

Name of organization:

Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Giftedness and Creativity



مركز حمدان بن راشد
آل مكتوم للموهبة والإبداع
Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum
Centre for Giftedness and Creativity

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HAMDAN BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM CENTRE FOR GIFTEDNESS AND CREATIVITY

Gifted and Talented Education is relatively new in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Country's vision calls for first rate education. Consequently, educational based organizations have introduced new initiatives to support and fulfill the country's vision. Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation for Distinguished Academic Performance (HF), which is based in Dubai, UAE, has initiated a National Plan for Gifted and Talented Education, which is the first of its kind in the country. Along with that initiative, the Hamdan Foundation established in 2015 a Centre for Giftedness and Creativity under the name of "Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum Centre for Giftedness and Creativity", which was in line with the theme of the 2015, "innovation in UAE".

Hamdan Center caters for gifted and talented students in three main areas: Identification, cultivation and investment. In the identification area, the HF created a gifted identification kit (GIK) to identify gifted students in the country in grade 4 through 12. The gifted identification kit is a series of diagnostic tools for identifying students to be placed in different gifted programs and to identify the most appropriate program for each student. In 2018, the total numbers of identified students were 317. Generally, students who are identified as gifted students are offered specialized enrichment programs in the STEM area (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) along with personal and thinking skills during school breaks and weekends. Some examples of the offered programs include "Drawing Robot, A Trip to Mars with NASA, Drones, Crime Scene, Python, etc." Also, the Centre prepares gifted and talented students to compete in national and international competitions in Robotics, Math and other different areas. This kind of training has continuously enabled them to secure lead positions in different national and international contests. The Center also provides counseling and guidance for gifted and talented students and their parents whenever they need that.

Those counseling types include, "Academic, Professional, Psychological and Social counseling. In 2018, the Hamdan Centre joined the ETSN and qualified as an Associate European Talent Support Centre. Hamdan bin Rashid Foundation created different programs to raise awareness of gifted and talented culture in the country. Such programs include, organizing national and international conferences in the field of gifted and talented development. In 2012, the HF organized and hosted the 12th edition of the Asia-Pacific Conference on Giftedness and in 2017 it organized the conference of the International Research Association for Talent Development and Excellence (IRATDE).

Additionally, the HF organizes an annual summit on gifted and talented development at the national level. Furthermore, the HF sponsored special issues on giftedness in two well-known journals; Journal for the Education of the Gifted & Cogent Education.

Moreover, the Hamdan Foundation created a special diploma in gifted education for UAE national teachers to qualify them to be more able to work with gifted and talented students in schools. Lately, the HF initiated a promising project, the "World Giftedness Centre" (WGC) whose mission statement is twofold: (a) to organize the world's sound knowledge on talent development; and (b) to direct best practices toward excellence of any kind.