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## **Orascom Construction Sponsors Egyptian Students to Study in USA for the 21<sup>st</sup> Consecutive Year**

Orascom Construction is proud to announce that it has awarded full educational scholarships to three Egyptian students under the *Onsi Sawiris Scholarship Program*. The students will attend Harvard University and the University of Chicago to pursue undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

This milestone marks the 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive year for the *Onsi Sawiris Scholarship Program*. Since 2000, Orascom Construction, in partnership with the Sawiris Foundation for Social Development, has awarded 91 scholarships to Egyptian students. Previous candidates have attended top US institutions including Harvard University, Stanford University, the University of Chicago, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania.

The *Onsi Sawiris Scholarship Program* provides scholarships to Egyptian graduate & undergraduate students to attend prestigious universities in the United States in fields that contribute to the economic development of Egypt. The scholarships include full tuition, living allowance, travel allowance and health insurance. Students are selected based on character and merit as demonstrated through academic excellence, extracurricular activities and entrepreneurial initiative.

Orascom Construction believes that education plays a critical role in the positive development of Egypt. As such, the *Onsi Sawiris Scholarship Program* requires students to return to Egypt upon completion of their degrees.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.onsisawirisscholarship.org/>.

### **Biographies of the Scholarship Recipients for 2021-2022:**

#### **Seif Ayad – The University of Chicago**

Seif is a well-rounded, accomplished individual graduating with honors from the Modern English School Cairo. Seif's academic abilities were evident after receiving an Outstanding Learner Award from Cambridge University upon receiving the highest scores in Egypt across seven IGCSE subjects.

Seif has a strong sense of commitment towards his community. In tenth grade, he co-founded with his colleagues a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the unprivileged by providing food, clothes, or emotional support. Through his duties as head of marketing, he encouraged more than fifty teenagers from his local community to participate in weekly donation drives and visits to 57357 children's cancer hospital. Seif's non-profit also raised almost EGP 120,000 in less than two years to provide food supplies in Ramadan for families affected by the coronavirus.

After receiving a full scholarship from the Onsi Sawiris Scholarship Program to study at The University of Chicago, Seif is determined to pursue a Bachelor's in Economics with a specialization in Business Economics. He hopes to return with the skills and knowledge to excel in his professional career and have a transformative impact on the Egyptian economy.

#### **Karim Sharaf – The University of Chicago**

Karim is a persevering, accomplished graduate of the International School of Choueifat-City of 6 October. Throughout his school journey, he strived to excel both on the academic and extra-curricular fronts.

Academically, he challenged himself by combining his studies for the SABIS® High School Diploma with both the IGCSE and A-Level exams, in addition to the ACT and SAT- achieving excellent results across the board.



Karim was selected as Deputy Head of the Academics Department where he enhanced the school's Academic Support Club by integrating technology into their approach and by introducing a variety of unique academic events such as "Countries Around the World", targeted at engaging the student body academically.

Furthermore, he took charge of organizing a number of activities, most notably the "Colorful Rush for Running Water" event which aimed to raise funds to build water wells in rural areas. He also led the creation of the school's first virtual yearbook.

In his Senior year, Karim was appointed as Secretary General of the school's prestigious ISCMUN. Amidst all restrictions posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Karim was still able to present the ISCMUN delegates with a memorable and educational experience. Through believing in the notion that the #The\_Debate\_Never\_Stops, he worked to develop ISCMUN's fully fledged online option that featured developing the ISCMUN website that is set to stand for generations to come.

Karim believes that studying at the University of Chicago will grant him the skills and experience needed to eventually assist with Egypt's economic development upon his return.

### **Taher Farghaly – Harvard University**

Taher El Moataz Bellah is an engineer by profession and writer by passion. After finishing his IGSCes in Egypt where he was captain of Zamalek Club's water polo team, he traveled to the UK and studied mechanical engineering at Queen Mary University of London, where he was awarded the Third Best Academic Achievement award. However, he could not complete his degree due to financial difficulties and took a gap year working as a life guard and a McDonald's chef, then travelled back to Egypt to join the AUC on a full scholarship in 2009.

He graduated with a major in Petroleum Engineering and a minor in Political Science and joined the oil industry as a Field Engineer at Baker Hughes, where he was recognized for his safety leadership, before moving to work as a drilling engineer at BP, where he worked on board a drilling ship in the Mediterranean, Egypt's Nile Delta, and Oman's desert. And while he was off the field, he managed to start a promising writing career in parallel, publishing his first book *The Student Movement* at AUC in 2019, and writing various opinion articles in *El Shorouk*, *Mada Masr*, and *Daily News Egypt* newspapers. He also wrote 30 episodes for *El Da7ee7* online show, on topics such as history, entrepreneurship, and behavioral economics, contributing to the show gathering over a billion views on social media, becoming the most viewed online show in the middle east.



### **About Orascom Construction PLC**

Orascom Construction PLC is a leading global engineering and construction contractor primarily focused on infrastructure, industrial and high-end commercial projects in the Middle East, Africa and the United States. The Group has consistently ranked among the world's top contractors and is ranked number 38 on ENR's 2020 Top 250 International Contractors list. Orascom Construction PLC also develops and invests in infrastructure opportunities, owns 50% of BESIX Group, and holds a construction materials and facilities management portfolio. For more information, please visit [www.orascom.com](http://www.orascom.com).

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