

## Yarmouk University wins second place regionally in the global 'Imperial Barrel Award' competition for 2026



Yarmouk University has successfully claimed second place in the prestigious AAPG *Imperial Barrel Award (IBA)* competition for 2026 at the Middle East regional level. Organized annually by the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), this global competition aims to develop students' technical and leadership skills through the analysis of real-world petroleum exploration data in a simulation of professional work environments.

Originally, Yarmouk University was set to host the regional finals on its campus in Irbid, but international circumstances led to the event being held remotely via virtual communication technologies. Despite this shift, the university demonstrated a strong presence with its distinguished team, competing against leading universities in the region. The results crowned Sultan Qaboos University in first place, Yarmouk University in second, and Kuwait University in third.

This remarkable achievement was made possible through joint efforts, with Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor Dr. Moheeb Awawdeh, and Dr. Abdullah Al-Rawabdeh playing pivotal roles in striving to host this international competition at Yarmouk University for the first time in Jordan, and in preparing the groundwork that paved the way for this professional recognition.

The winning Yarmouk team was composed of Professor Dr. Mohammad Al-Qudah, who led the technical and analytical aspects throughout the preparation stages, along with students Fatima Al-Anouz (team leader), Dohaa Al-Hayek, Bisan Al-Khoudour, and Zainab Mustafa, supported by industrial advisor Mohamed Adel from Egypt.

This victory reflects the leadership of Yarmouk University's Faculty of Science and the ability of its staff and students to excel and compete on international platforms, ensuring the faculty remains an academic beacon that nurtures a generation of outstanding talents and competencies in earth and environmental sciences.