

Sorbonne University
Abu Dhabi
2020 Annual Report



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



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Since its inauguration, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has been very keen on fulfilling its mission as a beacon of education in the region. The university adapts the highest standards of academic excellence and offers an environment that encourages scientific research, creativity and innovation.

It also pursues its role as an important historical partner by reinforcing human culture and focusing on investment in human minds. The Sorbonne Abu Dhabi seeks to ensure sustainable development and advancement by educating and watching graduate promising generations. We wish to equip them with the knowledge and skills that pave their route to success.

A principle that was founded by the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, may Allah have mercy on him, is evidenced when he said: “Building men is harder than building factories, and developed countries are measured by their number of educated people”. From this perspective, serving the community, and the contribution to the UAE’s educational development, which revolves around building individuals and preserving their intellectual freedom and human integrity, has always been a main priority and key objective for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

This year has been a perfect example of the UAE’s capability of turning crises into opportunities. The UAE has shown its ability to adapt to the requirements of this era regardless of the cost or how difficult the issue is and in spite of the major challenges that have resulted globally from the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the country has been at the forefront of digital transformation, which in turn has put in place exceptional smart solutions and interactive applications that distinctively contributed to the support the continuous educational process, while at the same time maintaining the safety and security of the students and that of the university’s community as a whole.

At the beginning of 2020, we appointed Professor Silvia Serrano as Vice-Chancellor of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. She took leadership of the academic and administrative teams with full competence and started executing the university’s plans and programmes. She made exceptional contributions to the advancement of the scientific and academic platforms and to the creation of a conducive environment for scientific research.

This year, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has witnessed tremendous success, exemplified in its ability to face challenges, overcome difficulties, and applied optimum solutions while placing the safety and security of the educational community as a top priority.

To the students, remember that you are the creators of a promising future filled with progress and prosperity.

”

H.E. Zaki Nusseibeh

Minister of State
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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In 2020, Sorbonne University and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi strove to support the student community through a time that no other generation had experienced before. Students continued their studies without interruption thanks to an immediate shift to remote learning and working.

During the pandemic, the students accommodation on campus remained open for the first time throughout the summer and other academic breaks to welcome students who were not able to return to their families, applying all sanitary rules and regulations.

Later in 2020, staff was allowed to return to campus following the official sanitary protocol of regular PCR testing and respecting social distancing measures. Thanks to the dedication and the relentless efforts of the academics and administrative teams, Students adapted quickly to find a new pace and successfully passed their academic year, and I am proud of our students' and staff's resilience. I am also proud to say that in 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has grown further under the leadership of a new Vice-Chancellor, Prof Silvia Serrano and her deputies for Academic and Administrative affairs. Despite the Covid-19 crisis, it has been a year of projects and developments.

New programmes oriented towards Sciences and Innovation opened such as the Bachelor in Mathematics, specialized in Data Science for Artificial Intelligence and a Foundation Year in Archives and Records Management, completing the existing bachelor in the same field. 2020 also saw the start of a new phase in which internal processes are being improved and the academic offer renewed.

On 26 January 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi celebrated a key step in its ambition of becoming a pioneer in Artificial Intelligence with the launch of the Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) and the creation of two chairs of excellence sponsored by Total

and Thales. Sorbonne University has created a unique higher education model in the UAE through its multicultural Abu Dhabi campus known as Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. I can only look forward to a brighter future and a lively campus, where students from all backgrounds will once again bring diversity.

”

Prof Jean Chambaz

President Sorbonne University
Vice-Chairman of the Board of Trustees of
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Professor Jean Chambaz is the President of Sorbonne University and the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees.



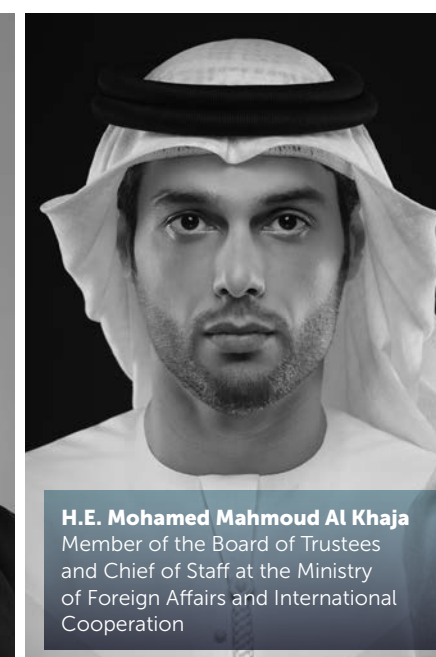
H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh
Minister of State and Chairman of
the Board of Trustees



Professor Jean Chambaz
Vice Chairman of the Board
of Trustees and President of
Sorbonne University



H.E. Salama Ajlan Alameemi
Member of the Board of Trustees and
Director General of the Authority of
Social Contribution – Ma'an



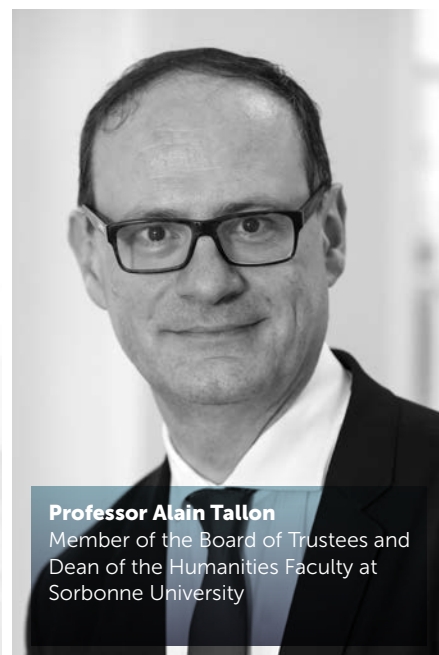
H.E. Mohamed Mahmoud Al Khaja
Member of the Board of Trustees
and Chief of Staff at the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs and International
Cooperation



H.E. Tareq Abdul Raheem Al Hosani
Member of the Board of Trustees and
Chief Executive Officer at Tawazun
Economic Council



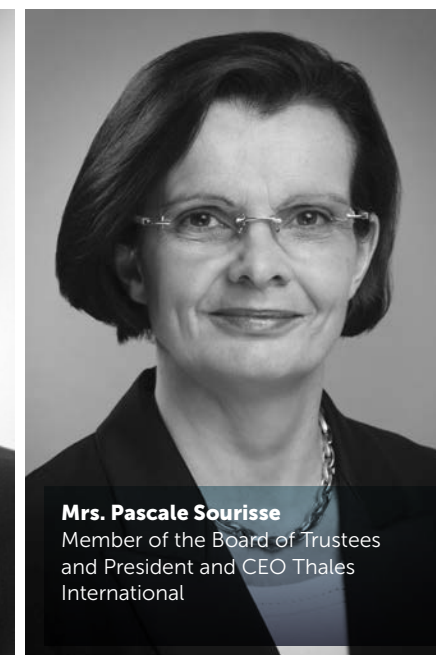
H.E. Mohamed Khaleefa AlNuaimi
Member of the Board of Trustees
and Director General of Executive
Financial Affairs at the Department of
Finance (DOF)



Professor Alain Tallon
Member of the Board of Trustees and
Dean of the Humanities Faculty at
Sorbonne University



H.E. François Delattre
Member of the Board of Trustees
and Secretary General of the Ministry
of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the
French Republic



Mrs. Pascale Sourisse
Member of the Board of Trustees
and President and CEO Thales
International



Mr. Stéphane Michel
Member of the Board of Trustees
and President of Middle East/North
Africa, Exploration & Production
Division at Total

DELIVERING OUTSTANDING EDUCATION DURING A PANDEMIC

1



WHO WE ARE

Located on Al Reem Island in Abu Dhabi, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a higher education institution established in 2006 through an agreement between Sorbonne University in Paris and the Government of Abu Dhabi. The university is under the administrative leadership of the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK) and the academic leadership of Sorbonne University (Paris). Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi offers exceptional standards of international higher education by delivering the same accredited programmes and degrees from Sorbonne University (Paris) in the fields of arts, humanities and sciences; and law, management and economics from the University of Paris.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi degrees are globally recognized, programmes offered follow the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and undergo accreditation by the UAE's Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA).

OUR VISION

To create and develop a university where the core competencies and rich heritage of Sorbonne University in Paris stimulates intellectual excellence, innovation, critical thinking, and harmony between cultures and develops knowledge for the benefit of the UAE and the world.

OUR MISSION

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to providing academic excellence and world-class international education that has become embedded in the UAE community. As an exceptional model of learning and knowledge development, we aim to create global leaders, thinkers and promote dialogue between cultures and civilisations.

THE BEGINNING OF
A NEW CYCLE

2020 marked a new turning point for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi’s leadership. Professor Silvia Serrano was appointed Vice-Chancellor to lead the implementation of the 2019-2023 strategic plan. She is accompanied by two Deputy Vice-Chancellors, Dr Laurence Renault in charge of Academic Affairs and Dr Majed Al Khemeiri in charge of Administrative Affairs.



“

Founded in 2006, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has served as a beacon of international education, demonstrating Sorbonne University’s global footprint and impact across one of the most dynamic regions in the world. In line with the university’s strategic plan and the vision of the UAE, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi continues to play a pivotal role in diversifying and developing the UAE’s higher education and research landscape.

Upon taking office in January 2020, and while we were establishing new grounds and carrying out the strategic plan, the COVID-19 virus emerged and spread throughout the globe, resulting in a world-wide pandemic and imposing unforeseen circumstances. Nevertheless, with the diligent efforts of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi team, we transitioned seamlessly to remote working, teaching, and learning with minimal disruption to our operations, therefore, enabling us to meet the strategic plan’s goals by the end of December 2020.

In today’s interconnected and complex world, it is important that globalisation does not lead to a standardised world. While diversity in people, cultures, and lifestyles is a reality, it also poses a challenge which can only be overcome by adopting diverse approaches, visions, and especially educational models. In this context, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi plays an increasingly significant role in educating students of diverse profiles to become well-informed active citizens and empowers them to become open-minded leaders that benefit their societies and the UAE economy. I am proud to lead such a great university of tremendous potential, one that continues to reinforce Abu Dhabi’s position in the higher education and research landscapes.

In spite of the pandemic, substantial accomplishments were achieved in 2020, as evidenced by a steady increase in enrolments, an enhancement of our existing academic offerings and the launch of new programmes in Mathematics and Archival Science, that were developed in line with the 2030 UAE vision and in response to the evolving job market needs.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi also inaugurated in 2020 its flagship research centre, Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI), which aims to serve as a regional hub for artificial intelligence research. The centre is supported by two research chairs of excellence and now has presence in both Paris and Abu Dhabi.

Despite all challenges, 2020 has been a successful year for Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and we all need to work together to maintain the momentum and build on this success by investing further in developing our programmes and initiatives. It is our responsibility to instill pride in our students and alumni as they reflect upon their alma maters. This is particularly important considering that students have invested the most critical years of their lives at university and in a time of uncertainty.

If the pandemic in 2020 made learning and working remotely imperative to protect students and employees, I am certainly looking forward to the next academic year, where hopefully physical attendance would be possible for both classes and work. Thus, improving the overall well-being of students by allowing them to enjoy the vibrant campus life and benefit from human interaction once more.

”

Prof Silvia Serrano
Vice-Chancellor

ADAPTING TO MAINTAIN THE EDUCATIONAL MODEL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

2020 ushered in the global COVID-19 pandemic; a health crisis that the world had not witnessed in over 100 years. In response, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi deployed a comprehensive action plan that ensured minimal disruption to our operations and seamlessly integrated digital tools and resources for teaching and learning.

From March 2020, numerous safety measures were implemented on campus in line with UAE Government guidelines, laws and regulations. Our administrative teams worked round the clock to expedite the implementation of new hygiene and safety measures on campus. Their diligence and commitment limited the impact of COVID-19 to the university, its faculty and students, and helped to maintain a smooth operational workflow across all areas on campus. Our Digital Transformation and Innovation Department were quick to digitise the university’s learning system along with key policies and procedures. A year before the pandemic, we were the first university in the Middle East to migrate to the Blackboard cloud learning management system so we were already well positioned to manage the transition to online learning.

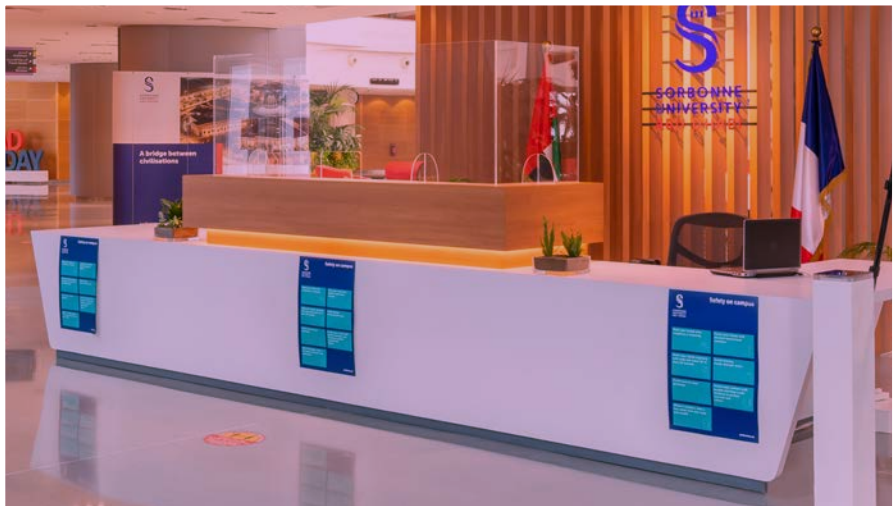
All teaching moved online with no change to our curriculum, timetabling and teaching faculty to guarantee continuity and excellence in learning, and to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Financial support programmes were extended to students in need, along with online counselling to safeguard the mental health and wellbeing of our students.

During 2020 Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi made notable progress in other areas. Student enrolment increased 8% compared to 2019. The university introduced new undergraduate and Foundation Year programmes further expanding our academic offer, and we inaugurated the Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) to facilitate research and development in the expanding fields of AI. We have increased our research capacity and hired 20 new members of staff in preparation for a series of planned projects in 2021, further reinforcing our growth and development in this area.

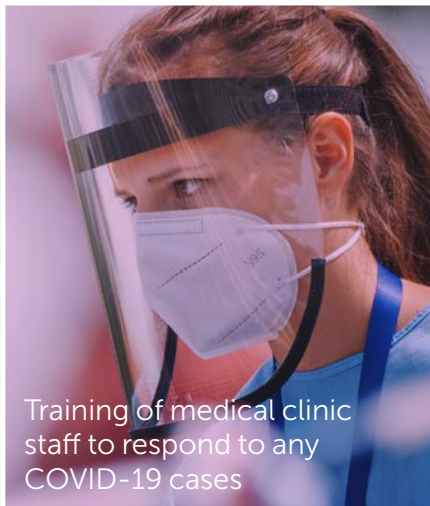
160+
online exams

15,000+
online courses

SAFETY MEASURES ON CAMPUS



250+ safety measure posters



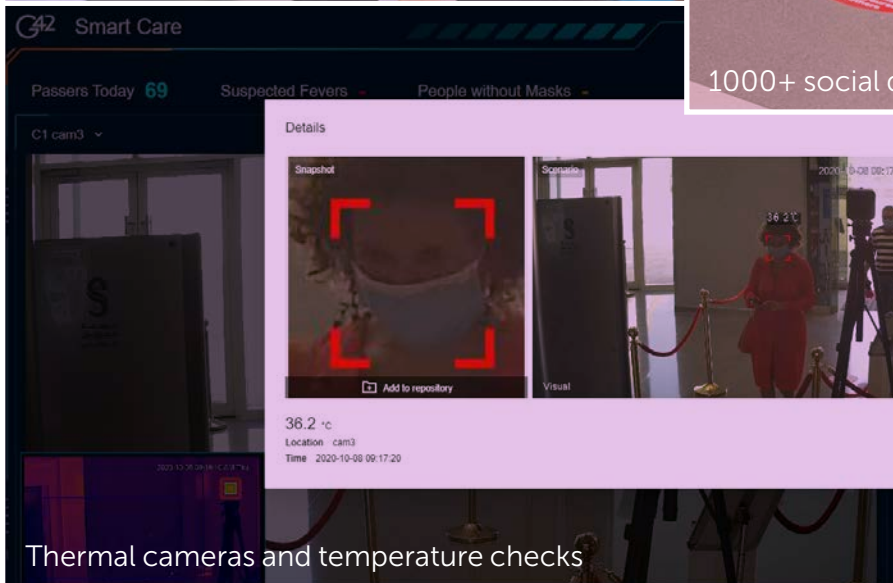
Training of medical clinic staff to respond to any COVID-19 cases



Designated workforce to ensure social distancing and safety measures were respected at all times



1000+ social distancing floor stickers



Thermal cameras and temperature checks



Safety and crisis plans developed in line with the national regulations

LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomed the 2020 intake during a feature packed online orientation week that provided a series of online virtual tours and visits in which new students explored our campus and the city of Abu Dhabi, and were introduced to current students, academic and administrative teams. While the campus remained empty, it still accommodated students living in the residences and stayed open throughout the summer and other academic breaks.



Moving into the academic semester, most activities were moved online with the exception of student services which were kept open and available, in recognition of the challenges facing our students during this period.

All available services maintained strict compliance to the safety measures and protocols on campus. Students living on campus were given safe access to the sports building, while all students were able to access services on an appointment basis including individual meetings with their professors, library and career centre access and counselling services.

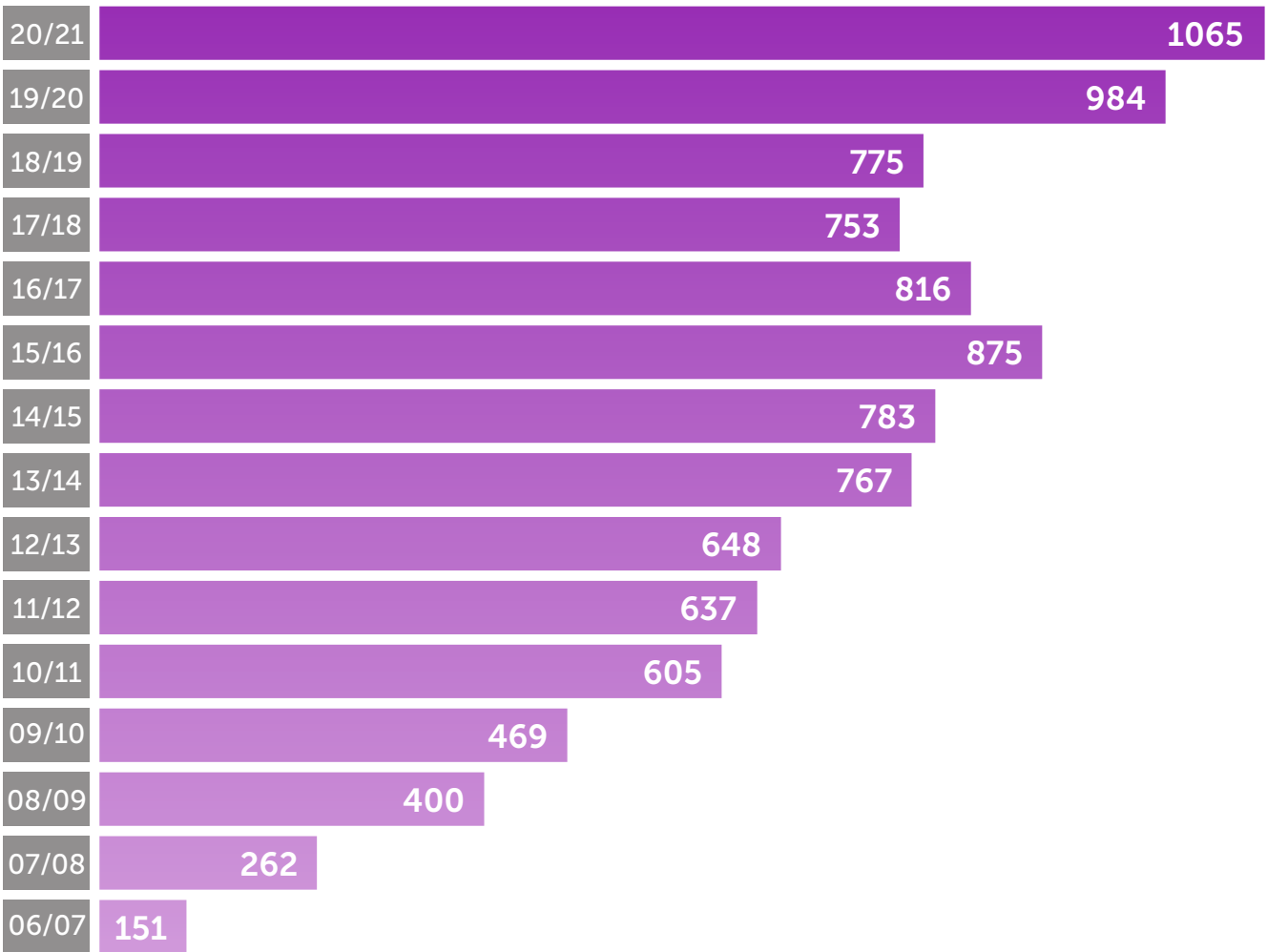


RECRUITMENT TREND

Since 2006, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has witnessed an increase in the number of students. Our reputation for academic excellence, combined with the application of local and international student recruitment strategies has meant that we have built greater awareness of our programme offer and improved engagement in international student markets.

GROWING STUDENT NUMBERS

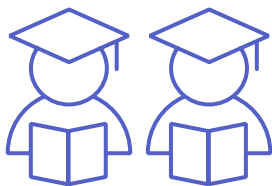
Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, student enrolment increased 8% during 2020. The majority of new students were UAE nationals, and expatriates living in the UAE or GCC. Throughout 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi preserved its reputation as a centre of excellence delivering world-class, globally-recognised French degrees. At a time of global crisis, we continued to attract students by offering a broad range of programmes in French and English, comprehensive scholarship programmes up to 100%, COVID-19 financial aid as well as providing a safe and sound environment to its students and employees alike.



KEY FIGURES

1065

students



visiting professors

Due to the pandemic,
visiting professors taught
their classes online



316

53



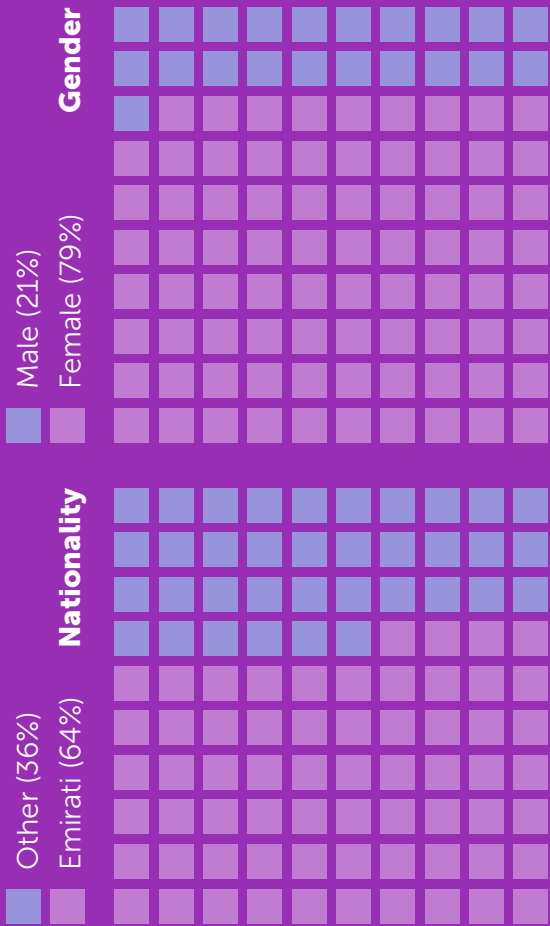
full-time Abu Dhabi based faculty

86



administrative employees

PROGRAMME
ENROLMENT
FIGURES



Continuing and
Executive Education
Department (CEED)
Programmes

11 students
Professional Certificate
in Archives and
Records Management

8 students
Executive Diploma in
Sports Management

Foundation Year
Programmes

321 students
Foundation Year in
Intensive French

21 students
Foundation Year in
Sciences

34 students
Foundation Year in
Records Management
and Archival Science

STUDENT
ENROLMENT
FIGURES

UNDERGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES



	21%	Applied Foreign Languages
	03%	Double Bachelor Philosophy and Sociology
	21%	Economy and Management
	01%	French Literature
	08%	Geography and Planning
	06%	History
	05%	History of Art and Archaeology
	20%	Law
	02%	Mathematics, Specialisation in Data Science for Artificial Intelligence
	05%	Physics
	09%	Records Management and Archival Science

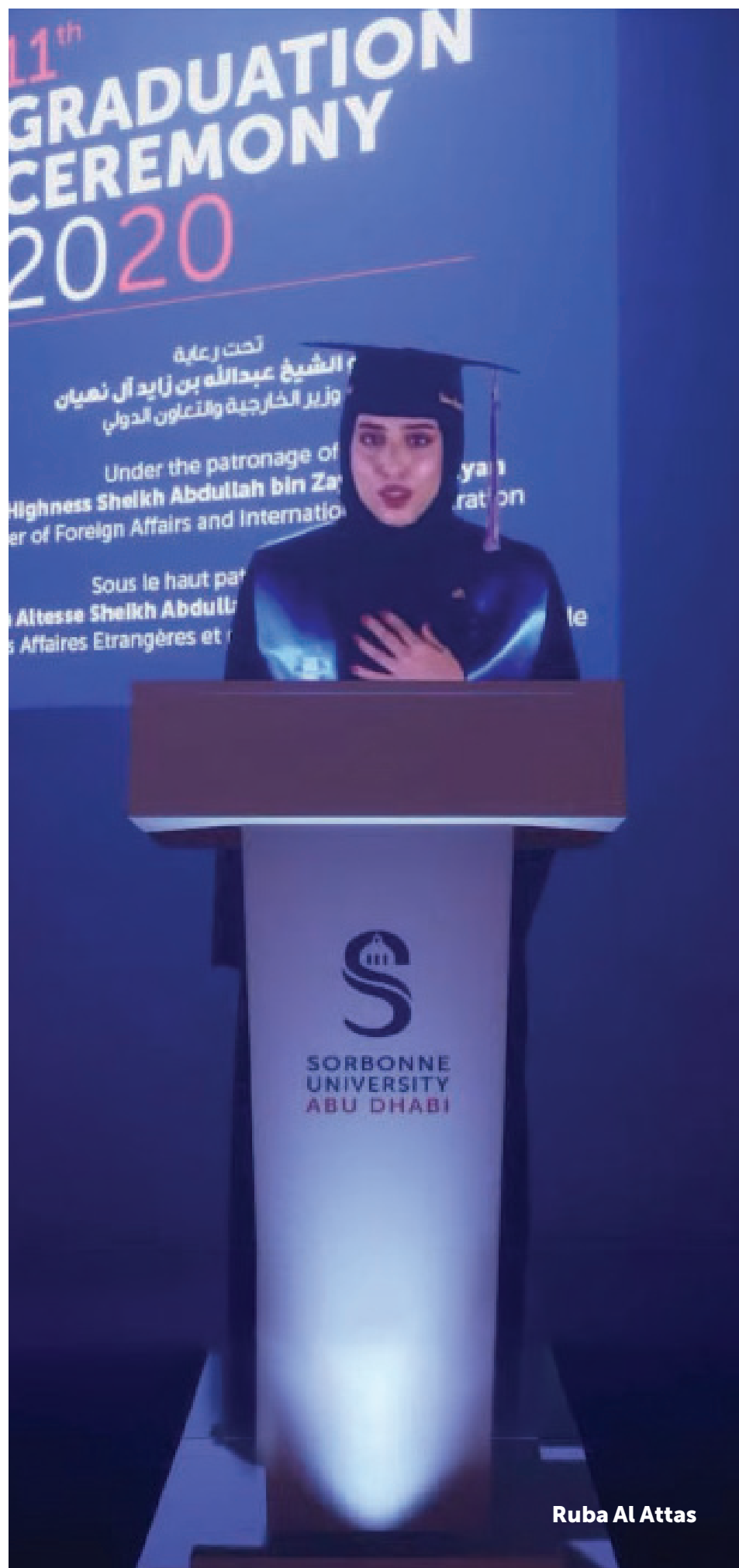
POSTGRADUATE
PROGRAMMES



	13%	Applied Foreign Languages: Speciality Management and International Business
	09%	Applied Sociological Research
	11%	Banking and Finance: Law and Regulations of Banking and Financial Systems
	03%	Environment : Dynamics of Territories and Societies
	05%	Health Economics
	10%	History of Art and Museum Studies
	09%	International Business Law
	17%	International Law, International Relations and Diplomacy
	14%	Marketing, Management, Communication, Media
	02%	Teaching French as a Foreign Language
	06%	Urban Planning and Development

2

SUPPORTING YOUTH



Ruba Al Attas



Sarah El Raessi

Young people are at the heart of our institution and always the core of our focus. 2020 was a challenging year for all students and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi was resolute in our commitment to ensuring all students were appropriately catered for to ensure minimal disruption to their studies.

A number of initiatives and programmes were designed to provide greater access to finance, alongside mentorship programmes to support students with the academic aspects of their studies. Our Career Centre launched a career services platform to help students and graduates access career information and advice in support of their career development.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

In light of the restrictions and guidelines put in place for in-person events during the pandemic, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi hosted its graduation ceremony online for the first time. The university celebrated 202 graduates in the fields of Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences and Languages.

"In such difficult times, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi guided us and helped us sustain our academic progress. To our professors who had shown us exemplary resilience, empathy, and mentorship, we would have never made it here without you, nor would we be standing here today if it weren't for you, and for that we will be forever grateful."

Ruba Al Attas, Graduate - Bachelor in Geography and Planning

"Being one of the top universities in humanities and social science, I immediately signed up for a Master in Applied Sociological Research. I can say that I found what my heart has settled for. I am glad to have started my sociology studies at Sorbonne, I couldn't have asked for a better university to study at. I feel truly blessed to have connected with such amazing Professors."

Sarah El Raessi, Graduate - Master in Applied Sociological Research

A UNIQUE MODEL IN THE REGION

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is an Emirati university delivering French degrees from Sorbonne University (Paris) and the University of Paris. We benefit from international education agreements such as the Bologna Process, which seeks to bring more cohesion to higher education standards across Europe through a common framework of rigorous standards.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is the only university in the UAE to apply the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). This is especially advantageous to our students who can transfer credit hours and have their degree recognised without an equivalency process, in any of the 48 participating countries of the Bologna Process.

Part of our unique proposition for the region is that we combine the expertise of both permanent, locally-based faculty with visiting faculty from France. This process guarantees that our students in Abu Dhabi receive the same learning content as students studying at Sorbonne University (Paris). Although we were unable to welcome any visiting faculty during 2020, all 316 visiting professors continued delivering their classes online. All academic departments based in Abu Dhabi are headed by full-time, permanent faculty to ensure the seamless continuity of teaching and learning for our students.

This unique model ensures that Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi can deliver an exclusive study experience, which is key to maintaining the university's reputation for excellence in learning and teaching.

AN INFLUENTIAL STAKEHOLDER SHAPING THE LOCAL LANDSCAPE

At a local level, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has broadened its impact throughout the years by embedding itself in the higher education landscape. It has developed strong partnerships and major collaborations with local and regional public and private entities.

The university's recent agreement with the UAE's National Archives is testament to our commitment to develop partnerships that support the UAE's strategic plans. Our partnership with the National Archives is supporting the country's vision to become a leader in records management and archival science, and to educate thousands of professionals over the next 5 years through specialised training programmes.

Collaborations with major entities including the Department of Culture and Tourism (Abu Dhabi) and Dubai Desert Reserve enrich our student's learning experiences by supplementing academic study with real-world exposure, enabling them to put theory into practice.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has also developed common projects with NYUAD, Khalifa University, Zayed University, Emirates Diplomatic Academy and other institutions by organising colloquia, scientific events and inviting professors to teach specific topics. These links facilitate multi-disciplinary interactions, which in part, enriches teaching and research as well as aiding efforts to build a powerful local network in the higher education and research sector.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi continues to play a vital role in local society by educating a large number of Emirati students. As of 2020, 60% of our student body comprises UAE nationals. By offering high quality francophone education to a large population of Emirati students, we are actively supporting the UAE's dedication towards the use of the French language on a national and international scale.

The UAE is committed to playing a more active role within French speaking countries as reflected by the UAE's upgrade in status at the OIF (Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie) from an observer to a participating country. In line with the UAE's national strategy, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has reinforced the francophone influence in the region by offering 3-year undergraduate degrees delivered in French to French-speaking and non-French speaking students. Students who are non-French speaking can learn French by undertaking a foundation year.

SUPPORTING AND
ACCOMPANYING
THE STUDENTS

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi places access to education and equal opportunities at the heart of its values by facilitating greater access to its programmes and supporting students to succeed. The university educates students and also prepares them for the job market by equipping them with the information and tools they need to make informed decisions about their careers.

FOSTERING EQUAL
OPPORTUNIITIES FOR ALL

The Foundation Year in Intensive French teaches non-French speaking students a sound command of the French language to ensure they possess the requisite level of French to study any of the undergraduate degree taught in French at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Given that the majority of undergraduate programmes are delivered in French, the launch of the foundation year programme increased the accessibility of our undergraduate degrees to prospective non-French speaking students that want to study with us.

Other foundation year programmes are offered to promote easier access to various programmes at the university. Having launched the Foundation Year in Sciences in 2019, the university launched the Foundation Year in Records Management and Archival Science in 2020 to provide students interested in enrolling on the Bachelor’s in Records Management and Archival Science with the required standard of knowledge.



SUPPORTING ACCESS
TO EDUCATION

More than

70%

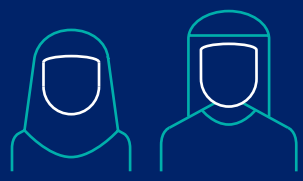
of enrolled students benefit from a scholarship, preferential rate or financial aid programme thanks to the support of the Emirati authorities and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi sponsors.



of which:

72%

of students benefit from the HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan scholarship for Emirati students.



18%

of students benefit from an academic excellence scholarship.



10%

of students benefit from other scholarships, preferential rates or the COVID-19 financial aid programme.



SUPPORTING AND ACCOMPANYING THE STUDENTS

Student wellbeing has always been a core priority for the university. To address the unique challenges of 2020 and ensure students received the support they required throughout the year, the Advising and Resources Section developed two online facilities focused on mental health support and support with academic studies.

THE VIRTUAL COUNSELLING OFFICE

The Virtual Counselling Office was established to support students with emotional concerns through a series of private counselling sessions. Counselling teams are composed of experienced professional psychologists, psychiatrists and university counsellors. Available in 4 different languages, sessions were focused on:

- Managing relationships with family, academic faculty and peers
- Management of social issues
- Assisting students develop the skills and confidence to function more independently and effectively
- Offering information and referrals to external support agencies
- Providing support to encourage and improve learning



THE VIRTUAL PEER TUTORING PROGRAMME

The Virtual Peer Tutoring Programme was introduced to help students with remote learning. Students are paired with a senior student in the same degree programme to ensure that they receive appropriate and relevant guidance regarding how to excel further and succeed on the programme, as well as strengthen subject related knowledge and skills. The programme provides a constant support system, available to students at all times.

Peer tutors are chosen by the advising and resources team based on their academic standing and engagement with campus life. A student is assigned to a tutor by the advising and resources team to ensure quality and fairness in the selection process. All peer tutors are multilingual, culturally aware and academically capable of providing students with the same material that they have studied and excelled in.



THE CAREER CENTRE:
SUPPORTING ACCESS
TO EMPLOYMENT

The Career Centre offers a wide range of services including career information, individual counselling, employability skills workshops, internal and external internship opportunities and job search assistance to prepare students for the workplace. The core mission of the Career Centre is to help prepare students and graduates become strong and competitive candidates for the local and international job markets.

CAREER INFORMATION

“What can I do with my major?”
In 2020, the Career Centre created a series of brochures for each undergraduate programme providing comprehensive career-related advice, specific to graduates of each programme. The information in these brochures is based on extensive research into careers and professions, alumni employment data and testimonials. They are aimed at existing and future students to help them select an appropriate degree based on their career aspirations, as well as to provide guidance on future career options and postgraduate studies.



SORBONNE
ABU DHABI
INMUNTA

2300+
current Sorbonne
Abu Dhabi alumni

ALUMNI COUNCIL ELECTIONS AND EVENTS

This year, the Career Centre supported preparations for the third Alumni Council Elections. Responsible for all operations and activities of the university’s alumni, the election process confirmed key positions in the council. Preparations were also put in place for the annual Astrolabe Career Forum, however due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this event was cancelled. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Career Centre hosted a series of online career events in collaboration with our corporate partners including:

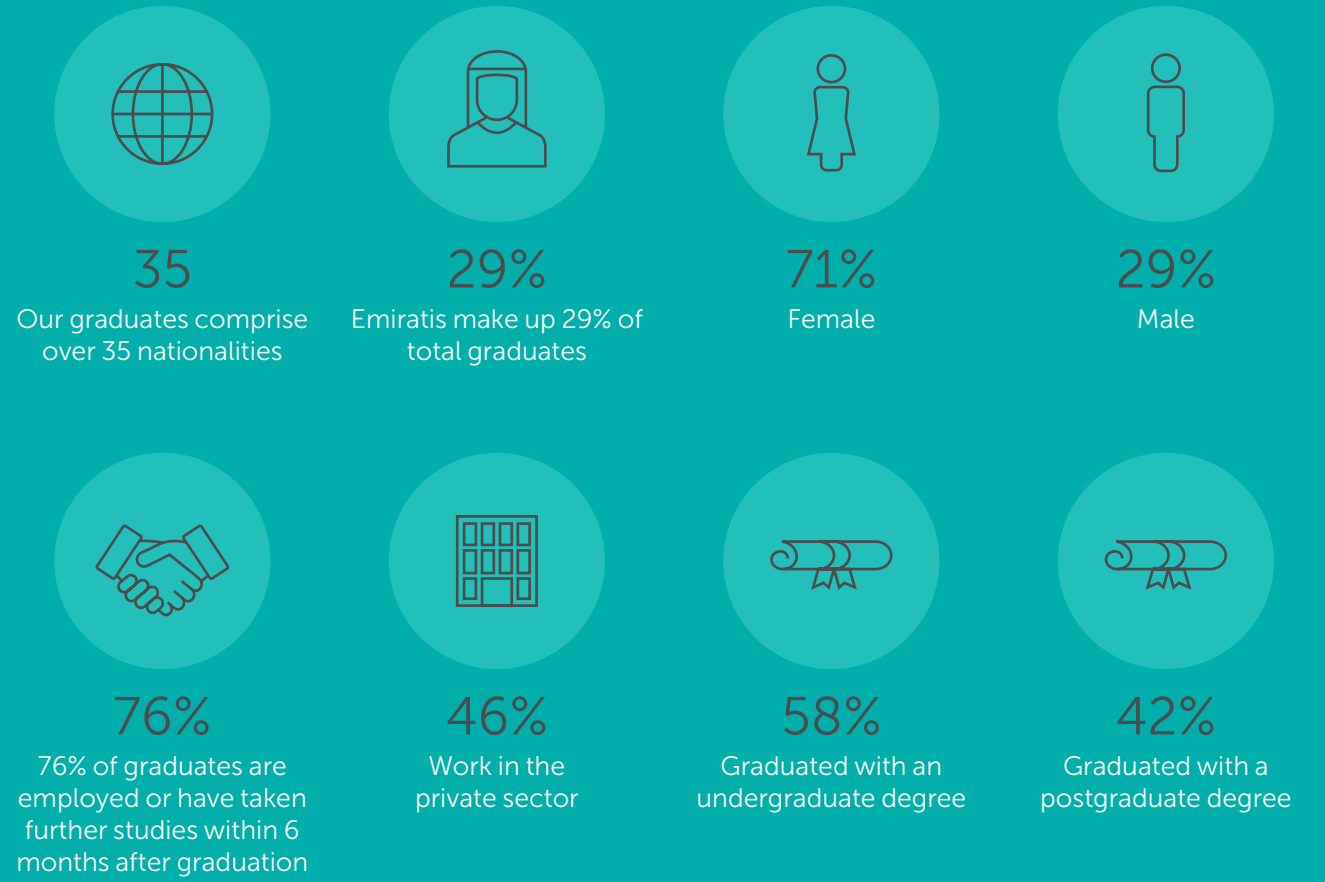
- HSBC: Employability Skills Series - Commercial Awareness
- Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation: Turning Challenges into Opportunities
- Adecco: Youth Leadership and Reverse Mentoring
- LinkedIn: Build your Professional Brand & Find your Job Opportunity
- Abu Dhabi School of Government: Free online learning courses with Coursera, Udacity and IBM
- Statistics Center: Why Consider Data Science as a Career?
- Ministry of Climate Change and Environment: Exploring Opportunities to Promote Sustainably within the Artificial Intelligence Sector
- Procter and Gamble (P&G): Careers opportunities at P&G
- Expo 2020: Building the Ideal Skill Set for the 21st Century
- Clifford Chance: Training Contracts - What to expect as a trainee or junior lawyer
- Ministry of Human Resources & Emiratisation: Will Artificial Intelligence replace your job role?

LAUNCH OF JOBTEASER

In March 2020, the Career Centre signed a partnership agreement with JobTeaser, the number one provider of student recruitment solutions in Europe, and also chosen by Sorbonne University in Paris marking the first ever online career services platform offered by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

As the needs of younger generations are constantly evolving, it is more important than ever to provide online resources that combine bespoke career guidance with internships, job opportunities and ongoing career and interview support. This free, state-of-the-art platform offers students and graduates unique career perspectives, professional advice, job opportunities and resources to help them understand the career options available to them. JobTeaser is designed around features that provide user-friendly career guidance, delivered through intuitive tools and easy-to-understand navigation, provide relevant in-depth information and tools through an intuitive platform navigation.

GRADUATES OVERVIEW*



*This data is extracted from the 2019 Graduates destination survey done in collaboration with ADEK.

3

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE



EXPANDING OUR OFFER

In 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi launched the Bachelor in Mathematics, Specialisation in Data Science for Artificial Intelligence and the Foundation Year in Records Management and Archival Science.

These programmes have been designed in line with the UAE's ambition to further develop areas related to artificial intelligence, data science and records management. They are part of a broader academic offering extending to sciences.

With these programmes, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi intends to educate and prepare students to become the next generation of UAE professionals and excel in these fields. With Sorbonne University ranked among the world's best universities, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi continues to position its humanities programmes at the core of its educational proposition, whilst also broadening the scope of its offering by developing programmes in STEM.

As the best University in Humanities, we hold a distinct advantage by offering modules from our humanities programmes to students studying a non-humanities discipline, giving students a broader choice and greater flexibility in their studies. For example, students enrolled in a science programme such as the Bachelor in Mathematics, Specialisation in Data Science for Artificial Intelligence can take modules in philosophy and the ethics of AI.

Our exclusive relationship with Sorbonne University (Paris), as well as our evolving programme offering ensures that we remain at the forefront of the education landscape in the Middle East.

**BACHELOR IN MATHEMATICS,
SPECIALISATION IN DATA SCIENCE
FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

The launch of this programme represented a key step towards the implementation of the university's 2019-2023 strategic plan. It constitutes a clear contribution to supporting the digital transformation and the development of a knowledge-based society, currently happening in the UAE. Graduates of this programme obtain a bachelor degree in mathematics as well as the Certificate of Specialisation in Data Science for Artificial Intelligence. These qualifications are awarded by Sorbonne University (Paris), which is ranked 2nd globally in Mathematics according to the 2019 Shanghai subject rankings.

"Sorbonne University in Paris and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi brought to the regional and international markets, a unique programme combining mathematics with data science and machine learning. While constituting a highly innovative educational offering, this combination appeared to be completely natural; the degree upon which cutting-edge AI and machine learning applications are based on advances in mathematics and data science. The programme provides key competencies to begin a career in AI and contribute to its ongoing evolution as a modern professional or an accomplished researcher".

Dr Omar El Dakkak
Associate Professor, Mathematics

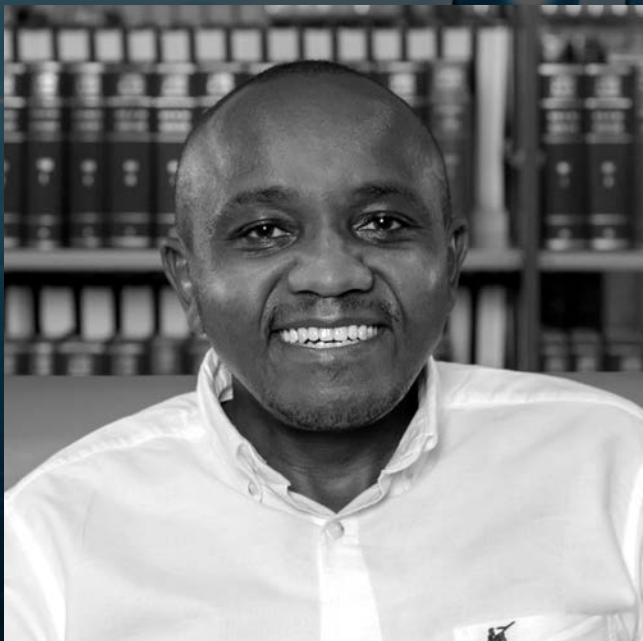


**FOUNDATION YEAR IN RECORDS
MANAGEMENT AND ARCHIVAL SCIENCE**

Following the 2019 launch of the Professional Certificate in Records Management and Archival Science and the Bachelor in Records Management and Archival Science, we introduced the Foundation Year in Records Management and Archival Science in 2020. The launch of the foundation year represents another milestone in the creation of a comprehensive programme offering in Records Management and Archival Science, and cements our strong partnership with the UAE's National Archives. Our collaboration with the National Archives is a sound example of local partnerships as key to implementing the UAE's plan to become a major player in this sector by training and enriching professionals with the requisite knowledge and skills. Classes are delivered by research faculty and professionals to provide a fully-inclusive curriculum addressing all aspects of the discipline.

"Generally, in the Foundation Year, students are introduced to the concept of records management by learning the general principles and practices for creation, maintenance, use and disposal of records throughout their lifecycle. In essence, it acts as a stepping stone towards the bachelor degree by covering the fundamental aspects of records management including the legal and regulatory frameworks in which records and archives should be managed, the fundamental requirements of a sound records management system, the infrastructure required in building a sound records keeping system, the actual processes of building a record keeping system and the role of records in underpinning business efficiency, accountability and the rule of law. "

Dr Victor Kabbata
Post Doc, History



4

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPABILITIES



BUILDING A MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTION

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is making great strides to becoming a multidisciplinary research institution. We offer research-led teaching enabling students to develop specific methodologies and critical thinking skills sought by employers, giving our graduates a competitive advantage in the job market.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is home to research faculty whose research spans a wide range of disciplines from humanities to sciences. Our faculty are all globally-renowned researchers in their respective fields. The 300+ visiting professors that visit us each year are acclaimed researchers or professionals who are excelling in their field. Most of our visiting professors and locally-based research faculty are involved in international collaborative projects and have authored numerous publications.

At Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, our academic faculty implement a research-led teaching approach where the best researchers in their fields, professors and senior specialists share their research methodologies and findings with students, allowing them to develop the necessary skills to become seasoned leaders and thinkers and think critically about their subject in the context of real-life research.

INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH
COOPERATION

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is committed to building its research capacity and becoming a research hub in the region. To meet these objectives, we have developed numerous research collaborations on a local and regional level. The university has active collaborations with UMIFRE (Unités mixtes des Instituts de Recherche Français à l'Étranger/French Research Centers Abroad) and as a result of this collaboration, hosts a branch of the CEFREPA (French Research Center of the Arabian Peninsula), paving the way for further research development on local topics.

Since 2019, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has hosted Prof Frédéric Lagrange, as the representative of the CEFREPA research centre (previously CEFAS) in the United Arab Emirates. In 2020, Prof Frédéric Lagrange initiated the research projects below, designed to augment the research capabilities of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.

SUAD/CEFREPA DIWAN CONFERENCE SERIES

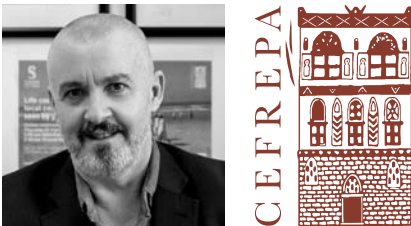
These ongoing conferences promote French research in human and social sciences across the Arabian Peninsula and predominantly target higher education audiences in the UAE. They offer a key opportunity to present local and international researchers from local research entities to the wider research networks of CEFREPA and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, both in Abu Dhabi and across the world.

CULTURE MADE IN ARABIA COLLOQUIUM

From 6th to 8th April 2020, we organised an online colloquium entitled 'Culture Made in Arabia, The Arabian Peninsula as a New Major Player on the Arab Cultural Scene'. This event was co-organised by CEFREPA, NYUAD and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. It hosted 34 participants including 4 public keynote speakers (Frank Mermier, Tarek El Ariss, Walter Armbrust, Sultan Al Qasemi).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

CEFREPA also organised other activities including Mapping Research in Social Sciences in the UAE, and organising the SOCOSMA monthly seminar and associated editorial activities, in collaboration with Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi research faculty.



Prof Frederic Lagrange
Representative, CEFREPA Research Centre at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and in the UAE



Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi also collaborates with local entities on specific research projects.

Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT)

In 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi signed a memorandum of understanding with DCT for a research project titled "Geoarchaeological research in Marawah Island, Al Dhafra, Abu Dhabi, UAE" (PI Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos). Damien Arhan, a Sorbonne University PhD student is also taking part in this project, which intends to reconstruct the landscape, paleoenvironment and relative sea level changes at Marawah Island and the Neolithic site.



Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve (DDCR)

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has collaborated with the DDCR since 2016 on research projects and student internships. DDCR is one of the largest protected areas in UAE and represents one of the region's most biodiverse desert habitats. The DDCR directly manages the project, ensuring the future of this key natural resource through the implementation of sound scientific and ecological principles. The core emphasis of the research focuses on arid ecosystems, biodiversity and landscape evolution, monitoring and conservation of arid and hyper arid environments, dust origins and transportation, soil analogues and conservation. DDCR is a "bridge between the western region and

Abu Dhabi and the north-eastern natural reserves and protected areas". (Interview, The National, May 14, 2017). For 2020-2021, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has commenced numerous research projects at DDCR including:

- Archaeology, geomorphology and cultural heritage in DDCR (PI, Dr Caroline Autret)
- Habitat mapping and change detection in DDCR using remote sensing and geospatial data analysis (PI, Dr Haifa Ben Romdhane)
- Air dust sources in UAE and DDCR: Understanding the processes that controls spatial distributions of dust emissions (PI Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos)

Postgraduate students from the Archaeology and History of Art, Geography and Planning, and Sciences and Engineering departments will be involved in the Air dust sources in UAE and DDCR research project from September 2021.



Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos
Professor, Geography and Planning



Dr Caroline Autret
Head, Archaeology and History of Art Department

SCIENTIFIC
EVENTS

Throughout 2020, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi organised a range of scientific events as part of its research activities. These events covered a range of different fields reflecting the diversity of specialities offered by the invited speakers, alongside celebrated researchers such as Dr Jim Kurose who was invited to the soft launch of the Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI).

Conferences

- Artificial Intelligence: Promise, challenges, and international perspectives, Dr Jim Kurose, 26 January 2020
- Ethics and Tolerance: philosophical perspectives on the Others, Dr Claude Vishnu Spaak, 28 January 2020
- Achieving an inclusive city. A France-UAE perspective (in cooperation with PFVT (French partnership for cities and territories – during the World Urban Forum), Dr Hadrien Dubucs, 10 February 2020

The Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Diwan (in cooperation with CEFAS)

- The essence of Oud by virtuoso and singer Mustafa Said, 22 January 2020
- A taste of a Nation: Food, heritage & identity in the UAE, Ayisha Hassan Khansaheb, Dr Eloisa Martin, Marzia Balzani, 26 February 2020
- Online Conference – Emirati Dialects’ Singular Features: The “Sharjah Museums Authority Recordings” as a Data Source, Prof David Wilmsen, 10 December 2020
- Online Conference – Hobyot: studying a language from South Arabia, Dr Ali Manoubi, 18 November 2020

Majlis Littéraire

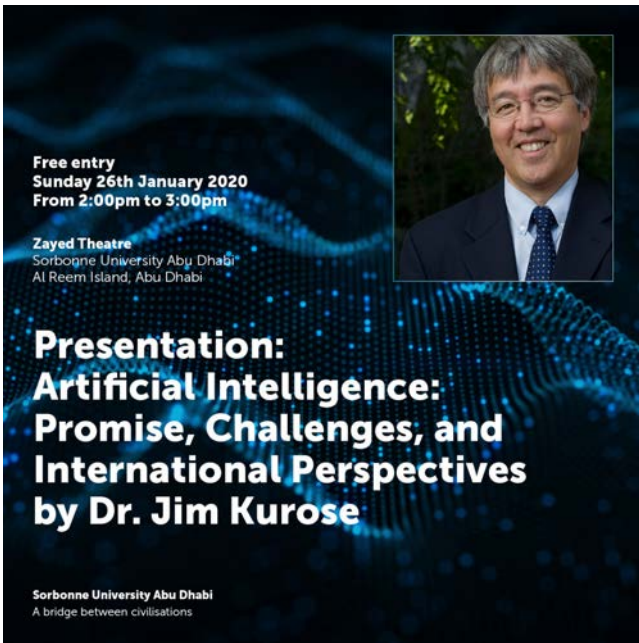
- Digital Humanities, the example of HyperApollinaire, Prof Olivier Gallet and Dr Christophe Pradeau, 9 February 2020

Hay Festival, 25 and 27 February 2020

- Encounter with Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize for Literature
- Christopher Galfard: Introduction to the knowledge of the universe
- Adonis & Friends: what can poetry say in our time?

CinemaNa

- Capharnaum, 17 February 2020
- Sofia, 1 November 2020



EXPANDING
RESEARCH
IN SCIENCE

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi inaugurated the Abu Dhabi branch of the Sorbonne Centre for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) in January 2020, in line with the frameworks and objectives of our 2019-2023 strategic plan. SCAI marks the university’s flagship development for future research in the fields of artificial intelligence. It was established by Sorbonne University (Paris) and its partners within a purpose-built facility to promote the development of interdisciplinary research projects in AI and meet future scientific challenges.

SCAI was established with the creation of two industrial Chairs of Excellence sponsored by Total and Thales. Each Chair is a high-profile Scholar who will act as a Senior Scientist in charge of directing research teams of PhD and Master’s students over a five-year period.

Home to the latest technology including a state-of-the-art DGX1-V100 deep learning computer system, SCAI will offer research and training programmes designed to benefit the local economy, in line with the UAE’s national strategy on AI. Senior scientists will initiate dialogue at both a local and international level to initiate scientific collaborations with research specialists and institutions, with the desired aim of producing high-level research publications. It is fully intended that these collaborations and ongoing research will establish SCAI as the cornerstone of AI research in the UAE.

In addition to its primary functions, SCAI will also play an important role in education by providing tailored executive-level training programmes in machine learning, data science and other core areas within AI, that are pivotal to the development of professional skills and lifelong learning potential to professionals already working within AI. In doing so, SCAI will greatly expand the pool of locally-available AI training and skills development programmes, which will in turn benefit the economic and industrial eco-systems in the UAE.



LEADING THE WAY IN HUMANITIES

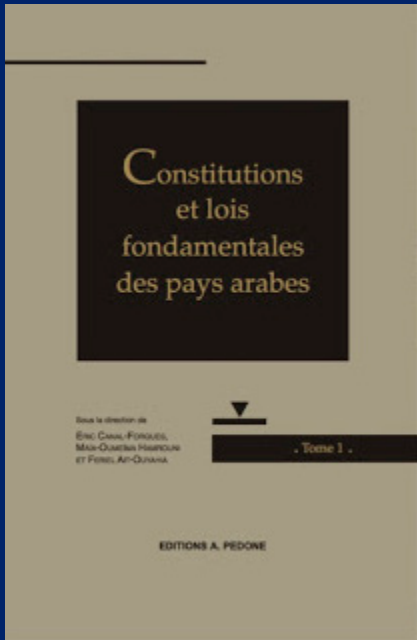
Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a leader for humanities in the UAE and MENA region with a wide-range of specialised degree programmes, delivered by distinguished researchers who are specialists in their fields. During 2020 our humanities faculty released a number of scientific publications including the following four books.



Le petit commerce dans la ville-monde

(Small Trade in the Global City)

A collective book under the direction of **Hadrien Dubucs, Fleury Antoine, Matthieu Delage, Lucine Endelstein** and **Serge Weber**



Constitutions et lois fondamentales des pays arabes

(Constitutions and fundamental laws of Arab countries)

A collective work under the direction of **Prof Eric Canal-Forgues** and **Dr Maïa Hamrouni**



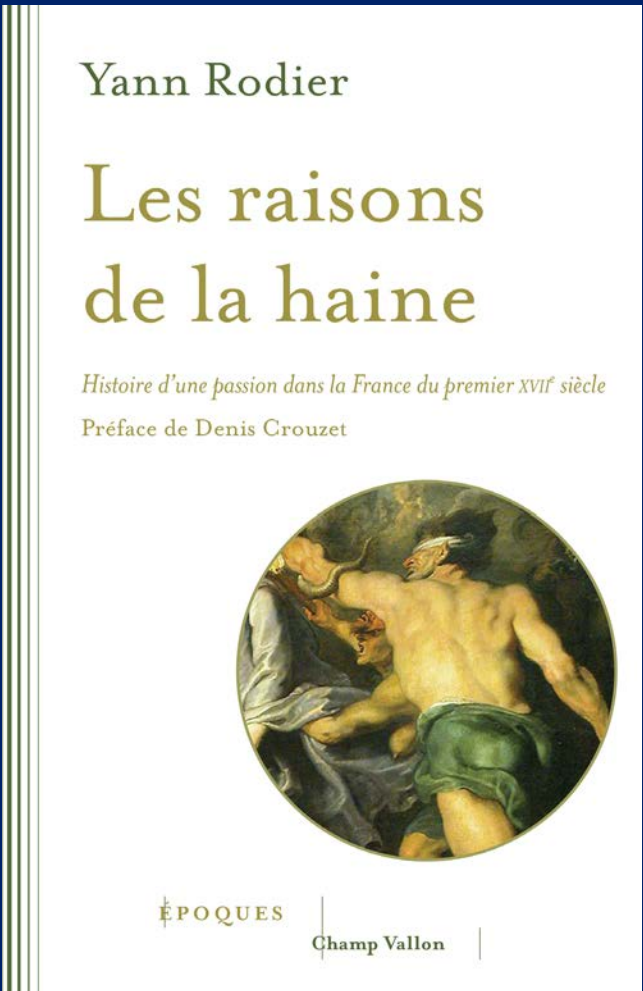
الحجاج والمجتمع: من أجل حوار بناء وخطاب بلا عنف

(Argumentation and Society: for a constructive dialogue and non-violent discourse)

A collective work under the direction of **Dr Sana Abbas** and **Dr Claude Spaak**

Winner of the prestigious award

« **Prix XVIIe siècle 2019 —Société d'étude du XVIIe siècle** »
(17th Century Award (2019) delivered by the Seventeenth Century Society).



Dr Yann Rodier, Les raisons de la haine. Histoire d'une passion dans la France du premier XVIIe siècle (1610-1659), Seyssel, Champ Vallon, janvier 2020, 496 p.

(The reasons of hatred, a history of passion in France during the first seventeenth century 1610-1659)

RESEARCH
PROJECTS

Every year, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi allocates a portion of its budget to fund research projects led by its full-time, Abu Dhabi based faculty. These projects are part of our mission to build the university’s research capabilities and advance research across a variety of fields. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has successfully continued to obtain research funding from ADEK (Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge) through the ADEK Abu Dhabi Award for Research Excellence, which is testament to the university’s excellence in research.

SUAD FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

The research projects below were granted funding during 2020:

- Characterization of Fabricated Nanoparticles
- Data Governance: Interdisciplinary research and innovation projects
- Ethics and Tolerance: Phenomenological, Perspectives on the Other (colloquium)
- Past and present environmental records, risk and climate change. The role of Coastal Sabkha’s in western region Abu Dhabi UAE
- Open access cost for a special issue of Sociology of Islam
- Oil price volatility and real GDP growth in oil-exporting countries: the role of sovereign wealth funds
- Investigating and Monitoring Marine UAE Nearshore Environments (IMMUNES). Case study coastal environments in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah for SARS-CoV-2 Contamination
- Abu Dhabi Public Spaces. Urban encounters, social diversity and (in)formality (book publication)
- Characterization of Fabricated Nanoparticles

ADEK ABU DHABI AWARD FOR RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE FUNDING

Ongoing project:

Innovative hybrid treatment systems toward sustainable treatment of oil and gas produced water; full design with feasibility study

In 2019, ADEK granted funding for the 2020 research project titled “Innovative hybrid treatment systems toward sustainable treatment of oil and gas produced water; full design with feasibility study”. Khalifa University is PI on this project and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (Prof Kosmas Pavlopoulos) and ADNOC are co-PIs.



This project contributes directly to the efforts of achieving one of the goals of Abu Dhabi’s 2030 plan. It targets matters related to water scarcity, the lack of water resources and reducing energy consumption in the UAE by providing full water management guidelines towards the utilisation of oil and gas produced water.

Finalised project:

Redefining Abu Dhabi’s Public Spaces:
Urban Classification and Social Interaction

In 2020, ADEK granted funds for the research project titled “Redefining Abu Dhabi’s Public Spaces: Urban Classification and Social Interaction” through its Abu Dhabi Award for Research Excellence (AARE) research funding program. The project was undertaken between 2018 and 2020 by a research team composed of Dr Hadrien Dubucs, Dr Apostolos Kyriazis and Dr Clio Chaveneau, alongside four BA and MA students from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and Abu Dhabi University. The project conducted ambitious fieldwork including systematic observations of 14 public places in Abu Dhabi city.

The project had two main objectives:

1. A renewed practice-based typology of public spaces in the Abu Dhabi Metropolitan Area
2. An analysis of the role of public places in the city making process

The research concluded with a multi-purpose database of visual data, maps and observation reports for 14 places in Abu Dhabi. The results consistently demonstrated that beyond their functional features and purpose, the identified public spaces fulfil a range of social needs and take a crucial, yet sometimes complex or unexpected, part in urban social life. In short, the

findings relate to the following aspects:

1. A need for the right balance between informality and functional efficiency
2. A crucial lever towards making the city more “inclusive”, with an inclusiveness relying on a fine combination of large-scaled accessibility, small-scaled spatial features, and use regulation, where official rules interplay with social representations
3. A dramatic variation depending on the time and season that argues in favour of a more flexible and adaptable conception of public spaces in terms of equipment, opening hours or activities



POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS' POSTGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Postgraduate students represent a key component of the research activity at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi through work undertaken for their master's thesis or capstone project reports. Students often base their research and projects on local topics, shedding light on local issues from sociological, environmental, economic and legal perspectives. These research projects and theses are valuable resources to build a better understanding of local society for the growth of the UAE.

Master thesis in Health Economics

- The quality of life of people of determination in the UAE during COVID-19 crisis

Master thesis in International Law, International Relations and Diplomacy

- UAE Regional Developments in the Era of Oil

Master thesis in Marketing, Management, Communication, Media

- The effects of social media on traditional marriages in the UAE

Master thesis in History of Art and Museum Studies

- Lost in Translation: What are the translation challenges that museums face, the Louvre Abu Dhabi as a case study.

Master thesis in Applied Sociological Research

- Urban production of neighborhood in Shams Gate District - Abu Dhabi City
- Unveiling the structures of Eidiya
- The reality of work-life balance for contemporary UAE mothers
- When a friend becomes an enemy
- How does an employee's engagement affect productivity and efficiency?

Master thesis in Environment: Dynamics of Territories and Societies

- Comprehensive review of the system medical waste management in Abu Dhabi
- The Influence of sociodemographic factors on the perceptions of plastics: the case of the United Arab Emirates"
- Occurrence and Consequences of elevated concentrations of bromate in desalinated water source in Abu Dhabi and associated exposure and health risks
- Sustainable Desalination: integrated waste management in Abu Dhabi, UAE

Master thesis in Banking and Finance, Law and Regulations of Banking and Financial Systems

- Stock market returns in the UAE using the Fama-French three factor capital asset pricing model
- Women in Wealth Management in the UAE and GCC region
- Impact of financial technologies on banks' performance: perception of bank employee in UAE
- Factors influencing the users' intention to support donation-based crowd funding in the UAE
- How to determine the success of an M&A: critical success factors that aided the formation of First Abu Dhabi Bank

Master capstone projects in Environmental Sustainability Law and Policies

- Electrical Vehicle Uptake by Abu Dhabi Government
- Grey Water: The Law Framework in UAE. A Comparative Study between UAE and USA –
- Understanding carbon neutrality and offsetting to develop a comprehensive program for organizations in Abu Dhabi
- Abu Dhabi sustainable urban regeneration
- Efforts taken by the UAE in pursuit of commitments made under the Paris Climate Agreement 2015



5

OUR
IMPACT



Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has graduated over 2,000 students from more than 90 countries. We welcome diversity on campus not only believing in its capacity to enrich the student experience on campus but also because it reflects the vision of Sorbonne University (Paris) as a university open to the world. Our state-of-the-art campus offers a culturally-unique student life and is located in Abu Dhabi, one of the most globally connected cities in the world.

We celebrate diversity on campus through a series of events and activities that bring students together, embodying a spirit of inclusion and openness. The university continues to recruit students from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas to share and enrich knowledge across the region, as well as to ensure continuity in expanding the diversity of the university's student population.

Our status as a globally connected institution also extends to our programme offering, where we provide students with globally-aligned and recognised degrees that cover subjects in areas of high market demand and are delivered by world-class faculty.

Our research interests and activities cross international borders, and strategic partnerships with international institutions reflect on our ongoing commitment to expand our international footprint further. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a globally connected campus and we welcome students and employees from all over the world to facilitate our remarkable progress.

THE BIGGEST FRENCH LIBRARY IN THE GCC

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is home to the largest collection of French and Francophone academic literature and resources in the GCC. With over 100,000 printed books and 200,000 e-resources comprising books, articles and publications, the library provides a comprehensive range of resources to our students, staff and the local community. In 2020 the library closed its doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which time it expanded online resources to ensure the continuity in provision of academic literature to cater for the challenges of remote learning.

Key activities during 2020 included:

- Around 10,000 French language e-books were added to the CAIRN database
- Approximately 12,000 e-books from university publishers were added to the E-book Central database
- Acquisition of e-book content by the Cambridge University Press containing over 20,000 e-books
- Addition of the Oxford Handbooks collection containing outstanding handbooks across various subject collections
- Addition of The Oxford Public International Law, a comprehensive legal resource
- Addition of The Oxford Reference Online collection, a premier collection of reference sources
- A few thousand specially selected e-book titles from Taylor & Francis publishers were added
- Acquisition of the online version of Encyclopaedia Britannica

Towards the latter part of the year, students were allowed to borrow books whilst respecting safety protocols. The library also resumed purchasing of essential printed books, amounting to 560 new books in total. This increased the total number of printed books to over 110,000 by the end of the calendar year.

Given the greater dependency on e-resources during the pandemic, library staff made a concerted effort to provide online guidance

regarding the use of these resources. A step-by-step guide covering the use of all databases was compiled and shared with students and faculty via email. Approximately 40 training videos detailing the search process for each database in the library portal were created and added to the portal. A “tutorial” link has been added next to the name of each database. Librarians also delivered online training sessions in classroom settings and a lot of individual support took place via MS teams meetings and emails.

Throughout 2020, library staff compiled additional library tools including libguides which will be added to the library portal in 2021 to further enhance and simplify the search process for information.

Despite setbacks caused by the pandemic, some faculty members managed to get research published. In total, 26 new research papers were added to the institutional repository, which is maintained by the library.

Library staff participated during orientation week and a welcome video about the library and its services was developed and shared with all new students. The library also participated in an event for postgraduate students.



SPORTS

The Sports Department at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi offers courses that students can add as an option to their degree programme. The department also organises extracurricular activities for students, faculty and staff outside the academic framework. The Sports Department has increased the provision of activities and facilities to children and adults from the local community, transforming it into a sports hub for Abu Dhabi and Al Reem island residents, and the French/francophone community as a whole.

For 2020, the Sports Department had planned a full calendar of sports activities, events and opportunities that were rearranged to adapt to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the university was able to host the much-awaited Fitness Escape Challenge and to welcome internationally acclaimed Vincent Denonville for a talk on compliance in sports organisations. This was arranged as part of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's strategic partnership with the FIFA/CIES International University Network, which offers a unique Executive Diploma in Sports Management.

When all classes moved online, the Sports Department developed virtual courses ensuring that students could continue to take sports as an optional course. The Sports Department also managed to keep students, staff and the community involved in fitness and wellness activities by sharing ergonomic tips, immunity-boosting recipes, and several at-home exercises. The Department shared the expertise of the academic trainers through a variety of posts and workouts on social media and the Blackboard Platform to accommodate a wide range of needs.

Online challenges were also a great success. The Sports Department took part in the Inter-University Sports League in Abu Dhabi under the "Foxes" name and organised a number of e-sports competitions.



EXECUTIVE DIPLOMA IN SPORTS MANAGEMENT

Students from the Executive Diploma in Sports Management continued their courses remotely during the pandemic. Despite defending their thesis online, the 2020 cohort made the university proud as they were elected Winners of the CIES/FIFA University Network Award.



The September 2020 student cohort also attended online conferences including a conversation on digital sports marketing in November 2020 with Karim Fathi, Vice-President, Digital (Americas) at SPORTFIVE.

To overcome challenges, the Sports Department decided to use its knowledge and skills to change the status that COVID-19 imposed on the university by continually seeking opportunities for positive contributions.



A MULTICULTURAL STUDENT BODY

1	Afghanistan	2	Mali
18	Algeria	5	Mauritania
3	Australia	16	Morocco
4	Azerbaijan	1	Nepal
8	Bahrain	1	Nigeria
1	Bangladesh	1	Oman
1	Belgium	6	Pakistan
1	Cameroon	9	Palestine
11	Canada	2	Philippines
5	China	2	Russia
2	Colombia	7	Saudi Arabia
1	Comoros	3	Senegal
2	Congo	1	Seychelles
2	Czech Republic	1	South Africa
1	Denmark	2	South Korea
1	Djibouti	2	Spain
35	Egypt	1	St. Kitts and Nevis
46	France	9	Sudan
1	Georgia	1	Switzerland
1	Ghana	18	Syria
2	Hungary	1	Tajikistan
4	India	4	Tunisia
8	Iran	2	Turkey
7	Iraq	1	Turkmenistan
3	Italy	678	UAE
47	Jordan	3	United Kingdom
7	Kuwait	15	USA
1	Kyrgyzstan	1	Uzbekistan
20	Lebanon	1	Venezuela
2	Libya	3	Yemen
1	Madagascar		



% BY REGIONS		
	85%	North Africa and Middle East
	06%	Europe
	04%	Asia and Oceania
	03%	Americas
	03%	Africa

CAMPUS AND STUDENT LIFE

Throughout 2020, the Student Events and Culture Section continued to enrich student life by switching to online events. Over 30 events were organised in collaboration with the Student Council, student clubs and university staff. Events maintained a sense of community on campus and brought students together virtually, helping to foster a sense of togetherness during a difficult period. A mentorship programme involving 40 student volunteers was developed to provide support and guidance to new students.

CONNECTING STUDENTS: FOCUS ON STUDENT CLUBS

Eight student clubs were taken online: SUADMUN, Battle of Unspoken Words, Humanitarian Initiative, Tolerance Club, Haneul Korean Club, Spoken-Word Poetry Club, Mind and Body Enhancement Club, Chess Club.

EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Orientation week

New students were welcomed to Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi during a remote orientation week in September 2020. Orientation Week helped students adjust to university life, particularly in light of challenging COVID-19 circumstances. It provided an opportunity to meet other students, academic and administrative staff virtually, and to be introduced to the various services that the university offers. Training sessions were provided by the Digital Transformation and Innovation Department to prepare students for the use of online platforms during the academic year.

UAE National Day Celebrations “Seeds of the Union”

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi celebrated UAE National Day during an online event, which paid tribute to the leadership of the country and celebrated the cultural traditions of the UAE. The event provided an opportunity to enjoy traditional music and poetry, discover traditional cuisine and national dress as well as to provide virtual awards for the photography and art competition dedicated to the UAE.

KEEPING RESIDENT STUDENTS SAFE

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic created an unprecedented situation for housing staff on campus given the need to implement additional safety protocols and arrangements in line with UAE Government guidelines. Staff worked round the clock to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students, including international students that were unable to travel overseas during academic breaks, due to worldwide restrictions on air travel.

In coordination with the Advising and Resources Section, the residences staff extended support to all students, helping them adjust to the new movement restrictions that were applied in line with the government’s national safety procedures. In conjunction with the university medical clinic, two workshops were organised covering the comprehensive first aid and precautionary measures put in place and to give students various tips to help them overcome the stress caused as a result of the new restrictions.

Thanks to the diligence shown by university and medical staff, the university managed to contain the pandemic in the residences. Containment was aided by the successful implementation of all safety measures and protocols including quarantine, frequent PCR testing and regular disinfection of all spaces.

Throughout the year, residence assistants were always on call to help students and make them feel at home by creating a happy and positive environment. A number of virtual events including virtual gaming and movie nights, Iftars during Ramadan and a photo competition were arranged with students from other universities to promote a wider sense of community in Abu Dhabi. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi students took part in an inter-university virtual game night with Abu Dhabi University students, which was a great success.



INNOVATIVE ALUMNI:
GIVING BACK TO
THE COMMUNITY

“

I have been working on the National Screening Service’s COVID-19 drive thru project which was launched in 2020 at the request of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Following a visit to the first COVID-19 screening drive thru centre in Zayed Sports City, His Highness was so impressed with what he saw, that he directed us to replicate the centre across the UAE within 10 days.

I am very proud to say that we, at the AHS (Ambulatory Healthcare Services) managed to meet the 10-day deadline and fully build a total of 12 new drive thru screening centres that operate throughout the seven emirates!

Following this, the project was extended with a further six centres and today, we have achieved a large network of 18 fully operational facilities.

After that, I was asked by our CEO to be the main coordinator for this project as he was looking for someone with strong communication skills,



a very good knowledge of the healthcare sector, and someone that is good with numbers.

That is when my Master in Health Economics degree from Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi came in handy! Since 2020, I have coordinated with 13 teams (comprising a total of 317 staff members) from around the UAE. My objective is to share with them, the pilot centre experience and train them on the whole screening process from A to Z.

Separately, I also ensure that the results of the daily screening statistics are accurate and the project database is updated on a daily basis.

I also reach out to national and international entities and organisations to enhance the quality of services and meet operational needs and requirements.

”

Farah El Beshar
Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumna and member of the Alumni Council
National Drive-thru Project Coordinator / Performance Management Officer at AHS

“

Dataxhub is an all-in-one platform created by the youth, for the youth. It is a knowledge-based digital platform that addresses the demands of a knowledgeable youth audience and is made in UAE.

Dataxhub all-in-one platform offers:

(1) A next generation social media knowledge-based platform allowing youth to create any type of content (articles, videos, or podcasts) to express themselves and share their knowledge (www.dataxhub.com)

(2) Teachhelp, which is the second digital platform offered by Dataxhub, providing tutoring classes by merging Fintech and Edtech (www.teachhelp.ae)

Dataxhub is the first Edtech produced by the United Arab Emirates to upgrade the youth experience by allowing young people to socialise through knowledge. It is aligned with the UAE’s 2030 national strategy on sustainable goals and meeting the UAE youth agenda of 2030.



At Dataxhub, we believe that building cross-national youth networks and peer-to-peer mentoring services for knowledge sharing and skill transfer is the best way to build a consolidated relationship with younger generations and a solid future for our society.

I am convinced that whatever profession you choose, our success is primarily the result of our discussions and interactions with others.

With the COVID-19 crisis and the challenges it has caused, especially concerning the development of online courses, I felt it necessary to support and help the youth community; my community. The Dataxhub project was born from the conviction that young people can learn from their experiences, share them, and progress.

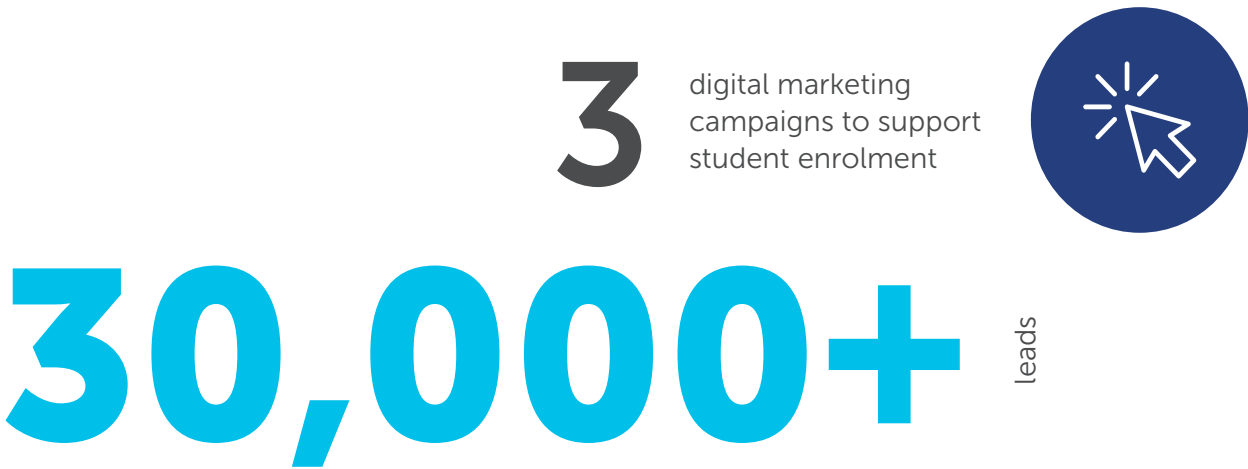
Through its multiple partnerships with the Youth Hub Abu Dhabi, Institut français, Campus France, Edbridg and many new ones, Dataxhub is looking to expand to fill the gap between knowledge and youth by breaking the limits of traditional education by merging it with the latest technology.

”

Kaoutar Abdallah
Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Alumna
Founder of Data X Hub and Legal Counsel Corporate Law & FinTech

INCREASING
BRAND EXPOSURE

MARKETING AND
DIGITAL MARKETING



PRESS/MEDIA



SOCIAL
MEDIA

300+

posts on social media channels

90,000+

followers across all media channels

60+

posts on UAE Barq net_ad

48,000+

overall engagement



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Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has developed strategic partnerships with prominent individuals, local and international organisations to support academic research, scholarships programmes and university events.

THE COMPANIONS OF SORBONNE ABU DHABI ENLIGHTENMENT

The Companions of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Enlightenment is a sponsorship programme, which brings together individuals and companies that have privileged relations with the university. These philanthropic donations support the local and international research development at the university, the Master's scholarships programme, and the university's events.

Our existing companions of enlightenment are:

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THE FRIENDS OF SORBONNE

The Association was founded in Spring 2007 as a result of a group collaboration between Emirati and French residents in the UAE who are keen to support the development of a prestigious and ambitious project. Members of the Association believe that education and culture are a crucial part in the economic development and the wellbeing of the community. The Association's primary role is to seek funds to support the university's scholarships and to facilitate the transition of graduates into the professional world.

The Association Executive Committee consists of:

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