



GLOBAL جامعة
STUDIES دراسات
UNIVERSITY العالمية

Global Studies University

Annual Report 2025
January–December

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Introduction to Global Studies University

GSU Annual Report 2025

Global Studies University

The **Africa** Institute

The **Asia** Institute

The **Oceania** Institute

The **Americas** Institute

The **Europe** Institute

Global Studies University (GSU) is a postgraduate education and research university in the humanities and social sciences, dedicated to training the next generation of critical thinkers and established in 2023 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. The university advances interdisciplinary teaching and research that address pressing local and global challenges. Envisioned as a network of semi-independent yet interconnected regional institutes, GSU builds on the success of The Africa Institute with plans to establish The Asia Institute.

The GSU was licensed by the UAE Commission on Academic Accreditation (CAA) in January 2025 with accredited academic programs at the master's and PhD levels.

This report focuses on the significant progress GSU has made in its first year of operations. The university's academic programs are designed to graduate students who are equipped with the strong disciplinary knowledge and research skills supported by qualified and experienced faculty. Our students are embracing the GSU spirit of academic excellence and excited for opportunities to engage scholarly activities with potential for local and global impact.

As we look forward to 2026 and beyond, GSU remains committed to sustaining a culture of continuous quality improvement in our academic programs and across all non-academic operations in alignment with academic standards and institutional strategic priorities. As we forge ahead, we look to impact the world with excellence in teaching and knowledge production.

Message from the President of GSU



As President of Global Studies University (GSU), I wish to warmly welcome our graduate students to the university. In this occasion of launching of our pioneering graduate program, I look back with immense pride on the journey that has led to the establishment of this unique institution. Our roots trace back to the historic 1976 symposium on African and Arab relations, held under the visionary leadership of His Highness Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi. That moment of cross-cultural dialogue planted the seeds for a broader vision of academic collaboration, which was officially realized in 2023 with the issuance of the Emiri decree establishing GSU.

GSU embodies this long-standing vision as a globally oriented network of interdisciplinary institutes. Each institute is dedicated to exploring regions often overlooked in traditional academic settings. The Africa Institute, established in 2018 was the first of these institutes, focuses on African and African diaspora studies. With the upcoming launch of The Asia Institute, GSU is expanding its academic scope to encompass additional regions, including Oceania, Europe, and the Americas.

Our mission is to serve as a globally recognized interdisciplinary hub for critical engagement in global studies within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. We aim to produce new knowledge and nurture the next generation of critical thinkers who are equipped to address global complexities and interconnectedness. Uniquely situated in the Gulf region, GSU seeks to transcend traditional area studies by pioneering interconnected and interdisciplinary paradigms that redefine global studies.

Our Sharjah campus reflects the city's growing role as a regional cultural and educational hub and serves as a dynamic space for intellectual exchange. As we expand to our future campus, which is in the stage of initial plans for a first-class architectural design, the new spaces to be built will continue to embody our commitment to innovation, collaboration, and cross-disciplinary learning. Together, we are shaping the future of education and research. I invite students, scholars, and partners to join us on this exciting journey as we push the boundaries of knowledge and global understanding by launching our unique and cutting-edge graduate programs.

H.H. Hoor Al Qasimi
President, Global Studies University

Message from the Chancellor of GSU



It is a privilege to serve as Chancellor of Global Studies University (GSU) and Dean of The Africa Institute. I warmly welcome our cohorts of graduate students to our Master's and PhD programs.

As you begin your journey with us, I encourage you to embrace the spirit of inquiry, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary engagement that defines GSU. Sharjah, a minaret of education, culture, and the arts, provides an inspiring backdrop for your academic and personal growth.

It was indeed an honor to be entrusted with leading the creation of an institution designed to address the historic ties between Africa and the Arab world, focusing on Africa and its diasporas. Since then, The Africa Institute, which was established in 2018, has made significant strides in advancing knowledge within the humanities and social sciences, while fostering valuable scholarly connections across regions. Building on this progress, the establishment of the Global Studies University has marked the next significant step in our academic vision. Organized as a network of semi-independent but interconnected institutes, the GSU's major objectives are to explore the histories, cultures, and peoples of various regions, further broadening its global impact and deepening its commitment to rigorous interdisciplinary research and high academic standards.

Our graduate academic programs are designed to challenge conventional paradigms and introduce innovative, interdisciplinary methodologies. With our inaugural MA program in Global African Studies and PhD program in Global Studies, we are equipping students with the tools to approach regional issues through a global lens. Our diverse faculty brings a wealth of expertise and perspectives, reinforcing our commitment to advancing scholarship and empowering future leaders to address the pressing challenges of our time.

I am deeply proud to be part of GSU's journey and excited about the future we are building together. Our university is committed to nurturing critical thinking and scholarship that transcends traditional academic boundaries. I warmly invite students, scholars, and partners to join us in shaping a brighter, more interconnected global futures.

Professor Salah M. Hassan
Chancellor, Global Studies University



Institutional Achievements and Milestones

Institutional Achievements

The Ruler of Sharjah Issued a Decree Establishing Global Studies University (GSU)

GSU was officially established under Emiri Decree No. (57) of 2023, issued by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, on September 14, 2023.

The decree designates the institution as an Arab academic institution, granting it full legal, financial, and administrative independence. Envisioned as a network of semi-independent interdisciplinary institutions, GSU focuses on different global regions, beginning with

The Africa Institute, established in 2018, and the soon-to-be-launched The Asia Institute, with future expansions planned for the Americas, Europe, and Oceania.

GSU is a Degree-Awarding Academic Institution (CAA Licensure)

Global Studies University (GSU) has received accreditation from the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA), Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MOHESR), U.A.E., for its Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Global Studies and Master of Arts (MA) in Global African Studies programs.

This recognition, granted on January 28, 2025, affirms GSU's commitment to academic excellence and interdisciplinary scholarship, further strengthening its role as a hub for global and regional studies.

Institutional Milestones



Inauguration of the First Cohort of MA Students

On February 4, 2025, His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, officially inaugurated GSU's first Master's cohort, welcoming 24 students to the two-year MA in Global African Studies, offered by The Africa Institute (GSU).

Her Highness Sheikha Hoor bint Sultan Al Qasimi, President of GSU, welcomed the students and highlighted the university's commitment to excellence in postgraduate education and research. The event was attended by Dr. Mansour bin Mohammed bin Nassar, Chairman of the Legal Department of the Government of Sharjah, alongside other senior officials and academics.



Sharjah Ruler meets First Cohort of PhD Students at GSU

On September 24, 2025, H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, met with the first cohort of doctoral students at Global Studies University (GSU). The meeting, held at the Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi Centre in University City, was attended by H.H. Sheikha Hoor bint Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, President of GSU, along with faculty and senior university leadership.

During the meeting, His Highness highlighted the pivotal role of postgraduate research and emphasized that researchers must embody a love of learning, a spirit of inquiry, and curiosity to ensure their studies contribute meaningful insights. He congratulated the students on joining GSU and noted its evolution from a project focused on African studies into a global institution with multiple research institutes.

Exploring Synergies: GSU Institutional Collaboration and Explorations

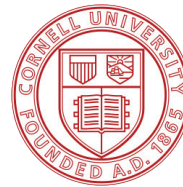
In 2025, Global Studies University (GSU) strengthened existing partnerships, formed new collaborations, and explored future opportunities with institutions worldwide, in support of GSU's mission and vision.

Universities/Academic Institutions

- Cornell University
- University of Sharjah
- Rutgers University - New Brunswick
- School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London
- New York University Abu Dhabi
- UNCF/Mellon
- Addis Ababa University

Cultural Institutions:

- Sharjah Art Foundation
- Sharjah Museums Authority (SAWA program)
- AlMultaq Chamber Orchestra





GSU Governance

Vision

Global Studies University (GSU) aims to establish itself as a leading global studies institution recognized worldwide for its excellence in teaching, research, and documentation. Situated in the Gulf region, GSU seeks to transcend traditional area studies and continental thinking frameworks by pioneering critical, interconnected, and interdisciplinary paradigms that redefine global studies.

Mission

GSU's mission is to serve as a hub for critical engagement in global studies within the arts, humanities, and social sciences, producing new knowledge and nurturing the next generation of critical thinkers to address global complexities and interconnectedness through knowledge production and postgraduate training. GSU is conceived as a multi-institute entity focusing on Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe, Oceania, and other key regions of the world.



GSU Strategic Goals

Academic Excellence and Research Impact

Produce leaders in interdisciplinary global studies through focusing on excellence in teaching and impactful research

Global Hub for Intellectual Leadership and Policy Influence

Produce leaders in interdisciplinary global studies through focusing on excellence in teaching and impactful research

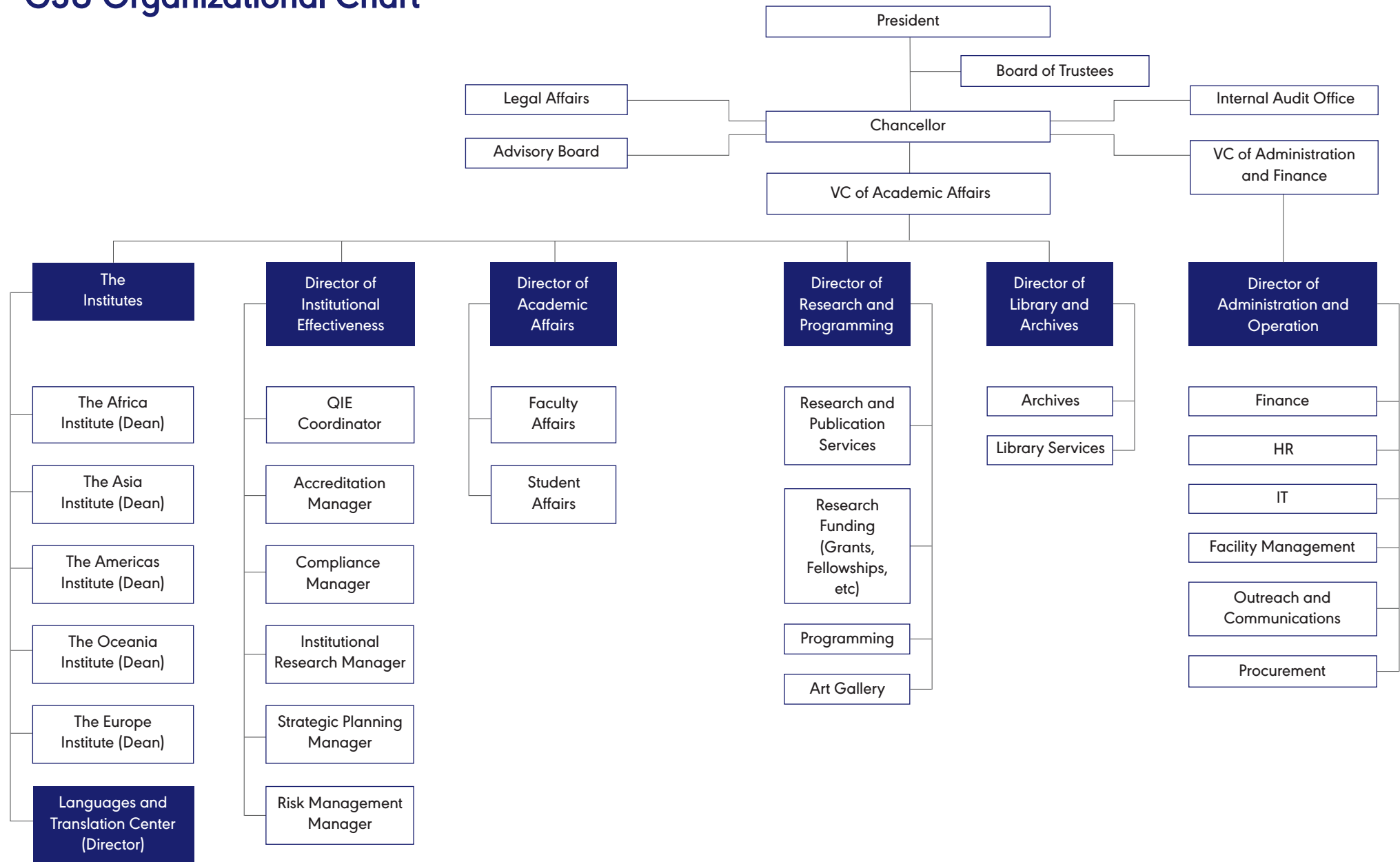
Student Experience

Foster an enriching and supportive environment that promotes academic success, personal development, and overall student well-being

Local and Global Community Engagement

Strengthen ties to the local and global communities through impactful engagement and outreach activities

GSU Organizational Chart



GSU Board of Trustees

H.H. Hoor Al Qasimi, President and Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Global Studies University, UAE

Dr. Salah M. Hassan, Chancellor, Global Studies University and Dean, The Africa Institute, GSU, UAE

H.E Muhadditha Al Hashimi, Chairperson, Sharjah Private Education Authority, Sharjah, UAE

H.E. Sheikh Fahim Bin Sultan Bin Khalid Al Qasimi, Member of The Executive Council of Sharjah and Executive Chairman of The Department of Government Relations, Sharjah, UAE

Dr. Zahra Saeedi Baalawi, Independent Higher Education Consultant, Dubai, UAE

Dr. Fatima Al-Shamsi, Senior Economist, Novus Consulting Group, UAE

Dr. Chika Okeke-Agulu, Robert Schirmer Professor of Art and Archaeology and African American Studies; Director, Program in African Studies and Director, Africa World Initiative, Princeton University, USA

Dr. Manthia Diawara, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Comparative Literature and Cinema Studies, New York University, USA

Dr. Savitri Bisnath, Senior Director, Institute on Race, Power and Political Economy, The New School, New York, USA

Mr. Osama Daoud Abdellatif, Chairperson, DAL Group Company Ltd, Invictus Trading Company, Dubai, UAE

Mr. Abiy Yeshitla, CEO, Muleback Technologies, Aurora, Colorado, USA

Ms. Samallie Kiyingi, Global General Counsel for Standard Chartered's Corporate and Investment Bank, Singapore

Ms. Lina Hagggar, Art Consultant and Interior Decorator, Dubai, UAE

GSU Internal Audit

Throughout 2025, the Internal Audit Office focused on foundational development and capacity building to establish a robust, standards-compliant internal audit function. The primary objective was to lay the groundwork for the effective, risk-based 2026 Internal Audit Annual Plan. This report summarizes the key activities and accomplishments undertaken during this preparatory period.

Key Activities and Accomplishments

- **Development of the Internal Audit Framework and Charter**

The office dedicated significant effort to drafting and establishing the fundamental documents governing its operations. This included developing a comprehensive Internal Audit Charter, which defines the office's authority, responsibilities, and scope, ensuring alignment with the Global Internal Audit Standards (2024).

- **Preparation of the 2026 Internal Audit Annual Plan**

A major achievement of 2025 was the research, risk assessment, and meticulous drafting of the Internal Audit Annual Plan for 2026. This involved:

- Conducting preliminary stakeholder consultations to understand key organizational risks.
- Analyzing strategic plans and enterprise risk management assessments.
- Designing a risk-based audit universe that focuses on critical areas such as Governance, Academic Programs, Financial Sustainability, and IT Cybersecurity.
- Structuring a detailed audit schedule with clear objectives and resource allocation for the coming year.



- **Training and Capacity Building**

To enhance organizational understanding and competency in internal controls and risk management, the office designed and conducted targeted training sessions. These sessions were delivered to key staff across various departments, focusing on:

- The principles and importance of internal audit.
- Fundamentals of risk management and its integration into daily operations.
- Roles and responsibilities of staff in maintaining an effective control environment.

- **Risk Management Oversight**

Consistent with regulatory expectations, GSU has a risk management policy that is designed to be risk focused on events or actions that may adversely affect GSU's ability to achieve its institutional strategic, operational, legal and financial, academic or international ranking objectives. The Office of Internal Audit will have oversight of risk management activities with support of a campus-level committee, the GSU Risk Management Executive Committee.

GSU Internal Audit

Creation of GSU Risk Management Executive Committee

The Risk Management Executive Committee (RMEC) is established to oversee the identification, assessment, mitigation, and monitoring of risks that may impact GSU. The committee ensures that risk management practices align with the university's strategic objectives, legal and regulatory requirements, and best practices in higher education. Authority: The RMEC operates under the authority of the GSU Chancellor and is responsible for providing guidance and recommendations on enterprise-wide risk management.

Scope: The RMEC's oversight includes, but is not limited to, the following risk categories:

- Strategic Risks (e.g., reputation, governance, long-term sustainability)
- Operational Risks (e.g., IT security, facilities, business continuity)
- Financial Risks (e.g., budget, investments, fraud)
- Compliance & Legal Risks (e.g., regulatory, accreditation, litigation)
- Academic & Research Risks (e.g., academic integrity, research misconduct)
- Safety & Security Risks (e.g., campus safety, emergency preparedness)

Membership: The RMEC shall consist of senior leaders with risk oversight responsibilities, including:

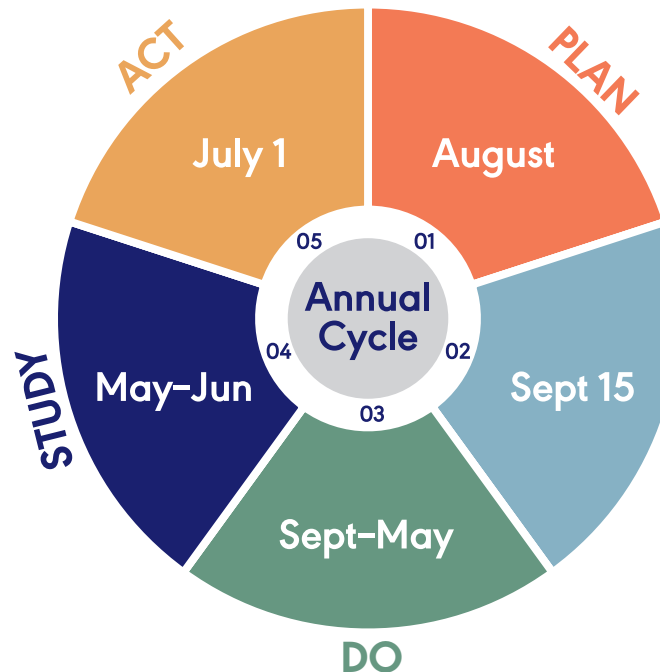
- Chair: [e.g., Chief Risk Officer, VP of Finance & Administration, or designated senior executive]
- Members:
 - Administration and Operations Director (Committee Chair)
 - Associate Dean
 - Director of Academic Affairs
 - Accounting and Finance Manager
 - Director of Institutional Effectiveness
 - Manager, Communications and Outreach
 - Head of IT and Academic Computing
 - Head of Internal Audit (Observing Member and Advisor)

Conclusion

The activities of 2025 were strategically focused on building a solid foundation for the Internal Audit function. By establishing its governing framework, preparing a comprehensive and forward-looking audit plan, and building internal capacity through training, the Internal Audit Office is now well-positioned to execute its 2026 plan effectively. Our efforts this year ensure that the function will provide valuable, independent assurance and contribute significantly to the enhancement of governance, risk management, and internal controls at the GSU in the year ahead.

GSU Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness

GSU Unified System
(for Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance)



July 1 Deadline

Faculty: Dean's Office/Department Chairs submit an annual academic programs report to OIE for Chancellor

Admin Units:

- OIE delivers Assessment Results/ Report with Action Plans to Chancellor
- Action Plans are reviewed for resource allocation and course/operational improvement

May–June

Faculty: Course Evaluation to collect student feedback (end of spring semester)

Admin Units:

- OIE collects and share results with Programs/Units
- Programs/Units analyse results and create action plans based on Results

August

Faculty: writes Assessment Plan for each course aligned to GSU Academic Program Learning Outcomes (i.e: Intended learning outcomes; assessment instruments/questions, rubrics for all graded tests/projects/exams)

Admin Units:

- Write Evaluation Plans with goals and objectives aligned to GSU mission

September 15 (Deadline)

Faculty: Have course syllabi that includes key info for students enrolled in each course.

Admin Units:

- Submit Unit or Program Assessment Plan and Evaluation Questions to OIE.
- Programs/Units indicate who is to respond to Evaluation Questions (i.e. students, staff, alumni, Board of Trustees)

September to May

Faculty: Course Evaluation to collect student feedback (end of fall semester)

Admin Units:

- OIE sets questions into Qualtrics assessment tool. OIE sends out survey to appropriate mailing lists (using Program/Unit plan, schedule, questions tied to unit goals and objectives); Surveys may be formal and informal

GSU Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness

Work with the Board of Trustees on Institutional Strategic Plan	Introduce a highly effective administration of assessment and collections of institutional data
Work with Academic Programs to design course assessment framework and administer end of semester student feedback for each course taught	Establish and coordinate an efficient annual assessment cycle to drive institutional improvements by implementing best practices in quality management and compliance monitoring
Provide Guidelines to Faculty on CAA Student Learning Outcomes KPIs	Work with University QA Committee to design data collection frameworks for the 6 Pillars of CAA's Outcome-Based
Provide Technical Assistance to Administrative Units on Evaluation KPIs	Monitor Institutional Performance through Action Plans and Improvement Proposals
Ensuring alignment with academic and regulatory standards. Ensure full compliance with academic integrity policies	Collaborate with GSU risk management team for effective operational functions at GSU



GSU Quality Assurance and Institutional Effectiveness: 2025 Highlights

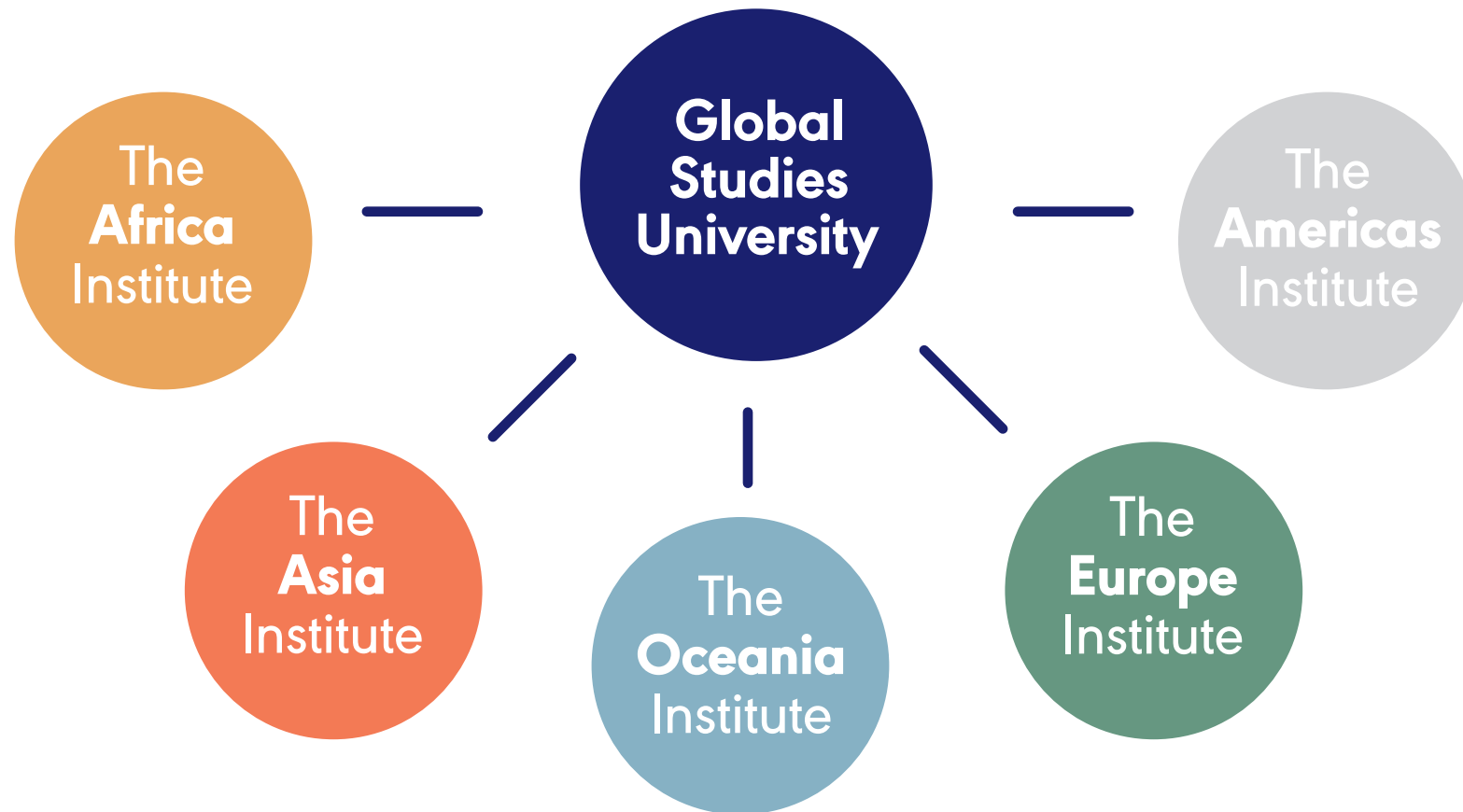
- The approval and formation of GSU Quality Assurance Committee by the Chancellor
- The establishment of a unified campus system for assessment of academic programs and evaluation of GSU operations
- The creation of a university-wide annual cycle for continuous monitoring of performance in academic program assessment and administrative unit evaluation
- Dissemination of CAA Outcome-based Framework in general and key performance indicators for research and learning outcomes, in particular, to Faculty
- Promoting a culture of excellence and quality assurance through workshops and technical support to administrators and staff
- Assist the design and administration of course evaluations and student activities surveys in both Spring and Fall semesters





GSU Visionary Academic Institutions

Five GSU Institutes



Academic Excellence: The Beginning, The Present, and The Future

The Africa Institute History - The Beginning

Through the establishment of The Africa Institute on June 6, 2018, the Government of the Emirate of Sharjah committed to strengthening Afro-Arab relations that would focus on the study and documentation of historical linkages, to be headquartered in Sharjah, UAE. Conceptualized as a center for Africa and African Diaspora studies, The Africa Institute's history dates to December 1976, when Sharjah, UAE hosted the first Symposium on African and Arab Relations. Organized under the patronage of His Highness Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of the Sharjah, 45 African and Arab intellectuals were invited to participate in the symposium. The symposium also addressed the need for an annual meeting to discuss Arab African relations and proposed an Arab African Fund.

The Africa Hall building was inaugurated under the title 'Africa Hall' during the Arab African Symposium on December 16, 1976 to serve as a knowledge center and platform for conferences, symposia, lectures, film screenings and theatrical plays related to the activities of The Africa Institute. It also serves as part of the Institute's outreach to the larger community of Sharjah, UAE, and beyond.

The Africa Institute at GSU - The Present

Licensed as a degree-awarding institution in January 2025, the Global Studies University (GSU) admitted its first cohort of students into The African Institute (TAI), the first of 5 institutes of the GSU. The TAI has attracted well-qualified faculty to achieve GSU's mission of excellence in teaching and scholarly research. These faculty are renowned both for the impact they have made in their respective fields and for their ability to train the next generation of critical thinkers in Global Studies and in African and African Diaspora Studies. Recognizing that the most urgent questions of our time require trans- and inter-disciplinary collaboration, we have assembled a faculty with the agility to work in, between, and across disciplines.

The curriculum at GSU addresses the most vital and pressing questions related to global studies, spanning the full breadth and depth of the humanities and social sciences. It blurs traditional disciplinary boundaries by advancing interdisciplinary methodologies and thought processes, identifying key, intersecting thematic fields and areas. Additionally, GSU provides its graduates with a vital understanding of local contexts, relevance, and deep-rooted connections. Its graduates are expected to make a lasting impact on the ways research and teaching in the social sciences and humanities are conducted and how knowledge is produced.

The Asia Institute - Future Plan

GSU is proud to announce a defining step in its history with the planned establishment of The Asia Institute, the university's second academic institute.

The Asia Institute will serve as a vital hub for the study of Asia in a global context, promoting interdisciplinary research that bridges histories, economies, languages, and cultures across the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Gulf, and the wider Asian region. As part of its preparatory work, GSU hosted The Asia Institute Consultative Meeting from December 11-13, 2025, bringing together scholars and senior leadership to shape the Institute's research agenda, academic programs, and future collaborations. The Institute will also feature the formation of its Advisory Board, recruitment of faculty, and a major conference titled "Global Asia: The State of Asian Studies in the 21st Century", scheduled for Fall 2026.

In this context, an inaugural faculty member with expertise on early modern South Asia and the Indian Ocean world. This appointment marks the beginning of a growing faculty body, aligned with the university mission to produce scholarship that is both locally grounded and globally relevant.



GSU The Africa Institute

The Africa Institute: Academic Programs Overview

MA in Global African Studies

The MA in Global African Studies integrates the humanities and social sciences to provide a comprehensive understanding of global Africa. Students can choose from three tracks:

- Track 1: Museum and Critical Heritage Studies
- Track 2: Diplomacy and Africa's International Relations
- Track 3: Afro-Arab Relations

Program Structure

Program Component	Credit hours
Common Core Courses	6
Specialization Core Courses	18
Elective Courses	6
Language Courses	P/F
Internship	P/F
Thesis	6
Total	36

PhD in Global Studies

The PhD curriculum of The Africa Institute engages the most important, pressing questions in Global Studies across the breadth and depth of the humanities and social sciences. The PhD program in Global Studies is a five-year program that entails two years of coursework and three years of dissertation/thesis research and writing.

The PhD program is organized into two broad interdisciplinary focus areas/tracks that, in turn, encompass five interdisciplinary programs:

- Track 1: Cultural, Visual, and Literary Studies
 - African Languages and Translation Studies
 - History of Art, Visual Studies, and Performance Studies
 - Literary and Cultural Studies
- Track 2: Historical, Political, and Social Studies
 - Historical Studies
 - Social and Political Studies

Program Structure

Program Component	Credit hours
Core Courses	24
Language Courses (Amharic, Arabic, Hausa, or Kiswahili)	9
Elective Courses	24
Readings for The A Exam	6
Doctoral Project	18
Total	81

The Africa Institute: Student Recruitment and Diversity

MA in Global African Studies

In January 2025, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, enrolled its first cohort of 24 students in the MA in Global African Studies. Of the cohort, one student is UAE national.

Students are enrolled across three specialization tracks:

- Museum and Critical Heritage Studies
- Diplomacy and Africa's International Relations
- Afro-Arab Relations

The cohort demonstrates balanced gender representation (approximately 50:50) and includes students from Africa, Europe, the Gulf region, and the Middle East. The academic backgrounds of the students reflect their caliber, with prior degrees from leading institutions such as universities in the UAE, the University of Oxford, UC Irvine, University of Dar es Salaam, American University in Cairo, and other internationally recognized universities.



PhD in Global Studies

GSU welcomed its first cohort of 10 PhD students in Global Studies in August 2025. Of the cohort, three students are UAE nationals. The cohort includes diverse candidates from Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Most of these students received their education at leading institutions around the world, such as Indiana University, Riphah International University, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, and several prominent universities in the UAE, Europe, and Africa.

The Africa Institute: Future Plans

Strategic Objectives

The five-year strategic plan of GSU (2023–2027) is rooted in its aspiration to be acknowledged as the leading graduate and research university specializing in global studies. To achieve this, GSU has identified three primary areas of emphasis:

- **Postgraduate Training Excellence:**

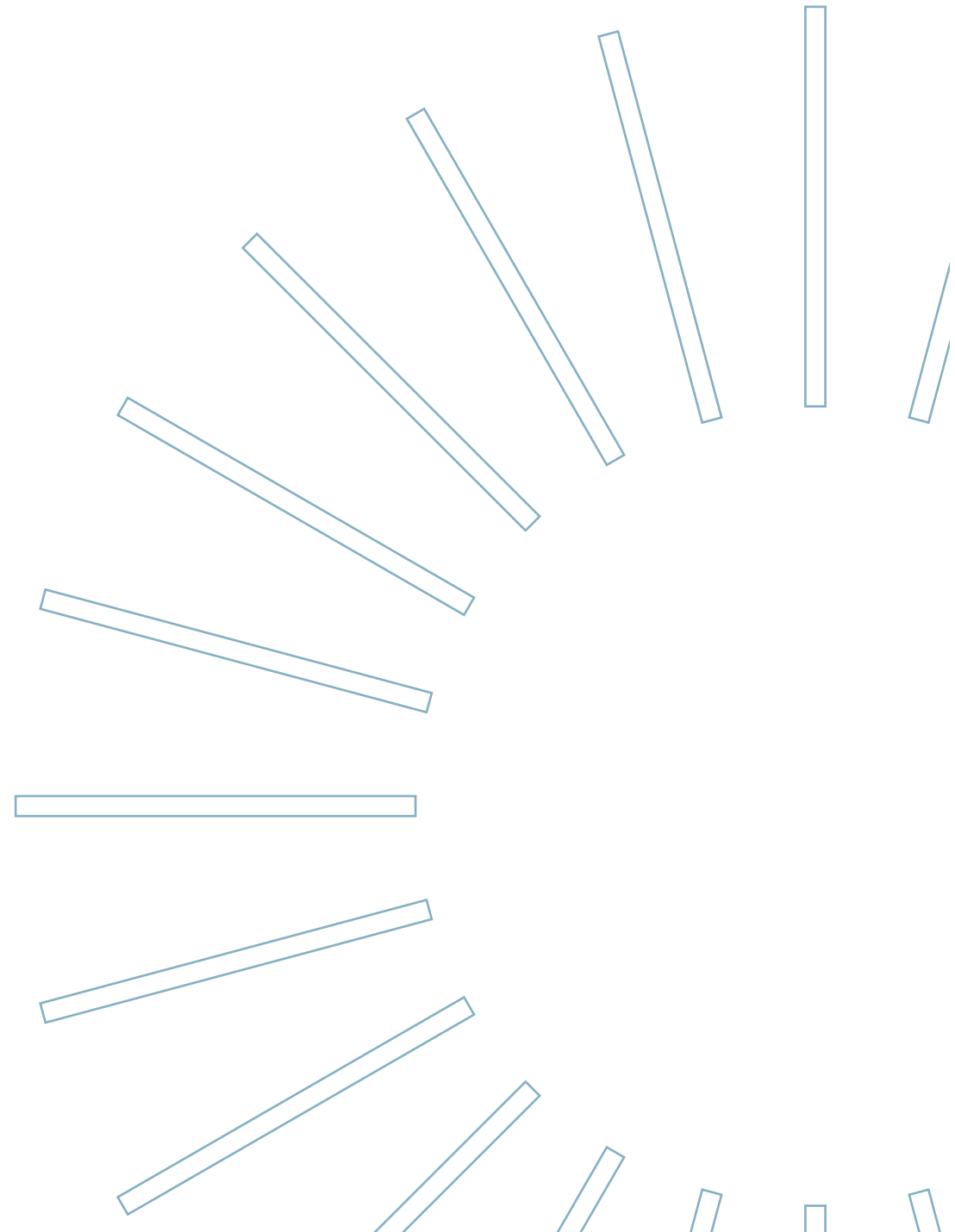
The university is committed to providing top-tier, interdisciplinary, and innovative graduate-level education in humanities, social sciences, and training on non-Western languages at the postgraduate level.

- **Redefining Research Agenda and Shaping Global Discourse:**

GSU aims to be the foremost hub influencing and defining discussions, bringing forth new paradigms of thought in global studies.

- **Forum for Global South North Conversations:**

GSU seeks to be the primary venue where significant academic, intellectual, and policy discussions concerning issues impacting the global South and North regions are held, and networks strengthened.





Faculty, Research, and Scholarly Activities

Faculty | Department of Humanities



Salah M. Hassan is Chancellor of Global Studies University (GSU) and Dean of The Africa Institute in Sharjah, where also teaches as Professor of African Art History and Visual Studies. He is Emeritus Distinguished Professor at Cornell University, Director of the Institute for Comparative Modernities, and co-founder of Nka: Journal of Contemporary African Art. A renowned scholar, curator, and art critic, Hassan has authored and edited major works on African and diaspora art and curated prominent international exhibitions. He has received numerous grants, fellowships, and honors, including the 2021 Distinguished Professor Award from the College Art Association.



Binyam Sisay Mendisu currently serves as Professor of African Languages and Linguistics, Associate Dean of The Africa Institute, GSU and Director of Graduate Studies, GSU. He holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Oslo. His research considers language as an archive of local knowledge and memory. He has worked with UNESCO-IICBA on teacher policy and mother tongue education across Africa and led the NORAD-supported Linguistic Capacity Building: Tools for Inclusive Development of Ethiopia project. A fellow of the International Science Council, his publications address language policy, multilingualism, and African linguistic identity.



Zaynab El Bernoussi served as Interim Chair of the Department of Humanities and Associate Professor of Political Science at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, after the passing of Professor Elizabeth Giorgis in March 2025. Her research focuses on postcolonial dignity politics in the Global South, particularly in North Africa and the Middle East. She holds a PhD in Political and Social Sciences from the Catholic University of Louvain. El Bernoussi has published widely, including the book *Dignity in the Egyptian Revolution* (Cambridge, 2021), and has received awards such as the 2025 IPSA Global South Award. She is Vice-Chair of the ISA Global South Caucus and a founding member of the Security in Context network.



Surafel W. Abebe is Assistant Professor of Performance Studies and Theory at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He earned his PhD in Performance Historiography from the University of Minnesota (2018). His research explores performance, media, and academia as sites of cultural politics, with a current book on Ethiopian female performers. His publications include *Ethiopia: Modern Nation–Ancient Roots* (2024) and *The Imagined New* (2022), along with essays on historiography, feminist performance, and memory.



Bilal Al-Omar is Senior Lecturer of Arabic in the African Languages and Translation Program at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He holds a PhD in Arabic Language with a focus on Post-colonial and Comparative Literature from The World Islamic

Faculty | Department of Humanities

Sciences and Education University in Amman, Jordan. He previously taught at Cornell University (2017–2022), developing curriculum for modern Arabic literature for non-native speakers. His research focuses on postcolonial and Arabic literary studies, comparative literature, and Arabic language instruction. His publications include translations and scholarly articles on Achebe, Chomsky, and contemporary African authors.



Philathia Bolton is Associate Professor of African and African Diaspora Literature and Cultural Studies at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. Bolton holds a PhD in American Studies from Purdue University. Her research centers on 20th-century African American literature, Black feminist theory, and cultural memory, with a focus on civil rights legacies and literary representations of identity and trauma. Her publications include *Teaching with Tension* and forthcoming work on James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and Hurstonian traditions.



Mamadou Diouf is Visiting Professor of African History at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He is also the Leitner Family Professor of African Studies and Professor of History at Columbia University. Diouf's research focuses on urban, political, social, and intellectual histories of colonial and postcolonial Africa. He holds a PhD from the University of Paris I-Sorbonne. His publications include *L'Afrique dans le temps du monde* (2023), *Déborder la négritude* (2020), and *The Arts of Citizenship in Africa* (2014).



Regina Minael Fupi is Lecturer of Kiswahili in the African Languages and Translation Program at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. She holds dual MAs in Linguistics (University of Dar es Salaam) and Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies (Carleton University, Canada). Currently pursuing a PhD in Education at the University of Calgary, Fupi's research focuses on Kiswahili pedagogy, Bantu linguistics, translation studies, and the representation of Black history in Western curricula. Her scholarly work explores cultural inclusion and the lived experiences of African diasporic communities.



Emery Kalema is Assistant Professor of History at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He earned his PhD in History from the University of the Witwatersrand. Kalema's research explores power, violence, memory, trauma, and embodiment in Central African history. His current book project, *Violence and Memory: The Mulele 'Rebellion' in Postcolonial Congo*. His publications appear in leading journals such as *Politique africaine*, *Journal of African History*, and *Cahiers d'Etudes Africaines*.



Aliyu Mustapha Lawal is Lecturer of Hausa and Arabic in the African Languages and Translation Program at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He was recently awarded his PhD in Islamic and Arabic Studies, specializing in Arabic Literature and Criticism, from Al-Azhar University, Cairo (December 2025). Lawal has published widely in Arabic and Hausa on literature, translation, and linguistics. His publications include *Al-Shamel in Conversation* (2021), a trilingual Hausa-Arabic-Somali dictionary, and numerous poetic works and conference papers on Arabic literature and translation studies.

Faculty | Department of Social Sciences



Grieve Chelwa is the Chair of the Department of Social Sciences and Associate Professor of Political Economy at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Cape Town. Chelwa's research focuses on political economy, particularly its implications on the prospects for African economic development. His recent publications include Comment on Chong 2025 in *Current Anthropology* and The Jubilee Report by The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and Columbia University.



Maha Bashri is an Associate Professor of Media and Communication at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. She holds a PhD in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina, USA. Bashri's research focuses on political communication, digital media, and civic engagement within African and Global South contexts. Her recent publications appear in *Media, War & Conflict*, the *Routledge Handbook on Arab Cinema*, and the *Journal of Ethnic and Cultural Studies*.



Mohamed Faroug is Visiting Assistant Professor of Archaeology at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He earned his PhD from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Faroug's research focuses on the formation, political economy, collapse, and regeneration of ancient states in sub-Saharan Africa, ancient iron-working cultural landscapes, and intercultural contact. His publications include



Sociopolitical Structure and the Collapse of the Meroitic State (Brepols, forthcoming) and *The End of the Meroitic State* (Majalat Aladab, 2022).

Faisal Garba Muhammed is an Associate Professor of Sociology, Migration, and Mobility at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He obtained his education from several universities, including the Jawaharlal Nehru University and the Universities of Ghana, Legon, Cape Town, and Freiburg. Garba's research is around migration and mobility, inequality, social theory and knowledge production, and social movements and working-class forms of organizing. His publications include *Migration and (In)Equality in the Global South* (Zanj, 2022) and *Free Movement and Regional Integration in the ECOWAS Sub-Region* (Springer, 2022).



Amy Niang is an Associate Professor of Political Science at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. She earned her PhD in Politics and International Relations from the University of Edinburgh, UK. Niang's research centered around the history of state formation and sovereignty, Africa's international relations, and the history of geopolitics. Her publications include *The Postcolonial African State in Transition: Stateness and Modes of Sovereignty* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018), *Identités Sahéliennes en Temps de Crise* (co-edited, 2019), and *Researching Peacebuilding in Africa* (Routledge, 2020).

Faculty | Department of Social Sciences



Abdourahmane Idrissa is Professor of Political Science at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University. He earned his PhD from the University of Florida. Idrissa's research interests focus on the politics of Islam and secularism in Africa—mainly Sub-Saharan Africa—and on state formation in African contexts. His publications include *Dialogue in Divergence: The Impact of EU Migration Policy on West African Integration* (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, 2019) and *Tinder to the Fire: Burkina Faso in the Conflict Zone* (Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, 2019).



The Asia Institute

Dale Luis Menezes is Assistant Professor of History and an inaugural faculty member of The Asia Institute, Global Studies University, Sharjah. He holds a PhD in History from Georgetown University. Menezes is a historian of early modern South Asia and the Indian Ocean world, with a focus on Goa and the Iberian presence in Asia. His research examines how agrarian communities involved in coconut and rice cultivation shaped imperial formations between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. He is a contributor to the European Research Council-funded project *India's Politics in its Vernacular*.



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Faculty News



Grieve Chelwa has been recognized by The Africa Report as one of the Top 10 African Scholars to Watch in 2025 (January 2025). This highlights his growing influence in political economy and follows the publication's 2024 acknowledgment of Cornell University's Naminata Diabate among Africa's leading scholars.

He was appointed to the Papal Commission on the Debt and Development Crisis, organized by the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and led by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz. The 33-member commission of top economists will address sovereign debt issues in the Global South and recommend financial reforms to promote sustainable development (February 2025).

He was appointed to the jury of the Africa NextGen Economist Prize, launched by The Africa Report and Jeune Afrique in partnership with the African Development Bank. The prize recognizes and supports Africa's most promising young economists (December 2025).



Zaynab El Bernoussi was recognized by Arabian World Magazine as one of the "Middle East's Most Admired Professors to Watch" (July 2025). The feature highlights her leadership, scholarship, and dedication to mentoring the next generation of political scientists, reflecting the university's commitment to globally engaged teaching and research.

Faculty Scholarly Activities

Emery Kalema, from January 29–31, 2025, led *Congolese Horizons: Weaving Temporalities in Congo Studies* at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, in partnership with the Congo Research Network.

The three-day conference brought together over 40 scholars from the humanities and social sciences for panels, lectures, and screenings exploring how temporality shapes Congolese history, culture, and society.

Grieve Chelwa, in January 2025, appeared on the United Nations' *Economies That Work for All* podcast, discussing global debt inequalities and advocating for a "human rights economy" that prioritizes education, health, and social protection over austerity measures and structural inequalities.

Surafel Wondimu Abebe, from April 7–9, 2025, led *The Imagined New – Volume III: Confronting Violence and Catastrophe: War, Grief and Hope* at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, in collaboration with the Visual Identities in Art and Design Research Centre (VIAD), University of Johannesburg, and the Ruth J. Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice, Brown University.

Grieve Chelwa, from May 13–15, 2025, played a leading role in a high-level international consultation on global debt in London. He presented the African perspective on the debt crisis and contributed to a communiqué calling for urgent debt cancellation and reforms to international financial systems, with a focus on healthcare, education, and climate resilience.

Surafel Wondimu Abebe, on August 6, 2025, delivered the lecture "Decolonizing Humanism: Theatre of a Revolution in Ethiopia" at Rosa Luxemburg Dialogues, Kingston, Jamaica, examining the Ethiopian

Student Movement, socialist revolution, and performance in pan-African humanism.

Mohamed Faroug A. Ali, from September 15–19, 2025, participated in the second session of the Connecting Art Histories program at Museo Egizio, Turin, Italy. The seminar brought together international scholars, curators, and heritage professionals to explore Egypt and Sudan's art and archaeology, collaborative approaches to shared heritage, and best practices in preservation, restitution, and accessibility.

Faisal Garba Muhammed, from September 24–27, 2025, participated in the 6th Biennial Conference of the African Studies Association of Africa (ASAA) in Praia, Cabo Verde, engaging with scholars on African studies research, public policy, and interdisciplinary dialogues.

Zaynab El Bernoussi, from October 7–8, 2025, participated in the Second Edition of the Azerbaijan Halal Business (AZHAB) Forum in Baku, presenting her co-authored book *International Political Economy and the Global South: Perspectives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East* and speaking on halal ethics and certification.

Grieve Chelwa, in October 2025, led the inaugural *Blueprints for a New Economy* Fellowship convening in Lusaka, Zambia. The program brought together emerging scholars from across the Global South to explore public intellectualism, inequality, and grassroots engagement. Participants received training on media, research, and advocacy, emphasizing ethical scholarship and South–South knowledge exchange.

Binyam Sisay Mendisu, from November 19–21, 2025, participated in the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) Governing Board meeting in Ottawa. As one of INGSA's Vice Presidents, Mendisu

Faculty Scholarly Activities

joined policymakers, researchers, and science advisors alongside the 17th Canadian Science Policy Conference to discuss how scientific evidence can better inform public decision-making.

Zaynab El Bernoussi, on November 22, 2025, participated in the Quo Vadis Middle East? Conference at the University of Bonn, Germany, joining the panel “The UN in the Middle East: Solution Maker or Stumbling Block” alongside former German ambassador Dr. Andreas Reinicke, examining the UN’s role in Middle Eastern diplomacy and conflict resolution.

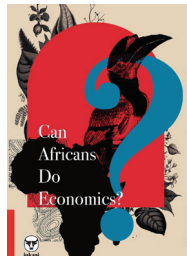
Aliyu Mustapha Lawal presented “The Stylistic Approaches in the Poetry of Sheikh Weld Bel Amash” at the 11th International Arabic Language Conference in Dubai, UAE (October 23, 2025). On November 26, 2025, he also read Arabic poetry at the Sharjah House of Poetry, including a poem dedicated to the UAE and an excerpt from A Dance on the Panels.

Faculty Publications and Collaborative Research: Books and Edited Volumes



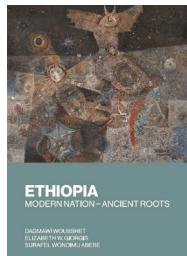
Surafel Wondimu Abebe

Co-edited *The Imagined New: (Or, What Happens When History Is a Catastrophe?)* (2023) with Anthony Bogues, Leora Farber, and Zamanskele Nsele. Contributed chapter: "Re-excavating the Present: Inserting Embodied Stories in Ethiopia's Transitional Time-Space."



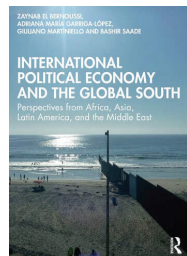
Grieve Chelwa

Co-authored *Can Africans Do Economics?* (Inkani Books, 2024), with Marion Ouma and Redge Nkosi.



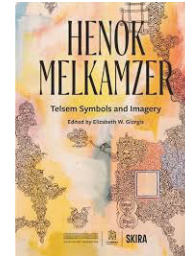
Dagmawi Woubshet, Elizabeth W. Giorgis, and Surafel W. Abebe

Co-edited *Ethiopia: Modern Nation - Ancient Roots* (Iwalewabooks and The Africa Institute, 2024).



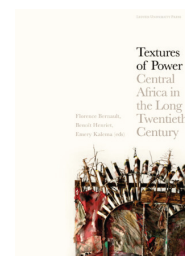
Zaynab El Bernoussi

Co-authored *International Political Economy and the Global South: Perspectives from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East* (Routledge, Taylor & Francis, 2025), with Adriana María Garriga-López, Giuliano Martiniello, and Bashir Saade.



Elizabeth W. Giorgis

Edited *Henok Melkamzer: Tselam Symbols and Imagery* (The Africa Institute, Skira, and Sharjah Art Foundation, 2025).



Emery Kalema

Co-edited *Textures of Power: Central Africa in the Long Twentieth Century* (Leuven University Press, 2025), with Florence Bernault and Benoît Henriët.



Salah M. Hassan

Edited *Gavin Jantjes: To Be Free! A Retrospective 1970-2023* (Skira, Sharjah Art Foundation, and The Africa Institute, 2025).



Other Staff Notable Publications

Adel Labidi, Chief Librarian at Global Studies University, has translated Hungarian novelist, Sándor Márai's classic novel *Embers* into Arabic, debuting it at the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair on May 2, 2025.

Faculty Publications and Collaborative Research: Journals, Book Chapters, and Reports

Grieve Chelwa

- Co-authored The Jubilee Report: A Blueprint for Tackling the Debt and Development Crises and Creating the Financial Foundations for a Sustainable People-Centered Global Economy (2025). The Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences and Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University.
- Published "New Directions in the Study of Inequality in Africa," African Social Research (2025).
- Published "Development as Emancipation," Review of African Political Economy (2025).
- Co-authored with Paolo De Renzio and Siame Ntazana Kaulule, Accountability Failures: Investigating the Roots of Zambia's 2020 Debt Default (2025).
- Co-authored with Vijay Prashad, Africa's Faustian Bargain with the International Monetary Fund (2025).
- Co-authored with Siame Ntazana Kaulule and Paolo De Renzio, External Forces and Zambia's Permanent Debt Crisis (2025).
- Co-authored with Bernadette Mushinge et al., Farmers' Knowledge Improves Identification of Drought Impacts, Climate Services 38 (2025).
- Co-authored with Suparna Bhaskaran and Darrick Hamilton, "Comment on Chong 2025," Current Anthropology (2025).

Bilal Al Omar

- Published "The Concept of Poetic Virility and Poetic Class in Classical Arabic Criticism," Dragoman Journal (2025).
- Published "Ngũgĩ Wa Thiong'o and Boubacar Boris Diop Write an Open Letter to Senegalese President Bassirou Diomaye Diakhar Faye," Arabic Journal for Translation Studies 4(12): 129–34 (2025).

Zaynab El Bernoussi

- Co-authored Human Dignity in Global Politics: Towards a Dignity Index, Edward Elgar (2025).
- Co-authored State Strikes Back: The Spanish-Moroccan Border Crisis..., PS: Political Science & Politics (2025).
- Published "More Problem-Setting for Poverty Solving," Sociological Insights for Development Policy 10, no.1 (2025).
- Published review Loved Egyptian Night: The Meaning of the Arab Spring, International Affairs 101, Issue 3, May 2025.
- Published "Uttering 'Karama', Demanding 'Dignity': Egyptian Youth in a Postcolonial Context in 2011," The Journal of North African Studies, April 2025.

Aliyu Mustapha Lawal

- Published "Manifestations of Mauritanian Historical Cities in the Poetry of Sheikh Weld Bel Amash," First Sharjah International Conference on the Arabic Language (2024).
- Published "The Emotional Dimension in the Poetry of Sheikh Weld Bel Amash: A Case Study of Familial Eulogy," Dubai Arabic Language International Conference (2025).

Binyam Sisay Mendisu

- Edited a special issue of the Journal of Ethiopian Studies on early-grade language education in Ethiopia (2024).

Faculty Publications and Collaborative Research: Journals, Book Chapters, and Reports

- Co-authored “Examining Teachers’ Practice of Phonological Awareness (PA) in Early Grades: A Qualitative Study of Koorete Language Classes, Southern Ethiopia” with Samuel Zinabu Haile, *Journal of Ethiopian Studies* (2024).

Maha Bashri

- Contributed chapter “Contesting Boundaries: Gendered Citizenship and Digital Activism in Sudan” to *Feminist Digital Citizenship in Africa: Agency, Rights and Resistance* (December 11, 2025).

Amy Niang and **Zaynab El Bernoussi**, joined the editorial team for the new *Pluriversal International Relations* journal, launched in partnership with Bristol University Press. The journal promotes pluriversal and anticolonial perspectives in international relations, publishing research, reviews, and creative works. The first issue is scheduled for late 2026.



Making a Marked Difference in Research: 2025 Joint Collaborative Research Fellowship

Global Africa Translation Fellowship

The aim of the fellowship is to make important texts in African and African Diaspora studies accessible to a wider readership across the world. It is a non-residential fellowship that allows the recipient scholar to complete the work outside of The Africa Institute (Sharjah, UAE).

Tejumola Olaniyan Creative Writers-in-Residence Fellowship

A distinguished program that celebrates and supports literary voices engaged in the creative expression of Africa and its diaspora in all forms and genres.

Restitution and Reparation: Africa and the Post-Colonial Condition Fellowship

The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations, announces its annual fellowship program themed, “Restitution and Reparation: Africa and the Post-Colonial Condition.” The program will convene scholars or practitioners interested in restitution and repatriation issues related to African art and artifacts. By fostering dialogue and research, the fellowship aims to shed light on this critical issue and contribute to meaningful progress in returning looted artifacts to their rightful homes in Africa.



Making a Marked Difference in Research: Senior & Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

The Africa Institute Research Fellowships Program has different fellowships named after renowned icons for their work in African and African diaspora. The program grows from strength to strength since its launch in 2021 enabling a stimulating platform and opportunity for both junior and senior scholars of African and African diaspora studies to focus on a research project and participate in ongoing scholarly and intellectual activities. It also grants fellows the benefit to interact with scholars and academics in their area of research with the aim to facilitate and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, knowledge exchange and enrich scholarly experiences and future projects.



Senior & Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

Okwui Enwezor Postdoctoral Fellow in Visual Culture,
Performance Studies and Critical Humanities

Fatema Mernissi Postdoctoral Fellowship
in Social and Cultural Studies

Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellow
in Global African Studies

Toni Morrison Senior Fellow in African Diaspora
Literature and Cultural Studies

Global Research Impact: 2025 Fellows

Fatema Mernissi Postdoctoral Fellow

Rosette Sifa Vuninga was formerly a Postdoctoral Fellow with the National Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences (2023–2024) and a University Research Committee Fellow (2025) in the Department of Historical Studies at the University of Cape Town. She is a Salzburg Global Fellow in the Rethinking Youth Safety and Justice Systems program (2022–present), a 2024 Individual Research Fellow of the Social Science Research Council’s African Peacebuilding Network (APN), a 2017 recipient of the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation’s African Fellowship, a 2019–2022 Andrew Mellon Doctoral Fellow, the 2020 SSRC African Peacebuilding Network Doctoral Fellow, and a 2016 APN Collaborative Research Group Grant awardee. As the 2025 Fatema Mernissi Postdoctoral Fellow in Social and Cultural Studies at The Africa Institute, she will work on her monograph based on her PhD research and publish peer-reviewed articles from her ongoing research on Congolese homeland politics and activism in South Africa.

Okwui Enwezor Postdoctoral Fellows

Kristina Dzedzic Wright holds a PhD in Museum, Gallery, and Heritage studies from the University of Leicester and a Master’s degree in Rhetoric and Art History from the University of Illinois, Chicago. Her doctoral research, based on comparative case studies in Nairobi and Seoul, examines how the arts reinforce and promote urban and national identity, engage diverse communities, and foster cross-cultural interactions amid increasing engagement between Asia and Africa. As part of her practice-based research, she curated a site-specific installation by the Korean arts collective Bang & Lee at Nafasi Art Space in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. As the 2025 Okwui Enwezor Postdoctoral Fellow in Visual Culture, Performance Studies, and Critical Humanities at The Africa Institute, Kristina will be developing an action research project tentatively titled *What’s art got to do with it? Transnational narratives, cultural heritage and radical hospitality*. Through a series of participatory art exhibitions and co-created workshops, this intersectoral study investigates migration and belonging amongst African diaspora communities in Europe as well as initiatives to decolonise the cultural and creative industries in various parts of the world.

Elizabeth Olayiwola is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Broadcast, Film, and Multimedia at the University of Abuja, Nigeria. Her research and teaching explore the intersections of film, women, and religious studies. She is the recipient of the 2024 Okwui Enwezor Postdoctoral Fellowship in Visual Culture, Performance Studies, and Critical Humanities at The Africa Institute, Global Studies University (GSU), Sharjah, UAE. Additionally, she has been awarded the prestigious Leventis Fellowship at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, among others.

Global Research Impact: 2025 Fellows

During her fellowship residency, Olayiwola will work on a book project tentatively titled *Film for Evangelism: Pentecostal Film-making Culture in Nigeria and Beyond*. This project examines a 35-year-old Pentecostal filmmaking culture in Nigeria that has achieved global reach. The book converges Film Studies and Pentecostalism, while also intersecting with Gender Studies, Migration Studies, and Cultural Studies.

Toni Morrison Senior Fellow

Carolyn Denard, founder and board chair of the Toni Morrison Society, joins The Africa Institute as the 2025 Toni Morrison Senior Fellow in African Diaspora Literature and Cultural Studies. A scholar, educator, and longtime steward of Morrison's literary legacy, Denard has spent decades advancing the study and public understanding of African American literature, with a particular focus on Morrison's work. Denard is the editor of *What Moves at the Margin: Selected Nonfiction* by Toni Morrison and *Toni Morrison: Conversations*—two cornerstone texts in Morrison studies. She is also the author of many scholarly essays on Morrison's novels. Drawing on the works of cognitive theorists in cultural anthropology, Denard's scholarship explores the function and meaning of the elements of African American culture that Morrison documents in her fiction: language, silence, myths, music, ethics, geography, and belief systems.

As the 2025 Toni Morrison Senior Fellow in African Diaspora Literature and Cultural Studies at The Africa Institute, Denard will complete her book-length manuscript entitled *Bearing Witness: Culture and Meaning in Toni Morrison's Fiction*.

Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellows

Yonas Ashine Demisse is an Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He served as Associate Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities (2018–2021) and as Head of the Department of Political Science and International Relations (2022–2025). He is also Associate Editor of the *Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities* (EJOSSAH). His research interests include political theory, comparative politics, and the international relations of Africa, with a particular focus on the Horn of Africa and Ethiopia.

As the 2025 Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellow in Global African Studies at The Africa Institute, he will work on *Ambivalent Black: Thought and Encounter in Ethiopia's Africa Policy*. This book project examines how Ethiopian intellectuals, literary thinkers, statesmen, and diplomats have conceptualized Africa and African identity, blackness, and internationalism within shifting global systems—from pre-colonial encounters to colonial and contemporary geopolitics. Drawing on Ethiopian intellectual and foreign policy archives, the project combines approaches from intellectual history and the international relations of Africa.

Behnaz Mirzai is Full Professor of Middle Eastern History at Brock University, Canada. From 2005 to 2006, she held a teaching position at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, USA. She is currently a Senior Guest Researcher at the Bonn Centre for Dependency and Slavery Studies, University of Bonn, Germany. Mirzai's interdisciplinary work encompasses historical research, ethnography, and film studies. Her scholarship explores the experiences of descendants of enslaved African communities, their interactions with other ethnic groups, African-derived

Global Research Impact: 2025 Fellows

religious practices, and spirit-possession cults in Iran and the Middle East. She also investigates how these cultural practices have transformed over time.

As the 2025 Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellow in Global African Studies at The Africa Institute, she is developing a new book on cultural and artistic identity in cross-border societies of the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean. The project offers important insights into cultural and artistic exchanges among diverse ethnic groups across the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean regions, with particular attention to music, art, and dance. Its objective is to identify and interpret the cultural practices of diasporic African communities and examine their impact on identity formation and transformation within these interconnected geographies.

Majid Hannoum is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of Kansas, USA. He earned a PhD in Arabic and Comparative Literature from Sorbonne University, France and a second PhD in History and Anthropology from Princeton University, USA. He is the editor of *Practicing Sufism: Sufi Politics and Performance in Africa* (2016) and the author of several books, including *Secular Narrations and Transdisciplinary Knowledge* (2023), *The Invention of the Maghreb: Between Africa and the Middle East* (2021), *Living Tangier: Migration, Race, and Illegality in a Moroccan City* (2020), *Violent Modernity: France in Algeria* (2010), and *Colonial Histories, Postcolonial Memories: The Legend of the Kahina, a North African Heroine* (2001).



As the 2024 Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellow in Global African Studies, Hannoum is working on a book that explores the formation of French secularism in Algeria and its interactions with local belief systems, including Islam and Judaism. The project also investigates how the development of secularism has led to new forms of secularity and religiosity that have persisted beyond the colonial period.



Publications and Joint Publications

Publications: 2018–2025

Joint Publications

A series of co-publications between The Africa Institute and Skira, one of the oldest and leading publishers in the field of art and visual culture

- The Egyptian Avant-Garde
- Gavin Jantjes: To Be Free! A Retrospective 1970 – 2023
- Ibrahim El-Salahi: At Home in the World – A Memoir by Ibrahim El-Salahi
- Ahmed Morsi: A Dialogic Imagination
- Beyond the Door of No Return: Confronting Hidden Colonial Histories through Contemporary Art

The Africa Institute collaborates with Duke University Press, a leading academic publisher and university press affiliated with Duke University, to produce high-quality scholarly publications that advance research on Africa, its cultures, and global connections.

- Selected Writings of Okwui Enwezor, Volume 1: Toward a New African Art Discourse
- Selected Writings of Okwui Enwezor, Volume 2: Curating the Postcolonial Condition

The Africa Institute's Publications

The Africa Institute, GSU publishes books, journals, and series in Arabic and English, including translations, and collaborates with external publishers to share original research and critical perspectives on Africa and its diasporas.

- El Nour Othman (Complete Poetry Collection)
- From Rufa'a to Florence: Conversations with Sculptor Abdulrazziq Abdulghafar Ahmad
- The Historian: Yusuf Fadl Hasan – The Sagacious Accomplishment and All-Embracing Contributions
- Ottoman Scramble for Africa
- The Arabic Influence on Kiswahili Culture in Eastern Africa
- Aghawat of the Holy Mosques
- The Complete Works of Jamal Mohamad Ahmad – Volume 1
- Notes on Published Texts: My Introductions to 30 Books
- The Art of Narrative Storytelling

Conference Proceedings

The Africa Institute's conference proceedings capture the key ideas and scholarly exchanges from our academic events, highlighting new research in African and African Diaspora studies.

- Ethiopia | Modern Nation – Ancient Roots

Publications: 2018–2025

Journals

The Africa Institute is dedicated to advancing African and African diaspora studies through its research and publications. In service of that, the institute plans to publish a number of academic journals in various fields. Our first journal is titled Monsoon: Journal of the Indian Ocean Rim and is published in collaboration with Duke University Press.

- Monsoon Journal Vol. 1, No.1 | May 2023
- Monsoon Journal Vol. 1, No.2 | November 2023
- Monsoon Journal Vol. 2, No.1 | May 2024
- Monsoon Journal Vol. 2, No.2 | November 2024
- Monsoon Journal Vol. 3, No.1 | May 2025
- Monsoon Journal Vol. 3, No. 2 | November 2025

Writing Africa

Writing Africa is a series of booklets in the fields of humanities and social sciences related to African and African Diaspora studies. As a periodical publication, the series aims at introducing African culture in its diverse genres ranging from literature, visual cultures, theater, music, song and literary criticism among other forms of creative expressions. It also aims at familiarizing the public with the diversity and complexities of African societies, their histories, in relation to their past, present and future in critical and formative ways.

- The African Lesson: Theatre Between Local Practices and European Form
- Background and Approaches to the Problematics of Identity in the Project of Sudanese Modern
- Song of the Pharaoh
- Black American Poetry

Others

- Aida Muluneh - Homebound: A Journey in photography
- Decolonizing African Cinema: A History



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our full list of publications



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One-Stop Shop
Student Info Management



- **Student Information System (SIS):** IT and academic Computing staff monitor, support, and ensure the smooth operation of the SIS for admission, academic records, registration, and advising tools.
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** IT and academic Computing staff supporting LMS online and hybrid learning environments with reliable system performance and user training.
- **Smart Classroom Solutions:** IT and academic Computing staff maintain the technology in classrooms and teaching spaces to enable interactive and hybrid teaching.
- **Faculty Support:** IT and academic Computing staff provide technology consultation and training to enhance faculty EdTech knowledge.
- **Hybrid & Online Learning Infrastructure:** Ensuring seamless and support for Hybrid & online learning.

Best Practices: Advancing Teaching & Learning through IT and Academic Computing

We create digital transformation in learning spaces by expanding smart classroom technologies and integrating advanced learning analytics.

Organized Teaching for Optimal Learning Experience

Track learning progress continuously

Conduct formative assessment

Timely Feedback Mechanism

Individualized communication with students

GSU empowers teaching, learning, and research through advanced technology solutions.

Core activities include using the following:

- Student Information System (SIS)
- Learning Management System (LMS)
- Smart Classroom Solutions
- Hybrid & Online Learning-- Ensuring seamless connectivity and support for Hybrid & online learning

Self-paced Learning

Increased Engagement and Motivation

Enhanced Student Learning

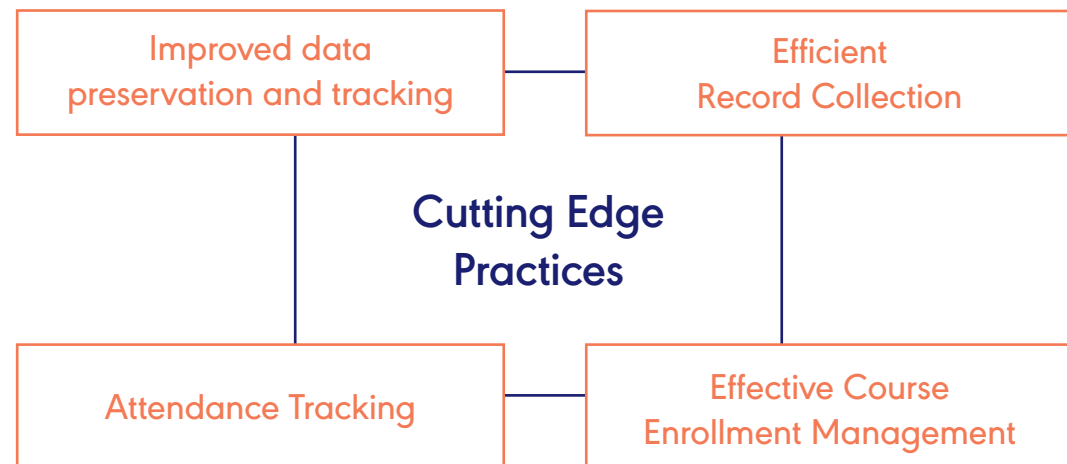
Improved Retention of Knowledge

Individualized communication with faculty

Best Practices: Efficient Student Records Tracking for Compliance

Student Information System (SIS)

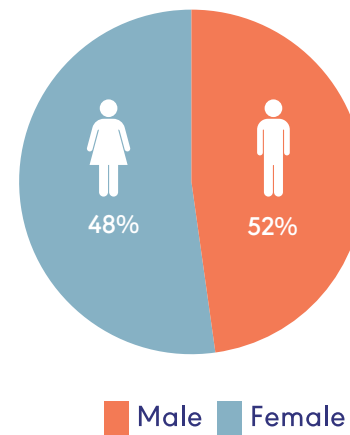
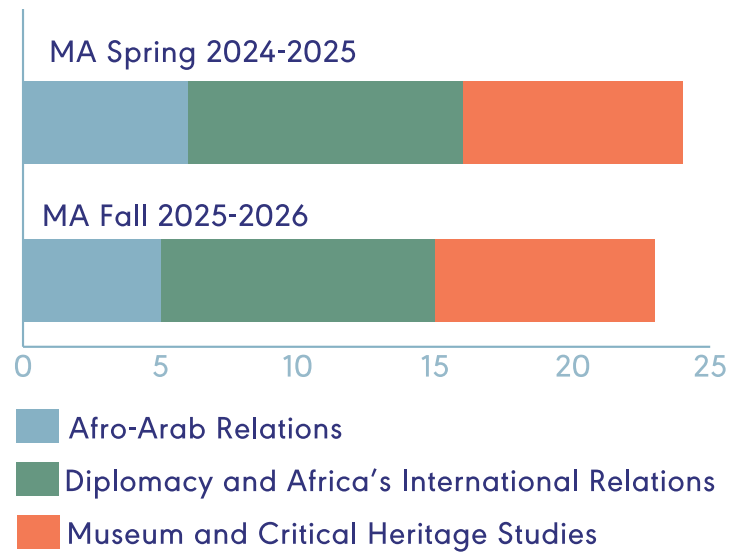
IT and academic Computing staff monitor, support, and ensure the smooth operation of the SIS for admission, academic records, registration, and advising tools.



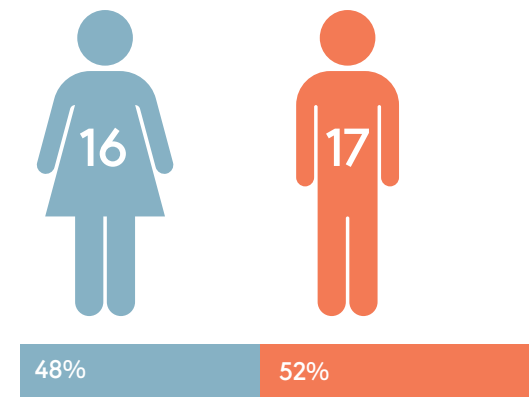


Students

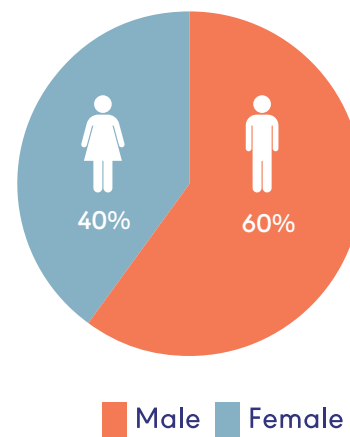
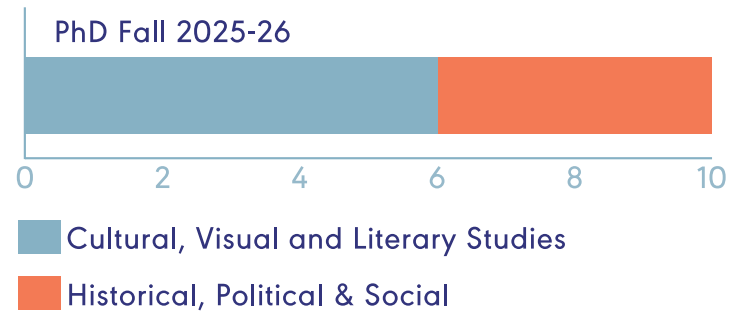
GSU Student Population in % and Pie Chart



All Students Gender

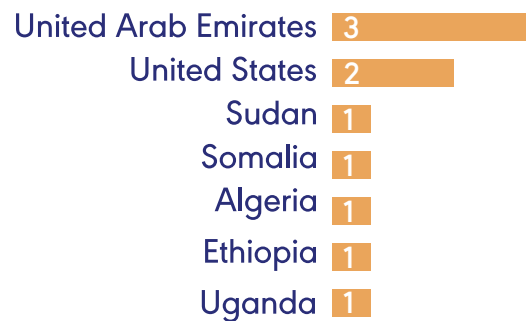


*Based on Fall 2025

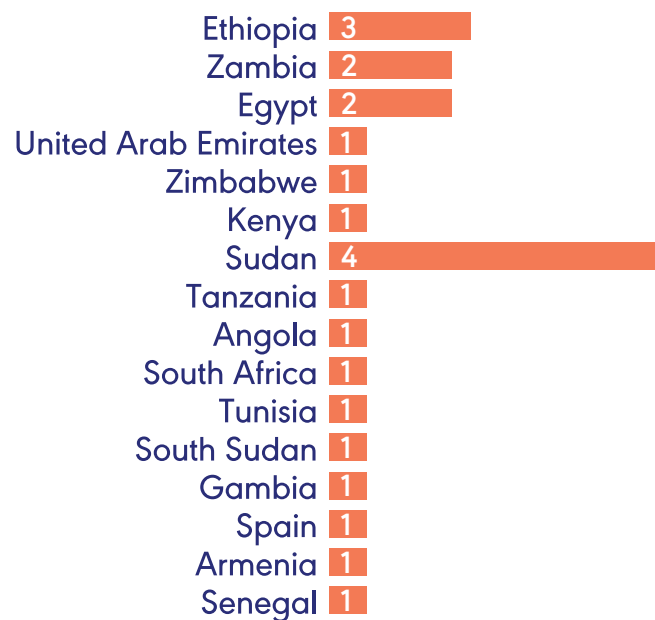


Students' Nationalities

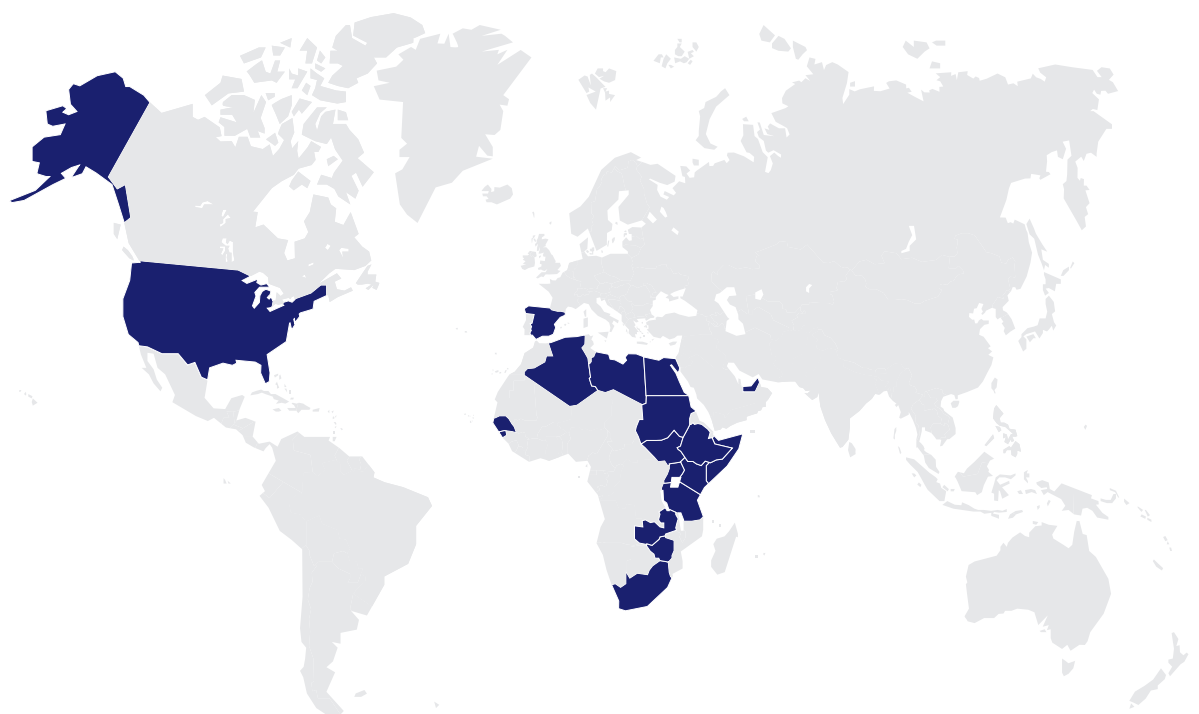
PhD Students Nationalities



MA Students Nationalities



20 Nationalities



Student Academic Activities and Outstanding Mentions



**Kate Qazi, Ph.D. Student, Global Studies
(Cultural, Visual, and Literary Studies)**

- Presented the peer-reviewed paper “Localization in the ESL Classroom” at the International TESOL Conference 2025, held at Webster University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on October 10–11, 2025.
- Demonstrated doctoral-level research dissemination addressing language localization, pedagogy, and decolonial theory.



**Afomiya Ayalew, MA in Global African Studies
(Diplomacy and Africa’s International Relations)**

- Presented original research at the Young Cultural Diplomacy Forum (YCDF) Bali 2025, held December 17–21, 2025.
- Delivered the paper “Beyond the ‘Post’: Coloniality, Sovereignty, and Global South Futures,” examining governance, sovereignty, and regional cooperation.
- Demonstrated achievement of program learning outcomes in research communication and policy-oriented analysis.



**Amer Ahmed, MA in Global African Studies
(Diplomacy and Africa’s International Relations)**

- Represented The Africa Institute at Global Studies University during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), held in Brazil from November 10–21, 2025.
- Participated in multilateral negotiations and policy forums addressing Africa’s climate priorities.
- Demonstrated applied learning outcomes in diplomacy, negotiation, and international engagement.



**Ezzeldin Hajjaj, MA in Global African Studies
(Museum and Critical Heritage Studies)**

- Participated in a two month Scholars at Risk Fellowship at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), University of Luxembourg, starting in December 2025.
- Conducted applied research on decolonial heritage governance, restitution frameworks, and museum interpretation.
- Enhanced professional development through international academic collaboration and comparative research practice.

Student Academic Activities and Outstanding Mentions



**Farah Fawzi Ali, MA in Global African Studies
(Museum and Critical Heritage Studies)**

- Featured artist in the exhibition Rays, Ripples, Residue, presented at 421 Arts Campus, Abu Dhabi, beginning Fall 2025.
- Curated the exhibition and reading installation The Sala: A Selection of Khaleeji Magazines at the Etihad Museum Library, Dubai, on view from June 15 to August 15, 2025.
- Selected for the Bayt AlMamzar (BAM) Summer 2025 Writing Residency (June–August 2025), developing interdisciplinary creative research through writing and mixed-media practice.



**Ghada Zakaria, MA in Global African Studies
(Afro-Arab Relations)**

- Presented her paper, “Beyond Access: Exploring the Third and Fourth Levels of the Digital Divide in the Global South,” in the session “Digital Divide in the Global South and Global Power Structures” at the University of Sharjah Symposium, held April 14–17, 2025.
- She examined structural inequalities shaping digital inclusion, demonstrating applied research skills in global power analysis, digital equity, and interdisciplinary scholarship.



**Mantate Queeneth Mlotshwa, MA in Global African Studies
(Diplomacy and Africa’s International Relations)**

- Presented research at the African Women in Media Conference at the African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, on December 4–5, 2025, addressing online violence against women.
- Moderated the opening panel at the South–South Social Movements Convergence, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from October 30 to November 1, 2025.
- Featured in a Mastercard Foundation impact story, “Young Girls Can Lead” (2025), recognizing leadership and community engagement.

In Their Own Words: Students' Testimonials



"Lively seminars, inspiring conferences, and guidance from leading scholars have transformed my curiosity into a meaningful academic journey."

Hrach Kalsahakian, MA Student



"The program supports both creative and professional work, offering practical and inspiring insights. It has transformed my approach to projects, problem-solving, and personal growth."

Sultan Alhussain Alhammadi, Ph.D Student



"The PhD program at Global Studies University has offered a robust academic framework that supports steady research progress. I particularly appreciate the diversity of perspectives within the cohort, which enriches discussions and helps situate my work within broader global contexts."

Alya Rashid Burhaima, PhD Student



"My graduate experience here has challenged me to think critically while also reconsidering established assumptions. The intellectual rigor and depth of scholarly engagement have exceeded my expectations and have significantly shaped my academic development."

Abdou Diouf, MA Student



"From the moment I arrived, I felt at home on campus and in Sharjah. The university's blend of heritage and modernity creates a welcoming, student-focused environment where learning thrives, and the city's warmth and culture make it the perfect place to grow academically and personally."

Alaa Laabar, MA Student



"In a short time, I've grown as a reader more than ever before. The diverse readings, especially from African and Asian scholars, gave me a new appreciation for global perspectives and their contributions."

Nasra Dahir Mohamed, PhD Student

Educational Enrichment & Community Events: 2025 in Review

Date	Event / Activity	Description & Key Outcomes
Feb 6–9, 2025	Sharjah Biennial 16 Visit Educational Enrichment	MA students in Global African Studies attended Sharjah Biennial 16 during its opening week. They explored exhibitions across Sharjah, engaging with the emirate’s vibrant cultural scene. The visit offered opportunities for academic exploration, networking, and experiential learning beyond the classroom.
Mar 6, 2025	Annual Ramadan Iftar	Postgraduate students joined the annual Ramadan Iftar at the GSU Campus Courtyard. The event fostered togetherness, reflection, and community bonding during the holy month.
Mar 14, 2025	Bridging Theory and Practice: Qasr Al Watan Tour Educational Enrichment	14 MA students specializing in Diplomacy and Africa’s International Relations visited Qasr Al Watan in Abu Dhabi as part of their coursework. The visit was led by Associate Professor Zaynab El Bernoussi, and joined by Majid Hannoum, Ali A. Mazrui Senior Fellow, and Professor Abdourahmane Idrissa. Through a guided tour, students gained insights into the UAE’s diplomatic history, governance, statecraft, and the nation’s role in global affairs. The program included visits to the House of Knowledge and the Qasr Al Watan Library, offering firsthand exposure to historical texts on diplomacy and political thought. This experience connected classroom learning with real-world practices, reinforcing the students’ academic understanding.
Apr 17, 2025	Mental Wellness Session: Addressing Anxiety and Homesickness	MA students participated in a mental wellness session organized by the Student Support Team and led by Dr. Jawaher Butti, clinical psychologist at University Hospital Sharjah. The session, held at The Africa Institute auditorium, focused on managing anxiety and homesickness, providing students with practical strategies to address emotional challenges during their studies.
Apr 21, 2025	Exploring Early Histories: Visit to Sharjah Archaeology Museum Educational Enrichment	Students from the History and Theory of Museums course visited the Sharjah Archaeology Museum, Sharjah’s first museum dedicated to the emirate’s archaeological heritage. Led by Professor Mohamed Faroug A. Ali, archaeologist and Okwui Enwezor Postdoctoral Fellow, the visit offered insights into how historical materials are preserved and displayed in a regional museum setting. Students examined artifacts from pre-Islamic eras while exploring themes of state formation, material culture, and cultural exchange across Africa.
Apr 22, 2025	Special Lecture with Hoor Al Qasimi, President of GSU: Historical Thinking and the Arts Educational Enrichment	Hoor Al Qasimi, President of Global Studies University and President and Director of the Sharjah Art Foundation, delivered a lecture titled “Thinking Historically in the Present”. The lecture, aligned with courses such as Theories and Museum Studies and Who Owns the Past: Introduction to Heritage in Africa, explored representation, curatorial practices, and heritage in the Arab world and Africa. Students gained valuable perspectives from a leading global cultural figure whose work has shaped contemporary art and institutional practices.

Educational Enrichment & Community Events: 2025 in Review

May 13, 2025	Inside The Flying Saucer: A Hands-On Museum Studies Experience Educational Enrichment	First-year MA students visited The Flying Saucer in Sharjah as part of their History and Theory of Museums course. Led by Professor Mohamed Faroug A. Ali, students toured the restored 1970s landmark and met with members of the Sharjah Art Foundation, including Jiwon Lee (Curatorial Department Manager), Ahmad Makia (Head of Publications), and Hadeyeh Badri (Learning Program Senior Coordinator). The visit highlighted the intersection of contemporary museology, architectural preservation, and community engagement, giving students practical exposure to curatorial practices and public art spaces.
May 20, 2025	Exploration of African Heritage at Louvre Abu Dhabi Educational Enrichment	Students visited the Louvre Abu Dhabi under the guidance of Dr. Sabrina Moura, Head of Research at Louvre Abu Dhabi, and Professor Mohamed Faroug A. Ali. Students explored the landmark exhibition Kings and Queens of Africa: Forms and Figures of Power, presented in partnership with the Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac. The exhibition featured royal attire, sacred artifacts, and culturally significant objects, illuminating Africa's historical rulers and their influence on contemporary art. This experience bridged theoretical museum studies with firsthand exposure to world-class museology, deepening students' understanding of cultural preservation and global heritage.
Aug 28, 2025	Emirati Women's Day	Throughout the semester, postgraduate students participated in community activities organized by GSU, including Emirati Women's Day. The event honored the achievements of Emirati women across the UAE and celebrated the contributions of women within the university community. A special exhibition curated by the Archives Department was hosted in the Student Lounge, highlighting the history of Emirati Women's Day and women's engagement in the UAE.
Sep 11, 2025	Celebrating Ethiopian New Year	MA and PhD students came together to celebrate the Ethiopian New Year in a shared spirit of community and culture.
Sep 18, 2025	Student Sports	Postgraduate students from the MA program enjoyed a friendly game of badminton just outside the campus premises.
Oct 30, 2025	GSU Community Unites for Pink October Awareness Event	Global Studies University (GSU), in collaboration with NEST and MMC Polyclinic, hosted a Pink October Event in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The initiative brought together students, faculty, staff, and their families in a shared effort to promote health education, preventive care, and community well-being.

Educational Enrichment & Community Events: 2025 in Review

Nov 1, 2025	GSU Community Explores Art and Culture on Road Trip to Kalba and Khorfakkan Educational Enrichment	Students, faculty, and fellows from Global Studies University (GSU), in collaboration with the Sharjah Art Foundation, took part in a Cultural Road Trip to Kalba and Khorfakkan as part of the university's community engagement program. The day included a tour of Of Land and Water at the Kalba Ice Factory, visits to Kalba's coastal landmarks, and attendance at Ahmed El Attar's play Every Brilliant Thing at the Khorfakkan Amphitheatre.
Nov 3, 2025	GSU Community Honors Unity and Pride on UAE Flag Day	Global Studies University (GSU) community came together to proudly celebrate UAE Flag Day, a national occasion symbolizing unity, pride, and belonging. The event reflected GSU's shared commitment to the values embodied in the UAE flag – peace, strength, and progress – and served as a moment of collective appreciation for the nation's enduring spirit.
Nov 20, 2025	Diabetes Awareness Day	Global Studies University (GSU), in collaboration with Doctors Clinic Diagnostic Center, organized a Diabetes Awareness Day in the University Auditorium to promote prevention, early detection, and management of diabetes. The program included an expert-led presentation, an interactive Q&A, and individual consultations, providing participants with practical health information and personalized guidance.
Nov 27, 2025	UAE's 54th National Day Celebration	Global Studies University (GSU) marked the UAE's 54th National Day with a campus-wide celebration, highlighting unity, national pride, and cultural heritage. The event featured activities reflecting the spirit and history of the UAE and encouraged active participation from the university community.
Dec 3, 2025	PhD Students Engage in African Studies Seminar and Museum Visit Educational Enrichment	PhD students in Global Studies participated in an academic visit to the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization on December 3, 2025, followed by a discussion with Professor Anthony Bogues. Earlier, on November 27, 2025, Professor Bogues delivered a seminar titled How to Study Africa and the African Diaspora: A Question of Method, as part of the From Area Studies to Global Studies series. The seminar examined the evolution of African and Diaspora studies, focusing on knowledge production, methodology, and epistemic justice.
Dec 9, 2025	Book Conversation and Signing with Leila Aboulela	The Africa Institute at Global Studies University (GSU) hosted a book conversation and signing with award-winning Sudanese novelist Leila Aboulela. The event was part of the Institute's ongoing efforts to foster literary engagement and community participation. During the session, Ms. Aboulela discussed her latest novel, River Spirit, exploring the craft of historical fiction and the themes of memory, identity, and cultural heritage. The conversation was followed by a Q&A segment, allowing students, faculty, and community members to engage directly with the author. The event concluded with a book signing, providing participants with a unique opportunity to connect with Ms. Aboulela and celebrate contemporary literary achievement. The event reinforced the University's commitment to community engagement, promoting dialogue, learning, and interaction between students, faculty, and the broader literary and cultural community.

Student Residential Life: Overview

At GSU, student activities are designed not only to complement academic coursework but also to foster engagement, belonging, and community life. These initiatives provide students with opportunities to connect theory and practice, deepen their cultural awareness, and support one another beyond the classroom.

GSU provides all its students with a wide range of social interaction and community engagement opportunities through the NEST campus.



Residential Activities and Engagement

Residential activities at NEST encourage social interaction, cultural engagement, and community-building among students. Programs include workshops, discussion groups, cultural events, and peer-led initiatives that connect academic learning with everyday experiences, fostering a sense of belonging and promoting holistic student development.

GSU Students Testimonial about Residential Life

“The student housing is truly top-notch, providing a comfortable and welcoming environment that has made settling in and focusing on my studies much easier.” – **Mustapha Njie, MA Student**

“The housing is world-class, providing a comfortable and conducive environment for study. I greatly value the vibrant and supportive community, which fosters collaboration and mentorship”.
– **Rebecca Wembabazi, PhD Student**



Student Residential Life: Activities

Residential Life and Activities

In 2025, students experienced a rich residential life alongside fellow GSU students and peers from other universities, participating in events designed to foster connection, creativity, and personal growth.

March 3, 2025	Africa Environment Day
March 25, 2025	Korean Iftar
April 17, 2025	World Art Day and BBQ Night
April 26, 2025	Game Night (Saqr Fut)
September 4, 2025	Cooking Class
September 25, 2025	Aloha Vibes and Games
October 23, 2025	NEST Talent Championship
November 2025	Korean Traditional Wrapping Workshop
	Cake Decorating Workshop
	Flower Bouquet Workshop

Beyond these events at the student residences, students actively connect with peers through frequent trips across the Emirates and a variety of other activities, all of which enrich the residential experience and contribute to a vibrant, inclusive, and engaging campus community.

Future Plans

Looking ahead, the university is also planning to develop its own dedicated accommodation buildings near the current campus, further strengthening its commitment to providing a comprehensive student experience.

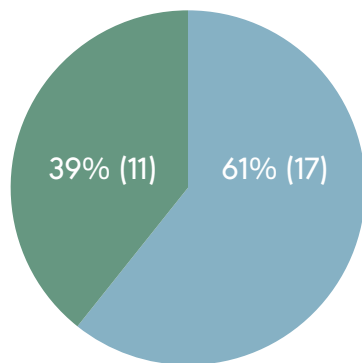




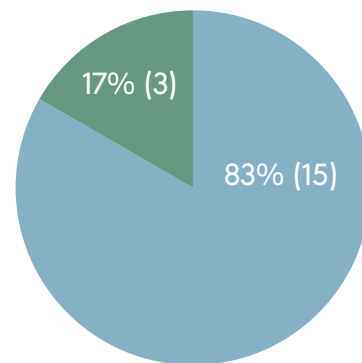
Administrative Units

Office of Academic Affairs by the Numbers

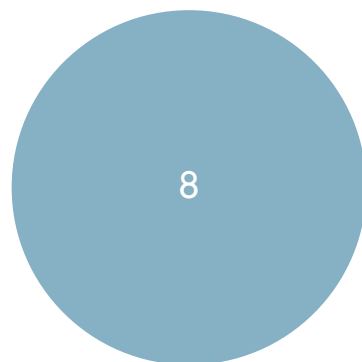
GSU Faculty and Fellows
2025 Fall



GSU Faculty and Fellows
2025 Spring



Faculty-At-Large



■ Faculty ■ Fellows

Academic Activities
(Workshop & Seminars)

Fall 2025
13

Spring 2025
9

Community Engagement
(Meetings, Retreat, Festival)

Fall 2025
8

Spring 2025
16

Office of Enrollment Management/Admissions

Established in August 2024, the Admissions Office at GSU plays a vital role in supporting the University's academic mission. It manages the full admissions cycle, guides prospective students through the application process, reviewing applications, and ensuring that applicants meet the University's admissions requirements. Beyond processing applications, the Office promotes GSU's programs, collaborates with stakeholders, and supports the University in achieving its student enrolment targets for the academic year.

Admissions Funnel for the academic year (2025)

3,631	Mailing List Subscribers (Our mailing list has grown from 640 to 3,631 subscribers, a 467% increase)
2,800	Total Inquiries
920	Started Applications
504	Submitted Applications
76	Admission Offers

Recruitment Sources and Awareness Strategy (2025)

Conference-led recruitment	African universities nominations at the New Directions in African Political Economy Conference (2024)
Special Educational/ Collaboration Visit	Stellenbosch postdoctoral fellows and students visit (2024)
Local fairs & exhibitions	Sharjah Int. Education Show (2024) Ru'ya (2024) Sharjah Int. Book Fair (2024)
Digital Outreach	Bi-weekly Mailers Social media (67+ organic social media posts, and 15 paid campaigns across global platforms) One-to-one online meetings

Office of Enrollment Management/Admissions: Key Achievements

1. Launch and Establishment of the Student Information System (SIS)

Developed and launched a customized Student Information System (SIS), powered by Oracle PeopleSoft, enabling applicants worldwide to submit applications online. The system enhanced application tracking, communication with prospective students, and overall admissions efficiency. Lessons from the first admissions cycles informed its design, strengthening the admissions pipeline and support for applicants and admissions staff.

2. Outreach and Early Student Advising/Support

Established multiple communication tools to engage prospective students, providing outreach, follow-up, and personalized support. The admissions mailing list grew from 640 to 3,631+ subscribers, bilingual FAQs and mailers were introduced, the official Admissions Office WhatsApp Business account handled 130+ inquiries, and 30-minute Zoom advising sessions offered tailored guidance. Outreach was expanded through participation in key exhibitions and visits, including Sharjah International Education Show 2024, Ru'ya 2024, Sharjah International Book Fair 2024, Stellenbosch Fellows Visit 2024, New Directions in African Political Economy 2025, and Congolese Horizons 2025.

3. Student Experience

Conducted over 181 personalized admission interviews, providing applicants with clear, timely communication, including dates, times (UAE and local time zones), and meeting details. Equivalency certificate guidelines were published to streamline the application process and reduce student uncertainty.

4. Diversity & Institutional Growth

Successfully admitted the first PhD cohort in Global Studies. Attracted applicants from Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas, significantly expanding GSU's global presence.

5. Active Role in Marketing Campaigns

Played a central role in the design, planning, and execution of admissions marketing campaigns, including billboards, newspaper features, online ads, and semiweekly mailers. This ensured that messaging was consistent, accurate, and directly aligned with admissions priorities.

6. Admissions for Fall 2026 Open on Schedule

Admissions for the second PhD student cohort has open as scheduled.

Intake Highlights

Intake	No. of Applications	Admitted Students	Enrolled Students
MA Spring 2025	153	30	24
PhD Fall 2025	112	10	10
MA Spring 2026	239	36	31

Scholarships & Financial Aid

Global Studies University (GSU) provides outstanding graduate students who demonstrate academic excellence and potential. Benefits include:

- Full tuition coverage
- UAE visa and health insurance
- Airfare for international students
- Accommodation support
- Monthly stipend
- Research funds

GSU Tuition Discount

Global Studies University (GSU) offers tuition discounts to eligible students to reduce their overall tuition fees. Students must meet the following criteria to obtain a discount at GSU:

- Acceptance letter from the GSU admissions office.
- Hold a minimum CGPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in their bachelor's degree.

Doctorate Program

To maintain the discount in subsequent semesters, a CGPA of 3.0 or higher is required. 30% discount on the first-semester tuition fee.

Criteria for Scholarship Awards

- Students must remain enrolled each semester and avoid withdrawing from their studies.
- A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 is required in regular semesters to maintain scholarship eligibility.
- Scholarship applicants must maintain full-time enrollment and ensure they do not receive scholarships from other organizations unless an external scholarship offers equivalent coverage.
- Students are expected to adhere to university regulations, including behavioral & ethical standards.
- Permission from the university is required for students to travel outside the country for acceptable reasons (students must notify the Admission and Registrar Office).
- If a student qualifies for a GSU scholarship and receives a sponsorship, the student must choose one option and will not be permitted to change to another program during their entire study.
- In any semester where the minimum required cumulative GPA is not met, or if the student's grades include F, FX, WA, or W, the student's scholarship will be under review.

Any student found guilty of a violation of the student code of conduct or an academic integrity offense will forfeit the scholarship for the remainder of their studies at GSU.

Office of Registrar

Key Achievements

1. Program Launch & Enrollment

Managed registration and enrollment for the first MA in Global African Studies (Spring 2025) and PhD in Global Studies (Fall 2025).

2. Student Information System (SIS) Management

Oversaw student data, enrollment records, and class scheduling in PeopleSoft, ensuring accuracy and compliance.

3. Registrar Services

Expanded services including attendance policy management, make-up exams requests, and timely issuance of enrollment letters and exam schedules.

4. System Training & Support Provided training and assistance for effective use of Canvas (LMS) and PeopleSoft (SIS), supporting smooth academic and administrative processes.

5. Graduate Program Class Scheduling

Designed and coordinated Fall 2025 semester schedules for MA and PhD programs, ensuring conflict-free classes and balanced instructor loads.

Registered Students Overview *

Intake	MA Spring 2024-2025	MA Fall 2025-2026	PhD Fall 2025-2026
Total Students	24	23	10

* The MA in Global African Studies program launched in Spring 2025 with its first cohort of 24 students. As of Fall 2025, 23 students are continuing in the program, following the withdrawal of one student who relocated outside the UAE.

6. Policy Development

Drafted and implemented key institutional policies, including Admission & Registration Policies.

7. Student Records & Compliance

Processed and securely stored student records in line with academic and administrative standards.

8. Canvas LMS Support

Created guides and resources for faculty and students, managed PeopleSoft-Canvas integration for automatic enrollment and supported faculty in advanced LMS features to enhance teaching and learning.

Office of Career Placement and Alumni Services

The Career Placement and Alumni Services unit was formally established under the Academic Affairs Office in the Fall 2025 to serve as a cornerstone for student career development and alumni engagement at Global Studies University. As a newly created unit, its foundation is currently being laid, with the first dedicated officer set to join in October 2025. The unit is dedicated to empowering our graduates with the tools, networks, and opportunities to thrive professionally and academically.

Future Plans

The unit's immediate focus will be to design and launch its core services in preparation for GSU's first MA graduating class in 2026 and the incoming PhD cohort in Fall 2025. Planned initiatives include:

- Support students in identifying and pursuing meaningful career paths aligned with their academic training.
- Establishing strategic partnerships with employers, institutions, and organizations locally, regionally, and internationally to expand opportunities for internships, research placements, and career pathways.
- Introducing professional development workshops, including CV writing, interview preparation, and career-readiness skills.
- Building an alumni engagement strategy, beginning with the creation of a comprehensive alumni database and community platform.
- Preparing for the launch of an annual career fair and employer engagement days.

These initiatives will ensure that the unit grows alongside GSU's academic programs, providing meaningful career support and fostering a vibrant alumni community from the very first graduating class.



Office of Communications

The Office of Communications (OoC) is responsible for creating and marketing content across a range of platforms, including the website, brochures, newsletters, press releases, video, digital and print collaterals, landing pages, mailers, and more. The OoC also collaborates with university departments to support internal communications and program-related outreach, ensuring content aligns with institutional messaging and quality standards. Through these activities, the OoC contributes to the university's visibility, branding, and strategic communication objectives.

All Social Media Content Is Provided in English and Arabic to Ensure Broad Accessibility.



Digital Communications - Social Media

Analytics data from each platform are used to monitor performance, inform strategy, and optimize contents.

Facebook	• followership increased by 27.2% • content reach rising by 110% and interactions growing by 185% compared to the previous year.
Instagram	• Followership increased by 35%
LinkedIn	• grew by 62.5% and achieved an average monthly increase of 17% in followers, reaching approximately 21.1K total accounts per month, with 68.8% of views from non-followers and 31.2% from followers. • received 6,384 impressions since January 2025
X followers	• grew by 35%, from approximately 1,700 to 2,300. • demonstrated consistent foundational growth, averaging a 20% monthly increase in followers and 15% engagement
YouTube performance	• showed a 14.6% increase in subscribers, with 25.3K total views and 1,000 hours of watch time

These early metrics provide a baseline for evaluating future performance and demonstrate alignment with institutional strategic goals and QA objectives. Collectively, these results demonstrate the OoC's effective management of social media platforms, enhancing visibility, engagement, and outreach in alignment with institutional strategic goals.

Office of Communications: Paid Digital Advertising

Online Campaigns: The OoC manages targeted digital advertising campaigns to enhance visibility, drive engagement, and generate leads for both The Africa Institute and GSU. Online campaigns across Google, Meta (Facebook and Instagram), X (formerly Twitter), and LinkedIn produced significant interactions and inquiries.

Google Ads	19,000 interactions and generated 320 leads, with an engagement rate of approximately 1.68%.
Meta Campaigns	generated 44,000 interactions and 400 leads, with engagement of 0.91%. X campaigns resulted in 108,000 impressions, 12,800 clicks, and an engagement rate of 11.85%.
LinkedIn campaigns	produced 500,000 impressions, 2,200 clicks, and 0.44% engagement.
Offline Advertising to Further Increase Institutional Visibility.	A two-month lamppost campaign across Sharjah city and the east coast targeted high-traffic areas, while print and digital placements were secured in Gulf News (leading UAE English-language daily, 77,000 daily print readers, 50,000 unique online visitors, 7 million pageviews per month) and The National (Abu Dhabi-based English-language newspaper with over 4.9 million monthly unique online users globally).
Social Media Amplification	through UAE BARQ (with 2.8 million followers)

Mailing Lists Growth

2024 to Present--admissions mailing list has grown from 640 to 3,631 subscribers, a 467% increase, reflecting strong interest from prospective students, researchers, and professionals.

high-volume growth also translated directly into lead quality: 40% of new subscribers, acquired via website lead generation forms, social media, and recruitment fairs, were converted into Marketing-Qualified Leads (MQLs) and passed directly to the Admissions office for nurturing and conversion.

Internal Communications

Effective internal communications across the institution, distributing a weekly newsletter to faculty, staff, fellows, and students

The success of this channel is demonstrated by a consistently high average open rate of 62% and average Click-Through Rate of 11%

Website

The Africa Institute's website averages 3,200 unique visitors per month, generating approximately 11,300 pageviews

The GSU website is in its early growth phase, averaging 350 unique visitors per month with roughly 2,050 pageviews.

Office of IT and Academic Computing

IT Activities

The IT and Academic Computing Department continues to serve as a core partner across all operational and academic functions of the university. Our daily activities encompass a wide range of essential services that ensure business continuity and operational efficiency, including **daily activities**, such as:

- **End-User Support:** Technical assistance to faculty, staff, and students across all departments.
- **System and Data Management:** Managing data access structure and permissions, maintaining data and email backups and restorations in accordance with policies, disaster recovery, cloud platform management, and information security protocols to safeguard institutional data.
- **Infrastructure monitoring:** The IT and Academic Computing department monitors the health status of critical infrastructure, such as servers, storage units, media tapes, etc.
- **Departmental Support:** Collaborating with Finance, HR, Academic Affairs, Library, Marketing & Communications, and other offices to ensure reliable access to their systems and applications.
- **Network and Security Operations:** Monitoring campus-wide network status and performance (wired & wireless), upgrading security defenses, and ensuring compliance with data protection standards.
- **Office & Department Relocations:** Supporting the relocation of administrative and academic offices by setting up networks and connectivity, telecommunication lines, workstations, and collaboration tools, while coordinating with Facilities to ensure readiness of new spaces.



Academic Computing

Supportive Tech Services for Learning Purposes

This function enables teaching, learning, and research through advanced technology solutions. Core activities include:

- **Student Information System (SIS):** IT and academic Computing staff monitor, support, and ensure the smooth operation of the SIS for admission, academic records, registration, and advising tools.
- **Learning Management System (LMS):** IT and academic Computing staff supporting LMS online and hybrid learning environments with reliable system performance and user training.
- **Smart Classroom Solutions:** IT and academic Computing staff maintain the technology in classrooms and teaching spaces to enable interactive and hybrid teaching.
- **Faculty Support:** IT and academic Computing staff provide technology consultation and training to enhance faculty EdTech knowledge.
- **Hybrid & Online Learning Infrastructure:** Ensuring seamless connectivity and support for Hybrid & online learning.

Office of IT and Academic Computing

Beyond core IT and academic computing daily activities and services, the department also supports broader institutional goals through:

- **Cloud Services & Integration:** Expanding the university's cloud platforms on Microsoft Azure and Oracle OCI. GSU has expanded its cloud scope to support its fast growth.
- **Library Technology Support:** Supporting digital resource accessibility and integrating library systems with campus platforms.
- **Research Support:** Offering technical expertise and platforms that aid faculty and student research projects.
- **Communication & Outreach:** Events management, conferencing, campus website improvement, security and maintenance, and productivity platforms that connect the campus community. IT staff provides the comms department with a monthly report on website accessibility and monitors the website security and hosting server status.
- **Strategic Planning and Institutional Engagement:** The department actively contributes to the university's strategic initiatives, ensuring that technology drives institutional growth and resilience. Our contributions include:
 - **Digital Transformation Roadmap.**
 - **Data-Driven Decision Support:** Providing leadership with reporting tools, analytics platforms, and business intelligence systems that inform academic and operational planning. The department cooperates with OIE (Office of Institutional Effectiveness) to build, maintain, and support data storage, analysis tools, and governance.
 - **Cloud & Infrastructure Strategy:** Developing plans for cloud migration and digital services to ensure scalability and future academic innovation.

Cooperation & Coordination with Governmental Bodies and Authorities:

IT and academic Computing cooperates and coordinates with governmental authorities like Sharjah Department of Electronic Government (DEG), Sharjah Digital Department (SDD), Sharjah CyberSecurity Center (SCSC), and the UAE CyberSecurity Council, providing all of them with required documents, questionnaires, surveys answers, .. etc., complying with their standards, requirements, and initiatives.



Office of IT and Academic Computing

IT Achievements

This year has been marked by significant progress in modernizing our IT and academic computing infrastructure:

- **Campus Network Transformation:** Transformed and upgraded the university's network backbone for more reliable connectivity, and compliance with the campus environment.
- **Server Room Modernization:** Implemented a robust and upgraded power infrastructure to enhance system resilience and uptime.
- **Cloud Expansion & integration:** Built, expanded, and optimized Microsoft Azure and Oracle OCI platforms to support institutional growth and scalability. These platforms hold the most critical data like SIS, LMS, HRMS, users' emails & OneDrive.
- **Library management system transformation:** Participated in transforming the Inter-Library System (ILS), and its echo-systems, including the Single Sign On (SSO) integration with Microsoft domain, and access security to library resources (through EZProxy).



IT Future Plans

- **HR Management System Migration:** Migrating the Human Resources management system to Microsoft Azure for improved performance, security, and integration with echo-systems.
- **Enhanced Cybersecurity Framework:** Introducing additional layers of protection to safeguard sensitive university data.
- **Enhancing High-Availability (HA) and Clustering:** on the network infrastructure backbone, especially the network bottlenecks.
- **Digital Transformation in Learning Spaces:** Expanding smart classroom technologies and integrating advanced learning analytics.

GSU Learning & Research Resources: University Library

Library Resources

**44,221**

E-Journals

**447,249**

eBooks

**9,172**

Printed Books

**19**

Printed Serial Collection

**82,552**

Academic Video Online

**87,666**

Dissertations and Theses

**10**

Searchable databases

**10**Database full-text
Downloads

Other Resources

As part of our efforts to expand access to resources, we have actively developed collaborations with partner institutions to extend the range of materials and services available to our community. The library has already established partnerships with the American University of Sharjah and the University of Sharjah, creating opportunities for shared access to resources, professional collaboration, and interlibrary loans. Building on these achievements, the library is also exploring additional collaborations to broaden access to global resources and ensure that GSU Library continues to support the evolving research needs of both students and faculty.

Future Plans

We are dedicated to improving our research support. We plan to grow our collection of specialized databases and discipline-specific resources tailored to our new academic programs, especially printed books and journals. We're also planning to subscribe to databases specializing in films and documentaries to respond to some students' and faculty members' needs.

GSU Learning & Resources: University Archives

Overview of GSU Archives

The archive is an invaluable source of primary information, serving as the memory of nations. Its documents are the most important witnesses to all aspects and developments of life, helping nations preserve their national memory while enabling people to reflect on their past, understand their present, and shape their future. The archive is, therefore, the cornerstone of historical consciousness.

Vision	Mission	Strategic Objectives
The vision of the Africa Institute Archive at Global Studies University in Sharjah is inspired by the decree of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, establishing the Institute as “a research, documentation, and educational center for African cultures and the African diaspora.” Accordingly, the Archive seeks to become a distinguished center for safeguarding Africa’s national memory, providing and disseminating documentary knowledge about Africa. This archival corpus—comprising documents, papyri, manuscripts, and oral histories—includes Arabic-language records, African-language texts written in Arabic script, and other African-language documents. All are placed at the service of researchers and those interested in African studies across various disciplines, granting them access to invaluable documentary treasures and primary sources essential for understanding the history and civilizations of African peoples.	• To become a hub for researchers and specialists in African studies and Afro-Arab relations, providing access to primary documentary sources and oral histories. • To support African families in preserving their documentary and manuscript archives. • To develop and manage an integrated system that makes family archival materials accessible and contributes to building future knowledge platforms for preserving Africa’s memory.	• To contribute to the creation of institutional platforms for publishing archival materials in several African countries. • To establish a database of African manuscripts written in African languages using the Arabic script. • To contribute to the creation of a database for oral historical narratives across Africa. • To assist African archives in safeguarding their documentary collections.

Types of Documents in the Archive

African Cinematic and Artistic Archives	• The Africa Institute Archive houses a rare collection of documents related to the earliest institutions of film production, exhibition, and distribution in Africa. Among the most significant is the archival collection of the <i>Joseph Film Company</i> (est. 1913) • The collection also includes a large number of early twentieth-century film magazines (both printed and digital).
Family Institutional Archives	• Family-based archival collections often serve as “alternative archives,” filling gaps left by official repositories. The Africa Institute Archive has acquired the first installment of an original corpus of documents from the <i>Ahmad Talaat Pasha Waqf</i> (a family endowment institution). This installment contains approximately 30,000 documents dating from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century.
Archival Collections on Africa and Its Diaspora from the Ottoman Archives	• This major collection includes nearly two million high-quality digitized documents encompassing official correspondence, annual administrative records, population statistics, trade correspondence, royal decrees, ship registers, taxation records, waqf deeds, consular reports, military plans, fortress blueprints, and maps.
Sharia Court Records of the Eastern Mediterranean (16th–19th Centuries)	• The Sharia court records from the Ottoman period document nearly every aspect of daily life, including personal matters, commercial transactions, agriculture, crafts, endowments, and education. • The Archive holds high-quality images of nearly one million records from Sharia courts in the Eastern Mediterranean from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries.
Manuscripts	• The Archive provides access to digital copies of 60,000 manuscripts from some of the most significant African manuscript collections. Most of these manuscripts are in Arabic, while others are in various African languages. Access is restricted to internal academic use and is made available exclusively to faculty members and researchers.
African Heritage Periodicals Archive	• The Archive has begun collecting African heritage periodicals and journals dating from the late nineteenth century to the final quarter of the twentieth century. These include newspapers and magazines such as <i>al-Muqattam</i>, <i>al-Ahram</i>, <i>al-Musawwar</i>, <i>al-Majalla al-Zaytuniya</i>, <i>al-Umma al-Jazairiyya</i>, <i>al-‘Asr al-Jadid</i>, <i>Taqwim al-Waqa’i’ al-‘Uthmaniyya</i>, <i>al-Waqa’i’ al-Misriyya</i>, <i>Sudan Gazette</i>, <i>Bint al-Nil</i>, and others, as well as periodicals from Madagascar, Zanzibar, and the Gold Coast.
Donated Archives	• The Tejumola Olaniyan Archive: The institute has received an invaluable donation from the family of the late Dr. Tejumola Olaniyan, a prominent African scholar in the diaspora. This specialized collection encompasses books, academic journals on African and diaspora studies, VHS tapes, audio and video recordings of African and global films, documentaries, and a significant selection of African and world music. The archive also includes personal photographs, notes, unpublished manuscripts, and academic papers authored by Olaniyan. • The African Epics and Oral Traditions Unit: This collection began with a donation by Dr. Mohamed Abdel Hafiz, an expert in intangible heritage. The material focuses on African epics and oral traditions as essential tools for preserving cultural memory and narrating popular history, especially in regions where formal historiography is absent. The donation comprises approximately 150 VHS tapes (around 500 hours of footage) recorded in southern Egypt during the 1990s.

The Archive: Future Plan to Expand during the Academic Year 2025–2026

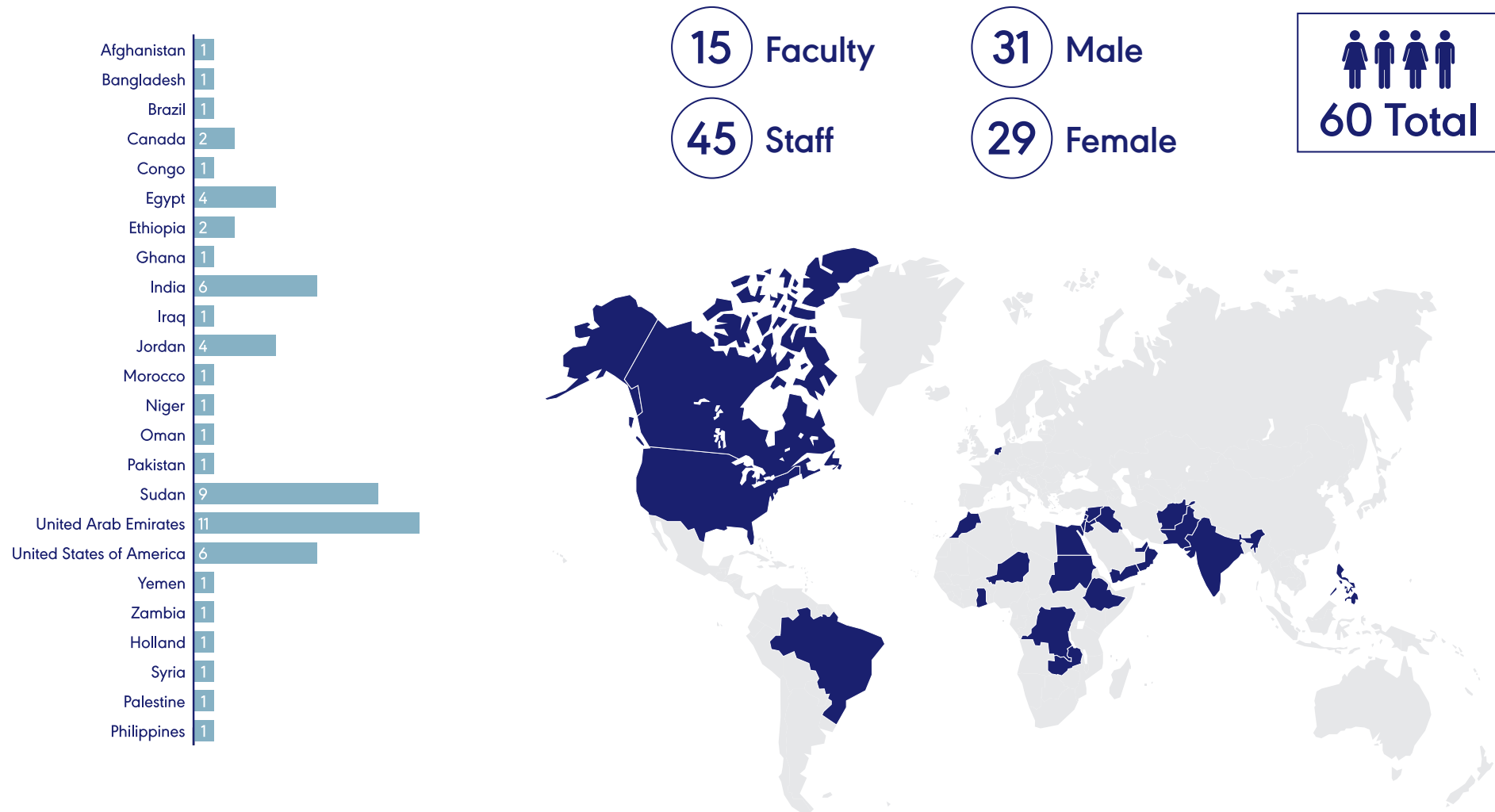
- Expanding donation agreements: Acquiring original archival collections donated by the families of researchers, intellectuals, and politicians engaged with African affairs. Negotiations are already underway with three families from Nigeria, Sudan, and Egypt.
- Obtaining copies from international archives: Including the Turkish archive and the Portuguese archive on East Africa.
- Building partnerships with official archives: To facilitate access and research opportunities for university students, such as: (The Sharjah Archives - The Sharjah House of Islamic Manuscripts - The Dr. Sultan Al Qasimi Centre)
- Collaboration with African families: Preserving Africa's documentary heritage and manuscripts. An agreement has already been reached with a Nigerian family to preserve and digitize 1,000 manuscripts currently in poor condition, following international standards. The Institute Archive will have the right to make them accessible to researchers worldwide.
- Expanding oral history collections: Continuing to collect and preserve oral narratives and African epics, including the Epic of Princess Dhat al-Himma in North Africa and the Epic of Sundiata Keita in West Africa.
- Archival publishing: Planning to launch the African Documentations series in collaboration with the Sharjah Archives. Four academic documentary works are already prepared for publication.

Future Plans Worthy of Attention

The Archive Department at the Africa Institute – Global Studies University aims to advance its role as a hub for research and cultural engagement by implementing a number of initiatives, including:

- **Podcast Collaboration:** Contributing to the production of “Between the Archive Shelves”, a podcast dedicated to African-related archives, designed to engage students and researchers in archival studies.
- **Arab Book Club Initiative:** Actively participating in the Arab Book Club Initiative to encourage reading and critical analysis of academic articles in Arabic, with an emphasis on discussing primary sources, thereby sharpening the skills and expertise of emerging researchers.
- **Exhibition Training:** Providing hands-on training for students and young researchers in curating exhibitions, making use of the Institute's rich archival and documentary collections.

HR Snapshot: GSU Staff & Faculty



Reported figures are as of October 2025

GSU Campus Facilities: An Overview

Global Studies University (GSU) is currently working on commissioning an architectural firm to design a new building to house The Africa Institute and all future institutes, which includes the Asia, Americas, European and Oceanic Institutes. In the meantime, the university will be operating out of Khalid bin Mohammed School (KBMS), a space, originally offered temporarily that has now become part of the future campus plan for GSU.

Khalid bin Mohammed School (KBMS)

Established in the mid-1970s as a boys' school, forming part of a series of nearly identical schools constructed across the UAE, KBMS's distinctive soft orange colored design has been replicated 28 times across Sharjah City and the three port towns of Dibba Al-Hosn, Khor Fakkan, and Kalba, making it the region's most widely used school building typology. The school model, which emerged as the first primary and secondary school typology after the establishing the UAE's union on December 2, 1971, boasts a modular precast structure designed with shaded external circulation and passively ventilated classrooms. The architectural structures were designed by the architecture studio Khatib & Alami, under the patronage of Ministry of Education.

The doors of Khalid bin Mohammed School eventually closed. Recognizing the potential of



this historical structure, the Sharjah Art Foundation acquired it from Sharjah Government, and architect Mona El Mousfy led the renovation, not only preserving Sharjah's modern heritage, but also showcasing a brilliant example of adaptive reuse, breathing new life into the existing framework. Today, the once-abandoned school has metamorphosed into the vibrant center of GSU. Within its walls, one can find an auditorium, workshop spaces, modular classrooms, a library, a bookshop, pantry, prayer rooms and a basketball court all catering to the university's mission of fostering knowledge and engaging with the broader community of Sharjah, the UAE, and beyond.

GSU Campus Facilities: An Overview

Renovation and Future Plans for KBMS and GSU

As part of the renovation plans to accommodate the new student cohorts coming in Fall 2026 and 2027, GSU will be adding several spaces that will enhance student experience. The renovation plan will add:

- A café serving the university community.
- A consolidated student center that replaces the two current spaces, freeing up additional office and classroom areas.
- Sports facilities, including a jogging track, football pitch, and two padel courts to support student life, encourage health and well-being, and promote work-life balance.



GSU Campus Facilities: Security & Management

Campus Security

At Global Studies University, the safety and security of our community is a top priority. The campus is monitored through a comprehensive 24/7 CCTV surveillance system, complemented by dedicated security personnel stationed and patrolling the grounds around the clock. All common areas, including parking lot, entry and exit points, hallways, and shared facilities, are under constant monitoring to ensure a safe and secure environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

In addition to physical security measures, GSU maintains close coordination with local authorities and emergency services to respond quickly and effectively to any incidents. Staff from various departments are trained in first aid response to ensure that there is a safe environment in different parts and activities of the campus.

Facility Management

Global Studies University benefits from the generous support of its sister organization, the Sharjah Art Foundation's Architecture and Production Office, in the renovation plan currently underway at KBMS. Their support includes overseeing all construction and maintenance needs, as well as coordinating with architects and contractors in planning and executing the construction of the new university campus.



Future Plans

As GSU continues to grow, with new facilities being developed at KBMS and through the university's expansion projects, our security infrastructure will expand accordingly. All new buildings and facilities will be fully integrated into the existing CCTV and monitoring system to maintain oversight. These areas will also benefit from 24/7 patrol coverage by trained security staff, ensuring that the same high standards of safety are upheld across the entire campus.



Community Engagement: Local & Global

Center for Languages and Translation Program: Community Engagement

Overview

The Center for Languages and Translations at GSU offers courses in Arabic, Amharic, Hausa, and Kiswahili for non-native speakers, open to both local and international community members. Launched in 2023 and licensed by the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA), these courses, part of the African Languages and Translation Program, promote cultural understanding and access to less-commonly taught languages across the UAE and African contexts.

Program Highlights

- 1. Flexible Delivery:** Group courses are available in-person and online, with late afternoon classes to accommodate students and working professionals.
- 2. Practical Learning:** 72-hour, 12-week courses at Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced levels, combining oral, written, and cultural practice.
- 3. Innovative Teaching:** Expert faculty use the Communicative Language Teaching (CLT) approach, integrating multimedia, immersive experiences, and cultural materials.
- 4. Career focused:** Skills developed in the program prepare learners for global opportunities in translation, international relations, education, heritage tourism, social services, business, and more.



Certification

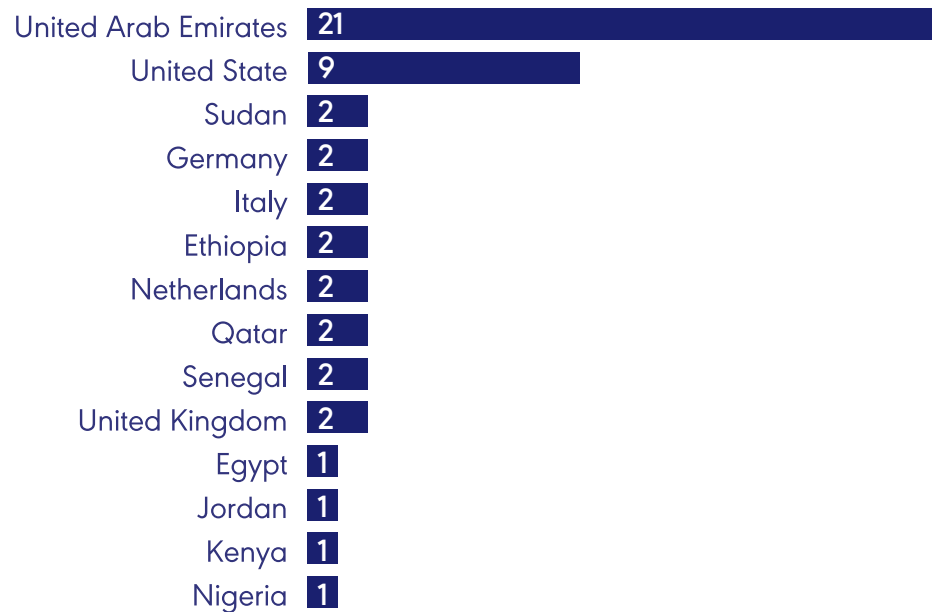
Certification is offered at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels in African languages. With certificates awarded by The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, and the Sharjah Private Education Authority (SPEA)

Languages Offered

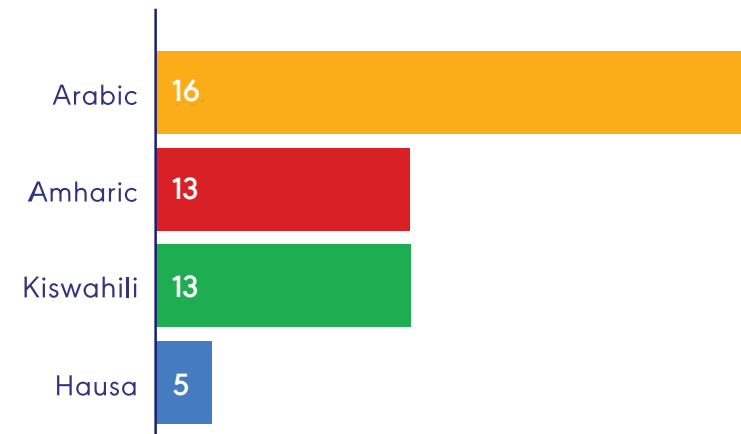
- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. Hausa | 3. Amharic |
| 2. Arabic | 4. Kiswahili |

Global Impact: Open world-wide to all non-GSU students, professionals, researchers, heritage learners, educators, and anyone from the local or global community with an interest in language and culture.

Community Language Program Facts and Figures Fall 2025



47 Total number of students



Country-Focused Season

A specially curated annual initiative, Country-Focused Season explores one African country or African diaspora community through a range of scholarly and public programs.

Ethiopia: Modern Nation - Ancient Roots

Scholarly Web Conference - Sharjah & Online (2019-2020)

The web conference “Ethiopia: Modern Nation – Ancient Roots” invites interdisciplinary scholars to explore Ethiopian modernity in both national and international contexts. In many areas including, but not limited to, Ethiopia’s image as a sovereign black nation influenced and came to dominate debates on movements that ranged from Pan-Africanism to Afrocentrism in the twentieth century. The conference aims to bring forth a transnational epistemological paradigm that can shed light on the current political, cultural and intellectual complexities of Africa’s oldest independent nation-state.

Global Ghana

Scholarly and Cultural Season - Sharjah & Accra (2021-2022)

Global Ghana is organized by The Africa Institute in collaboration with leading scholars **Akosua Adomako Ampofo**, **Jean Allman**, **Carina Ray**, and **Joseph Oduro-Frimpong**.

It includes a two-part interdisciplinary scholarly conference beginning with Global Ghana: Sites of Departure/Sites of Return held in Sharjah, followed by Global Ghana: In Search of Africa’s Black Star, held in Accra. The multidisciplinary program also includes a film festival, a series of musical performances, a staged theatrical performance, and an exhibition showcasing dynamic work by contemporary Ghanaian artists. The season aims to critically and creatively engage Ghana’s history and contemporary condition. Pushing beyond conventional narratives that oversimplify the nation’s profound significance to its citizens, continental neighbors, and the larger African diaspora, the season seeks to reveal the complex and contested forces that have shaped Ghana, past and present.

Thinking the Archipelago: Africa’s Indian Ocean Islands

Scholarly and Cultural Season - Sharjah & Indian Ocean (2022-2024)

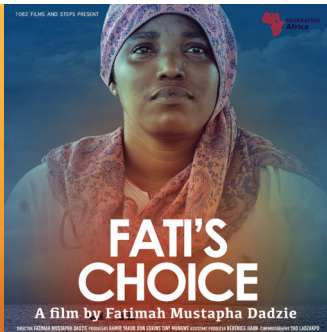
The multi-series conference program titled, “*Thinking the Archipelago: Africa’s Indian Ocean Islands*” is organized by The Africa Institute in collaboration with leading scholars **Jeremy Prestholdt**, Professor of History at the University of California, San Diego; **Rogaia Mustafa Abusharaf**, Professor of Anthropology, Georgetown University in Qatar; and **Uday Chandra**, Assistant Professor of Government, Georgetown University in Qatar. The season aims to raise the profile of Indian Ocean societies, bringing the complex history and rich cultural heritage of Indian Ocean Africa’s islands to a wide, international audience. This season highlights Africa’s Indian Ocean islands as uniquely powerful and compelling frames through which to interpret Africa’s history, understand its present, and imagine its future.

Film Screenings + Talks

Film Screening + Talk * showcases African and African diaspora films, programs and conversations with filmmakers, critics, scholars, and other experts.



Toni Morrison Fellowship
Inauguration Program



Fati's Choice



Afro-Arab Cinema program



Decolonizing African
Cinema: A History



Global Museum Launch
Middle East Premiere of
White Cube 2020



Idrissou Mora - Kpai



I'm Not Your Negro



Jihan El-Tahri



Manthia Diawara



John Akomfrah



Talking about Trees

* Programming Period: 2019-2025

Industry Partner Engagements: Highlights

The inaugural **Sharjah Festival of African Literature**, held January 24–27, 2025, featured over 20 African authors and Nobel laureates in literature, celebrating African literary heritage and fostering dialogue with the Arab world. The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, participated with a dedicated booth, showcasing publications and merchandise and engaging attendees in discussions on African literature and scholarship. The event provided a platform to strengthen connections with authors, intellectuals, and audiences, highlighting the Institute's role in promoting African studies and cultural exchange.

Ru'ya Careers UAE 2025, held September 23–25 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, brought together over 100 organizations to support Emirati youth in skills development and career opportunities. Global Studies University (GSU) participated with Booth #97 (Hall 1), showcasing its career development programs and engaging students, graduates, and professionals in discussions on how GSU's academic offerings can support career growth and professional advancement.

The **21st edition of the International Education Show**, held October 8–11, 2025, at the Expo Centre, Sharjah, provided a platform for higher education institutions to engage with prospective students and academic professionals. Global Studies University (GSU) participated at Booth #695, Hall 5, showcasing its interdisciplinary academic programs and discussing how GSU can support educational and career objectives. The event highlighted the growing importance of education in a knowledge-driven economy and offered opportunities for networking and engagement.

The **Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2025**, held November 5–16 at the Expo Centre, Sharjah, featured The Africa Institute, Global Studies University (GSU) with Hall 6, Booth O-41 showcasing publications, academic programs, and merchandise. As part of the fair, the Institute hosted a book conversation and launch of its latest Arabic publication, Jamal Mohamed Ahmed's Complete Works – Volume 1, on November 10, 2025, with a panel of scholars and literary figures discussing the cultural and scholarly significance of the work. The participation provided an opportunity to engage visitors and promote African studies and literary scholarship.



Industry Partner Engagements: Highlights

Tawdheef x Zaheb 2025, held November 18–20 at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), brought together over 100 organizations to support Emirati youth in skills development and career opportunities. Global Studies University (GSU) participated to showcase its career development programs and engage students, recent graduates, and professionals in discussions on how its academic offerings can support educational and career advancement.

The **68th Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association (ASA)**, held November 20–22, 2025, in Atlanta, brought together scholars and professionals from around the world to explore Africa's political, social, cultural, and intellectual landscapes under the theme "Crossing Boundaries and Recovering Intellectual Traditions." Global Studies University, The Africa Institute, Sharjah, participated at Booth #105 and hosted the panel "Ethiopia: Modern Nation–Ancient Roots", featuring scholars from GSU and international institutions to discuss Ethiopia's cultural and political identity. The participation highlighted GSU's role in advancing African studies and fostering knowledge exchange between Africa and the Arab world.

Focal Point 2025, held December 12–14 at Bait Obaid Al Shamsi in Sharjah's historical quarter, featured The Africa Institute, Global Studies University, showcasing publications and merchandise by African and African diaspora creators. The Institute's booth offered visitors the opportunity to explore its academic programs, scholarly conferences, and upcoming events, while engaging in discussions on independent publishing, art, and cultural knowledge. The participation highlighted GSU's role in supporting artistic and scholarly exchange within the region.





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