

# SORBONNE UNIVERSITY ABU DHABI

Academic Excellence at the  
Heart of the UAE



## Dr. Lama Tarsissi

- Associate Professor in Mathematics and Computer Sciences.
- Member of Sorbonne Cluster for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI).
- Ambassador for the Committee of Women in Mathematics for the UAE and Lebanon.





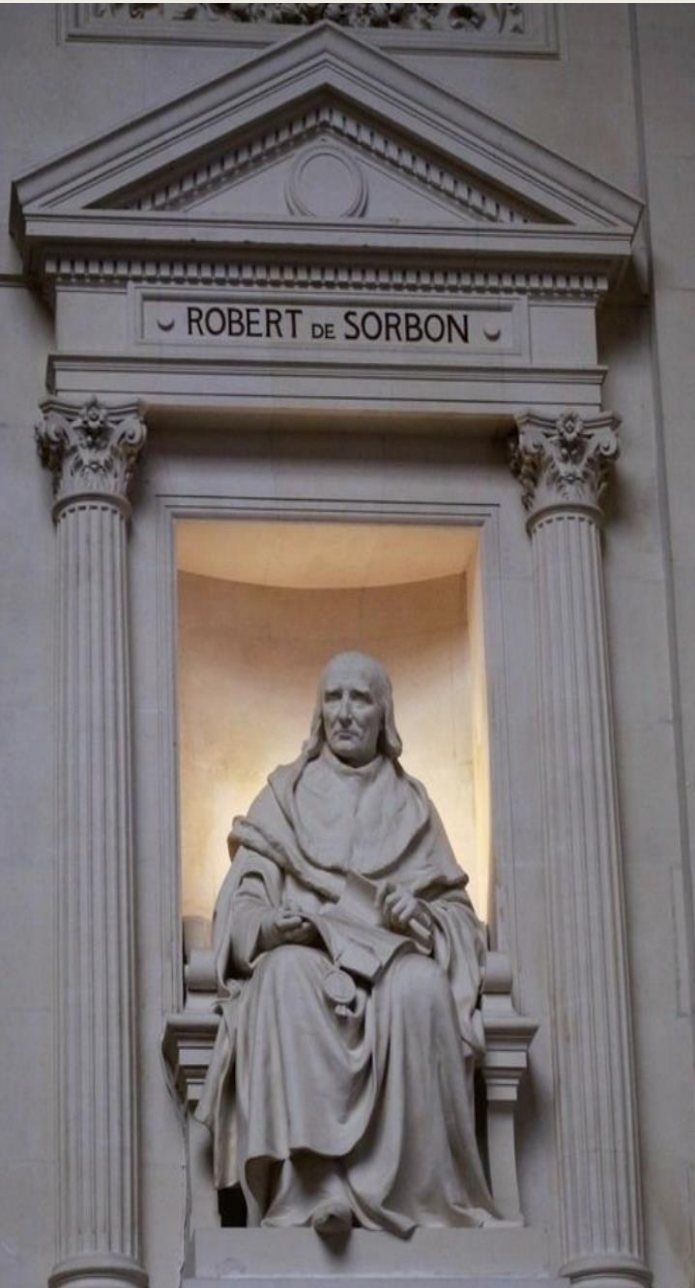
# A Living Legacy: Sorbonne University

**From Paris to Abu Dhabi**

The historic Sorbonne University campus in France and its modern counterpart in Abu Dhabi represent a living legacy of educational excellence spanning continents and centuries.



# Sorbonne University: A Legacy of Intellectual Excellence Since 1257



Founded in 1257 by **Robert de Sorbon** as a college for theology students, the Sorbonne has evolved from its medieval origins into a symbol of **academic prestige**. The historic building in **Paris's Latin Quarter** stands as a testament to centuries of intellectual achievement and scholarly tradition that has shaped European education.



# A Beacon of Knowledge Through the Centuries



1257

1

Founding by Robert de Sorbon, chaplain to King Louis IX

2

17th Century

Renewal under Cardinal Richelieu with iconic chapel construction

Early 20th Century

3

Marie Curie's groundbreaking radium research leading to her 1911 Nobel Prize

4

Post-1968

Reforms divided University of Paris, preserving Sorbonne's core legacy



# Sorbonne University Today: A World-Class Institution

## Modern Identity

Re-established in 2018 by merging Paris-Sorbonne University (humanities) and Pierre and Marie Curie University (sciences)

## Global Impact

55,000+ students, 6,400 academic staff, and a €1 billion annual budget

## Academic Excellence

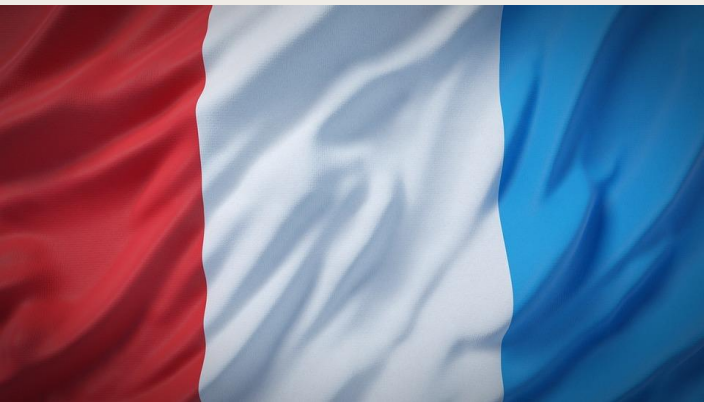
33 Nobel laureates, 6 Fields Medalists, and 1 Turing Award winner among alumni and faculty

Continuing its motto: "Creators of futures since 1257," Sorbonne University fosters innovation across arts, sciences, and medicine while maintaining its historic prominence in global education.

# **Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi:**

## **A Living Legacy Between France and UAE**

A visionary academic partnership bridging cultures, fostering innovation, and shaping the future of international education since 2006.



# A Visionary Partnership

Officially founded on May 30, 2006, Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi (SUAD) emerged from a visionary alliance between:

- **Sorbonne University (formerly Paris-Sorbonne)**
- **The Government of Abu Dhabi**

Under the patronage of **His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, then Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and now President of the UAE.

The agreement was signed during Jacques Chirac's presidency and inaugurated by French Minister of Education Gilles de Robien, marking a milestone in international academic cooperation.



# A Distinctive Vision of Higher Education

## Main Academic Institutions

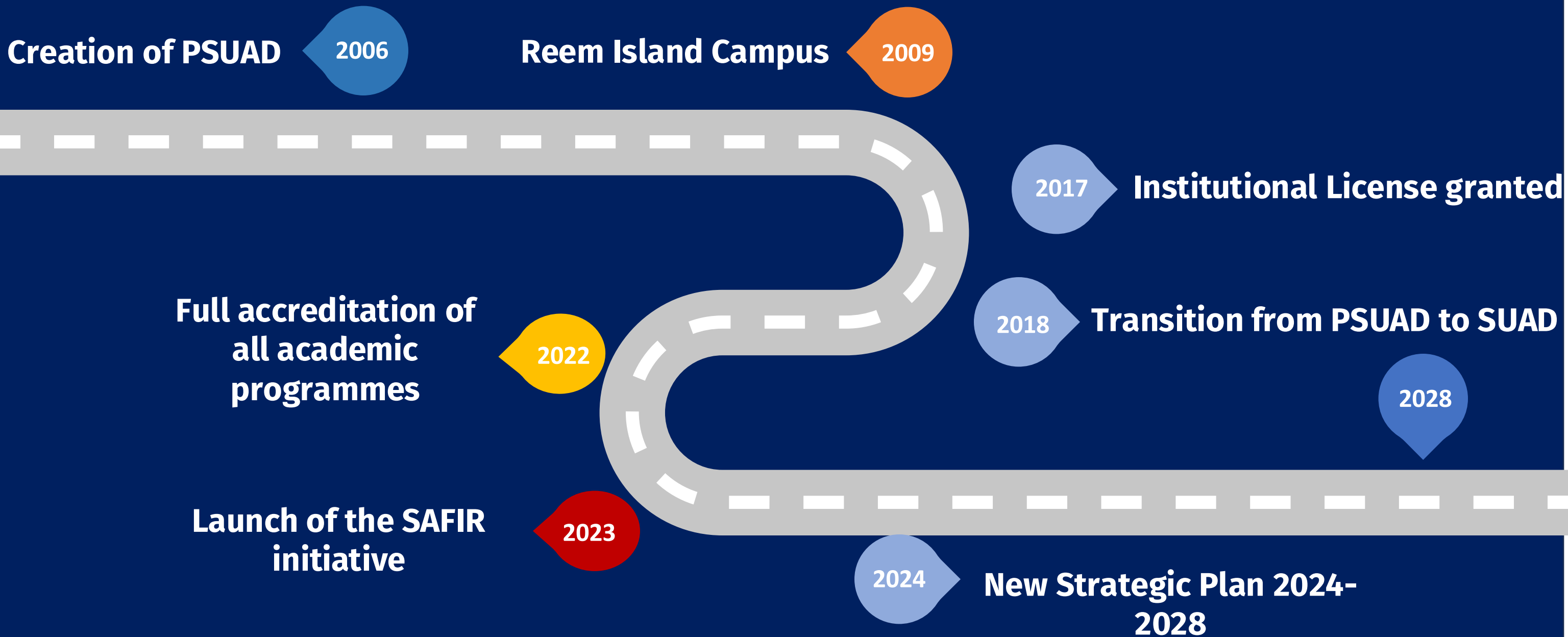


- **First French university**
- **Degrees delivered by SU and UPC**
- **Dual recognition**
- **Full academic freedom**
- **No financial support from the French Government**
- **Research activities introduced in recent years**

## Accreditations



# 18 Years of Academic and Institutional Development



# SUAD Strategic Vision 2024-2028

A Shared Vision for SUAD



# Our Values

The Spirit of the Enlightenment

Humanist Values shared by both  
European and Emirati societies

In line with UAE Vision 2030

## **Innovation**

To foster innovation by continuously seeking new ways to enhance learning, research, and engagement, allowing our students and faculty to explore and push the boundaries of knowledge and creativity.

## **Integrity**

Integrity is at the heart of everything we do at SUAD, as we ensure honesty, transparency, and accountability in all our endeavors.

## **Ethics**

Upholding the highest ethical standards is a fundamental principle at SUAD, guiding our actions, decisions, and

## **Respect**

To cultivate an environment where every individual's ideas and perspectives are acknowledged and treated with respect.

## **Tolerance**

To promote tolerance by celebrating diversity, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering an inclusive atmosphere where various backgrounds and beliefs are welcomed.

## **Commitment**

Our commitment to excellence in education and research is unwavering, as we persistently strive to provide the best opportunities for our students and contribute to society.



# Key Figures



**1400** Students

**3000+** Alumni

**337** Professors

**80** Researches



**2/3** Female students  
Female Employees

**80%** Females teaching-researchers



**+ 60** nationalities

**70%** Emiratis

**30%** Residents & internationals

(France, Egypte, Lebanon, Senegal, Canada)



# SAFIR, the Research Institute



**SORBONNE  
ABU DHABI  
FOR  
INNOVATION &  
RESEARCH**

Since 2023



€ 1.5 M



300+ publications



80 Faculty Members (with  
Research Responsibilities)



Center for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Policy



Center for Heritage and Material Science



Center for Environment and Sustainable Development



Center for Global Societies, Cities and Arts

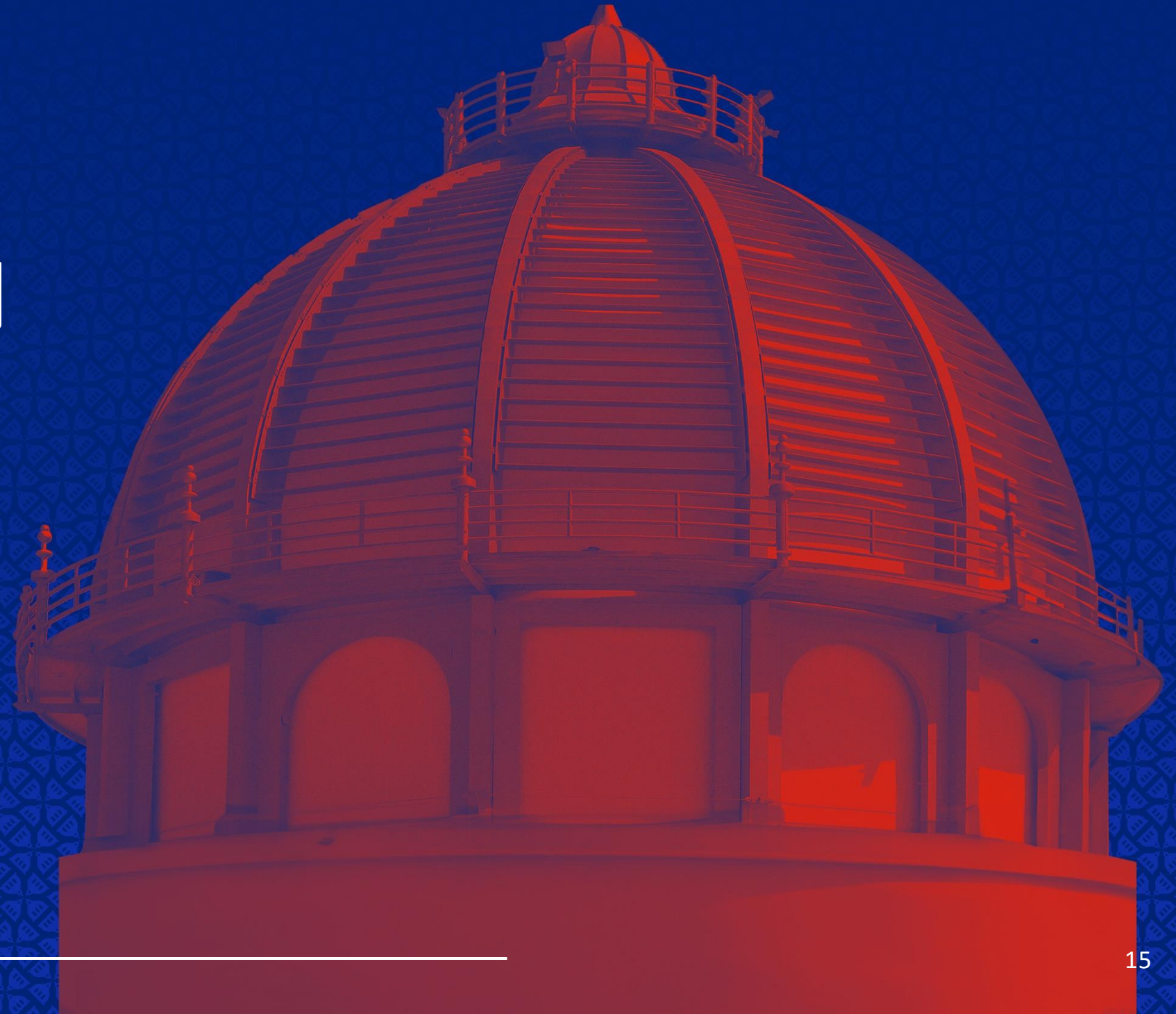


Center for Applied Mathematics, Statistics and Data  
science



Center for Humanities, Languages and Education

# THE INNOVATION ACADEMY



# THE STRUCTURE



## **AI SCHOOL**

*A Premier Hub for  
AI Training*



## **INNOVATION LAB**

*Interdisciplinary R&D for  
Real-World Impact*



## **INCUBATOR**

*A holistic  
eco-system for startup  
acceleration*

# WHY an Innovation Academy?

- A strong positioning in the local & regional ecosystem
- A driver for excellence in education, research & innovation
- An answer to national ambitions for :



**Education &  
Executive  
training**



**Research &  
Development  
needs**



**Research  
Valorisation**



# WHERE & for WHO ?

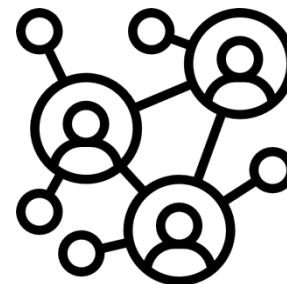
## Sorbonne Center for Artificial Intelligence (SCAI)

- Single offices
- Shared spaces
- Incubator space



## An ecosystem for AI specialists

- Researchers
- Industries
- Startups



# The AI School



# The Premier Hub for AI Training

*Empowering Human Capital for the  
AI Native Nation*

## Training the Next Generation of AI Leaders

### **Elite programs**

- Bachelor in Mathematics for AI
- Bachelor in Quantum Physics
- Master in Mathematics (2026)
- Master in AI management (2026)

## Upskilling with the Executive Training Hub

### **Niche & outstanding training models**

- National program for AI teachers & trainers
- Year-round trainings for Junior and C-suite executive professionals
- Tailor-made to market needs (ADIA, National Archives, Ministry of Defense, Chalhoub, ADNOC, Environment Agency, Family offices)

# The Innovation Lab



# The Innovation Lab

*Interdisciplinary R&D to transform research into industrial solutions*

**17K** Researchers  
Cross-disciplinary experts

**1** Operational Model  
Academic setup & industry integration

- Joint innovation desks: 1 industry x 1 research team
- Research teams: doc, post doc, senior researchers, engineers
- Industry use cases: access to real world data
- External Funding: public-private partnership

**360°**

Unique Research Environment  
Techno-Humanist & Holistic approach to use cases

**7**

Priority Sectors



Core of AI



Heritage/Arts



Health



Finance



Law/Digital



Energy



Oceanography & Environment

# The Incubator



# The Incubator

*A vibrant hub for startups to valorize research*

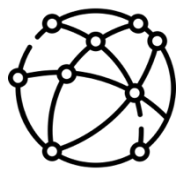
A business ecosystem for :



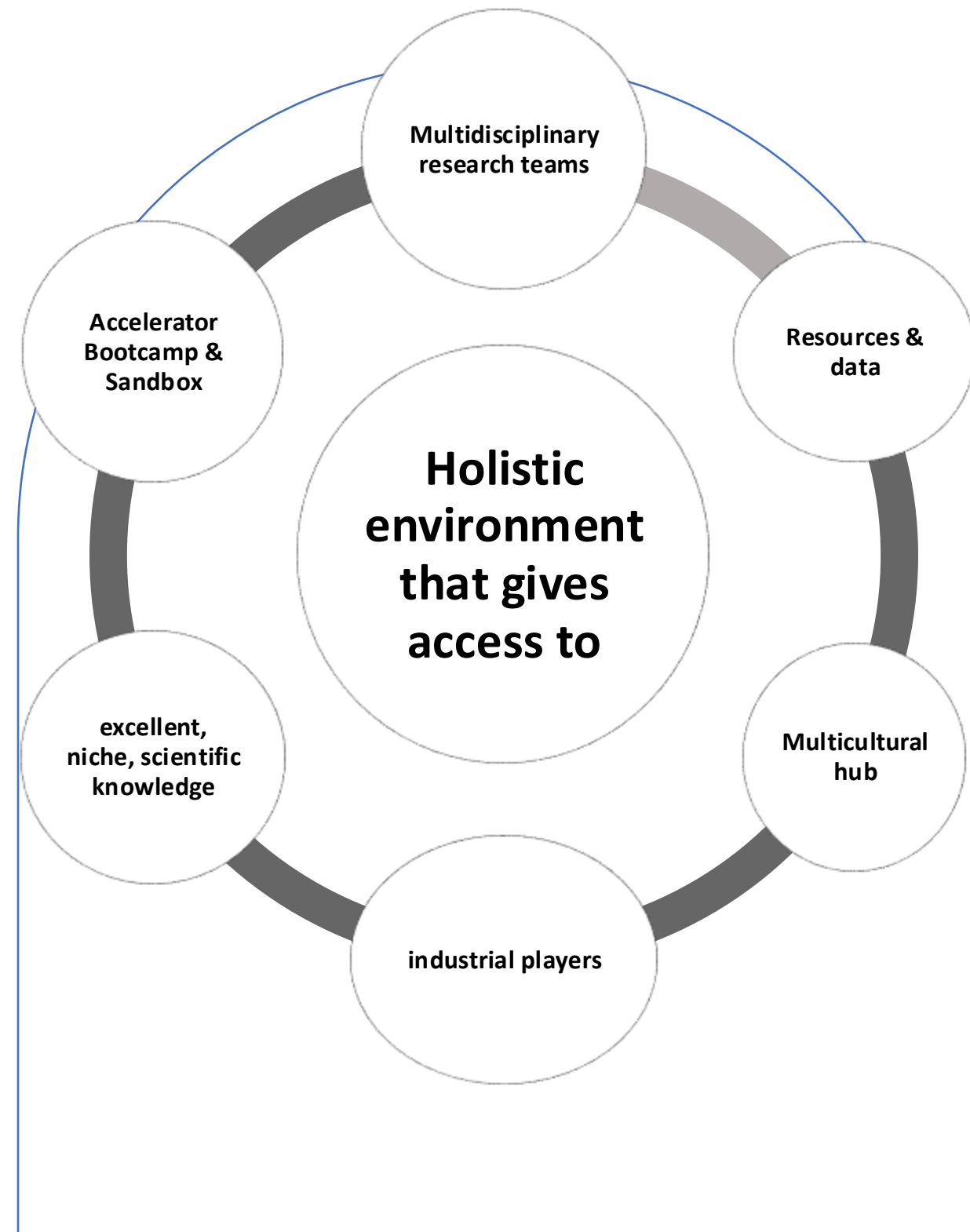
Students' entrepreneurship projects



Local startups



French or international startups





**Thank you  
For your attention**