



**Professor Ghassan Aouad**

Chancellor of Abu Dhabi University, Past President ...

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## My Role Model Throughout My Academic Career

I have been reflecting on who has been my role model throughout my academic career. I am forever grateful to Professor Peter Brandon for his exceptional mentorship during my academic journey and he remains the best role model for me. After completing my MSc and PhD at [Loughborough University](#), I joined [The University of Salford](#) as a Research Fellow in February 1992, fortunate to work under the guidance of such a remarkable leader who has the following qualities:

- Knowledgeable: A true expert in his field, sharing insights and wisdom.
- Charismatic: Inspires and motivates others through his presence and leadership style.
- Supportive: Provides guidance and encouragement to help others succeed.
- Visionary: Sees the bigger picture and inspires others to strive for excellence.
- Humble: Maintains a modest attitude and values the contributions of others.
- Passionate: Demonstrates a commitment to quality and excellence in all endeavors.

Throughout my 20 years at Salford, Peter played a pivotal role in my career development, mentoring me in various leadership positions, including Director of the 5\* Research Institute for the Built and Human Environment, Head of the School of the Built Environment, and Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. He embraced me and supported me irrespective of my background, religion or race. His qualities of wisdom, creativity, and passion for excellence have profoundly influenced my professional journey.

Peter's humility and exceptional personality have made him an iconic figure in our community. He taught me that mentorship is essential for success. Today, he remains a great role model, friend, and mentor, and I am ever grateful to him for shaping who I am today.

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