

KAUST faculty are on a mission for Saudi Arabia and the world

At KAUST, we are on a mission to accelerate research into impact. Our faculty make this mission possible by shaping future scientific leaders, driving world-class discoveries, and working to ensure their innovations reach the world—improving industries, informing policy, enabling startups, and delivering solutions with global benefit.

#1
university
in the Arab world
Times Higher Education

20,800+
global research
collaborations
(since 2020)

184
faculty



“ KAUST scientists embody the spirit of creativity and innovation that transforms discovery into impact for Saudi Arabia and the world.”

KAUST President
Sir Edward Byrne AC

#1
in the Arab world for
highly cited researchers
Clarivate

59%
of highly cited researchers
in Saudi Arabia
Clarivate

Information in this publication is accurate as of November 2025

Home to the world's leading researchers

Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers are considered the world's most influential, whose academic publications rank in the top 1% of cited research papers. In 2025, the list included 16 KAUST researchers, more than any other institute in the Arab world. 59% of Clarivate Highly Cited Researchers based in Saudi Arabia work at KAUST.



On a mission to reduce emissions in every building

Jorge Gascon

With only 5% of the world's sand suitable for concrete, Saudi Arabia's large construction projects often need to transport sand from hundreds of kilometers away. Professor Jorge Gascon and his team launched ClimateCrete to address this challenge. The **KAUST startup** converts local sand and excavation waste into sustainable concrete, reducing emissions and construction costs.



“ Being able to solve a problem and to have that solution applied at a larger scale – I can't imagine anything better.”

On a mission to scale a sustainable startup

Himanshu Mishra

80% of Saudi Arabia's water is used for food production, yet the country is importing most of its food. **KAUST spinout** Terraxy, led by Professor Himanshu Mishra and based on his research, uses nature-inspired materials to reduce water waste and improve soil so plants can thrive in arid climates. This innovation is furthering the Kingdom's food security and economic diversification goals.

“ This is the only technology known to humanity that does soil amendment and carbon capture at the same time.”

KAUST faculty are recognized worldwide

Carlos Duarte

Japan Prize



Awarded for original and outstanding achievements in science and technology. Professor Duarte has transformed our understanding of how oceans help fight against climate change.

Tareq Al-Naffouri

IEEE Fellow



The IEEE is the leading professional organization for electrical, computer, and related engineering fields. Among its approximately 500,000 members, less than 2% are fellows.

Niveen Khashab

Great Arab Mind in Natural Sciences



The Great Arab Minds initiative annually recognizes exceptional Arab scientists, thinkers, and innovators. Professor Khashab was chosen due to her work in nanotechnology for better health treatments and outcomes.

Sahika Inal

Kavli Advancing Leader in Chemistry



The Kavli Foundation is considered one of the top philanthropic organizations in the world for the advancement of science. This award celebrates Professor Inal's work on bioelectronics and its applications to human health.

Yating Wan

MIT Innovators Under 35 (China)



This award is one of many recognizing Professor Wan as a top young investigator in the field of photonics. She more recently received the Sony Women in Technology Award with Nature and the IEEE Photonics Society Young Investigator Award.

RDIA Research Excellence Awards



In recognition of significant contributions across the four Research, Development, and Innovation Authority pillars, the RDIA honored seven KAUST professors: Tareq Al-Naffouri, Mohamed-Slim Alouini, Osman Bakr, Carlos Duarte, Bernard Ghanem, Noreddine Ghaffour, and Mark Tester.

KAUST faculty accelerating impact

2025



جامعة الملك عبد الله
ال KAUST

COMMENCEMENT