



## Lutfia Rabbani Foundation Activities 2024-2025

The Lutfia Rabbani Foundation continued to advance its mission in 2024–2025 by fostering Euro–Arab dialogue, supporting academic exchange, and building a strong, connected community through scholarships, strategic partnerships, and public events. We remain committed to facilitating meaningful connections between students, professionals, and institutions from both regions, reinforcing our belief in dialogue as a catalyst for understanding and development.

This year saw the expansion of our scholarship offerings, the renewal and expansion of key institutional partnerships, the organization of community-focused events, and strengthened communication efforts. A key moment came in the form of a generous donation through which we were able to double the number of scholarships awarded compared to previous years, marking a major step forward in our ability to support more scholars across borders.

To support the growth of the Foundation’s scholarship programme, Yasmina Al Ammari joined as Scholarship Programme Coordinator in February 2025. In this role, she is working directly with our Scholarship Programmes, working to strengthen the Foundation's day-to-day operations by helping to organise internal systems, improve data management, and support alumni engagement efforts. Her focus is on building more efficient processes and contributing to the Foundation’s continued impact.

Through partnerships with institutions such as Leiden University and The Hague Academy of International Law, as well as initiatives and events like the Nour Project and the MENA Trade Dinner, the Foundation remained a dynamic hub for cross-cultural exchange and collaboration.

### Detailed Overview of Activities

#### **Scholarships and Grants**

So far in 2024–2025, the Foundation awarded a total of 42 scholarships and [travel] grants:

- **5 Mahmoud Rabbani Scholarships:** Fully funded Master's or PhD programmes at Dutch universities for students from the Arab World.
- **2 Leiden University Fund Scholarships:** Matching Master’s scholarships for Arab students to study at Leiden University.
- **2 Participants** for Leiden University Summer School on Children’s Rights
- **25 Vreede Scholarships for International Law:**
  - 20 awarded for online participation in the Hague Academy’s Summer and Winter Courses
  - 2 for in-person attendance at the Winter Course
  - 3 for in-person attendance at the Summer Course

- **7 Travel Grants:** For Dutch and Arab students and professionals to gain international experience in each other's region.

## Partnerships

- Our long-standing partnership with **Leiden University** was successfully renewed this year and marked by a ceremonial signing in February 2025. This partnership continues to offer a matching scholarship to a student from the Arab world. This year, an additional scholarship for a student from Gaza was made in collaboration with Leiden University.
- *Additionally, we were able to secure a matching scholarship with the Institute for Social Studies – Erasmus Trust Fund.*
- We are also engaged in ongoing discussions with other Dutch University Funds as well as Universities in the Arab World to discuss scholarship collaboration opportunities moving forward.
- We also expanded our collaboration **The Hague Academy of International Law**, securing 10 scholarships for Palestinian students to participate in the Academy's Online Winter Course in International Law, with plans for further scholarships for the summer edition.
- The Foundation continued its support of the **Nour Project**, an initiative by AIESEC that places Dutch and international students in internship and cultural immersion programmes across the MENA region. Our team participated in the Summer Preparation Seminar, where Yasmina Al Ammari and Amalia Awad delivered a session on cross-cultural dialogue. Building on the prior year's evaluation, we held ongoing meetings with the Nour team to enhance the impact and sustainability of the partnership.

## Events and Community Engagement

- In October 2024, the Foundation hosted its **annual Meet & Greet**, bringing together scholars, alumni, partners, board members, and team members. This event serves as an important moment to foster community, share experiences, and welcome new scholars.
- In March 2025, during the month of Ramadan, we held a special **Iftar gathering** with alumni and scholars. These informal yet impactful events are vital for cultivating the strong network of support and exchange that defines the Foundation's community.
- In January 2025, the Foundation also hosted a table at the **15th Annual MENA Trade Dinner in The Hague**. The evening brought together representatives from the business, political, and cultural spheres and featured a compelling speech by one of the Foundation Scholar's whose reflections on Euro-Arab relations left a lasting impression on attendees.

## Communications and Outreach

The Foundation's communications strategy was revitalized in 2024–2025. Our team succeeded in growing our social media presence across platforms, reactivating channels like TikTok, and widely promoting our scholarship opportunities. We also revived and expanded the Red Dot Series, a digital project that highlights the work and stories of Arab creatives, scholars, and changemakers on platforms like Instagram and YouTube. We have also been actively engaged in community-cantered and educational social media initiatives, including book giveaways designed to promote learning, spark dialogue, and build a sense of connection among our wider community. These efforts aim to make the Foundation's work more accessible, encourage participation, and highlight the values at the heart of

our mission. These efforts have not only improved our visibility but also strengthened engagement within and beyond our existing network, further amplifying the voices and achievements of our scholars.

With our growing alumni, an alumni intern position was created to support the growing alumni network platform. This intern is in charge of alumni engagement, managing our alumni network, and ensuring that our alumni get the most out of our network. With our renewed focus on showcasing impact, our website will be updated accordingly. Our team is working on improving the website not just visually, but also content-wise to reflect the student-centred approach of the Foundation, and to reflect our growing community and showcase the impact of scholarships across all of our programmes.



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