



## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

# DESERT BY DESIGN

**UAEU Desert Architecture & Urbanism Competition  
Al Ain Edition 2026**

## FUTURE HERITAGE

Future Heritage: Designing the Next Layer of Al Ain's Identity

**UAEU GOLDEN JUBILEE  
1976–2026**

United Arab Emirates University invites students and professionals to participate in a national design competition celebrating UAEU's Golden Jubilee. Participants are challenged to create climate-responsive, culturally grounded proposals that contribute to the next layer of Al Ain's identity.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Develop a proposal for one of two fixed official sites in Al Ain.

Respond to heritage, culture, climate, public realm and future urban aspirations

Compete in two categories: Students and Professionals.

Free registration with a total prize fund of AED 320,000.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Register through the official competition website.

Download the Competition Brief and select one official site.

Prepare the required anonymous design submission.

Submission deadline: 20 October 2026.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Undergraduate and postgraduate students and professionals in architecture, architectural engineering, urbanism, urban design, planning, landscape architecture, interior design, engineering, sustainability, and other related fields.

Participants must be enrolled in, or graduates of, a UAE higher education institution.

### IMPORTANT DATES

|                                                 |                                        |                                        |                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Registration is open until<br>30 September 2026 | Submission Deadline<br>20 October 2026 | Jury Evaluation<br>End of October 2026 | Awards Exhibition Ceremony<br>11 November 2026 |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|

**TOTAL PRIZE FUND  
AED 320,000**

For inquiries and further information, please contact:

 [desertbydesign@uaeu.ac.ae](mailto:desertbydesign@uaeu.ac.ae)

Scan to visit the official competition website

