



SORBONNE
UNIVERSITY
ABU DHABI



Master in
**SOCIAL
RESEARCH AND
DATA ANALYSIS FOR
GLOBAL SOCIETIES**

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Overview

The Master in Social Research and Data Analysis for Global Societies is awarded by Sorbonne Université in Paris and delivered by distinguished academics at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD).

This two-year programme provides advanced training in social research design, quantitative and qualitative data analysis, and evidence-based policy evaluation. It prepares students to analyse complex social transformations shaping global and regional societies, including demographic change, digitalisation, migration, inequality, sustainability, education, governance, and cultural dynamics.

The programme responds to the growing demand for professionals capable of producing rigorous, data-driven insights to inform decision-making in public institutions, international organisations, NGOs, and private-sector consultancies.

Students develop strong analytical and technical expertise in statistical software (including R and SPSS), research methodology, and critical sociological theory. Through applied projects, seminars, and research collaborations, they learn to transform data into meaningful, actionable knowledge.

Graduates emerge as highly skilled social research specialists equipped to work across sectors or pursue doctoral studies internationally.

Who is this programme for?

This programme is ideal for students who are:

- Bachelor graduates in **sociology, social sciences, economics, political science, public policy**, or related fields seeking advanced methodological training
- Professionals working in **research, government, NGOs, international organisations, consulting, or policy sectors** who wish to strengthen their **analytical and data competencies**
- Individuals aiming to develop expertise in **quantitative and qualitative research** methods
- Candidates interested in pursuing **doctoral** studies in **social sciences** or **public policy**

What makes this programme unique?

Advanced methodological expertise

The programme combines sociological theory with rigorous training in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. Students gain hands-on experience in:

- Survey design and experimental research analysis
- Statistical modelling and multivariate analysis
- Interviewing and qualitative data coding
- Visual and digital sociology
- Data analysis using R and SPSS

Graduates are trained to handle complex datasets and produce high-quality research outputs.

Global perspective and regional expertise

While the programme adopts a global comparative framework, it offers specialised training in Gulf Studies, enabling students to analyse the rapid social transformations shaping the UAE and wider GCC region. Dedicated courses in Gulf Studies (I & II) examine demographic change, labour markets, migration systems, youth dynamics, economic diversification, governance, and cultural shifts within the Gulf context.

Academic excellence rooted in Sorbonne's legacy

The programme draws on the intellectual legacy of Sorbonne University, a pioneer in sociological thought and research. Faculty are affiliated with GEMASS (Groupe d'Étude des Méthodes et de l'Analyse Sociologique de la Sorbonne), a leading French research centre specialising in methodological innovation in social sciences.

Hands-on research in Gulf societies

Beyond classroom learning, students gain hands-on research experience grounded in Gulf societies. Through applied projects and empirical assignments, they engage directly with regional datasets, policy questions, and social challenges. This practical exposure allows students to:

- Conduct field-based and data-driven research in the Gulf context
- Apply quantitative and qualitative methodologies to real regional cases
- Develop context-sensitive policy analysis skills
- Build professional familiarity with institutional actors in the UAE

This combination of global analytical frameworks and locally grounded research experience equips graduates to operate effectively both within the Gulf region and internationally.

Flexible format for working professionals

Courses are delivered in English over two years, with evening and weekend classes designed to accommodate students balancing professional and academic commitments. Small cohorts encourage active participation, peer learning, and individual mentorship.





Programme *highlights*

- Academic prestige of an internationally recognised Sorbonne-issued degree
- Strong expertise in statistical software (R, SPSS)
- Specialisation in social research applied to global and Gulf societies
- Access to SUAD Career Centre and international alumni network
- Advanced training in quantitative and qualitative data analysis
- Individual supervision by research-active faculty
- Master's thesis demonstrating independent research capability
- Flexible learning format suitable for working professionals



Programme structure

The Master is completed over 24 months (four semesters in total), with the final semester primarily dedicated to thesis research. The programme is structured to support students who are balancing academic and professional responsibilities, with a flexible course schedule featuring evening and weekend classes on a biweekly basis.

Master's thesis

A central element of the programme is the individual research project, which allows students to investigate a relevant social issue under faculty supervision. Students design and implement an original research study addressing a significant social issue.

The thesis demonstrates the student's ability to:

- Formulate a research question
- Apply appropriate methodological tools
- Analyse empirical data rigorously
- Produce academically sound and policy-relevant conclusions

The programme culminates in the submission of a master's thesis and its defense in front of a jury composed of Parisian and local professors.



Year 1

Course name

Specialised Sociological Fields

- Gulf Studies I
- Networks and Society I
- Economy and Society I
- Social Theory I
- Theory and Concepts
- Social Stratification

Applied Methodology

- Qualitative Methods I
- Visual Sociology I
- Quantitative Methods I, II, & III
- Data Analysis

Research Preparation

- Social Research Project

Year 2

Course name

Specialised Sociological Fields

- Gulf Studies II
- Networks and Society II
- Economy and Society II
- Social Theory II
- Sociology of Globalisation
- Youth, Education and Society

Applied Methodology

- Qualitative Methods II
- Visual Sociology II
- Quantitative Methods IV

Research Preparation

- Social Research
- Individual Thesis Research

Assessment & graduation requirements

Course sessions are primarily assessed through in-class individual and group assignments, including presentations, case study analyses and group exercises. There are no final exams in this programme. However, attendance at all classes is highly encouraged, and students are expected to be punctual and adhere to university regulations at all times.

Career prospects

Alumni are currently employed in federal ministries, local government authorities, cultural institutions, research centres and statistics and polls institutes, and international organisations across the UAE and abroad.

The programme also provides strong preparation for doctoral studies, with alumni admitted to competitive PhD programmes internationally. Alumni have successfully been admitted to prestigious doctoral programmes in France, Europe, Canada, the United States, and the UAE.

Career Centre support

SUAD's Career Centre supports students throughout their programme offering one-on-one career advising, CV / cover letter support, internship placement assistance, and employer connections through the JobTeaser online platform.



What can I do with a major in Social Research and Data Analysis for Global Societies?

Where graduates in Social Research and Data Analysis for Global Societies can work

Graduates of this Master programme are particularly well positioned for careers in the public sector, where rigorous data analysis and evidence-based policy design are increasingly central to decision-making.

Many alumni work in government ministries, public authorities, and semi-government institutions across the UAE and the wider region. Their expertise in research design, statistical analysis, and policy evaluation enables them to contribute to strategic planning, social policy development, and programme assessment.

Graduates also pursue roles in:

- International Organisations and Development Agencies
- Research Centres and Think Tanks
- Public Policy Consultancies
- NGOs and Social Impact Organisations

Typical positions include:

- Policy Analyst
- Research and Strategy Officer
- Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
- Social Data Analyst
- Programme Development Officer
- Researcher or Statistician





Admission prospects

Admission to the Master's programme is individually assessed on applicant's individual merit. The admission process is carefully designed to build a diverse cohort of talented individuals who demonstrate strong interpersonal skills and a positive attitude.

General application requirements

Applicants must have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree with one of the following results:

- Bachelor in a relevant field with a CGPA of 3 out of 4 or equivalent; or
- Bachelor with a minimum of second-class honours; or a Bachelor with an average of 12 out of 20.

For applicants who obtained a Bachelor's degree below the required score:

- Students with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.9 (or equivalent as per the equivalency table) may be conditionally admitted under probation during the first semester. They will be authorised to continue in the programme only if they achieve an average of at least 12 out of 20 by the end of the first semester. The decision will be made official after completion of the first semester and is based on academic performance.
- Students with a GPA below 3 may be admitted on the basis of their professional and / or personal experience, subject to approval through the VAPP procedure by Sorbonne University's or Université Paris Cité's VAPP commission.

Language proficiency:

For Master programmes taught in English, applicants must provide one of the following:

- A valid academic IELTS certificate with a minimum overall band score of 6.0 (valid for 2 years); or
- TOEFL certificate with a minimum score of 79 (or equivalent), valid for 2 years; or
- A minimum EmSAT English score of 1400, valid for 18 months; or

- Proof of being a native English speaker who has completed three full years in an English-medium institution within a maximum period of three years; or an equivalent qualification.

Interview

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview online or on campus to assess their motivation, career expectations, and relevant professional experience in the field of study.

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 2 years)

AED 166,400 (approximately US\$ 45,344)

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 world, education and communication play a pivotal role in shaping progressive and dynamic societies. The French education system is renowned for cultivating rigorous inquiry and, debate skills – essential qualities for developing future innovators and leaders.

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is a globally recognised institution that bridges civilisations, offering a multicultural environment that fosters tolerance, curiosity, harmony, and cultural awareness - vital qualities for success in the modern economy. Students benefit from internationally acclaimed faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and globally recognised degrees, all of which equip them with the tools necessary for a successful and impactful career.

This degree is awarded by Sorbonne Université and accredited by the French Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. Furthermore, this programme is accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation (CAA).





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