



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI



Bachelor in
**GEOGRAPHY
AND PLANNING**

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overview

An exclusive three-year degree awarded by Sorbonne Université in Paris and delivered in Abu Dhabi by world-class academics. The programme builds rigorous expertise in physical, human and regional geography, while broadening perspectives across the social and natural sciences.

With a strong focus on real-world experience, this programme offers numerous internship opportunities in the UAE and abroad, in fields such as urban planning, sustainable development, risk management and territorial analysis.

Across the first two years, students build solid foundations in the Earth's environment (landforms, hydrography, climate, and vegetation) and in the spatial dynamics of societies (including demographics, culture, and economy).

In the third year, they deepen their expertise through international case studies and thematic courses in risk analysis, logistics and transport, humanitarian action and urban studies—

enhanced by regular field visits throughout the programme, including a third-year overseas study trip that combines field observations, site visits and hands-on learning.

Students develop highly sought-after technical skills through practical training with professional tools used by geographers and planners: cartography, remote sensing, statistical data processing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A dedicated computing lab and individual tutoring sessions support students throughout the programme.

By graduation, students will be able to analyse major territorial challenges —

such as the environmental impacts of human activities, urbanisation, sustainable development strategies, social inequalities, economic and tourism development, and heritage protection—and propose informed, responsible solutions.

Taught by internationally recognised faculty, the programme combines academic excellence with innovative teaching methods to deliver a dynamic, engaging and well-rounded learning experience.

The curriculum follows the European ECTS framework, and the degree is awarded by Sorbonne Université in Paris.

programme

Year 1

Semester 1

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Introduction to Geographic Analysis	Big Questions in Geography Geographic Documents Analysis
Environmental Dynamics	How the Earth System Works Coastal Environments
Territories and Societies	Distribution and Dynamics of Populations Space, Societies, and Culture
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)

Year 1

Semester 2

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Processes of the Earth System	Earth Climate Distribution and Evolution Landforms and Landscapes
Development of Territories and Globalisation	Economy and Development: From Global to Local Challenges of Urban Development
Methods and Tools	Introduction to Digital Mapping Practice of Geography
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)



Year 2

Semester

3

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Environment and Resource Management	Landforms Dynamic and Evolution Water Resource Distribution and Management Agriculture and Food Resources
Political Power and Territorial Management	Spaces and Stakes of Power Urban Planning
Professional Skills (1)	Computer-Aided Drawing / Computer-Assisted Design Geographical Data Statistical Analysis
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)

Year 2

Semester

4

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Environmental Sustainability	Environmental Transition Challenges Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptation
Territories, Mobility, and Tourism	Multiscale Mobility Analysis Tourism, Recreation, and Territories
Geopolitics	Geopolitics and Geostrategy of the World
Professional Skills (2)	Geographic Information System (Level 1) Remote Sensing
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)

Year 3

Semester

5

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Analysis and Management of Environmental Dynamics	Long-Term Environmental Changes Geographic Documents Analysis Risks and Societies
Urban Planning and Transport	Urban Planning and Projects Transport Networks and Mobility
Muslim Culture and Territories	Muslim World
Professional Skills (3)	Multivariate Statistical Analysis Supervised project
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)

Year 3

Semester

6

UNIT	COURSE NAME
Urban Biodiversity	From the Biosphere to the Urban Ecosystem
Territories, Culture, and Heritage	Regional Cultural and Social analysis Territories and Heritage
Development and Global South	Emerging Countries Humanitarian and Development
Professional Skills (4)	GIS (Level 2) Internship travel
Elective Courses	2 or 3 courses (including Language + French as Foreign Language if required)



Career prospects

The Bachelor in Geography and Planning prepares students for successful careers across a wide range of fields. Geographers are valued for their ability to understand territories and spatial dynamics—and to transform data and field insights into clear analysis, compelling maps and actionable recommendations for decision-makers.

Career opportunities span urban and regional planning, environmental management, consulting and architecture, geopolitics, tourism, and transport & logistics. Thanks to strong training in Geographic Information Systems, remote sensing and data processing, graduates also access fast-growing roles in AI-powered spatial analysis (geospatial data science, predictive mapping, smart-city and mobility modelling).

Alumni work locally and internationally in the private sector (e.g., IMKAN Properties, Aldar Properties, AD Ports Group, ADNOC, Etihad Rail) and in public institutions such as the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, and the Department of Culture and Tourism / Department of Urban Planning and Municipalities.

This degree provides graduates with several options to pursue further academic studies at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi and other overseas institutions.





Admission requirements

To be eligible for this Bachelor's degree, students must have the following:

General application requirements

- Minimum average of 12 out of 20 for French General Baccalaureate or equivalent for the francophone curriculum.
- **UAE Ministry of Education curriculum:**
 - General stream: Minimum average of 80%
 - Advanced stream: Minimum average of 75%
- **Other high school systems:** High school certificate equivalent to the UAE Ministry of Education high school, with a minimum average of 80% or equivalent.

French language proficiency

- **French Aptitude Certificate at B2 level:** DELF, DALF, SELFEE, TCF (valid 2 years)
- **TEF** (valid 2 years)
- **SUAD University Diploma (DU) French Language** for non-French speakers
- **French Baccalaureate** graduates are exempt

Foundation year pathway

Students not meeting the required French Aptitude Certificate or students coming from ministry of education curriculum (technical stream) with a minimum average of 80% or for students with French professional or technical Baccalaureate with a minimum average of 12 out of 20 will be admitted conditionally in the programme, and enrolled in the foundation year in intensive French providing they meet the above criteria.

Upon its successful completion, they will be admitted into the Bachelor's degree programme.

Other education systems

Conditions apply to other foreign curricula in accordance with the admission policy set by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. Contact Student Recruitment at: admissions@sorbonne.ae for more details.

Equal opportunity

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomes applications from students of all nationalities and backgrounds, regardless of country of origin, income, gender, religion, or physical condition.

Tuition Fees

(Including admin. fees - over 3 years)

AED 215,100 (approximately US\$ 58,615)

Up to 100% scholarship available for this programme!**

To learn more

Click:

<https://www.sorbonne.ae/fees-and-scholarships/scholarships/>

or Scan:



**Terms and Conditions apply

Why Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi ?

In today's fast-paced and globalised economies, knowledge and languages both serve an important role in creating progressive and vibrant societies. The French education system is known for its high level of rigorous critical thinking and debating skills, which play a significant role in developing future pioneers and leaders.

Sorbonne Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised education institution that serves as a bridge between civilisations by offering a multicultural environment, which promotes and develops a strong culture of tolerance, curiosity, harmony and cultural awareness for today's modern economy. Students have access to internationally acclaimed faculty, world-class facilities and internationally certified degrees, which places them firmly on the right path in preparation for a successful career.

This degree is officially accredited by the UAE Commission for Academic Accreditation (www.caa.ae).





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