



**Arab Open University Excellence Award bylaw in Scientific  
Research**

Approved by the University Council #79

October 2023

AOU-VPAASR- 22-AC#88 (02)

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## Introduction

Scientific research is a measure of the civilized progress and development and its significant impact on the development of society. The Arab Open University in its role in supporting the spirit of scientific cooperation and academic research in the Arab region in particular, has allocated awards for excellence in scientific research at all branches and at the university level as a whole with the aim of developing the specialized scientific capacities and skills of researchers and academics in Arab countries, taking into account the important research programmes at the local level for each country.

## Article (1): Title

This regulation is called the "Arab Open University Excellence Award bylaw in Scientific Research".

## Article (2): Definitions

The following words and terms, wherever stated in this Regulation, shall have the following meanings:

The university	The Arab Open University
The branch	The University in the country of the branch
The director	The director of the university in the country of the branch

### **Article (3): Objectives of the Award**

This award aims to the following:

- To direct scientific research to suit the needs and challenges of the Arab society in general and local communities in particular.
- To enhance the culture of scientific research and link it with the outputs of university education.
- To raise the level of researchers from the university faculty and make them commensurate with the international academic levels.
- To crystallize awareness of the significance of scientific research as an essential element in the performance of faculty members in addition to the teaching and community service tasks.

### **Article (4): Awards Categories**

The award is designated and distributed annually to the winning faculty members in the field of scientific research, as follows:

1. Award of excellence in individual scientific research at the level of each campus/ branch of the University.
2. Award for excellence in individual scientific research at the level of the Arab Open University and at the academic programme level.
3. Award of excellence in joint scientific research (collective) at the level of each campus/branch of the University on its own.
4. Award of excellence in joint scientific research (collective) at the level of the Arab Open University in each academic programme.

### **Article (5): Components of the Award**

The award consists of the following:

1. A certificate and a shield in the name of the award and the name of the winner.
2. A financial reward estimated according to the following classification:
  - A. Individual research at the level of each University (campus/branch):
    - The maximum award value is 1000\$
  - B. Individual research at the level of all Universities( Campuses) in each programme:
    - The maximum award value is 1000\$
3. C. Joint research (collective) at the level of each Campus/branch:
  - The maximum award value is 2000\$
  - Divided among the winners equally.
4. D. Collective research at the level of all campuses/branches at the academic programme level:
  - The maximum award value is 2000\$
  - Divided among the winners equally.

#### **Article (6): Terms of Nomination**

- Nomination for the award is allowed for all faculty members and researchers at the Arab Open University.
- The applicant must have spent at least two years in the service of the university on fulltime system.
- Award winners of the same award category may apply again for the award after three years of winning the award.

- The submitted research (or submitted researches) must not have been completed and published more than three years prior to the date of submission of the award.
- The research may be resubmitted as long as the date of its publication has not become obsolete for the periods specified above.
- It is not permitted to submit nominations for more than one award.

### **Article (7): Procedures for announcing and awarding excellence awards**

The procedures for announcing and awarding excellence awards are as follows:

1. The Vice President for the Academic Affairs & Scientific Research announces the start of nomination and candidacy for the Excellence Award in scientific research, and after that, the directors inform all the researchers from the faculty members and those of their own about the requirements of nomination and candidacy.
2. Applicants who are faculty members from the HQ apply to the Dean of the academic programme at HQ, as well as applicants who are faculty members from all AOU campuses/branches apply to the local dean of the programme with the following documents:
  - Recent scientific biography.
  - The full texts of published scientific researches, with an explanation of the location (scientific journal) and the date of publication.
  - Participation in scientific conferences, membership of its committees or chairing its sessions.
  - Supervising the dissertations of master's and doctoral students in or out of the university.
  - Any other supporting documents.
3. The head of the department in the university (Academic Programme Coordinator) will review the application and the attachments and make sure

that the applicant / applicants meet(s) the requirements. The application / applications will be sent to the university rector/ director.

4. The rector/director shall form a committee at the university level in the branch country to take the process of reviewing and auditing.
5. The concerned dean shall form a committee headed by him/her and the membership of two members of the faculty of the Deanship and three faculty members from the AOU campuses/branches to study the application/applications at the university level (individual / Joint).
6. The meeting of the committees shall be legal in the presence of the majority of its members and shall issue its decisions, which are final and not subject to appeal, by the majority of the members. The decisions will be sent to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and Scientific Research to review.
7. The names of the winners are announced by the formed committees.
8. The formed committees shall be entitled to withhold the award if the submitted researches were not up to the desired level or insufficient researches were provided.

#### **Article (8): Principles of differentiation**

- The applicant should have, in the last three years, published at least three research papers, individually or jointly.
- At least one of those researches has been published in an international refereed journal (in accordance with the standards set forth in the system for the promotion of faculty members).
- The published researches should be of scientific value and have been referred to by researchers in the field of specialization.
- The applicant should have contributions to the local, regional, and specialized international conferences (submission of scientific papers, or membership of their committees or headship of sessions).
- To have clear contributions in attracting financial and technical support for research projects.
- The researches should be contracted with local, regional or international bodies to solve problems in the area of specialization.
- The research should be related to the development of the Arab Open University or open (or blended ) education in general.

#### **Article (9): General Provisions**

- A. These regulations repeal the previous regulations concerning the “Arab Open University Excellence Award bylaw in Scientific Research ”.
- B. The President and Rectors of AOU are responsible for implementing the decisions issued under these regulations.
- C. The University Council should decide on cases where no provision is made in these regulations.