

Special Interview

with **Dr. Ahmad Abdullah Al-Own,**

The Dean of Graduate Studies on the Latest Graduate Studies Awards



What is the main motivation behind the launch of these new Awards for Graduate Students?

The aim is to promote a culture of distinguished scientific research based on exploring the needs and challenges of society and working to develop appropriate solutions to meet those needs, address and overcome the challenges that may be an obstacle to the development and progress of society. Master's theses and graduation projects, as well as doctoral dissertations, are an essential part of scientific research. Many major research projects - leading to various discoveries and innovations across different fields of science - originate from them. That is why the University seeks, through these awards, to guide graduate students towards research topics directly connected to society and aligned with the University's research priorities, in harmony with the national strategy and Qatar National Vision 2030.

How do these Awards contribute to motivating and encouraging students to achieve academic and research excellence?

Undoubtedly, such awards motivate students to make the most of their studies at Qatar University to develop their skills and abilities in the field of scientific research. They also support the achievement of the graduate's attributes and foster a spirit of constructive scientific competition that strives for excellence and the realization of both graduates' ambitions and the University's goals.

What are the areas of academic excellence covered by the Awards?

The awards include the best graduation project, the best master's thesis, and the best doctoral dissertation at the college level, so that one outstanding project, thesis, or dissertation is selected, according to certain criteria, from each college to be honored at The Research Forum. Then, the best research project in the humanities and the best in the sciences are selected to be honored at the Annual University Forum.

Are the Awards open to all disciplines or geared towards specific fields?

They are available to all master's and doctoral specializations at the University across the fields of humanities, social sciences, engineering, health sector, and sciences.

What are the criteria used in the judging process to select the winners?

• Award Criteria at the College Level are:

- 1- Originality and innovation.
- 2- Methodology and research methods.
- 3- Scientific and societal impact.
- 4- Quality of writing and presentation.
- 5- External evaluation and citations.
- 6- Alignment with the University's research priorities.
- 7- The researcher's commitment to Scientific Research Ethics.

At the university level, there is an additional eighth criterion, which is the "Scientific Publication" of papers from the student's thesis, dissertation, or project in distinguished scientific journals in the fields of specialization.

Can these Awards contribute to raising the University's global ranking and enhancing research and capacity building?

They will certainly have an impact on enhancing and raising the University's global ranking through scientific publications of students' theses instead of remaining in the digital repository or tucked away in drawers. In terms of enhancing research and capacity building, the impact will be clear through students' endeavors to build and enhance their capabilities and skills to write and publish outstanding theses, dissertations and projects at the level of their colleges and the university, as well as enhancing the University's cooperation with various stakeholders inside and outside the country.