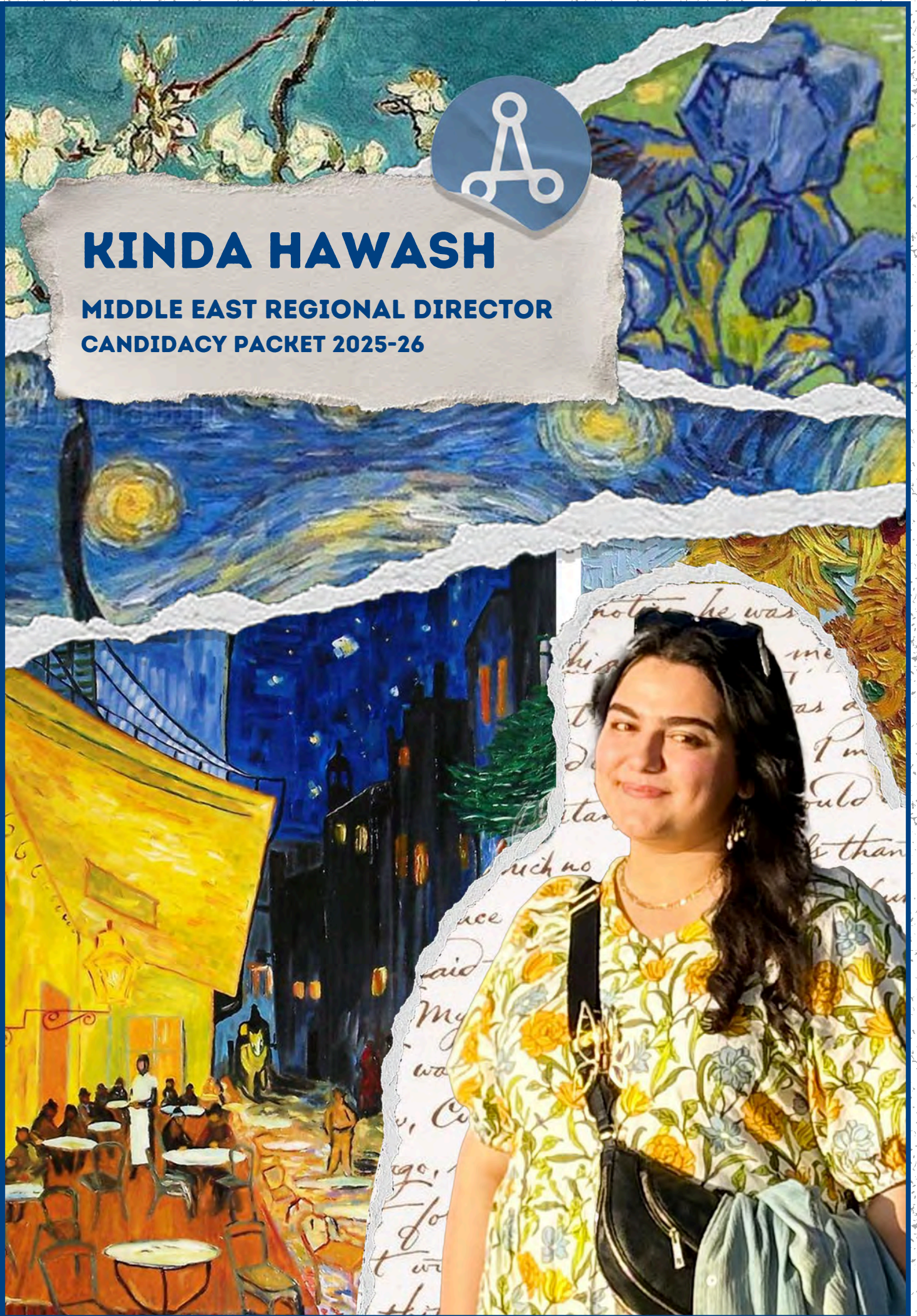




**KINDA HAWASH**

**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL DIRECTOR  
CANDIDACY PACKET 2025-26**





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**Kinda Hawash, AIAS**

6th of December

**Colt Brock, AIAS, NOMA, Assoc. AIA**

Past President, Elections Chair, American Institute of Architecture Students  
1735 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC 20006



Dear Past President Colt,

It is with immense enthusiasm that I submit my candidacy for the Middle East Regional Director position. As I approach my final year in school, I often reflect on the day I met our chapter's founder and first president, Ayman Bitar. It was during my second year, right after the isolation of COVID. As a lifelong immigrant, finding an inspiring and driven group of peers within AIAS brought me immense joy. I clearly remember going home that day and excitedly telling my parents that one day I will become the president of our chapter. At the time, that aspiration felt as monumental as becoming the president of the world—and little did I know what that journey would bring.

Four years later, I am honored to serve as my chapter's president and to count three incredible years of involvement with AIAS national committees and task forces. Yet, this feels like just the beginning. Being part of committees as a Middle Eastern student has been a transformative experience, opening my eyes to the global opportunities in architecture and connecting me with a supportive and inspiring community. This network has become a vital part of my identity as an architecture student, and it has instilled in me a relentless drive to do more—for my chapter, my country, and the entire Middle East.

My journey with AIAS continues to surprise me with how the world becomes smaller every day and barriers seem to grow easier to overcome. These years have been marked by growth, collaboration, and discovery. Through initiatives such as leading creative membership campaigns, hosting design workshops, and organizing impactful events, I have worked tirelessly to ensure that architecture students in my chapter and beyond feel connected to a global network of inspiration, opportunity, and resources.

As a bridge between chapters in the Middle East, I aim to elevate our region's presence on the global AIAS platform. My vision is to create opportunities for knowledge exchange, cultural representation, and professional development that will empower every chapter and member in our region to thrive.

Lastly, I must extend my heartfelt gratitude to Colt. Your unwavering support and friendship over the past three years have been invaluable. Serving alongside you on committees has been an honor, not only because of your leadership as director, president, and past president but also for the genuine connection you've fostered across borders.

This candidacy represents my commitment to serving our region and contributing to the AIAS community that has given me so much. I am excited to take this next step together.

Warm Regards,  
Kinda,

**1- LETTER OF INTENT**



# KINDA HAWASH, AIAS

kindahawash@gmail.com | +972594971400



## EDUCATION

- **Bachelor of Architecture Engineering** **Sep 2020 - Now**  
An-Najah National University, Palestine
- **High School Education** **Sep 2017 - Jun 2020**  
The Fourth high school for girls, Saudi Arabia

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- **3D Visualizer in interior architectural office** **23th Feb 2024 - Now**  
Part Time job in Creative Designs firm
- **Intern architect at Sakakini and Partners** **7th July - 3rd Sep 2024**  
Summer intern in local firm
- **Revit Course instructor** **27th Jan - 8th Feb 2024**  
Online course for our chapters students

## HONORS AND CONFRENCES

- **Finals participants in ChemECube competition - AIChE conference** **23rd Oct - 30 Oct 2024**  
Marketing manager, the first middle eastern team to be elected for finals in San Diego, California
- **Alumni exchange student** **7th Sep 2024**  
Announced alumni after in-person exchange in ASU, Arizona
- **1st place winner of architectural virtual competition with ASU** **7th May 2024**  
1st place among teams, and among individuals
- **The best AIAS chapter in the world for the second time in a row.** **Jan 2024**  
contributed with our chapter AIAS-NNU

## NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- **AIAS Liaison in AIA strategic counsel** **2024-2025**
- **Member in the Governance Committee** **2024-2025**
- **Member in the FBD Committee** **2023-2024**
- **Member in the Membership Committee** **2022-2023**

## LOCAL INVOLVEMENT - NNU

- **Chapter President** **2024-2025**
- **Activities Coordinator** **2023-2024**
- **Video editor volunteer** **2022-2021**
- **Member** **2021-2022**





**1. We all love the AIAS for different reasons, but it takes a critical and constructive analysis of the institutions we appreciate most to continue to evolve them into entities that can support each new generation of membership. Why are you running for a position on the AIAS Board of Directors? What about the organization and its membership motivates you to seek a leadership position?**

Over the past three years with AIAS, I have witnessed incredible dedication to supporting architects and architecture students. The passion and energy of this community are truly inspiring, and it's something I always look forward to sharing. While I've sought opportunities to engage with international students through my university, none have resonated more deeply with me as an architect than AIAS. That's why I often refer to it as my AIAS family.

I am running for this position to amplify the voices of architecture students across our region, foster collaboration, and ensure that our unique challenges and opportunities are represented on the global stage. AIAS has been a transformative experience, connecting me with peers and mentors who've profoundly shaped my journey. My goal is to extend this incredible experience to my fellow Middle Eastern students, empowering them to thrive within this supportive and inspiring network.



**2. Though it may be hard to believe, the AIAS is not perfect. A critical analysis of any organization is a healthy part of its operation. There may be things that you feel the AIAS could do better, or maybe you see new opportunities or partners to engage. Where do you see room for improvement or new areas for the organization to expand into?**

As an AIAS international member, I strongly believe the organization has tremendous potential to expand its presence in our region. Unfortunately, many Middle Eastern students remain unaware of AIAS unless they actively seek opportunities to engage with the global community. In most cases, chapter engagement with the national office is limited to their presidents, which leaves significant opportunities untapped. Having joined a national committee before serving on my local board, I've seen firsthand the possibilities for deeper involvement.

To address this, AIAS can develop targeted resources for international chapters, such as accessible funding opportunities, culturally adaptive programming, and virtual events to foster global connections. Strengthening ties with local industries would also empower chapters to address regional architectural challenges while tapping into locally relevant expertise and support. These steps would not only increase engagement but also create a stronger, more connected global AIAS community.





**3. In recent years, the AIAS has increased its efforts in advocacy for architecture students on issues including but not limited to health and wellness, equity, student loan debt, Learning & Teaching Culture, practice experience, leadership, and technology. What one issue do you personally find the most important? How would you make progress on this issue as an elected leader on the AIAS Board of Directors?**

As a Middle Eastern student, and particularly as a Palestinian, I have witnessed how access to resources and opportunities can vary drastically across our region. Many universities lack access to the latest architectural technologies, leading to graduates who often possess the same skill sets as those from a decade ago. This disparity is particularly evident in outdated curricula, where some institutions update their programs regularly, while others remain stagnant for years.

Equity in architectural education is a pressing issue in the Middle East. To address this, I initiated collaborations with nearby chapters, where advanced students in specific fields share their expertise through lectures, and in return, our students reciprocate with knowledge in other areas. These exchanges have already begun bridging gaps in skills and knowledge, proving the potential of collaborative efforts.

I believe leveraging technology to scale these collaborations can drive impactful change. As Regional Director, I would advocate for equitable access to resources by establishing mentorship programs, creating toolkits for leadership and event planning, and connecting chapters with international sponsors. Empowering students with the tools to thrive, regardless of their circumstances, will help build a stronger, more inclusive architectural community in the Middle East.



**The AIAS has over 300 chapters across the U.S. and around the world, ranging in size, age range, and even purpose. How would you use your position on the Board to better connect and engage our geographically and culturally diverse membership? What resources would you propose to better serve Chapter leaders seeking to grow their chapters and connect to other students around the world?**

To better connect and engage our diverse membership, I would prioritize regular virtual conferences where chapters can exchange experiences and collaborate on regional initiatives. A key proposal would be a Middle East Leadership Summit to foster mentorship, resource-sharing, and provide an opportunity for me to share updates from the national office, ensuring chapters are aligned with upcoming events.

Additionally, I'd work on expanding digital platforms to create a shared repository of templates, toolkits, and funding opportunities, empowering chapter leaders to grow and strengthen global ties. My chapter was the first in Palestine, and over the past four years, we've helped establish three more AIAS chapters across the country. If we can harness our resources and collective strength to replicate this success on a regional scale, it will lead to significant growth for our entire community.





**5. Describe how you intend to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of your chosen position on the Board. Elaborate on your intended communication/action plan and the primary goals you have for your one-year term.**

I plan to establish clear and consistent communication with chapter leaders through monthly check-ins and biannual progress reviews. My goals include creating a Middle East-specific support system for chapter growth, organizing regional networking events, and increasing the visibility of Middle Eastern chapters on AIAS platforms. I will act as a bridge between chapters and the Board, advocating for resources tailored to our unique needs and ensuring our voices are heard.

As Regional Director, I will focus on connecting students and guiding them through the process of attending FORUM and GRASSROOTS in the U.S. Additionally, I will work to bring similar opportunities locally by hosting regional conferences and events. These initiatives will help bridge the gap between our region and the wider AIAS community, providing invaluable experiences and resources to empower students in their academic and professional journeys.



**6. As an organization that is constantly evolving, the AIAS has to often re-evaluate its priorities. What strategic priorities would you like to see the AIAS focus on during your time on the Board?**

I'd like to see AIAS prioritize:

1-Global Chapter Equity: Developing programs that provide equitable resources for international chapters.

2-Cultural Representation: Showcasing the work of Middle Eastern chapters through global AIAS platforms.

3-Sustainability in Practice: Integrating workshops on sustainable design tailored to regional challenges.

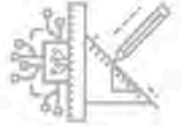
4-Professional Development: Expanding internship and mentorship opportunities to better prepare students for the workforce.





جامعة النجاح الوطنية  
An-Najah National University

كلية الهندسة وتكنولوجيا المعلومات  
Faculty of Engineering & Information Technology  
Dean's office العميد مكتب



25.11.2024

**To:** To the AIAS Selection Committee,

**Subject:** Recommendation for Kinda Hawash's Candidacy for AIAS Board of Directors

**To whom it may concern,**

The following is intended to confirm that An Najah National University is aware of Kinda Hawash's candidacy for the AIAS Board of Directors.

For more than two years, I have been acquainted with Kinda and have observed her enthusiasm for the AIAS. She has been entirely committed to the advancement of her chapter, of which she assumed the role of president early this year. It is a source of genuine satisfaction to witness the experiences and triumphs that Kinda has undergone this year, as it is a testament to the exceptional preparation our school provides for our kids to compete and represent the country on a global stage.

Kinda is an exceptional student and an exceptional developing professional. Her extraordinary communication abilities and her capacity to inspire and motivate others were genuinely remarkable. In many cases, the success of student organizations is contingent upon the capacity of student leaders to encourage and mobilize their peers toward collective action on a year-to-year basis. Additionally, I am of the opinion that Kinda is exceedingly well-equipped to excel in this position, as she has acquired leadership experience and is capable of working in the best interest of her colleagues.

Please interpret this letter as my most fervent endorsement of Kinda as a candidate for the Middle East Director position on the AIAS Board of Directors. I am of the opinion that she will continue to develop and will apply the knowledge she acquires as a peer leader to both her chapter and her future professional career.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Muhannad Haj Hussein, PhD.

Dean of The Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology  
An-Najah National University



Palestine

Haj\_mj@najah.edu

University

Nabulus, Palestine - Tel: +972(9)2345113 - Ex: 38-2253 - Fax: +972(9)2345932 - E: info@najah.edu

Faculty

eng@najah.edu

ANajahUni

https://www.najah.edu



**AIAS**  
An-Najah National  
University Chapter

2024-2025 AIAS NNU Chapter  
The American Institute of Architecture Students  
An-Najah National University Chapter  
Nablu-Palestine

**25.11.2024**

**To: Colt Brock, AIAS Past President**

**Dalia Zaid**

**FBD Director**

**AIAS An-Najah National University Chapter**

To the Selection Committee,

It is with immense pride and confidence that I would like to recommend the Chapter Leader of AIAS An-Najah National University, Kinda Hawash, for the esteemed position of AIAS Middle East Director. During the past year, Kinda has manifested an exceptionally high level of leadership, creativity, and dedication, all combined in one outstanding character that makes her the most suitable candidate to fill this pivotal position.

Under the guidance of Kinda last year as the activity coordinator, our chapter has grown not only in size but also in impact. She successfully initiated and managed projects related to architectural and social challenges within our community, such as the community service projects combining sustainability and Palestinian cultural identity and collaborations with local organizations to foster community engagement. She has been instrumental in rallying together a team of diverse minds, effectively delegating work, and infusing them with enthusiasm toward successful completions. Her leadership is inclusive, innovative, and forward-thinking. Kinda has consistently demonstrated with her visionary thinking where she charted a well-defined course for the growth of our chapter, which involved integrating innovation workshops, design competitions, and interdisciplinary collaborations.

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Nablu, Palestine  
+970 593 643 994  
dhaliiazaid@gmail.com





AIAS  
An-Najah National  
University Chapter

2024-2025 AIAS NNU Chapter  
The American Institute of Architecture Students  
An-Najah National University Chapter  
Nablus-Palestine

Also her commitment to excellence where she has been a tireless champion in upholding the values of AIAS and working to ensure that each event and project reflects the organization's mission of creating leadership and creativity.

Besides her professional accomplishments, Kinda is deeply empathetic; this further allows her to connect at a personal level with the team members and peers. She takes time to mentor people, which encourages their personal and professional growth while fostering a collaborative environment, even helping others with their own work including me in my FBD projects she was the first one to lend a hand even to minor struggles.

I strongly believe that Kinda has the skills, passion, and determination to lead the AIAS Middle East region with integrity and innovation. Her ability to build bridges across cultures, tackle challenges head-on, and inspire others to reach their full potential aligns seamlessly with the responsibilities of the AIAS Middle East Director role.

It is an honor to recommend Kinda for this position, and I am confident that she will bring immense value to AIAS on an international scale, especially that now I have witnessed her work as the chapter leader this year.

Sincerely,

Dalia A.N Zaid

FBD Director

AIAS An-Najah National University Chapter

Nablus, Palestine  
+970 593 643 994  
dhaliazaid@gmail.com





## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS

In July 1993, the AIAS Board of Directors adopted a "Public Policy on Uncompensated Interns." The policy has been subsequently reviewed and reaffirmed by the Board and reads as follows:

The AIAS maintains that employers must properly compensate all employees. Compensation must be in compliance with the regulations for the jurisdiction in which they are working.

In 2010, AIAS crafted a public statement on intern compensation in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the American Institute of Architects, which reads as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, the American Institute of Architects, and the American Institute of Architecture Students recognize that architects are bound by law and ethics to pay interns, and strongly advocate for the appropriate compensation of architectural students and interns. Because of current economic transformations, some architects have both solicited and accepted the services and labor of interns without pay. We strongly urge architectural firms and other for-profit employers to respect the law and comply with the ethical standards of our profession, and we strongly encourage interns to refuse to accept employment without pay, and to notify the Department of Labor in cases where employers propose such an arrangement. For more information on labor laws and professional ethics, please see the AIA Code of Ethics and the U.S. Labor Department standards under the Fair Labor Standards Act.


The ACSA, AIA, and AIAS further support architects, students, and recent graduate doing pro-bono work. We recognize the distinction between unpaid work for profit-making employers, and unpaid work for non-profit organizations, communities in need, and volunteer activities, which allows participants to determine their own hours and degree of involvement. The AIA has established guidelines for service that are provided on a Pro Bono basis. They can be found under the member section of the AIA website.

### POLICY ON COMPENSATION FOR INTERNS AFFIRMATION

As a way of confirming that the AIAS is not promoting or being promoted by architects employing unpaid interns, we ask that each participant in an official AIAS function review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation in our event and thank you for your support of our position against unpaid internships. This position is supported as well by the Board of Directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Name: Kinda Hawash

I do hereby affirm that I understand and support the AIAS policy on the compensation for interns. If I employ interns, I further affirm that I do not use unpaid architectural interns in my professional practice when applicable by federal wage and hour laws.

Signature: 

Date: 12.6.2024





## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS

Elections are a critical step by which the American Institute of Architecture Students is governed. Annual elections, as outlined in the Bylaws and the Rules of the Board, ensure that the membership of the organization participates in the selection of the best candidates to serve on the national Board of Directors.

Individuals elected to the Board of Directors represent the membership and ensure the continued success of the organization. Therefore, participants who are involved in the elections process, including candidates and Board Members, are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and good judgment.

Confidentiality is required of all participants in the elections process. Participants should not discuss details of the elections process to the general membership before, during or after FORUM. Elections information that is considered public knowledge, and therefore can be shared with the membership, occurs during the General Business Sessions and at the General Assemblies.

Campaigning is strictly prohibited prior to FORUM. Conversation between chapters regarding candidates should not take place. Campaigning will only begin at the first General Assembly of FORUM.

Campaigning during FORUM shall be professional. Candidates and candidate support groups should be respectful in their campaigning efforts. Disrespectful campaigning will be a violation of the Elections Code of Ethics, and will be grounds for immediate review by the Past President.

Campaigning materials should follow the Election Guidelines, and should be distributed in appropriate venues only. Appropriate venues include FORUM General Business Sessions, General Assemblies, and Quad Breakouts.


As leaders of this organization, and future leaders of this profession, we must uphold the highest ethical practice. Questionable behavior during elections will not be tolerated. Any concerns should be immediately raised with the Past President.

### ELECTIONS CODE OF ETHICS AFFIRMATION

To promote the highest level of professionalism during elections, we ask that each participant in the elections process review and sign the following statement. We appreciate your participation and thank you for your support and dedication to the organization.

Name: Kinda Hawash

I do hereby affirm that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the AIAS Elections Code of Ethics and the Elections Guidelines.

Signature: 

Date: 12.6.2024

Please submit this form with your confirmation for participation.



## AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS CANDIDATE CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

Candidate contact information will only be used by the Past President to communicate elections-related information. If provided, social media handles will be shared when candidates are posted publicly on AIAS website and social media.

Name (as preferred): Kinda Hawash

Chapter: An-Najah National University NNU

Chapter Leadership Position (if any): President

Email Address: kindahawash@gmail.com

Mobile Phone Number: +972594971400

Social Media Account Handles (optional):

- o Facebook: Kinda Hawash
- o Twitter: @
- o Instagram: @kindahawash
- o Other:



