



Innovation Center Opens to Transform Ideas into Impact

The [University of Duhok](#) (UOD) has taken a major step toward advancing innovation and entrepreneurship with the inauguration of the [Joint Innovation Center](#), established in partnership with the [Kurdistan Innovation Institute \(KII\)](#). Located at the [College of Engineering](#), the center will empower students, researchers, and faculty from all disciplines to transform ideas into practical solutions while strengthening collaboration between academia, industry, and government.

The center serves as a hub for interdisciplinary innovation, technology development, and research commercialization, reinforcing [UOD's](#) commitment

to generating knowledge with real-world impact and contributing to the sustainable development of the Kurdistan Region.

Officially inaugurated on July 20, 2026, the center was opened in the presence of senior government and university officials. During the ceremony, [UOD President Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Atrushi](#) described the initiative as an investment in a new generation of “solution producers,” while [Dr. Azad Najjar](#), CEO of KII, emphasized that the center will help discover and nurture the region’s innovative minds, positioning Duhok as a growing hub for creativity and technological advancement. [Read more...](#)

Meet Zana: From UOD Graduate to Shaping Duhok’s Urban Future



Zana Nuri Ahmed, a 2017 graduate of the [Department of Spatial Planning](#) at UOD’s [College of City and Regional Planning](#), has built a career in public service and sustainable urban development since joining the [Directorate of Urban Planning](#) in Duhok in 2018.

Among his key achievements is contributing to the planning and design of approximately 10,000 residential plots under the [Kurdistan Regional Government's](#) 2024 initiative for public employees, covering land surveying, zoning, infrastructure, and public facilities.

Zana credits UOD with developing his technical, analytical, and communication skills and encourages current students to embrace creativity, continuous learning, and effective communication as they prepare for professional life.

Kurdish Orthography Guide Officially Announced at UOD



In a landmark ceremony at the [University of Duhok](#), the “Kurdish Language Orthography Guide – Kurmanji Dialect in Arabic Script” was officially announced on August 12, 2026, in coordination with the [University of Zakho](#) and with support from the Duhok Governorate and Zakho Independent Administration. The guide establishes a unified writing system for Kurdish across universities, schools, media, and official institutions.

Developed by experts from both universities, the guide addresses spelling inconsistencies and provides a scientific reference for language education and official communication. With the Duhok Governorate committing to print 5,000 copies, the initiative marks a significant step toward strengthening the standardization, teaching, and official use of Kurdish in the Bahdinan region. [Read more..](#)

**A Landmark Step Toward Standardizing
Kurdish Orthography**

From the President’s Desk

Dear Members of the University of Duhok Community,

This month, I would like to highlight three important developments that reflect our continued commitment to building a stronger, more responsible, and more institutionally mature university.

First, the University of Duhok has formally submitted its Foundational Criteria for Eligibility (FCE) Compliance Report, together with the supporting evidence, to the Kurdistan Accrediting Association for Education (KAAE). KAAE has acknowledged receipt of our submission, and we now await the next steps in the Eligibility review process. This is an important milestone in our accreditation journey and reflects our commitment to quality, accountability, and continuous institutional improvement.

Second, I am particularly proud that the University of Duhok initiated and led the process to standardize Kurdish Kurmanji–Bahdini orthography in Arabic script. Recognizing the importance of a unified writing standard for our society and our nation, we brought together universities, language experts, institutions, and other concerned parties representing different approaches and perspectives. Through dialogue and academic leadership, we succeeded in reaching a shared agreement on one unified standard. Our academic mission at this stage has therefore been accomplished, and the initiative now moves into the important phase of implementation, with the leadership of the Governor of Duhok and the Head of the Zakho Independent Administration.

Third, we are strengthening the professionalism of academic communication within our University. From now on, official academic communication between faculty members and students will take place through Moodle, rather than informal social-media platforms such as WhatsApp, Viber, or Telegram. While this may appear to be a simple change, it is part of a broader effort to ensure that our academic practices are professional, transparent, and institutionally accountable.

These three developments—accreditation, language standardization, and professional academic communication—may appear different, but they share a common purpose: building institutions, establishing standards, and creating practices that can endure.

This is the University of Duhok we are working to build: a university that continuously improves itself, provides leadership when leadership is needed, and places its knowledge and expertise at the service of society.

With my sincere appreciation and best wishes,

“Together, we shape the future through education, research, and service.”

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dawood S. Atrushi
President, University of Duhok

Food Microbiology: Food Safety During Summer Heat



Summer’s high temperatures create ideal conditions for harmful microorganisms to multiply, making food safety more important than ever. According to [Dr. Issa Mousa Mohammed](#), a specialist in Food and Dairy Microbiology at the [College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences’ Department of Food Science and Technology](#), foodborne illnesses increase significantly during the summer because bacteria grow rapidly in warm environments.

“2 HOURS. THAT’S THE LIMIT.”

One of the greatest risks occurs when cooked food is left at room temperature. Within the food safety “danger zone” of 5°C to 60°C, bacteria such as [Salmonella](#), [E. coli](#), and [Staphylococcus aureus](#) can multiply rapidly, sometimes doubling in number every 20 minutes. [Dr. Issa](#) advises that cooked food

should never remain at room temperature for more than **two hours**, or **one hour when temperatures exceed 32°C**. Leftovers should be divided into shallow containers and refrigerated promptly to cool quickly.

Although reheating food to 74°C destroys most harmful bacteria, it may not eliminate heat-resistant toxins produced by certain microorganisms. Safe food handling therefore begins with proper storage and temperature control before food is reheated.

During the summer, families should pay close attention to hand hygiene, separating raw and cooked foods, and keeping perishable foods properly chilled during storage and transport. Research at the [College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences’ Department of Food Science and Technology](#) supports these efforts through current studies on bacterial contamination in chicken and red-meat shawarma, the microbiological quality of locally produced ice cream, and the safety of cow’s and goat’s milk in the Kurdistan Region.

Myth or Fact?

“If food smells and looks normal, it is safe to eat.”

X Myth. According to [Dr. Issa](#), harmful bacteria and their toxins may be present even when food appears, smells, and tastes normal. Always rely on proper storage, safe temperatures, and expiration dates—not appearance alone.

Opening of AI Research Hub Marks a New Stage in Digital Transformation



The University of Duhok inaugurated its new [AI Research Hub](#) at the [Central Library](#), providing faculty members, postgraduate researchers, and students with access to advanced AI-powered research tools, specialized training, and guidance on responsible AI use. The hub strengthens UOD’s research environment and supports the integration of emerging technologies into academic research, writing, data analysis, literature review, and academic integrity. [Read more...](#)

UOD and Tikrit University Sign MoU in Dental Education

The [College of Dentistry](#) at the [University of Duhok](#), led by the Dean [Dr. Saeed Ali Mohammed](#), and the [College of Dentistry](#) at [Tikrit University](#), headed by the Dean [Dr. Mohammed Raheel Ali](#), signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the presence of [UOD](#) President [Dr. Dawood Sulaiman Atrushi](#). The agreement will strengthen cooperation in academic exchange, joint scientific research, student mobility, professional development, and collaborative publication in high-impact international journals, advancing the quality of dental education at both institutions. [Read more..](#)

UOD Students Earn International Recognition Through Penn State’s WinC Program

Around 30 [University of Duhok](#) students successfully completed the internationally recognized World in Conversation (WinC) program, developed by [Pennsylvania State University](#) (Penn State), and were honored during a certificate ceremony at the [American Corner](#). The program strengthened students’ intercultural communication, critical thinking, and global citizenship skills, reflecting [UOD](#)’s commitment to internationalization and preparing graduates to engage confidently in an increasingly interconnected world. [Read more..](#)

Association of Arab Universities to Launch Student Exchange Program This August

[Dr. Nabaz Ibraheem Mohammed](#), Vice President for Student Affairs at the [University of Duhok](#), participated in a special meeting of the [Association of Arab Universities](#) held in Cairo, Egypt, to discuss the Arab Universities Summer Training Program. During the meeting, participants approved the launch of a one-month student exchange program among Arab universities, scheduled to run from 1 August to 1 September 2026, marking a significant step toward strengthening academic mobility and cooperation across the higher education sector.

Workshops This Month

Human Rights & Responsible Media
[Center for Peace & Conflict Resolution Studies](#)
Journalists & Social Media Activists Edit Caption
8–9 July 2026
Impact: Ethical reporting • Human rights awareness
• Diversity & peaceful coexistence

Human-Centered Urban Planning
[College of City and Regional Planning](#)
Municipal planners, academics & MSc/PhD students
7–9 July 2026
Focus: Sustainable cities • Housing quality • Citizen engagement • Urban evaluation tools

From Exchange to Impact
American Corner
Students, academics & U.S. exchange alumni
12 July 2026
Impact: Strengthened leadership, international networking, and awareness of educational exchange opportunities between the United States and the Kurdistan Region.

The Art and Science of Composite Restorations
[College of Dentistry](#)
35 Practicing Dentists
12–13 July 2026
Focus: Combined scientific lectures with hands-on simulation training to enhance clinical skills in modern aesthetic composite restorations using advanced dental technologies.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

5th International Conference on Trauma, Education and Responsibility
26–27 October 2026
[University of Duhok – IPP](#)
Abstract Deadline: 4 October 2026

RISE Start Cup 2026 – Student Innovation Competition
Competition: 9–10 November 2026
Networking Event: 11 November 2026
[Duhok Polytechnic University](#)
[University of Zakho](#)
Application Deadline: 31 August 2026

Shiraka Training Programme – Integrated Spatial Planning
16–22 November 2026 (Netherlands)
January 2027 (Tunisia)
Organized by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands](#)
Application Deadline: 24 August 2026

ITEC Funded Training Opportunities – Government of India
Training fields: IT • AI • Public Administration
• Business • Renewable Energy • Agriculture
• Healthcare • Environment & more
India – [ITEC Programme](#)
Funding: Airfare • Accommodation • Monthly stipend • Training materials
Application: Through the official [ITEC platform](#)

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