



2019 MENA Green Building
AWARDS



Applicant Guidelines

Dr. Owainati

Student Excellence Award

2019



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The Emirates Green Building Council was formed in 2006 with the goal of advancing green building principles for protecting environment and ensuring sustainability in the United Arab Emirates.

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Background and Definition

Definition

The Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award, sponsored by EmiratesGBC Co-Founder Dr. Sadek Owainati, specifically rewards a student from a recognized university in the United Arab Emirates who has conducted exceptional research work in a subject related to green buildings in the Middle East.

Since 2013, the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award has positioned EmiratesGBC as a strong supporter of academic research dedicated to sustainable building principles and practices in the UAE and the MENA region.

The present Applicant Guidelines are intended to provide a clear and transparent set of procedures to structure all processes (eligibility and scope of submissions, judging process, timeframe) and to facilitate the work of the Judges in identifying the winner.

2019 Terms and Conditions of Entry

Submission

The Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award is open to an academically accepted thesis and/or research paper submitted for a post-graduate degree or final year undergraduate university research project report or dissertation in the United Arab Emirates.

Paper Topic

The research addressed in the paper should be directly applicable to green building design, technology, construction, operations or related life cycle economics. It is important that the topic relates to green buildings as a component of sustainable developments; for example, already-existing buildings can be used as a case study or testing sample; and similarly the research can be a specifically designed software modeling applicable to new green building designs or retrofit.

However, and as a promotion of green building best practices throughout the building life-cycle the topic can be expanded to phases of design, construction, commissioning, retrofit and re-commissioning. Sustainability-related topics, whether theoretical or practical, that do not have any connections to green buildings will not be considered eligible.

Emphasis should be put on applicability of the research to the MENA region in order to capture the regional climatic, cultural and economic specificities.

EmiratesGBC has the right to determine if the topic submitted does not comply with the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award's eligibility and rules and thus to disqualify the application if needed.

Eligibility

The following parameters define the eligibility criteria for a student to take part in the 2019 Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award:

- Enrolled in an accredited university based in the UAE at the time the research was conducted;
- Students must be studying engineering, architecture/design or science;
- Post-graduate or undergraduate student (Bachelor, Master, PhD);
- Topic focus is applicable to MENA geographical context – see above-mentioned point;
- Submission of research produced within the last 2 years, i.e. between 2017 and 2019 (included);
- All supporting documents have been submitted;
- Only one application per student will be allowed.

Supporting Documents

The following documents need to be submitted as part of the applicant's submission. **They are all mandatory**, i.e. incomplete applications will be disqualified:

1. Academic paper with a strict limitation to **10-page maximum**. Longer papers will not be accepted. Students are invited to structure their submission based on a set of comparable sections: Introduction, Hypothesis, Methodology, Discussion, Resources ...)
2. Standardized executive summary of the paper;
3. Supporting data / annex documents;
4. Cover letter (300 words maximum) from the student explaining why the submission is worthy of the accolade;

5. Assessment and recommendations from one (1) faculty staff who is familiar with the student's work.

Entry Fees

Participation in the 2019 Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award is free of cost.

Submission Deadline

The deadline to submit the Award applications is set 27 July 2019 midnight (UAE time).

This point will be strictly applied by the EmiratesGBC Office Team, and any application received after this deadline will not be considered in the review process.

Exceptions

Based on a sufficient amount of communications and justification from the applicant, the EmiratesGBC Office gives itself the right to allow exceptions on the above-mentioned eligibility criteria, as long as this exception does not go against the principles of fairness and transparency. Any exceptions should be duly informed to the Judges who will review the applications. In case an exception is granted, it is the EmiratesGBC Office's responsibility to properly document and record the reason for such a decision.

Rating System

Submissions are to be rated on a **100-point** scale, covering general and Award-specific technical criteria.

- 1- **General Criteria** account for **10% of the overall grade = 10 points**. These points assess the correct submission of relevant supporting documentation and data required for admission. The points are divided as follows:
 - **10 points:** *The requested documents to register to the EmiratesGBC Student Excellence Award (Application form, Academic paper, executive summary, annexes, letter of interest, contact details and academic assessment from the university) have been provided. All eligibility criteria have been fulfilled as per deadline.*
- 2- **Technical Criteria** account for **90% of the overall grade = 90 points**. The details are available below:

- **20 points – Topic and Content:** *The topic and content of the paper are relevant to the green building industry. The specifics of the chosen subject have not been addressed by academic research previously. Hypothesis and principles applied in the research are accurate and relevant.*
- **20 points – Geographical scope:** *The paper addresses relevant challenges and questions currently faced by the green building industry in the MENA region. It provides practical solutions that can be applicable to MENA region.*
- **20 points – Implementation:** *The paper develops solutions that are easily / technically applicable and implementable by the building industry to a large extent or has good potential for implementation*
- **15 points - Innovation:** *The paper introduces new/innovative concepts, ideas and solutions.*
- **15 points - Style:** *The paper provides and uses dependable data and valuable source of information. The research, the ideas and the solutions are properly documented with relevant materials (references, data sheets, tables, graphs...). The research and essay are written professionally, in correct English. The ideas are presented in a structured and logical manner.*

General submission procedure

Conditions

In order to be considered for the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award, eligible applicants are required to:

1. Complete the entry form available on the EmiratesGBC website by 27 July 2019. Applications that are submitted after this deadline will not be considered by the Judges.
2. Include supporting materials as annexes that show evidence of the claimed success of the project, in correlation with the application form and as stated **above**. Evidence can be submitted in any of the following media: *Electronic/Internet Reports, CDs, DVDs and can include Images, Financial Information, Research Documents, Media Coverage/Clippings, Photos, and Testimonials.* Electronic copies are mandatory and hard copies will not be accepted.

3. Applicants that fail to provide a complete set of information will be informed by the EmiratesGBC Office Team and will be provided with a 1-week extension to submit the missing documents. In case the entry remains incomplete following this extension:
 - The EmiratesGBC Office Team has the right to acknowledge that the submission is incomplete and thus disqualify the application. In this case, the submission will not be shared with the Judges for review and grading.
 - As the Judges are entitled to request more documentation and ask questions to the student to support their grading, applications that do not provide the requested details will be penalized through the Award's rating system.
4. EmiratesGBC has the right to acknowledge that the topic does not comply with the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award's eligibility and rules and thus disqualify the application.

Reception of Applications

1. Submissions: All applications must be completed and submitted via online submission through the EmiratesGBC website

Entries, once submitted, will become the property of EmiratesGBC and will not be returned.
2. Receipt of Application: Upon reception, entries will be acknowledged by email. It is the applicants' responsibility to ensure that they have received confirmation of their entry before the closing date as no correspondence will be entertained after the submission deadline.
3. Proof of Entry: In relation to the above-mentioned point, any proof of sending via email will not be acknowledged in place of the official receipt/confirmation sent by the EmiratesGBC.
4. Language: All entries should be in English. Entries in any other language than English will not be considered for review and rating.
5. Closing Date for Submission: All applications must reach EmiratesGBC before midnight (UAE time) on 27 July 2019.
6. Verification: Judges reserve the right to audit any information supplied. If required, applicants may be subjected to further evaluation processes including the request for more documentation. Applicants that are not able to provide sufficient and relevant information during this verification process will be penalized through the Award's rating system.

7. **Results:** Entries will be reviewed by a Judging Panel that will assess and rate the applications, determine a shortlist and designate the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award's winners. Finalists will be notified by 24 September 2019 latest, and the winner will be chosen from the shortlist and announced at the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony taking place on 15 October 2019 in Dubai.
8. **Judging:** The jury's decision is final and no correspondence or communication will be considered following its final decision. The results and grading details are confidential and will not be shared.
9. **Feedback:** Applicants can ask the Judges for feedback on their application by sending a request by email to awards@emiratesgbc.org including specific questions. In view of the confidential nature of the grading details, it is the Judges' discretion to provide an answer or reject the request.
10. **Publicity:** Applicants are responsible for appropriate arrangements to protect any intellectual property associated with their applications, as winning applications will be subject to publicity and listing on EmiratesGBC website. Winners are requested to participate in event publicity. It should be noted that information used in the online entry form application may be used for communication purposes.
11. **Other:**
 - a. EmiratesGBC reserves the right to withdraw an Award from any applicant supplying false information within their application.
 - b. By submitting the entry form and supporting documentation, the applicant agrees to the above terms and conditions.
 - c. EmiratesGBC will review the submitted application to ensure all the required documentations (see mandatory documents) have been submitted and ensure that the application is relevant to the applied category. EmiratesGBC reserves the right to decline applications not meeting the requirements as set out under the requirements and mandatory submission documents.

Judging Panel

Entries will be judged by an independent, expert panel which will assess the applications and determine the final Award shortlist. To ensure a fair judging of the submissions, the following criteria have been taken into account to identify the Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award's Judges, including amongst others:

- **Professional Background:** members of the academia; professionals in the field of green building industry and sustainability;
- **Sectors of activities:** both public and private sectors.
- **Gender:** a proactive gender balance is strongly encouraged.

