



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU

Advanced Fellowship in Strategic Leadership and Innovation



Premium Visit in Strategic Leadership and Future Foresight
A Transformative Experience in Finland



Advanced Fellowship in Strategic Leadership and Innovation

For any inquiries or assistance prior to the program,
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1 / Program Overview

Welcome to the “**Strategic Leadership and Innovation**” Advanced Fellowship Program, designed to provide senior leaders from government and private institutions with an immersive and comprehensive experience in strategic foresight, innovation, and leadership. This five-day intensive program, held in Finland, combines **expert-led seminars, interactive workshops, and insightful site visits** across the national, regional, city, and institutional levels to explore how strategic foresight and innovation are shaped, governed, and implemented across different layers of leadership. Participants will gain practical insights into how Finland fosters innovation and strategic leadership across its ecosystem, from national strategies to institutional practices, and will be equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to drive strategic change and innovation within their organizations.

2 / Program Rationale

The Premium Visit Program “Advanced Fellowship in Strategic Leadership and Innovation” aims to provide a deep and comprehensive understanding of contemporary leadership within today’s complex and interconnected landscape. Through this intensive five-day international study visit to Finland, participants will examine how leadership and innovation are coordinated and scaled across multiple levels. This program targets executives who will attend specialized sessions and explore various strategic locations to enhance their leadership competencies. The program emphasizes navigating the challenges of a polycrisis era by addressing global trends and developing strategies to lead effectively in volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments.

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Objectives of the Program

In today's rapidly evolving world, effective leadership requires a unique set of skills and perspectives. This program offers participants a transformative journey toward becoming effective, forward-thinking leaders who can succeed in a constantly evolving environment. Through comprehensive experience, the program aims to achieve the following learning objectives:



Understanding the Evolving Role of Leaders:

Participants will explore the shifting expectations and responsibilities of leaders in the modern context. They will gain insights into the dynamic nature of leadership and its impact on organizations and society.



Applying Adaptive Leadership Principles:

Participants will explore how adaptive leadership helps address real-world challenges through flexible and practical approaches. They will learn to navigate uncertainty, drive innovation, and lead effectively in complex environments.



Mastering Organizational Dynamics:

Participants will examine how complex organizations function and how effective leadership can influence their success. They will explore inter-organizational dynamics, power structures, and collaboration across diverse teams.



Fostering Agility and Resilience:

Participants will explore how agility and resilience enable leaders and teams to thrive amid constant change. They will learn to apply practical strategies that promote adaptability, a growth mindset, and the ability to respond quickly to challenges while turning disruptions into opportunities for improvement and innovation.



Ethical Leadership with Social Impact:

Participants will examine how integrity, inclusivity, and ethical decision-making form the foundation of effective leadership. They will learn how to lead with fairness and transparency, promote diversity and equity within their organizations, and create meaningful social impact through responsible and values-driven leadership practices.



Developing a Personal Leadership Viewpoint:

Participants will reflect on their experiences and aspirations to develop their own leadership philosophy. They will identify the principles that guide their decisions, embrace adaptability and continuous learning, and build a clear, sustainable vision for lifelong personal and professional growth.

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Certification

Participants who successfully complete the program will be awarded the prestigious **“Advanced Fellowship in Strategic Leadership and Innovation.”** This certificate, jointly issued by the University of Turku in collaboration with Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University, signifies the attainment of advanced competencies in strategic foresight, innovation management, and leadership within complex environments, and is awarded to leaders who have successfully completed an intensive executive program in Finland integrating the principles of strategic leadership and innovation through analytical and field visits to national, industrial, educational, and research institutions. **This internationally recognized Advanced Fellowship demonstrates each participant’s commitment to professional growth and readiness to lead transformative initiatives within their organizations.**



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Detailed Five-Day Program Schedule with Visits

- 2 days in Helsinki (Monday–Tuesday)
- 3 days in Turku (Wednesday–Friday)

Day 1: Arrival and Introduction

Morning:

08:00-09:00	Arrival and Registration
09:00-09:30	Welcome Breakfast and Networking

Mid-Morning:

09:30-10:00	Opening Remarks by Program Director
10:00-11:00	Keynote Address: “The Future of Strategic Leadership”
11:00-11:15	Coffee Break

Late Morning:

11:15-12:30	Workshop: “Leadership in the Age of Digital Transformation”
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Afternoon:

12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-15:00	Panel Discussion: “Innovation Strategies from Top Finnish Companies”
15:00-15:15	Coffee Break
15:15-17:00	Interactive Session: “Building Resilient Organizations”

Evening:

18:00-20:00	Welcome Dinner and Cultural Introduction
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Day 2: Strategic Foresight and Scenario Planning

Morning:

09:00-10:30	Visit to SITRA, the Finnish Innovation Fund
10:30-12:00	Visit to Business Finland

Afternoon:

12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	Visit to the Finnish National Agency for Education
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
14:45-16:30	Case Study Analysis: “Successful Strategic Foresight in Action”
16:30-17:00	Wrap-up and Reflections

Evening:

Free Time or Optional Guided City Tour

Day 3: Innovation and Change Management

Morning:

09:00-10:30	Visit to the City of Turku
10:30-12:00	Visit to the Regional Council of South-West Finland

Afternoon:

12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	Site Visit to Meyer Turku Shipyard
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
14:45-16:30	Workshop: “Managing Change and Innovation”
16:30-17:00	Wrap-up and Reflections

Evening:

Networking Dinner with Finnish Business Leaders

Day 4: Sustainability and Ethical Leadership

Morning:

09:00-10:30	Visit to Turku Science Park
10:30-12:00	Visit to Turku Bioscience

Afternoon:

12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	Visit to Bayer Turku
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
14:45-16:30	Group Activity: “Developing an Ethical Leadership Plan”
16:30-17:00	Wrap-up and Reflections

Evening:

Cultural Evening with Finnish Cuisine and Entertainment

Day 5: Reflection and Future Planning

Morning:

09:00-10:30	Visit to Wärtsilä
10:30-12:00	Futures Workshop: “How to Implement Strategic Foresight in Your Organization”

Afternoon:

12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:30	Personal Reflection Session: “Leadership Growth and Development”
14:30-14:45	Coffee Break
14:45-16:00	Closing Remarks and Certificate Distribution

Evening:

Farewell Dinner and Networking Event

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Finland: Facts of Innovation and Leadership Excellence

1. Research and Development (R&D)

Finland's R&D expenditure reached **3.1% of GDP in 2023** and **3.2% in 2024**, ranking among the highest in Europe.

(Statistics Finland)

2. Global Innovation Index

Finland ranks **7th globally out of 133 countries** in the **Global Innovation Index 2024**, reflecting its strong innovation ecosystem and research integration.

(Business Finland)

3. European Innovation Leadership

Finland is an **Innovation Leader** in the **European Innovation Scoreboard 2025**, performing at **125.3% of the EU average** and ranking **4th among EU Member States**.

(European Commission – EIS 2025 Report)

4. Adult Skills and Competence

About **35% of Finnish adults** achieved **Level 4–5 (the highest levels)** in the **PIAAC numeracy assessment**, compared to **12% OECD average**, positioning Finland among global leaders in adult skills.

(Government of Finland – PIAAC Survey)

5. Governance and Competitiveness

Finland ranks **1st globally** in **Governance** according to the **Legatum Prosperity Index 2023**, demonstrating world-leading transparency, trust, and institutional quality.

(This is Finland – Governance Ranking)

6. Innovation Ecosystem

Finland is one of Europe's **Innovation Leaders**, known for excellence in **human resource development, lifelong learning, and public-private collaboration**—the foundations of strategic leadership and institutional innovation.

(European Commission – Innovation Scoreboard 2025)

7. Digital Skills and Lifelong Learning

Finland leads all EU countries in **adult participation in education and digital learning**, with **the highest share of workers possessing above-basic digital skills**.

(4Front – Finland Innovation Performance 2025)

7 / Program Providers



جامعة الإمام عبد الرحمن بن فيصل
IMAM ABDULRAHMAN BIN FAISAL UNIVERSITY

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU)

Center for Continuing Education

📍 **Location: Dammam, Saudi Arabia**

Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal University (IAU) is a prominent educational institution in Saudi Arabia known for its commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and community service. The university offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs across various disciplines, including health sciences, engineering, business, and humanities. IAU is dedicated to fostering a dynamic and innovative learning environment that prepares students to become leaders in their respective fields. The university's emphasis on research and development, coupled with its strong industry partnerships, ensures that students gain practical skills and knowledge applicable to real-world challenges.

The university also houses the **Center for Continuing Education**, which plays a vital role in extending IAU's educational mission beyond traditional degree programs. The center provides professional development, lifelong learning, and executive training opportunities designed to enhance workforce skills and support national development priorities in alignment with Saudi Vision 2030.



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University of Turku (UTU)

📍 **Location: Turku, Finland**

The University of Turku (UTU) is one of Finland's leading universities, renowned for its high-quality education and research. UTU is an active academic community of 25,000 students and staff members, offering a diverse range of programs in fields such as science, humanities, medicine, and business. The university is known for its innovative research, interdisciplinary approach, and strong international collaborations. UTU's Turku School of Economics Executive Education Unit (TSE exe) and Finland Futures Research Centre (FFRC) play key roles in delivering cutting-edge executive education and foresight studies. The university's commitment to sustainability, ethical leadership, and global impact makes it an ideal partner for this transformative leadership program.

8 / Program Duration

August 1–5, 2026

The program is held in person in Finland, and offers an intensive five-day experience that combines seminars, workshops, and site visits. Participants are encouraged to arrive one day before the official start to ensure a smooth orientation and readiness for the program’s opening activities.

9 / Program Cost

The cost for participating in the “Strategic Leadership and Innovation: A Transformative Experience in Finland” program is

15,999 SAR / Person including VAT

This comprehensive fee includes:

- **Training:** Access to all seminars, workshops, and interactive sessions led by expert faculty from the University of Turku.
- **Certification:** “Advanced Fellowship in Strategic Leadership and Innovation” upon successful completion of the program.
- **Transportation:** Ground transportation for all scheduled site visits and activities within Finland.
- **Lunch:** Meals provided throughout the five-day program, offering participants the opportunity to network and discuss insights with peers and experts.

This fee structure ensures that participants receive a high-value educational experience, combining theoretical knowledge with practical applications, site visits to leading Finnish organizations, and opportunities for networking and professional growth.

Note: The cost does not include flights to and from Finland and hotel accommodation. Participants are responsible for arranging their own travel and lodging.

Why? This is to accommodate the needs of participants who plan to arrive in Finland before the program or stay after its conclusion, as well as those with different hotel preferences or who wish to be accompanied by family members not participating in the program, individual arrangements can be made accordingly. Please note that assistance with flight bookings and accommodation arrangements can be provided for groups only.

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Additional Instructions

1. Preparation:

- Attend the virtual orientation meeting that will be held for all confirmed participants before the start of the program.
- Bring all necessary identification required for site visits.
- You are encouraged to bring business cards to make the most of networking opportunities.

2. Dress Code:

- Business casual attire is recommended for all sessions and site visits.

3. Transportation:

- Transportation will be provided for all scheduled site visits.
- Participants **who do not plan to stay in Finland** should check out from their hotels on the last day before the morning session.
- Airport reception and transfers will be available for participants upon arrival in Finland **with prior arrangement**.

4. Contacts:

- For any inquiries or assistance prior to the program, please contact the program coordinator: **Dr. Mohammed S. Alkathiri**

✉ msalkathiri@iau.edu.sa

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Detailed Information about Places to be Visited

The following comprehensive program schedule ensures a rich learning experience, combining theoretical knowledge with practical insights and real-world applications from the dynamic Finnish environment.

1. Finnish Parliament House:



📍 **Location: Helsinki, Finland**

The Finnish Parliament House, also known as Eduskuntatalo, is an iconic building in Helsinki representing 1920s Classicism. It features a facade made of red granite from Kalvola and is adorned with 14 Corinthian columns. The Parliament House is the seat of Finland's 200-member unicameral parliament. Visitors can book guided tours to explore this historical and political landmark.

Website: <https://www.myhelsinki.fi/en/see-and-do/sights/parliament>

2. SITRA (Finnish Innovation Fund)



Location: Helsinki, Finland

SITRA is an independent public foundation that operates under the supervision of the Finnish Parliament. It aims to promote sustainable well-being and supports various initiatives in fields like healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability. SITRA plays a crucial role in fostering innovation and future-oriented projects in Finland.

Website: <https://www.sitra.fi/en/>

3. Business Finland



Location: Helsinki, Finland

Business Finland is the Finnish government organization for innovation funding and trade, travel, and investment promotion. It helps Finnish companies grow internationally and supports foreign companies in establishing operations in Finland. Business Finland is known for its significant contributions to the country's economic development and innovation ecosystem.

Website: <https://www.businessfinland.com/>

4. Finnish National Agency for Education



📍 **Location: Helsinki, Finland**

The Finnish National Agency for Education is responsible for developing education and training, early childhood education, and lifelong learning. It provides various services to support the education system, including curriculum development, teacher training, and international cooperation.

Website: <https://www.oph.fi/en>

5. City of Turku



📍 **Location: Turku, Finland**

Turku is one of Finland's oldest cities, known for its rich history and vibrant cultural scene. The city offers a blend of medieval architecture and modern urban life. Key attractions include the Turku Castle, the Cathedral, and the bustling market square.

Website: <https://www.visitfinland.com/en/places-to-go/coast-and-archipelago/turku/>

6. Regional Council of South-West Finland



Location: Turku, Finland

The Regional Council of South-West Finland is a joint municipal authority responsible for regional development and planning in South-West Finland. It focuses on enhancing regional competitiveness, sustainable development, and improving the quality of life for residents.

Website: <https://varsinais-suomi.fi/en/>

7. Meyer Turku Shipyard



Location: Turku, Finland

Meyer Turku is one of the leading shipbuilding companies in Europe, specializing in the construction of cruise ships, car-passenger ferries, and special vessels. The shipyard is known for its state-of-the-art technology and innovative ship designs.

Website: <https://www.visitfinland.com/en/places-to-go/coast-and-archipelago/turku/>

8. Turku Science Park



 **Location: Turku, Finland**

Turku Science Park is a hub for innovation and business, fostering collaboration between academia, research institutions, and industry. It supports startups and established companies in various fields, including biotechnology, ICT, and cleantech.

Website: <https://www.turku.fi/en/housing-and-environment/urban-planning/city-planning/turku-science-park>

9. Turku Bioscience Centre



 **Location: Turku, Finland**

The Turku Bioscience Centre is a joint research institution of the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University. It focuses on molecular biology, cell biology, and biotechnology, providing cutting-edge research and innovation in the life sciences sector.

Website: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/turku-bioscience>

10. Bayer Turku



📍 **Location: Turku, Finland**

Bayer Turku is a pharmaceutical research and production facility that focuses on innovative healthcare solutions. It is part of the global Bayer Group and plays a significant role in developing and manufacturing medical products and therapies.

Website: <https://www.bayer.fi/>

11. Wärtsilä



📍 **Location: Turku, Finland**

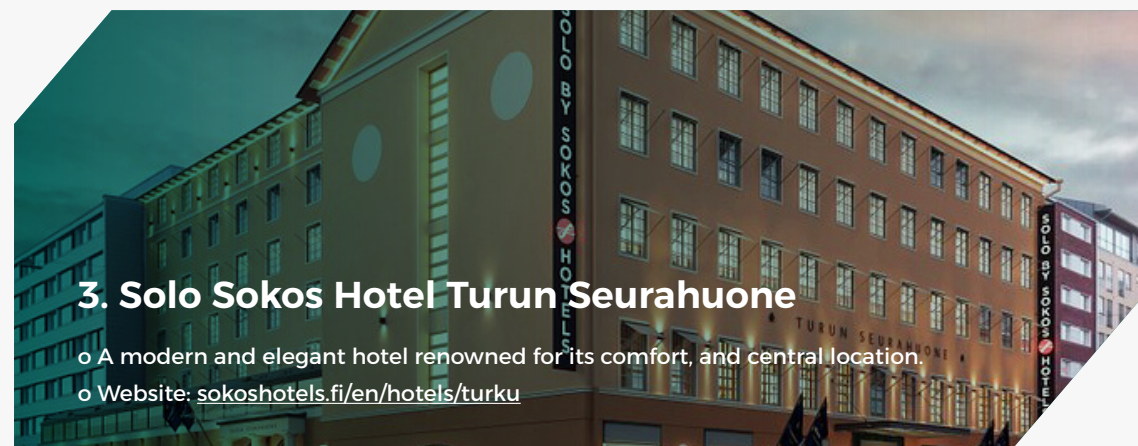
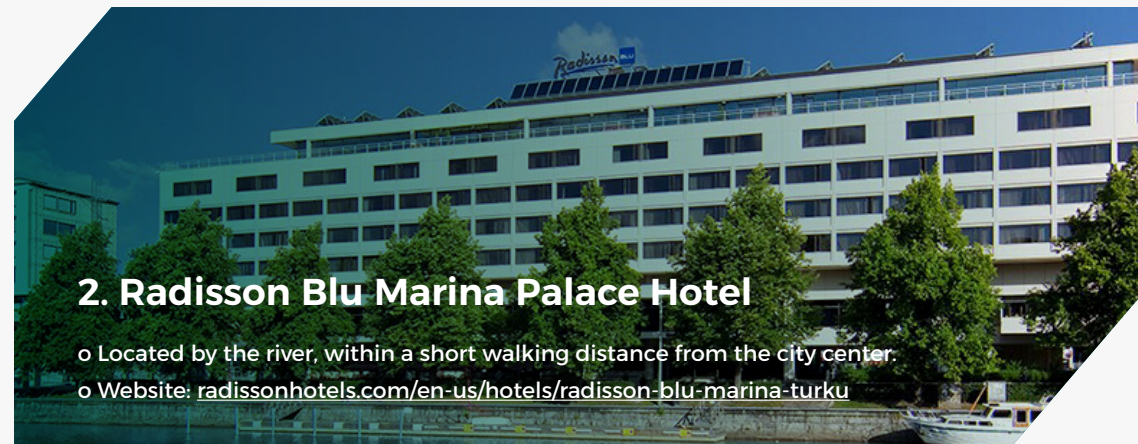
Wärtsilä is a global leader in smart technologies and complete lifecycle solutions for the marine and energy markets. The company is known for its innovations in sustainable technology and plays a vital role in the maritime and energy sectors.

Website: <https://www.wartsila.com/>

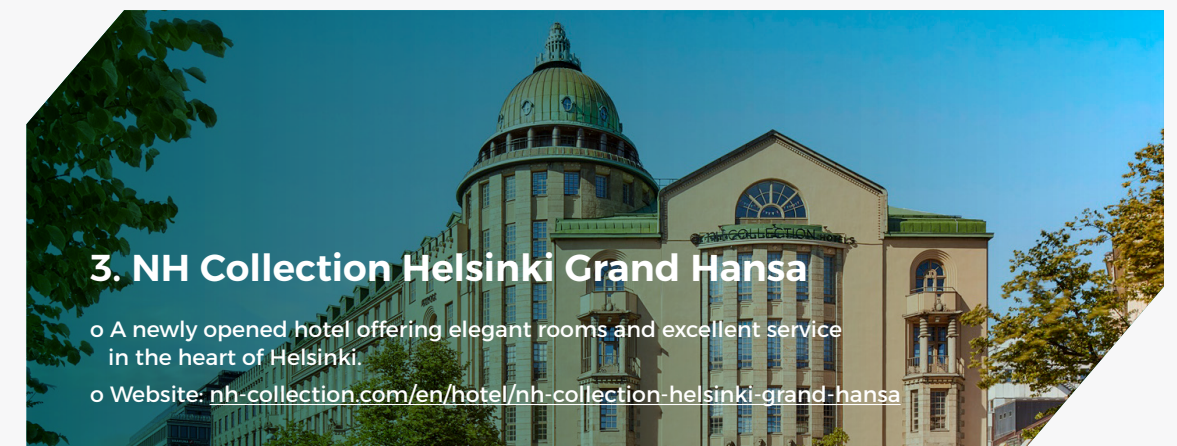
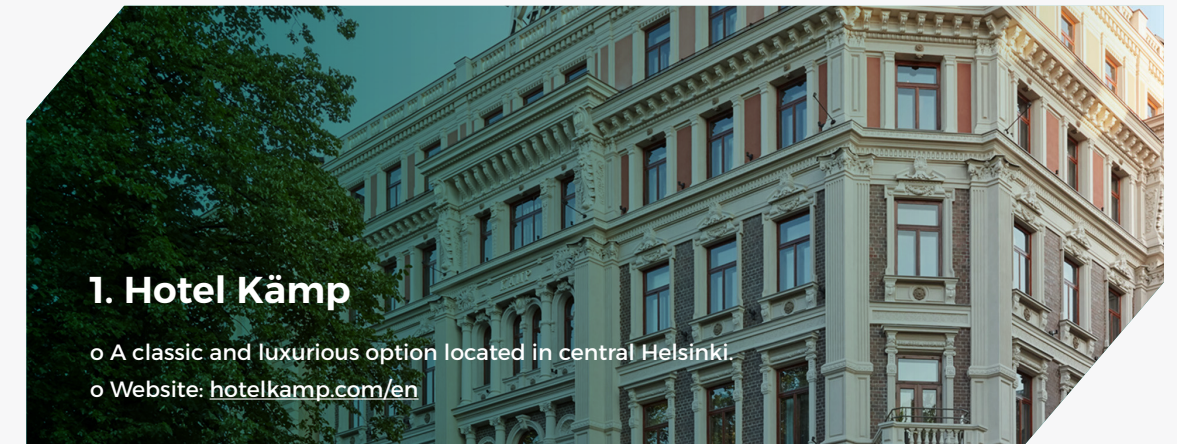
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A list of recommended accommodation

• In Turku



• In Helsinki





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