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# The University of Manchester Middle East Centre



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# The University of Manchester Middle East Centre



Randa Bessiso, Founding Director with some of the Middle East Centre team members

Since launching in 2006, The University of Manchester Middle East Centre in Dubai has supported and graduated thousands of part-time master's students - all working professionals - from across the Middle East. The Centre has developed into the largest and fastest-growing in the University's international network comprising five hubs in key business cities around the world - Manchester, Hong Kong, Singapore, Shanghai, and Dubai. It is also the most diverse, with students of over 105 nationalities and a strong representation of female students.

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## The University of Manchester Middle East Centre

Transforming careers in a  
transforming region

"We believe in the transformative power of education. Since 2006, The University of Manchester Middle East Centre has been making a difference to the careers and lives of thousands of working professionals – women and men of many diverse cultures – through our flexible learning, part-time masters' programmes. Our aim is to do much more than teach – we work in a wide range of partnerships and collaborations across the region and our social responsibility programmes helps connect and inspire our growing community, while helping others. It is what we call our 'Manchester-ness' – a practical determination to making a real impact."

### **Randa Bessiso, Founding Director**

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre

**Ranked No.2 in the world  
for the quality and scale  
of impact against the  
UN's Sustainable  
Development Goals  
(SDGs)**

## The University of Manchester

The University of Manchester is one of the world's leading universities and a member of the UK's Russell Group of elite research universities. The University of Manchester is ranked as the world's 32nd best university in the QS World University Rankings, 6th in the UK, 8th in Europe, and is ranked number 2 in the world for the quality and scale of impact against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the world's call to action on the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing humanity and the natural world. Manchester is among the largest single-site universities in the UK, with one of the biggest student communities - Manchester graduates continue to be in demand among leading employers.

The University is now well underway with one of the biggest investments in facilities undertaken by any UK university. This 10-year plan will transform the campus and create world-class facilities for staff, students and visitors in support of the University's global ambition. The three core goals are research and discovery, teaching and learning, and social responsibility, with people - staff and students - and values at the heart of the plan, which is underpinned by the themes of innovation, civic engagement, and global influence.

The University of Manchester is one of the UK's largest single-site universities with more than 48,000 students on campus – including more than 10,000 international students. The University is consistently ranked among the world's elite institutions for graduate employability and world-class research across a diverse range of fields including cancer, advanced materials, global inequalities, energy and industrial biotechnology.



## A rich heritage of ideas and innovation

The University of Manchester has a rich academic heritage, with 25 Nobel laureates among our current and former staff and students. Manchester was the birthplace of the nuclear age, with pioneering research leading to the splitting of the atom. The computer revolution started in Manchester when a machine known affectionately as 'The Baby', ran its first stored program. It was at the University that an economist and logician formulated the principles of modern economics, and it was at our Jodrell Bank site in Cheshire that the young physicist and radio astronomer built the world's largest steerable radio telescope. Great traditions have also flourished in theology, architecture, mathematics, music, law and many other areas. Many of our current academic staff are world-leaders in their fields.

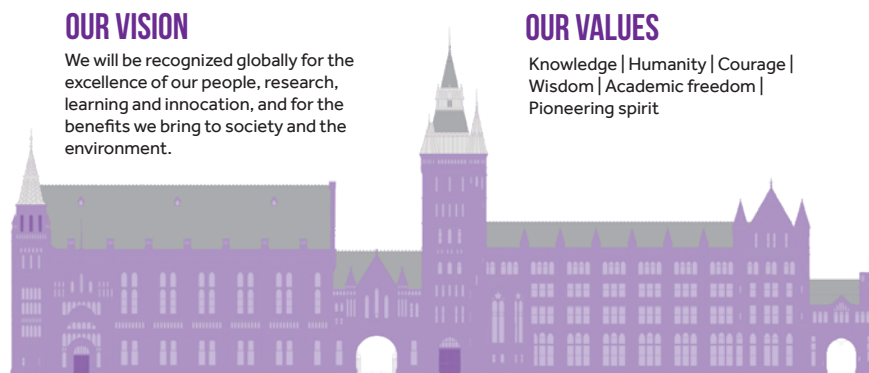
The University of Manchester's position as a research powerhouse has been confirmed in the results of 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF – the system for assessing research quality in UK institutions). Manchester retained fifth place for research power and overall, 93% of the University's research activity was assessed as 'world-leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent' (3\*). We are in the top three nationally for nine subjects.

Social responsibility underpins research activity at Manchester, and we combine expertise across disciplines to deliver pioneering solutions to the world's most urgent problems. We are ranked as one of the top ten universities in the world for delivering against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (Times Higher Education Impact Rankings) and our research impact showcase includes examples of the positive impact we've made across culture and creativity, economic development and inequalities, health and wellbeing, innovation and commercialisation, and sustainability and climate change.

The REF exercise also evaluated the University's work to provide a creative, ambitious and supportive research environment, in which researchers at every career stage can develop and thrive as leaders in their chosen field. In this category, the University achieved a result of 99% 'internationally excellent' or 'world-leading', making it one of the best places in the UK to build a research career.

**As a transnational education provider, the University has a mission with a focus on three main elements – teaching, research and social responsibility.**

The University aims to make a positive impact across all three elements wherever it works across the world, including in the UAE, where the decision to establish the Middle East Centre in Dubai was straightforward, given its regional business hub status.



**OUR VISION**  
We will be recognized globally for the excellence of our people, research, learning and innovation, and for the benefits we bring to society and the environment.

**OUR VALUES**  
Knowledge | Humanity | Courage |  
Wisdom | Academic freedom |  
Pioneering spirit

**48,000**  
students across undergraduate, masters', and research

**13,000**  
staff across academia and professional services.

### OUR PEOPLE

**500,000**

alumni in more than 190 countries.

Notable alumni include:



Simon Armitage CBE  
UK Poet Laureate



Vincent Kompany  
Footballer and entrepreneur



Benedict Cumberbatch CBE  
British actor



Dr. Winnie Byanyima  
Executive Director of UNAIDS

# Manchester world class research with real-world impact

**The University of Manchester is a powerhouse of research and is ranked among the leading research universities globally (top ten for social and environmental impact, Times Higher Education, 2023).**

Research is at the heart of our heritage, our present and our vision for the future. Our discoveries have shaped the world today, from the development of the first stored-program computer to the establishment of modern economic theory. We bring the world's best people together, combining expertise from across disciplines to understand and find new solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems.

The University of Manchester retained 5th place for research power1 - the quality and scale of research and impact - in the UK government's Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, the major national exercise to evaluate research activity. Manchester made one of the largest and broadest REF submissions in the UK, entering 2,249 eligible researchers across 31 subject areas.

Overall, 93% of the University's research activity was assessed as 'world-leading' (4\*) or 'internationally excellent'.

Researchers from the University consistently make an important contribution to solving the world's most urgent problems, with the University ranking 2nd in the world for delivering against the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Examples of this impact highlighted in the REF include improving cancer treatment, reducing carbon emissions from shipping and aviation and shaping international development policy to reduce poverty.

Many of these case studies provide examples of how The University of Manchester research has made a positive contribution to society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment, quality of life and the economy – with benefits felt beyond academia.

The University of Manchester's research beacons are examples of pioneering discoveries, interdisciplinary collaboration and cross-sector partnerships that are tackling some of the biggest questions facing the planet.



**Ranked in the  
TOP 10**  
for social and  
environmental impact.  
Times Higher Education  
2023





## The Middle East Centre

### Supporting working professionals

The University of Manchester has helped pioneer access to global business education in the Middle East with the introduction of the **Global Part-time MBA for working professionals**, bringing a top faculty-led MBA programme within easy, flexible and convenient reach for working professionals looking to accelerate their careers or become entrepreneurs, executives moving into new roles or international assignments, or working mothers transitioning back into the workplace, all supported by the dedicated team at the permanent regional centre.

**The key milestone for the Centre was in 2017, when it was renamed The University of Manchester Middle East Centre** (for the first 10 years, the centre was part of Alliance Manchester Business School). The change reflected the growing significance and opportunities of the region for the University and reaffirmed the decision to establish the centre in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, as it transformed into a world class regional and international hub for business and finance.

#### North Africa

- Algeria
- Comoros
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- Libya
- Mauritania
- Morocco
- Sudan
- Tunisia

#### South Asia

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- India
- Pakistan

#### Middle East

- UAE
- Bahrain
- Iran
- Iraq
- Jordan
- Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Qatar



Today, The Middle East Centre represents the University's entire range of activities in the region and manages a dynamic portfolio of faculty-led, part-time flexible learning master's programmes for working professionals and short business courses for executives.

This currently comprises of:

- Three MBA options:  
Global Part-time MBA,  
Manchester Global Finance Accelerated MBA,  
Global Executive MBA
- MA Educational Leadership in Practice
- MSc Financial Management
- Executive Education

All these learning experiences include a significant amount of time in face to face workshops or course conferences, all led by faculty. Many of the higher education programmes now offered in the UAE are more closely linked to the potential career opportunities in the country and region, as the regional economy undergoes rapid transformation.

The Middle East Centre has also run several open Executive Education management programmes for qualified professionals in the region, and also conducted the first research in the GCC market for executive education, together with Dubai International Academic City. The Centre continues to monitor/assess the region for future opportunities and demand for short executive education programmes, with the support of the campus-based team and also in discussion with corporate partners.

The Centre has supported around 3,400 part-time students based in the region and has graduated close to 2,300 MBA students since opening in 2006 and supports a regional community of around 5,000 alumni – all current and former students. The Centre enrolls around 200 new students each year across all its programmes – of which approximately 30% or more are female executives and 50% of all students reside in the UAE.



**3,400**  
Part-time students



**200**  
New students  
each year

**5,000+**  
Alumni in the region



Graduated close to  
**2,300**  
MBA students  
since opening in 2006



**50%**  
Of all students  
reside in the UAE



**30% +**  
are professional  
female executives

Today, the Middle East Centre is an acknowledged UK higher education success story in the region and actively engages its part-time master's students and alumni, through an intense networking outreach and social programme. The regional team has ensured the continuity of study and learning experience, growing online engagement with the regional community of students and alumni, introducing students to 'hybrid workshops' – a Middle East innovation – and even growing the programme portfolio while still continuing to support social causes.



## Faculty-led flexible learning

Our faculty-led programmes bring our top academics to the region, as they lead the regular face to face student workshops hosted in Dubai, giving part-time students the same access to high quality faculty as on campus. Academics speak very highly of the quality and diversity of students supported at the Middle East Centre. In fact, many students from other centres within the University's network also choose to attend workshops in Dubai, because of the opportunity to network with our regional students and to explore the attractions and opportunities of this dynamic, world class smart city, the UAE and region.

## Learning experience for the real world

The faculty-led academic programme brings its own opportunities and demands but the flexible learning format ensures a high degree of face-to-face contact not only with faculty but also with fellow students. When you consider that on average, half of the Global Part-time MBA students in the Middle East bring 20 years (or more) of work experience to the cohort from a range of industries (from construction to ICT to banking & Finance and consulting) and experience of working across the region, then the real impact of group projects and workshops becomes very clear. Many of the students are already in senior roles, or starting their own companies, and already hold a master's degree. Students from the Middle East are also strong academic performers – almost 61% of graduates are awarded the Manchester MBA with distinction or merit.



## Counselling

Personal support for the learning journey

The Middle East Centre team of student advisors (every new student is assigned a personal advisor) ensures that every student has access to pre-programme materials designed to help overcome any concerns so students can make a fast and confident start to their part-time master's programme. Advisors support students throughout their learning journey and ensure students stay on track for success and are also there to advise when life and work may become a barrier to studying. These team members are highly experienced counsellors who have helped guide students through every personal and professional life-changing event imaginable, helped by the flexible nature of the learning format.

**61% of graduates are awarded the Manchester MBA with distinction or merit.**



## Preparing working professionals for the classroom

The University of Manchester has pioneered business education in the Middle East all supported by the team at the permanent regional centre. Every one of these students has an inspiring personal story to tell and many of these stories are about transformation and this is important – a part-time master's is a life and career changing experience. It's also a demanding and rigorous academic programme and it is important to help busy working professionals who may be coming back to the classroom after a break of many years to prepare. The Middle East Centre runs preparation courses to help new students adjust and make a strong and confident start to their learning journey.

## Career planning for success

All part-time master's students automatically join the regional alumni groups and enjoy access to the regional and global alumni community, with all the networking and other opportunities that come with it. The Middle East Centre also provides career services for students and alumni and these focus on career planning, job search and personal branding and presentation skills.

The Centre's team of qualified coaches is also supplemented by the Careers Consultants at Alliance Manchester Business School on campus in Manchester who also visit the region to host events in person or online. These valuable services help students and alumni to define the personal value proposition both for the external job market and also for internal promotion opportunities within the current employer organisation.

The sessions are designed to help clarify career ambitions, and how to identify and target potential new opportunities, providing insights and tips on how to develop job search / career planning strategies through networking (amongst other techniques) that can then be proactively implemented with success. The team has been involved in managing careers activities and working closely with students and alumni to ensure they are able to get the best out of their careers and and maximise potential job search and career planning opportunities during their studies.





## Careers services

Dedicated careers support is an important part of ongoing alumni engagement and includes opportunities for group and 1-2-1 sessions focusing on areas such as career planning, CV writing and interview preparation, and online professional networking including personal branding. The team also organises regular careers events such as the Annual Women In Business Forum, which brings together senior female executives (including students and alumni) to share workplace experiences and insights and to enjoy the networking opportunities. There are also opportunities to meet the University's corporate partners at events such as The Annual Career Networking Event and attend briefings on various industries, such as professional services and consulting, helping alumni connect with potential employers.

## Alumni relations

The campus-based Alumni Relations team is dedicated to developing and implementing relations activity across the alumni network of over 60,000 individuals across 176 countries – high performing individuals all around the world, including the Middle East. Alumni engagement takes a variety of forms and in the Middle East, country-based alumni groups across the region maintain local networking with the help and support of the Middle East Centre in Dubai. The Centre also manages an extensive outreach and engagement programme of faculty-led masterclasses, careers and other events and social networking opportunities for the 5,000 alumni based in the region.



## Lifelong relationships

Our aim is to support the community and provide a very rich and rewarding learning experience for students, and lifelong relationships with graduates. Learning is also a social and bonding experience, and many students and alumni are lifelong friends of the Centre and University.

Many of our earliest students are still closely connected to the University in the region and some have gone on to become Ambassadors, Adjunct Faculty and Teaching Assistants on the Global Part-time MBA, reflecting the quality of our students and the progress they have made since graduating. It's very gratifying that today, many of our new students join us following a referral or recommendation from an alumnus. At Manchester we're proud to have the largest alumni community of any campus-based university in the UK, with more than 500,000 graduates in more than 190 countries around the world.

## Partnering for success

The Middle East Centre has consistently focused on partnerships in the region and established a network of collaborations across the region through Strategic Talent Partnerships with local and international companies (such as Dubai Islamic, Saja Pharmaceuticals, General Motors) and professional bodies, including accountancy bodies, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Chartered Institute of Professional Development, and high profile local organisations such as Dubai Women Business Council, and Dubai Police. All the partnerships help enrich the learning experience for students and help create networking, career and other opportunities for alumni.

The Centre has also worked in collaborations with government and other organisations on projects ranging from the 'Manchester Innovation Award for Emiratis', to research into the opportunities for regional executive education, research into perceptions of creativity and innovation in Dubai Government, and a Covid-19 Recovery Report on the UAE produced in collaboration with Oxford Business Group.



Mangrove tree planting activity with Professor Kenneth McPhail

## Socially responsible

The Centre actively supports the University's three pillars of learning, research and social responsibility and for the Middle East Centre's 15th anniversary, the team developed a range of 15 social responsibility activities, including support for the Dubai Cares' 'Adopt a School' initiative to build a school in Nepal to provide children with access to education where they can learn and flourish. Since its launch in 2006, the Middle East Centre has actively supported charitable organisations and other social initiatives. Find out more at [www.manchester.ac.ae/social-responsibility](http://www.manchester.ac.ae/social-responsibility)

"Building a school for young children is one of the most important steps we can take to ensure a strong future for not only the next generation but the whole of humanity. Our 'Adopt a School' initiative helps provide a safe learning environment for underprivileged children from around the world who would otherwise suffer the consequences of circumstances that are beyond their control. We are thankful to The University of Manchester and all its donors for coming forward in support of this important initiative and contributing towards the educational empowerment of thousands of children in Nepal. Our hope is that more and more institutions and individuals will join us in this endeavour and make easy access to quality education a universal reality."

### His Excellency Dr. Tariq Al Gurg

Chief Executive Officer and Vice-Chairman of Dubai Cares

"We believe in the transformative power of education and social responsibility is one of the three pillars of the University's mission, along with teaching and research, so the 'Adopt a School' project is a very natural fit for us and an extension of our existing relationship with Dubai Cares.

Our aim is to make a difference and an impact through our work and this project has really excited our regional community of students and alumni, which has generously donated funds towards making this school a reality in improving the lives and life opportunities of these children. Our 15th anniversary included a programme of 15 social responsibility projects and the 'Adopt a School' initiative has allowed all our community to be involved."

### Randa Bessiso

Middle East Director at The University of Manchester



The University of Manchester Middle East Centre team along with the Dubai Cares team at the 'Adopt a School' initiative event



Plant-a-tree initiative - 15 trees were planted in Dubai International Academic City in the presence of Professor Fiona Devine CBE, Dean of Alliance Manchester Business School, staff members and alumni ambassadors, to mark the 15th anniversary of the Centre.



The Dubai Turtle Rehabilitation Project - rescuing injured turtles and providing medical care



## Social responsibility suhoor

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre chose to mark the Holy Month of Ramadan by celebrating the gift of giving with a Suhoor dinner gathering in the presence of students, alumni, families and friends, and staff of the University, alongside the Centre's social responsibility partners. All the partners were able to present their distinctive contributions to the community and guests were invited to join and support their efforts through the University partnerships, or directly. It was a remarkable evening during which guests learned more about social responsibility, the transformational impact it can make on people's lives (both recipients and providers of support) and they even heard the personal stories from some of those who have benefitted.

The Middle East Centre took the opportunity to highlight the latest regional social responsibility collaborations while tracing others back to 2021 when the Centre celebrated its 15th anniversary and launched its '15 for 15' campaign (15 social responsibility activities for the 15 years of the Centre's existence). The Centre's 2024 Ramadan initiatives were presented as a chance to donate and volunteer and specifically to support The Iftar Project with Beit Al-Khair Society; Eid clothing initiative for children in need with Emirates Red Crescent; Gaza in our Hearts with Dubai Cares; the Ramadan Mir project with Emirates Red Crescent; 200 Iftar meals distribution at the Jebel Ali labour camp; and a visit to Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs.

The audience heard about Make a Wish Foundation in Saudi Arabia for children with critical illness - it is run by CEO, Dr Tariq Alhogbani who is currently studying in the Manchester Global Executive MBA programme, The Sparkle Foundation's work to support and educate children in Malawi, Al Noor Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities, and Senses Residential and Day Care for Special Needs. In addition, 5 students from the Maria Conceicao Foundation, a foundation which extends crucial support to families and children in Bangladesh, shared their stories of how the foundation helped them. From the stage, the group shared their experiences and the impact the Foundation - and Maria personally - had made on their lives. Lastly, Rajesh Garg - Group CFO and Chief Sustainability Officer at the Landmark Group and The University of Manchester Middle East Centre's Alumnus presented how corporates can further sustainable practises.



The Sparkle Foundation's team presenting the work they do to support and educate children in Malawi



Students from the Maria Conceicao Foundation along with Randa Bessiso and Hiba Abbassi



Team from Al Noor Training Centre for Persons with Disabilities at the Suhoor gathering





## Visits from senior leadership

**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, Professor Fiona Devine, Nazir Afzal OBE, Professor Luke Georghiou**

**Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell** the former President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester, visited UAE for the first time, leading a University team that focused on ongoing and potential future research and other collaborations with UAE institutions. The delegation included the University's leaders in international relations, strategic partnerships, and the CEO of Graphene@Manchester.

In Abu Dhabi, the delegation met with senior representatives from the Ministry of Education, Khalifa University, Mubadala and New York University. In Dubai, the team met the British University in Dubai (BUiD), Knowledge & Human Development Authority (KHDA), Dubai International Academic City, social responsibility partner - Dubai Cares, staff at the University's Centre and senior alumni. The delegation also visited UAE cultural destinations, participated in a social responsibility activity and joined staff, students and alumni at the Annual Gala Dinner.

The University of Manchester is already collaborating with Khalifa University on the applications of graphene, the revolutionary advanced material first isolated in Manchester and which has the potential to deliver transformational technologies and help address some of the world's key challenges, from clean drinking water to supporting a circular 'green economy'. Academic and industry partnerships are critical to successful research, teaching and innovation, and the UAE is making a major impact through the graphene development work with Khalifa University and the Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre, supported by Masdar. The delegation met with Khalifa University's leadership committee and toured the Abu Dhabi campus.



The University of Manchester Middle East Centre leadership team along with the leadership team of Khalifa University



Some of the UAE's most prominent landmarks and cultural destinations were on the itinerary of the visiting delegation from Manchester, led by Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President & Vice-Chancellor. These included the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, The Museum of the Future, and Sheikh Mohammed Centre for Cultural Understanding (SMCCU) in Dubai, where the delegation enjoyed orientation tours and briefings, together with University alumni. They were able to learn more about the UAE and the role of culture in promoting coexistence and tolerance, and explore various elements of Islamic art, culture, and architecture, Emirati history, traditions and cuisine – and the future.



The Manchester delegation was especially interested in visiting a social responsibility partner of the Middle East Centre, along with staff, students and alumni. The visiting group was hosted by Emirates Marine Environmental Group (EMEG) and joined an activity to plant young mangroves, giving everyone the chance to get their hands dirty. EMEG is an NGO working on marine wildlife conservation in the UAE with a mission to protect marine wildlife populations and advance research, education and conservation of UAE marine ecosystems. Mangroves grow in saltwater and are an important part of the UAE's ecosystem, protecting coastlines and coral reefs from erosion, providing a breeding ground for various fish species, and aid in removing carbon dioxide from the earth's atmosphere.

Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell along with The University of Manchester Middle East Centre team, students, and alumni at Emirates Marine Environmental Group



The Annual Student and Alumni Dinner 2022 adopted the theme of 'making an impact' and was the first face to face gala since 2019. Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell, President and Vice-Chancellor, was guest of honour and highlighted the valuable role played by students and alumni in the region, as part of the University family. Guests were able to enjoy speakers including James Baker, CEO of Graphene@Manchester, Rob Willock, Director of The Economist Corporate Network in Dubai, and Elie Habib, Co-Founder and CTO of Anghami. Other highlights of the evening included a series of 'I AM IMPACTFUL' video messages from students and alumni, and the announcement of the fundraising success for the Dubai Cares' Adopt a School programme.



The Annual Students and Alumni Gala Dinner 2022



Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell at the Annual Students and Alumni Gala Dinner 2022



Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell signing the 3D plaque of the University crest

The Manchester delegation visited the Middle East Centre to meet staff and commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Centre. Dame Nancy Rothwell unveiled and signed a 3D plaque of the University crest and congratulated Middle East Director Randa Bessiso and her team on their success in growing and supporting a vibrant regional community of students and alumni. Dame Nancy Rothwell said: "Personal contact is so important and I have been enormously impressed by the warmth and openness of the people in the UAE and interest in our University. We found strong mutual interests in addressing the world's major challenges. Our visit has opened new opportunities for further collaborations, building on the work of our very successful Middle East Centre and a very engaged regional community of students and alumni."



The Middle East Centre team along with Professor Dame Nancy at the unveiling and signing ceremony



His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence in the UAE and Fiona Devine, Head of Alliance Manchester Business School and Professor of Sociology at The University of Manchester.

## Visit from The Chancellor - Nazir Afzal OBE



Nazir Afzal OBE with members of the student and alumni community, and the Centre team

The calendar  
of events can be  
found at

[www.manchester.ac.ae/  
events](http://www.manchester.ac.ae/events)

The Chancellor of the University of Manchester - **Nazir Afzal OBE** visited the Middle East Centre for the first time and joined for a lunch with members of the student and alumni community, and the Centre team in December 2023.

The Chancellor - the University's ceremonial head and one of its most prominent ambassadors - is involved in activities which promote the University to the wider community and plays a key part in some of the University's important business. These duties include presiding over meetings of the General Assembly and over congregations of the University for the conferment of degrees. At Manchester, the post is held for seven years.

The Chancellor is elected by members of the General Assembly and the Alumni Association, together with all University staff eligible to hold superannuable appointments.

## Visit from The Deputy President and Deputy Vice Chancellor - Luke Georghiou



Professor Luke Georghiou along with students, alumni and the Middle East Centre team

The Middle East Centre was delighted to welcome **Professor Luke Georghiou** - Deputy President and Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Manchester – on his first visit to Dubai, recently. The visit coincided with Global MBA workshops hosted by the Centre and he was able to see academics and students in action, as well as meet Centre staff, student representatives, GEMBA students, Alumni Ambassadors, Teaching Associates and local faculty, during an intensive day's schedule. During his visit, Professor Georghiou spoke about the University's internationalisation strategy, executive education, bicentenary celebrations and the university's relationships and collaborations in the Middle East, including the potential for research.

In his role, Professor Georghiou provides support for the President and Vice Chancellor (Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell) and also has direct responsibility for innovation and internationalisation – including the international centres. Dubai was his first stop on a visit to the University's network, which also took him to the Centres in Singapore and Hong Kong. On his first impressions of Dubai, he said: "I have been to Dubai airport many times but coming outside, it's obviously a very impressive place architecturally. It's incredible and so very dynamic."



## Bicentenary celebration at the Middle East Centre

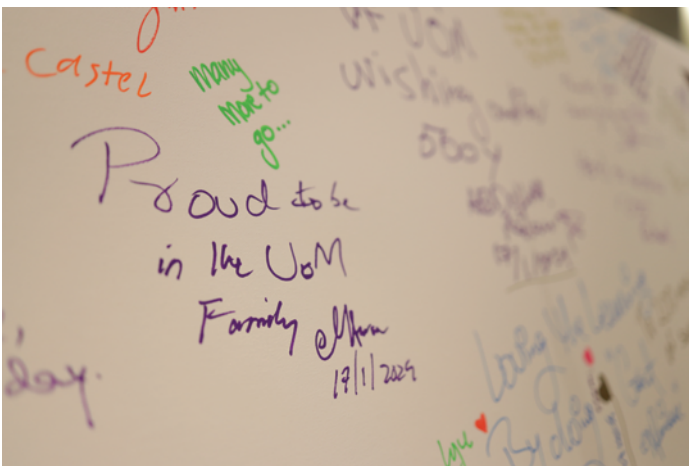
The University of Manchester's bicentenary kicked off in style with a 'Light Up' event at the Middle East Centre in Dubai Knowledge Park on January 17th, 2024.

Our iconic purple illuminated the night sky, symbolising our illustrious journey since 1824. Led by our Middle East Director, Randa Bessiso, and graced by Richard Cotton, Head of International Development, and Dr. Naji Almahdi, Chief of Qualifications and Awards at the Knowledge & Human Development Authority,

the event was a testament to our rich legacy and global community. The Light Up Celebration event at Dubai Knowledge Park Conference Centre featured a very interactive evening programme of activities reflecting on the University's history, present and future, through performance, food, games and prizes. Students, alumni and `ambassadors turned out in strength, along with families and friends, to join the celebrations and ensured a party atmosphere.



Richard Cotton, Dr Naji Almahdi, and Randa Bessiso at the Light Up celebration event



Speaking at the Dubai Light Up event, Randa Bessiso said: "2024 marks a very special year for The University of Manchester as we celebrate our bicentenary – and 18 years in the Middle East. We're spearheading change, addressing our planet's greatest challenges, and making a difference in Manchester, the UK and beyond – including here in the UAE and the Middle East. For two centuries, we have collaborated, encouraged and inspired each other to make an impact on an international stage, highlighted by the 25 Nobel Prize winners associated with the University. And we continue doing it today through our commitment to world class teaching/learning, research and social responsibility."

Following the Light Up events, the celebrations will continue through 2024 with the launch of a bicentenary lecture podcast series, with special guests discussing subjects to which the University is committed, and through which it continues making a difference, such as health, the environment, community and education.

Join us as we continue to write the next chapter of our extraordinary story together.



# Milestones

## 2006

The Middle East Centre launches at Dubai Knowledge Village with a press conference hosted by TECOM and supported by the British Embassy in Dubai, with the presence of HM Consul General.

The Centre welcomes first regional cohort of 20 Global Part-time MBA students.

## 2007

Students and staff gather in Dubai Knowledge Village to celebrate the first anniversary of the Middle East Centre.

## 2009

Middle East Centre launches the Manchester Innovation Award for Emiratis to encourage and support young Emirati entrepreneurs.



## 2010

The Middle East Centre marks key enrolment milestone of 1,000 part-time MBA students in the region.

Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) and Middle East Centre launch GCC-wide Survey on Executive Education.

## 2011

The Middle East Centre partners with the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) to promote higher and professional education, research, and professional networking.

Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) and Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) publish and present new original research into the GCC market for executive education.

## 2012

The Middle East Centre launches faculty-led Masterclass series across the Middle East, free and open to the business community.

Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) and the Middle East Centre announce new partnership to collaborate on educational projects.

## 2013

Students and alumni of the Middle East Centre launch regional Alumni Group, elect officers and hold inaugural networking evening in Dubai with 90 attending.

The University of Manchester holds its first Middle East graduation ceremony in Dubai – the only one outside Manchester – for 85 MBA graduates.



## 2014

The Middle East Centre is presented with Special Recognition Award by ACCA for outstanding professional development support for ACCA-qualified finance professionals in the Middle East.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is ranked in Forbes Middle East list of the 'Most Powerful Arab Women' for 2014.



## 2015

Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) marks its 50th anniversary at the annual Middle East Centre Student and Alumni Gala Dinner.

A Middle East Centre team of 50 runners joins annual half marathon in Dubai to mark the 50th anniversary of AMBS.

The Project Management Institute in the Middle East (PMI) and the Middle East Centre announce new partnership to promote professional education, research, and professional networking.

The Centre launches Middle East Women in Business Forum with more than 50 professionals and entrepreneurs attending.

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants Middle East (CIMA Middle East) ink strategic talent development partnership with the Middle East Centre.

The Centre launches the first in-depth research into the drivers and barriers to Creativity & Innovation in the GCC.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is named in the Forbes Middle East list of the '100 Most Powerful Arab Women' for 2015.

## 2016

The Middle East Centre marks its 10th anniversary at a Gala Dinner held at the British Embassy in Dubai.

Middle East Centre passes the milestone of enrolling 2,000 Global Part-time MBA students in the region.

The Middle East Centre hosts its first Careers Fair in the Middle East bringing together more than 120 students and alumni with over 25 top recruiters.

The Middle East Centre and the GCC Chapter of the 30% Club announce the launch of a joint scholarship programme.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development Middle East (CIPD Middle East) sign an agreement to create mutual benefits and networking opportunities for their professional communities in the Middle East.

## 2017

The University of Manchester announces plans to strengthen its regional presence and introduce new master's programmes through its Middle East Centre. The Middle East Centre is renamed as The University of Manchester Middle East Centre.

The University of Manchester launches MSc International Healthcare Leadership in the Middle East.

Middle East Centre signs 'Strategic Talent Partnership' with Dubai Technology Partners, the region's leading business consultancy and systems integrator for the aviation industry.

The Middle East Centre is a key sponsor of the birthday celebration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, during events hosted by the British Embassy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is ranked by Forbes Middle East among the '100 Most Powerful Arab Businesswomen' for 2017.

## 2018

The Middle East Centre hosts over 500 Global Part-time MBA students from around the world at Dubai workshops.

The University of Manchester launches new Part-time MSc Reliability Engineering & Asset Management in the Middle East.

The Middle East Centre and Society of Engineers-UAE sign Strategic Talent Partnership to promote professional development for engineers.

Dubai SME, the agency of the Department in Dubai mandated to develop the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector and The University of Manchester Middle East Centre sign a partnership to help promote innovation and leadership among entrepreneurs and across the SME sector.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is ranked by Forbes Middle East among the region's 'Most Influential Women' for 2018.

## 2019

Middle East Centre and Dubai Police announce new partnership for the 'ESAAD' loyalty programme for staff and family members.

The University of Manchester wins 'Best MBA Program' award at the inaugural Forbes Middle East Higher Education Awards.

Middle East Centre partners with 'UAEpreneur' and supports an Investor Day to match 13 regional start-ups and investors, and showcase Arab business creativity.

The University of Manchester Middle East Centre launches an executive education programme on the essentials of Creativity & Innovation.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso receives Entrepreneur Middle East's 'Achieving Women Award in Education'.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is named among 'the World's Most Powerful Arabs' in 2019 by Arabian Business magazine.

Randa Bessiso is named among the World's Most Powerful Arabs in 2019 by Arabian Business magazine



## 2020

UAE's online tuition drive analysed in new Covid-19 Response Report by Oxford Business Group (OBG), produced in partnership with the Middle East Centre in Dubai.

Middle East Centre and Dubai Business Women Council sign Strategic Talent Management Partnership to support and develop women at work.

The University of Manchester launches new part-time blended master's degree for working professionals in the regional real estate sector.

The University of Manchester introduces new master's degree to help develop leaders and aspiring leaders in education in the Middle East – MA Educational Leadership in Practice.

## 2021

The Centre expands its portfolio of part-time Master's programmes for working professionals with new MSc in Financial Management.

The Middle East Centre and the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM) agree to collaborate on professional development and networking across regional communities.

To mark its 15th anniversary, the Middle East Centre launches a series of 15 social responsibility projects across the region ranging from tree planting to blood donation and the 'Adopt a School' initiative in collaboration with Dubai Cares.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is included in the annual 'Arab Power List 2021' published by Dubai-based Arabian Business magazine.

## 2022

The Middle East Centre and Dubai Cares unveil a new school for Nepal at Expo 2020 Dubai as part of Dubai Cares' 'Adopt a School' initiative.

Middle East Centre celebrates 15th anniversary in Dubai with an event for alumni ambassadors and special guests.

Female MBA student numbers rise as the Middle East Centre enrolls new Part-time MBA cohort with one of the highest ratios of female students (over 25 per cent of the cohort) since the programme launched in the Middle East in 2006.

Emirates Islamic - one of the leading Islamic financial institutions in the UAE - inks strategic talent development partnership with the Middle East Centre.

The Director of the Middle East Centre, Randa Bessiso is included in the 'Most Influential Arabs 2022' list published by Dubai-based Arabian Business magazine.



Graphene@Manchester team James Baker and Vivek Koncherry along with students, alumni and the Middle East Centre team in Dubai

## 2023

The Middle East Centre witnessed a surge in Manchester MBA student numbers across the Middle East, propelled primarily by increasing demand from working professionals in Saudi Arabia.

The Middle East Centre partners with SOS Children's Villages International, the Centre launched an emergency program supporting children and families affected by earthquakes in and around Aleppo, Syria, demonstrating a commitment to humanitarian efforts.

The iconic #Manchestertree initiative expanded its reach across the region, with a new tree planted in Bahrain. Crowne Plaza Bahrain facilitated the event, with enthusiastic support from students and alumni, symbolizing unity and growth.

The Middle East Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Saudi German Health, a prominent private healthcare provider in the Middle East and North Africa region, enhancing collaborations for medical advancements.

The groundbreaking potential of Graphene, the world's first 2D material, was explored during a visit by the Graphene@Manchester team to the UAE, highlighting its capacity to drive transformative technologies and support the sustainability agenda of the region.

The Middle East Centre collaborates with Emirates NBD and started offering interest-free tuition fee installments for students in the UAE, making education more accessible and affordable.

In a strategic partnership with UAE-based training and development organization Aurora50, the Centre is actively supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives in the region, fostering a culture of inclusivity and equality.

The Dean of Alliance Manchester Business School, Professor Ken McPhail, demonstrated the Centre's commitment to social responsibility by participating in a Mangrove tree plantation during his visit to the Middle East Centre, underscoring the Centre's dedication to environmental conservation and sustainable practices.



Professor Kenneth McPhail along with the Middle East Centre team in Dubai



Bicentenary Light Up celebration at the Middle East Centre

## 2024

The Middle East Centre celebrated the University's bicentenary celebrations on January 17th at 18:24 hours.

The Middle East Centre sponsors the event, 'Empowering Abilities: How to Improve Opportunities for People of Determination,' featuring Professor Ismail Erturk and Marketing Manager of the Centre, Rania Itani as keynote speakers.

The Middle East Centre team travelled to Cairo, Riyadh, Jeddah, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar to celebrate the University's bicentenary.

The Centre invited all its social responsibility partners for the Annual Ramadan Suhoor - the event was attended by all alumni and students of the Centre, it was in an effort to showcase the various social responsibility partners and their work.

The Centre signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with several organisations, including Strategic Gears, Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales - Middle East, Tools & Solutions, British Chamber of Commerce Bahrain, and Bahrain Institute of Banking and Finance. These collaborations aim to enhance professional development and networking opportunities across the communities.

Deputy President and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Luke Georghiou visited the Middle East Centre, where he had the opportunity to meet and network with the student and alumni community. During his visit, he engaged in an insightful discussion about the University's current initiatives and plans.



Students, alumni, social responsibility partners gather together for the Social Responsibility fair along with the Middle East Centre team

## Testimonials

Amin has developed a special relationship with the University of Manchester. As well as being a member of the very first MBA cohort in the Middle East, he has gone on to become the first Chair of the Middle East Alumni Association; first Ambassador for the University in the region; first Adjunct Faculty member from the Middle East; and the first representative of the region to join the Global Advisory Board of The Alliance Manchester Business School.

"I did the MBA over an extended period and linked this with training in other areas to open my mind to things and it was a nice learning journey. Later I took a career break and spent a couple of years doing various qualifications, such as executive coaching, NLP, hypnotherapy. I still kept in touch with the Middle East Centre and attended events to answer questions from MBA candidates and always tried to give my honest feedback. The community of alumni, students and the centre is important and mutually enriching – the more you give the more you get in return.

At a social level, we are good friends and mentors and this makes it interesting. Some alumni have hired fellow graduates and other fellow students have done business with each other. My own company offered an internship to a student and then hired her. I didn't start the MBA for something specific but went in with an open mind and let things happen. As a community we have interesting discussions on life, work and the universe and have something in common through our work and studies. Many of us face similar issues together and there's a nice sense of community here."



**Amin ElKholy**  
COO – Modus Capital,  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Alumni/ MBA 2013



Graduation Event 2023 attended by Randa Bessiso - Founding Director, Middle East Centre, H. E. Dr. Abdulla Al Karam - Director General of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Professor Kenneth McPhail - Head of Alliance Manchester Business School, Edward Hobart - British Ambassador to United Arab Emirates, Xavier Duran - Global MBA Director, and Craig Best - Director of Student and Academic Services

Faisal was recently promoted to the role of CEO of one of the Gulf's largest family-owned holding groups. In the early 2000s, there weren't many techno-commercial people in Saudi Arabia and it was challenging to find opportunities to learn and develop. However, he found the University's new Middle East Centre in Dubai and the newly launched Global Part-time MBA, which pioneered blended learning in the region. He joined the programme in 2007 and graduated in 2010.

"I started my career as a regular engineer. My three years with Manchester really changed the way I look at business and boosted my career from the outset. Without the MBA, I would not be in this position. The Global Part-time MBA is not an easy journey and the University's Middle East Centre team deserves credit for the fantastic support it provides, even arranging an MBA exam during a business trip in Budapest. There's a great team of staff and academics from who I learned many things.



The 'pay back' of an MBA is not really financial – it's more about changing your attitudes and behaviours, expanding your horizons, along with the knowledge and education. Most importantly, I learned how to change myself and I'm so proud to be part of this community."

**Eng. Faisal Haddawi**

CEO - Abdullah Abdulaziz AlRajhi & Sons Holding Co  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Alumni/ MBA 2014



Graduation Event 2022 attended by Randa Bessiso - Founding Director of The University of Manchester Middle East Centre, Xavier Duran - Global MBA Director, H. E. Dr. Abdulla Al Karam - Director General of the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA), Professor Fiona Devine - Vice President and Dean of Faculty of Humanities at The University of Manchester and Dr. Naji Almahdi - Chief of Qualification and Awards at the Knowledge and Human Development Authority



Alanoud Al Hashmi is CEO and Founder of The Futurist Company and an acknowledged Top 10 Inspiring Woman Entrepreneur. She describes herself as an Emirati Futurist, Entrepreneur and Speaker who believes in the power of innovation and technology. According to Alanoud, with R&D and a team of scientists, engineers and technologists we are able to create solutions with impact to make a difference and help humanity and the planet to coexist.



"Women often say an MBA will boost our confidence but what we mean is knowledge, and the critical thinking approach with UOM was really important. Real world simulations were essential – this is a confidence boost and helped us understand the mindset of investors. So, it's much more than just getting an MBA degree. The face to face element of the MBA meant we also made really great friends. There's also the exposure to people from cultures all around the world which gave us a network of contacts. The MBA helped me in every aspect of setting up my company – strategy, marketing, solutions, negotiations, supply chain – and all of it learned on the MBA. I love the idea that critical thinking helped me discover what I really wanted to do – make ideas work."

**Alanoud Al Hashmi**  
CEO and Founder - The Futurist Company  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Alumni/ MBA 2022



Tim Shelton is a prominent alumnus and Middle East regional ambassador of The University of Manchester who has used his Global MBA experience to support his career as he grows his role on the back of a wave of digital transformation sweeping across his company and industry. Tim has recently moved from his regional position to a global leadership role while remaining in the Middle East. He initially trained as a quantity surveyor and the MBA helped him acquire a broader understanding of business, and additional skills. Arcadis saw his potential to assist in the digital transformation process.

“The MBA played a big part in my move to a new global role with Arcadis, building on my experience from a domain expertise and also from a strategic perspective – technology, people and processes. The MBA taught me a lot with a heavy focus on the ‘Manchester Method’. Digital transformation is a major opportunity for the company and the industry. From my own experience on the Global MBA, collaborating with like-minded motivated people who wanted to change their organisations as well as their careers, gave me the confidence to speak out and articulate my ideas about contemporary business challenges. This wave of digital transformation hit my career at the right time, as I move into middle management, so the MBA set me up for success.”

**Tim Shelton**  
**Global Product Owner - Arcadis International Limited**  
**Dubai, United Arab Emirates**  
 Alumni/ MBA 2013



"I chose Manchester University because of its academic reputation and the flexibility that the Global Part-time MBA programme offers, including a range of electives. My main objectives were to explore the new business and other challenges facing most companies worldwide, deepen my critical thinking and access an executive network. The MBA has sharpened my professional management style especially in relation to team leadership and project management. Workshops led by faculty played a vital role in the learning experience and in sharing experiences with a diverse range of fellow students. The MBA has also supported my career development, as I was promoted to a more senior leadership position. It was a really exceptional experience and a pleasure to study the MBA with Manchester University."



**Mohammad Al Najjar**  
Head of Taawun Developer Relations,  
National Wholesale & Regulatory Affairs  
Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Alumni/ MBA 2016



Alumni Ambassador appreciation breakfast



Mohannad AlKalash started his early career as a fresh graduate with multiple roles, working across technology and sales, as he tried to discover himself and his passions. Today, Mohannad is Regional Sales Manager at Cisco – along with other personal business and University interests that help make his story remarkable. Importantly for Mohannad, since graduation he maintains his close links with the University and leads the Alumni Group in Riyadh.

"I really wanted to own a business and I talked to the University – I knew I wanted to move from a technical career pathway and marketing was the focus. At the same time, I was shaping my business idea and started pulling things together. The MBA experience certainly helped as I met a lot of amazing and experienced people, fellow students as well as faculty. The two-year commitment means you build strong relationships, great memories and it ends in a graduation ceremony with your family and friends."



**Mohannad Al Kalash**  
Managing Director - METAP Region  
Zoom

Alumni/ MBA 2019



"I decided to study the Global Part-time MBA in 2006 to support my role in quality assurance management. I came from a science background and needed the additional broader knowledge. I completed my MBA in 2010 and attended the graduation ceremony on campus in Manchester, in 2011. The MBA certainly contributed to my professional career as a QA Manager and then directly to my second Master's degree, leading on to the PhD and eventually my role as an academic researcher. When I started the MBA, I wanted to improve my management skills. However, since graduating my career goals have changed and I decided to revisit an earlier ambition in the academic scientific field.

The MBA workshops in Dubai were great learning experiences, and all my fellow students contributed a lot. Dissertation writing was difficult but I have to admit that the learning outcome was great and this has helped me a lot with my academic scientific career.

The MBA led to some very interesting and useful developments and I learned how to manage my time and then devoted time to handling balance sheets and learning how to persuade others. Earning an MBA degree from such a prestigious university made me proud and very self-confident. The MBA was something that I really needed at this stage of my career and it certainly made a difference."



**Dr. Zulfa Al Disi**  
Postdoctoral Researcher - Qatar University  
Alumni/ MBA 2010



The University of Manchester Middle East Centre leadership team along with students and alumni at the Dubai Expo 2020 UK Pavillion

Nada Messaïkeh was the first female DBA graduate from the Middle East. Nada's experience covers all aspects of research administration and she successfully designed and led the research administration and financial planning functions at NYU Abu Dhabi and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. She is a member of the Select Committee on Global Affairs at the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA) and is a strong advocate for women empowerment. In addition to her current roles, Nada is an adjunct faculty at Alliance Manchester Business School.



"When I am asked what the DBA means to me, the first thing that comes to mind is that the DBA is 'a journey of discovery'. It is a journey that enabled me to discover new concepts, to challenge my ideas and preconceptions, and to develop my critical thinking. In short, it is like looking at the world with a new lens that enabled me to see beyond the physical appearances, and dig into the meaning of the things I see. What have I learned? Well, besides challenging everything, I also learned to be challenged and to accept criticism, which helped me on the professional and personal levels."

**Dr. Nada Jammoul Messaïkeh**  
Consultant in Higher Education, Mentor,  
Adjunct faculty at Alliance Manchester Business School



The University of Manchester Middle East Centre leadership team along with students and alumni at the Dubai Expo 2020 UK Pavillion



"I was looking for an MSc programme specifically related to Industry 4.0 and Manchester University's MSc REAM was the strongest and most accredited option available. The part-time flexible learning route was certainly a key advantage but the most important factor in reaching my decision was the extensive face to face interaction on the programme and access to faculty. I have achieved my learning objectives and made lasting friendships through the course, with the support of the team at the Middle East Centre. I have already recommended the programme to colleagues and would advise anyone looking for an engineering-related part-time MSc to consider it."

**Mohamed Farrag**

**Student, MSc Reliability Engineering and Asset Management (REAM)**

Diana Wilson is an experienced educator and a member of the first Middle East cohort of students on the part-time MA Educational Leadership in Practice programme.

"I selected The University of Manchester's MA Educational Leadership in Practice (MA ELiP) programme because of the strong platform it offers to listen and enjoy, experience and learn directly from the University faculty, anywhere in the world. I have met very few leaders in my career with specific knowledge in leadership and so I was delighted to see that educators in positions of responsibility can make teaching and learning a more positive experience and create better workplaces for the people involved in this profession. The MA ELiP provides specific knowledge, which I believe leaders will find essential in making a positive change in education."

**Diana Wilson**  
Student, MA in Educational Leadership in Practice



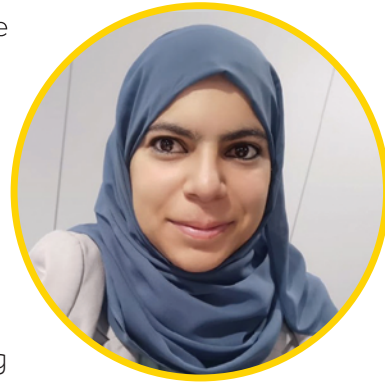
"My professional 12-year career includes academia and my current role as head of regulatory compliance and member of the executive management committee of a major bank. I already held a degree and multiple professional certifications and wanted to advance my banking career and so chose the Master's in Financial Management. The teaching is exceptional and engages students in applying concepts to case studies from multiple perspectives."

**Mohammed Al Hashimi**  
MSc Financial Management  
Chief Compliance Officer at Bank Nizwa



Fatma Al-Maawali has built her career and a track record of achievement over the last 15 years with PDO and the Government of Oman. She has successfully combined her substantial practical experience in financial and management accounting, and finance operations in the Oil & Gas industry, with deep experience and exposure gained through participation in The National Program for Fiscal Balance. Fatma also holds professional qualifications including Certified Lean Practitioner and ACCA.

"I decided to join an MBA programme because I am progressing quickly in my career and taking on more leadership roles. Plus, I am also planning to open a consultancy firm in accounting & finance to support SMEs in Oman. So, I wanted an MBA programme that delivers lots of knowledge and skills to support my next career move and longer-term future. An MBA is also a good way of networking and learning about applying strategies and how to manage and develop a business. I wasn't in a position to join a full-time MBA programme because of my work commitments. The Global part-time MBA (Finance Accelerated) was the perfect option for me with the flexibility of blended learning and course modules covering both the academic theory and its application. I really like the fact that the University offers an accelerated pathway and the structure of the MBA programme is so well defined. It is a great experience to study with people from different countries and we also got the opportunity to work together on a live project."



**Fatma Al-Maawali**  
**Infrastructure Finance Manager - Petroleum Development Oman**  
**MBA (Finance Accelerated) Student**

# Celebrating 15 Years of Excellence

## in the Middle East (March 2022)



"Dubai's achievement of a knowledge-based economy has been realized through the foundations of a robust education system that equips future generations with the necessary skills and tools to define and lead the path of tomorrow. As a leading ecosystem for education and training, we have impacted talent development not only for our emirate, but the region as a whole, and The University of Manchester Middle East Centre has been a long-standing partner in our journey. As the pioneers of business education in the Middle East and other world-class academic programs, this institution is responsible for nurturing a knowledgeable and ambitious cadre of students, professionals and entrepreneurs. We are proud to see how they have grown as part of Dubai Knowledge Park over the last 15 years, attracting diligent students from the world over and evolving their offerings to drive innovation and economic development"

**Mohammad Abdullah**  
Managing Director,  
Dubai Knowledge Park and Dubai International  
Academic City



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