

Project Summary

Project titled “Enhancing Digital Construction Education: A Collaborative TNE Exploratory Initiative between QUB and BUE ”



Project summary:

This project is a 12-month Transnational Education (TNE) collaboration between Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in the UK and the British University in Egypt (BUE), supported by the British Council's Going Global Partnerships programme. The initiative aims to modernize and internationalize BUE's MSc in Sustainable Construction by embedding advanced digital construction technologies and Building Information Modelling (BIM) content, drawing from QUB's MSc in BIM Project Management. Through a series of online and in-person activities, the project will evaluate BUE's current curriculum, identify gaps in digital competencies, and map it against QUB's offerings to guide curriculum reform that reflects global industry standards and Egypt's local construction needs.

The project will facilitate expert-led workshops, student engagement sessions, and industry consultations to ensure curriculum relevance and inclusivity. A key component focuses on promoting gender equality by actively involving women students, staff, and industry



representatives, and by designing a mentoring programme to support women's progression in construction-related fields. Additionally, the project will pilot joint MSc dissertation supervision and expose BUE staff to QUB's four-month, industry-oriented research model, thereby enhancing academic and practical alignment.

A long-term roadmap for sustainable TNE collaboration will be developed, aiming toward dual degree offerings, co-teaching models, and formal academic agreements. Environmental sustainability is also embedded in the project through the inclusion of BIM tools like Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) in teaching and dissertation projects, with attention to reducing the project's own carbon footprint through limited and optimized travel. The initiative contributes to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Industry Innovation and Infrastructure (SDG 9), Reduced Inequalities (SDG 10), and Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17), and is designed to be scalable across disciplines and institutions for broader global impact.

Partners: Queen's University Belfast

Funding Agency: British Council

Achievements:

| Activity | Description | Progress |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Curriculum Evaluation & Mapping | Assess current BUE MSc curriculum and compare with QUB MSc in BIM Project Management | ✓ |
| Expert Workshops (Egypt) | Conduct workshops with academic and industry experts from Egypt | ✓ |
| Expert Workshops (UK) | Conduct workshops with academic and industry experts from the UK | ✓ |
| Student Workshops (Egypt) | Organize sessions to incorporate student feedback, particularly from women, on proposed curriculum changes | ✓ |



The
BRITISH UNIVERSITY
IN EGYPT

| Activity | Description | Progress |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mentoring Scheme Development | Establish a mentorship program to support female students entering the construction sector | ✓ |
| Co-supervised Dissertations | Facilitate joint supervision of MSc students between QUB and BUE | ✓ |
| Academic Exchange | Engage staff in knowledge exchange and UK higher education training | ✓ |
| Dual Degree and Joint Teaching Framework | Develop a roadmap for long-term collaboration including co-teaching and dual awards | In progress |
| Gender Equality and EDI Initiatives (Egypt) | Promote inclusion and address barriers to women in engineering through targeted actions and data tracking | ✓ |
| Gender Equality and EDI Initiatives (UK) | Promote inclusion and address barriers to women in engineering through targeted actions and data tracking | ✓ |

Principal Investigator: Dr. Ahmed Daoud

Photos' links – (Egypt Workshops):

1. [Media Access for Invitees_Day 1](#)
2. [Media Access for Invitees_Day 2](#)