

# FORESIGHT

DHOFAR UNIVERSITY



## SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE LAUNCH

Addressing the need for sustainable solutions

### STRATEGIC MoU

College of Engineering  
signs landmark initiative

### AACSB ACCREDITATION

CCBA focuses on excellence



Globally 601-800  
and Arab Region 43



Globally 851-900  
and Arab Region 75

# CONTENTS

09

## WELCOME

04

## NOTEWORTHY

Dhofar University Continues Its Progress In International Rankings

05

## SPECIAL FEATURE

Dhofar University Sustainability Centre Launch

06

## ARTS AND APPLIED SCIENCES

Foreign Language Education  
at the College of Arts and Applied Sciences

10

## COMMERCE & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Outstanding Achievement

12

## ENGINEERING

Promoting Sustainability

14

## LAW

Providing Advanced Academic Education

16

## MEDICINE

Advancing Anatomy Education Through Innovation

18

## CENTRE FOR PREPARATORY STUDIES

Building Student Confidence

20

## RESEARCH

Research Achievements

22

## NEWS

24

## EVENTS

30

10

18

22



## **Dhofar University**

P.O. Box 2509, Postal Code 211

Salalah, Sultanate of Oman

+968 80018001, 2323700

### **Chair**

Dr. Moosa Ahmed Bait Ali Sulaiman

### **DU Newsletter Coordinator**

Ms. Erica Bailey

### **Members**

#### **College of Arts & Applied Sciences**

Mr. Ehsan Elahi

#### **College of Commerce &**

#### **Business Administration &**

#### **Center for Entrepreneurship**

Ms. Shahrazad Omar Al Marhoon

#### **College of Engineering**

Dr. Lamiaa Mostafa Abdrabo

#### **College of Law**

Dr. Musallam Salim Al Awaid

#### **College of Medicine**

Mr. Hussameldin Ibinomer Altayb

### **CSCEC**

Ms. Naifa Said Al Shanfari

### **QA & Research Departments**

Ms. Amal Hassan Al Murfadi

### **VC & DVC Office**

Mr. Said Ahmed Qatan

### **Arabic Proofreader**

Dr. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Balkhair

### **Translator**

Dr. Abdelrahman Abdalla Ahmed

### **Graphic Designer**

Mr. Arbi Gadiri

### **Photographer**

Mr. Abdullah Rajab Alhabshi



**dh\_university**

Public Relations and Media Department





# Welcome

## Dear Students, Faculty, and Friends of the University,

Welcome to a new edition of *Foresight*—your window into the dynamic life of Dhofar University. As the 2025/2026 academic year continues strong, we are thrilled to share exciting developments, inspiring achievements, and a vibrant calendar of events that reflect the spirit of growth and innovation at DU.

We are delighted to share that Dhofar University has achieved a remarkable rise in both the Times Higher Education (THE) “World University Impact Ranking” and QS World University Rankings. This upward trajectory reflects our unwavering dedication to academic quality, research excellence, and international collaboration. These improvements not only elevate the university’s global profile but also enhance the value of a DU degree for our students and alumni. It is a testament to the hard work and commitment of our entire community—students, faculty, and staff alike.

Part of our global impact initiative is the launch of the Centre for Sustainability, a landmark initiative that embodies our commitment to environmental responsibility, research, and community engagement. This new Centre will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary collaboration,

driving forward projects that support a greener future for Oman and beyond.

Across our talented colleges and departments, numerous development projects are in full swing—from added emphasis on foreign language education to expanded PhD programs—reflecting our ongoing efforts to provide an outstanding learning environment. Additionally, we are pleased to highlight international accreditation that adds positive impact to our student body and our goal of academic excellence.

Our faculty and researchers continue to lead the way with newly awarded research grants supporting a wide array of impactful studies. From scientific innovation to social research, these projects are helping to shape knowledge and address real-world challenges.

Lastly, DU is abuzz with cultural events and activities, all celebrating the rich diversity of our student community and adding a joyful energy to campus life.

We thank each of you for your contributions to this thriving academic environment and look forward to seeing what the future beholds for Dhofar University.

Warm regards,

*Editorial Staff*





# Dhofar University Continues its Progress in International Rankings

For the first time, Dhofar University (DU) has the honor of being included in the top universities in the world in the QS World University Rankings (WUR) 2026. Among the 1,501 universities included in this year's list of Top Universities, from more than 8,400 participating Universities all over the world, DU had the honor of being included in the band 851-900. Moreover, DU strengthened its position in the QS Arab Region University Rankings 2026, which was announced on 15 October 2025.

DU has also been included in Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026 for the first time. It is ranked in the band 601-800 from among more than 1,500 leading institutions worldwide. The university achieved a remarkable improvement to the rank 75. In THE Arab Region University Ranking 2025, DU was ranked 43.

In addition, DU was ranked in the band 601-800 in the THE "World University Impact Ranking" announced in Istanbul, Turkey, on 18 June 2025. With more than 2,000 universities spread over 125 countries across the world, this achievement speaks volume about DU's commitment towards the community and the nation.

It is worth mentioning that DU started its journey in both QS and THE Arab region Rankings in the band 131-140 and from there gradually improved to its present position with dedication and determination.

This progress of DU over the years reflects DU's dedication to enhance the quality of education, research, and innovation, as well as fostering regional and international cooperation and partnerships. They also demonstrate the university's ongoing commitment to serving its stakeholders with enhanced enthusiasm and achieving its vision of excellence, leadership, and community service in alignment with the aspirations of Oman Vision 2040.



**DHOFAR UNIVERSITY**

# **Sustainability Centre Launch**

**Champions Regional and National Sustainable Development**

**D**hofar University (DU) has taken a significant step toward becoming a regional leader in sustainable development with the establishment of the Dhofar University Centre for Sustainability (DUCS). Positioned in a region that faces complex environmental challenges—ranging from water scarcity to high energy consumption—DU recognizes the critical need to respond with innovation, resilience, and leadership.



The geographic and climatic realities of the Dhofar region, along with Oman's broader socio-economic context, create an urgent need for sustainable solutions. Yet within these challenges lie tremendous opportunities. As a forward-looking institution, DU is leveraging its strengths in education, research, and community engagement to address these pressing issues and to shape a more sustainable and resilient future.

The creation of DUCS is rooted in several strategic imperatives: Dhofar University's alignment with Oman Vision 2040 and the National Strategy for Education 2040; its institutional ambition of becoming a leading university in the Arab region; and its achievement of top national recognition in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings. DU is now focused on leading sustainability efforts within Oman and across the region.

Before 2021, DU began embedding the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its institutional framework. The United Nations SDGs are a set of 17 global objectives designed to address urgent environmental, social, and economic challenges. These goals are intended to guide countries, organizations, and communities toward a sustainable future. In 2022, DU formalized this commitment by adopting an SDG policy, initially targeting seven core goals with the aim of gradually integrating all 17. DU also seeks to become a regional hub for SDG awareness and engagement among faculty, staff, students, and the wider community.

"The Sustainable Development Goals, also known as the Global Goals, were first adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity," notes Professor Amer bin Ali Al-Rawas, Vice-Chancellor of DU. "All 191 UN Member Countries at that time, including the Sultanate of Oman, have agreed to try to achieve these goals by the year 2030. DU fully endorses the commitment of the Sultanate of Oman towards achieving these SDGs and strives to make contribution towards that."

Though DU has already introduced several sustainability initiatives, including energy-efficient infrastructure and waste reduction programs, these efforts have lacked a unifying structure. DUCS addresses this gap by providing a centralized, coordinated platform to guide and amplify sustainability actions with both national priorities and global standards.



# Centre for Sustainability

**Dhofar University**






مركز جامعة ظفار للاستدامة



## DUCS Vision and Mission

DUCS envisions a sustainable socio-economic future for Dhofar and Oman by embedding the UN SDGs into DU's educational and research agenda. Its mission is to lead the localization and implementation of these global goals through focused academic programs, interdisciplinary research, and impactful community engagement, empowering individuals and institutions to drive lasting, positive change.

## Core Values Guiding the Centre

-  **Commitment to sustainability across all operations and partnerships.**
-  **Environmental Responsibility in preserving natural resources.**
-  **Resilience & Sustainable Innovation through adaptable, forward-thinking solutions.**
-  **Collaborative Empowerment via inclusive stakeholder engagement.**
-  **Integrity and Accountability in transparent, results-driven action.**

## STRATEGIC GOALS OF THE CENTRE

**Community Engagement:** Enhance partnerships with local communities and industries to promote sustainability awareness and joint initiatives.

**Research and Innovation:** Advance interdisciplinary research focused on region-specific SDGs, especially those most relevant to Dhofar.

**Education and Curriculum Integration:** Embed SDG concepts into academic programs to prepare graduates as responsible, sustainability-conscious professionals.

**Internationalization and Recognition:** Align with global standards to improve DU's international ranking and recognition in sustainability.

**Governance and Management:** Establish transparent systems for tracking, evaluating, and reporting sustainability progress.





**“The launch of the Sustainability Centre signals DU’s clear intent to be more than an academic institution—it aims to be a catalyst for sustainable transformation across Oman and the Arab region. I am proud to lead this important initiative. Through DUCS, we aim to promote a sustainable future for Oman, leveraging knowledge, innovation, and collaboration to benefit generations to come.”**

Dr. Nagwa Khallaf  
Director, Dhofar University  
Centre for Sustainability



# Foreign Language Education at the College of Arts and Applied Sciences

## A Strategic Vision for Oman 2040

In an era of rapid global transformation, equipping future generations with strong communication skills and cultural openness has become essential. Central to these skills is proficiency in foreign languages. In alignment with Oman Vision 2040—and its aim to develop competitive, globally oriented human capital—the College of Arts and Applied Sciences (CAAS) at Dhofar University has launched an ambitious initiative to offer a wide range of foreign languages to all students, regardless of major. This reflects the College's commitment to

producing graduates who are linguistically skilled, culturally aware, and prepared to thrive in an interconnected world.

### Alignment with Oman Vision 2040

Oman Vision 2040 emphasizes building a human capital base capable of contributing to global dialogue while maintaining strong cultural identity. Language proficiency supports this vision by expanding students' employability in international markets and enhancing their access to academic and research opportunities at prestigious global institutions.

### Growth of the Language Program

CAAS launched its foreign language program in 2021/2022 with French as the first addition to the revised curriculum. In the following year, Chinese, Hindi, and Italian were introduced. Most recently, in 2024/2025, Korean, Japanese, and German were added. These languages were chosen based on global relevance, regional demand, and student interest. Currently, the College offers Japanese, Korean, Hindi, and French, all of which have received strong student participation and





# ARTS AND APPLIED SCIENCES



rising enrollment, indicating growing awareness of the value of multilingualism.

Dhofar University welcomed the Ambassador of Japan to Oman, H.E. Kiyoshi Serizawa, during an official visit aimed at strengthening academic and cultural ties. The ambassador met with the university's Vice Chancellor, Professor Dr. Amer Bin Ali Al-Rawas, where both sides discussed opportunities for collaboration and the advancement of educational initiatives.

As part of his visit, Ambassador Serizawa toured the Japanese language classroom and engaged directly with students enrolled in the program. He commended their enthusiasm and interest in Japanese culture and language, noting the importance of such exchanges in deepening mutual understanding between Japan and Oman.

## **A Holistic Approach to Language Learning**

The language courses are designed with pedagogical flexibility to accommodate diverse learning styles. They integrate theoretical instruction with practical application, developing the four core skills of listening,

speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural understanding is embedded in the curriculum through presentations, cultural events, and experiential activities. This immersive approach strengthens language proficiency while fostering empathy, open-mindedness, and intercultural competence—key traits of informed global citizens.

## **Cognitive, Personal, and Professional Benefits**

Research consistently shows that learning new languages enhances memory, analytical thinking, and problem-solving skills—benefits that support academic success and boost self-confidence. Professionally, multilingual individuals enjoy a competitive edge in fields such as business, government, healthcare, law, technology, and education, where the ability to communicate across cultures is increasingly essential. Beyond career advantages, foreign language skills enrich students' personal lives, giving them access to global arts, cuisine, cinema, science, and more. Many students consider these courses among the most impactful in their university journey, offering not only

practical skills but also new friendships and global perspectives.

## **Expert Faculty and Innovative Teaching**

The program's success is driven by highly qualified faculty with expertise in language education. They use modern teaching tools, including simulations, interactive videos, e-learning platforms, and self-directed learning resources, ensuring a dynamic and engaging learning environment tailored to students' evolving needs.

## **Future Expansion**

Given strong demand and increasing enrollment, CAAS is studying further expansion of its language offerings in line with global trends and strategic importance. This ensures that the program remains relevant and aligned with student aspirations.

## **Building Global Citizens**

As emphasized by Dr. Khalid bin Musallam Almashikhi, Dean of CAAS, language is not just a communication tool but a bridge between civilizations and a catalyst for peace, dialogue, and mutual understanding. Through its comprehensive foreign language program, CAAS continues to shape well-rounded, culturally aware, and globally engaged graduates. In today's world, language learning is not a luxury but a strategic necessity—opening doors to opportunity, connection, and a richer, more inclusive life.

# OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT:

## CCBA receives AACSB academic accreditation

In an unprecedented achievement, the College of Commerce and Business Administration (CCBA) at Dhofar University is awarded international academic accreditation from the reputable accreditation agency, The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, in culmination of its academic journey.

Dhofar University announced that The International External Quality Assurance process conducted by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) Agency in Tampa, Florida, USA, and approved by OAAAQA on 22 May 2023, has resulted in the following outcome:

**The Business Degree Programs offered:** Undergraduate and Masters

by CCBA at Dhofar University is granted initial (first time) accreditation on 14 February 2025 for a period of six years, thus becoming the first university in the Sultanate of Oman to be awarded this accreditation.

“AACSB accreditation recognizes institutions that have demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curriculum development, and student learning,” said Stephanie M. Bryant, executive vice president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB. The executive vice president congratulates Dhofar University on earning accreditation and applaud the entire team—including the administration, faculty, staff, and students—for their roles in earning this respected honor.





# COMMERCE & BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Synonymous with the highest standards of quality, AACSB accreditation inspires new ways of thinking within business education globally. As a result, less than 6 percent of the world's schools offering business degree programs in all its majors hold AACSB business accreditation. Through the ratification of the accreditation, a total of 1,047 institutions across 67 countries and territories have earned AACSB accreditation in business.

Ms. Bryant said: "Dhofar University's commitment to earning accreditation is a true reflection of their dedication—not only to their students, alumni network, and greater business community, but to the higher education industry as a whole. Today's students are tomorrow's business leaders, and the addition of Dhofar University to the network of AACSB-accredited business schools will have a lasting positive impact for their institution, both locally and globally."

## About AACSB International

Established in 1916, AACSB International is the world's largest business education association, representing 1,900 institutional members and 1,000 accredited members, connecting business schools, businesses, and lifelong learners to create the next generation of great leaders.







# PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY

## College of Engineering and GORD Sign Regional Strategic MoU to Promote Sustainability in Oman

In a landmark initiative to advance sustainability in Oman's built environment, Dhofar University—through its College of Engineering—organised the event “REWAA Dhofar: Sustainable Development in Oman,” under the patronage of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Amer bin Ali Al-Rawas. Held on February 23, 2025, the event attracted prominent figures in regional sustainability, including Dr. Yousef Alhorr, Founding Chairman of the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (GORD) – Qatar, and Engineer Majid Al-Kharoosi, Managing Director of Oman Tower Company, along with representatives from various public and private sector organizations, faculty, and students.

The event commenced with a presentation highlighting the shared vision of Dhofar University and GORD to promote sustainable development practices in Oman. It culminated in the signing

of a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two institutions, aimed at enhancing education, training, and professional capacity in the field of green buildings.

The MoU was signed by Professor Al-Rawas and Dr. Alhorr, and the initiative was led by Dr. Issam Al-Bahdhoor, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dr. Lamiaa Mostafa Abd-Rabo, and it formalizes a collaboration that will integrate the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS)—developed by GORD—into Dhofar University's engineering curriculum. The GSAS framework, the first performance-based green building rating system in the MENA region, has been implemented in over 2,500 projects across the GCC, making it one of the fastest-growing sustainability standards in the region.

Through this partnership, staff members and students

in the College of Engineering, particularly within the Architecture Engineering Department, will receive formal education and training aligned with GSAS criteria. This initiative positions Dhofar University as a national leader in equipping future engineers with the knowledge and tools required to design environmentally responsible buildings and infrastructure. Speaking at the event, Professor Al-Rawas emphasized the role of academic institutions in preparing the next generation of sustainable development leaders:

“Academia has a profound responsibility to prepare the next generation of talent for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. To achieve this, it's critical that we, as educators, stay at the forefront of the latest and best standards, particularly in areas critical to our future, such as sustainable development and climate resilience. Partnering



with GORD and integrating their world-renowned GSAS standards into our curriculum allows us to fulfill this responsibility.”

Dr. Alhorr highlighted the broader impact of the collaboration: “Integrating green building practices into engineering curricula is imperative for developing a technically proficient workforce. Our MoU with Dhofar University represents a strategic investment in national capacity building. It also creates new pathways for upskilling professionals and students to meet the growing demands of Oman’s green economy.”

Dr. Issam Bahdoor, Dean of the College of Engineering

at Dhofar University, added that this partnership reflects the university’s alignment with Oman Vision 2040, which places sustainability at the core of national development goals. “This MoU is not just an academic agreement—it is a strategic move to empower our students and faculty to lead in sustainability and environmental stewardship.” As part of the agreement, GORD will deliver specialized training and certification programs to Dhofar University’s faculty, enabling them to become licensed GSAS trainers. These trainers will in turn provide GSAS instruction to students and professionals across Oman, thus expanding the system’s reach and enhancing workforce readiness.

## About GSAS

GSAS is a comprehensive performance-based green building rating system developed by GORD. It evaluates the environmental impact of buildings across their entire lifecycle—from design to construction and operation—encouraging reduced resource consumption, pollution prevention, and improved human health and comfort.

## About GORD

The Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (GORD) is a leading regional player in sustainability research, certification, and education. Headquartered in Qatar Science and Technology Park, GORD supports public and private sectors in achieving low-carbon growth and climate resilience through services aligned with Qatar National Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With the latest MOU, Dhofar University has become part of an expanding network of leading organizations and educational institutions in the region, including those in Qatar and Kuwait, that are imparting knowledge on GSAS to equip engineering students and professionals with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and implement green building best practices.

## حفل توقيع مذكرة تفاهم MOU SIGNING CEREMONY





# PROVIDING ADVANCED ACADEMIC EDUCATION

## The College of Law at Dhofar University Launches Their First PhD Program in September 2025

The College of Law at Dhofar University has announced the launch of the university's first-ever PhD program specializing in public and private law. This initiative represents a forward-looking step aimed at enhancing the level of academic education and meeting labor market demands with highly qualified legal professionals. The program is considered a significant addition to the university's higher education framework, reflecting the college's commitment to expanding and advancing academic opportunities for its students and those interested in legal studies.





## Admission Requirements

Applicants must hold a bachelor's and a master's degree in law (or equivalent), with a minimum grade of "Very Good." Applicants with a "Good" grade at the master's level may also be considered if they have at least five years of relevant professional experience. Admission also requires passing a personal interview and a written test. Selection is based on a comprehensive evaluation including undergraduate and postgraduate GPAs, as well as interview and test performance.

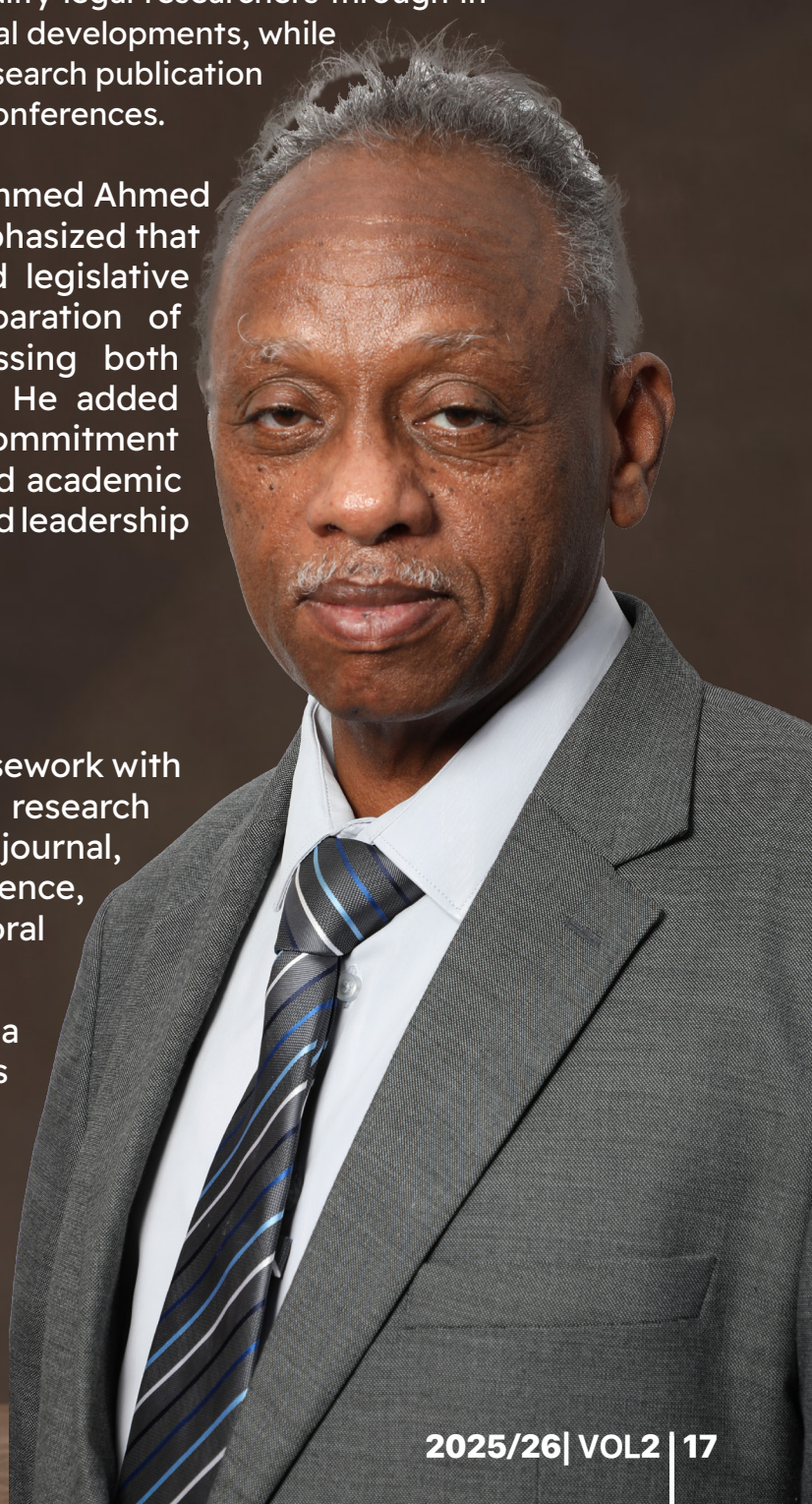
The program will be delivered in Arabic and requires the completion of 90 credit hours over a period of no less than three years (six semesters) and no more than six years (twelve semesters). It aims to qualify legal researchers through in-depth study aligned with contemporary legal developments, while also promoting scientific output through research publication and participation in specialized academic conferences.

In a statement, Professor Ahmed Mohammed Ahmed Al-Zain, Dean of the College of Law, emphasized that the program comes at a time of rapid legislative developments, necessitating the preparation of legal professionals capable of addressing both academic and professional challenges. He added that the program reflects the college's commitment to fostering an advanced research-based academic environment that supports innovation and leadership in the legal field.

## Graduation Requirements

To graduate, students must pass all coursework with a minimum average of 75%, publish a research paper in a peer-reviewed academic journal, present a paper at a scientific conference, and successfully defend their doctoral dissertation.

The launch of this PhD program marks a major milestone in Dhofar University's academic journey and reinforces its position as an institution committed to offering high-level graduate programs that respond to societal changes and contribute to legal development both within the Sultanate of Oman and beyond.







# ADVANCING ANATOMY EDUCATION THROUGH INNOVATION

## A Strategic Milestone for the College of Medicine

The College of Medicine at Dhofar University continues to reinforce its commitment to modern, student-centered medical education through the rapid development of its Dry Anatomy Laboratory and the integration of advanced digital learning technologies. The laboratory now serves as a dynamic teaching environment equipped with high-fidelity plastinated specimens, three-dimensional anatomical models, and the Anatomage Table—an interactive digital dissection platform that allows learners to explore human anatomy with precision and clarity. These tools are complemented by the introduction of virtual reality-based instructional modules that provide immersive simulations, support self-directed learning, and enhance students' spatial understanding of complex anatomical structures.





In alignment with global trends in competency-based education, these innovations are strengthening foundational science teaching while providing clinical relevance early in the curriculum. Students benefit from active learning strategies, improved visualization of systems, and enhanced engagement through technology-enhanced anatomy instruction. Faculty development initiatives have further supported the effective integration of these resources into teaching and assessment practices.

As part of ongoing national benchmarking and quality assurance efforts, the College recently welcomed the Sultan Qaboos University Joint Committee. The delegation reviewed instructional facilities and observed the significant progress made within a short developmental period. Their visit underscored the College's alignment with its long-term vision of establishing a modern medical program grounded in innovation, sustainability, and educational excellence. The committee's feedback highlighted the strength of the College's infrastructure and affirmed the strategic direction of its academic development.

Moving forward, the College of Medicine remains committed to expanding simulation-based education, integrating digital technologies across the curriculum, and sustaining an anatomy learning environment that prepares future physicians with strong foundational competencies and a deep understanding of human structure and function.



# BUILDING STUDENT CONFIDENCE

Students Monitoring System (SRTS)





In November 2024, the Centre for Preparatory Studies (CPS) Director, Dr. Moosa Ahmed Bait Ali Suliman, met with the IT unit faculty members to discuss an initiative to support students as they progress through their first year at Dhofar University. The goal was to build a technology-based program that enables all CPS faculty members to monitor the progress of students under the roof of CPS to ensure that all students are supported academically throughout their first year. With that goal in mind, the Students Monitoring System (SRTS) was created.

Led by the development team of Mr. Naef Ghanim Al-Muati, CPS IT lecturer; Mr. Mohammed Faisal Ismail, webmaster in the Computer & Networking Center; and Mr. Ali Omar Al-Menhali, CPS IT instructor, the new system was designed and implemented utilizing an Oracle Database Management System. Its primary aim is to centralize and streamline access to important student data, creating a unified and shareable platform for all CPS faculty members throughout the entire time students spend in the CPS. The SRTS is an additional tool to be used alongside Dhofar University's Student Information System (DUSIS) in building a clear picture of each student's academic progress. It also aids in fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment for monitoring and guiding specific students with greater efficiency and transparency.

After the completion of SRTS development, it was presented in March to Dhofar University Academic Council for approval and comments. This stage was necessary to proceed to the next stage of the pilot launch within the CPS context. The pilot launch of the SRTS took place on 20 March, at the beginning of summer term 2024/25. The main goal behind this launch is to find the challenges and the technical drawbacks encountered by SRTS faculty users and refining them before the official launch in the coming academic year 2025/26. The CPS team believes that such a system will be a valuable tool in supporting students to succeed academically and behave in a manner that upholds the standards of the CPS and Dhofar University as a whole.

# Research Achievements

## Significant Milestones at Dhofar University

### UNESCO Chair

Dhofar University proudly announces the establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation for Environmental Sustainability, marking a significant milestone in Oman's commitment to sustainable development. As the first UNESCO Chair of its kind in the Sultanate, this initiative strengthens the University's role in advancing scientific innovation and environmental stewardship.

Based at the College of Engineering and led by Prof. Mazhar Ul Islam, the UNESCO Chair serves as a platform for interdisciplinary research, capacity building, and international collaboration addressing key environmental challenges in Oman and the region. Its focus areas include waste recycling and value-added bioproducts, renewable energy, water treatment and harvesting, and sustainable industrial development.



Aligned with UNESCO's global priorities and Oman Vision 2040, the Chair aims to foster innovative solutions, support education and research, and promote sustainable practices with national and regional impact.

### Recognition

In rankings, DU advanced significantly, achieving 1st among private universities in Oman and 30th in the Arab World in the QS Arab World Rankings 2025 for research publications, as well as 1st among private universities in Oman for International Research Network and 2nd among private universities in Oman and 38th in the Arab World for citations per paper.

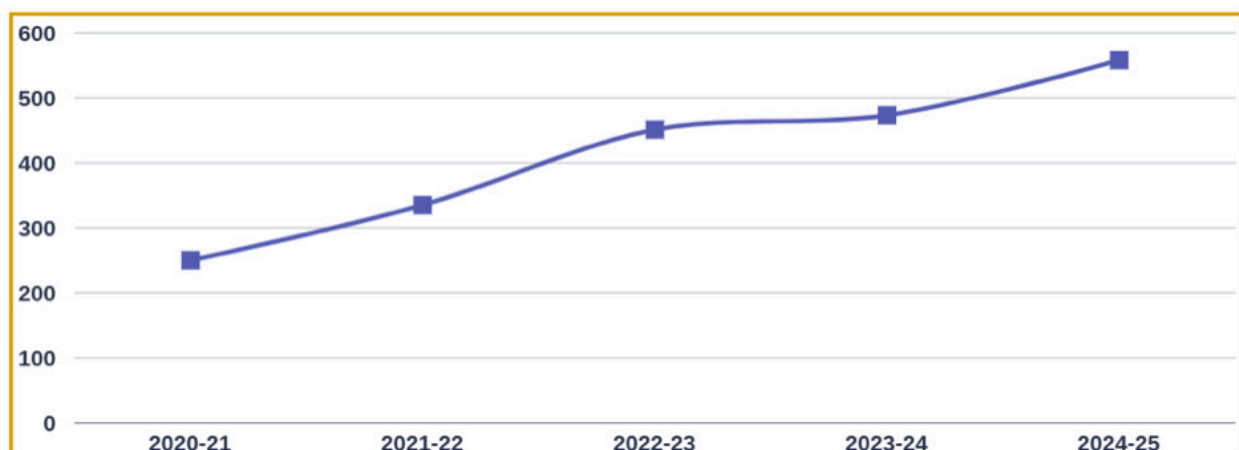
In the Times Higher Education Arab Universities Ranking 2024, DU was ranked 1st private university in Oman, 1st overall in Oman for research quality, and 2nd overall in Oman for research environment. Moreover, DU achieved 1st place among all HEIs in Oman in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025.





## Publications

In the academic year 2024–2025, Dhofar University strengthened its national and international research standing, producing approximately 558 publications across Scopus, Web of Science, peer-reviewed journals, and DU-approved Arabic journals, with an average of 2.6 papers per faculty member. The University achieved a Field-Weighted Citation Impact of 1.57, with 23% of its publications (2020–2025) ranked among the world’s top 10% most cited. DU’s publications demonstrated strong alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in health, education, sustainability, and environment.



**Research Publications During Past Five Years**



## MoHERI Delegate Visits Dhofar University

Prof. Amer bin Ali Al Rawas, Vice-Chancellor of Dhofar University, hosted a high-level delegation from the General Directorate of Private Universities and Colleges, alongside members of the University's Board of Directors. The visit was part of an ongoing effort to monitor progress and ensure the quality of the educational process. During the discussions, the delegation explored key strategic plans, including Dhofar University's financial sustainability strategy, the Omanization of academic and administrative roles, enhancements to educational programs, and initiatives to advance scientific research. Additionally, the latest developments and challenges faced by the University were thoroughly reviewed.

On the sidelines of the visit, the delegation engaged with members of the Student Advisory Council. The dialogue focused on the council's member selection process, services provided to students, and obstacles affecting its operations, emphasizing the importance of fostering active student participation. The visit culminated in a comprehensive inspection tour of Dhofar University's facilities. The delegation examined progress across several key areas, including the library, College of Medicine, International Cooperation Office, and other departments, highlighting the University's dedication to continuous development and excellence.







## College of Engineering and GORD Organize Oman's First Regional GSAS Workshop

In a landmark step toward advancing environmental education and sustainable building assessment in the Sultanate of Oman, the College of Engineering at Dhofar University has hosted the country's first-ever workshop on the Global Sustainability Assessment System (GSAS). Held from February 23 to 25, 2025, the workshop brought together more than 80 engineers, architects, academics, and specialists from across Oman's public and private sectors, all seeking to deepen their understanding of sustainability standards in the built environment.

The workshop was led by a distinguished team of experts from the Gulf Organisation for Research & Development (GORD)—the Qatar-based body that developed GSAS. The sessions featured in-depth training on green building certifications, environmental performance indicators, and best practices in sustainable architectural design. Among the key presenters were Dr. Iman Al-Iskandarani, Director at GORD;

Engineer Mohammed Al-Najjar, Head of Architecture at GSAS Trust; and Engineer Ibrahim Al-Jundi, Project Manager.

The workshop was organized under the supervision of Dr. Issam Al-Bahdhoor, Dean of the College of Engineering, and Dr. Lamiaa Mostafa Abd-Rabo, and served as a platform for capacity-building and professional development in line with the sustainability goals of Oman Vision 2040.

Speaking at the event, Dr. Al-Bahdhoor noted, "Hosting this workshop reflects our College's commitment to empowering professionals across the Sultanate with the tools and knowledge needed to implement sustainable design principles. It is a vital step toward aligning Oman's construction sector with global environmental standards."



### A Prelude to Long-Term Collaboration

This regional workshop marks the first tangible outcome of the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed between Dhofar University and GORD, which lays the foundation for a long-term strategic partnership. The MoU aims to integrate GSAS into the university's academic curriculum and professional training programs, thereby cultivating a new generation of environmentally conscious engineers and architects.

Through this collaboration, Dhofar University joins a growing regional network of institutions adopting GSAS—the MENA region's first performance-based green building rating system—which evaluates projects across design, construction, and operational phases.

As Oman accelerates its national sustainability agenda, initiatives like this workshop serve as powerful testimony to the pivotal role academic institutions play in shaping a greener, more resilient future.



## Community Awareness Exhibition

As part of efforts to promote health and community awareness, the Community Service and Continuing Education Center, in collaboration with the College of Commerce and Administrative Sciences at Dhofar University, organized a community awareness exhibition on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.



The exhibition witnessed active participation from the Directorate General of Health Services in Dhofar Governorate, which presented a comprehensive overview of healthy habits to prevent diseases. Particular emphasis was placed on the use of medications during the holy month of Ramadan 2025 and the importance of engaging in physical activities to maintain individual health.

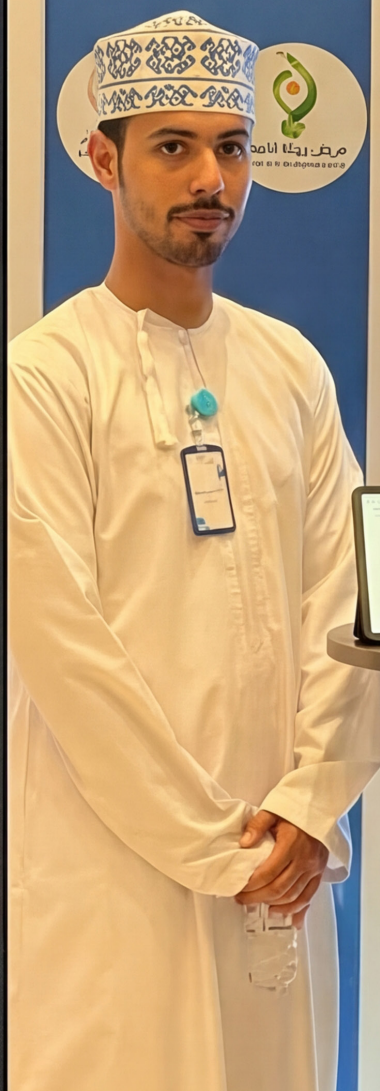
Representatives from the Consumer Protection Authority also participated in the exhibition, addressing the Authority's role in Dhofar Governorate and the mechanisms for promoting and protecting consumer rights.

In the same context, Al-Murooj Dairy Company contributed to the exhibition by showcasing its products and educating the public about healthy dietary choices.

This exhibition is part of a series of initiatives organized by the Community Service and Continuing Education Center, in collaboration with the university's colleges, aiming to spread community awareness and promote health, economic, and social concepts among various segments of society.







## Center for Entrepreneurship Takes Part in the 2025 Injaz Oman Student Startups

The student startup “Manara,” representing the Entrepreneurship Center at Dhofar University, participated in the 2025 Injaz Oman Student Business Startups as part of the company’s program and competition. The exhibition was held at the Oman Convention and Exhibition Center in Muscat from March 13 to 15.

“Manara” is an innovative artificial intelligence platform founded by six students from different majors at the College of Engineering. It aims to assist small- and medium-sized enterprise owners in Oman by assessing the feasibility of business ideas and ensuring regulatory compliance using reliable data and advanced analysis.

It is worth noting that “Manara” was the only student company to qualify for the show among seven student companies, reflecting its excellence and creativity in entrepreneurship. The Entrepreneurship Center and the College of Engineering supported Manara’s participation in the show. The exhibition offered a unique opportunity for visitors to explore the services and products provided by student companies from various educational institutions in the Sultanate of Oman. This experience develops youth skills in innovation and leadership, equipping them to confidently enter the job market.







## NEWS

# College of Law Students Visit the Port of Salalah

Dr. Jaber Al-Shahri, Professor of Civil Law at the College of Law and Chairman of the Industry and Community Service Committee, accompanied a group of law students on a visit to the Port of Salalah on Monday, May 5, 2025. The purpose of the visit was to bridge theoretical and practical applications of laws related to port operations, such as maritime

law, commercial law, labor law, investment law, and the Omani Penal Code.

They were received by the company's CEO, Engineer Mohammed Awfai Al-Mashani, along with the company's legal team. During the visit, a visual presentation was given highlighting the company's operations, its international standing, the contracts in effect, and how maritime law is applied in the company's dealings with both local and international investors. The students posed several legal questions regarding the company's application of national and international laws and its legal oversight of other companies and individuals, given its concessionary authority to manage the port.

Afterward, the students were taken on a tour of various areas within the port, accompanied by the legal team, who provided a detailed explanation of the services offered by the port to different types of vessels. They discussed the designated berths for ships, the methods of transporting passengers and cargo, legal requirements, container handling, towing, and maritime piloting operations.

## Dhofar University Student Publishes Debut Book At Muscat International Book Fair

Asma Salim Al-Qamshouai, a student at the Centre for Preparatory Studies at Dhofar University, recently published her debut book, "Words from My Heart." The book, a collection of prose and reflective writings, explores themes such as longing, silence, memory, and the intricacies of emotion. Presented at the Muscat International Book Fair, the work received notable

attention and allowed the author to engage with a broad audience of readers, writers, and literary enthusiasts.

Al-Qamshouai describes writing as a deeply personal and transformative process—one that enables her to express what is often difficult to articulate. Her participation in the fair marks an important milestone, both in her academic journey and in her development as a



writer. Dhofar University takes pride in supporting student achievements and fostering a culture of creativity, expression, and intellectual growth.





# TBL Workshop with InteDashboard & TBLC

The College of Medicine held a focused workshop on Team-Based Learning, supported by InteDashboard and the Team-Based Learning Collaborative. This event aimed to enhance faculty skills in employing interactive, technology-assisted teaching methods to foster teamwork, deeper application of knowledge, and student engagement in medical education courses.

## **Sustainability and SDGs Leadership**

The College actively engages in Dhofar University's Sustainability Committee, ensuring that its internal practices and educational programs align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is a particular focus on promoting Good Health and Well-Being through health initiatives, community outreach, and student-led projects that highlight the College's commitment to addressing community health needs.

## **Burnout Awareness Workshop with the Student Counseling Centre**

In partnership with the Center for Student Counseling, the College of Medicine conducted a workshop focused on helping healthcare students cope with burnout. The session addressed stress management, resilience-building techniques, and mental wellness, showcasing the College's dedication to supporting student development in a challenging health-professional training environment.



# EVENTS

## Dhofar University Cultural Week 2025



## Sixth Science Competition for High Schools (HSSC)





# The Third International Meeting on Frankincense and Medical Plants

