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| MBZUAI  Factsheet |
| - Established in 2019  by UAE Government - A public, research  university - Dedicated to advancing AI  and interdisciplinary research - Based in the epicentre of AI in Abu Dhabi – Masdar City |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Date** | March 2025 |  | MBZUAI Marcomms | |

# About

Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) is a research-focused university in Abu Dhabi, and the first university dedicated entirely to the advancement of science through AI. Ranked among the top 10 globally in AI (CSRankings), MBZUAI empowers the next generation of AI leaders, driving innovation and impactful applications of AI through world-class education and interdisciplinary research.

MBZUAI has eight departments including computational biology, computer vision, computer science, statistics and data science, human computer interaction, machine learning, natural language processing, and robotics, in addition to a first-of-its-kind B.Sc. in AI and Master in Applied AI (MAAI), attracting top global talent and faculty. The university partners with industry and government to address real-world challenges and drive positive global impact, playing a key role in the UAE’s vision to become a global AI hub. Its renowned faculty has contributed 1200+ publications at top conferences to date.

Based in Abu Dhabi’s Masdar City, it is at the epicenter of the Abu Dhabi AI and innovation district, alongside G42, Insilico Medicine, UAE Space Agency, Seimens Energy, and others.

## Vision, mission and objectives

To become a pre-eminent global institution that revolutionizes education, drives research innovation, and shapes the global technology landscape.

* Paradise for transformative research
* Cradle for the best computer scientists and engineers
* Hub for startup ecosystem and high-tech innovation in MENA

## Departments and programs

### Departments

There are eight departments at the university including:

* Computational biology
* Computer science
* Computer vision
* Human-computer interaction (HCI)
* Machine learning
* Natural language processing
* Robotics
* Statistics and data science

**Graduate**

MBZUAI offers 13 graduate programs – master’s and Ph.D. - including:

Full scholarship:

* Master of Science in Computer Science / Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science
* Master of Science in Computer Vision / Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Vision
* Master of Science in Statistics and Data Science / Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics and Data Science (first intake 2025)
* Master of Science in Machine Learning / Doctor of Philosophy in Machine Learning
* Master of Science in Natural Language Processing / Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Language Processing
* Master of Science in Robotics / Doctor of Philosophy in Robotics

Fee paying:

* **Master in Applied Artificial Intelligence (MAAI):** The Master in Applied Artificial Intelligence (MAAI) program is designed to address the critical skills gap in Artificial Intelligence applications within industry, both in the UAE and globally. Combining theoretical knowledge with practical, hands-on experience, the program equips students with advanced skills for adapting and implementing Artificial Intelligence technologies in industry, research, and government sectors. It will welcome its first cohort in Fall 2025. For more details, visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/master-in-applied-ai/) or scan the following QR code:

[](mailto:https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/master-in-applied-ai/)

### Undergraduate

Launched in early-2025, MBZUAI introduced its first undergraduate program, a Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (first intake Fall 2025), which includes two streams:

* Business stream
* Engineering stream

Both merit-based and needs-based scholarships are available, covering up to 100% of tuition and the cost of attendance.

### Executive education

MBZUAI can tailor executive education programs for private and public organizations while offering intakes for the following:

**MBZUAI Executive Program (MEP)**: The 16-week MBZUAI Executive Program (MEP) is designed to support the need for AI-savvy leaders across government, industry, academia, and beyond. The program is led by some of the top global minds and innovators in the AI industry and provides participants with a practical grounding in AI and its implications on business and policymaking. MBZUAI will continue to offer at least one seat each to participants from non-government organizations (NGOs) as well as startups to increase engagement with the region’s thriving small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) sector.

**MBZUAI Executive Program – Accelerated (MEP-A)**

Launched in 2024, MEP – A is a condensed, tailored version of the university’s popular MBZUAI Executive Program (MEP). Running across six days, the curriculum covers the UAE’s AI strategy, AI fundamentals, and industry case studies ranging from robotics to manufacturing and energy. Participants are given the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on how UAE-based entities are adopting AI and advanced technologies through site visits and networking events.

For more details, visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/innovate/training-programs) or scan the following QR code:

[](mailto:https://mbzuai.ac.ae/innovate/training-programs)

# Leadership and governance

### Board of Trustees

The MBZUAI Board of Trustees (BoT) is chaired by His Excellency Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak. Members further comprise His Excellency Jassem Mohamed Bu Ataba Al Zaabi, His Excellency Saif Saeed Ghobash, Rima Al Mokarrab Al Muhairi, Professor Daniela Rus, Dr. Lisa Su, Peng Xiao, Martin Edelman, and Professor Eric Xing.

### President

Professor Eric Xing, President, and University Professor

### Provost

Professor Timothy Baldwin, Provost, and Professor of Natural Language Processing

For more information, please visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/about/leadership/) or scan the following QR code:

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# MBZUAI community

## Faculty

Headed by MBZUAI President and University Professor, Professor Eric Xing, and Provost, Professor Timothy Baldwin, the university's faculty are leaders in their area of expertise. MBZUAI currently has more than 80 faculty appointed to date; more than half of whom come to Abu Dhabi from the world’s top 100 AI institutions.

The faculty directory is available on our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/faculty-directory/), or you can scan this QR code to view the full list:

[](mailto:https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/faculty-directory/)

## Student body

More than 350 students are currently enrolled at MBZUAI with more than 20% from the top 100 global undergraduate institutions. The students come from more than 45 countries spanning North America, Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, and North Africa, the Caribbean, and East and South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. There are currently 65 Emirati students (18%) and 113 female students (31%).

## Talent development, alumni and entrepreneurs

The university’s first commencement celebrated the Class of 2022. Since then, a total of 213 students have graduated with a master’s or doctorate in computer vision, machine learning, and natural language processing. Of these, 78% have been retained in the UAE’s AI supply ecosystem within one year of graduation.

More than 1000 C-suites and executives have completed professional training programs in AI including 203 decisionmakers who have participated in the university’s MBZUAI Executive Program (MEP). Among them CEOs, directors general, ambassadors, and executive vice presidents with a majority applying from federal government roles.

Faculty, students, and alumni have founded several startups including Audiomatic, Limb, Nutrigenics, and LibrAI, to name a few. They have received strong support from Abu Dhabi’s startup ecosystem and hackathon competitions, as well as the MBZUAI Incubation and Entrepreneurship Center (MIEC) and its many collaborators.

### Cohorts

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Commencements | Graduates | | Date | MEP | Graduates | Date |
| Class of 2022 | | 52 | January 2023 | Cohort 1 | 41 | March 2022 |
| Class of 2023 | | 59 | June 2023 | Cohort 2 | 42 | March 2023 |
| Class of 2024 | | 102 | June 2024 | Cohort 3 | 42 | March 2023 |
|  | |  |  | Cohort 4 | 41 | October 2023 |
|  | |  |  | Cohort 5 | 37 | October 2024 |
| Total | | 213 |  | **Total** | 203 |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MEP-A | Graduates | | Date |  |  |  |
| Cohort 1 | | 32 | October 2024 |  |  |  |

### MBZUAI Incubation and Entrepreneurship Center (IEC)

MBZUAI’s IEC was launched in 2023 to further develop the UAE’s AI ecosystem and contribute to the global development of innovation and advanced AI solutions. IEC is engineered to catalyze AI innovation and adoption in industry – bridging gaps from the ideation stage to creating startups – through offering a series of dedicated initiatives and programs. From comprehensive entrepreneurship courses offering business knowledge and local market know-how to equipping entrepreneurs with AI engineering support through a unique venture lab model.

For more details, visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/iec/) or scan the following QR code:

[](mailto:https://mbzuai.ac.ae/iec/)

# Research

MBZUAI currently has more than 200 researchers, including postdocs, research assistants, and visiting students. MBZUAI is supporting the UAE to find solutions to the world's most pressing challenges with transformative research.

Current research areas of focus include:

* **Generative AI and foundation models – Institute of Foundation Models (IFM):** Create versatile systems to tackle complex, multi-domain challenges.
* **AI for personalized medicine:** Accelerate disease control and drug design through multi-scale biological prediction, programming, and simulation.
* **AI for sustainability:** Model climate and energy patterns to optimize resources and conservation.

## Centers and institutions

### Institute of Foundation Models (IFM)

IFM was launched in 2023 and continues to create ‘first-of-its-kind' specialized LLMs to support real-world applications and use cases. MBZUAI is pioneering sovereign AI through open-source large language models (LLMs). The university’s research advances the accessibility and safety of AI, positioning the UAE as a key player in the global AI ecosystem. MBZUAI’s flagship projects include the LLM360 framework, which promotes transparency and responsible AI use, and K2, a 65-billion-parameter model developed from scratch. One of MBZUAI’s most significant contributions is JAIS, the world’s most downloaded Arabic LLM, developed in collaboration with G42’s Inception and Cerebras Systems. Available on Microsoft Azure, AWS, and Hugging Face, JAIS is empowering governments, businesses, and researchers across Arabic-speaking markets with cutting-edge AI capabilities.

For more information on these models and current projects, please visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/institute-of-foundation-models/) or scan the following QR code:

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### Center for Integrative Artificial Intelligence (CIAI)

MBZUAI’s CIAI has been created to further develop an AI operating system (OS) based on the foundation of the CASL project. The CIAI is led by MBZUAI President, Professor Eric Xing and center director Dr. Kun Zhang who have brought together a team of highly experienced senior systems and machine learning engineers and researchers who are passionate about building systems. The aim of the center is to develop the next generation OS that can support easy composition, experimentation, and deployment of even the most advanced machine learning-pipelines such as building GPT3-like language models for new tasks, or full-stack AI systems for clinical management.

### MBZUAI Metaverse Center (MMC)

Launched in 2023, the MMC focuses on next generation immersive communication, digital content generation, spatial computing, and digital twins. It promises to help MBZUAI stay at the forefront of this emerging and interdisciplinary field (incorporating computer vision, generative AI, mixed reality, multimedia, and NLP) with a lasting impact on academia, industry, and society.

For more information, please visit our [website](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/research/research-centers/) or scan the following QR code:

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# Fast facts

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| 365 enrolled students (AY24) from 49 countries with 24% from the top global computer science universities\* |
| Student-faculty ratio: 4:1\* |
| 31% of students are women\* |
| More than 200 researchers and postdocs\* |
| More than 80 faculty with 40-plus from the top 100 global AI institutions\* |
| Ranked 10th among global institutions in AI (defined as the combination of computer vision, machine learning, natural language processing, robotics, and computational biology; based on CSRankings)\* |
| Contributed more than 1200 publications at top conferences to date and more than 2200-plus publications in journals and conferences |

*\*March 2025 data*