HR operational functions: Talent Acquisition (Recruitment), Employee Engagement (Compensation and Employee Services) and Talent Management (Performance Management and Training). Organization Development was added to the role of HR after identifying the importance of ensuring the alignment of the HR practices with the University's strategic objectives and priorities as well as monitoring and enhancing the effectiveness of those practices. HR processes – the first transformation driver – is fully completed as 32+ HR policies, procedures and frameworks have been developed /revised. Developing HR capabilities, knowledge and skills (People) is currently being addressed in alignment with the implementation of the required tools and systems (Technology) which is being managed by the Vice Chancellor of Financial and Administrative Affairs Office.

TRANSFORMATION MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administrative Affairs office established a Business Transformation Office. Staffing has been completed and the office is up and running. The main task for the office is to coordinate and ensure the implementation of strategic initiatives, and ultimately the transformation of the University of Sharjah.

الابتكار
Innovation

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## BLOCKCHAIN-BASED DIGITAL ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS

The Registration Department digitalized academic records for all students, including continuing, former, and alumni, through Blockchain technology.

The academic records available for students through their accounts are graduation certificates, attestations, transcripts, and other statement letters.

This service will streamline the process of document issuance and grant students ownership of their own credentials, where they will be able to share their documents through various platforms at any time in a secured and safe environment. Records will be verifiable through the verification portal, which will confirm that documents are genuine.

INNOVATION HUB

A new space allocated for the student innovation hub (Fab Lab) in the library basement in M16. Fab Lab will be a network of local labs, enabling invention by providing access for individuals to resourses for digital fabrication. Fab Labs share an evolving inventory of core capabilities to make (almost) anything, allowing people and projects to be shared. The first innovation hub will be located in the male library and open in November 2023. The second innovation space will be located in the female library. A third specialized Medical Education & Innovation Center (M27A) will see a significant milestone in 2024.
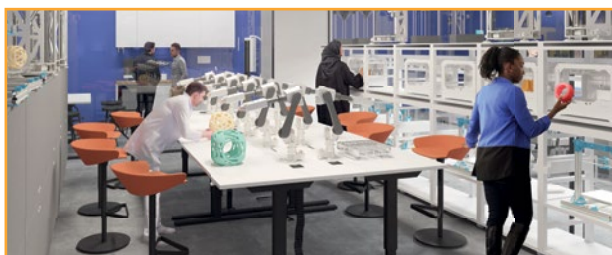
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITIES

The Finance Department also focused on the University's financial sustainability by reviewing and updating the tuition and dorm fees. This was done to maintain the financial stability and continuity of the University and ensure that there are no shortfalls within the University finances. The University of Sharjah is working towards financial sustainability.

BRAND STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

One of the mandates of the Marketing and Student Recruitment Department is to improve the University of Sharjah's branding and positioning. The project had five milestones, First, a unique brand vision for the University was crafted by developing key insights and translating the ambitions and goals of the University. Second, the team developed a unique brand positioning for the University of Sharjah. Third, a brand architecture model was created, defining the tier-level relationships across the portfolio of programs and partnerships. Fourth, the brand idea was brought to life by creating a full brand expression for the University of Sharjah that defines the visual identity and language based on the approved strategy. Last, guidelines for the University of Sharjah were developed and delivered.

All stakeholders at the University were involved in the project, and a steering committee of 21 members chaired by his Excellency the Chancellor approved the different stages of the project, which was finally approved by His Highness the President. The duration of the project was 13 months and was revealed at the annual strategic meeting December 2021. The broader implementation of the new brand image and brand for the University will be undertaken as part of the way finder project.

جـامعة الشـارقة
UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING (ERP) SYSTEM

The Information Technology Center is supporting the implementation of a new ERP system for the core functions of Human Resources, Payroll, Finance and Procurement. Additionally, integration of these core functions with various functions and systems across the University including Student Information system, Time and Attendance, Research and Grant management, Archiving and Records Management, etc.

The project is currently in the processing phase and is planned to go live by September 2023.

AGILE GOVERNANCE AND OPERATING MODEL

The University of Sharjah plans to amplify institutional effectiveness through redesigning and developing student-focused supportive operating models and governance frameworks. This has included redesigning the delegation of authority to allow decisions to be made more efficiently and effectively, as part of maximizing effectiveness and delivering efficient support services.

The University has focused on building a student-focused environment in which value-added internal processes are developed and implemented. We have assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of current committee structures and plan to review the organizational structures, operations, reporting and governance.

A risk management office is being established to identify any risks. This will allow recommendations for improvements in line with the University's strategic objectives.

Refine Budget and Governance process: The Finance Department started this project by distributing the formal annual planning report and reviewing budgets with all departments. Accordingly, a Budget advisory Committee was formed to plan the budgets for all UOS departments which enhanced the transparency of the budgeting process and contributing to financial sustainability.

UOS COVID-19 STRATEGY AND ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

The University of Sharjah continues to lead the way for many to follow, our innovative and creative approach to blended learning and academic continuity has resulted in enrolment growth where globally other institutions have declined. Next practices in advanced teaching methods have been continued to develop a hyflex personalized learning environment for our students.

DEVELOPMENT OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Several departments at the university including Procurement, HR, and Finance have successfully updated and approved their policies, which are currently published on the University website. We are consistently working on updating and developing policies which will be transparently posted on the UOS Website.

ENABLING THE DIGITAL CAMPUS

E-Services System: The E-Services System was successfully launched in 2019/2020. The system supported the workflows of the Registration Department and was extended to serve other UOS departments. All services provided by the Registration Department have been transformed to E-Services.

Virtual Registration Service Desk office: The Registration Department also developed a Virtual Registration Service Desk office in Feb 2021. This office has proven its vital contribution to the success of our services delivery. The project enhanced students experience and satisfaction by providing specialized support concerning bylaws, policies, systems, e-services, schedules, courses and transcripts.

Enhance Systems Login security using Multifactor Authentication (MFA): Implementation of the MFA service to protect UoS systems containing sensitive information has been completed. MFA asks users to verify their ID system during the sign on process.

IT Security Initiatives program: Security Program project that merges Web Application Firewall, Network Access Control, Data Leakage Prevention and Banner Access Management. The project protects web apps by filtering, monitoring, and blocking any malicious traffic traveling to the web application.

ULTRA version of learning management system: The courses delivered at UoS through the learning management system "Blackboard" are enhanced wit hthe latest interface "ULTRA". This provides educators with full analytics for tests, assignments and student progress.

Wireless Upgrade Projects: Accomplished the Implementation and installation of Cisco/Meraki Access Points, Network Switches & Accessories along with SYSTIMAX Cabling Materials in order to cover all the areas of University of Sharjah and its Branches. Wireless upgrades have been completed for the following locations W12, M3,W3, M25, M22, M13,W13, AL DHAID, KHORFAKKAN, KALBA.

UOS VLABS: The IT Center completed the setup for all 14 colleges and launch a new service " UoS VLabs ".
Using this service will enable our students, faculty members and researchers to use most applications related to their work remotely from ANY DEVICE as if they were at the university campus. This will enhance utilizing the resources in our data center and virtualize our lab environment as was planned in our IT strategy. UoS VLabs can be accessed from any device, and therefore contributes to bring-your-own-device (BYOD) IT strategy.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE POLICY: UOS IT have developed and implemented Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policies allowing individuals to use their personal laptops, smartphones, and tablets for work-related purposes, rather than strictly requiring the use of devices that are owned and managed by IT.

STUDENTS OUTCOMES INTEGRATION WITH LMS: Integrate Task Stream with Blackboard LMS system to avoid content duplication, assure data consistency, and save time and effort for faculty members. The project will use learning outcomes as a measure of student success and will align course content, assignments, and assessment to a set of learning outcomes. Reports will be generated for accreditation associations and departments.

NEW UOS WEBSITE: The University website is under changes and updates to align with the new branding, and to represent the University as a futuristic entity for education. The website is proposed to be launched on 30 April 2023.

DISASTER RECOVERY: The Disaster Recovery Plan contains strategies on minimizing the effects of a disaster and establishing systems and procedures to be followed in case of a disaster to quickly resume key operations.

BANNER REALIZATION: Implementing the most current versions of the university's student information systems. Next steps tocover Faculty Attendance Tracking, Faculty Grade Entry (Mid Term Grade, Final Grade, Grade Book, Import/Export & Print Grade roster).

DIGITAL CERTIFICATES: Launching a digital platform enabling the issuance, attestation, and exchange of digital records for all levels of education through three main areas: Publisher, Passport Application andVerification Portal.

GOING PAPERLESS: Remote work conditions turned the Registration and Administration processes paper-free. All official documents were developed digitally and sent to students or third parties upon request via email, such as Official Transcripts AR/EN, Graduation Completion Letters AR/EN, Enrolment Letters AR/EN, Stamped Class Schedules AR/EN, Stamped Exams Schedules AR/EN, etc.

BANNER 9 SELF-SERVICE NEW FEATURES: Both Registration and IT Departments worked together to update Banner 9 Self-service which will include the advising module, the attendance system, the grade book, registration planning and other features in Banner 9 SSB.

البحث العلمي
Research

R

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RESEARCH

The University of Sharjah strives to develop and sustain strategic alliances with renowned academic institutions and research institutes around the globe. Such partnerships enable UOS to accelerate discoveries and exchange knowledge thereby expanding our impact and reputation beyond the UAE.

These long-term collaborations ensure quality education, research, innovation, and discoveries, are maintained at the highest international standards. To support research and research collaboration the following initiatives have taken place:

NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING BUILDING (M1A):

The appointed Space Management & Assignment Committee will oversee the fitting out of the laboratories and office space of the new research and laboratory building M1A. This will ensure the facility is equipped with state-of-the-art research equipment to accelerate research to the next level.
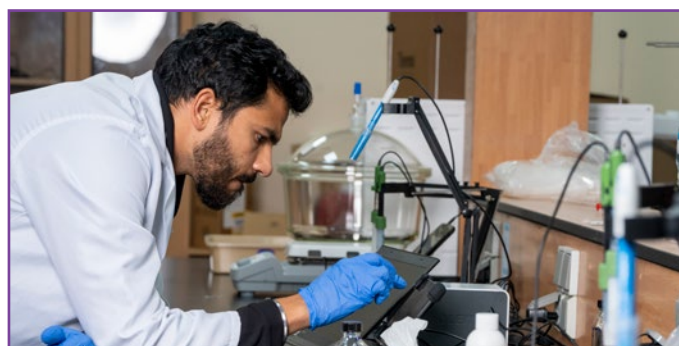
### MEDICAL EDUCATION & INNOVATION CENTER (M27A):

The expansion and upgrade of the Medical Complex will be marked by a new milestone in 2024: the construction of a new facility for medical education and research, including a Diabetes Center of Excellence. It will offer additional classrooms, laboratories and other innovative academic functions, and support spaces, equipped with state-of-the-art technology, in an overall area of 14000 m2.

NEW CENTER FOR THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES (RIHSS)- ON GOING PROJECT

Aiming to activate and encourage research at UOS by serving the researchers and graduate students in the fields of humanities and social sciences at the University of Sharjah and UAE society. The new facility provides state-of-the-art researchers offices, Director office, meeting spaces, waiting areas, Social science lab and seminar room.
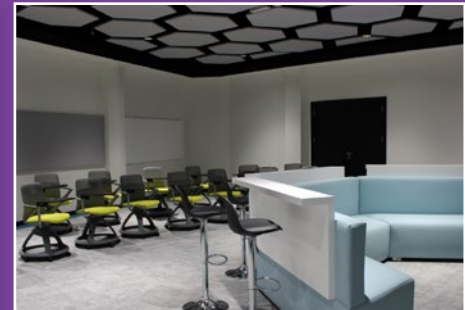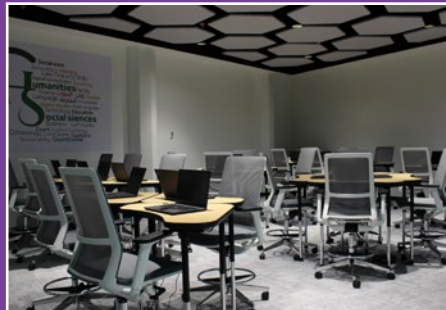
SHARJAH OASIS TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (SOTI)

Sharjah Oasis for Technology and Innovation (SOTI), a free zone authority, will operate under the University of Sharjah and serve as a vehicle to achieve its strategic goal to be by 2023 the number one institution with regards to research collaborations with corporate industry within the UAE, developing patents, commercialization and research that matters to society. This critical project will revolutionize the environment of innovation, creativity, and scientific pursuits within the Emirate. The goal of SOTI is to create a generation of Emirati researchers, who will lead the nation's development in several fields including science, technology, and artificial intelligence. The SOTI Research and Development Committee are currently working with Fraunhofer IPK to develop a Business Case and Financial Plan for SOTI. Once the business case, financial plan and implementation plan has been developed work on SOTI will continue in 2024.

حجر الأساس
واحة الشارقة للتكنولوجيا والابتكار
جامعة الشارقة

GRADUATE COLLABORATION PROGRAM INITIATIVE

The College of Graduate Studies in cooperation with the Research Outreach Department formed a plan for establishing external strategic partnerships for each graduate program at the university. The partnership should provide support in co-supervision of PhD and Master Theses, co-teaching graduate courses, co-authorship in publications, Exchange university/industrial resources (i.e. lab, equipment, and datasets), Thesis as part of industrial/ governmental projects, Master/PhD scholarships.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ESTEDAD INITIATIVE

The University of Sharjah participated in all three editions of the Ministry of Education Estedad initiative by delivering various programs in the Research, Enrichment, Mass Media, Diplomacy and Entrepreneurship tracks of the initiative.

SHARJAH ACADEMY FOR ASTRONOMY, SPACE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (SAASST)

As the legacy projection systems are now obsolete and higher technology is taking place in the market of planetariums, SAASST has decided to upgrade the planetarium by replacing most of the legacy systems with new technology. The pictures, the stars, graphics, and movies on the dome screen will look completely different; brighter, higher contrast and faster. With the recently developed Velvet projectors which are developed by Carl Zeiss specially for planetariums, UOS will have state-of-the-art technology and quality that can be sustained for over 7 years. The contract was signed in September 2021 and the opening is scheduled for April 2023.

RESEARCH OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

Since its establishment in 2019, the Research Outreach Department has become a gateway for industry outreach. The department organizes various events and initiatives fostering the research culture within the university. Since its launch the Research Outreach Department has achieved many projects that have been of great value to the University.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS (ICTP)

The Regional Center for Physics, Mathematics, and Computerization will be established as a branch of ICTP and will be based at the University of Sharjah. It will be a research center for physics and mathematics, working within the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between the Italian Government, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Atomic Energy Commission. The Center has planned together with an ICTP delegation in February 2022. UoS will launch with the UNESCO Cat II application at the University of Sharjah.

PROFESSORSHIP CHAIR

To continue supporting and advancing scientific research within the university a list of candidates for new Professorship Chairs has been formed by the department. Visits and meetings are constantly being organized to all interested candidates for discussing the importance and stature of the Professorship Chairs. As of now the department has assisted in forming four new professorship chairs while following up on previously existing chairs as well.

الصناعة و المجتمع
Industry &
Community

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CLINIC TRAINING CENTER & SHARJAH SURGICAL INSTITUTE

The Clinic Training Center & Sharjah Surgical Institute have reinforced what the Medical Colleges at the University built in the students. The center and institute have had many significant achievements since their launch, including partnerships with esteemed local and international bodies.

To name a few:
1- Cambridge Medical Robotics Surgical (CMR) UK's leading surgical robotics company
2- The Royal College of Surgeons of England
3- SEHA
4- Sorin Group Italia
5- Saudi Lap. Society
6- American association
7- Paragon 28 Medical Devices
8- Applied Medical

The center and institute received accreditation from The Royal College of Surgeons of England and International Wrist Centers. In addition to the international programs, **they also provide their own independent internally run programs.**
1. Postgraduate Diploma in OBG Ultrasound Technology
2. Care of Critically Ill Surgical patient (CCrISP)
3. Professional Diplomas in Ultrasound for Sonographers / Radiographers
4. Laparoscopic Urological Surgery
5. Transoral Endoscopic Thyroidectomy Vestibular Approach (TOETVA)
6. Wrist Arthroscopy Course (From Basic to Advance)
7. Sharjah Shoulder Arthroscopy Course (From Basic to Intermediate)
8. Master Class Minimally Invasive Hand Surgery Techniques (Ultrasound Guided Thumb Implant)

The center has an industrial partnership with "Spine Art" in Switzerland and "Mission Spine" in India. In addition, MOUs have been signed with major Institutions in the UAE such as hospitals, medical colleges, transportation and aviation. There are plans for new organic courses in topics of Foot & Ankle Trauma, Spine Endoscopy, Facial Trauma & Plastic Surgery, and Professional Diploma in Aesthetic Medicine/MIS Gyn/ MIS General Surgery.

NEW CLINICS AT DENTAL HOSPITAL & COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY (M28)
Renovation and refurbishment of 36 dental clinics and their dedicated central sterilization facility including Simulation Clinic, Endo Clinic, Prosto Clinic, completed end of 2020.

ALUMNI OFFICE
The alumni association office was restructured to offer our alumnus a platform to be a driving force within their community. Our aim is to connect and allow our graduates to give back in the manner they find suitable. We also aim to upskill our graduates with the most required skills for the job market and connect them to the suitable employment opportunities. This is achieved by keeping our database up to date and accurate and by connecting our graduates to the potential employers both on the private and governmental level using our connectivity and networking events. The alumni office utilizes an Executive Committee whose members come from esteemed governmental and private entities.

5-YEAR TRAINING PLAN WITH SHARJAH DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed AlQasimi, the Center For Continuing Education And Professional Development at the University of Sharjah signed an Memorandum of understanding with the Sharjah Directorate of Human Resources to execute a 5-year training plan from 2018 – 2022. The goal of the plan was to provide various professional development diplomas for the employees of the Government of Sharjah. Under this program a cooperation agreement was signed with Newcastle University to provide joint training programs, which has produced a 6-month program in Artificial intelligence.

This plan has produced numerous diplomas that have enriched Sharjah's manpower with skills and experience to serve their community better. The programs we have successfully provided include, Professional Diplomas in Community Leadership, Law, Real estate, Parliamentary Work, Artificial Intelligence, and early childhood.

ESTABLISH GRADUATE FUND

Alumni Executive members collaborate with various charities to organize an donation campaign for the Alumni Fund. Organizing a Dinner Gathering for the donors with the attendance of the university president.

GRADUATES TALENT HUB

As we are committed to offering our graduates the best education even after graduation, we have established the talent fund. We collaborate with entities both inside the university such as the CASTO office or outside the university such as the training centers and institutes. Our goal is to upskill and help our graduates with the talents required for the job market. The talent hub utilizes the analytical tools to understand the requirements in the job market, the most hiring companies, and the skills required to guide our graduates to the right direction and secure employment through competitive skills.

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

As the university of Sharjah prides itself to be a culturally diverse community; our graduates are coming from all over the world and currently heading elite positions in their countries. Our mission is to reach out and give our International graduates the same experience we offer at home. We established the alumni association Kuwait chapter. Whose executive members are also coming from esteemed governmental and private entities.

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the University of Sharjah has launched a study abroad program to help Emirati students develop global experience and study within international program from one of the top 200 universities in the world. The University of Sharjah had the highest number of applicants and A number of our students have been selected for this important opportunity.

التعليم والتعلم
Teaching &
Learning

EMIRATI SCIENTISTS, RESEARCHERS, EDUCATORS AND ACADEMIC LEADERS

EMIRATI FUTURE LEADERSHIP:

The Emirati Future Leadership Initiative is a customized six-months leadership training program for the Emirati students to equip them with essential skills and knowledge to build a foundation to motivate, empower, and transform themselves and others by making a difference in the world.

the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education has graduated the first batch in 2021 and running the second batch of the program, which will be completed and graduated by November 2022.

SUPPORTING CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

Digital technologies are a critical component of effective learning spaces. The investment in resources for transforming the University of Sharjah's learning spaces into modern technological advanced environments is a critical priority.

Interactive learning spaces have been created, initially to overcome the disruption of the COVID-19 environment and to ensure academic continuity. This has provided a technological foundation for hyflex learning environmentsand for personalized learning. Promoting student engagement and participation, allowing students to learn deeper and faster — promoting flexibility and adaptability within the learning environment. Transformation of the traditional classroom's environment to modern interactive environments to support Teaching and Learning initiative will be completed by 2024.

LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

ESTABLISHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW LABORATORIES:

The Central Laboratories Directorate had remodeled and redesigned some laboratories, and the new setup helps them to organize ergonomically the movement inside the laboratories and promote scientific thinking and learning with scientific inquiry-based activities.

Infectious Diseases Laboratory (M32-DF27) - which is an essential study for optimal prevention and control of infectious diseases. Its major functions are to identify and characterize the infectious agents and develop a serological test that look for antibodies in the blood.

Biotechnology Research Lab Tissue Culture Room (M12-026) - that serves the quarantined location for sample preparations.

Renewable Energy Research Lab (W12-305/Roof) – laboratory that performs research on renewable energy sources can have a huge contribution to make in creating a sustainable energy system.

The remodeling and improvement of Applied Physics Lab to accommodate the Geoscience Geophysics Experimental Laboratory (W12-219). This laboratory will study, measure and provide information on physical properties of bedrock and soil. In addition to direct geological applications, the measurements are vital for geophysical interpretation and modelling.

The renovation and improvement of Applied Physics Lab to accommodate the Petrology -Microscopy Laboratory (W12-221). The Petrology Laboratory conducts accurate quantitative mineralogical and petrographic analyses of rocks, minerals, ores and allied materials using internationally accepted techniques and standards.

Established of new College of Health Sciences Molecular Genetics, Immunology & MLS Research Labs (W12-227A) was created and fitted new additional work benches and equipment to enhance and enrich student services and facilities.

Established and develop the Chemical and Water Desalination Engineering Laboratory (W12-014) a unique program in providing specialist knowledge on Chemical Engineering and its specialty in the critical topics of advanced water treatment, water engineering, desalination systems including thermal and membranes technologies.

SAFE LAB ENVIRONMENT FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Lab Safety Training Management System to enrich the safety knowledge of lab staff, faculty, and students and reach all of them in a modernized technique, the online training system available 24/7.

Chemical Inventory Management System to manage all chemicals in all labs at the University, efficiently utilize and share the available resources, and provide hazard information to chemical users.

Preventive Maintenance and validation of lab safety equipment (Fume Hoods, Biosafety Cabinets, Autoclaves, etc.) to ensure safety, and compliance with the laws and regulations.

ONGOING/FUTURE PROJECTS FOR THE TEACHING AND RESEARCH LABORATORY ENVIRONMENT:

The Central Labs Directorate together with the University Administration are working on expanding M12 Lab building. The new building will ensure the existence of sufficient space for new equipment and provide safe state-of-the-art space for researchers to conduct their work. Central Labs is working to implement the Occupational Health and Safety Management System ISO 45001 in the Central Labs. The 45001 is the most prestigious standard to demonstrate the management's commitment to health, safety, and well-being. This project is expected to be completed by September 2024. Once implemented, a Risk Management Online System will be applied to streamline and standardize the process of identifying hazards and evaluating risks, making it accessible to all lab users.

Establishment of new facilities to support the Teaching/ learning purposes

This includes the establishment of new facilities to support different colleges, such as the Model Pharmacy and the Morgue facility in the Medical Complex, and the Court Simulation rooms for the College of Law in both the Mens' and Womens' complexes.
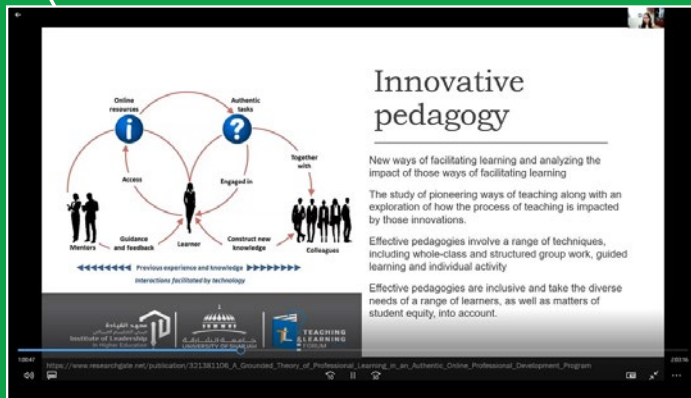
3rd TEACHING AND LEARNING FORUM 2022

The Institute of Leadership In Higher Education organized the Teaching and Learning Forum for the third time to provide a platform to share information and experiences on innovative teaching strategies. The theme of the forum for this year was "Innovative pedagogies for authentic learning and employability".

The Institute invited all academic staff and those who were involved in enabling and supporting services for teaching and learning at the University of Sharjah (UoS), to give a 30-minute presentation on topics related to the theme.

HYBRID CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

The Institute of Leadership in partnership, Deanship for Academic Support Services, and Information Technology Center at UoS organized and conducted a hands-on training session on Hybrid Learning.

A teaching strategy where traditional methods of instruction are combined with technology to provide positive learning experiences for students. Many faculty members explored the positive side of using technology to ensure the seamless sharing of knowledge during the COVID-19 lockdown. However, the training session focused on helping the faculty to design engaging classroom experiences for their students and a fulfilling teaching experience for themselves using technology.

COURSE REDESIGN ENDEAVORS: TWO EXAMPLES

ILHE took a leap forward in providing consultation to faculty in re-designing courses. Faculty from the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) and the English Department worked hand-in-hand with ILHE to produce pre-recorded video lectures and revise course syllabi to improve learning outcomes.


TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION GRANTS

Chancellor's Teaching Excellence and Innovation Grant (TEIG): The purpose of this grant is to support the faculty in the development, implementation, critical examination, and dissemination of novel pedagogical strategies, and cutting-edge technology-aided assessments, which help foster effective teaching and learning experiences.

Integration of Research into Undergraduate Education Grant (IRUEG): The purpose of this grant is to support the faculty in promoting undergraduate research and scholarly activities to create active learning environments that help students develop inquiry and critical thinking skills within the classroom.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY FOR ALL

As part of the community services goal, the Institute of Leadership in Higher Education (ILHE) created an Academic Integrity course that is accessible to the public. This project was in line with one of the UoS Strategic Goals, which is to provide continuing education to the community at large.
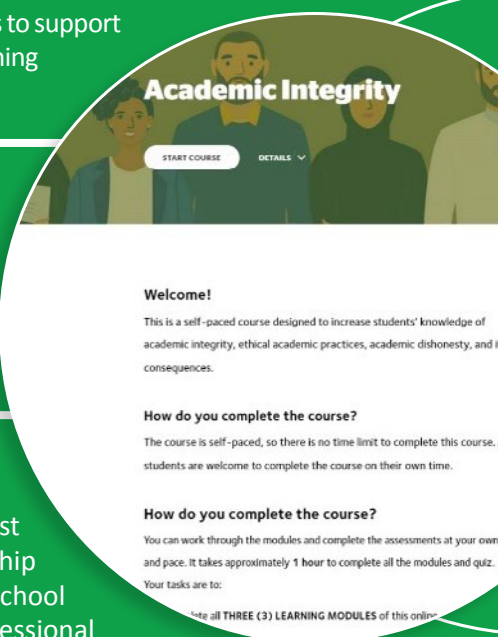
MASTER IN LEADERSHIP IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Master of Leadership in Higher Education is one of its kind in the UAE and the Middle East region. It will offer contemporary leadership training to those aspiring to work in leadership positions in higher education settings and other educational contexts, including high school and government agencies. This unique program is designed to strengthen students' professional knowledge and skills in areas such as higher education management, program design, strategic planning, organizational improvement, and change management.

LAUNCHING FACULTY PEER OBSERVATION OF TEACHING

This program offers the opportunity for faculty members to engage in mutually beneficial professional engagement, which is not for assessment but for improvement in professional practices.