You live in the MENA region and care about digital transformation? Apply for a unique experience in Germany and participate in the first scholarship funded MENA Digital Summer School 2022!

mena digital summer school 2022

Supported by

Staatskanzlei
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In partnership with

CAIS RESEARCH FOR THE DIGITAL AGE   DIGITAL arabia network   FernUniversität in Hagen

Call for Applications MENA Digital Summer School 2022

<u>Fact Box</u>

Application Deadline:
July 6, 2022. 0:00 CET
Format
hybrid program (online and in-person modules)
Online Teaching dates:
September 7-10, 2022 (3-4 days)
In person program starts:
Sept 25, 2022 (7 days)
In person program ends:
October 3, 2022
Location:
Germany (Berlin and North Rhine-Westphalia)
Costs:
The scholarship covers course participation, flight costs, as well as accommodation and travel costs during the in-person module in Germany.
Eligibility:
Participants of the MENA Digital Summer School will be particularly successful graduate students and young entrepreneurs between the age of 20 and 40, who show particular promise in their respective fields of endeavour.
Applicants shall be nationals of the following states and currently reside in their country of origin or another state of the MENA region (Middle East & North Africa): Mauretania, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Djibouti, Comoros, member states of the GCC). Participants are expected to apply with a project idea for digital innovation.

Aim

The MENA Digital Summer School is a hybrid seminar on digital transformation targeting aspiring innovators from the MENA region in the field of digital transformation. The course aims at providing MENA relevant best of class learning. It uses cases and business contacts that will enable digital managers of the region to develop their transformation projects, initiatives, and policies successfully. MENA DSS brings together like-minded people from different crafts and professional backgrounds.

The course will include practical modules on data management, machine learning, strategic planning, design and management methods, transformation management, technical foresight, smart cities, as well as tackling socio-economic issues of digitization in the MENA region. Moreover, field visits to communities and sessions with experts and leaders in the spheres of business, politics, economy, culture, academia, and media in Germany are offered. The course will also provide electives that relate to the projects/aspirations of the participants (e.g. MENA-platform strategies, digital culture, women in tech-networks, and more).

The seminar is organized by the Candid Foundation and supported by the Chancellery of the State of North Rhine Westphalia, *Einstein Centre Digital Future* in Berlin, *FernUniversität* in Hagen, Germany's leading distance learning university and the *Digital Arabia Network* (DAN), a lab for the digital future of the Arab world, which extends from the MENA region to the European diaspora. Parts of the program are contributed by the *Center for Advanced Internet Studies* (CAIS), Bochum.

Background

Alongside anthropogenic climate change and global population growth, the digital transformation of the world's economy is a universal challenge that requires innovative, cooperative and multilateral solutions – all the more so in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. Challenges caused by the digitization of economies and automation already exacerbate existing faultlines in the region. They already have a detrimental impact on the most vulnerable groups in the labour market, such as women and young people. Our summer school aims to address the challenges of digitization in an innovative, interdisciplinary and forward-looking way to educate and inspire experts on digital transformation, by putting the students and their projects in the foreground.

The summer school is chaired by the digital transformation expert, economist and political scientist **Prof. Ayad Al-Ani** and **Daniel Gerlach**.
Al-Ani, a former executive partner with Accenture, is an associated member of the Einstein Center Digital Future and teaches at Stellenbosch University, Cape Town and Basel University, Switzerland.

Daniel Gerlach is a German Middle East expert, political analyst and director general of the Candid Foundation. The Candid Foundation is a privately chartered think-and-do-tank in Berlin specialising in intercultural dialogue, media, and technological innovation.

Courses will be taught by high-profile lecturers in academia, applied science and executive management. They will encompass local (MENA related) context and content and provide a collaborative atmosphere among like-minded individuals.

Applicants

- Participants of the MENA Digital Summer School will be particularly successful graduate students and young entrepreneurs between the age of 20 and 40 who show particular promise in their respective fields of endeavour.
- Bachelor's Degree and/or 3 years of relevant working experience
- Excellent knowledge of the English language is expected (TOEFL of 105+ or equivalent, proof upon request)
- CV
- filled out application form
- photo for the purpose of identification
- This is a highly selective two-stage admission process. Applicants passing the first stage will be invited to a short online interview on July 7-8. Admission cannot be guaranteed even if candidates fulfil all legal requirements. Even in case of an admission, the Candid Foundation cannot guarantee a visa and does not assume any liability or warranty.

Application deadline is **July 6, 2022.** Please apply using the following link **here**. (https://tinyurl.com/4cnskr9u)

For further question please contact: Mr Leo Wigger, Project Manager
lw@candid-foundation.org