SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

scai
SORBONNE CENTER FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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Pr. Gérard Biau
Director

Overview

Created in 2019 by Sorbonne University in Paris and Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi, the Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI) is a center of excellence dedicated to research in artificial intelligence. Under the direction of Professor Gérard Biau, a member of the Academy of Sciences and a specialist in statistics and machine learning, and Dr. Xavier Fresquet, a research engineer in AI & Humanities, SCAI's mission is to develop the research ecosystem in the United Arab Emirates and strengthen bilateral scientific cooperation. In Abu Dhabi, SCAI is located on Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi's campus.

Dr. Xavier Fresquet
Deputy Director

A pioneering research center dedicated to artificial intelligence in the United Arab Emirates, SCAI has paved the way for a rapidly growing ecosystem and has helped train the next generation of Emirati researchers. Since then it is a key actor of the local AI ecosystem alongside the Mohammed Bin Zayed University for Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), contributing to the development of the AI research landscape and its integration into strategic sectors.

A Research Hub Between France and the UAE

As a catalyst for scientific collaboration between France and the UAE, SCAI is fostering an advanced research ecosystem.

By leveraging the combined expertise of both countries and upholding the standards of French research excellence, it plays a key role in advancing AI expertise in the region.

Since its creation, SCAI has benefited from the support of major industrial players such as TotalEnergies and Thales, which fund two research chairs of excellence. These chairs specifically support four PhD students, whose work focuses on AI applications in the energy and security sectors.

In 2024 SCAI was recognized as a national center of excellence in AI through the AI Cluster Program launched by French President Macron, receiving public-private funding of 70 million euros.

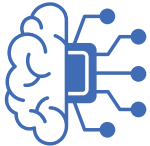# *A Hybrid Model* Supporting the UAE's Strategic Ambitions

SCAI is fully aligned with the United Arab Emirates' strategic ambitions in artificial intelligence and the development of a data-driven knowledge economy. Operating on a hybrid funding model combining public-private funding, the center integrates both fundamental and applied research, with a strong focus on R&D.

Its researchers and engineers develop industrial use cases that advance scientific research while addressing the concrete needs of key industries. By bringing innovation and academic rigor to businesses, SCAI actively contributes to the emergence of a cutting-edge technological ecosystem in the UAE.

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Excellence in Research
With Strategic Ambitions

The center's research areas cover multiple applications of artificial intelligence across various sectors.

Core of AI
Mathematical Models
& Machine Learning

Energy
Energy Resource,
Optimization
& Energy Transition

AI & Law
AI Regulation, LegalTech
& Ethical Issues

Finance
Predictions, Risk
Management, Trading
& Fraud Management

Health
Health Data, Prevention
& Personalized Medicine

Heritage/Arts
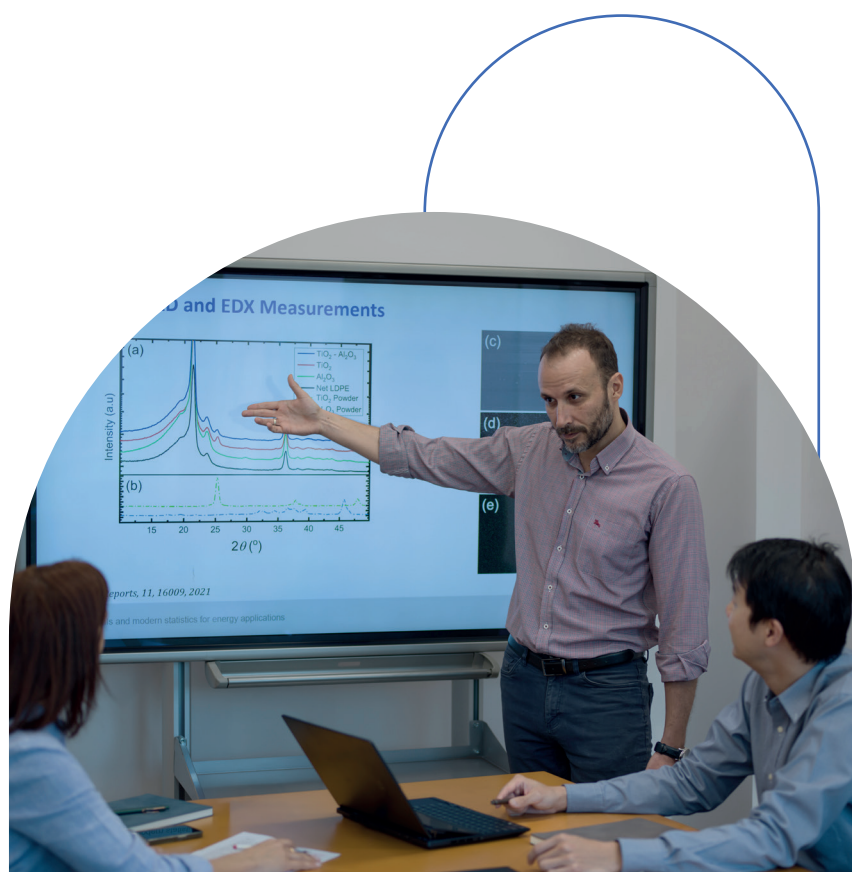Material Analysis, Art
Market & New artistic
Creations

Environment/Oceanography
Submarine Data,
Environmental DNA
& Marine Acoustic Landscapes

Ongoing Training for Executives & Professionals

In addition to its research activities, SCAI Abu Dhabi offers executive training programmes designed for senior managers and professionals seeking to acquire skills in artificial intelligence. The training programs are customized and offer a multidisciplinary approach, with a focus on excellence and the development of critical thinking, ensuring a unique learning experience. Since 2019, SCAI has been training senior executives from Emirati organizations such as the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).

About Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi?

Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi is the first French-Emirati university in the UAE, delivering world-class education since 2006 and cutting-edge research.

Excellence is at the core of its mission, positioning it among the top universities globally. Its research institute, SAFIR, hosts leading research centers, including SCAI, the Ocean Institute, the Environmental Center, and the Heritage Center, amongst others, fostering collaboration between industry, academia, and research.

Committed to shaping the future, the university trains the next generation of thinkers and leaders while enhancing workforce excellence through executive education.

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