



Global Grad Show gears up for the most comprehensive showcase of social impact innovation to date, following 70% growth in its university network

- Top graduates from 470 leading universities across Europe, Americas, Asia, Africa and Middle East have applied to this year's edition
- Over 1,000 IP-backed projects registered to join the entrepreneurship programme
- Growth strengthens alignment with UAE's vision for economic development

DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES; October 10, 2021: The Global Grad Show, held under the patronage of Her Highness Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture & Arts Authority and member of the Dubai Council, and in partnership with A.R.M. Holding and Dubai Culture, is set for its most impactful edition to date.

Global Grad Show is a leading international programme for social impact innovations created by university graduates. For its upcoming seventh edition, it has received applications from over 70 countries, with a 70% increase in the number of universities compared to 2020.

This year's growth in size is also matched by heightened diversity. Participants have put forward innovation in fields ranging from bioengineering to cloud computing, neuroscience and urban design, hailing from universities such as Harvard, Stanford, MIT, Oxford and Cambridge, alongside regional colleges in developing economies including Bhutan, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Jamaica and Brunei.

Global Grad Show's yearly showcase is a central part of the programme. The 2021 selection of international projects will be unveiled online on November 8, featuring the most innovative solutions to some of the greatest (and often unappreciated) challenges of our times. In addition, MENA Grad Show will display social impact projects by academic talent from the region, at a physical exhibition as part of Dubai Design Week.

Since its launch in 2015, more than 7,000 students across 640+ universities have submitted projects to the programme, making it a key converging point for talented minds from across the world. Global Grad Show's continued growth and positioning within future-looking fields (innovation, academic research and social impact) reinforce its alignment with UAE's vision. From the *10 principles for the next 50 years* recently announced by the country's leadership, the programme has been a direct enabler of:

- **Human capital attraction** - engaging thousands of the most innovative students from leading universities across all continents.
- **Entrepreneurship** - supporting young founders to take their ideas forward through structured training, mentorship and funding opportunities.
- **Advanced technologies** - bringing together breakthrough innovations in science and creative fields from the world's most advanced research centres.
- **Global Citizenship** - embracing the need to create a better future, as its cornerstone.

Her Highness Sheikha Latifa Bint Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum said:

“The Global Grad Show mirrors the UAE’s drive for future-readiness and ultimate trust in human capital. Through the efforts of the thousands of brilliant young minds who engage with the programme every year, a better future is being shaped - and enabling their growth means creating a more prosperous society for everyone.

“We are pleased to be a supporting force to the UAE’s vision for the next 50 years. As the union paves the way in developing strategies for sustainable development and international cooperation, we look at the boundless talent within the Global Grad Show community and become all the more confident that the programme is in the perfect place to contribute towards these goals and thrive.”

This year the **entrepreneurship programme**, an integral component of Global Grad Show, has seen triple the amount of registrations compared to last year. Starting in November, it will offer training and mentorship from venture-building experts and a network of industry leaders. At the end of the development journey, successful participants will have the opportunity to pitch to investors, including A.R.M. Holding, who have pledged a AED 10 million fund over 10 years to support programme participants to advance their projects.

Working alongside local stakeholders, the programme leverages Dubai’s vocation to become a global hub for impact. **Tadeu Baldani Caravieri, Director, Global Grad Show**, commented: “Everything we do is fundamentally for a better future - for people and the planet. Our programme is a platform for the next generation of impact innovators to grow. It nurtures and connects transformative projects with the public, investors and stakeholders from the global development agenda. Dubai is a city where a better future is constantly being made possible and Global Grad Show is both a manifestation and a catalyst of that drive.”

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About Global Grad Show:

Global Grad Show, an initiative by the Art Dubai Group, is a programme for graduates in universities across the world whose research and ideas offer solutions to help solve major social and environmental issues. Launched in 2015 and now in its seventh edition, Global Grad Show brings together academics from over 70 countries and 600 universities, from the world's most prominent academic institutions to local colleges in developing markets, in fields ranging from biomedical engineering to urban design and data sciences.

Each year, participating graduate projects offer audiences the opportunity to enter a universe of academic ingenuity rarely seen outside the campus, through the work of young minds addressing complex issues around the world through their social impact innovations.

Global Grad Show celebrates its innovators through a yearly showcase (held physically until 2019 and online since 2020) and year-round activations supporting graduates and professors on complementing angles: knowledge exchange, entrepreneurship opportunities and international exposure.

Part of Global Grad Show is the entrepreneurship programme, which is open to all applicants and offers startup-building training, mentorship and network access to help graduates advance their projects towards implementation. In 2019, A.R.M. Holding pledged AED 10 million for a 10-year fund to support programme participants with seed capital to advance their development and to accelerate their progress towards market launch.

One of the programme's new initiatives is the MENA Grad Show, launched in 2020. The physical exhibition celebrates academic talent from the region, showcasing the best social impact innovation projects in the fields of technology, science and design, as part of Dubai Design Week. Visit www.globalgradshow.com for further information.

About Dubai Culture & Arts Authority:

On 8th March 2008, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, launched Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture). The mandate of the Authority is to serve as a dedicated entity for culture, arts, heritage, and literature in the Emirate of Dubai, and to drive the growth of the city's artistic and cultural landscape. Dubai Culture focuses on establishing Dubai as a regional and global centre for creativity, and also seeks to enhance the city's cultural identity in order to drive the creative economy. The Authority strives to enhance the quality of life for Dubai residents to help achieve a key pillar of the Dubai Plan 2021 objectives, which is to create a city of happy, creative, and empowered people. Under the leadership of Her Highness Sheikhha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of Dubai Culture, the Authority has played an integral role in reinforcing Dubai's position as a vibrant global centre for creativity, and in enhancing the city's cultural identity.

About A.R.M. Holding

A.R.M. Holding is a private investment firm and multi-focused economic enabler that creates synergies and opportunities through local, regional and global investments. At the core of the company's business strategy is its commitment to impactful investments, actively employing its resources to advance society and empower its

players to pursue innovative solutions and inspire a better future. It collaborates with like-minded organizations and leverages its network and partnerships to create meaningful relationships and growth opportunities.

A.R.M. Holding's investments are focused on tech-enabled industries and sophisticated technologies around the world that demonstrate strong potential for long-term positive social impact. It also holds equity stakes in some of Dubai's foremost companies in a variety of sectors including Banking, Telecom, FMCG, Real Estate, and Hospitality.

A.R.M. Holding has contributed to society with significant investments in numerous industries and versatile projects. In 2021, it became the first corporate patron of the Dubai Collection, the first institutional art collection in the emirate of Dubai.

To learn more about A.R.M. Holding, please visit: www.armholding.ae