GLOBAL TALENT MENTORING

by the World Giftedness Center

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CELEBRATING SIX CYCLES OF MENTORING: FROM YOUNG TALENTS TO EMERGING STEMM PROFESSIONALS

Dr. Mariam Ali Alghawi
Director
Global Talent Mentoring

On 21 June 2026, Global Talent Mentoring reached another important milestone as we announced the mentee selection outcomes for our sixth cohort to partners and collaborators, as well as program applicants around the world.

This year, building on the momentum of previous cycles, the program attracted 148 applications from young STEMM talents representing 29 countries across the globe.

Following a thorough review process, 77 complete applications were evaluated, and 27 exceptional students were selected to join the program. Congratulations to our newest mentees, and welcome to the Global Talent Mentoring community!

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedication of our partner organizations, collaborators, and supporters, whose steady efforts since November 2025 have helped identify and encourage promising young talents worldwide. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment to the program's mission. The continued interest in the program highlights the growing reach of our international mentoring network and the opportunities it creates for aspiring STEMM talents. Each new cohort brings fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and a shared passion for learning, enriching the global community that has grown steadily since the program's launch.

As we prepare for the next mentoring cycle in the autumn, we warmly welcome our sixth cohort and look forward to supporting them on their mentoring journey. At the same time, while we remain committed to

WGC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2027

The World Giftedness Center is pleased to announce the 4th World Giftedness Center International Conference, taking place virtually from **18–21 October 2027**.

Under the theme
"Future Minds: Preparing the Gifted for a Complex and Accelerating World,"
the conference will bring together leading researchers, educators, practitioners, and experts from around the world to share knowledge, innovative practices, and forward-looking perspectives in gifted education and talent development.

SAVE THE DATE!

Further details regarding the conference program, speakers, and registration will be announced soon. Stay connected with us through our website and social media accounts:

www.wgc.ae
@worldgiftednesscenter
worldgiftednesscenter2021
World Giftedness Center bringing excellence through mentoring each new cohort, we are placing an even greater focus on celebrating the successes and achievements of our senior mentees. Many are now pursuing postgraduate studies while publishing and presenting research, undertaking internships, developing competitive research grant proposals, and serving as teaching assistants. These accomplishments are the result of years of dedication, perseverance, and purposeful growth. Every success is well earned, every achievement carefully planned, and every triumph fully merited.

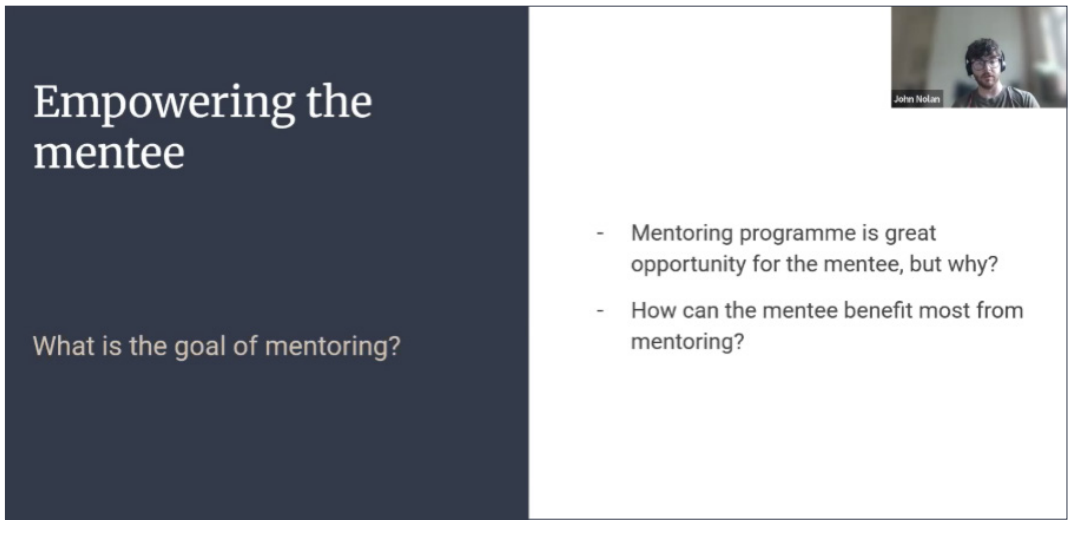
Behind each of these achievements stands a network of internationally renowned STEMM experts who have encouraged, supported, and guided our mentees throughout their journeys. It is with the utmost gratitude and appreciation that we extend our deepest thanks to our mentors, whose generosity, expertise, and unwavering commitment make these accomplishments possible. By volunteering their time and placing their knowledge and experience at the service of young STEMM talents, they help nurture the next generation of scientists, innovators, and leaders in STEMM.

The Global Talent Mentoring team is proud to join our mentors, partners, families, and supporters in acknowledging these milestones and the remarkable impact our mentees are making within the global STEMM community. As another successful cycle comes to a close, we reflect with pride on all that has been achieved this year and with optimism on all that is yet to come.

WHEN MENTORING EVOLVES: HOW ALIGNMENT, TRUST, AND INITIATIVE DRIVE SUCCESS

Dr. Zulaikha Mohamed
Senior Researcher – Global Talent Mentoring

On 11 June 2026, the Global Talent Mentoring program community came together for "Dyad Dynamics: Insights from My Mentee Experiences", a presentation delivered by senior mentee and postgraduate researcher John Nolan.



Attended by members of the program team, mentors, and mentees, the session offered a thoughtful and candid exploration of mentoring relationship dynamics, personal growth, research development, and the lasting impact of effective mentorship.

As one of the program's earliest mentees, John shared his experience of navigating an important transition in his mentoring journey. He reflected on the courageous decision to move into a new mentoring dyad when he recognised that his evolving research ambitions, working style, and professional aspirations would benefit from a different expertise and approach. Rather than viewing this change as a setback, John demonstrated how adapting a mentoring relationship to better reflect a mentee's goals can create new opportunities for growth and success.

Now two years into his current mentoring relationship with Dr. Alexios Tamparopoulos, John reflected on the significant achievements that have emerged from this partnership. These include his progression into postgraduate studies, contributions to the wider research community, and the development of a clearer understanding of his academic and professional goals. He also spoke openly about the importance of self-awareness, proactively seeking support, and communicating aspirations and challenges with mentors. His reflections highlighted how successful mentoring relationships are built on trust, adaptability, and a shared commitment to development.

A particularly inspiring part of the presentation focused on John's development of rcollectadhd, an R package that represents a significant milestone in his own academic journey as well as in the program's broader contribution to the global research community. Under the mentorship of Dr. Tamparopoulos, John developed the package to improve access to ADHD research data for researchers and data scientists around the world. The project enabled him to combine his personal interest in attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with the development of practical data science skills. The package brings together datasets from multiple ADHD research studies and includes analytical functions, creating a centralised and freely available resource within the R environment. The package was successfully accepted and published on the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN), making it accessible to the global R community and establishing a lasting contribution to the field.

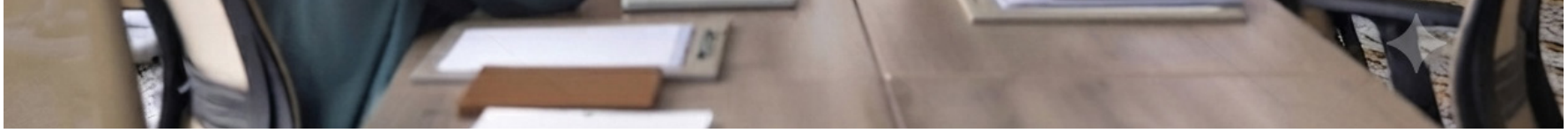
In the final part of the session, Dr. Alexios Tamparopoulos joined the discussion to share valuable insights from the perspective of a STEMM mentor.

Drawing on his experience mentoring emerging researchers, he highlighted the importance of flexibility and openness within mentoring relationships.

While mentoring is often associated with facilitation and guidance, Dr. Tamparopoulos noted that there are occasions when mentors may need to adopt elements of direct teaching to address specific technical or disciplinary needs and help mentees progress effectively. He also emphasised the importance of creating mentoring environments in which mentees feel comfortable seeking support and asking questions without concern about imposing on their mentor's time. This can be particularly relevant for highly independent, motivated, and disciplined mentees, characteristics commonly observed among participants in the Global Talent Mentoring Program, who may be reluctant to seek assistance despite the value that timely guidance can provide. His reflections offered practical insights into fostering open communication, trust, and mutual understanding within mentoring relationships.

John and Dr. Tamparopoulos' presentation reinforced the importance of initiative, self-advocacy, and the willingness to embrace change when pursuing ambitious academic and professional goals. Through honest reflection, practical lessons, and real-world research achievements, the session provided the program community with valuable perspectives on building impactful mentoring relationships and highlighted the far-reaching outcomes that can emerge when mentors and mentees work together toward shared goals.

OPENING NEW PATHWAYS FOR GIFTED STUDENTS IN THE UAE



Every new partnership begins with a conversation about what more can be made possible for gifted students. Recently, interest from schools across the UAE led to a series of meetings with the Global alent Mentoring team to explore potential partnerships and opportunities for students with advanced interests in STEMM.

The conversations focused on the program's goals, student eligibility requirements, and the nomination process. School representatives learned how partner organizations identify and nominate students whose interests, motivation, and readiness make them strong candidates for long-term mentoring.

Future partnerships could open the program to more students from the UAE while bringing new perspectives, experiences, and areas of interest into its international community. For current participants, this growth means becoming part of an increasingly diverse network united by curiosity, ambition, and a commitment to advancing talent in STEMM.

Global Awards for Gifted Education Excellence

Honoring researchers advancing the science of giftedness and schools transforming it into educational practice

$25,000
AWARD VALUE

FOR RESEARCHERS

Applied Research Global Award of Gifted Education

Honors researchers worldwide whose published work has advanced the field of giftedness and talent development. Open to individual researchers with recent publications in high-quality, peer-reviewed journals in gifted education or related fields.

$25,000
AWARD VALUE

FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATORS

School Global Award Initiative of Gifted Education

Celebrates outstanding school projects and programs that support gifted and talented learners. Open to public and private schools (K1 to pre-university) and accredited higher education programs.

Applications may be submitted individually or jointly.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 24, 2026
EARLY SUBMISSION IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

Applications Open	Submissions Deadline	Judging Panel Review	Winners Announced
JAN 2026	24 AUG 2026	SEP 2026	TBA

Researchers, schools, and educators who meet the eligibility criteria are invited to apply:

ELIGIBILITY

RESEARCH AWARD

International researchers with outstanding, innovative, and recently published research in giftedness, talent development, and related fields.

SCHOOL AWARD

Schools and accredited educational institutions demonstrating exceptional and sustained contributions to the education and development of gifted and talented learners.

World Giftedness Center

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