



SORBONNE  
UNIVERSITY  
ABU DHABI

# La Gazette

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**SORBONNE  
UNIVERSITY  
ABU DHABI**

**The "S" letter is an open acronym symbolising the journey of knowledge ("Le Savoir"). The curved shape that symbolises the path of the "Seine" river is also a metaphor of passing on knowledge ("Le Savoir").**

The dome is an architectural shape that represents the place where the university family meets. By looking at this dome, we recall history, prestige, power, wisdom and excellence.

The colour selection represents the French Flag colours as a tribute for the world-class French Education System.



# Board of Trustees

**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. Sorbonne Abu Dhabi is managed by Prof. Eric Fouache, Executive Director and two Deputy Executive Directors for Academic Affairs and Administrative Affairs.**

**H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh**  
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Minister of State

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

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Member of the Board of Trustees  
Director General of the Department  
of Culture and Tourism

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Director of the Foreign Minister's office

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

**Mr. Mohammed Khalifa Al Nuaimi**  
Member of the Board of Trustees  
Director of Education Affairs at the  
Office of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

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Member of the Board of Trustees  
Dean of the Humanities Faculty at  
Sorbonne University

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Member of the Board of Trustees  
Secretary General of the Ministry of Europe  
and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

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Senior Executive Vice-President,  
International Development at Thales

**Mr. Stéphane Michel**  
Member of the Board of Trustees  
President of Middle East, Exploration  
& Production Division at Total SA

# Rewind



## **Team Building** 15th August 2018

Team building day for our staff to facilitate and promote collaboration, cooperativeness and strong team work across all the university's departments. This is a cook off where people worked in teams, shared tasks and supported each other to produce an edible lunch for themselves and the trainers.

## **Integration Week** 16th to 23rd September 2018

This week was dedicated to welcoming new students with Ask Ali as well as cultural activities, workshops and bicycle tours in Al Reem Island.

## **Board of Trustees Meeting** 28th September 2018

With the start of the new academic year, the new appointed Board of Trustees to Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi held their first meeting on Friday 28 September at the university's campus on Al Reem Island. H.E. Zaki Anwar Nusseibeh, Minister of State, is

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

## **SEStrAC (Sorbonne Emirates Strategic Conference)** 1st October 2018

First of its kind in the UAE, this day of round tables focused on defense and security stakes in the UAE. It was an occasion to welcome Prof. Alain Bauer, Dr. Ibtisam El Ketbi and France's deputy secretary general for defence and national security, General de Woillemont.

## **CinemaNa** 8th October 2018 5th November 2018 10th December 2018

On the campuses of SUAD and NYUAD, the cycle of contemporary Arab cinema made us travel from Algeria with *Until the birds return* (2017) by Karim Moussaoui to Palestine, thanks to *When I saw you* (2016) by Anne-Marie, Jacir passing by

Iraq with *The Journey*, by Mohamed Al Daradji (2017). With the support of the Palestinian Business Council

## **Les Majlis littéraires (celebrating 5 years)** 14th October 2018 4th November 2018

The Majlis litteraire addressed the issue of teaching French in the UAE at the time of Sheikh Zayed in line with the exhibition's inauguration, which was devoted to the same topic. The other majlis that took place in November highlighted the 11th November in French Literature.

## **The French Cultural Diplomacy in the UAE at the time of Sheikh Zayed (1974-2004)** 14th to 28th October 2018

Unveiled archive from The Nantes Diplomatic Archives Centre and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Center for Diplomatic Archives (Courneuve), revealed cultural dialogue between France and the UAE at the time of H.H. Sheikh Zayed.

## **Sorbonne Talking Series** 10th, 14th, 17th, 22nd October 2018 7th November 2018 5th December 2018

In English or French, each conference was an opportunity to discuss current sport, international tourism, and archeology concerns and local topics (hunting techniques in the region or medieval Islam).

## **Sorbonne Workshops** 3rd, 16th and 24th October 2018

These small group sessions were reserved for specialised topics, from the discovery of Hispanic culture to Nabis decor echoing the Louvre Abu Dhabi exhibition.

## **GITEX 2018** 17th October 2018

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi participated in GITEX 2018 to present its Sorbonne University Atmospheric Forecasting System (SUAFS) initiative, an integrated combination of advanced models able to provide global weather and detailed weather desert forecasts for 72hours on various temporal scales over the Arabian Peninsula (GCC) and UAE areas. For more information: <http://forecast.psuad.ac.ae/>

## **Visit of a delegation from the European Parliament** 30th October 2018

The delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula at the European Parliament visited Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi to learn more about the UAE's achievements in the field of education. During this visit, the delegation met with students who shared their academic experiences as well as the importance of the cultural diversity within the campus.

## **Najah 2018** 31st October 2018

Under the umbrella of the Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi participated in Najah Higher Education and Training fair 2018, the UAE's leading higher education event, for the 8th consecutive year.

## **MoU with Zayed University** 5th November 2018

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi has recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Zayed University to cooperate and enhance academic excellence. Prof. Eric Fouache, Executive Director of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi signed the agreement with Prof. Reyadh Al Mehaideb, Vice-President of Zayed University, at a ceremony held at the ZU campus in Abu Dhabi.

A framework bonds both ends in research and training, in addition to exchanging pertinent best practices, all to develop knowledge and skills amongst students.

## **Graduation Ceremony** 11th November 2018

SUAD celebrated the graduation of 261 graduates. During this occasion, Dr. Majid Al Khemeiri, first Emirati graduate from SUAD was honored for receiving a PhD degree from Sorbonne University in Paris.



## **Visit of the French Parliament delegation** 13th November 2018

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi welcomed the National Assembly of French Delegation headed by Ms. Amelia Lakrafi, member of Parliament, representative of the French living abroad, president of the France-United Arab Emirates Friendship Group. During their visit, the delegation met with students who shared their academic experiences, future professional plans as well as the importance of the cultural diversity within the campus.



## **MoU with the National Archives** 13th November 2018

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi and the National Archives signed a MoU. It aims at enhancing the collaboration between both parties on different levels such as securing professional trainings in the field of records and documentation management as well as the implementation of academic programmes such as the new professional certificate in archives and records management.



## **Annual Retreat** 21st November 2018

Under the theme of "Interdependence and Collaboration", Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi organised its annual retreat for employees. During this event, employees worked closely together in groups and participated in various team building activities.

## **47th National Day Celebrations** 27th November 2018

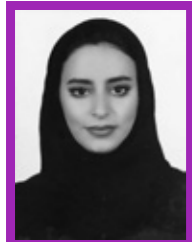
To mark the UAE's 47th National Day, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi held a day of celebration, which included a number of traditional activities rooted by Emirati heritage. A host of members of the administrative and academic division and student body attended the occasion. A number of interactive activities was organised to celebrate the spirit of the union, reflecting much of the UAE's rich heritage including local arts, handicrafts, silver thread work and weaving, as well as calligraphy, henna and a local fashion show.



## **Commemoration Day** 29th November 2018

Under the slogan 'The UAE Remembers' and to pay respects to the UAE's martyrs, who give their lives to maintain peace, stability and security, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, lowered the UAE flag at 8:00am on Commemoration Day. Employees of the academic and administrative divisions as well as students, paid tribute to the nation's martyrs in honour of their noble sacrifice for the future of the nation. This was followed by a moment of silence for Commemoration Day, after which the UAE flag was raised again at 11:30am.

# New joiners



**Alyazia Alqamzi**  
Officer - Student Recruitment Registrar  
Extension: 9397



**Larissa Bukharina**  
Academic Coordinator - FLE Registrar  
Extension: 9152



**Sara Alsaedi**  
Officer - Administration Student Affairs  
Extension: 9359



**Dr. Ioannis Kourakis**  
Associate Professor Sciences and Engineering  
Extension: 9630



**Dr. Joumana Etrifai**  
Assistant Professor Sciences and Engineering  
Extension: 9708



**Atanas Tarkalanov**  
Lecturer Sports  
Extension: 9035



**They Beord**  
Lecturer French as a Foreign Language  
Extension: 9155



**Jessica Asse**  
Lecturer French as a Foreign Language  
Extension: 9153



**Maelle Cammas**  
Lecturer French as a Foreign Language  
Extension: 9163



**Spencer Jones**  
Lecturer Applied Foreign Languages  
Extension: 9136



**Bakir Isawi**  
Section Head - Business Applications - Digital Transformation & Innovation  
Extension: 9506



**Amer Chakhachirou**  
Internal Auditor Management  
Extension: 9454



**Dr. Claude Vishnu Spaak**  
Head Philosophy & Sociology  
Extension: 9122



**Dr. Ahmed Slimani**  
Assistant Professor Sciences & Engineering  
Extension: 9284



**Dayana Abou Karam**  
Academic Coordinator - Sports Registrar  
Extension: 9172



**Khader Al Absi**  
Instructional Technology Specialist - Digital Transformation & Innovation  
Extension: 9512



**Rana Shabaneh**  
Academic Coordinator - License Registrar  
Extension: 9210

# Up next

15  
DEC

**Liwa Camel Festival**

27  
JAN

**Majlis Littéraire**  
Roselyne de Villeneuve, "Charles Nodier's historical Paris"

04  
FEB

**France-UAE Express**  
Four hands piano concert by Gabriel Tacchino & Emmanuelle Stephan

06  
FEB

**Talk**  
Islamic art & abstract art (LAD, JP. Najar Foundation, NYUAD)

21  
FEB

**Open Day**

27  
FEB

**Sorbonne Talking Series**  
Geopolitics with Thierry Garcin

04  
MAR

**CinemaNa**  
The reports on Sarah and Saleem

04  
MAR

**Astrolabe 2019**  
Career Forum

05  
MAR

**Astrolabe 2019**  
Career Forum

13  
MAR

**International Day**

17  
MAR

**Majlis Littéraire**  
Proust's young women are a century old!

19  
MAR

**Sorbonne's got talent**

20  
MAR

**Sorbonne Talking Series**  
The French around the world

09  
APR

**Workshop**  
Urbanism

14  
APR

**Majlis Littéraire**  
Arabia Felix, by Bernard Franco

29  
APR

**CinemaNa**  
Short movies

**The Friends of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Association was established under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces. It is supported by the French Ambassador to the UAE.**

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; while bringing together renowned Emirati and French companies as strategic partners in the outreach and development of Sorbonne Abu Dhabi. 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 Friends of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi Association

The Association Executive Committee consists of:

## President

**Mrs. Fairouz Villain**

## Vice-Presidents

**H.E. Saeed Al Hajiri**, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)

**Mr. Sultan Al Hajji**, Total E&P UAE

## General Secretary

**Mrs. Asma Al Ghanem**, Doctors without Borders

## Committee Members

**Dr. Usra Soffan**, National Center for Documentation and Research

**Mrs. Eudeline de Tinguy**, Thinkers & Doers

**Mrs. Raphaelle Francois-Poncet**, Baker & McKenzie/Habib Al Mulla

**Mr. Hussain Al Jaziri, Ja' Afar Alwan**, Al Jaziri & Associates

**Prof. Eric Fouache**, Executive Director of Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi

## Members of Honour

**Prof. Jean Chambaz**, President of Sorbonne University

**H.E. Ludovic Pouille**, French Ambassador to the UAE

## Current Sponsors

### Gold



### Silver



### Bronze





**A beautiful life does not just happen; it is built by prayer, humility, sacrifice, and hard work.**

# Face to face

## **Dr. Fatima Al Shamsi**

Deputy Executive Director for Administrative Affairs, Sorbonne Abu Dhabi

### **How, and why, did you get into the education sector?**

It was a childhood dream of mine to become a teacher. It was a passion and not a profession. I was lucky enough to be born in a country where its leaders value the importance of education and was even more fortunate to have been selected from among a few to continue my education abroad. Coming back and getting into the education sector was the best way I could repay my country for all the support I was given.

### **Based on your experience in the academic world, how would you describe the evolution of the education sector in the UAE?**

One of the UAE's highest priorities has always been education. As President, His Highness Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the founding father of the UAE, noted, "The greatest use that can be made of wealth is to invest it in creating generations of educated and trained people."

The UAE has focused on educating both men and women. In 1975, the rate of adult literacy was 54 percent among men and 31 percent among women. Today, literacy rates for both genders are close to 95 percent.

New initiatives are being launched at all educational levels. A key area of focus has been to transform K to 12 programmes, to ensure that UAE students are fully prepared to attend universities around the world and compete in the global marketplace. In addition, some of the world's best universities are creating programs in the UAE, attracting talented students in the Arab world and globally.

### **Being an Emirati woman pioneer in your field of economics, what do you think helps women stand out in the workforce and in their specialised industries?**

When you are guided and motivated by true leaders who value the role and importance of every woman in society, you cannot but strive to excel and accomplish the impossible in any industry or specialisation you choose. Whether it is in Economics, Medicine, Engineering, Law, or Literature, women will succeed and flourish if they get the respect and support they deserve by mentors and role models who appreciate their contribution in societies.

### **What role does innovation play in the students' academic journey?**

The goal of getting an education isn't to solve some of yesterday's problems, but to tackle problems in the future that we don't know about today, using technology that hasn't been invented yet. Given this, education doesn't need evolution nor reform, but radical revolution – in both what is taught and how it is taught.

We are starting to see the dawn of incredible innovation in teaching and learning that go beyond technology. In every sector of education, talented people are pushing for change. Students are embracing online learning, adaptive games, peer-learning platforms, and many more learning channels. Teachers are utilising better professional development tools, new content creation and other teaching tools.

A strong education, one that is aware of humanity's needs and technology's possibilities, can be the greatest enabler of innovation.

Making an impact in education, both in building our knowledge and skills as well as our understanding towards one another, is worthy of the best and brightest minds. Having better educated citizens will be the prerequisite to improving many other aspects of society.

### **What is your advice for students moving out of university life and into the professional world?**

The transition from university life to becoming a working professional is a large one. You will find that the etiquette and social norms in the working world are much different from the ones in the halls of your academic buildings. In my opinion, the most important transition will be the work environment. Your ability to collaborate with individuals from different cultures and backgrounds, to work with diverse personalities, to be a team player, and to handle projects with strict deadlines; all of this will test your skills in your first job. Staying organised and managing your time will remain crucial. The good news is that the university has provided you with these types of skills. The trick is to transfer them to your new environment: the workplace. Never stop pursuing further studies. Keep yourselves always updated on what is new in your field to always stay in the lead.

### **What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?**

In my spare time, I like to travel and I love reading. Traveling is a passion. I love exploring new places and learning about new cultures. I also enjoy reading the news and analysing the developments, which lead to major changes in the world's politics. I like to keep myself updated on the factors, which influence economies worldwide and trends, that are shaping the future.

### **What quote do you live by?**

"A beautiful life does not just happen; it is built by prayer, humility, sacrifice, and hard work." This is what I taught my kids and this is what I have conveyed to my students.

# A minute with

## **Tell us more about your journey at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.**

My journey is quite interesting. Starting as a FLE student with no knowledge of French language and ending up nine months later in France having an entire conversation in French was a surprise for me. Between those two phases, a lot had happened. I had a part time job with the Student Affairs department that helped me a lot in enhancing my communication skills in French. In addition, I joined the growing MUN club to host the first annual SUADMUN conference. After finishing the FLE year and choosing to enroll for the bachelor in Law things were a little bit more hectic and challenging but fun at the same time because the Law department motivate us a lot.

## **Why did you choose to study Law?**

I chose to study Law because since I watched the first episode of Boston Legal in 2005, I have always wanted to become a lawyer. My passion grew especially when I enrolled in MUN during high school and ended up winning the best advocate prize in the ICJ. Finally, and as any 20-year-old man, I wanted to become the next Harvey Specter.

## **What is your advice to students who wish to study Law?**

Studying Law is challenging. However, it is also very entertaining, full of mind-blowing knowledge, and really

develops many important skills. Nevertheless, it needs a lot of time and effort.

## **What are the challenges and opportunities of being a student and a part time worker?**

The biggest challenge is time management since studying and working at the same time can be very time consuming. Yet, it really gives us insight on how the working life could be. It definitely helped me connect with students and employees at the university and develop my communication skills and involvement on campus.

## **How do you balance between your studies and your passion as an active member of the Model United Nations?**

To be honest, it is difficult to balance between my studies and my passion as they are both demanding and usually comes at the cost of my sleep. However, thanks to the teamwork within our MUN club, I am able to balance between studying and go after my passion knowing that I can depend on my colleagues when I am overloaded.

## **How does the university support you in achieving your ambitions?**

The university continues to provide us with excellent opportunities whether they are academic or extra-curricular. For example, during the Astrolabe forum, I met with various law firms and succeeded in securing an internship for the summer. In addition, the university

provided the MUN club with a lot of support during our annual conference.

## **What are your future professional plans?**

After my graduation, I hope to be able to get the UK bar qualification and progress as a lawyer in one of the bigger firms. My aim is to start my own law firm one day.

## **How do you spend your free time?**

Due to working, studying and being part of the MUN club, I do not have a lot of free time. However, when I do, I spend it biking, watching series, reading a book or hanging out with friends.

## **Who is your role model in life?**

That would definitely be my mom. She is the strongest person I know and I aspire to be just as half as strong as she is. I also admire her work ethics, kindness, selfless acts and how loving and supporting she is. She is the perfect mother and I wish I could be as good of a parent as she is.

## **Thank you for sharing your experience with us. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is proud of you!**



**Finally, and as any 20-year-old man, I wanted to become the next Harvey Specter.**

**Youssef Khalil**  
Egyptian  
Bachelor of Law







**For me, an artistic outlook on life means constantly having open eyes and an open mind.**

**Mohammad Zia Gopee**  
Mauritian  
Master in History of Art and Museum Studies

**Tell us more about your journey at Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi.**

Leaving Mauritius to come to the UAE for my studies was the best decision I ever made. Sorbonne Abu Dhabi not only offers academic excellence with world-renowned professors, but it is also a truly enlightening cultural experience, located in the cosmopolitan metropolis of the UAE. After successfully completing my Bachelor degree in History of Art and Archaeology and my Master degree in History of Art and Museum studies, I am now working as a cultural mediator at Louvre Abu Dhabi. This has allowed me to witness the rapid cultural development of the region, through Sorbonne Abu Dhabi and the cultural institutions on Al Saadiyat Island.

**How did the university support you in achieving your ambitions?**

After five years at Sorbonne Abu Dhabi, I see the students in the department of History of Art and Archaeology as both friends, colleagues, and an empowering community. We owe this to the leadership of Dr. Ingrid Perisse, the head of department, who always supported and encouraged us to work hard and to prove ourselves, keeping the department thriving and attractive to new students.

Additionally, Sorbonne Abu Dhabi supported me in achieving my ambitions through giving me the tools and skills I need to work in the cultural sector.

**Describe your experience at Louvre Abu Dhabi.**

The first universal museum in the Arab world focuses on what brings people together in harmony, and what connects us all. My objective as a cultural mediator is to narrate the history of humankind through the influences of culture and human artefacts and the common strands that connect our modern selves with antiquity. I strongly believe that Louvre Abu Dhabi is bringing to the world a strong message of tolerance and wisdom and I am proud to be to be part of that.

**What does art offer for kids with intellectual disabilities?**

During my master's internship at Musée du Louvre in Paris, I have discovered several projects conducted to make them accessible to everyone. Art is all about expression and it is a very interesting and stimulating place for kids with cognitive disabilities (such as autism, ADHD and Alzheimer) as it encourages them to engage their creative mind, and to participate socially in fun activities. In addition, art therapy and Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) in cultural centers proved their efficiency and are more popular.

**How do you define the artist's role in society?**

From documenting historical events to expressing our most complex emotions, artists have, since the beginning of time, captured the essence of human being. The artist documents our realities and environments, our hopes, dreams and anxieties, whilst simultaneously reflecting them back to us, forcing us to reckon with our greatest fears and appreciate the beauty in the world. The artist also has a social responsibility to create art, which furthers notions of social justice, equality, and freedom.

**Who are your biggest influences?**

Having a grandfather who was an artist and art collector in Mauritius, and an artist mother who studied Fine Arts, my artistic influences run deep. As a child, I was fortunate enough to travel across Europe visiting its greatest art museums and its most stunning archaeological sites, which imbued me with a love of new cultures, civilisations and languages.

**What is an artistic outlook on life?**

For me, an artistic outlook on life means constantly having open eyes and an open mind. It means seeing beauty in everyday objects, without being limited by economy and facts: being able to see colours, shapes, smells,

emotions and witness the beauty in each. Art is universal, and it is a language that requires no words, which means the ability to look beyond borders and reach out for people everywhere.

**What is your dream project?**

My dream project would be to contribute to the cultural promotion of my country, Mauritius, by developing its museums and cultural sites, and thus expose and celebrate the rich history of the island, which is mostly known as a luxury vacation spot with white sands and luxury hotels. I have already started working towards this by writing my master's thesis on the mediation and educative strategies to be considered for Mauritius to promote its cultural heritage.

**What are your professional goals?**

I consider pursuing a PhD in the field of mediation in museums. I have discovered a real passion for that by working as a mediator at the museum and it raised many questions about how to democratise the museums and create the right mediation to offer a memorable experience for children with cognitive disorders. I would also like to return to Mauritius to help in the development of its cultural institutions and help in the mediation of its cultural heritage.

**How do you spend your free time?**

I love reading, writing and meditating (mindfulness). I love traveling and discovering new countries and cultures, as I believe we learn much more about a country by exploring its markets, listening to the locals and wandering its streets than we can in any classroom.

**Thank you for sharing your experience with us. Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is proud of you!**

Around the world

# Tbilisi Georgia

Tbilisi, Georgia's capital, is the largest city in the country. Visiting it in winter is a great time to enjoy snow and visit skiing resorts.



# Gastronomy



## Khinkali dumplings

They are either boiled or steamed; and usually stuffed with minced beef or lamb with spices and herbs.



## Mtsvadi

It is known as "the dish of kings". It is usually made with beef and marinated in pomegranate juice.



## Khachapuri

It is a bread with melted cheese and an egg yolk.



## Churchkhela

Its strings of nuts soaked in flour and grape juice. People usually have them as a snack, added to cheeseboards and eaten with dessert, particularly at Christmas and New Year.

# Top 3 tourist attractions

## Gudauri Ski Resort

This winter sports resort is located at Kazbegi region of Georgia, 120 km from Tbilisi. It is perfect for ski touring.



## Old Town District

Tbilisi's Old Town is picturesque all year especially so in winter. It is part of the Tbilisi Historic District and contains a number of monuments, churches, cobbled streets and picturesque pastel coloured wooden houses with open, carved balconies.



## Narikala Fortress

It is the most known and ancient monument of Tbilisi's antiquity. The townspeople call it "the heart and soul of the city". When visiting, it is worth climbing up the hill to see the city from above.





# Advising & resources

**With the start of the new academic year the Advising and Resources Section continues to seek out best practices to support student learners. The Peer Mentor program is off to a great start with 20 new and returning mentors who have committed to supporting new students as they transition into Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi. In addition, these mentors assist our section implement discussions and workshops that speak directly to the ever-changing needs of our student learners.**

If you ask a Peer Mentor why they want to be involved, many of them will talk about a professor or student who was there to help them and how important it is for them to do the same for someone else. This response reflects one of the most important characteristics of a peer mentor-empathy! In addition, the mentors are energetic, committed and enthusiastic. People are often surprised that the mentors are willing to meet at 8:00am to share ideas and discuss how we can make the Sorbonne Abu Dhabi experience even better. Their input has contributed to developing bi-weekly discussions titled, "Mentor Moments," involving SUAD students and counselors. Beginning in November 2018, discussion topics to be covered based on student requests so far include: Conquering Anxiety, Strategies for Success, Creating Positive Boundaries, Life Balance and more. In addition, Peer Mentors will play an active role in both organising these discussions and serve as facilitators.

A new initiative for the Advising and Resources Section is the proposed development of an Accessibility Center. Students are now coming forward to address their special needs issues. The Advising and Resources Section is committed to serving our students with disabilities and believe everyone should have access to the resources they need to reach their academic potential and matriculate successfully through their bachelor and master degree programmes.

As the student population at SUAD continues to grow and diversify, some people make assumptions about what is a disability or what someone with a disability can achieve. This is why it is crucial to provide the opportunity for other students and staff to learn more about how to support these members of our student community.

For 2018-2019 academic year, our goal for the students is to make the Advising and Resources Section, "A place where you get to define yourself."

# Go Foxes!

**Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi places sport on the centre stage, as sport is important and well recognised for its physical, mental, and social benefits. Nearly 20 sporting activities are offered through dedicated structures. The university offers students several opportunities for discovery and development while participating in events and championships with local and regional universities.**

**Students have the option to choose whether or not to integrate sports as part of their curriculum to earn a qualification (depending on their major and on the activity).**

## Important Information

### Sport activities and training

- The practice: we require regular attendance.
- Information and communication: the list of available sports activities, timings and coach details are available at the sports building with the student jobs section from Sunday to Wednesday, 6:00pm to 10:30pm and the sports department (room no. 2.023). Alternatively, email [sports@psuad.ac.ae](mailto:sports@psuad.ac.ae)

### Students registered in optional sports

Mandatory: 12 sessions/classes per semester. 1 justified absence allowed.

Signature of this card by the coach is mandatory (only one signature per week)

For more details, please contact the student jobs at the sports building or the sports department.

### Assessment procedures and number of ECTS:

2 to 5 ECTS: View the rules of the University with the Sports Department and with the coordinator of your department.

### How to obtain a locker?

A locker provided by Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is available at the sports building reception. You must return it at the end of the academic year. In case of loss or replacement of the key, the deposit of 100 AED will be kept by the Finance Department.

The locker key must not be copied.

## Sports Activities

- Chess
- Bellydancing
- Paddleboarding
- Golf
- Bowling
- Squash
- Crossfit
- Capoeira
- Natation Zoomers
- Badminton
- Table tennis
- Breakdancing
- Hip Hop
- Zumba
- Escalade bouldering
- Beach volleyball
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Fitness
- Muay thai
- Football
- Touch rugby

**And much more...**





# Housing

**The university residence experience is a crucial aspect of the student life and the primary goal of the Residents Assistants (RA), who are working closely with the residence team, is the development of a positive living environment and building community life by planning many events and activities.**

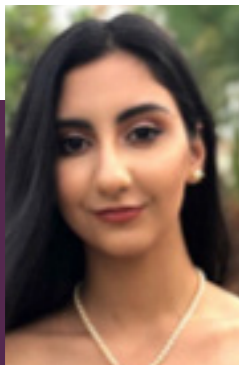
During the integration week in September, the RA organised trips to Yas Mall and Wahda mall to assist students, specially the new ones, to purchase most needed things for their life at the residence. They also organised a trip to heritage village to help them discover the culture of the country that is hosting them. The main objective of these trips was to foster links between new students and help them to integrate better in the community.

In October, we organised a water fight night at the residence garden. Fun, music, dancing and homemade pizza were on the menu for this event.

There are monthly events at the residence. Many activities are planned until the end of the year, movie nights, board game nights, barbecues, pajama parties, karaoke nights, FIFA tournaments...



# Testimonials



**I always thought I would find it hard to live on my own, but living in the Sorbonne residences proved me wrong.**

I have been living here since September 2018, everyday has been a great experience, and I have met and made great friends. There have been some fun events organised such as the trips during integration week to various malls and tourist locations, which definitely eased me into living in Sorbonne as every freshman experiences the fear of starting a new journey. So far, I have attended the water fight in the residences that was extremely enjoyable, I had the opportunity to meet more students, and had some spare time at night to hang out with friends. I would definitely recommend students to live on campus as that will ensure a great university experience.

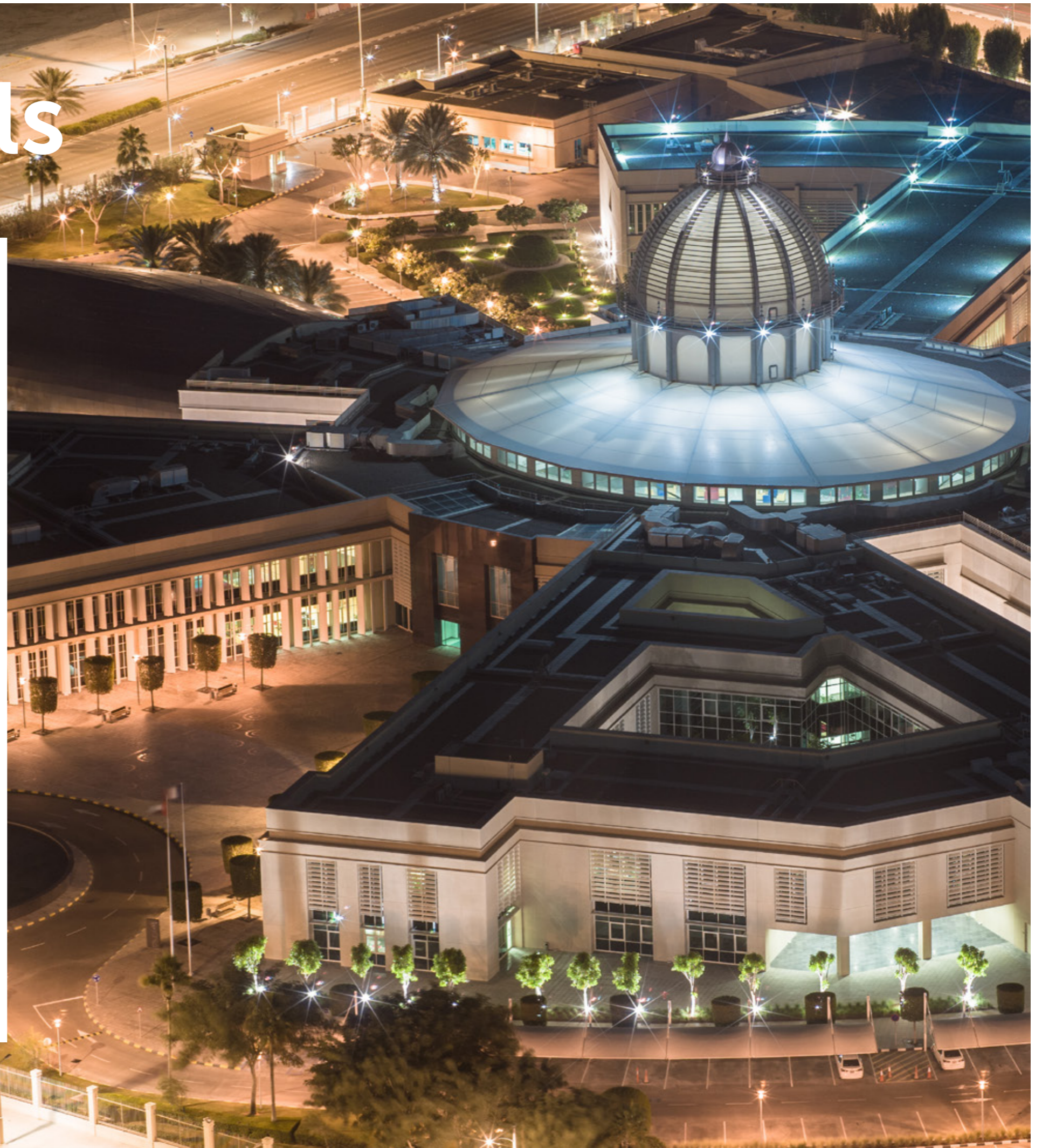
**Sayna Baba Rahamati**  
18 years, Iranian,  
French Intensive Course



**The residence is very welcoming, you feel at home quickly. Residence employees are always nice.**

Students meet regularly whether it is to eat or to spend time together and it is a great time. More activities are organised regularly that allow us all to meet together and to have a good time.

**Julien Lacombe**  
18 years, French,  
History, L2

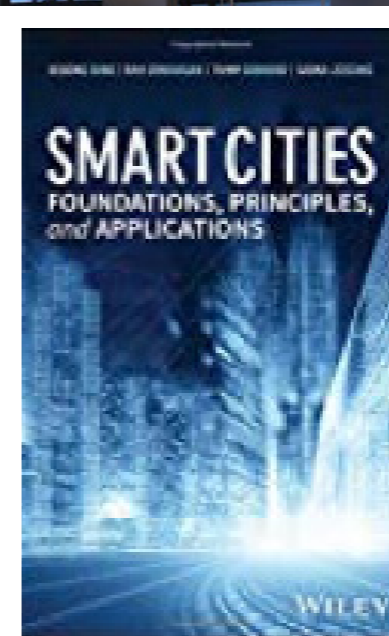




**The Sorbonne Abu Dhabi Library has a collection of more than 100,000 printed books and more than 150,000 e-books. The Library furthermore subscribes to a large number of electronic databases, which enable access to thousands of full text journal articles and reports.**

The library also has study facilities for about 400 students at a time, and more than 40 computers for accessing the library resources, email and the Internet. During the academic semesters the library is open from 8:30am to 10:00pm on Sunday to Wednesday, 8:30am to 5:30pm on Thursdays and 9:00am to 5:00pm on Saturdays.

# Our bookshelf



## **Smart cities: foundations, principles, and applications**

**Author:** [Song, Houbing](#)  
**Call Number:** [910.171 14 SMA](#)

Smart cities are emerging as a priority for research and development across the world. They open up significant opportunities in several areas, such as economic growth, health, wellness, energy efficiency, and transportation, to promote the sustainable development of cities.



## **Managing democracy in the digital age: Internet regulation, social media use, and online civic engagement**

**Editors:** [Julia Schwanholz](#), [Todd Graham](#) and [Peter-Tobias Stoll](#).  
**Call Number:** [321.8 MAN](#)

This monograph comprises fourteen chapters covering key issues such as opportunities and challenges for democracy in the context of digital transformation, Internet policy, Internet censorship, data protection regulation, political communication and social media, online civic engagement, persuasion in an online public sphere, and artificial intelligence amongst others in the wake of recent rise in digital media in Western democracies.



## **Legal Aspects of Brexit: Implications of the United Kingdom's decision to withdraw from the European Union**

**Editors:** [Jennifer A. Hillman](#) and [Gary Horlick](#)  
**Call Number:** [343.2407 LEG](#)

This monograph is the offshoot of a seminar held in 2016 at the Georgetown Law School. It comprises no less than twenty-one papers analysing UK's journey to remove itself from the treaties and institutions that make up the European Union. The primary focus is on trade and investment implications and the legal relationships that would require re-formulation and Brexit's impact on the four pillars of the EU single market namely the free movement of goods, services, capital and people.





# Fun facts

## \$30.8 million

Codex Leicester by Leonardo Da Vinci, is the most expensive book ever purchased and was sold for \$30.8 million.

## Bibliosmia

"Bibliosmia" is the word used for loving the smell of old books.

## 823

The longest sentence ever printed is 823 words and exists in Victor Hugo's Les Misérables.

## Illiteracy

Illiteracy is still a huge problem throughout the world. One in five adults cannot read or write, with the highest rates in South and West Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

## Relax

Reading lowers your heart rate and relaxes you physically.

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