



Lutfia Rabbani Foundation Activities 2025

Throughout 2025, the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation remained focused on its core mission: to cultivate Euro–Arab dialogue, champion academic exchange, and uniting an interconnected network through scholarships, strategic partnerships, and dialogue platforms. Our dedication to forging impactful ties among students, professionals, and institutions across both regions remains steadfast, rooted in our conviction that mutual dialogue drives deep understanding and shared progress.

This past year was marked by the growth of our scholarship program, the launch and renewal of vital institutional alliances, and an energized focus on community engagement and communication. Thanks to a renewed fundraising strategy, we successfully expanded our financial aid reach, unlocking life-changing educational opportunities for an unprecedented number of students.

By collaborating with renowned institutions like Leiden University and The Hague Academy of International Law - and supporting important cultural initiatives such as the Nour Project, Stichting Tabaria, the International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR), and the MENA Trade Dinner - the Foundation remained committed to its mission of cross-cultural connection and cooperation.

Detailed Overview of Activities

Scholarships and Grants

- **2 Mahmoud Rabbani Scholarships:** Fully funded Master's or PhD programmes at Dutch universities for students from the Arab World.
- **1 Leiden University Fund Scholarship:** Matching Master's scholarships for Arab students to study at Leiden University.
- **1 Erasmus Trust Fund, International Institute of Social Studies, and Rabbani Foundation Scholarship (REISS) Scholarship:** Matching Master's Scholarship in partnership with Erasmus Trust Fund and the International Institute of Social Sciences (ISS).
- **2 KIT Scholarships:** Matching Scholarship with the KIT Royal Tropical Institute.
- **2 Participants** for Leiden University Summer School on Children's Rights
- **Vreede Scholarships for International Law:**
 - Several participants were awarded a scholarship 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
- **14 Travel Grants:** For Dutch and Arab students and professionals to gain international experience in each other's region.

Partnerships

- We continue our long-standing partnership with **Leiden University** which offer a matching scholarship to a student from the Arab world. In February 2025, a joint signing ceremony took place renewing this partnership in the hopes of continuing to offer scholarships to deserving students.
- 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 2025 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.
- We also continue to partner with **The Hague Academy of International Law**, awarding a limited number of scholarships for Arab students to participate in the Academy's Summer and Winter Courses in International Law.
- Additionally, in 2025 the Foundation began a partnership with the **International Film Festival Rotterdam (IFFR)**, committing to supporting Arab film makers to attend and showcase their films at the film festival in early 2026. The IFFR presents a leading international film festival and year-round programme and actively supports new filmmaking talent.
- In 2025, the Lutfia Rabbani Foundation began supporting **Stichting Tabaria's** cultural activities. Stichting Tabaria provides a space where people can connect through coffee, food, and culture. Typical workshop events organised include Tareez (Palestinian embroidery), language exchange, film screenings, cooking and poetry readings.
- In 2025, an agreement was finalised with the **Erasmus Trust Fund** and the **Erasmus International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)** to award one student with a scholarship to study at the ISS for the academic year 2025-2026.

Events and Community Engagement

- In January 2025, the Foundation also hosted a table at the **15th Annual MENA Trade Dinner in The Hague**. Representatives from the business, political, and cultural sectors attended the event, which featured an impactful speech on Euro-Arab relations by a Foundation scholar.
- In March 2025, we hosted a special **Iftar gathering** for our alumni and scholars during the holy month of Ramadan. These informal yet meaningful events are essential to fostering the strong network of support and dialogue that defines our Foundation's community.
- In October 2025, the Foundation hosted its annual Meet & Greet, bringing together our scholars, alumni, partners, and team. This special gathering is all about welcoming our newest scholars, sharing stories, and strengthening the close-knit community that defines us.
- In 2025, the Foundation hosted two **Informal Dialogues Sessions**, one in October 2025 titled 'Textiles as Storytellers: Cultural Memory in Fabric', and the other in December 2025 titled 'Creating within the Diaspora'. Both events featured alumni speakers and were attended by alumni and friends of the Foundation.

Communications, Outreach, and Looking Forward

The Foundation's communications strategy was revitalized in 2025. Our team succeeded in growing our social media presence across platforms, reactivating channels like TikTok, and widely promoting our scholarship opportunities. We also 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 hosting community-building events such as the Informal Dialogue Series. These efforts have allowed us not just to engage with our community online, but with the local community as well.

With our growing alumni, an Alumni and Events position was created to support the growing alumni network platform. This member of staff oversees alumni engagement, managing our alumni network, and ensuring that our alumni get the most out of our network. Additionally, a project was started to create a new website to reflect our renewed focus on fundraising and showcasing impact through student-forward stories.

Finally, in our continuous effort to grow and develop in our cultivation of Euro-Arab Dialogue, 2025 marked an important year for outreach and partnership development with educational intuitions, cultural initiatives and more, representing the Netherlands as well as the Arab region.

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