



**President/Vice Chancellor/Chief Executive Officer
Zayed University
Abu Dhabi & Dubai, United Arab Emirates**

THE SEARCH

The Board of Trustees of Zayed University (ZU) seeks exceptional candidates for the President/Vice Chancellor/Chief Executive Officer role. Zayed University is a national and regional leader in educational innovation. The University offers globally recognized bachelor's and master's degree programs for men and women. The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO will be expected to provide overall leadership of the academic program and help craft and oversee the next stage of this flagship national public institution. The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO will build on the university's well-established reputation for academic quality, foster community engagement, and continue to grow ZU's research and innovation portfolio to advance knowledge and solve problems of national and global significance.

Founded in 1998 and proudly bearing the name of the Founder of the Nation – the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, this flagship public institution has a critical role in the UAE's higher education landscape. The mission of ZU is to contribute to the social, cultural, and economic advancement of the UAE and beyond through education and research, inspiring open and robust inquiry, a reverence for learning, and a commitment to service.

Zayed University has two modern campuses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi that welcome both national and international students. Originally founded to provide higher education for women, Zayed began admitting male students in 2008. Over its history, the institution has produced over 25,000 graduates who have gone on to major leadership roles in the public and private sectors in the UAE, the GCC region, and across the globe. The University currently enrolls nearly 8,000 undergraduate students in a wide range of undergraduate programs and in select graduate programs, which are all accredited by both the UAE's Commission for Academic Accreditation and the US-based Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The University was recently ranked 19th in the 2024 QS World University Arab Rankings. Zayed hosts 20% of all Emirati undergraduates enrolled in UAE federal higher education institutions.

Zayed University employs 572 distinguished faculty members from 62 countries. The United States (12%), the United Arab Emirates (11%), and the United Kingdom (10%) are the highest represented nationalities.

Over the past five years, ZU faculty have produced over 2,800 scholarly publications and outputs, including publications in the world's top academic journals. Experts in their respective disciplines, ZU faculty continue to foster innovation in the classroom and in their scholarly work, with a particular focus on interdisciplinary education and research.

This prestigious leadership role is responsible for delivering the University's innovative vision while guiding the next steps of the institution's educational evolution which will include fostering high-quality research, paving the way for effective lifelong learning, and meeting the current and upcoming needs of the UAE. The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO will build on the University's legacy of providing quality education and lead it to the next level of academic excellence and innovation.

The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO position is responsible for the overall leadership and management of the University and reports to the Board of Trustees, chaired by Her Excellency Shamma Al Mazrui, Minister of Community Empowerment of the United Arab Emirates and formerly Minister of State for Youth Affairs. The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO oversees a senior leadership team that includes the Provost, the Chief Administrative and Financial Officer, the Chief Strategy Officer, Deans, and Directors.

Zayed University plays a pivotal educational role in preparing its graduates to realize important national and regional aspirations. The ideal candidate will exhibit a deep commitment to Zayed University, recognizing its history, values, and significant aspirations for the future. The President/Vice Chancellor/CEO will embody the necessary qualities to lead a prestigious national institution, inspiring its diverse community of scholars, researchers, and students. With a strong drive to pursue excellence and impact, they will set high standards for the quality of education provided, enhance research capabilities, and solidify their reputation both nationally and internationally.

The next President/Vice Chancellor/CEO of Zayed University must excel at building and fostering relationships, including establishing strong academic partnerships and collaborating with the government and external partners. They will be expected to expand the institution's reputation, visibility, and both regional and international influence. Through collaborative leadership and the cultivation of meaningful relationships, they will enhance Zayed University's standing and ensure the institution remains at the heart of the United Arab Emirates academic life and a strong leader in the dynamic world of regional higher education.

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

The next President/Vice Chancellor/CEO will:

- Provide leadership to refine and deliver a distinctive educational offering to empower the forthcoming generation with knowledge & skills, thereby elevating ZU standing.
- Enhance and grow an outstanding research and innovation portfolio to advance knowledge and solve problems of national and global significance.
- Amplify a student-centered experience and environment to cultivate well-rounded global citizens.
- Spearhead efforts to serve society and strengthen community engagement, promoting active participation towards societal advancement.

THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

Key Leadership Experience and Characteristics:

- Experience in visionary, strategic, and collaborative leadership in a complex and multicultural environment, as well as a track record of success in leading organizations through a period of change and development.
- Exceptional communication skills to represent the University across a broad set of constituencies.
- A strong appreciation of the academic world, scholarly values, and distinctive professional culture; the ability to earn and command the respect of faculty; strong commitment to and the capacity to ensure excellence in academic and professional delivery to support student-centered and research-led teaching and research for impact.
- Commitment to academic excellence and high academic credibility evidenced by personal achievements in their discipline.
- Ability to empower both faculty and students in cultivating a strong and vibrant university community. This includes encouraging and activating student social organizations and ensuring the effective engagement of the Alumni Council, instilling a sense of pride among students and alumni, and fostering a lasting connection to the university.
- Management of senior academic and professional service teams.
- A strong relationship builder and Ambassador for the institution; the capacity to represent Zayed University compellingly to external audiences, including partners in government, higher education institutions, and industry; the ability to strengthen brand and reputation nationally and internationally.
- Success in engaging with students, faculty, staff, alumni, corporate and government partners ensuring that ZU students are well prepared for successful careers.
- Financial and business acumen.

- A global perspective with a clear understanding of opportunities and challenges of higher education institutions with a particular emphasis on the preservation and elevation of Arabic culture and heritage.
- A strong commitment to socio-economic development, inclusivity, and community.

APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller website: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/zayed-university/president>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

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