

CENTER FOR INNOVATION, PARTNERSHIP, & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (CIPC)

ANNUAL REPORT 2026



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Center for Innovation, Partnership, and Community Engagement (CIPC) continues to advance its mission of bridging academia, healthcare, and community impact through strategic partnerships, innovative programming, and research-driven initiatives.

In 2026, CIPC achieved significant milestones across multiple domains:

- **International Partnerships:** Formalized collaboration with the University of Ottawa (MoU), expanded research internships; strengthened engagement with McGill University.
- **Innovation & Advanced Training:** Hosted a joint delegation from NEOM and IRCAD to advance simulation-based medical education, AI integration, and robotics programs.
- **Community Engagement:** Collaborated with the Saudi Red Crescent Authority on volunteer initiatives and emergency medicine simulations, integrating community service with academic learning.
- **Research & Education:** Expanded research internship programs, launched mentorship networks, and developed interprofessional courses.
- **MOUs approved by BOT:** Tawanuya, Sports For All (SFA), Kayanee Learn Business Unit, NEOM

These initiatives collectively enhance student opportunities, foster research collaboration, and position Alfaisal University and CIPC as leaders in innovation, healthcare education, and community engagement aligned with Vision 2030.



INTRODUCTION

The **Center for Innovation, Partnership, and Community Engagement (CIPC)** was established to **bridge the gap** between academia, healthcare systems, and community needs. The Center operates in alignment with Alfaisal University's strategic priorities, working closely with academic departments, research units, and external partners.

CIPC serves as a platform for developing innovative programs, fostering partnerships, and enhancing research and community engagement initiatives. This report provides an overview of the Center's activities, partnerships, and achievements during the reporting period.

Core Committee Members

- **Dr. Baraa Alghalyini**, Vice Dean and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine.
- **Dr. Racha Khaled**, Senior Lecturer, College of Medicine.
- **Dr. Abdul Rehman Zia Zaidi**, Research Portfolio Lead, Senior Lecturer, College of Medicine.
- **Dr. Amin Alswes**, Associate Professor, College of Medicine.
- **Ms. Saphiya Banafa**, Administration Assistant, College of Medicine.



VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Vision

To become a national benchmark for effective community engagement and innovative partnerships between healthcare and academia.

Mission

To utilize academia to better serve the community through innovative methods while engaging faculty and students.

Core values

- Foster effective partnerships between academia and the community
- Promote innovative, non-technology-dependent solutions
- Encourage collaborative learning and continuous development
- Support community-driven initiatives



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Signed MoUs with:**
 - University of Ottawa
 - Tawanuya
 - Sports For All (SFA)
 - Kayanee Learn Business Unit
 - NEOM
- Expanded senior **research internships**.
- Hosted **McGill University delegation** to promote academic exchange.
- Strengthened community engagement with the **Saudi Red Crescent Authority**.
- Hosted **NEOM & IRCAD delegation** focusing on simulation, AI, and advanced healthcare training.
- Identified four strategic international collaboration areas: **Sports Medicine, Urgent Care, Family Medicine, and Allied Health Programs**.





PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

University of Ottawa Partnership

- Signed MoU establishing long-term academic and research collaboration.
- Delegation visit included stakeholder meetings, MoU signing, and student sessions.
- Key outcomes:
 - Expanded research internships (12 students).
 - Launched MedGlobal Program (4 students).
 - Structured alumni engagement initiative.
 - Four strategic collaboration areas identified: Sports Medicine, Urgent Care, Family Medicine, Allied Health.
 -

Global Health Collaboration

- Joint plans to develop a Global Health Division with uOttawa as strategic partner.



University of Ottawa partnership/delegation - 8-10 February 2026; student session - 9 February 2026; Alfaisal University, Riyadh (CoS Meeting Room, CoB Meeting Room, and MG.016).

University of Ottawa Partnership



FROM RESEARCH TO RESIDENCY

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES AT UOTTAWA MEDICINE

An official presentation by the **University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine delegation**, exploring diverse pathways for medical students and graduates seeking research, training, and career advancement opportunities.

DATE	TIME	VENUE
February 9, 2026	12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	MG.016

Talk Highlights

 Research Electives for Medical Students Hands-on research experience for medical students	 MedGlobal Summer School Immersive four-week clinical and cultural experience in Canadian healthcare
 Residency & fellowship pathways Future sponsored international training opportunities	 Postgraduate and advanced academic studies Master's and doctoral programs in medical sciences





PARTNERSHIPS & INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

McGill University Collaboration

- Hosted delegation focused on postgraduate training pathways and academic exchange.
- Student and faculty sessions included residency pathways and career guidance.

Impact:

- Increased student awareness of international training opportunities.
- Strengthened institutional academic relationships.



McGill University collaboration visit - 1-2 February 2026; PGME student/faculty session - 2 February 2026; Alfaisal University, MG.016, Riyadh.



McGill University Collaboration



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine and
Health Sciences

TRAINING AT MCGILL

What It Takes, What They Offer, and How to Prepare

A focused session on Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) at McGill University, delivered by McGill University delegates and a McGill alumnus, sharing institutional insights and firsthand residency experience.

Date

February 2 2026

Time

3:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Venue

MG.016

TOPIC OBJECTIVES

- Overview of McGill residency and fellowship programs
- Insights into selection criteria and the application process
- Firsthand perspectives from McGill leadership and alumni

MCGILL DELEGATES

- **Dr. Lesley Fellows**, Vice-President (Health Affairs) & Dean of the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
- **Dr. Leon Tourian**, Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education & Professional Affairs, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences
- **Dr. Sender Liberman**, Assistant Dean, International Affairs, Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences

FEATURING MCGILL ALUMNUS

Dr Yousef Binamer MD,EMBA,FRCPC,DABD,FAAD
Chairman of Department of Dermatology, King Faisal Specialist Hospital & Research Centre



Training at McGill: What It Takes, What They Offer, and How to Prepare - 2 February 2026, 3:00 PM-5:00 PM; Alfaisal University, MG.016, Riyadh.



PARTNERSHIPS & NATIONAL COLLABORATION

Saudi Red Crescent Authority Partnership

- Combined community service and academic programs.
- Key activities:
 - Student volunteering during Umrah (Ramadan 2026).
 - Emergency Room simulation sessions in Community Medicine curriculum.
 - Preparations underway for Hajj 2026 volunteer programs.

Impact:

- Bridged theoretical learning with real-world clinical experience.
- Enhanced student civic engagement.

ALFAISAL UNIVERSITY

PARTICIPATION IN HAJJ 2026

MEDICAL SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Saudi Red Crescent Authority Partnership

PARTICIPATION Around 60 students & recent graduates	KEY SITES Masjid Al-Haram, Mina, and Arafat	PARTNERS CIPC in collaboration with SRCA
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Around 60 medical students and recent graduates from Alfaisal University participated in the Hajj 2026 Volunteer Program, providing medical support to pilgrims at key Hajj sites including Masjid Al-Haram, Mina, and Arafat. The initiative was organized by the Center for Innovation Partnerships and Community Engagement (CIPC) in collaboration with the Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA).

The program included a structured pre-deployment phase where participants were booked, selected, and briefed. This was followed by a preparatory training session conducted in designated professional areas for both male and female volunteers, providing an overview of clinical expectations, emergency protocols, and field operations.

During deployment, volunteers supported first aid and emergency response activities under clinical supervision, assisting with cases such as heat-related illnesses, dehydration, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, stroke recognition, and other urgent conditions commonly encountered during Hajj.

Post-deployment feedback was collected from participating students and interns to evaluate the experience and operational processes. Overall feedback indicated a positive field experience, with observations highlighting the effectiveness of the system and areas for continued improvement in coordination and logistics.

The initiative contributed to hands-on clinical exposure in a mass gathering environment while supporting national healthcare services during Hajj.

HAJJ VOLUNTEERING INITIATIVE — 1447H



Volunteer Feedback Summary

Findings from the post-initiative survey, prepared for the feedback session

28

respondents

3.50 / 5

overall experience

21 of 28

would volunteer again

CIPC · EMIG · SRCA

stakeholders

Responses anonymized · Saudi Red Crescent Authority (SRCA)

OVERVIEW

At a glance

28

volunteers responded

6 female · 18 male · 4 Mina (male)

3.50

overall experience (of 5)

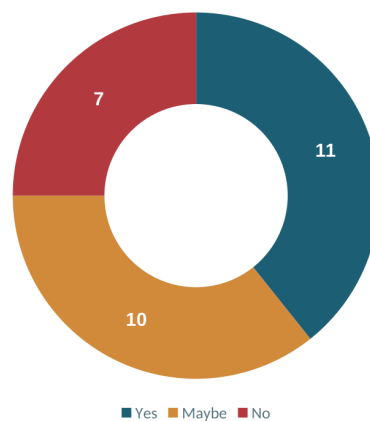
Positive overall, but softer than early returns

2.0

accommodation (of 5)

The lowest-rated area by a wide margin

Would you volunteer again?



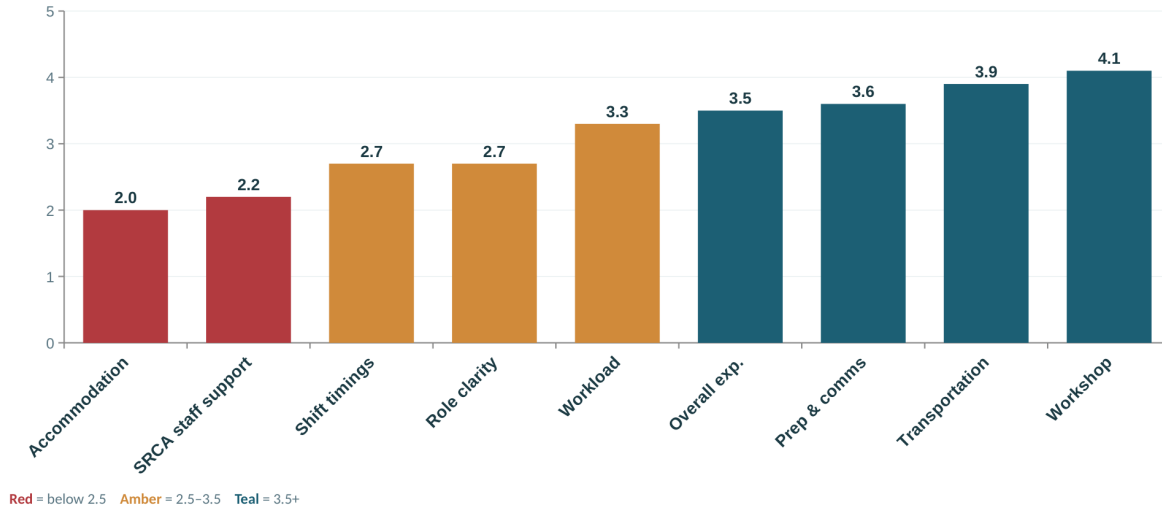
■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No

All 6 female volunteers would return; the 7 declines came from the male and Mina-male groups

HOW EACH AREA SCORED

Average rating by area

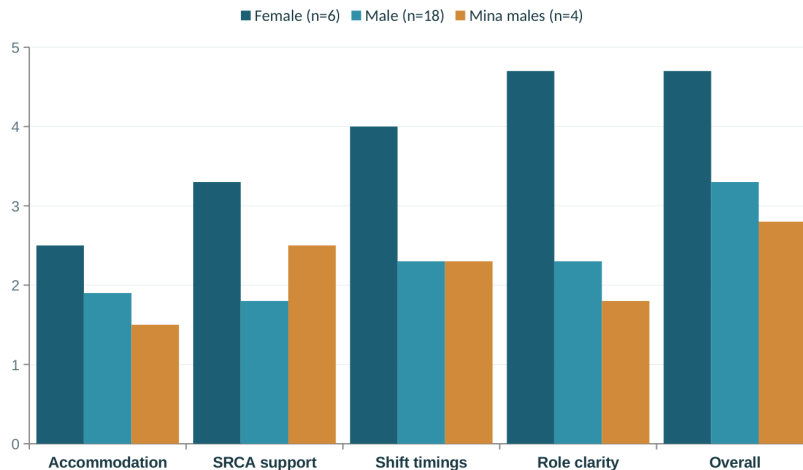
Mean score across all 28 respondents, out of 5.



KEY INSIGHT

Experience split sharply by group

Female volunteers rated most areas highly; the male groups rated nearly every operational area far lower.



What this tells us

The male and Mina-male groups bore the brunt of the problems — poor accommodation, weak SRCA support, and unclear, poorly scheduled shifts. The Mina-male group rated their experience lowest overall.

All 6 female volunteers rated their experience highly, with one critical exception: accommodation and safety (next slide).

Fixes should be targeted by group, not one-size-fits-all.



PRIORITY — REQUIRES ACTION



Volunteer safety at the accommodation

What was reported

A female volunteer reported feeling extremely unsafe at the hotel, describing daily verbal harassment and catcalling from other male residents, including in elevators.

Volunteers tried to manage it by staying together as a group, but this did not stop the behaviour.

Others asked that female volunteers be housed somewhere safe and private (their hotel was mostly male-occupied), and raised the need for safe, dedicated transport to and from the Haram.

These accounts came from the female group.

Why it comes first

This is a safeguarding matter, not a satisfaction score.

Suggested actions to discuss:

- Acknowledge and respond directly to the volunteers affected
- Vet accommodation for female safety as a booking requirement
- Define a clear on-ground reporting and escalation channel

WHAT NEEDS FIXING



Recurring themes in the comments

Accommodation

MALE • FEMALE • MINA-MALE

Rated lowest of all areas. Male volunteers described a "dirty school" with shared shower/toilet (one bought a gym membership to use a bathroom); female volunteers raised privacy and comfort; Mina housing was poor. Seen as unfair vs. the female hotel.

Roles & deployment

MALE VOLUNTEERS

Often placed on the street without equipment instead of clinics/hospitals; some saw few cases, and non-medical staff directed doctors. "Treat us like the doctors we are."

SRCA organization & staff

MALE • MINA-MALE

Disorganized, last-minute schedules, unclear roles, and no on-ground contact to escalate. Reports of paramedics unable to do basic tasks or reluctant to take urgent cases.

Equity vs other universities

MALE • FEMALE

Other universities were reportedly placed inside the Haram and given tablets, medical bags, devices, even golf carts and new vests — while our group was outside, with used vests collected each shift.

Tickets, cost & travel timing

FEMALE • MALE

Ticket prices tripled while awaiting the go-ahead, with little or no compensation unlike other universities. Travel and interns' leave details needed at least two weeks ahead.

Mina logistics

MINA-MALE GROUP

Sent ~4 days before needed; weak accommodation, transport, food, and medical equipment in Mina.

WHAT WORKED — FOR THE CELEBRATION

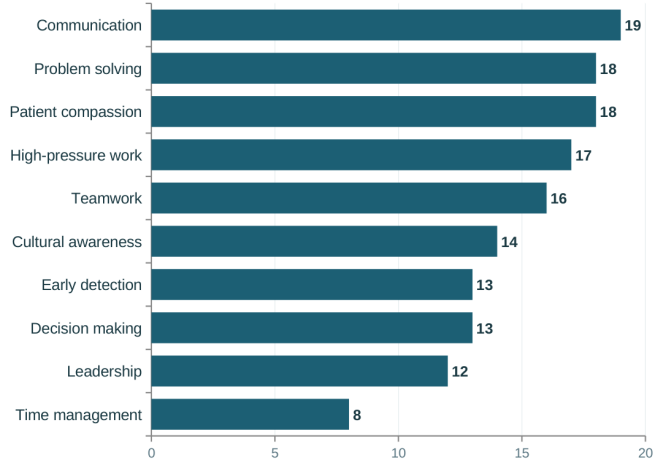


The program's value came through

- Helping pilgrims** The sense of reward and service to hujaj was the standout.
- Bonds formed** Living and working through tough conditions built strong, lasting ties.
- Real exposure** Hands-on patient interaction and a say in clinical decisions.

21 of 28 would volunteer again

Skills volunteers felt they developed



PARTNERSHIPS & NATIONAL COLLABORATION

NEOM & IRCAD Collaboration

- Hosted a high-level delegation from NEOM and IRCAD (September 8, 2025).
- Discussions focused on:
 - Simulation-based training programs.
 - Curriculum co-design.
 - Faculty and student exchanges.
 - Integration of AI and advanced healthcare technologies.

Strategic Significance:

- Reinforces Alfaisal University as a leader in simulation, robotics, and innovation in medical education.
- Supports national healthcare transformation aligned with Vision 2030.



NEOM & IRCAD delegation visit - 8 September 2025; Alfaisal University, Riyadh.



STRATEGIC PILLARS

Education & Innovation

- Integrated community-based learning into curricula
- Supported experiential learning initiatives for students and faculty

Research & Academic Development

- Expanded clinical research collaborations
- Managed research internships for students
- Established Faculty Research Mentorship Network
- Promoted patient-centered and community-centered research

Community Engagement

- Workshops, seminars, and student volunteer programs
- Health and wellness initiatives, including Book Joggers Club and community runs
- Strengthened university-community relationships through hands-on projects



PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

University of Ottawa Engagement Programs

- MedGlobal Summer Program
- Senior student research internships
- Student-focused academic sessions

Community & Student Initiatives

- Volunteer programs with Saudi Red Crescent (Umrah & Hajj)
- Simulation-based learning and workshops
- Health and wellness initiatives



Governance & Team

CIPC operates through a multidisciplinary team of academic leaders, researchers, and community engagement professionals within Alfasal University, supported by external collaborators and advisors.

Future Directions

- Operationalize international collaborations with structured proposals.
- Establish the Global Health Division.
- Expand research and internship programs.
- Strengthen community engagement programs.
- Implement robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Conclusion

CIPC has strengthened its position as a hub for innovation, academic collaboration, and community impact. By leveraging strategic partnerships, expanding educational programs, and fostering research and community initiatives, the Center continues to advance Alfasal University's mission and contribute to healthcare and academic transformation in alignment with Vision 2030.



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THANK YOU

