

MANCHESTER  
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The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester  
Middle East Centre  
Alumni Book 2019

*Drawn*  
**NIGHT**

Original Thinking Applied

# Contents

04 - 05

Message from the Director,  
Middle East

06

Message from the Deputy  
Director, Alumni  
Engagement

07

Message from the Head of  
Alumni Relations (MBA/DBA)

08

AMBS Alumni Relations

09

Alumni Ambassadors  
Awardees

10 - 17

Transforming Lives

18 - 28

Highlights of the University of  
Manchester year in the Middle  
East

29

New Collaborations

30

Message from the Middle  
East Centre Team

31

Gala Dinner Sponsors

# Gala Dinner 2019 – Prom Night

The theme for Gala 2019 is 'Prom 'Night', which marks a milestone in many ways. For some it is an end of an education journey, for others it is a chance to remember their first prom and reminiscence on the years left behind while looking ahead at what the future will bring. Whatever memories prom may bring, it is a celebration, a chance to come together and celebrate a new beginning. If you have not had a chance to attend a prom, then this is an opportunity to do so with fellow students, alumni, and friends.





ThinkAlumni



**Randa Bessiso**  
**Middle East Director**  
**The University of Manchester**

It is my great pleasure to introduce the Middle East Centre Annual Alumni Book 2019 as our regional community of students and alumni comes together once more for the social occasion of the year – the Annual Gala Dinner.

This is a professional community and network that continues to grow and in 2019 we welcomed over 170 talented new students to our regional community of current students and 2,500 alumni, now comprising over 100 nationalities.

This year, we have many reasons to celebrate together. These include the award for the ‘Best MBA Program 2019’ in the inaugural Middle East Higher Education Awards 2019 - and in its first classification of higher education institutions, Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) awarded the University a 5-star rating. Beyond the Middle East, The University of Manchester has also moved higher in a range of new ranking

announcements, including its highest ever position in the 2019 QS World University Rankings in which the University is now listed as the world’s 27th best university, 6th in the UK and 8th in Europe.

The theme of the 2019 Gala Dinner is ‘Prom Night’, evoking happy memories of academic achievement, such as our annual MBA graduation, which was once again held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, in the presence of Dr. Abdulla Al Karam, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Director General of the Knowledge & Human Development Authority, as we celebrated the achievements of 46 new graduates.

New collaborations have been a consistent theme this year, including new partnerships with Dubai Police (ESAAD loyalty programme for Dubai Police staff and family members);

Aon (the leading global professional services firm and owner of the annual Best Employers Middle East award); Dubai Technology Partners (the region's leading business consultancy and systems integrator for the aviation industry); and UAEpreneur (an initiative of Dubai-based Innovest Middle East to identify leading startups from the region and introduce them to angel investors).

All of these new partnerships add to the growing and diverse list of leading organisations with which we enjoy active collaborations across the region, such as ACCA, IMA, CIMA, EMIR, Dubai SME, The Economist, and Forbes Middle East; and leading corporates including GM, Philips, and Du.

Social responsibility is one of the University's three pillars (along with teaching and research) and Ramadan provided the opportunity for the Middle East Centre team to join up with a range of community activities along with volunteer students and alumni. These included SOS Children's Villages, highlighting the work of the charity in providing family support for children without access to parental care. In the spirit of the month, the centre team organised the annual Ramadan gathering for students and alumni in Dubai, for over 60 guests.

Of course, we have maintained our regular programme of events and networking opportunities, including the Annual Career Networking Event for over 100 students and alumni with a range of employer organisations - AON, Deloitte, Citi Bank, Inspire Selection, Hilti, Mace Macro, Manpower Group, Schindler, Ingersoll Rand, Analytics, Alliance Insurance, and Marriott International.

'Hacienda Classical' at Dubai Opera was a new departure for us and a showcase for the creative face of Manchester in Dubai - an

opportunity to help connect the local community with Manchester's vibrant cultural life through this unique musical experience, based around the influential and legendary Manchester nightclub, The Hacienda.

We are now looking forward to an exciting 12 months ahead, as the University continues to grow and develop in one of the most dynamic regions of the world, with the added excitement and anticipation of World Expo2020 - right here on our doorstep in Dubai. Our dynamic programme portfolio will expand and we have a pipeline of new programmes including part-time Master's courses from Alliance Manchester Business School and other schools at the University.

On behalf of the entire Middle East Centre team, I would like to thank all our students and alumni for your continued support and we look forward to another exciting 12 months of achievement together.

*Randa Bessiso  
Middle East Director  
The University of Manchester*



**Richard Screaton**  
**Deputy Director**  
**Alumni Engagement**

I was fortunate enough to travel to Dubai at the end of last year when I joined colleagues at our centre here to find out more about regional relationships with students and alumni, and to celebrate graduation with the class of 2018. I was struck by the huge enthusiasm for the University even from those who haven't had the opportunity to visit the Manchester campus. I felt tremendously proud to be part of this relationship, and also a sense of responsibility to ensure that our graduates are able to enjoy a valuable life-long relationship with the University, their classmates and the wider alumni network.

The strength of our alumni network depends on you and may even be one of the reasons you chose to study with us. We continue to make strides to offer our international graduates as rich a portfolio of opportunities as those who are UK-based. I'd be delighted for you to stay involved with us as you progress in your career. In June of this year we celebrated a 'Manchester Day of Action', where our alumni groups globally came together in support of our social responsibility agenda, and undertook volunteering work within their local communities.

Such programmes demonstrate the power that we have to as University as positive force for change. We were delighted when, earlier in the year, the Times Higher Education Supplement ranked Manchester top in Europe and in third in the world for our societal impact.

The alumni team are here to ensure that your relationship with the University continues after graduation, and to help you stay in touch with your classmates - please do keep your contact details up-to-date by registering with the Manchester network ([network.manchester.ac.uk](http://network.manchester.ac.uk)). Here, you can access a directory of your fellow alumni making it even easier to strengthen existing bonds and establish new ones.

I wish you all the best for post-graduation careers and I hope to meet as many of you as possible in the future.

Richard Screaton  
Deputy Director (Alumni Engagement), Division of Development and Alumni Relations,  
The University of Manchester



**Lisa Samberg**  
**Head of Alumni Relations**  
**(MBA/DBA)**

Think  
Alumni!

Alumni Relations continues to work hard to ensure that you are able to benefit from the vast alumni network you are a part of, and utilise our services to the full.

The popularity of our LinkedIn Group continues to grow with membership now standing at over 13,600 alumni, staff and students of Alliance MBS. The topical discussions continue to attract more of our experienced alumni to join, and we are seeing more and more register each day from across the globe.

For those of you who wish to become involved with the alumni community in Dubai, please do get in touch, as we always welcome new ideas and alumni who bring new and positive energy to the group.

The Manchester Network - the University of Manchester's online professional networking platform - provides you with further opportunity to expand your network regardless of whether you are a student or have graduated. This platform ([www.network.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.network.manchester.ac.uk)) enables you to both seek advice from experienced professionals and offer your expertise with little commitment.

I encourage you to stay involved with the School, and would be delighted to hear from you should you wish to offer your services as a mentor, speaker or ambassador in the region or if you have a placement within your workplace for an intern or graduating student.

Feel free to get in touch with me at any time should you have any questions.

Wishing you a wonderful evening celebrating your achievements.

Lisa Samberg  
Head, Alumni Relations (MBA/DBA)

## The value exchange: why hundreds of alumni remain involved with the School each year

The knowledge and skills that set you up in your career continue to prove invaluable throughout your professional journey. To enhance the student experience, we encourage alumni to impart the knowledge they have acquired with current classes, to further our shared vision of a world-class business school.

Each year, more of you choose to devote your support to getting involved in a range of student-centric initiatives.

### MENTORING

Volunteering as a mentor can help boost your own career by providing opportunities to communicate your professional expertise as well as offering others the benefit of your experience.

The University of Manchester Gold Mentoring scheme has developed into one of the largest Higher Education employability mentoring schemes in the UK. Highly praised by both recruiters and students, the programme provides excellent opportunities for students to meet with professionals from a wide range of sectors and industries.

### SPEAKING AT EVENTS

Speakers and contributors with relevant experience in industry, are crucial to the development of current students and the success of online and face-to-face events.

### SHARING YOUR EXPERIENCES AT ADMISSION TIME

There are many opportunities for you to help identify prospective students and participate in the recruitment process.

Whether representing AMBS at local fairs, interviewing potential candidates or responding to inquiries from prospective

students about your experience, your involvement can help influence the final decision making process.

### SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH PROJECTS AND RECRUITMENT

During your time at the School you experienced first-hand the quality of knowledge imparted from alumni to students - now it's your turn.

### ASSISTING WITH PROJECTS

By participating in AMBS projects, you will have access to our talented students, many of whom have work experience in global firms. Their course supervisors can help you to design and steer a world-class project that will offer long-lasting benefits.

### RECRUITMENT

Whether as part of a recruitment programme or arising from business requirements, job opportunities are promoted to our various student groups including, undergraduate, masters, MBA and research, by our Postgraduate Careers Service and the University Careers Service.

Advertising is completely free of charge, making it one of the most cost-effective recruitment methods.

*"The feeling of returning as an alumnus to speak at one of the oldest international business schools, takes some beating. The experience is challenging in the preparation, enjoyable in the delivery, and gives you a shot of intellectual oxygen."*

*Paul Ballington (Global MBA 2010)*

**For further information,  
please contact:**

**[alumnioffice@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alumnioffice@manchester.ac.uk)**



# *Alumni Ambassadors Awards 2019*

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**Mohamed Baguneid**

*Global Pathway  
January 2016 Cohort*

**Fawaz Baroud**

*Finance Pathway  
January 2013 Cohort*

**Lamya El Hamji**

*Global Pathway  
January 2015 Cohort*

**Abdullah Zaid Keilani**

*Engineering Pathway  
July 2016 Cohort*

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# Alumni Think

## **TRANSFORMING LIVES...**

**Our mission is to give everyone the opportunity to transform their lives and, in doing so, help them transform the organisations they work for and the wider communities in which they live.**

**Every alumnus has a unique and individual story of transformation - a story of personal, professional and life journeys; we invited Alumni to share their personal transformations with us.**

**These are some of their stories...**



***Rami Al Gamal***

Prior to joining the MBA program, I have been working in various project and engineering roles. As I grew in my career to Senior Project Manager, I realize there was a gap that needed to be filled when it came to progressing towards C-level roles. After speaking with several people and my senior management, I took the decision to pursue the MBA program to diversify my knowledge and education and up-skill my career path.

As I grew in my career, I knew that the MBA will add value to me academically and professionally but it also significantly increased my self-awareness, personal traits, as well as expanded my network. It is not often you get to share a room with professionals from various industry and cultural backgrounds all around the world. Furthermore, having traveled to various centres around the world for workshop, it gave me insights into business in other countries.

I am excited for what is to come next for me and thanks to the program, knowledge gained, and network developed, the next journey is much greater than what I initially had in mind!

Three words to describe my MBA journey: transforming, challenging, rewarding.



***Charlotte Frydenlund  
Michelsen***

I began my career in academia, with my goal set on leading my own research group. To get there, I earned a PhD and spent many years researching and contributing to the scientific field. However, as time went on an idea to switch career path, moving from academia to industry, started to develop. When my family and I decided to move to Dubai as part of my husband's job, I took the opportunity to apply for the MBA at AMBS, with the intention to strengthen my knowledge and skillset within leadership and business administration.

The MBA was for me challenging but at the same time rewarding. Challenging because it was a completely new field for me, so it required a lot of studying. The tight deadlines meant that I had to stay focused, as well as work hard as an individual and when collaborating in teams, setting priorities and managing my time effectively. It was rewarding by giving me not only the opportunity to boost my professional and personal development, but also to understand cultural diversity and how to value different perspectives.

I want to thank AMBS and all the people who have supported me along the way. I now have a clear strategy and the confidence to continue the path forward to pursue my new career goal.

Three words to describe my MBA journey: focus, hard work, people

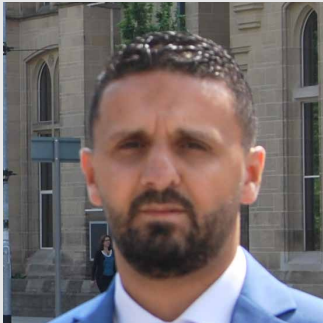


***Chibuze Eke***

I enrolled for the MBA while I was transitioning between jobs. My professional life has seen so many “ups” and what I choose to call “hibernations”. The ups include getting three promotions in three years, constant pay rise, unprecedented number of awards from my company and clients, solving complex problem for my customers and seeing my engineers and trainees excel.

The hibernations primarily involved being laid-off after being rated the best on the job just a few months earlier. This led to make the decision to study again and starting a job search. Sometimes setbacks are necessary to experience. Because it is in those moments, you will know the value of success and appreciate it. Today, my professional life is heading in the right direction. I am grateful to be starting a new job with ADNOC one week after my MBA graduation. I aim to live a relaxed lifestyle. There’s no such thing as work-life balance. There are work-life choices, and they have consequences. The ability to overcome obstacles and follow things through to completion has always been a strong point of mine, which is why I’ve managed to thrive in both my professional and personal life.

Three words to describe my MBA journey: professionalism, teamwork, respect.



***Daoud Chaitou***

The MBA gave me a great exposure to a wide network on a personal level as I have met people from different industries, which let me achieve a higher level of maturity, decision-making and problem solving. In addition, I developed my professional skills through implementing what I have learned in classes and workshops. Using the knowledge gained in my work environment from the usual daily routine before the MBA to a more challenging environment on daily basis. Overcoming challenges of balancing between work, study, and personal life was not easy. Nonetheless, it was also well worth every effort.

Quality teamwork and interaction was also a great value to me in this journey. I gained important insights from this experience, especially applying active listening methods and have collaborative open discussion during workshops; skills I still implement to my daily work with my team members.

Three words to describe my MBA journey: maturity, dedication, network.



***Dino Naidoo***

Prior to my work tenure in the UAE, I was involved in a major car accident in South Africa. I underwent a major surgery of the Fusion of the Lumbar Spine. Now they call me 'Iron Man' after I had titanium plates inserted into my back. I came to UAE to embark on a journey of finding myself. After the accident I realised that life could have ended in a split second and I asked myself what have I accomplished, what difference did I make to the world, as we all one day would like to leave a legacy behind.

The Global MBA with the Alliance Manchester Business School helped me to find myself and transform me into the leader and ambassador I choose to become. The MBA offered me numerous opportunities to network globally as I believe strongly that we are all piece of one universal puzzle scattered all over the world. The modules on the programme helped me enhance my abilities and find my hidden talents.

It was an amazing, memorable two and half year journey. Thank you for the opportunity.



***Muhammad Kashif Younus***

I moved to Dubai where I started my career in retail banking as a sales executive. After one year in Dubai, I moved to Qatar in 2008. I worked for two banks in Qatar for nine years. I am father to a daughter, I have two sisters and one brother who live in Pakistan; unfortunately, my other sister and father passed away in 2017, which left a huge gap in my personal life. These unfortunate events took place during my two-year study in the MBA, adding to the challenges of those years. With the support of family and friends, I was able to successfully complete my studies.

In 2018, I began fresh in my professional life by starting to work on small freelance projects as I thought to start my own business. The course of Entrepreneurship gave me great motivation to take this route in my professional life. Case studies, which I reviewed during the MBA, gave me a huge motivation and courage to work like an entrepreneur. I started a private consultation project, as well as teaching students of other universities and business schools as a private tutor. It turned out to be successful and for the last almost two years, I am still working as consultant and private tutor, in addition to other small ventures in Qatar. I am an honest and strong believer that the world is a vehicle for you. If you drive it, it will deliver you to your destination.

Three words to describe my MBA journey: motivation, inspiration, guidance.



**Laura Biclea**

I always knew I want to complete my studies and get an MBA. After a lot of research, I decided in 2016 that this was the right time and that Manchester Business School would be the best option as they offered me value and the flexibility I was looking for. I will never forget the many evenings and weekends doing research, preparing projects, studying businesses. The MBA journey managed to push me to limits I never thought existed. The results did not take long to show and soon after starting I got a promotion. Throughout the journey, the knowledge that I got has supported me to become the leader that I am today.

Not to mention the personal growth, mindset shift, the way I interact with people – I can definitely feel a big difference. Many people I meet ask me these questions: “Was it difficult from the social perspective; how did you manage work – study – life balance; is it worth the time and money?” To all of them my answer is always the same: an MBA is not for everyone, it takes a lot of hard work and sacrifices, personally and financially. You will learn to manage and balance things out in life and career.

For example, after a while you might find yourself enjoying studying and re-designing a strategy and process for your company rather than watching TV. It is an investment in yourself and your career, if you apply the learnings that you get, results will appear.



**Martyna Al-Qassab**

I enjoy a number of hobbies and as the former World Cup Champion in Taekwon-Do, my passion for competition has led me to most recent challenge being a race car driver in the BIC's 2000cc Championship, which till date I remain the only female driver to have reached a position on the podium in the history of Championship.

I have worked for over 12 years fulfilling my passion to help individuals develop their potential by building communities and organizations with the right structure to enable one to excel and strive to be the best that they can be. Being a Founder & Managing Director at Yalla Banat, I was able to connect women from all GCC countries on one platform and expose their success stories on a global arena. The idea of Yalla Banat came to me during the 2nd year of my MBA programme which was inspired by the final project requirements.

Summary of MBA programme:  
Insightful, Comprehensive, Inspirational



***Maysarah Abuseif***

I am a Jordanian national, based in Dubai, working as a finance professional since 2012. During the MBA, I changed companies and with the change to a new organization came a promotion to a Regional Financial Controller, covering the Middle East, South East Asia and Japan.

Manchester Business School has added a great value to my knowledge and career, the MBA was not all about theoretical and traditional way of learning; instead, it was led with practical workshops that demonstrated real life situations, such as negotiation skills and entrepreneurship.

Aside from the academic knowledge and learning, I have met great people from different backgrounds and industries and many of whom became friends. Being part of the alumni community is a rewarding and enjoyable part of the MBA journey.



***Amer Syed Mustafa***

The best form of success is when those around you feel the change in you transforming into more dynamic, confident and target oriented personality. Studying with Manchester Business School was an opportunity for me to learn not only the knowledge but also the behavior, confidence and becoming a target oriented person where I started taking every step or task in my life as an assignment.

The way Manchester have groomed me as person has reflected positively on numerous aspects of my life. The journey studying the MBA is not only about learning and getting the degree but also a complete shift of the mindset. Having the core knowledge of the field you work in is only one part from the bigger picture. Studying MBA was an important opportunity for me to learn and understand the business side of the ICT market, which eventually opened multiple opportunities for me to prove myself in new challenges at my work.

The experience gave me a unique strength of combining my previous experience of core technical ICT knowledge and information gained from the MBA, which helped me in being promoted to a role as a specialist in technical business development.



***Muhammad Tariq Shamim  
Durrani***

I inherited a dream from my mom to graduate from England. I started working on it in 2007 but gave up due to global economic crises. Relocating to UAE was a turning point in my life where I managed to invest on personal development. I set a vision for my life and to make my dream come true I enrolled into MBA from Manchester Business School. A big change that I observed at workplace was the admiration I received from my peers. My commitment towards learning motivated others to develop their interest to pursue for further education. By the time of graduation I got promoted to the COO position which helped me to focus on the organizational development and leading operations from the broader perspective. I later moved to Abbasi Group of Companies as the Group Chief Operating Officer where I work on corporate strategy and taking investment and portfolio decisions. I feel confident as a leader focusing on my vision to grab the opportunities before they become obvious by reaching the future first. MBA gave me further confidence to work on a couple of projects. One is a unique and disruptive innovation that will provide a dynamic global platform for the 3D printing solutions. The second project is a platform that will provide an ecosystem to connect charitable organizations and donors with the people engaged in the areas where that funding is required.

3 words to define my MBA Journey - Stimulating, Creative-thinking, Time-management.



***Khaled Kedr***

Since 2009, I was looking for an internationally reputable university in the Middle East region to join that would fit my work schedule and that would help me gain knowledge to have a better understanding of business management. I was fortunate to join the Manchester Business School, which was one of the best decisions I took in my career, for its very positive impact it had on it.

The wide knowledge I established from my study years in the MBA, helped me as an HR expert to understand the different aspects of management functions that were very interesting. The intensive studies and classes I took uncovered the importance and the great influence of the strategic role of HR and its essential role in supporting the business's success. My study years were very interesting, challenging and required a trade off on other social aspects, but the feeling I felt after graduation made me realize that it deserved all the efforts. MBA was not only a study journey; it is a life journey as it connected me with all alumni members all over the years regardless of my resident location.

Three words to describe my MBA journey: passion, challenge, network.





Think Alumni!

## Graduation November 2018

Held under the patronage of His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, The University of Manchester held its sixth MBA graduation for Middle East students of the University's business school.

The ceremony marked the graduation for 46 students at the only graduation conducted by the University outside the UK, attended by family and friends.

Of the new graduates, 34 students graduated with Merit or Distinction.

The Presiding Officer was Professor Sharon Clarke, Deputy Dean of Alliance Manchester Business School, and the ceremony was conducted in the presence of Dr. Abdulla Al Karam, Director General of the Knowledge & Human Development Authority, who also addressed the congregation: "We are proud to see the graduating cohort of Alliance Manchester Business School."

The commitment to create a culture of innovation and achievement is represented in the shared aspirations of the graduating class. Dubai continues to create new opportunities for students and young graduates as part of our commitment to create a world-class destination for higher education.





## Annual Students and Alumni Gala Dinner 2018

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre held its Annual Students and Alumni Gala Dinner, which took place on September 27 2018 at Mina A'salam in Madinat Jumeirah. The event attracted over 120 students, alumni, and guests, and was held in support of SOS Children's Villages International - the centre's charity partner for this year's Gala. Entertainment included a stand-up comedy show, games, awards, and dancing! The main sponsor for this year's Gala was General Motors.



## 'Women in Business Forum' with Dubai Future Accelerators

The Middle East Centre hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women in Business Forum, in partnership with Dubai Future Accelerators, which included a networking session and a highly interactive panel discussion on 'Women in Tech' for over 75 guests. The panel presented the business case for greater gender diversity and inclusion in today's workplace. With more women choosing an entrepreneurial career path, setting up their own businesses and climbing the corporate ladder, they are now getting into the decision making positions that will help that accelerate change.



## Annual Career Fair and Networking Event 2019

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Networking Event took place on March 25 at Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel. The event consisted of a panel discussion on Employability and Career Trends for 2019, with a networking session before and after. Our expert panelists came from Deloitte, Trane Ingersoll, and The University of Manchester South America Centre.

The event was attended by over a hundred students and alumni during workshops, from the region and visiting students from global centres.

Companies attended: Deloitte, Trane Ingersoll, Dell, Citi Bank, Marriott International, AON, MaceMacro, Hilti, Inspire Selection, Manpower, Analytics, Schindler, Alliance Insurance, Dubai Technology Partners.



# Careers and Alumni Events 2018

## Salary Negotiations Workshop with Professor Malcolm Smith



## Alumni Events in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait



# Careers and Alumni Events 2018

## Career Workshop on Emotional Intelligence



## Alumni Social Gatherings





## Social Responsibility Initiatives 2018 / 2019

### Middle East Centre highlights Social Responsibility activities - Ramadan 2019

The Holy Month of Ramadan is a special time of year in the Middle East (and around the world) and it brings a change of pace for even the busiest of working lives, with reduced working hours, daylight fasting, and time devoted to prayer and reflection. Ramadan is also a family occasion and many people spend more time at the family home or with family members, during the Holy Month, which ends with the Eid holiday celebrations. The spirit of generosity embraces charitable giving and consideration for others as part of Ramadan and this provides the opportunity for the Middle East Centre in Dubai to join with community activities along with Ramadan-related social occasions for students and alumni.

**Red Crescent** – a volunteer team from the Middle East Centre worked with the Red Crescent to pack complimentary Iftar boxes (the meal that breaks the daily fast) for labourers and workers in Dubai.



**Ramadan fridges** - an initiative to position fridges in public spaces around Dubai during Ramadan, to provide food for the needy, is being supported by the centre and stocked by volunteers from the team.



**SOS Gala Suhoor** – the Middle East Centre was a partner and sponsor to the Gala Suhoor (evening meal) occasion organised by SOS Children's Villages, in Dubai, to highlight the work of the charity in providing dedicated family support for children without access to parental care, and to raise funds.



**In the spirit of Ramadan**, the centre team organised the annual Ramadan gathering for students and alumni in Dubai, attended by over 60 guests who also made generous donations to the Red Crescent during the event.



## Social Responsibility Initiatives 2018 / 2019



### Dubai Standard Chartered Marathon

On January 25, 2019 the University of Manchester Middle East Centre students, alumni, staff, and friends participated in the 2019 Standard Chartered Dubai Marathon! This was a great way for our centre to kick off our Social Responsibility initiatives for the year.

### Dubai Cares "Walk for Education" 2019

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre staff, students, and alumni took part in the walk, which was in support of the 'Year of Tolerance'.



### 'We Walk'

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre staff, students, and alumni took part in 'The Walk' by TECOM, an annual walkathon representing people from all walks of life, aiming to give back to society while also adhering to objectives set in the UAE National Agenda and Vision 2021.

## UAEpreneurs Initiative

On March 6, 2019 the University of Manchester Middle East Centre supported, as a knowledge partner, Innovest ME - business incubator which helps start-ups and SMEs launch and scale up - during their Investor Day Event 2019. This was a milestone event of UAEpreneur Initiative, by Innovest ME, which is a platform that brings highly potential start-ups in front of angel investors and start-up eco system partners. UAEpreneur attracted interest and applications from start-ups in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and the UAE and out of close to 100 start-ups screened for this initiative, just 13 were selected to pitch at this event. Most of the start-ups are digital businesses targeting the b2b and b2c sectors. Start-ups that participated included **AlSaree3** – an online delivery app; **CharterClick** – a real time online yacht charter-booking platform; **Dakakenna** – an e-commerce platform; **Fittpass** – an online fitness marketplace; **Foorera** – an innovative cloud based platform for car-pooling; **Localyser** – a review management web application; **Mix&Muesli** – tailored made muesli mix; **Teacher's Hub** – an educational recruitment platform connecting schools and teachers; **Trift** – a marketplace of trips designed by travelers; **Tripdizer** – a travel tech start-up offering personalized itineraries; **WeDeliver** – crowdsourced "on-the-way" delivery service for businesses; **Xpence** – neobank designed by entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs; **Yanzo** – conversational commerce platform.

This event was organized by our MBA alumni Moatassem Moatez who is a Business Partner at Innovest ME. The event also showcased one of our other MBA alumni - Saad Ansari and his startup idea Xpenceapp.



## Best MBA Programme at the Forbes Middle East Higher Education Awards 2019



## Middle East Director ranked by Forbes among the region's Most Influential Women 2018

Randa Bessiso, Founding Director of The University of Manchester Middle East Centre in Dubai, has been named amongst the Forbes list of the Middle East's Most Influential Women for 2018. Ms. Bessiso was previously recognised by Forbes in the 2014-15-16-17 annual lists of the Middle East's Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen.

The Forbes 2018 list recognizes the achievement and contributions made by women in leadership positions in business and the public sector, and also includes expatriate women. The list comprises 100 executives and businesswomen, and 10 women leading government departments in the region.



## The University of Manchester Middle East Centre is excited to announce the recently signed partnership with the below companies.

New collaborations have been a consistent theme this year, including new partnerships with Dubai Police, Aon, Dubai Technology Partners, and UAEpreneur.



Aon is a leading global professional services firm providing a broad range of risk, retirement and health solutions, with a network of over 500 organisations in the region. The university is also the exclusive knowledge partner for Aon's annual Best Employers Middle East study.



Dubai Technology Partners LLC is the region's leading business consultancy and systems integrator for the aviation industry. DTP has been working with leading aviation organizations, such as Dubai Airports and Abu Dhabi Airports, for the last 14 years, accumulating extensive experience in the aviation industry. It is part of Al Mansoori Group, which includes 10 other companies.



EITC (Emirates Integrated Telecommunications Company – the holding company behind Du) signed a Memorandum of Understanding through which the two organisations collaborate on talent and career development opportunities for EITC with a focus on leadership and management development.



The university has joined the ESAAD loyalty programme for Dubai Police staff and family members - around 30,000 members of Dubai Police, plus other staff (as many as 300,000) at Dubai and UAE government entities, who are predominantly UAE nationals. ESAAD aims to enhance the quality of life and engagement for employees of Dubai Police and their families.

## Message from the Middle East Centre Team

To all our students and alumni,

The annual student and alumni gala dinner is our way of celebrating your success and achievements! At this social gathering we acknowledge the contributions you have made towards the University of Manchester, its Middle East centre and the community as a whole. This is also an opportunity for us to welcome the new students that have become a part of the University of Manchester's student body over the last 12 months.

This year, the Middle East Centre also welcomes new members to our team. We are delighted to welcome two new joiners for our Marketing and Recruitment Department - William Walsh as a Programme Counsellor, and Remy Matias as a Senior Programme Counsellor.

We are pleased that the Middle East Centre continues to be the largest and fastest growing in the university's international network and the reason for this is the quality of our students and alumni, and the diversity of our community, which is an added strength.

Thank you for your continuous support and commitment to the University of Manchester!



## Gala Dinner Sponsors

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