

مؤسسة حمدان بن راشد آل مكتوم
للعلم والطبية والتربوية
Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation
for Medical and Educational Sciences



Participation Guide

HAMDAN- ALECSO Award for Digital Innovations in Education

Our Vision

“A Pioneering Foundation Fostering Excellence”



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About the Foundation

Initiated by the late Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Distinguished Academic Performance was established in 1998, followed by the establishment of Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Award for Medical Sciences in 1999. The aim was to strengthen excellence in the educational and medical sectors, foster innovation, and support high-quality initiatives. These Awards were designed to identify, nurture, and encourage talent while advancing scientific research in these crucial fields.

Within a few years, the scope of services and partnerships of both Awards expanded from the local framework to regional and international levels, especially with prestigious international and regional organizations such as the UNESCO, ICESCO, ALECSO, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States, Fab Lab Organization, World Council for Gifted and Talented Children, International Research Association for Talent Development and Excellence, as well as reputable medical entities like specialized universities and international hospitals. This posed more challenges for the Awards that required an advanced administrative structure and additional resources.

In 2018, a law was issued to establish Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance, giving the educational initiative its own institutional identity. In 2023, another law was issued to establish Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Medical and Educational Sciences. This law facilitated the transfer of the educational and medical initiative legacies into a single foundation that now possesses a rich portfolio of ongoing programs and projects, along with a solid springboard for further innovation aimed at enhancing governmental and societal efforts in highlighting the importance of the education and medical sectors. The foundation works towards spreading a culture of talent, innovation, excellence, and quality, contributing to the enhancement of quality and performance levels, and fostering creativity in educational and medical institutions at both local and international levels. This includes related elements and components in line with global best practices. Additionally, the foundation contributes to the establishment and support of innovation, talent, and scientific research centers and programs.

The Strategic Framework of the Foundation

Vision

A Pioneering Foundation Fostering Excellence.

Mission

Designing and implementing distinguished awards and programs that empower achievements in medicine and education, while nurturing the giftedness of individuals.

Values

Pioneering - Integrity - Excellence - Innovation - Corporate Agility.

Strategic Goals

- Pioneering education excellence support.
- Pioneering medical excellence support.
- Pioneering the field of giftedness and innovation.
- An agile and leading foundation.

Definition of Digital Innovation in Education

Digital innovation in education refers to the systematic and innovative utilization of digital technologies and artificial intelligence, aimed at enhancing teaching and learning processes and improving the quality of educational outcomes. This is achieved through the design, implementation, and development of effective and pioneering learning environments that address educational challenges and enhance future skills for both learners and educators.

Award Objectives

- Motivating and celebrating innovators and distinguished contributors in the field of digital innovation in education.
- Highlighting pioneering initiatives in modern digital technologies that impact teaching and learning.
- Encouraging digital innovation to improve and develop education and learning in the Arab world.
- Providing innovative technological solutions that contribute to increasing the efficiency of education in the Arab world.
- Promoting knowledge exchange in the field of digital education and learning among Arab countries.

Scope of the Award

Countries of the Arab world.

Targeted categories

The individuals' category shall include:

- Students of the educational institutions, including private and public schools and universities.
- Workers at private and governmental educational institutions from the teaching and administrative staff.
- Workers at governmental and non-governmental organizations and community institutions such as authorities, ministries, and institutions in both the governmental and private sectors.
- Researchers in the field of education and technology
- Specialists in educational technologies.

The institutions category shall include:

- Authorities, ministries, departments, and institutions in both the governmental and the private sectors.
- Educational institutions in both the public and private sectors.
- Companies operate in the field of technology and digital applications, provided that they comply with the Award's terms and conditions.

Rewards and Incentives

- The winner shall be awarded a cash prize of **USD 25,000** or its equivalent, in addition to a certificate and a trophy of excellence, to be presented at an official annual ceremony held to honor the winners.
- In the case of a team submission, the total cash prize shall be distributed among the team members according to the level of contribution of each innovator to the submitted work. The Foundation shall bear the cost of hosting only the team leader of the winning team to attend the ceremony.

Application Conditions

First: Conditions Related to Applicants:

- **Eligible Categories:**
 1. **Individuals:** The individual applicant must be a citizen of one of the Arab countries. Applications may be submitted individually or as a group of up to four (4) individuals. In the case of a team application, a coordinator or team leader must be designated to act as the official representative and primary point of contact with the Hamdan Foundation.
 2. **Institutions:** Institutional applicants must be legally registered and headquartered in one of the Arab countries, and the application must be submitted in the name of the institution.
- **Submissions:**
 - Applicants, whether individuals or institutions, may not submit more than one application per cycle.

- Applications may not be submitted for any innovation that has previously won any local, regional, or international award.
- Winners, whether individuals or institutions, may participate again in future cycles provided that a new and different innovation is submitted.
- **Evidence and Supporting Documents:** Applicants must submit evidence and documents that support the validity, effectiveness, and feasibility of the digital innovation. Such evidence must be appropriate to the applicant category (individuals or institutions) and may include, but is not limited to: user evaluations, performance data and indicators, certificates or endorsements from external entities, in accordance with the evaluation axes and criteria.
- **Declarations and Commitments:**
 - Applicants must adhere strictly to the specified deadlines for submitting innovations and reports. Any delay may result in disqualification.
 - Applicants must sign a declaration and pledge confirming the following:
 1. The applicant is the legal owner of the submitted digital innovation, or is legally authorized to use or develop it, and assumes full responsibility for its intellectual property rights.
 2. All information provided regarding the digital innovation is complete, accurate, and correct, and the applicant bears full responsibility for any false, misleading, or inaccurate information.
 3. The applicant authorizes the Hamdan Foundation's management to publish and promote the digital innovation within the scope of its non-profit educational and awareness-related activities and initiatives, without the need for prior approval, while preserving the applicant's right to be acknowledged by name or institutional capacity, and without entitlement to any compensation or additional rights.
 4. The submitted digital innovation must clearly address a specific educational challenge, explicitly demonstrate how the technology used contributes to improving learning quality or supporting educational processes, comply with educational ethical values and standards, ensure data protection, and prevent any educational or psychological harm to beneficiaries.

Second: Conditions Related to the Submitted Digital Innovation:

- **Service to the Educational Field:** The digital innovation must contribute in a clear and tangible manner to supporting the educational process and demonstrate its impact on the targeted groups of students, teachers, and other beneficiaries, or on the educational system or any of its components.
- **Novelty and Practical Implementation:**
 - The digital innovation must be recent, and its implementation must not exceed two (2) years from the date of application.
 - The innovation must be fully developed and not in a prototype, experimental, or incomplete development stage. Evidence of operational readiness and actual implementation in a real educational environment must be provided.
- **Personal Creativity and Independent Design:**
 - The use of artificial intelligence tools and technologies is limited to being supportive tools in the development process and not a full substitute for personal creativity or human effort.
 - The applicant must disclose the nature of the artificial intelligence used in the design, development, and implementation of the digital innovation.
 - Innovations that are fully generated automatically using artificial intelligence technologies without effective human intervention shall not be accepted.
- **Compliance with Ethical Standards:** The digital innovation must comply with ethical standards of education and must be free from any form of racial or gender discrimination.
- **Technical Compatibility:** Systems, including Mac OS and Windows, as well as smartphone applications operating on iOS and Android, and other relevant platforms.

Guidelines for Applying for the Award

Applications shall be submitted electronically via the following website:

<https://tahkeem.ha.ae/general>

Applicants must complete the online application form, which includes the personal details of the applicant/applicants and essential information about the digital innovation.

- **Providing a Link to the Digital Innovation:**
 - A valid and active link to the digital innovation must be provided. The applicant is fully responsible for ensuring that the link remains accessible and fully functional throughout the entire evaluation period.
 - The link must enable the Evaluation Committee to access and review the digital innovation in full, without any technical or functional restrictions.
 - Applicants must provide the Committee with all requirements necessary for access, such as a temporary account and password, and grant full authorization to review all components of the innovation.
- **Video Submission:**
 - A link to a video of no more than two (2) minutes must be provided, demonstrating the operation and application of the digital innovation.
 - The video must be available online and accessible to evaluators and organizers.
- **Supporting Documents and Evidence:**
 - Applicants must provide supporting documents and evidence as part of the application file.
 - The number of attachments shall not exceed two (2) attachments per evaluation dimension, and each attachment must include no more than two (2) pieces of evidence, to ensure clarity.
 - If any attachment is unclear or illegible, the score for that attachment shall not be counted.
- **Declarations:** Applicants must sign the declaration and pledge confirming acceptance of all terms and conditions of the Award.
- **Description of the Submitted Digital Innovation:** Applicants must provide a comprehensive description of the submitted digital innovation, including its inputs, outputs, place of

implementation, method of application, and achieved results, while strictly adhering to the specified word limits for each section, as follows:

- **Introduction:** A concise summary of the digital innovation outlining the problem or challenge being addressed, the significance of the selected or proposed digital innovation, the technology used, the expected impact, objectives, and target groups. (Maximum 250 words)
- **Application or Educational Innovation:** A detailed description of the technology used in the digital innovation, including data sources, algorithms, models, and the implementation plan. This section must also provide a precise explanation of how the innovation is applied in the educational field, clarifying its use and impact on the educational process, and justifying the adopted digital approach. (Maximum 500 words)
- **Results and Impact:** This section must present a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the impact and contributions of the submitted digital innovation.
- Applicants are required to present real and verified results resulting from actual and complete field implementation of the innovation in a real educational environment. Submissions limited to theoretical studies, future projections, feasibility studies only, or hypothetical results not based on actual field implementation shall not be accepted.
- Applicants must provide documented and verifiable evidence and data demonstrating the impact of the digital innovation on the educational ecosystem, such as performance indicators, measurement results, usage reports, or other validated outputs reflecting real application.
- This section should also highlight tangible and measurable improvements achieved by the digital innovation as a qualitative addition or actual development of the educational process, such as increased engagement, improved learning outcomes, and enhanced efficiency in delivering a personalized learning experience that meets diverse student needs, while specifying the scope, duration, and beneficiary group. (Maximum 500 words)
- **Team Description:** Information about the participants, including their qualifications, expertise, and roles within the digital innovation. (Maximum 150 words)
- **Conclusion:** A future-oriented plan for improving and developing the digital innovation, clarifying how it can continue to deliver sustainable educational benefits. (Maximum 150 words)

Applicant's Journey



First stage: The applicant shall apply for the award via the Foundation website.

The applicant shall fill in the **e-application** form and upload all supporting evidence within the timeframe specified by the Foundation.



Second stage: Arbitration

- Theoretical arbitration (document assessment)
- Field arbitration (personal interviews)



Third Stage: Result Announcement

The results are announced through the Foundation's official channels.

Evaluation Criteria



Criterion 1: Creativity and Innovation (250 points)

This criterion evaluates the uniqueness and distinctiveness of the idea, the innovative and effective ways in which technology is utilized, as well as the extent to which the submitted digital innovation demonstrates originality and the ability to reshape the educational process through modern technological innovations.

Applicants are required to demonstrate how the digital innovation contributes to improving the educational ecosystem in a creative and innovative manner.

This criterion includes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Examples of Supporting Evidence (<i>not limited to; applicants may submit other relevant evidence</i>)
1. Uniqueness and Novelty of the Idea (90 points)	The degree to which the digital innovation idea is unique, original, and innovative, as well as its novelty amid recent technological and digital developments.	Comprehensive description of the digital innovation idea, including its features and unique aspects. - Diagrams, models, or a prototype.
2. Use of the Latest Digital Technologies in Innovative Ways (90 points)	The extent to which modern digital technologies are used in the digital innovation in non-traditional, novel, and effective ways.	Examples of applied technologies or smart tools used in the digital innovation, such as next-generation artificial intelligence technologies for data analysis and prediction, among others. - Diagrams, models, or a prototype.
3. Alignment with Contemporary Trends in Education (70 points)	The extent to which the digital innovation aligns with modern developments and trends in education, its capacity to innovate within the educational ecosystem through modern digital technologies, and its potential to transform the traditional educational system into a modern, innovative, and digital system.	Previous studies supporting this alignment, or a detailed explanation supported by applied research evidence in this field. - A future strategic plan outlining the impact on the educational process. - Survey models. - Various scenarios demonstrating the innovation's ability to reshape the educational process.

Criterion 2: User Experience (200 points)

This criterion evaluates the quality of the digital innovation's design, its clarity and visual appeal, as well as ease of use and interaction with the user interface. The evaluation also covers visual design aspects, information organization, and feature diversity, ensuring that information is presented in a structured and engaging manner that enhances the user experience.

This criterion focuses on visual attractiveness, clarity, and design quality, which influences the user experience and the user's initial impression of the product. Good design is not limited to colors and shapes; it also includes consistency and ease of navigation. This criterion measures the ability of users, whether beginners or experienced, to interact with the digital innovation easily without the need for extensive training. It also emphasizes technical performance, such as loading speed and responsiveness.

This criterion includes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Examples of Supporting Evidence <i>(not limited to; applicants may submit other relevant evidence)</i>
1. User Interface Design (50 points)	This dimension evaluates the visual appeal, aesthetics, clarity, and overall quality of the digital innovation's design, including the user interface, navigation system, and related elements.	– Images or videos demonstrating the design aesthetics, such as the use of harmonious and appealing colors, and well-balanced presentation of text and visuals. – User feedback on the design.
2. Ease of Use and Performance Efficiency (50 points)	This dimension assesses the ease of use of the digital innovation for all user groups, along with fast performance and high responsiveness across different devices and platforms.	– User experience testing results. – Load time assessments. – Support for various devices such as smartphones and tablets.
3. Performance Indicators (50 points)	This dimension focuses on the continuous measurement and evaluation of the innovation's impact through clear performance indicators.	– Use of user analytics. – Tracking interaction rates. – Measuring user satisfaction through surveys.
4. User Interaction (50 points)	This dimension evaluates the level of user engagement with the innovation through the provision of interactive features that encourage active use, participation, and content engagement.	– Examples of interactive features such as comments, ratings, personalized notifications, and automated updates.

Criterion 3: Technical Deployment and Operational Efficiency (150 Points)

This criterion evaluates the technical implementation, operational efficiency, and performance of the submitted digital innovation, as well as its freedom from errors that may limit its application or adoption by various educational institutions.

The digital innovation is assessed based on technical execution efficiency, flexibility and scalability, platform integration, ease of use, privacy, and legal compliance. The evaluation covers programming quality, performance stability, scalability, support for different systems, data protection, and compliance with relevant regulations, supported by evidence such as technical testing, device compatibility, and security certifications.

This criterion includes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Examples of Supporting Evidence (<i>not limited to; applicants may submit other relevant evidence</i>)
1. Technical Quality and Professionalism of the Digital Innovation (35 points)	This dimension measures the quality and efficiency of the innovation's technical implementation, ensuring a stable and seamless user experience.	– Innovation performance measurements and user experience assessments. – Hands-on testing of the innovation. – Technical performance reports demonstrating the quality of implementation and programming efficiency. – Load and stress tests showing the innovation's ability to handle high workloads. – Software quality certifications or technical reviews by domain experts.
2. Flexibility and Scalability (35 points)	This dimension focuses on the innovation's ability to scale in response to growing needs, whether in terms of increasing the number of users or adding new features, as well as the ease of deploying the innovation in educational institutions or different environments.	– Technical scalability plans documented within the innovation materials. – Examples of successful expansion into new markets or support for a larger user base. – Ease of adoption in educational institutions through partnerships or successful pilot implementations.

3. Integration with Other Platforms (20 points)	The system's ability to integrate with multiple systems and platforms, thereby increasing its flexibility within operational environments.	- Examples of system integration with other platforms, including compatibility with devices such as tablets, smartphones, and desktop computers. - Documentation demonstrating support for Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). - User reviews regarding the ease of integration with other services.
4. Flexibility of Use (20 points)	This dimension focuses on the ability to use the innovation across multiple platforms while maintaining high-quality performance across different devices.	- Compatibility testing across different operating systems. - Reports demonstrating the innovation's performance on various devices (smartphones, computers, tablets). - User feedback on cross-platform user experience.
5. Privacy and Data Protection (20 points)	This dimension addresses the innovation's compliance with security standards and its ability to protect users' personal data, ensuring the safeguarding of sensitive information through encryption and security measures.	- Security certifications or assessments demonstrating compliance with data protection standards. - Documentation explaining encryption mechanisms and data protection procedures. - Security reviews conducted by independent entities.
6. Compliance with Legal Standards (20 points)	This dimension ensures that the innovation complies with laws and regulations related to privacy protection, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) or other applicable local laws.	- Documentation demonstrating compliance with relevant laws and regulatory frameworks. - Accreditation certificates issued by competent regulatory authorities. - Legal consultations or reviews conducted by specialists in regulatory compliance.

Criterion 4: Value and Impact (250 points)

This criterion evaluates the extent to which the submitted digital innovation impacts society in the Arab world and addresses educational challenges. It also assesses the innovation's ability to bring about positive and tangible change in the educational process by enhancing its effectiveness and potential impact within the education sector.

In addition, this criterion examines the competitiveness of the innovation and its performance in the market, with a focus on delivering practical solutions to complex educational challenges faced by a broad segment of society. It further evaluates the extent to which the innovation aligns with the core objectives of improving education, enabling it to play an effective role in raising the quality of education in the Arab world.

This criterion includes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Examples of Supporting Evidence <i>(not limited to; applicants may submit other relevant evidence)</i>
1. Societal Impact and Community Engagement (90 points)	The extent of the positive impact of the digital innovation on users within the Arab community.	– Data on social benefits or success stories from beneficiary communities. – Statistics and surveys, such as the number of users and levels of engagement. – Feedback, opinions, and satisfaction levels of users and beneficiaries. – Field reports or current and future feasibility studies on societal impact. – Geographical reach and the number of educational institutions or individuals benefiting from the innovation
2. Impact on Improving the Educational Process (90 points)	The manner and extent to which the digital innovation contributes to improving the quality of education and enhancing learning efficiency, either by providing practical solutions to common educational challenges or by developing the educational ecosystem through innovative approaches, and by	– Clear and measurable positive impact on educational performance indicators; for example, a case study demonstrating improvement in students' academic performance as a result of the digital innovation.

	assessing the current and future impact of the proposed solution or innovation.	- Digital innovation effectiveness reports and impact analysis. - Survey models and feedback instruments.
3. Competitiveness and Market Performance (70 points)	The innovation's ability to compete in the digital education market and excel in delivering innovative educational solutions.	- A feasibility study of the digital innovation, including technical and economic feasibility assessment, market analysis, and digital innovation performance indicators compared to similar innovations and projects. - Comparative analysis of the innovation's performance against other solutions in the market, highlighting its competitive advantages.

Criterion 5: Suitability and Accessibility (150 points)

This criterion evaluates the extent to which the digital innovation is capable of sustaining and adapting to changes in the fields of education and technology, ensuring its ability to be developed, scaled, and replicated over time. It also assesses the system's capacity to meet the needs of users from diverse backgrounds, including individuals from various environments, persons with disabilities, and users in different contexts such as remote areas, among others.

Furthermore, this criterion emphasizes the overall sustainability of the digital innovation, along with its flexibility to adapt to future requirements.

This criterion includes the following dimensions:

Dimension	Description	Examples of Supporting Evidence (<i>not limited to; applicants may submit other relevant evidence</i>)
1. Continuity and Adaptability to Developments (30 points)	The innovation's ability to adapt to developments and changes in the fields of education and technology.	– Future development plans. – Examples of periodic updates.
2. Accessibility for Diverse User Groups (30 points)	The extent to which the innovation meets the needs of diverse user groups, including persons with disabilities, through inclusive accessibility features.	– Accessibility assessments. – Reviews from different user groups, including persons with disabilities and other special-needs users. – A user interface suitable for all user groups. – Availability of dedicated accessibility tools, such as text enlargement options and other assistive features.
3. Adaptability to and Accessibility in Diverse Environments (30 points)	The flexibility of the innovation to operate effectively in diverse educational environments, including remote and underserved areas.	– Reports on the use of the innovation in diverse environments. – Practical examples demonstrating the application of the innovation in various contexts.

4. Overall Sustainability (30 points)	The innovation's ability to operate in a sustainable and long-term manner without being adversely affected by economic or technological changes.	- Sustainability assessments. - Opinions and evaluations from specialists and experts regarding the sustainability of the innovation.
5. Flexibility and Adaptation to Future Requirements (30 points)	The extent to which the innovation can adapt to future requirements and evolving educational needs.	- Examples demonstrating system flexibility. - Plans for enhancing and improving the innovation.

Definitions and Terms

- **Feasibility Study:** A detailed analysis that evaluates the digital innovation in terms of its strengths, weaknesses, benefits, costs, and other relevant aspects.
- **Educational Ecosystem:** All elements related to education that work together in an integrated and coherent manner to form the educational system within various educational institutions.
- **Smart Mobile Applications:** Educational applications that operate on mobile devices and provide diverse content through engaging and interactive methods.
- **Value and Impact:** The significance of the innovation and its effect on improving education and addressing its challenges.
- **Accessibility and Inclusion:** Meeting the needs of all individuals, including persons with disabilities.
- **Technical Deployment and Operational Efficiency:** The technical efficiency of the innovation and its ease of use.
- **Sustainability and Accessibility:** The ability of the innovation to evolve and continue over time, while being accessible to all.

Best Wishes for Continuous Excellence and Innovation