



Applicant Guidelines

Dr. Owainati

Student Excellence Award

2024

Background

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.

Framework

The present Framework is 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.

The following information will be reviewed and approved by the EmiratesGBC Management Committee and Dr. Sadek Owainati.

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.

The EmiratesGBC Office Team has the right to determine if the topic submitted does not comply with the EmiratesGBC 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 2024 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 in 2022 or thereafter within the last 2 years, i.e. between 2022 and 2024 (included);
- Only one application per student will be allowed.

Mandatory Documents

The following documents are what the application is comprised of. They are all mandatory and the application will be considered incomplete if they are not all included:

1. Online application form, available on the EmiratesGBC website
2. Academic paper with a strict limitation to **10-pages maximum**, excluding references. Longer papers will not be accepted. Students are invited to structure their submission based on a set of comparable sections including but not limited to:
 - a. Abstract
 - b. Introduction (that should include aim and objectives)
 - c. Methodology
 - d. Results
 - e. Conclusion (that should include recommendations)
 - f. References
3. Executive summary of the paper; length of **1 page maximum**.
4. Supporting data / annex documents;

5. Cover letter (300 words maximum) from the student explaining why the submission is worthy of the accolade;
6. Assessment and recommendations from one (1) faculty staff who is familiar with the student's work.

Entry Fees

Participation in the 2024 Dr. Owainati Student Excellence Award is **free of cost**.

Submission Timeline

The applications' window opens on the 15th of April. The deadline to submit the Award applications by online submission is set to 15 July 2024 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.

Rating System

Submissions are to be rated on a **100-point** scale,

- **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*
- **20 points - Innovation:** *The paper introduces new/innovative concepts, ideas and solutions.*
- **20 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.*

Terms and Conditions

1. **Submissions:** All applications must be completed and submitted via online submission through the EmiratesGBC website
2. Entries, once submitted, will become the property of EmiratesGBC and will not be returned.
3. **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.
4. **Incomplete Applications:** 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 submission will be disqualified and thus not shared with the Judges for review and grading
5. **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.
6. **Language:** All entries should be in English. Entries in any other language than English will not be considered for review and rating.
7. **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.
8. **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 mid-October 2024, and the winner will be chosen from the shortlist and announced at the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony.
9. **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.
10. **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.

11. 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.

12. 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.