



جامعة الأخوين
أكاديمية العلوم والهندسة
AL AKHAWAYN
UNIVERSITY

Dean of the School
of Science and
Engineering

Al Akhawayn University

Candidate Pack

Contents

01.	Executive Summary	2
02.	About Al Akhawayn University	3
03.	About the School of Science and Engineering	4
04.	Living in Ifrane	5
05.	Role Description	6
06.	Person Specification	7
07.	Appointment Details and How to Apply	8

01. Executive Summary

Al Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco (AUI) is seeking an innovative and collaborative leader to serve as the Dean of its School of Science and Engineering (SSE), with a start date of 1st August 2026.

Established nearly 30 years ago, AUI is an independent, public, not-for-profit, coeducational university in Ifrane, Morocco. It currently has over 4,000 students and its medium of instruction is English.

Reporting to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, the Dean will serve as the chief academic and administrative officer of SSE, providing strategic leadership that advances academic excellence, scientific innovation, impact-focused research, and high-quality engineering education aimed at benefiting human prosperity.

Over the next few years, the Dean's role will focus primarily on innovating (including through technology), adjusting, and leading teams and

colleagues to best serve engineering students and graduates – supporting their success and flourishing in a fast-changing world. The Dean will champion the role of science, technology, and engineering within a liberal arts context, ensuring that AUI remains a leader in preparing students for the technological, environmental, and societal challenges of the 21st Century. Fostering faculty and student success, the Dean will promote operational effectiveness through strategic oversight, evidence-based decision-making, and active pursuit and contribution to institutional goals.

To apply please [click here](#). The deadline for receipt of applications is midday (Morocco time) on Tuesday 27th January 2026.



02. About Al Akhawayn University

AUI was founded by royal decree (a 'Dahir') in 1993 by King Hassan II of Morocco. It is as an independent public not-for-profit university established on the American liberal arts model. The institution opened its doors to students in January 1995, so is on the cusp of celebrating its 30th anniversary.

AUI was first accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) in 2017 and was reaccredited for ten years in 2022. As the only English language institution of higher education in Morocco, and one of only three US-accredited universities on the African continent, AUI is a beacon for the liberal arts in the MENA region.

The majority of students are undergraduates, but AUI also offers several popular Master-level graduate programs.

Based on the principles of diversity and an international outlook, the university's mission is driven by values of human solidarity and tolerance. Al Akhawayn has modelled its administrative, pedagogical, and academic organization on the American university system, and English is the language of instruction.

For more information, visit www.aui.ma



University President Dr Amine Bensaid, and his predecessor Dr Driss Ouauicha

03. About the School of Science and Engineering

AUI has four academic units: the School of Science and Engineering (SSE), the School of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities (SSAH), the School of Business Administration (SBA), and the Language Center (LC).

The School of Science and Engineering prepares students for leadership in engineering, technology, innovation, research, and applied sciences. SSE offers programs in Engineering, Computer Science, AI, Engineering Management, Renewable Energies, and the Natural Sciences. Through rigorous academic training, hands-on learning, and industry collaboration, SSE educates scientists and engineers who are equipped to solve complex global challenges and contribute to the advancement of Morocco and the region.

The three largest majors in the School of Science and Engineering are all ABET accredited.

The University is widely recognized as a leader in 21st Century liberal arts education. It has pioneering and very successful initiatives underway around employability and entrepreneurship, as well as around ensuring students gain lifelong value from their academic studies. It has also started strategic work on the impact of technology and the opportunities it offers for advancing liberal arts education.

With 4,100 students (up from 1,900 five years ago), AUI is on track toward its strategic goal of 5,000 students, supported by strong commitments to educational quality, digital transformation, and the integration of technology with the values and perspectives of liberal arts education.

SSE has 1,756 students and 79 full-time faculty.





04. Living in Ifrane

AUI is located in the idyllic resort town of Ifrane, known for its picturesque alpine-style architecture. The town sits at an altitude of 1,668 meters in the Middle Atlas Mountains of Morocco. It is approximately 48 kilometres from the famous imperial cities of Fez and Meknes.

Originally built in 1928 as a 'Garden City' during the colonial period, Ifrane has around 15,000 year-round residents, but also the capacity to house over 100,000 visitors who flock to it during winter to experience snow, and during summer to escape the city heat.

Ifrane offers wonderful hiking and a relaxed pace of life typical of beautiful resort towns. The University is situated at one end of town on the road to Fes, while the AUI-owned Annex, where most faculty live, the Al Akhawayn School in Ifrane (ASI) and the Al Akhawayn Conference Center are all situated at the other end of town, around four kilometres away from campus, on the main road to al-Hajib and Meknes.

Schooling

Al Akhawayn School in Ifrane (ASI), which the University operates, is an American-style pre-K-12 school with about 250 students. Its Director reports to the VPAA. ASI is currently in the process of accreditation with the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). Its students have an

impressive record of gaining admission to some of the finest universities in North America, in Europe, and across the Mediterranean.

International Transport Connections

The closest major airport is Fès-Saïs Airport (FEZ), only one hour's drive away. This provides direct international flights to and from several European cities, including Paris, London, and Madrid.

Language and Culture

French and Arabic are most widely spoken, however English is also commonly used. Largely due to the presence of the University, there is a diverse expat community, offering opportunities to meet people from around the world. Ifrane hosts various cultural and outdoor events, and its unique architecture makes it a pleasant place to explore. Nearby attractions include the Azrou cedar forests and the ski resort at Michlifén.

05. Role Description

The Dean leads all aspects of SSE's academic programs, faculty affairs, student success initiatives, and resource allocation, while serving as the School's primary external representative.

Key responsibilities include:

administrative functions to appropriate personnel to ensure strategic focus.

Strategic Leadership and Management

- driving excellence and innovation in science, technology, engineering, and impact-focused research within a liberal arts environment;
- demonstrating visionary and servant leadership in addressing emerging technological developments, global challenges (eg. sustainability, digital transformation, AI and human-centricity), and national workforce needs;
- promoting a positive, accountable culture centered on scientific rigor, innovation, collaboration, and operational reliability;
- serving on the Deans' Council and representing SSE in University-wide leadership forums and external academic and professional bodies;
- recommending budget needs and stewarding resources to support laboratories, research infrastructure, and academic program development.

Academic Oversight and Operations

- providing strategic oversight for curriculum design, accreditation (eg. ABET), program review, and the development of new degrees aligned with future workforce demands;
- leading faculty recruitment, advancement, and research priorities, ensuring alignment with AUI's mission and international standards;
- overseeing quality assurance, assessment, and compliance with NECHE and discipline-specific standards;
- supporting the growth and modernization of laboratory spaces, applied learning facilities, and interdisciplinary research;
- delegating scheduling, student advising coordination, laboratory operations, and

Faculty Affairs

- fostering faculty excellence through mentoring, professional development, and clear performance expectations;
- providing timely recommendations on faculty hiring, promotion, evaluation, contractual renewals, and recognition;
- supporting faculty in pursuing external grants, industry partnerships, and impactful research agendas.

Student Success, Research, and Employability

- championing student success, engagement, and retention across all SSE programs;
- overseeing the integration of experiential learning, project-based education, undergraduate research, internships, and industry collaboration;
- promoting employability initiatives, ensuring SSE graduates are well-prepared for competitive global STEM careers;
- overseeing the resolution of critical student academic issues in collaboration with advisors and support staff.

External Relations and Partnerships

- building and sustaining partnerships with industry, research centers, government agencies, technology firms, and peer academic institutions;
- leading initiatives to increase the visibility and impact of SSE's programs, research, and innovation ecosystem;
- supporting resource development efforts that strengthen laboratories, research initiatives, and student opportunities.

06. Person Specification

The successful candidate will combine personal scholarly credibility with proven academic leadership skills. They will be an effective administrator who can articulate a compelling strategic vision for the development of SSE's academic offering and profile.

Candidates should be able to demonstrate evidence of the following:

- a PhD in Engineering, Computer Science, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, or a closely related discipline;
- a track record of teaching, research, and service appropriate for appointment as an associate or full professor at AUI;
- a minimum of 5–7 years of experience as Department Head, Chair, Associate Dean, or Dean with demonstrated success in academic leadership;
- excellent presentation, written, and oral communication skills in English

The following additional attributes would be desirable, but are not considered essential:

- prior experience of working in an American-modelled or American-style international university;
- experience with STEM accreditation processes (eg. ABET, ACS, or related).
- experience developing industry partnerships or applied research centers;
- experience securing external research funding, managing grants, or leading funded research projects.



07. Appointment Details and How to Apply

Al Akhawayn University is being assisted in this appointment process by the international executive search firm Society (www.society-search.com).

Applications should consist of:

1. a thoughtful covering letter (ideally no longer than two pages), addressing the criteria in the Person Specification;
2. an up-to-date curriculum vitae;
3. names and contact details of three referees (although referees will only be approached at the final stage of the process, and only with your express permission).

General advice on how to write a [strong covering letter](#) and a [strong CV](#) can be found on our website.

To upload your documents via Society's website, [click here](#).

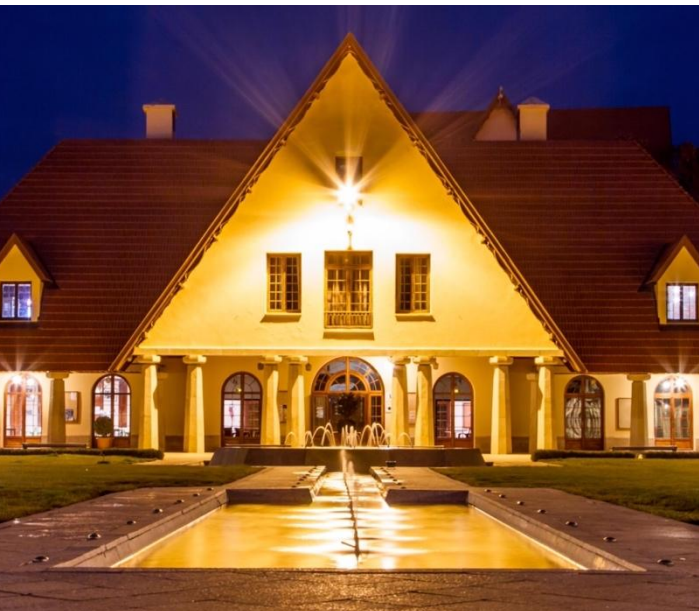
The deadline for receipt of applications is midday (Morocco time) on Tuesday 27th January 2026.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on during February.

An appointment will be made subject to receipt of satisfactory references. The appointed candidate will be offered a salary commensurate with their experience and the seniority of the role.

We are committed to ensuring that anyone can access our application processes. This includes people with hearing, sight, mobility, and cognitive impairments. Should you require access to this document in an alternative format, wish to apply in a different format, or need any other reasonable adjustments made for you (including at interview), please contact us at inclusion@society-search.com. We also welcome suggestions or comments about any more general access improvements we should consider.





Society is a global executive search firm and a certified B Corporation. 10% of our profits go to charitable causes through The Society Foundation. With colleagues in the United Kingdom and New Zealand, we solve senior hiring challenges for responsible businesses and purpose-driven organisations around the world.

We believe that the right candidate, placed in the right organisation at the right time, can initiate a chain reaction of transformative change that will help to deliver a more inclusive and sustainable future.

