



# Arizona State University

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Saudi Arabia

# ASU Charter

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ASU is a comprehensive **public research university** measured not by whom it excludes but by **whom it includes** and how they **succeed**; advancing **research and discovery** of public value; and assuming **fundamental responsibility** for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the **communities** it serves.

## New American University

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Arizona State University has become the foundational model for the **New American University**, a new paradigm for the public research university that transforms higher education. ASU is committed to **excellence, access and impact** in everything that it does.

**#1 in the U.S.  
for innovation**  
ASU ahead of MIT and Stanford  
—U.S. News & World Report, 6 years, 2016–2023



**#1 in the U.S. and  
#2 in the world  
for global impact**  
Ahead of MIT, New York University and Penn State  
—Times Higher Education, 2022

# Welcome

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**We are proud** that ASU is the academic home of more than **580 students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** and that the university has impacted the lives of more than **1,740 alumni from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**.

**We are committed to helping our students succeed** – not just academically, but throughout their lives – and be prepared for a rapidly changing world in which new careers are constantly evolving.

**Our legacy of excellence in education grows** because of the strengths of our award winning faculty who invest in collaborative, interdisciplinary and solution-focused approaches to research, education and entrepreneurship.

**We look forward to working with you** to empower the workforce and leadership through discovery and impact.

Warmest regards,

**Julia Rosen**

Vice President of Global Academic Initiatives  
Office of University Provost



# Student enrollment

2022



Saudi Arabia has the third-largest international undergraduate population at ASU and third-largest international student population overall at ASU.

Most ASU's programs are approved by the Ministry of Higher Education in Saudi Arabia.

582

students from Saudi Arabia enrolled at ASU in fall 2022

497  
(85%)

undergraduate students

85  
(15%)

graduate students

67.7%

increase in attendance since 2012

51%

of all students from Saudi Arabia chose STEM majors in 2022

33%

of all students from Saudi Arabia chose business majors in 2022



## Yousef Alamoudi

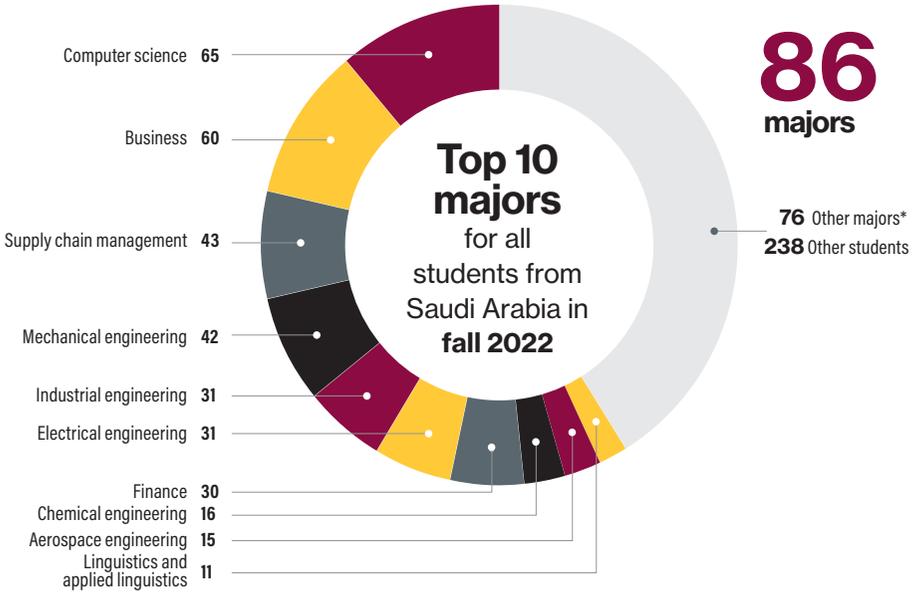
Industrial engineering, Undergraduate  
Sponsored by Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission

“ I've never seen a university as diverse as ASU. I met lots of new friends from all over the world. I have friends from Japan, China, Korea, Brazil – all over the world. ASU has a lot of different activities and groups to join. After I graduate from ASU, I'm planning to go to grad school. I'm planning to be a lawyer and go to law school. ”

# Student enrollment

2022

## Top ASU programs chosen by students from Saudi Arabia in 2022



### \* The remaining 76 majors

include accountancy, urban planning, economics, civil engineering, public service and public policy, computer systems engineering and civil, environmental and sustainable engineering.



### Hussam Malibari

Economics, Undergraduate

Sponsored by Saudi Arabian Cultural Mission

“ Since I came here, ASU has been helping me to improve myself, to get to know myself even better and do my best for my future. They have the tutoring center, huge libraries, study rooms and many services here that will help you become a successful person. After I graduate I really want to work here in the U.S. in banking. ASU has resources like the career center where you can always go to ask questions, and that can give you opportunities to be in contact with companies. Every city I go, I have a friend. Here in the U.S. and all over the world. ASU has students from all over the world. I almost have a friend here from each country.”

# Student support and services

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## **ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies**

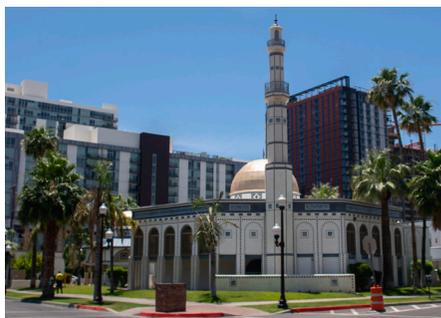
The council was established to acknowledge the significant contributions of Arabic studies and Islamic civilization and cultures to the world, both historically and in the modern age. The organization hosts events and promotes cross-cultural understanding, multiculturalism, interfaith dialogue and diversity at ASU. The council also supports the teaching of Arabic, Persian, Turkish and other languages in collaboration with the study of sociology, history, politics, anthropology and religion as well as collaboration between ASU and groups throughout the Arab and Muslim worlds.

## **Muslim Students Association**

The Muslim Students Association supports and encourages members to grow spiritually, morally and intellectually and to contribute positively and productively to the ASU community. The association hosts Chai Chats, open exchanges that endeavor to further the understanding of Islam and enhance interfaith exchange at ASU. These goals are achieved by promoting fellowship, service and education.

## **Saudi Students Club**

The Saudi Students Club represents the history, culture and traditions of Saudi Arabia to both American and international students at ASU. The SSC participates in many international and national activities through ASU and the community, and provides resources, assistance and networks for Saudi students to be successful at ASU and in the U.S. This organization has neither religious nor political activities, and it is open for any ASU student regardless of their race, gender, religion or age.



## **Nearby access to the Islamic Community Center of Tempe**

This beautiful mosque, opened in 1984, is modeled after the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem.

## **Interfaith reflection and ablution rooms**

ASU recently added an interfaith reflection room and ablution rooms to its Memorial Union to accommodate students who want to practice their religious beliefs, such as Wudu. The private rooms include a place to sit, running water, a hand-washing station and paper towels.

## **Women on the Move**

Women on the Move envisions Saudi women who are successful and engaged in both the larger university and U.S. communities in their academic, professional, personal, family and spiritual pursuits. The club supports Saudi women, both students and nonstudents, through activities, conferences and social gatherings coordinated by other Saudi women and their supporters. Women on the Move also works with the university community to help faculty, staff and students better understand the unique needs, challenges and opportunities of Saudi women in the U.S. and how they can collaborate with and support Saudi women in being successful.

# Alumni

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# 1,722

**ASU alumni**  
from Saudi Arabia  
since 1981



ASU hosted a large number of King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals students for a semester of study during the fall semesters of 2018 and 2019 and the spring semester of 2022.

# #4

**country of origin**  
for international alumni of ASU  
between 2012 and 2023

# 1,345

**students from Saudi Arabia**  
have become ASU alumni since 2012

### **ASU alumni chapter**

The ASU Alumni Association has an alumni chapter in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

# Alumni

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## Seham Abdulhameed Tomihi

Teaching English to speakers of other languages, MTESOL

Originally from Jeddah City, Seham believes learning English can enhance people's lives, especially women's, no matter where they live. In her MTESOL internship at ASU, she created curriculum materials designed to help Saudi Arabian women improve their business and professional English skills.

“ For me, teaching is the best job in the world. I feel that the teacher is the candle who lights up the way of knowledge. There was respect for diversity and fair treatment. I am covering my face, so I thought that it would be so difficult to communicate with others in classes. I love how teachers and even my colleagues respect me. ”



## Houria Alabbas

Clinical exercise physiology, MS

Houria is an alumna of Global Launch, which helps ASU learners thrive in the global marketplace through academic preparation services, training in multilingual communication and professional skills development. The program taught her skills for success such as writing academic papers, citation styles and academic research, helping her advance in her graduate studies.

“ I chose Global Launch because it was the most recommended program in [Saudi Arabia]. It gives you opportunities to improve your language skills – it is a place where you will find support all the time. We weren't only learning the language. It is also about learning American culture and discussing other global issues, which opened my mind to many different topics. ”



## Mariam Alhabidi

Global technology and development, MS

While at ASU, Mariam explored entrepreneurship for women in Saudi Arabia and its potential to increase Saudi women's sociocultural autonomy, financial independence and overall well-being. She went on to found Cr8ive Digital Marketing and Consulting in Abu Dhabi and Khobar, out of a passion to help youth find their place in the world. A CEO and self-styled digital entrepreneur, she focuses on technology development for entrepreneurs and now leads operations in three countries.

“ Education is key. It mattered to my father that I became independent. That has instilled in me the belief that financial independency greatly helps women. ”

# Alumni

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## Adwa Alhatlan

Biochemistry, BS

Adwa loves biology and chemistry and made plans to major in medicine with the hope of possibly becoming a surgeon one day. To gain perspective and expand her world view, she also took an earth systems engineering and management class. Within this course, she found not only help and support from her professors, but they encouraged her to reach her full potential. She also interned with the Science is Fun program to teach and communicate science to high school students.

“Transferring to ASU was challenging, but it had so many opportunities for my education and to be independent. In the end, I’m glad I did.”



## Murtada al Mohsin

Chemistry, BS

Murtada came to ASU to study on a King Abdullah Scholarship. He says the ASU campus environment was friendly and welcoming to international students. He plans to gain work experience before possibly pursuing his master’s degree.

“The skills of scientific writing and how to write a research paper are some of the many things that I learned while at ASU. There were a large number of organizations and clubs available. It was amazing to meet so many students from around the U.S. and across the world and learn about different cultures and diversities.”



## Maryam Alsuwailem

Biomedical engineering, BSE

“I can’t think of any place that would make me a better version of me than here at ASU. The diversity made me open-minded. The welcome made me confident. The support encouraged me to do what I dreamed. Looking back, I can’t believe I won in an invention competition, became a vice president for an organization, and volunteered in a research laboratory. In brief, I’m very satisfied with myself at ASU.”

# Academic partnerships in Saudi Arabia

## Transforming education in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

From 2018 to 2019, more than 100 Saudi educators were welcomed to ASU through the Building Leadership for Change through School Immersion program. Supported by ASU's Center for Advanced Studies in Global Education in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College, the initiative was created by the Ministry of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in direct response to their government's goal of investing in the future of their country by changing the educational landscape in their local schools. Its aim is to strengthen the values, skills, knowledge and attitudes of teachers, counselors and principals through university-led structured immersion in high-performing, English-speaking K-12 school systems.

The ministry designed the initiative to transform the Saudi Arabian education system to strengthen the country's competitiveness, support economic diversification and provide the human capital required for the success of KSA's Vision 2030 and National Transformation Program plans. The program includes orientation to U.S. educational institutions, English language training, technical knowledge and skills development by exploring topics like communication, collaboration and adult learning. Building Leadership participants are expected to be effective change agents when they return to Saudi Arabia.

“Education is the new oil.”

– Adel Mari, Saudi teacher, leader



2018 cohort



2019 cohort: (From left) Saudi educator cohort members Majed Alsaeed, Samah Hobani and Ebtisam Alghamdi talk at the Fulton Center in Tempe about a memorable experience during their yearlong program.



## University partner

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### Memorandum of understanding

Signed agreements between universities

1. King Abdullah University of Science and Technology



# Academic partnerships and programs

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## **ASU, local business inspire entrepreneurship students**

Global Launch – a global training unit at ASU – welcomed students from King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia, via the Institute of International Education. Global Launch, in partnership with ASU lecturer Steve Cho from the Technology Entrepreneurship and Management Program in the Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering, developed a curriculum to teach students about creating their own businesses, learning skills in marketing, finance, advertising and networking with venture mentors from Venture Devils, part of ASU's Entrepreneurship and Innovation program. At the end of the program, students utilized their knowledge of entrepreneurship by pitching their business ideas to a panel of judges from CO+HOOTS, a coworking space in the metro Phoenix area. Global Launch has also hosted students from Saudi Arabia to study language programs.

## **King Abdullah University of Science and Technology**

ASU visited with King Abdullah University of Science and Technology's Gifted Student Program.

## **King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals**

ASU has an agreement to provide educational opportunities to students from KFUPM through one semester of study at ASU. Students can then transfer the course credits earned at ASU back to KFUPM to be used toward their degree. Between 2018 and 2019, ASU hosted 51 students from KFUPM – each fully funded by the Ministry of Education.

## **Integrating and supporting**

### **Saudi women at U.S. universities**

With the start of Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Scholarships Program in 2005, there has been a significant number of Saudi students studying abroad. The majority come to the U.S., representing the fourth-largest international student population, and more than 30% of these students are women. Women face unique challenges while abroad. To boost their success, ASU offers support programs, such as the International Student Success Center, ASU Council of Arabic and Islamic Studies, and a student-based women's group, Women on the Move.

### **SABIC custom eMBA program**

A custom executive education eMBA program was piloted between 2012 and 2015 in the Thunderbird School of Global Management with Saudi Basic Industries Corporation. Working closely with senior leaders from the petrochemical conglomerate, Thunderbird professors taught customized business courses in English at the SABIC Academy in Riyadh and at Thunderbird's campus near Phoenix, Arizona. Fifty-three SABIC leaders completed degrees, and participants delivered four projects which, looking forward to the business' 2025 goals, explored challenges and the solutions.

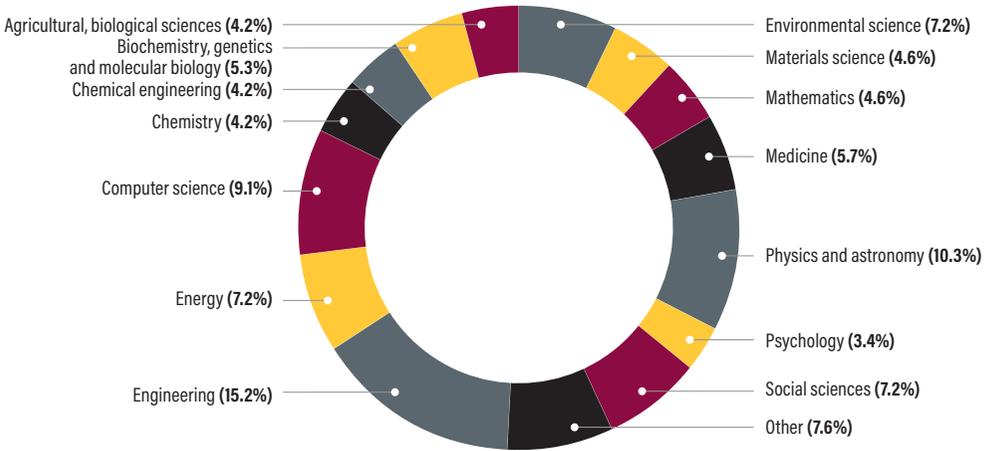
### **SAUDIA**

Saudi students sponsored by SAUDIA, formally known as Saudi Arabian Airlines, have studied professional flight training at ASU.

# Research funding

## 2018–2022 papers co-authored by ASU and Saudi Arabian researchers

Papers can be mapped to multiple subject areas.



# 140

**papers were co-authored with 27 collaborating institutions  
between 2018 and 2023**

## Research awards

More than

# \$7 million

**in funding from seven grants over the last 10 years, primarily from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labor and Social Development, and King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology.**

The majority of ASU projects have supported efforts in technology, education and leadership programs and skills and career-readiness programs in Saudi Arabia. Most recently, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation supported ASU research related to polyethylene recycling.

# Entrepreneurial leaders at ASU

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## Constantine Balanis

Regents Professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Balanis partnered with the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology based in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on a \$1 million project to develop and advance basic research on electromagnetic, artificial magnetic conductors, or AMC surfaces. Balanis is a Regents Professor in ASU's School of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering. He is a Life Fellow of the IEEE, distinguished educator and author of 10 books in his research area, which includes computational electromagnetics, smart antennas and microwaves.

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## Larry Mays

Professor, Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering

Mays received the Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water – Surface Water Prize in 2014 in Saudi Arabia “for his comprehensive work in surface water hydrology and water resources engineering, culminating in three leading and innovative textbooks in the field, and for applying this extensive knowledge base to develop optimization models in practical hydrology for current problems, including real-time optimal dam release during flood conditions and watershed development in urban areas.” As a professor in ASU's School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, Mays' research in hydrosystems engineering has focused on the application of optimization – and risk and reliability analysis – to the design, management and operation of water infrastructure systems.

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