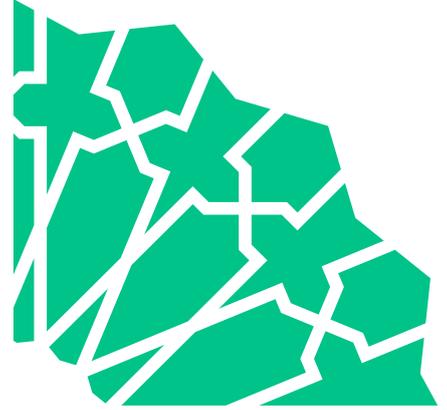


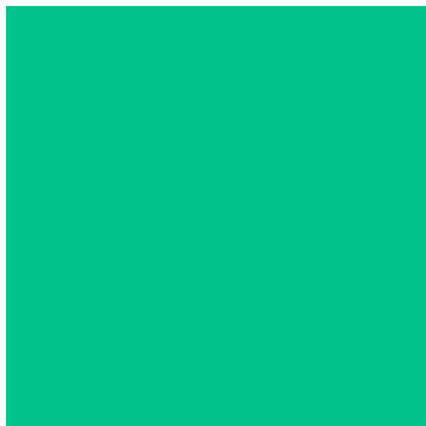
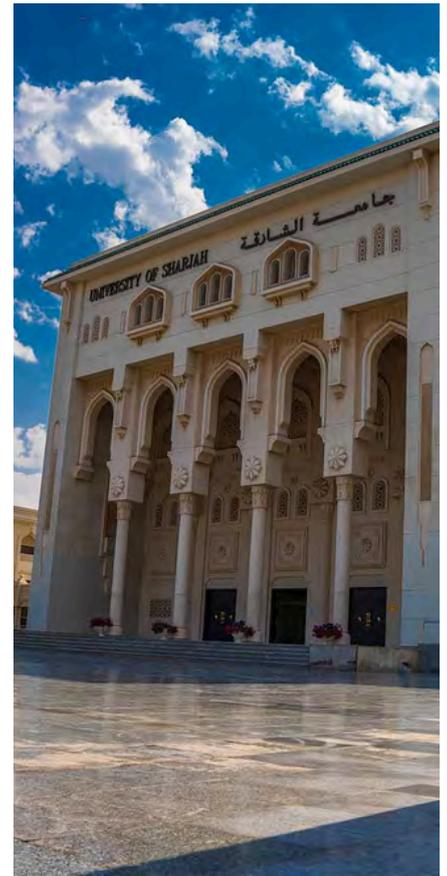
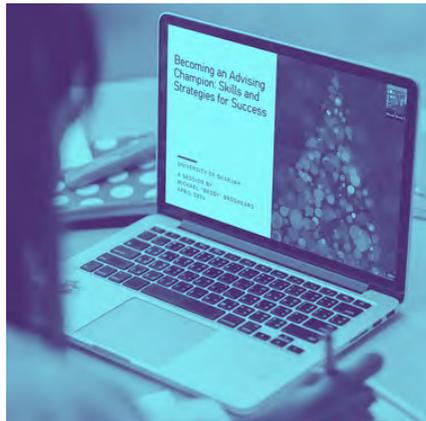


معهد القيادة
في التعليم العالي
INSTITUTE OF LEADERSHIP
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

OFFICE OF VICE CHANCELLOR FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



2024/2025 Annual Report





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Introduction



At a glance



Training/Workshop

82



Participants

900



Delivered Training Hours

140



Initiative and Projects

15

The Institute of Leadership in Higher Education (ILHE) is pleased to present the 2024/2025 Annual Report, highlighting a transformative year of progress and partnership. In alignment with the University of Sharjah's strategic vision, ILHE has continued to lead faculty development and academic innovation by championing excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership.

This year marked notable expansion in our initiatives, from integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and immersive technologies into pedagogy, to deepening engagement through collaborations and interdisciplinary training. Our programs have not only advanced digital transformation but also fostered inclusive, learner-centered environments that empower faculty and students alike.

This report reflects ILHE's unwavering commitment to shaping the future of higher education. We invite you to explore the milestones achieved and the initiatives that are paving the way forward.

Message from the Chancellor



Prof. Esameldin Agamy
Chancellor of University

AI and digital transformation are reshaping higher education, bringing both challenges and opportunities for universities. At the University of Sharjah, we remain steadfast in our commitment to academic excellence and continue to rank among the leading universities in the UAE and the Middle East. This commitment is reflected in the continuous development of our academic portfolio, which now spans 15 colleges offering 144 programs at the bachelor's, master's, doctoral, and diploma levels. By embracing these global trends, our faculty, staff, and students are empowered to adapt, innovate, and lead, ensuring that our community remains at the forefront of knowledge, discovery, and societal impact.

Looking ahead, we envision a future where AI is seamlessly integrated into every aspect of university life, transforming how we prepare our graduates for the future. AI is not merely a tool but a catalyst for redefining the very essence of higher education.

Driving this transformation is the ILHE, which plays a vital role in advancing our strategic vision. Through its professional development programs, initiatives, and innovative projects, ILHE equips our academic community to embrace AI responsibly, adopt advanced pedagogies, and align our practices with the highest international standards of excellence.

Together, we are shaping a future-ready university. By harmonizing academic rigor with emerging technologies, we ensure that our graduates are prepared for the future.

Message from the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Prof. Youssef Al Haik
Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs

The University of Sharjah is a dynamic community built on adaptability, innovation, and a commitment to excellence. In today's rapidly evolving academic environment, investing in faculty and staff development is essential to sustaining our culture of progress and ensuring we remain at the forefront of higher education.

The ILHE plays a pivotal role in this mission by offering a wide range of professional development programs. These initiatives help our academic community harness the potential of AI in pedagogy, strengthen leadership capacity, and adopt innovative teaching methodologies that align with global best practices.

As we move toward an AI-integrated future, we recognize both the opportunities and challenges it presents. I encourage all faculty and staff to actively participate in ILHE programs, engage in workshops, and share feedback on your experiences. Your involvement is vital to advancing our strategic goals and reinforcing the University of Sharjah's position as a leader in academic excellence, research, and societal impact.

Message from the Institute's Director



Prof. Maher Omar
Director of Institute of Leadership in Higher Education (ILHE)

At ILHE, we recognize that the future of higher education depends on our collective ability to adapt, innovate, and lead with vision. Our mission is to foster an environment where faculty and staff continuously advance their skills, ensuring the University of Sharjah remains at the forefront of academic excellence.

This year, our development programs and workshops have been designed with purpose, focusing on areas that are critical to shaping the future of education: Generative AI in Education, Leadership Development, Research Skills & Practice, and Innovative Teaching & Pedagogy. These themes reflect both the evolving needs of our academic community and the priorities outlined in the University's strategic plan.

As we embark on this transformation journey, I encourage every member of our community to engage actively with ILHE's initiatives. Together, we can redefine teaching and learning at the University of Sharjah, ensuring that our institution not only meets the challenges of the future but leads the way in creating meaningful impact.

The ILHE aspires to be a regional hub advancing leadership in higher education and inspiring teaching excellence through innovative training, academic programs, and scholarship in teaching and learning research.



The mission of the ILHE is to strengthen the professional knowledge and leadership skills of faculty and higher education practitioners in the UAE and beyond. It leads and provides development training, educational programs, and pedagogical research opportunities to foster exceptional leadership practices and the teaching and learning process.

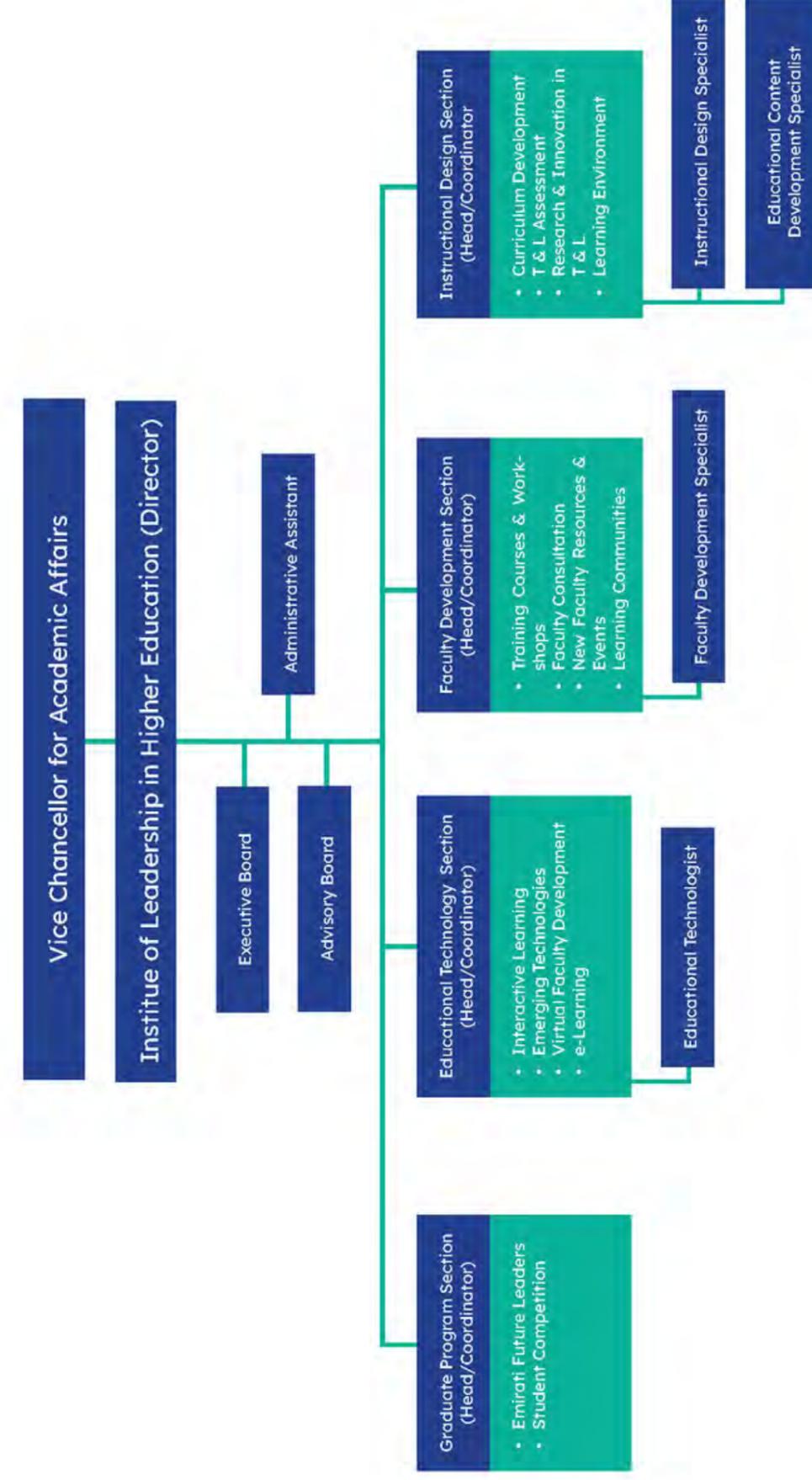
Vision

Mission

- Training of faculty in the university in the full spectrum of the art and science of education.
- Providing expert support for innovation in course development, delivery, and assessments in the higher education context.
- Supporting the development of leadership skills in higher education nationally, regionally, and internationally.
- Advancing educational knowledge and practice by offering funding opportunities for action/classroom research and scholarly activities.
- Developing mechanisms for sustainable academic programs aimed at supporting the university's transformative agenda.
- Working towards becoming a hub for excellence in higher education leadership, policies, and research in the country, regionally and globally.

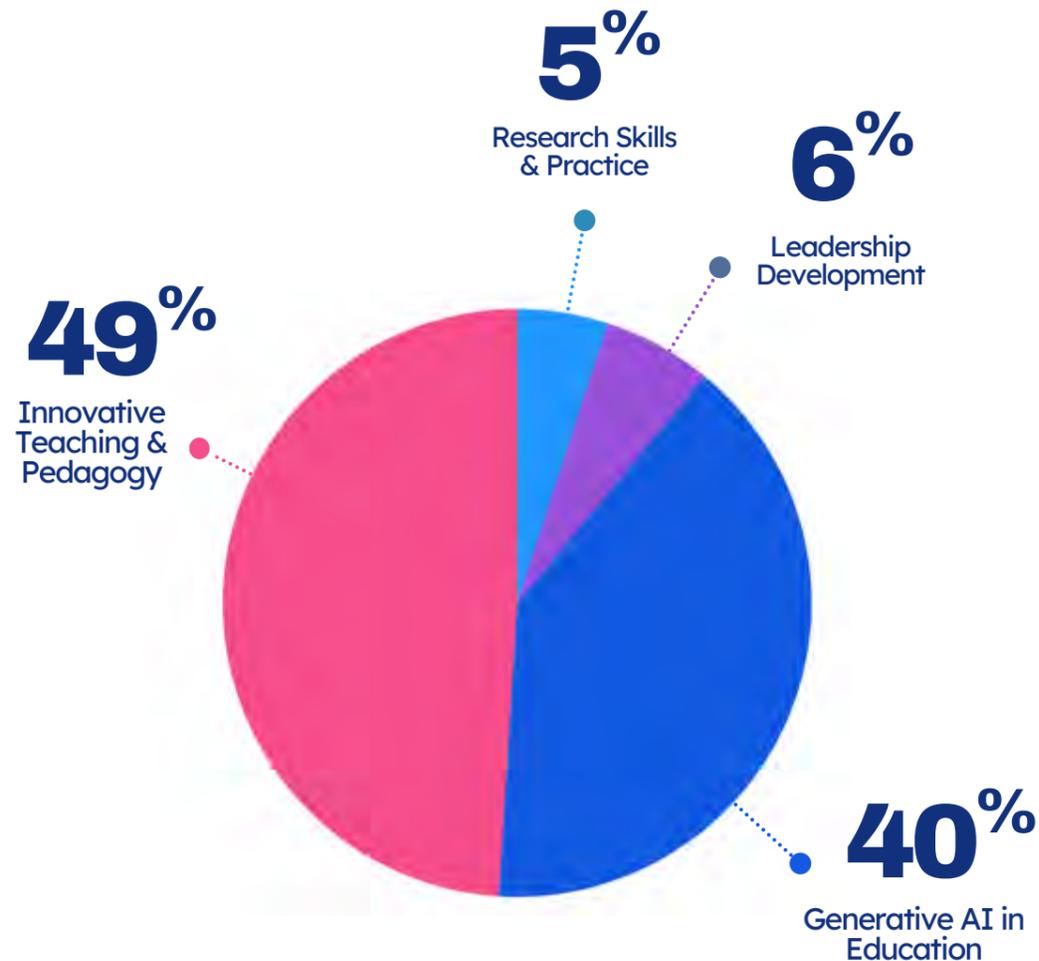
Goals

Institute's Organizational Chart



Professional Development

During the 2024/2025 academic year, ILHE successfully conducted 82 enriching workshops. The workshops were diversified, focusing on four key themes: Generative AI in Education, Research Skills & Practice, Leadership Development, and Innovative Teaching & Pedagogy. While a portion of these workshops were made publicly accessible to all faculty members, a specific segment was carefully customized to align with the requirements of distinct programs.



List of Workshops

#	Workshop Title	Date
1	New Faculty Orientation Program	8-Aug-2024
2	Brown Bag Gathering: Mass Media and Communications Campaigns on the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the Global South	24-Sep-2024
3	Part 1: Publication Strategies for Graduate Students and Early Career Researchers in Social Sciences	25-Sep-2024
4	Promoting Academic Integrity in Higher Education	25-Sep-2024
5	Faculty AI Tools: Magic School AI	26-Sep-2024
6	دمج ادوات الذكاء الاصطناعي في تخطيط الدروس	26-Sep-2024
7	Faculty Peer Observation of Teaching	2-Oct-2024
8	ملاحظة تدريس الزملاء	2-Oct-2024
9	Change Management	14-Oct-2024
10	Brown Bag Gathering: Communities of Practice	15-Oct-2024
11	Generative AI: Magic School AI	29-Oct-2024
12	An Introduction to Hybrid Student-Centered Learning	4-Nov-2024
13	لقاء براون باغ: مجتمعات الممارسة المهنية	5-Nov-2024
14	Student-Centered Hybrid Learning	6-Nov-2024
15	Strategic Thinking & Planning	7-Nov-2024
16	Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Strategies	11-Nov-2024
17	Educational Technology Tools	12-Nov-2024
18	Paving Path for Emerging Leaders	13-Nov-2024

List of Workshops

#	Workshop Title	Date
19	Instructional Methodologies	14-Nov-2024
20	طرائق التدريس	14-Nov-2024
21	AI Unleashed: Using AI to Elevate Your Teaching Game	18-Nov-2024
22	بدائل لطرق التقييم التقليدي	21-Nov-2024
23	Data is Gold: Decision-Making in Education	25-Nov-2024
24	Alternatives to Traditional Assessment	26-Nov-2024
25	Test Like a Pro: Creating AI-Proof Real-World Assessments	2-Dec-2024
26	Motivation Matters	13-Jan-2025
27	Creating a Learning Experiences that Stick using Graphics/Presentation Design Techniques	20-Jan-2025
28	AI Unleashed Part II: Personalizing Feedback & Streamlining Work	27-Jan-2025
29	آفاق التعليم الذي: توظيف الذكاء الاصطناعي في التدريس الجامعي	8-Jan-2025
30	Harnessing Authentic Assessment	30-Jan-2025
31	Grading Made Simple: Creating Rubrics for Transparent Assessment	3-Feb-2025
32	Alternatives to Traditional Assessment	3-Feb-2025
33	Immersive Learning Unlocked: Introduction to Virtual Reality and Oculus Quest HMDs	4-Feb-2025
34	"Tips on the Go" Initiative: 3 -Minute Video Series	5-Feb-2025
35	Creating a Multimedia Learning Experience that Sticks using Mayer's Cognitive Theory	10-Feb-2025

List of Workshops

#	Workshop Title	Date
36	Enhancing Teaching with Multimedia: Effective Methods for Faculty	10-Feb-2025
37	نقل الخبرات وتبادل المعرفة في الأبحاث الأكاديمية: استراتيجيات وأفضل الممارسات	10-Feb-2025
38	New Emirati Faculty Development Program Orientation	11-Feb-2025
39	Exploring Philosophies of Teaching and Learning	11-Feb-2025
40	التقويم من أجل التعلم في مؤسسات التعليم العالي	13-Feb-2025
41	Alternatives to Traditional Assessment: Harnessing the Power of Authentic Assessment	15-Feb-2025
42	Creating Inclusive and Accessible Virtual Learning Experiences	17-Feb-2025
43	أساسيات الذكاء الاصطناعي التوليدي في التعليم والتعلم	20-Feb-2025
44	AI Unleashed Part III: Tools to Enhance Learning	24-Feb-2025
45	Hybrid Learning Environments	25-Feb-2025
46	Assessment for Learning in Higher Education Institutions	26-Feb-2025
47	Creating a Positive and Healthy Work Environment	27-Feb-2025
48	Teaching Methodologies	5-Mar-2025
49	منهجيات التدريس	6-Mar-2025
50	Mastering the Future: Trends in Effective Teaching in Higher Education	12-Mar-2025
51	التعليم القائم على النتائج	13-Mar-2025

List of Workshops

#	Workshop Title	Date
52	فلسفيات التعليم والتعلم	20-Mar-2025
53	Designing and Scaffolding Collaborative Projects	7-Apr-2025
54	ملاحظة تدريس الزميل	8-Apr-2025
55	ملاحظة تدريس الزميل	8-Apr-2025
56	How to Prepare a Powerful Three-Minute Presentation	8-Apr-2025
57	Crafting Winning Poster for Success	10-Apr-2025
58	Digital Prototyping using AI Tools	14-Apr-2025
59	Design Thinking in Hybrid Learning	14-Apr-2025
60	Faculty Peer Observation	15-Apr-2025
61	Faculty Peer Observation	15-Apr-2025
62	Redefining Assessment: Empowering Learning in Higher Education	15-Apr-2025
63	الإرشاد الأكاديمي و المرافقة الإنسانية ..نحو مسار أكاديمي طلابي ناجح	16-Apr-2025
64	التقويم من أجل التعلم في مؤسسات التعليم العالي	17-Apr-2025
65	Empowering Learners: Building Agency in Developing Adults	21-Apr-2025
66	Ethical Considerations of Generative AI in Academia	21-Apr-2025
67	آفاق التعليم الذي: توظيف الذكاء الاصطناعي في التدريس الجامعي	22-Apr-2025
68	أدوات التفاعل الطلابي في التعليم والتعلم عبر الإنترنت	24-Apr-2025
69	Online Teaching and Learning-Student Engagement Tools	24-Apr-2025

List of Workshops

#	Workshop Title	Date
70	تطبيقات الذكاء الاصطناعي في التدريس الجامعي : من النظرية إلى الممارسة	24-Apr-2025
71	Creating your own GPT	28-Apr-2025
72	Ethical Considerations of AI in Teaching and Learning	29-Apr-2025
73	Breaking Silos: Collaboration Across Disciplines	5-May-2025
74	Brown Bag Gathering: Action Research Initiative -EN	15-May-2025
75	Brown Bag Gathering: Action Research Initiative -AR	15-May-2025
76	AI for Administrative Excellence	19-May-2025
77	Engaging and Motivating Students	20-May-2025
78	Research Getaways, Advancing your Research Journey, Strategies and Best Practices	22-May-2025
79	قواعد الامتحانات والأنظمة والنزاهة الأكاديمية	22-May-2025
80	الإرشاد الأكاديمي	27-May-2025
81	نقل الخبرات وتبادل المعرفة في الأبحاث الأكاديمية: استراتيجيات وأفضل الممارسات	29-May-2025
82	تحفيز الطلاب وتعزيز مشاركتهم	3-Jun-2025

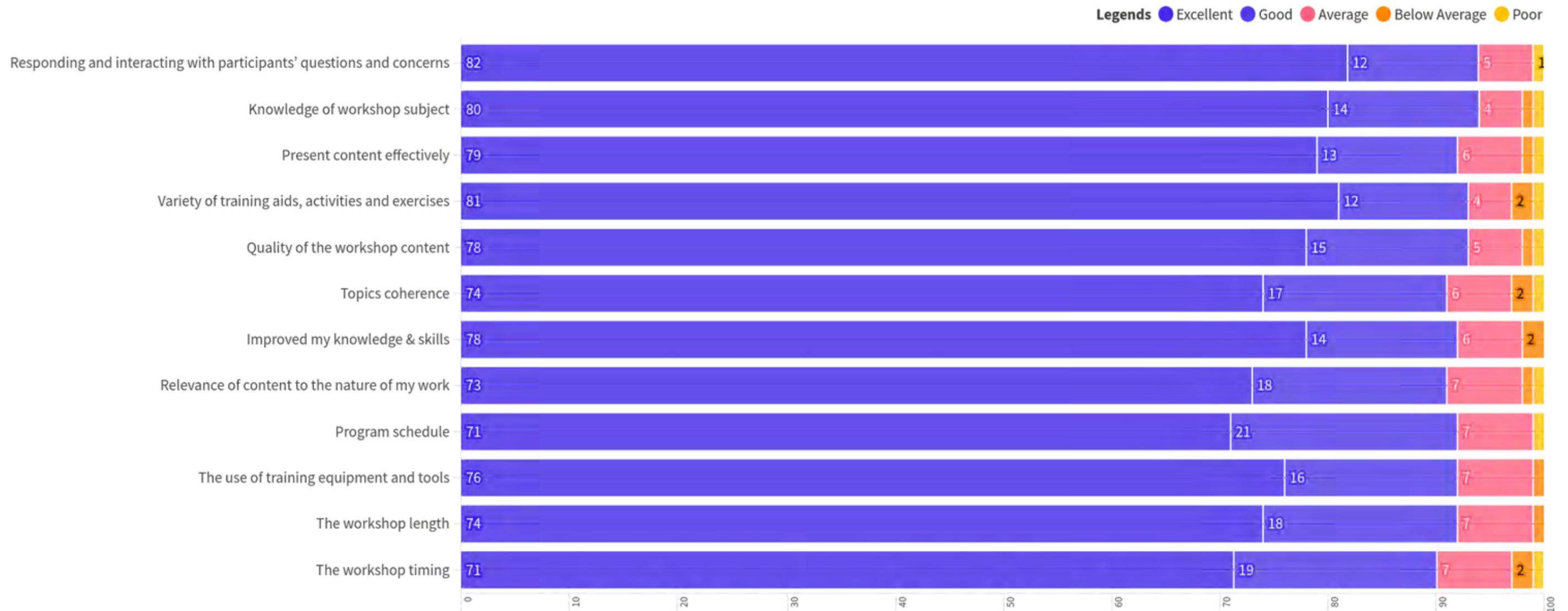
Overall Workshops' Evaluation

This data represents the overall results from the evaluation surveys conducted by ILHE. The surveys were administered online to participants at the conclusion of each workshop and training session.



CLOSED-ENDED SURVEY FEEDBACK

Participants rated the workshop on aspects such as presenter knowledge, content delivery, relevance to work, and overall organization, with responses ranging from excellent to poor.



OPEN-ENDED SURVEY FEEDBACK

Participants were asked to reflect on what could make the workshop more engaging or useful, and to share what they appreciated most about the session. Here are some sample responses to these questions.

What might have made this workshop more engaging or useful?

"Exposure to AI tool"

"New tools for teaching"

"The use of more varied training equipment and tools could enhance the learning experience"

"Discovering new AI solutions to use technology to generate the information"

What did you most appreciate in the workshop?

"Proper usage of AI"

"Exploring AI tools in Education"

"More in Leadership"

"New teaching tools, things related to AI"

"Exploring more advanced AI programs that support what we offer to students."

The ILHE workshop evaluations highlight strong participant appreciation for the exposure to practical AI tools and innovative teaching technologies. Participants valued the hands-on exploration of emerging AI applications in education and leadership.

Suggestions for improvement focused on expanding the range of tools introduced and incorporating more advanced digital resources. The feedback offers valuable direction for enhancing future sessions to better support faculty development in AI-integrated pedagogy.

Workshop Highlight



Integrating AI in University Teaching

As part of ILHE's ongoing faculty development efforts, a specialized workshop was conducted at Khorfakkan University upon invitation from the faculty member. The session, attended by 52 faculty members, focused on integrating AI into higher education teaching. Participants explored AI-supported lesson planning, blended and collaborative learning, and the design of assessments using tools such as ChatGPT and MagicSchool.

The workshop's agenda included pedagogical models (SAMR, TPACK), live demonstrations, and peer feedback. The workshop concluded with faculty producing AI-enhanced lesson plans, fostering both practical skills and ethical reflection on AI in academia.



▲ The workshops were collaboratively facilitated by ILHE instructors, each contributing their expertise to deliver impactful and engaging sessions.



Immersive Learning Unlocked

As part of ILHE's exploration of emerging technologies in education, an introductory hands-on workshop titled "Immersive Learning Unlocked: Introduction to Virtual Reality and Oculus Quest HMDs" was delivered to 18 faculty members.

Participants gained direct experience in device setup, application installation, and content navigation, helping them better understand the potential classroom applications of immersive learning tools.

The workshop received highly positive feedback, with many participants expressing interest in longer or more advanced sessions in the future. This reflects a growing interest among faculty in leveraging immersive technologies for enhanced student engagement and experiential learning.



▲ Participants experienced virtual reality firsthand using Oculus Quest devices, exploring its potential applications in teaching and learning.

◀ Facilitated by ILHE Educational Technologist Ilish Asmin, the workshop introduced foundational concepts of Virtual Reality (VR) and explored its practical applications in education.

Initiative

- 01** Emirati Future Leadership Initiative (EFLI)
- 02** Collaboration with the Al Ghurair Foundation (AGF)
- 03** Academic Advising and Evaluation Systems Workshop
- 04** Faculty Orientation - Fall 2024/2025
- 05** Recognizing Excellence in Academic Advising
- 06** Peer Observation
- 07** New Emirati Faculty Development Program (NFDP)
- 08** 3rd Edition of the UoS 3M Competition
- 09** Design for Future Higher Education Student Competition
- 10** Online Courses
- 11** Communities of Practice (CoP)
- 12** Tips on the Go
- 13** Action Research Hub
- 14** Brown Bag Gathering
- 15** Faculty Peer Mentoring Program



Emirati Future Leadership Initiative (EFLI)



The EFLI delivers a six-month, customized leadership development program that empowers high-achieving Emirati students with the skills, knowledge, and mindset to lead, inspire, and make meaningful contributions to national development. The program aligns with the UAE's Emiratization policy and the University of Sharjah's commitment to social responsibility. EFLI builds leadership through training, mentorship, and experiential learning.

Having completed its fourth round, the program targets Emirati students in their third or final year who have at least a 3.5 GPA, are fluent in English, and show curiosity, excellence, and motivation to lead. The program provide students with workshops, mentoring, and opportunity to attend an international leadership camp. This help prepare them to become the future leader of UAE.

To date, 122 students have successfully graduated from the program, with the 5th batch currently underway.

4th Batch

The 4th batch of 31 participants completed their journey under the iLeadership+ framework, which emphasizes values-driven leadership and 21st-century skills. Throughout June to August 2024, participants joined interactive workshops, visited the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (SHERAA), and attended an international leadership camp in Spain. The framework aims to inspire, mentor, and prepare them for impactful leadership roles.



Visit to SHEERA (Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center)

As part of their experiential learning journey, participants visited the Sharjah Entrepreneurship Center (SHERAA), where they explored real-world innovation practices and startup strategies. The visit help sparked entrepreneurial thinking and encouraged creative problem-solving for national and social challenges.

iLeadership+ Framework

- I** - Inspiration from Distinguished Emiratis
- L** - Leadership 101: Fundamentals of Leadership
- E** - Effective Communication
- A** - Accountability and Responsibility
- D** - Diversity and Inclusion
- E** - Emotional Intelligence
- R** - Respect for the UAE Constitution & Legal System
- S** - Strategic Thinking
- H** - Health and Well-being
- I** - Innovation and Creativity
- P** - Project Management & Research Skills
- +** - Mentoring & Leadership Camp



International Leadership Camp in Spain

The participants had the opportunity to attend the international leadership camp at IAU College, Barcelona, Spain, a renowned institution known for fostering global citizenship and interdisciplinary learning. A total of 31 students, chaperoned by Dr. Semiyu, took part in this immersive experience. The camp combined leadership workshops, site visits, and cultural exchanges, allowing students to develop a global outlook on leadership, innovation, and civic responsibility. The camp provide a different perspective of global environment and cultivate international collaboration to prepare the students to the real-world leadership challenges.



Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony was held on May 26, 2025, at Al Bayrouni Hall (M9). Prof. Esameldin Agamy, Chancellor, delivered a message of encouragement. Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, highlighted the role of youth in supporting Emiratization, and Prof. Maher Omar, Director of ILHE, reflected on the six-month journey.

During the event, participants shared their experiences from the leadership camp and presented group projects that addressed national development and societal impact. Project themes included:

- Prioritizing Mental Health in Schools and Universities
- Dependence on Migrant Workers: A Report and Action Plan
- Breathe and Bloom: Hydroponic Gardens for Pollution Reduction
- Safe Circle: A Tracking Device for Child Safety

The ceremony concluded with the awarding of certificates to all 31 graduates, celebrating their leadership journey and their contributions to advancing the goals of the Emirati Future Leadership Initiative.



02



Collaboration with the Al Ghurair Foundation (AGF)



In collaboration with the Al Ghurair Foundation (AGF) and the Ministry of Education's UAE National University Consortium on Quality Online Learning (UCQOL), ILHE led a series of transformative professional development programs designed to advance digital learning across the University of Sharjah.

Digital Trailblazers: Building Hybrid Learning Modules

Held from August 21-22 and 24, 2024, this flagship three-day training drew 60+ participants, including faculty, staff, AGF, and Centricity representatives. Delivered in hybrid and online formats, the program was facilitated by an international team of experts and focused on developing hybrid modules and multimedia elements.

Participants engaged in hands-on design activities covering:

- Student-centered learning strategies
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Multimedia design techniques
- Generative AI in instructional design

At the end of the workshop, the participants showcased their work, and successful participants were awarded the UCQOL Certification, recognizing their proficiency in hybrid course development and digital pedagogy.



▲ Quality Online Learning (UCQOL) Mastery Series

Group photo of the workshop participants, including faculty, staff, and representatives from the Al Ghurair Foundation and Centricity

Extending beyond the initial workshop, the UCQOL Mastery Series continues through the academic year, engaging over 140 faculty members across disciplines. Through blended learning and ongoing mentorship by global instructional design experts, the program empowers participants to develop inclusive, high-quality online learning environments aligned with global standards.



◀ UCQOL Mastery Series' emphasis on practical, hands-on learning and its alignment with digital education standards. Delivered in an online format, the program allows faculty to learn at their own pace, enabling them to integrate new skills into their teaching practice while continuing their day-to-day responsibilities.

AI for Administrative Excellence

On May 18, 2025, initiated by AGF, ILHE hosted an in-person training titled "AI for Administrative Excellence" under the AGF-funded UCQOL initiative. The session aimed to raise awareness among university administrative staff on the practical applications of artificial intelligence in streamlining workflows and improving operational efficiency. The workshop marked a strategic step in expanding digital transformation beyond teaching to institutional operations.



◀ Faculty participants engage directly with facilitators in small group discussions.

Enabling Infrastructure (In Progress)

To strengthen digital content creation at the University of Sharjah, ILHE is currently in the process of planning and developing dedicated recording facilities. These include a One-Touch Video Recording Booth and a Lightboard Studio, intended to be housed at M3-007 and M3-021. Once completed, these spaces will offer faculty and staff user-friendly tools to produce high-quality educational videos, supporting ILHE's mission to enhance digital teaching and learning experiences.



Academic Advising and Evaluation Systems Workshop

On August 28, 2024, the University of Sharjah hosted the New Academic Advising and Evaluation Systems Workshop, held at M27B, Medical Colleges. This event provided a platform for faculty and staff to engage with university management and learn about the latest advancements in academic advising and evaluation practices.

Key speakers included Prof. Hamid M. Al Naimiy, Chancellor, who discussed university operations within the framework of the new strategic direction; Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, and Prof. Qutayba Hamid Al Heialy, Vice Chancellor for Medical Colleges and Dean of College of Medicine, who both highlighted the reinforcement of new systems for continuous transformation and growth at the university. Additionally, Prof. Adam Marks from the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs covered key processes for the Faculty Information System and the New Faculty Advising System. Ms. Reem Al Hashemi, Director of Registration Department, addressed registration-related matters.

The workshop concluded with an open conversation among the participants, fostering a collaborative environment to discuss and refine these new systems.



Faculty Orientation - Fall 2024/2025

The Faculty Orientation program is designed to warmly welcome and integrate newly appointed faculty into the University of Sharjah community. Held at Al-Bayrouni Hall on August 29, 2024, the Fall 2024/2025 session provided a valuable platform for new faculty members to connect with university leaders, explore institutional resources, and gain a deeper understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The program opened with welcoming remarks by H.E. Prof. Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy, Chancellor of the University, followed by Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, who emphasized university expectations, and the vital role faculty play in supporting student success. Representatives from key departments and support units also introduced their services and initiatives, offering guidance on the academic, research, and administrative support available across the institution.

The session encouraged open dialogue, reflections, and shared experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and community among new faculty. Through this orientation, ILHE reinforced its commitment to ensuring a smooth and informed transition for new educators joining the university.

Recognizing Excellence in Academic Advising: 3rd Batch Faculty Advising Champions



The Faculty Advising Champions Program, now in its third cycle, continues to strengthen the academic advising culture at the University of Sharjah by preparing faculty members to serve as leaders and peer mentors in advising excellence. These champions are trained to support colleagues and provide targeted guidance to at-risk students within their colleges.

The third cohort expanded to 40 participants by mid-2024. The program began with a self-assessment survey, allowing faculty members to reflect on their advising competencies. Participants then attended a series of four specialized workshops, delivered in both English and Arabic from April 15 to May 11, 2024, covering the following key topics:

- Fostering Excellence in Academic Advising
- Bridging Academic Advising and Career Success
- Holistic Advising for Students in Need
- Becoming an Advising Champion: Skills and Strategies for Success

The program concluded with an award ceremony on December 5, 2024, held at Al-Bayrouni Hall (M9). During the ceremony, faculty were formally recognized as the College Advising Champions and received certificates from NACADA, a recognize global community for academic advising. The event served as a platform to celebrate accomplishments, highlight capacity-building milestones, and share best practices from both current and previous cohorts.

The ceremony featured remarks from key university leaders:

- H.E. Prof. Hamid M.K. Al Naimiy, Chancellor, delivered the opening address.
- Prof. Yousef Haik, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, emphasized the critical role of advising in promoting student success.
- Prof. Maher Omar, Director of ILHE, reviewed the program’s development and its growing impact.

Reflections and shared experiences during the event reinforced the university’s ongoing commitment to empowering faculty with the tools and training necessary to enhance student support and academic achievement.

Peer Observation

This initiative promotes a collegial model of professional development, where faculty members observe each other’s teaching practices not for evaluation but for the purpose of constructive feedback and mutual learning.

The initiative has contributed significantly to fostering a reflective teaching culture, enhancing pedagogical practices, and building stronger academic communities across colleges. During the 2024–2025 academic year, a total of thirty-five (35) faculty members participated in the training. To date, one hundred and eighty-nine (189) faculty members have successfully completed the program and are officially registered as active peer observers.



06



07

New Emirati Faculty Development Program (NFPD)

As part of the University of Sharjah’s strategic Emiratization efforts under the initiative Shaping the Nation’s Future Scientists, the

ILHE launched the NFPD to support early-career Emirati faculty members, Ph.D. students, postdoctoral fellows, and lecturers as they transition into academia. The program aims to build pedagogical capacity, reinforce instructional excellence, and promote integration into the university community.

The 2024/2025 cycle enrolled 28 new Emirati faculty from diverse fields including arts, humanities, social sciences, and health sciences. Delivered in both English and Arabic, the program spans three structured phases:

Phase 1	A series of targeted workshops on teaching philosophies, active learning, assessment strategies, digital tools, research skills, and institutional effectiveness.
Phase 2	The Teaching Skills Masterclass Certificate (TSMC) program, delivered in collaboration with Advance HE (UK), culminating in an internationally accredited certificate.
Phase 3	A structured mentoring and coaching component leveraging internal academic expertise to foster long-term development.

The NFPD advances ILHE’s commitment to excellence by integrating generative AI literacy, program design, academic advising strategies, and emotional intelligence, thereby preparing Emirati faculty to thrive in 21st-century higher education.



Group photo of the participants with the instructor during one of the core training sessions. The gathering reflects the program’s inclusive and empowering environment, fostering professional growth, collaboration, and leadership among emerging Emirati scholars in higher education.



3rd Edition of the UoS 3M Competition



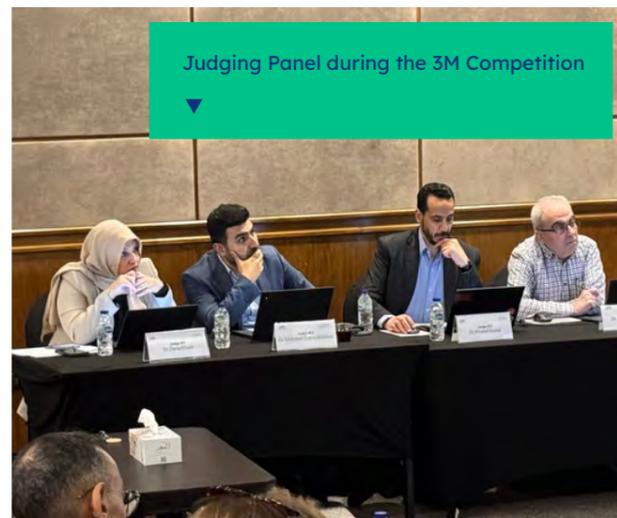
Now in its third edition, the UoS 3M Competition continues to serve as a premier platform for students to sharpen their skills in communication, critical thinking, and public speaking. The competition challenges participants to present their research, projects, or innovative ideas in just three minutes, making complex topics clear and engaging for a non-specialist audience.

This year, 41 students were nominated from across all colleges at the University of Sharjah. To support participants, a series of pre-competition workshops were conducted, focusing on storytelling, pitch structuring, and effective presentation

delivery. These sessions played a vital role in enhancing student confidence and refining their communication skills.

Presentations were evaluated by a panel of distinguished faculty judges based on content, clarity, and audience engagement. The competition also included a real-time “Audience Choice Award”, adding an interactive and inclusive element to the event.

Winners from both undergraduate and postgraduate categories received certificates and cash prizes, with the top award reaching



Participants present their capstone, thesis, or dissertation in front of an audience within three minutes.

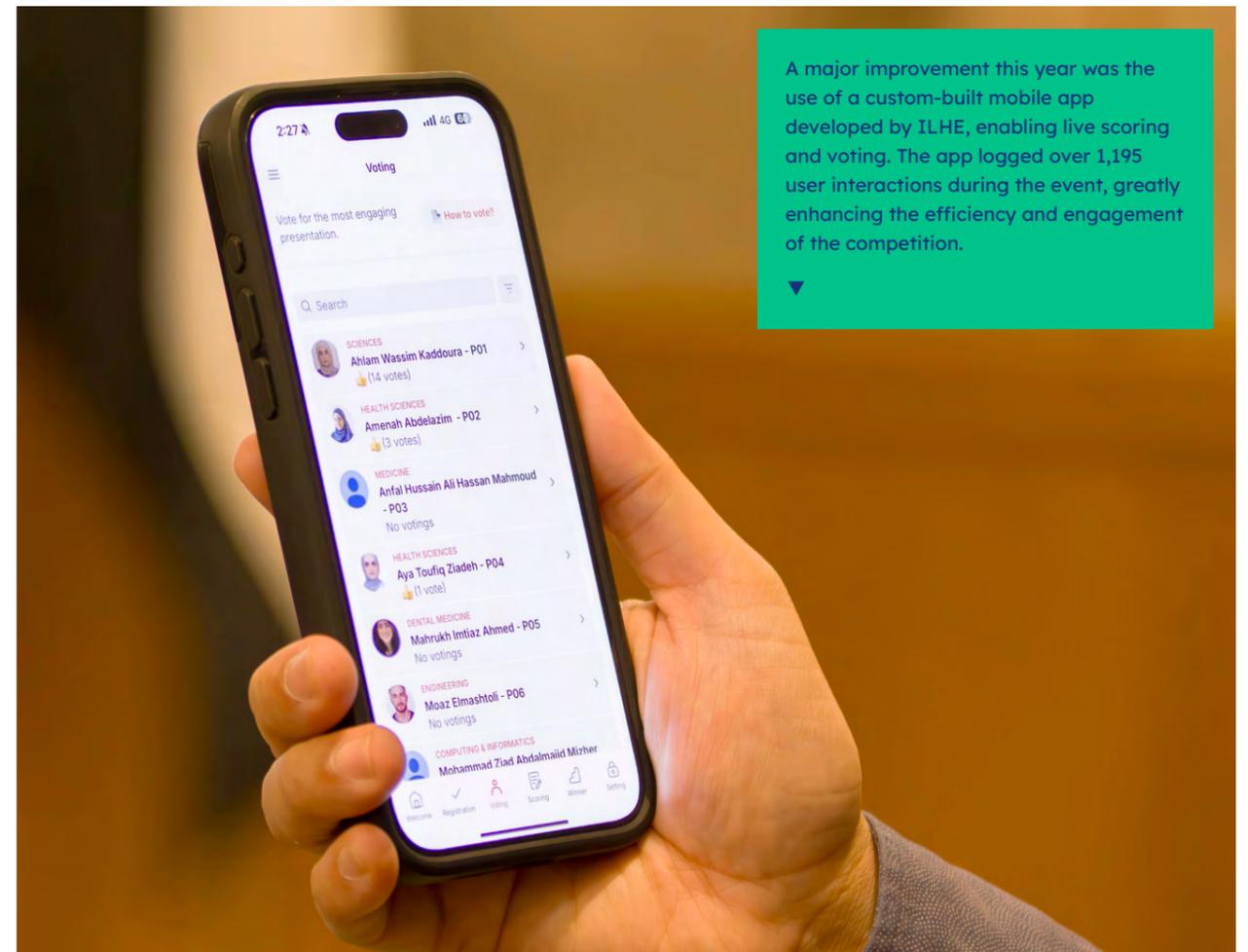
AED 3,000. Additional prizes were presented to runners-up and audience favorites, further celebrating excellence in academic communication.

Why the 3M Competition Matters

The competition plays a strategic role in:

- Building confidence in public speaking
- Teaching the art of translating complex ideas to broad audiences
- Enhancing critical thinking and structured messaging
- Supporting leadership development and personal branding

As the competition continues to grow, it reflects the University of Sharjah’s commitment to equipping students with real-world skills that prepare them to lead, inspire, and communicate with impact.



A major improvement this year was the use of a custom-built mobile app developed by ILHE, enabling live scoring and voting. The app logged over 1,195 user interactions during the event, greatly enhancing the efficiency and engagement of the competition.





▲ Students present their research projects and innovative ideas through visually engaging posters, explaining key concepts, findings, and design processes to visitors.

Design for Future Higher Education (D4FHE) Student Competition 2025



D4FHE Student Competition 2025 reaffirmed the University of Sharjah's commitment to student-led innovation in shaping the future of education. This strategic initiative challenged students to design transformative solutions that reimagine learning environments, teaching practices, and institutional systems in response to emerging educational needs.

This year's competition attracted wider participation from colleges, showcasing the strength of collaboration across disciplines. A total of 26 submissions were accepted, 14 group entries and 12 individual entries. Involving total of 45 students.

The submission were distributed across three key categories:

- AI and Learning Transformation (AL)
- Emerging Technology in Education (ET)
- Social Impact and Sustainability in Education (SS)



To enhance the quality of submissions, a series of pre-competition workshops was offered, including:

- Turning Ideas into Startups
- Digital Prototyping Using AI Tools
- Crafting Winning Posters for Success

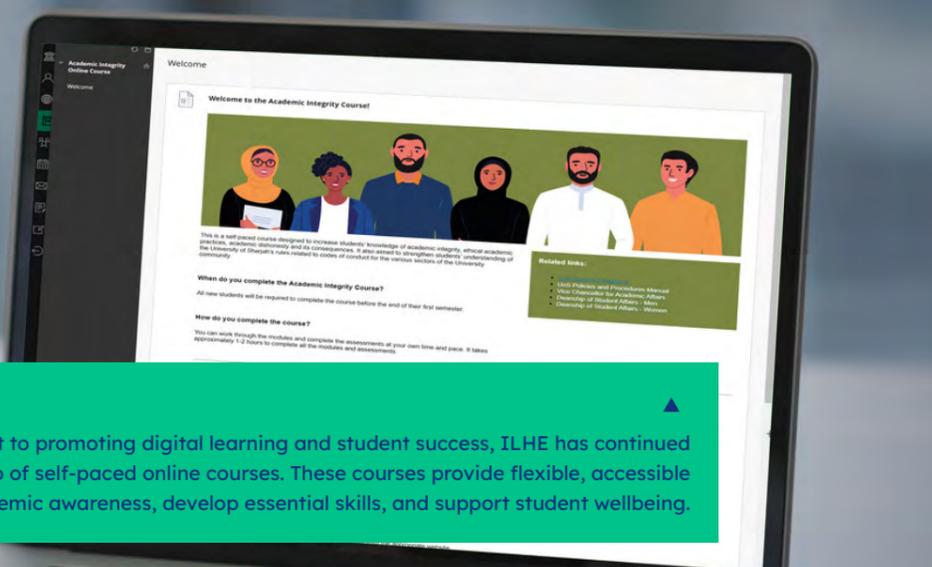
Entries were evaluated by a panel of 12 judges, supported by a head judging committee drawn from various colleges to ensure fairness and academic rigor. Similar to the 3M Competition, a custom-built mobile application developed by ILHE was used to facilitate real-time scoring by judges and enable attendees to browse and review all submitted projects, thereby enhancing transparency, interactivity, and overall event engagement.

Three winners were selected from each category, with their projects showcasing bold, practical, and scalable ideas that are supported with a research. Winning proposals demonstrated strong awareness of emerging technologies, educational equity, and sustainability. Reinforcing the competition's mission to cultivate future-ready, action-oriented student leaders.

As higher education continues to evolve, the D4FHE competition stands as a vital platform to empower students as innovators and changemakers, preparing them to drive meaningful progress in education locally and globally.



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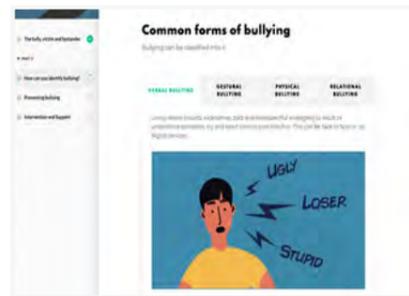


As part of its commitment to promoting digital learning and student success, ILHE has continued to expand its portfolio of self-paced online courses. These courses provide flexible, accessible pathways to build academic awareness, develop essential skills, and support student wellbeing.

Online Courses

Academic Integrity and Anti-Bullying

Both courses were developed as interactive, self-paced modules hosted on the university's Learning Management System (LMS) and are now mandatory for all new students. The Academic Integrity course includes four modules, while the Anti-Bullying course consists of one module. To date, 4,356 students have completed the Academic Integrity course and 4,457 have completed the Anti-Bullying course.



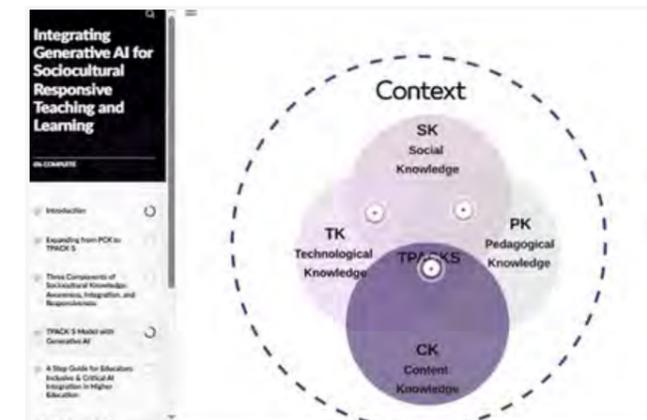
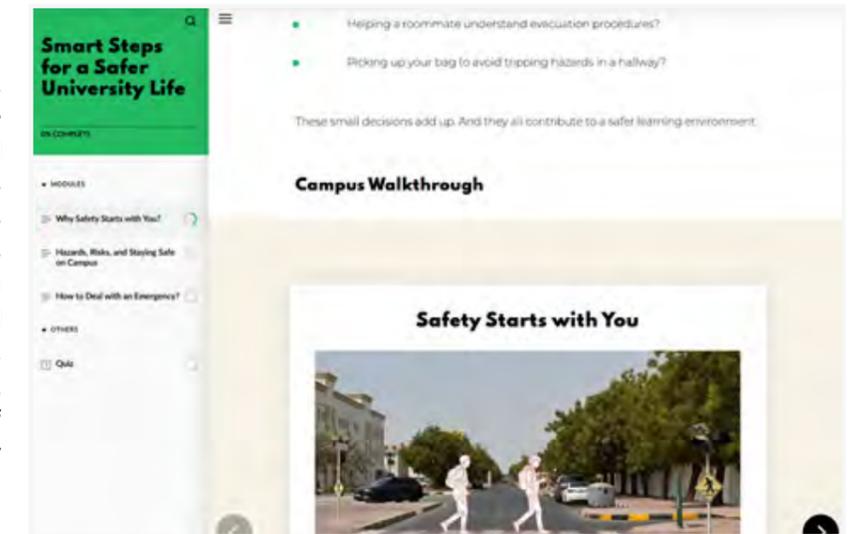
Have you ever considered how a professionally written email can impact your academic communication? This "Email Etiquette" mini-course is designed to equip University of Sharjah students with the skills to craft respectful, clear, and effective emails. Through practical examples and interactive exercises, you'll learn how to communicate with your professors

Email Etiquette

Developed in collaboration with Dr. Asmaa Awad (Director, Language Institute), this 60-minute mini-course helps students improve their email communication with faculty. It is optional, self-paced, and offered in both English and Arabic. Upon completion, students receive a certificate.

Health and Safety

This self-paced course, developed with the support of the UoS Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Department, raises student awareness of campus safety protocols and emphasizes personal responsibility in maintaining a secure and supportive learning environment. By promoting safety awareness, the course fosters a culture of well-being across the university community.



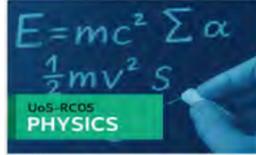
Spotlight on Cheating

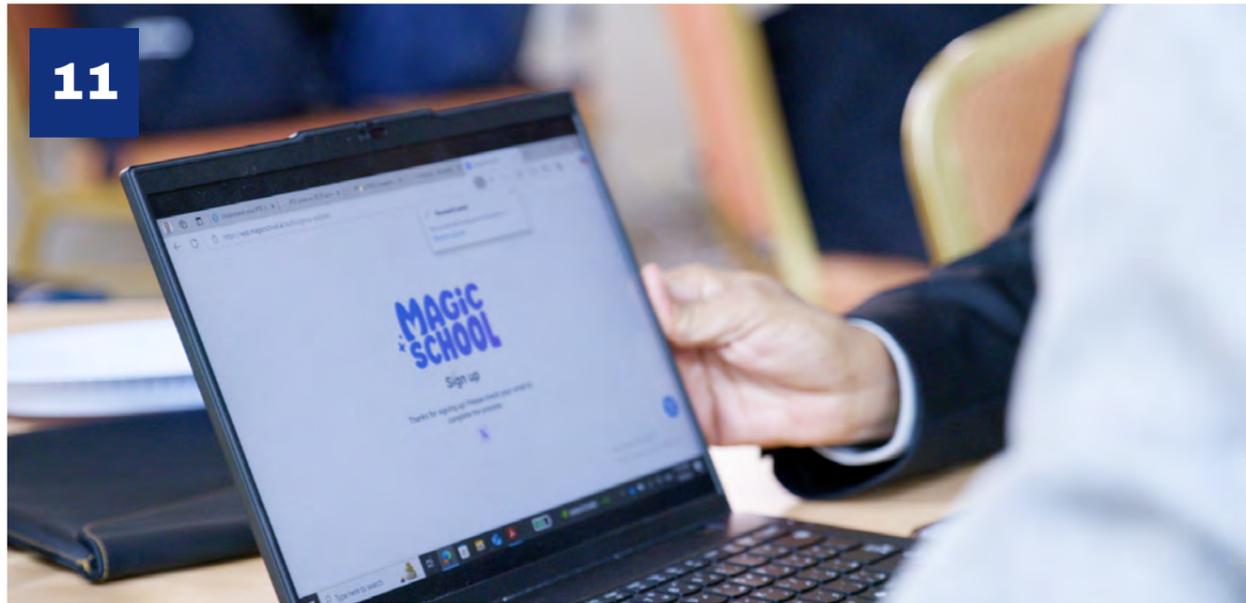
Focused on academic integrity, the Spotlight on Cheating course explores various forms of academic misconduct, the consequences of cheating, and strategies for maintaining ethical academic behavior.

Pre-college MOOCs

Online courses target high school and foundation-level students, helping them transition to university life by introducing core academic skills and expectations in a university setting.

These online offerings reflect ILHE's strategic focus on scalable, accessible digital education that addresses both academic readiness and student wellbeing.

 <p>ARABIC FOR NON-ARABS</p> <p>Arabic Made Easy: A Beginner's Guide</p> <p>Arabic for non-Arabic Speakers is a beginner-level course offered by the Language Institute at the University of</p>	 <p>PHYSICS</p> <p>Physics Power-Up: Understand the Basics</p> <p>This free, self-study Physics Remedial Course at the University of Sharjah spans eight modules, covering</p>	 <p>ENGLISH</p> <p>English Boost: Master the Basics</p> <p>This course is tailored to help students improve their fundamental English language skills, focusing on grammar,</p>
 <p>CHEMISTRY</p> <p>Chemistry Unlocked: The Foundation You Need</p> <p>The course offers a comprehensive and engaging learning experience for incoming students preparing to</p>	 <p>MATHS</p> <p>Math Essentials: Strengthen Your Skills</p> <p>This course is carefully designed to provide you with the essential knowledge and skills to succeed in</p>	 <p>BIOLOGY</p> <p>Fundamentals of Biology: A Strong Start</p> <p>This free, self-study Biology Remedial Course at the University of Sharjah spans eight modules, covering</p>



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Communities of Practice (CoP)

CoP initiative at the University of Sharjah, led by the ILHE, has grown into a thriving professional network, now comprising 208 active members across various colleges. Designed to encourage collaboration, innovation, and reflective practice, the CoP framework supports faculty in enhancing teaching effectiveness through shared knowledge, dialogue, and experimentation with emerging pedagogical strategies.

By leveraging online platforms, bilingual resources, and peer-to-peer engagement, the CoP initiative has helped promote inclusivity and strengthened a culture of educational excellence aligned with the university's strategic priorities.

Tips on the GO

"Tips on the Go" is a bilingual micro-video series that delivers concise insights into emerging educational technologies in under three minutes. Each episode focuses on a practical teaching strategy and concludes with a clear, actionable tip for classroom implementation. Produced through cross-college collaboration involving faculty and staff from various academic units, the first edition of the series explored the integration of Generative AI in Teaching and Learning.

This initiative has reinforced cross-campus engagement, provided just-in-time faculty development, and encouraged knowledge sharing on digital innovation in pedagogy.



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- ▲ Key Highlights (as of May 2025):
- Videos Released: 7
 - Total Views: 1,266
 - Average Views per Video: ~181
 - Total Watch Time: 31.1 hours
 - Subscribers Gained: 100



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▲ ILHE specialist engages in collaborative discussion with faculty members as part of the support provided to help educators investigate and implement evidence-based teaching practices aimed at enhancing student learning outcomes.

Action Research Hub

Launched as an extension of the CoP model, the Action Research Hub enables faculty to engage in structured, evidence-based inquiry to improve teaching and student outcomes. ILHE specialists collaborate with faculty in classroom settings to test and assess teaching interventions.

Ongoing projects include:

- From Perception to Practice: Exploring sociocultural knowledge development through AI-integrated microlearning.
- Integrating Generative AI in Fine Art Education: Evaluating student creativity and satisfaction through AI-supported design tasks.
- Findings from these studies are shared across the university to inform practice and drive institutional growth.



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Brown Bag Gathering

Continuing its commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration and reflective teaching practice, the Brown Bag Gathering initiative remained an active platform for faculty engagement during the 2024/2025 academic year. These informal 45-minute online sessions provided faculty members a relaxed yet purposeful space to explore timely topics related to teaching

and learning, share innovative classroom practices, and reflect on current challenges and solutions in higher education.

This year's gatherings featured diverse themes aligned with institutional priorities, including generative AI in education, inclusive teaching practices, academic integrity, and experiential learning. Each session was hosted by faculty or staff with relevant expertise, facilitating open dialogue and exchange of ideas across disciplines. The format encouraged cross-college engagement, enabling faculty from various academic backgrounds to contribute insights and build connections.

The Brown Bag series continues to play a vital role in cultivating a strong community of practice, advancing pedagogical excellence, and promoting evidence-based teaching strategies within the University of Sharjah.



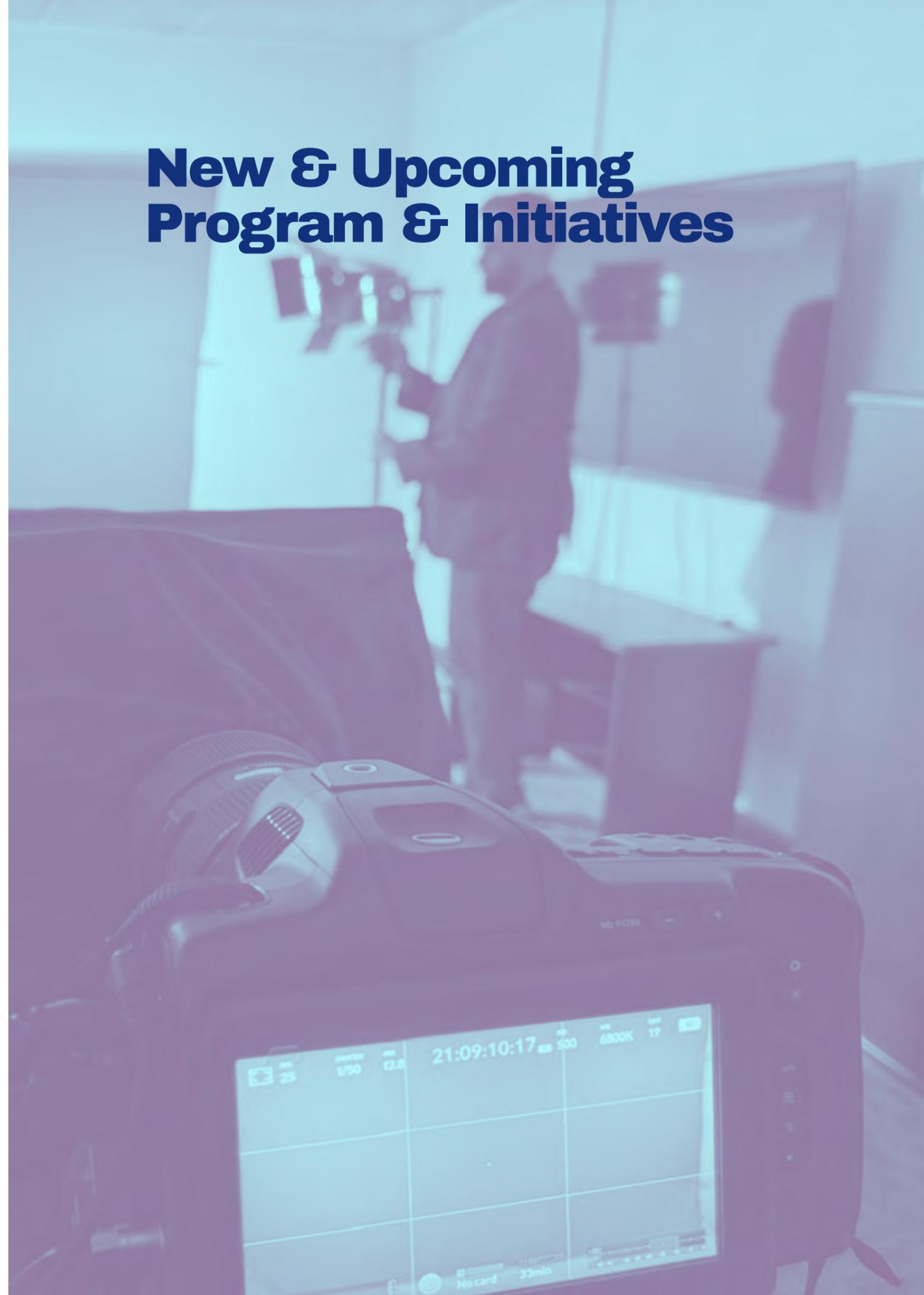
Faculty Peer Mentoring Program

The Faculty Peer Mentoring Program is a strategic initiative designed to complement ILHE's existing faculty development efforts, including Peer Observation of Teaching and the NFPD. This initiative fosters collaborative and mutually supportive learning relationships among faculty members, creating a collegial, non-evaluative environment to promote teaching excellence and academic growth.

ILHE has been actively involved in this initiative since its launch last year, engaging faculty members through a series of targeted workshops delivered in both English and Arabic. These sessions equip faculty with the tools, strategies, and frameworks necessary to effectively participate in and benefit from peer mentoring. In the current academic year, ILHE expanded its support by introducing three additional workshops tailored to enhance the mentoring experience and address faculty development needs more comprehensively.

Through this initiative, faculty are encouraged to share best practices in teaching and research, improve transferable and professional skills, enhance emotional well-being, and build leadership capabilities. Ultimately contributing to a more connected, confident, and innovative academic community.

New & Upcoming Program & Initiatives





Emirati Future Leadership Initiative – 5th Batch

The 5th batch of the EFLI has officially commenced, continuing ILHE’s mission to empower high-achieving Emirati students through values-driven leadership development. Student selection and onboarding were successfully completed, with the initial orientation held on April 14, 2025.

Following the established iLeadership+ framework, participants will take part in a series of interactive workshops designed to build essential 21st-century skills, foster innovation, and cultivate national responsibility. The program will conclude with an international leadership camp in the next 2025/2026 academic year, offering global exposure and experiential learning opportunities that broaden participants’ leadership perspectives and cultural understanding.

Smart Learning Horizons: Using Generative AI in Higher Education

This upcoming microlearning series provides flexible, high-impact professional development on integrating generative AI into teaching, assessment, and research. The program comprises six self-paced modules (under one hour each), offered in English and Arabic. As a pilot, ILHE has rolled out the first module, Integrating Generative AI for Culturally Responsive Teaching and Learning, which introduces an AI-enhanced model that incorporates the sociocultural and ethical dimensions of AI.



AI in Higher Education - Faculty Intensive Training Program

In alignment with the University of Sharjah’s strategic vision and the shared commitment expressed by the Chancellor, the Faculty Intensive Training Program represents a key step in embedding artificial intelligence within higher education.

Delivered by ILHE, this initiative will provide faculty with specialized professional development workshops designed to empower them with the skills, tools, and confidence to integrate AI into their teaching, research, and academic leadership. The program will emphasize ethical and responsible adoption of AI, aligning with global best practices while supporting innovation in pedagogy and student engagement.

By equipping faculty to harness the transformative potential of AI, this program directly advances the university’s mission to remain at the forefront of academic excellence, ensuring that the University of Sharjah continues to be a leading hub for AI-driven innovation in higher education.



6th Teaching and Learning Forum

Building on the success of previous editions, the 6th Teaching and Learning Forum will provide a dedicated platform for faculty members at the University of Sharjah to exchange ideas, share experiences, and explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Scheduled for the upcoming academic year, the forum will highlight emerging trends in pedagogy with a focus on artificial intelligence in education, digital transformation, inclusive teaching, and student-centered learning. As one of ILHE’s flagship initiatives, the forum continues to strengthen faculty development and foster a culture of pedagogical excellence.





Center for AI Pedagogical Innovation (CAIPI)

The Center for AI Pedagogical Innovation (CAIPI) was proposed to create a strategic hub at the University of Sharjah to lead the integration of artificial intelligence in teaching, learning, and research. The initiative will position the university at the forefront of digital transformation. CAIPI will empower faculty, enhance student engagement, and foster a culture of ethical and innovative AI adoption across disciplines. As a future-facing initiative, CAIPI will not only strengthen the university's capacity for educational excellence but also serve as a regional leader in advancing AI-driven solutions for higher education. The proposal has been formally submitted to higher management for review and approval.



TEACHING EXCELLENCE & INNOVATION GRANTS

ILHE is now accepting grant applications for the 2022-2023 submission cycle.
The deadline to apply is **14th October 2022**

Chancellor's Teaching Excellence & Innovation Grant (TEIG)
Guided by the Chancellor's vision, this grant supports the departure from the classical teaching approach and the adoption of innovative pedagogical approaches that have the potential to guide teaching and transform learning within UoS.

Integration of Research into Undergraduate Education Grant (IRUEG)
This grant aims to facilitate structured opportunities for undergraduate students to learn through active, critical, and analytical inquiry. The grant supports the development of pedagogies focused on engaging students in research and implementing their findings in real-life situations.

Who is eligible for the grants?

- Full-time UoS Faculty members
- Non-academic staff and part-time or visiting faculty members*
- Visiting faculty members who has at least one year remaining in their contract term*
- Full-time Undergraduate/Masters/PhD students*

Important Dates

Grant announcement	15 th September 2022
Last day of Application	14 th October 2022
Result announcement	28 th November 2022

Submit Now
SCAN QR CODE
<https://ilhe.sharjah.ac.ae>

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

Grant Teaching and Innovation

The Grant for Teaching and Innovation will provide faculty members with dedicated support to develop and implement innovative teaching practices that enhance student learning. This initiative encourages creativity, evidence-based pedagogy, and the integration of emerging technologies, reinforcing the University of Sharjah's commitment to advancing academic excellence and innovation in higher education.

Continuing the 3M Competition Tradition

Building on the success of three university-wide editions, the UoS 3M Competition will return for its 4th edition, alongside the launch of a national version of the event. This expansion positions the University of Sharjah as a leader in showcasing student research and innovation across the UAE. The initiative underscores the university's commitment to empowering students with essential 21st-century skills in communication, public speaking, and knowledge translation, while fostering a culture of academic excellence and innovation.

Design for Future in Higher Education (D4FHE) Student Competition

The D4FHE Student Competition will return as a flagship initiative, challenging students to design innovative solutions that reimagine the future of higher education. With themes such as AI in education, digital transformation, sustainability, and inclusivity, the competition fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and equips students with the skills to drive meaningful change in education.





National 3M Competition

Building on the success of the University of Sharjah's annual 3M Competition, ILHE is preparing to scale the competition to a national level. This expansion aims to engage students from universities across the UAE, fostering a broader culture of academic communication excellence and public speaking.

The National 3M Competition will provide a high-impact platform for students to present their research, ideas, or projects in just three minutes, making complex topics accessible to a non-specialist audience. By emphasizing clarity, structure, and engagement, the initiative supports the development of essential 21st-century communication skills.

Key highlights of the upcoming national initiative include:

- Inter-university collaboration and participation from higher education institutions across the UAE
- Standardized judging and training framework based on ILHE's proven model
- Live audience voting and interactive scoring tools via the ILHE-designed mobile app
- National recognition and awards to celebrate student achievement in research communication

This upcoming initiative reflects ILHE's strategic commitment to empowering students as confident communicators and future leaders beyond the university level.



Academic Advising

As part of the university's commitment to strengthening student support, the new batch of academic advising program will be launched in the next academic to build faculty capacity and enhance advising practices. Through structured training and the integration of innovative tools, the program will equip faculty with the strategies needed to provide effective, consistent, and student-centered advising. This initiative reflects the university's ongoing efforts to foster student success and well-being across all colleges.





Institute of Leadership in Higher Education

M3, 2nd Floor, Office No 231

Email: ilhe@sharjah.ac.ae