

THE TOP ARAB RESEARCHERS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Recognising Excellence. Connecting Minds. Advancing Arab Research for Global Impact.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

A regional initiative dedicated to identifying, recognising and celebrating outstanding researchers whose work is advancing knowledge, innovation and societal impact across the Arab world. More than an awards or ranking platform, the Program seeks to create a regional movement for research excellence — strengthening connections among researchers and universities, encouraging meaningful collaboration, increasing the international visibility of Arab scholarship, and supporting a stronger, more connected Arab research ecosystem.

ASSESSED ON

Research Excellence	Trajectory & Health	Leadership & Integrity	Arab Contribution
---------------------	---------------------	------------------------	-------------------

2027 RECOGNITION FRAMEWORK

30

Outstanding Arab Researchers

Top 3 researchers across 10 selected academic disciplines.



Women in Research Excellence

Dedicated recognition celebrating outstanding women researchers and their contribution to knowledge, innovation and research leadership.



Sustainability Research Excellence

Dedicated recognition for researchers whose work contributes to major sustainability challenges and measurable societal and environmental impact.

LIVE REVEAL

The final positions of the Top 3 researchers in each discipline are revealed live at the official Awards Ceremony.

WHY THIS INITIATIVE MATTERS

- ◆ Celebrating Arab research excellence with greater regional and international recognition.
- ◆ Increasing the global visibility of Arab research, scholarship and scientific contribution.
- ◆ Strengthening collaboration among Arab universities and with leading international institutions.
- ◆ Creating cross-border and interdisciplinary research opportunities around challenges of regional and global importance.
- ◆ Helping universities identify research strengths, emerging talent and strategic collaboration.
- ◆ Encouraging a culture of research quality, integrity, leadership and sustained scholarly impact.
- ◆ Connecting universities, governments, industry and funding organisations around a shared agenda.
- ◆ Inspiring emerging researchers by showcasing excellence and meaningful impact.

ADVANCING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Research excellence, knowledge creation and university research capacity.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Visibility and recognition for outstanding women researchers.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



High-impact research, innovation and knowledge exchange.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Research networks across the region and with international partners.

RECOGNISING THE MINDS SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ARAB RESEARCH

14 JANUARY 2027 • 3:00 – 6:00 PM • ABU DHABI

PROGRAMME AGENDA

14 January 2027

3:00 – 6:00 PM · Abu Dhabi

TIME	SESSION & LEAD
3:00 – 3:15 PM	Opening Ceremony Prof. Ghassan Aouad — Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University Ranking Founder / Initiative Lead (TBC)
3:15 – 3:35 PM	Methodology: Building a Credible Framework for Arab Research Excellence Methodology / Technical Lead (TBC)
3:35 – 4:05 PM	PANEL 1 Building a Trusted Framework for Arab Research Excellence: Purpose, Methodology and Impact Moderator: Prof. Ghassan Aouad — Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University Panellists: Prof. M'hamed El Aisati — Vice President, Elsevier · Prof. Habib Fardoun — Excellence Consulting for Education, Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), Saudi Arabia
4:05 – 4:35 PM	PANEL 2 From Recognition to Impact: Advancing Arab Universities through Research Excellence and Collaboration Moderator: Prof. M'hamed El Aisati / Prof. Habib Fardoun (TBC) Maximum 3 Trustees (TBC)
4:35 – 4:50 PM	Networking Break
4:50 – 5:20 PM	Results Reveal: Data, Rankings and Recognition Ranking / Results Team + MC
5:20 – 6:00 PM	Top Arab Researchers Awards Ceremony Prof. Ghassan Aouad — Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University Prof. M'hamed El Aisati / Prof. Habib Fardoun — final presenter (TBC) Senior Abu Dhabi Representative (TBC) · MC