

**MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**



2023
Annual Employment Report



2023 Annual Employment Report

Compiled by
MBZUAI Career Services & Internships team



**MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Director's message



Rebecca Rutherford
Director of Educational Affairs

We are delighted to present the MBZUAI 2023 Employment Report, showcasing the career outcomes of our inaugural graduates from the January and June 2023 cohorts, comprising a total of 101 talented individuals.

Our AI graduates have successfully secured positions across a diverse range of industries, including Research, Healthcare, Transportation and Logistics, Oil and Gas, Defense, Security, Data and Technology, and other key sectors. Their choices reflect the immense potential and rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence within the UAE.

Growth opportunities were the primary factor driving our graduates' decisions, with 36% and 31% citing this as a key reason for accepting their roles, a testament to the exponential rise of AI in the region.

For our 2023 master's graduates, salaries averaged between AED 22,000 and AED 23,000 per month, with more experienced professionals (over 10 years of experience) commanding salaries in excess of AED 40,000 per month. Graduates returning to their previous employers upon graduation achieved salaries exceeding AED 30,000 per month. The most common roles include Research, Machine Learning Engineer, AI Engineer, and Data Scientist.

Graduates who began their journey as MBZUAI Research Associates successfully transitioned to impactful positions within the industry or advanced into PhD programs.

Our AI talent has made its mark across government entities, prominent industry partners, and startups, with the majority opting to remain in the UAE. The success of these graduates is

the result of dedicated effort and collaborative support. Additionally, 86.7% of graduates who completed internships noted that their experience significantly enhanced their research and learning at MBZUAI. Many have transitioned to full-time roles with industry partners such as TII, FortyGuard, Etihad Airways, ADNOC, Abu Dhabi Ports, DP World, Shinobi Security, G42, Core 42, and M42.

We are also grateful for the continued support of NAFIS (Emirati Salary Support Scheme) in empowering Emirati nationals pursuing careers in the private sector.

To our esteemed industry partners, we extend our sincere thanks for your invaluable contributions.

Warm regards,
Rebecca Rutherford
Director of Educational Affairs



MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Established in 2020
- Public, graduate research university
- Dedicated to advancing AI + X Research
- Abu Dhabi, UAE



Vision, Mission, and Objectives – In a nutshell



Paradise for
transformative research



Hub for start-up
eco-system and high-tech
innovation in MENA



Cradle for best
CS scientists and engineers

Becoming a Partner of Choice

OUR PARTNERS

PUBLIC SECTOR



KEY PARTNERSHIP (NON-EXHAUSTIVE)



May 2022
With IBM

Jan 2023
With Crown Prince Court
on Malaria No More



PRIVATE SECTOR



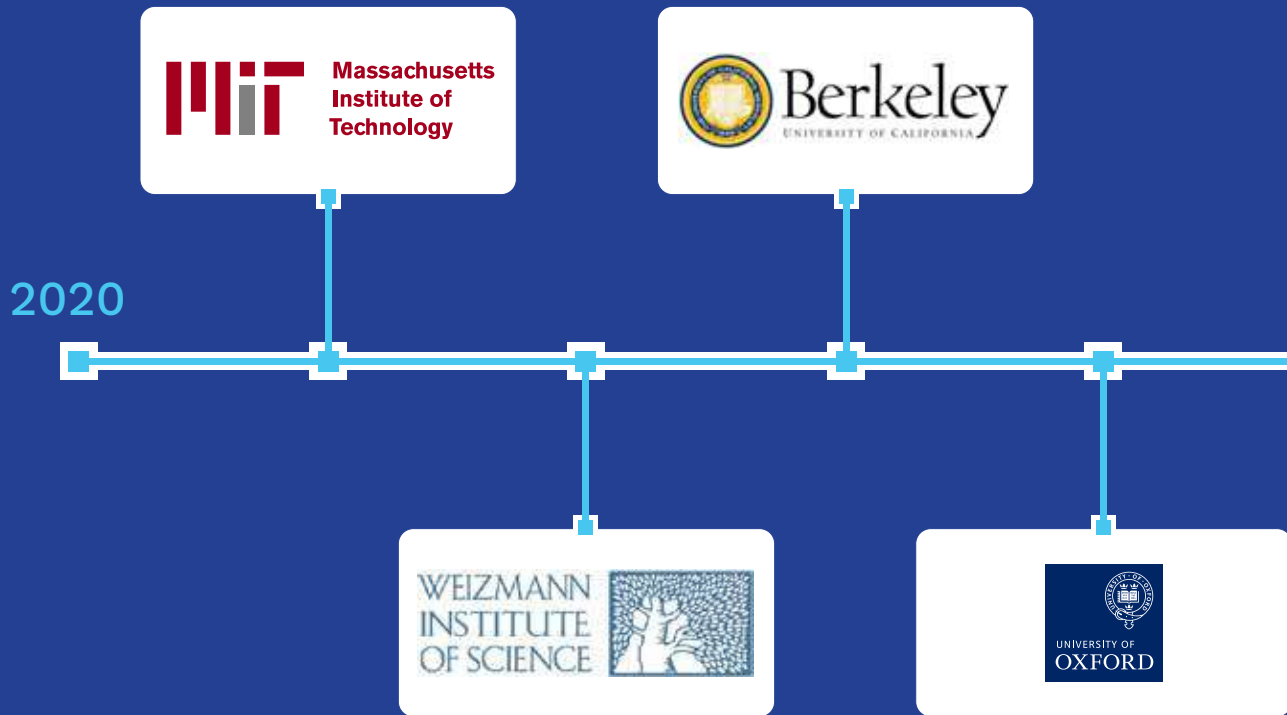
Nov 2023
With Cleveland Clinic



Feb 2024
With UNDP

MBZUAI entering the main stage of AI elites

A journey from inception,
to peer-respect, to global excellence



10th

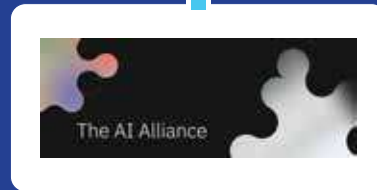
on CS Rankings globally
in AI specializations

1st

in the MENA region



2021



One of 18 universities
that are founding members of the
AI Alliance, and the only institution from the UAE

Cohort 2 Graduates, June 2023

Our graduates are establishing a bold, socially-minded network of alumni that the world needs in the age of AI. A network that will apply all they have learned to address some of humanity's most pressing challenges, build a culture of innovation, and lead us into a new era.

Cohort 2 witnessed the addition of master's graduates in Natural Language Processing, alongside Machine Learning and Computer Vision.



Kudaibergen Abutalip, CV,
MBZUAI RA II,
(Moved to Target AI Limited)



Anas Al-lahham, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Reem Alameeri, CV,
AGDA



Mohammed Almansoori, CV,
Abu Dhabi Police



Maksym Bekuzarov, CV,
Snap Chat



Yahia Dalbah, CV,
FortyGuard (Moved to SAAB)



Khaled Dawoud, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Abhishek Gehlot, CV,
Shinobi Security



Adilbek Karmanov, CV,
MBZUAI Metaverse Centre



Adnan Khan, CV,
PhD Ottawa University



Muhammad Uzair Khattak, CV,
PhD Max Planck Institute



Gokul Karthik Kumar, CV,
G42 (Moved to TII)



Juwayni Macadato Lucman,
CV, PhD MBZUAI



Sahal Shaji, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Sara Pieri, CV,
PhD NRIA Paris University



Jose Viera, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Muhammad Hamza Sharif, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Kirill Vishniakov, CV,
MBZUAI (Moved to G42)



Farshed Abdulkhakimov, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Sarah Al Barri, ML,
Inception



Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin
Mohammed Al Nahyan
ML, PhD MBZUAI



Eman Al Suradi, ML,
Samsung



Hussain Alasmawi, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Farha Albreiki, ML,
TRANSO

Cohort 2 Graduates, June 2023



Talal Algumaei, ML,
RTA



Younes Balah, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Ariana Bermudez, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Zhenhao Chen, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Nicolas Mauricio Cuadrado
Avila, ML, PhD MBZUAI



Brahim Erraji, ML,
PhD Inria Lille Institutue



Samar Fares, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Mugariya Farooq, ML,
TII



Zhengqing Gao, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Roberto Alejandro, ML,
Omicron



Ashraf Haddad, ML,
Beacon Red



Shahad Hardan, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Steven Hoang, ML,
AbbVie



Sharim Jamal, ML,
MBZUAI RA II,
(Moved to UXE Security Solutions)



Bokang Jia, ML,
G42



Wong Yu Kang, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Mohamad Kassab, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Maksat Kengeskanov, ML,
MBZUAI Metaverse Centre



Maryam Nadeem, ML,
G42



Boyang Sun, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Nurbek Tastan, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Zunhao Zhang, ML,
Hong Kong Industrial
Artificial Intelligence &
Robot Research Centre



Jiayi Zhu, ML,
PhD Hong Kong University
of Science & Technology



Aigerim Zhumabayeva, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Klea Ziu, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Rabiatal Ab Jabar, NLP,
Royal Eficaz



Maha Agro, NLP,
MBZUAI Graduate TA



Leen AL Qadi, NLP,
TII



Dilshod Azizov, NLP,
MBZUAI RA II



Felicia Kovacs, NLP,
Undisclosed



Muhammad Umar Salman,
NLP, M42



Sheng Zhang, NLP,
MBZUAI RA II





Where Cohort 2 graduates accessed internship opportunities:

Abu Dhabi Ports

ADNOC

AIQ

APCO Worldwide

Dietsmann

Big Data Analytics Centre, UAEU

Dubai Police

Emotech, UK

Etihad Airways

Falcon Robotics

FortyGuard

G42 Healthcare

Huawei

Hyperganic

Jump Trading, Singapore

LabibAI

Max Planck Institute for
Demographic Research, Germany

Microsoft Research

Mubadala

Oxford Immune Algorithmics

SNAP, UK

Sorbonne University, Centre of AI

Technology Innovation Institute

University of Oxford, UK

MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

Employer Highlights for Cohort 2

32 talented individuals, entered industry both in the United Arab Emirates and on a global scale. Sectors included research, defense, security, healthcare, data & technology, electronics, transportation & logistics. Top job titles included Machine Learning Engineer and Artificial Intelligence Engineer.

MBZUAI

MBZUAI Metaverse Centre

Abbvie, United States

Abu Dhabi Police

Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy

Beacon Red, Edge

Core 42

FortyGuard

G42

Hong Kong Industrial AI and Robot Research Centre (FLAIR)

Inception

M2

Omicron, Austria

Roads & Transportation Authority

Royal Eficaz

SAAB

Samsung, Jordan

Shinobi Security

Snapchat, United Kingdom

TargetAILimited, Kazakhstan

Technology Innovation Institute

Transco

UXE Security Solutions



MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

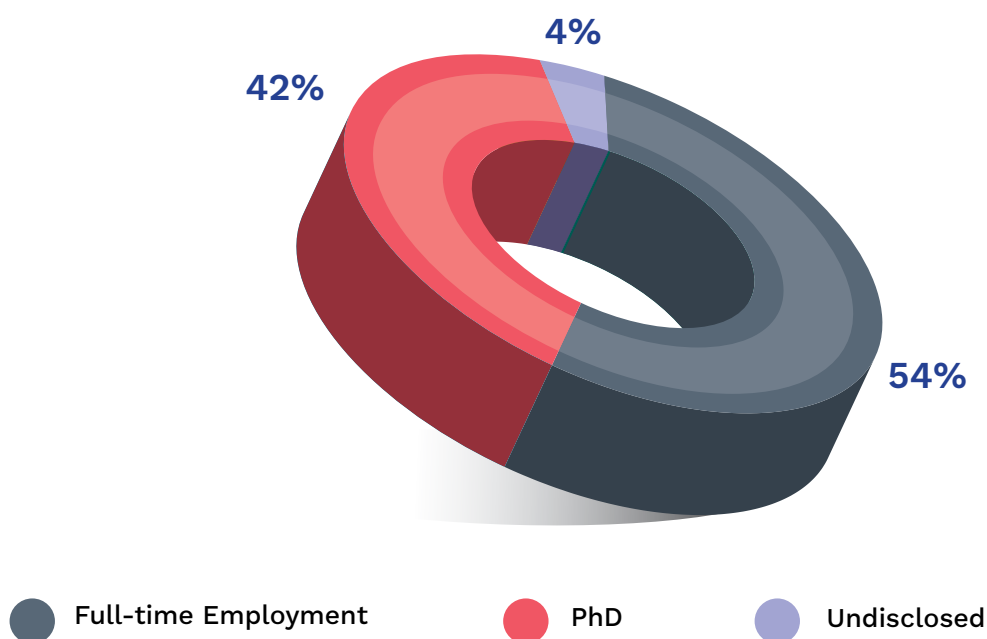
Cohort 2 Overall Summary

The majority, 54%, of cohort 2 graduates transitioned into full-time employment (81% remaining in the UAE), compared to 42% of graduates who progressed into higher education, the majority staying on with MBZUAI. A break-down of UAE nationals and ex-pat students is shown below

Outcome	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
Full-Time Employment*	28	4	32
PhD	23	2	25
Undisclosed	2		2
TOTAL	53	6	59

* Data as per the first positive outcome within x 12 months of graduation

Summary of overall outcomes for Cohort 2



MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

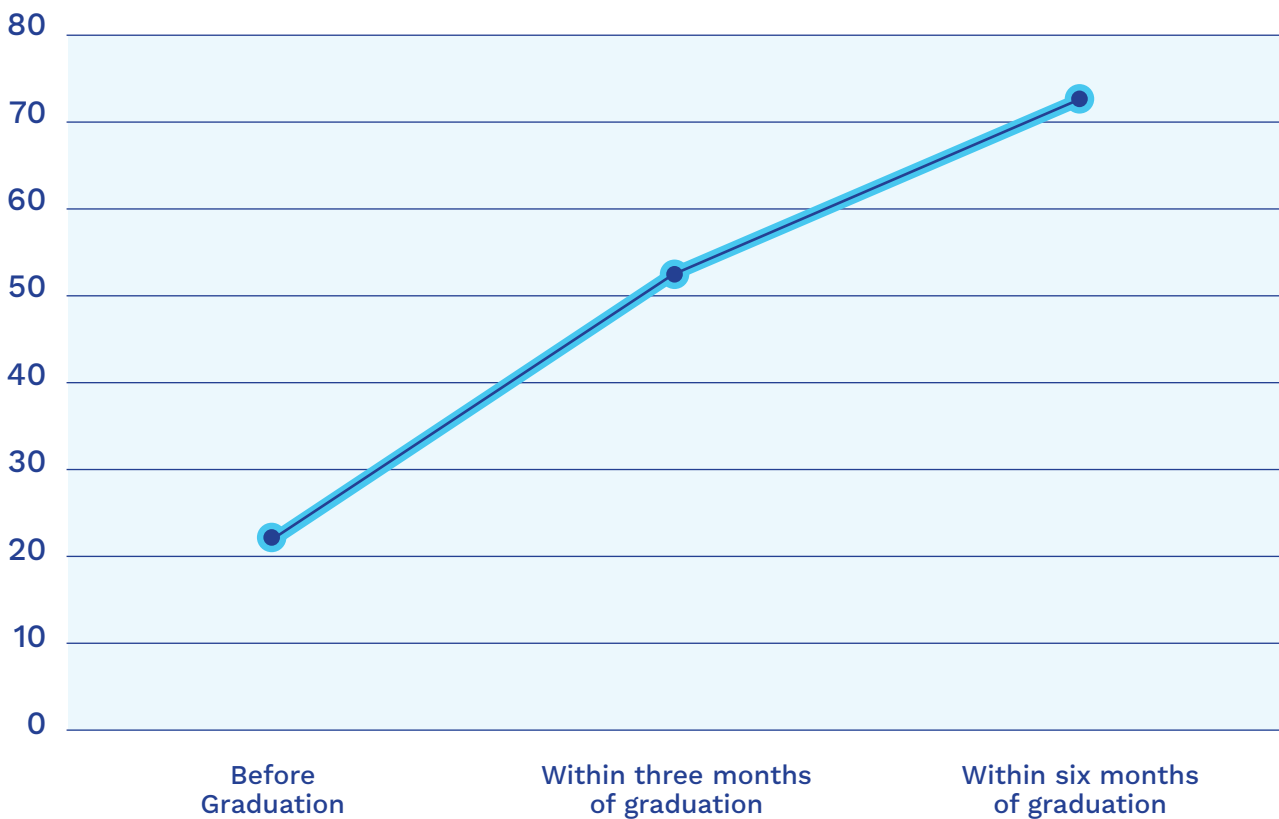
Location of employment destination

	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
International posting	6	0	6
UAE based	22	4	26
TOTAL	28	4	32

* Data as per the first positive outcome within x 12 months of graduation

Timeline for receiving employment offer

22% of Cohort 2 graduates gained an employment offer prior to graduation, with 53% receiving an offer within three months and 72% within six months of completing their studies and research.



MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

PhD Outcomes

Outcome	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
UAE	18	2	20
International Institutes	5		5
Total	23	2	25

Graduate Schools

MBZUAI

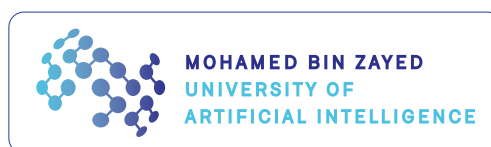
International Institutions:

Hong Kong University of Science & Technology

Inria Lille Institute, Paris

Max Plank Institute, Germany

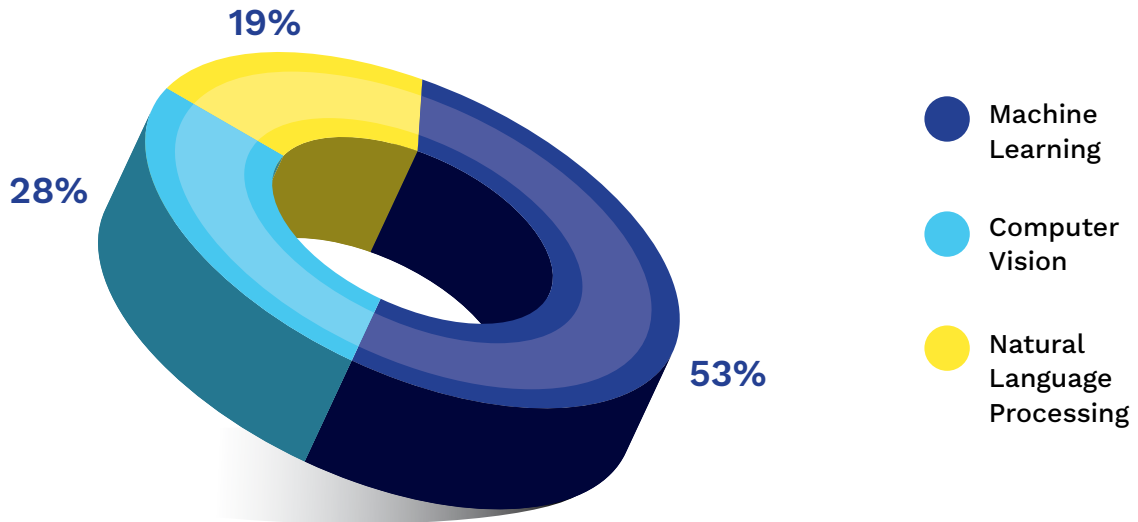
Ottawa University, Canada



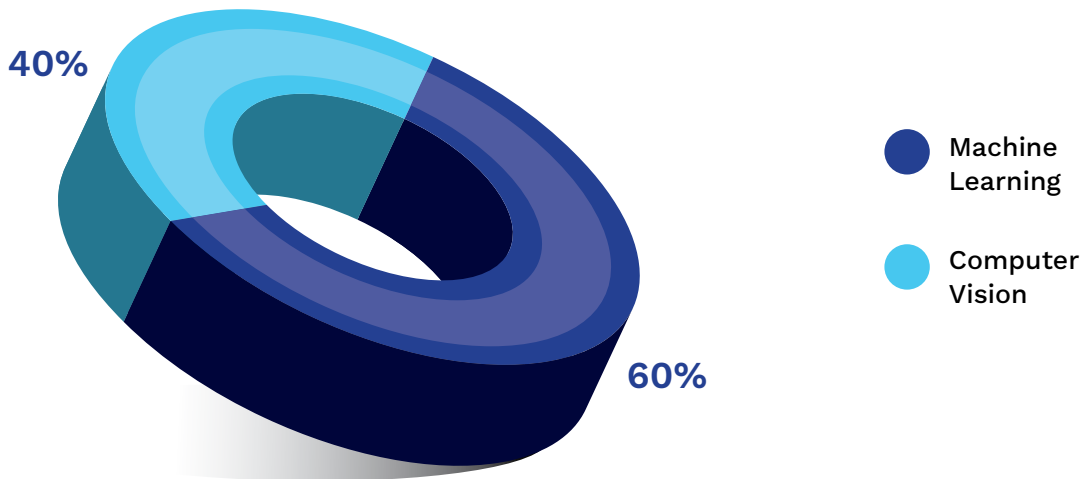
MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

Program Outcomes*

Full-time Employment



PhD Outcomes



From the total numbers confirmed for full-time employment, Machine Learning (ML) graduates entered industry-based opportunities, over their counter parts from Computer Vision and Natural Language Processing (NLP).

ML students accounted for 54% of the total numbers of students for Cohort 2, 34 % for Computer Vision and 12% for NLP.

NLP graduates (from current data available) transitioned to full-time employment opportunities, rather than opting to continuing with further studies.

* Percentages reflect the total number from each program specialism, for each related outcome, full-time employment / PhD.

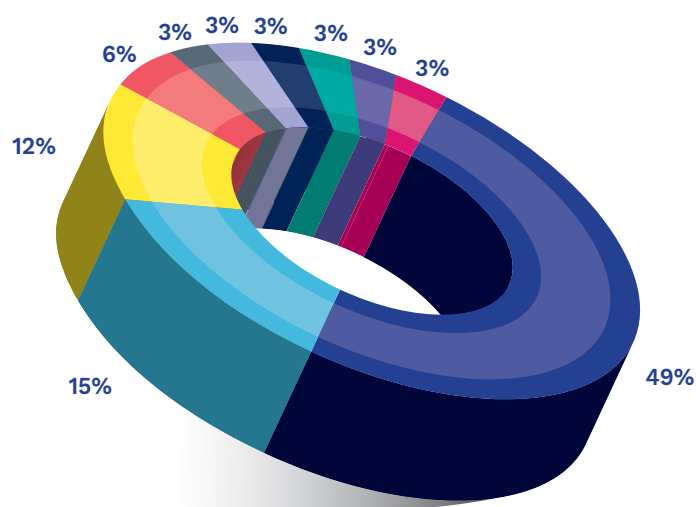
MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

Cohort 2 Graduates – Salary and Sector

Student and Salary Type	Amount Per Month
Salary Indicator for Graduates, Returning to Employer	34,000 AED
Average MSc in first graduate outcome salary (excluding MBZUAI RAs)	23,000 AED*
Graduates with 10+ years of work experience	40'000 – 50'000 dhs

* From salary data currently available

Top Graduate Sectors



- Research
- Data & Technology
- Healthcare
- Defence
- Security
- Electronics
- Diplomat
- Sustainability
- Transportation & Logistics
- Business & International Trade

MBZUAI Cohort 2 Graduate Destination Summary

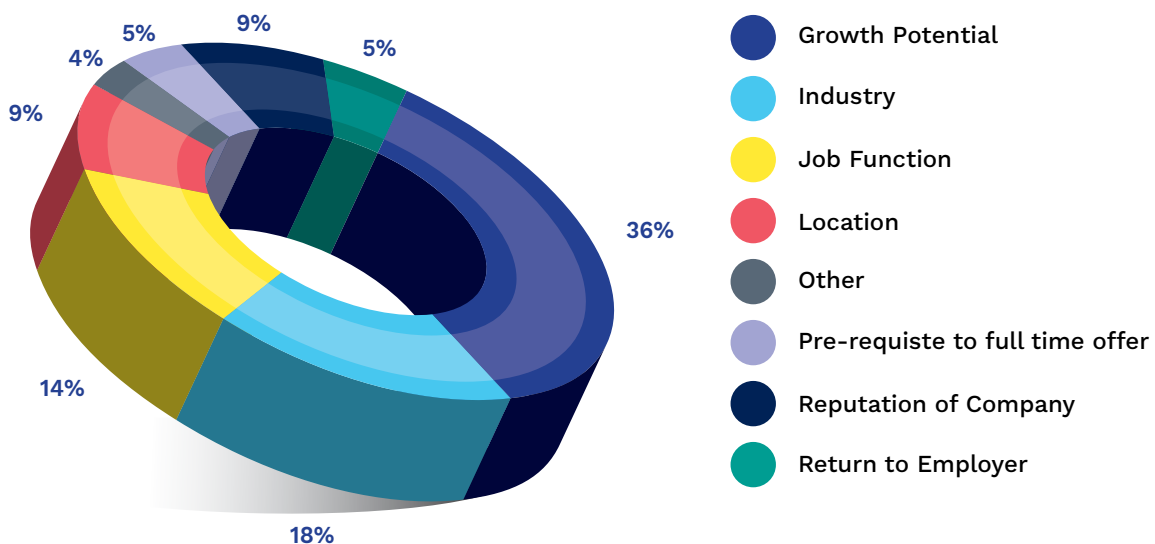
Cohort 2 Graduates

Top Reasons & Sources

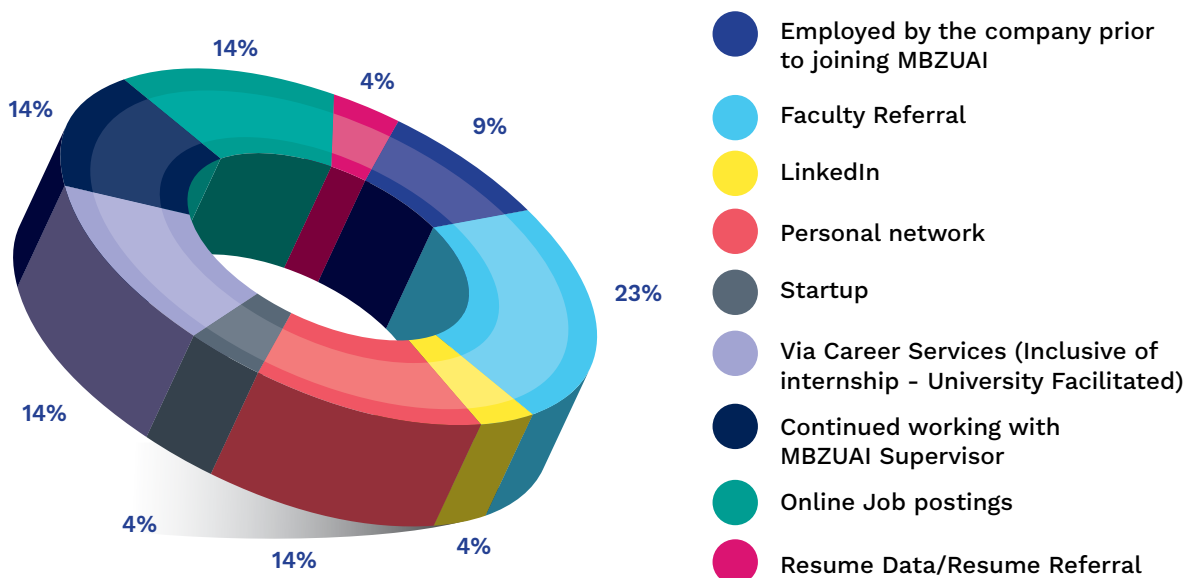
Students identified growth potential as the top reason for accepting an employment offer, followed by industry and job function. Reputation of the company and location were also other top factors. Several graduates were obligated to return to their employer, as they were on study leave and part of the contractual requirement was then to implement their AI knowledge and skills within their organization.

In terms of how the graduate found the opportunity, the majority were via faculty referral or continued working with their MBZUAI Supervisor, which correlates to students being successful in obtaining MBZUAI based Research Associate positions. Other key routes for gaining employment included online job platforms, via Career Services (inclusive of university facilitated internships and personal network).

Top Reason for Accepting Position



How the Opportunity was sourced



Cohort 1 Graduates, January 2023



Sarah Abdulla, ML,
Caterpillar (Moved to
American Health Connection)



Rushali Grandhe, CV,
Integrated Data Intelligence



Rouqaiyah Al-Refaj, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Roba Al Majzoub, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Rand Muhtaseb, ML,
Desaisiv



Otabek Nazarov, ML,
Hippo Video



Omar AlSuwaidi, CV, Amazon
(Moved to Majid Al Futtaim)



Munachiso Samuel Nwadike,
ML, NYU



Naif Alkhunaizi, ML,
MBZUAI RA II (Moved to Mozn)



Muhammad Maaz, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Mohammed AlZaabi, ML,
ADNOC



Mohammad Atwany, ML,
PhD University of Oxford



Mohamed Saeed, CV,
MBZUAI RA II



Li Zhiyuan, ML,
ST Engineering



Kevin Toner, ML,
Undisclosed



Karima Kadaoui, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Ivo Navarrete, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Ikboljon Sobirov, CV,
PhD Oxford University



Hashmat Malik, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Hussam Azzuni, CV,
MBZUAI RA II



Hanoona Bangalath, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Hanin Al Ghothani, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Fatima Albreiki, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Abdelrahman Mohamed, CV,
MBZUAI RA II



Faris Almalik, ML,
Arab Bank



Elnura Zhalieva, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Dmitri Demidov, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Dmitrii Medvedev, ML,
ADNOC



Diego Penafiel, ML,
Abu Dhabi Ports



Dhanalaxmi Gaddam, ML,
DP World



Asma Hashmi, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Abdelmajid Essofi, ML,
PhD MBZUAI



Ameera Bawazir, ML,
TII



Akbobek Abilkaiyrkyzy, ML,
MBZUAI RA II (Moved to Life Global)



Aidana Nurakhmetova, CV,
FortyGuard (Moved to MBZUAI RA II)



Ahmed Elhagry, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Ahmed Al Mahrooqi, ML,
M42



Abdulwahab Sahyoun, ML,
Snowheap



Abdullatif Alhashmi, ML,
TRANSCO



Abdulaziz Aleissae, CV,
Abu Dhabi Media



Abdallah Abujami, ML,
MBZUAI Training



Abass Abdulsalam, CV,
DP World



Zhaksylyk Kazykenov, ML,
Undisclosed



Zakaria Sebaitre, CV,
Integrated Data Intelligence



Yunqing Bao, CV,
Deepsymph



Wafa Al Ghallabi, CV,
PhD MBZUAI



Toluwani Aremu, ML,
PHD MBZUAI



Svetlana Maslenkova, ML,
FortyGuard (Moved to M42)



Sultan Abu Ghazal, CV,
TII



Sulaiman Al Janahi, ML,
Al Etihad Payments



Shahd AlShamsi, ML,
MBZUAI RA II



Sayed Hashim, ML,
Aqlect

Our inaugural class consisted of graduates from master's of Machine Learning and Computer Vision

Where Cohort 1 graduates accessed internship opportunities



Abu Dhabi Ports

ADNOC

Inception Institute

Lockheed Martin

Oxford Immune Algorithmics

For this cohort the internship was a non-mandatory requirement

MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

Employer Highlights for Cohort 1

35 talented individuals, entered industry both in the United Arab Emirates (63%) and on a global scale. Sectors included Research, Data & Technology, Healthcare, Oil & Gas, Transportation & Logistics. Top job titles included Machine Learning Engineer and Data Scientist.

MBZUAI

Abu Dhabi Media

Abu Dhabi Ports

ADNOC

Al Etihad Payments

Amazon

American Health Connection

Arab Bank, Jordan

Aqlect, India

Caterpillar

Deepsymph, China

Desaisiv, Jordan

DP World

FortyGuard

Hippo Video

Integrated Data Intelligence,
OurCrowd

Kwaaka, Kazakhstan

Life Global

Majid Al Futtaim

M42 Healthcare*

Mozn, Saudi Arabia

Smart Lab,
New York University

Snowheap
(MBZUAI graduate start-up)

ST Engineering, Singapore

SWD

Technology Innovation
Institute

Transco

Zayed University

* M42 Healthcare – Previously G42



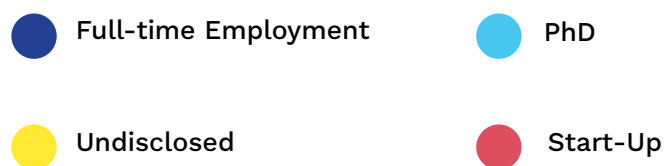
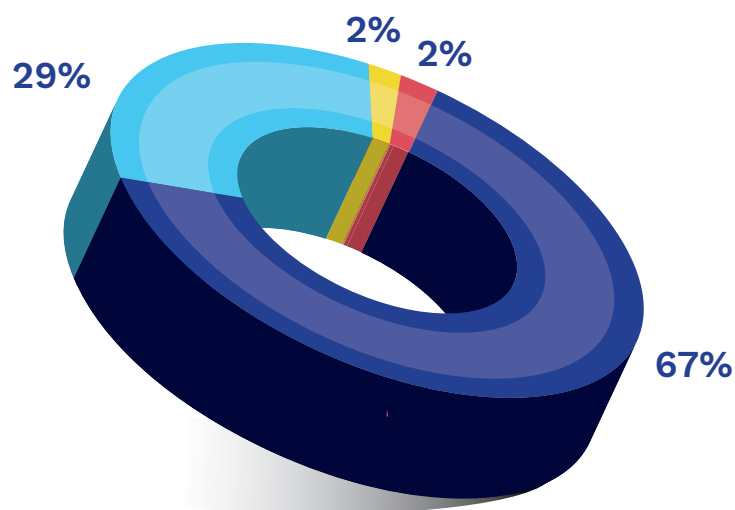
MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

Cohort 1 Overall Summary

Outcome	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
Full-Time Employment*	29	6	35
PhD	13	2	15
Undisclosed	2		2
TOTAL	44	8	52

* Data as per the first positive outcome within x 12 months of graduation

Summary of overall outcomes for Cohort 1



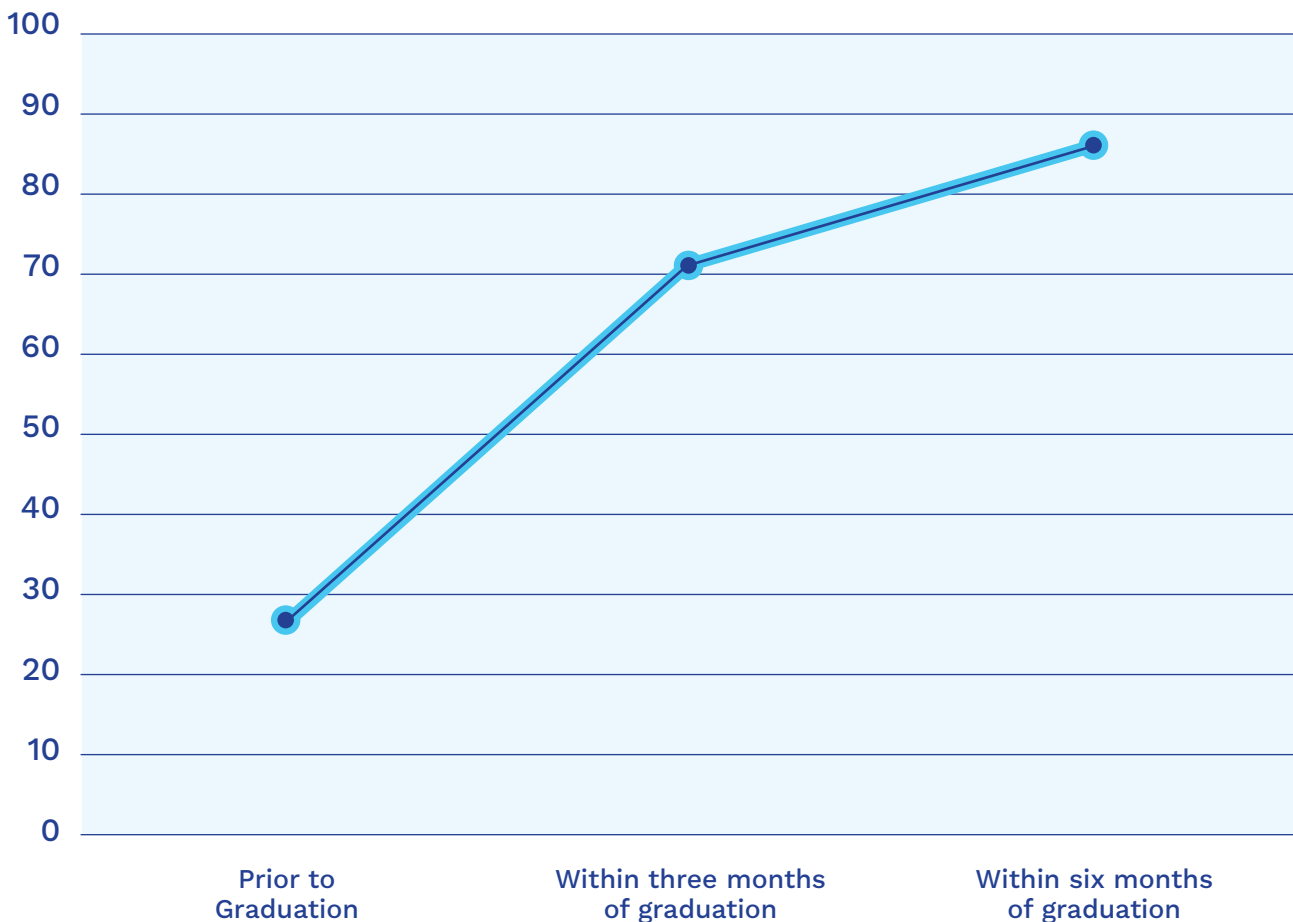
MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

Location of employment destination

	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
International posting	7	6	13
UAE based	22		22
TOTAL	29	6	35

Timeline for receiving employment offer

17% of Cohort 1 graduates gained an employment offer prior to graduation, with 71% receiving an offer within three months and 86 % within six months of completing their studies and research.



MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

PhD Outcomes

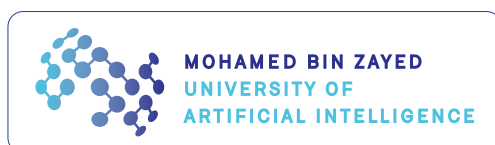
Outcome	Expats	UAE Nationals	Total
UAE	11	2	13
International Institutes	2		2
Total	13	2	15

Graduate Schools

MBZUAI

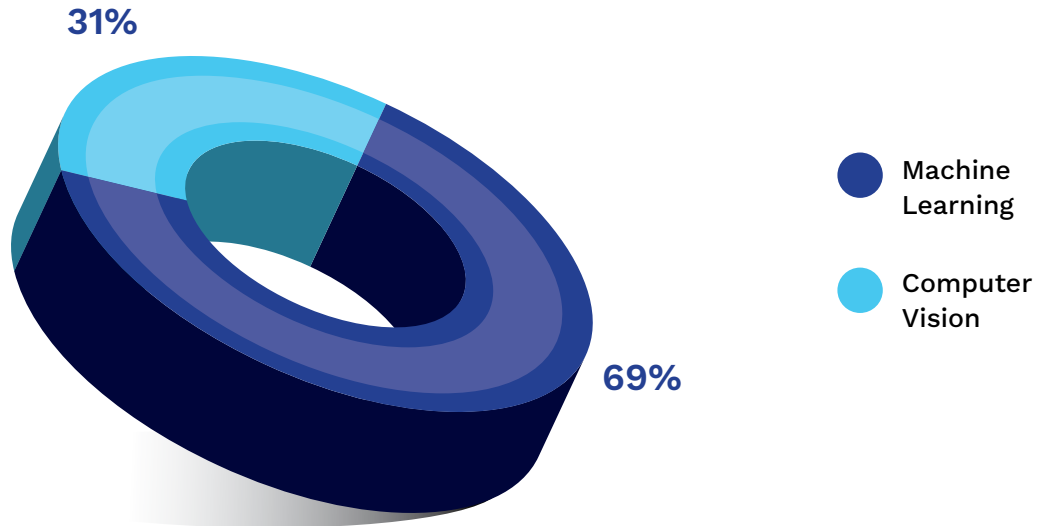
At the following institution:

University of Oxford, United Kingdom

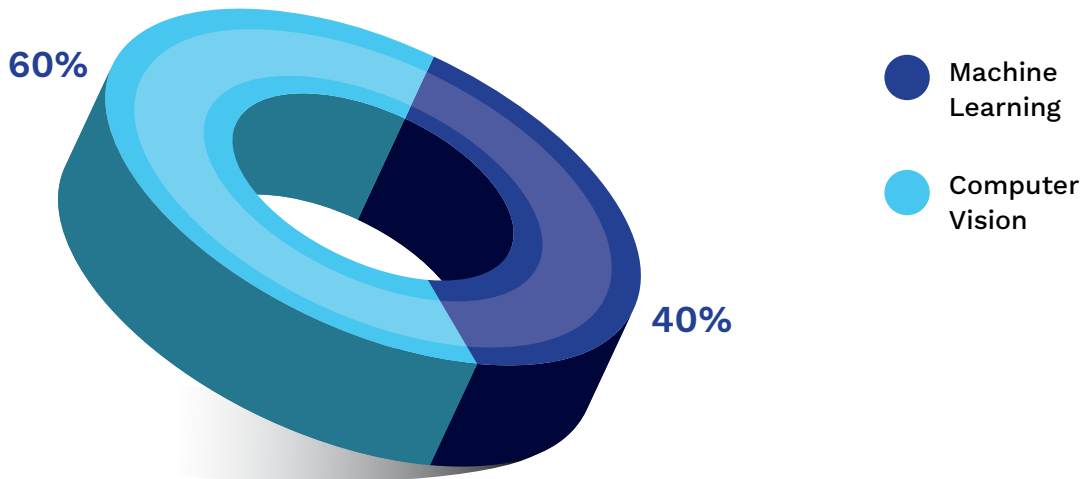


MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary Program Outcomes*

Full-time Employment



PhD Outcomes



From the total numbers confirmed for full-time employment, Machine Learning (ML) graduates entered industry-based opportunities, over their counter parts from Computer Vision (CV).

ML students accounted for 62% of the total numbers of students for Cohort 1, compared to 38 % for CV students.

Similar to Cohort 2, the majority of CV graduates for Cohort 1, also opted to continue with further studies at PhD level.

* Percentages reflect the total number from each program specialism, for each related outcome, full-time employment / PhD.

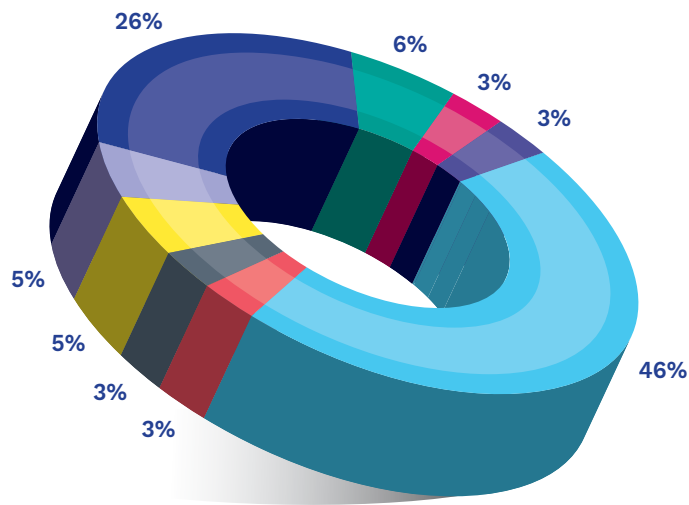
MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

Cohort 1 Graduates – Salary and Sector

Student and Salary Type	Amount Per Month
Salary Indicator for Graduates, Returning to Employer	32,500 AED
Average MSc in first graduate outcome salary (excluding MBZUAI RAs)	23,000 AED*
Graduates with 10+ years of work experience	40'000 dhs

* From salary data currently available

Top Graduate Sectors



MBZUAI Cohort 1 Graduate Destination Summary

Cohort 1 Graduates

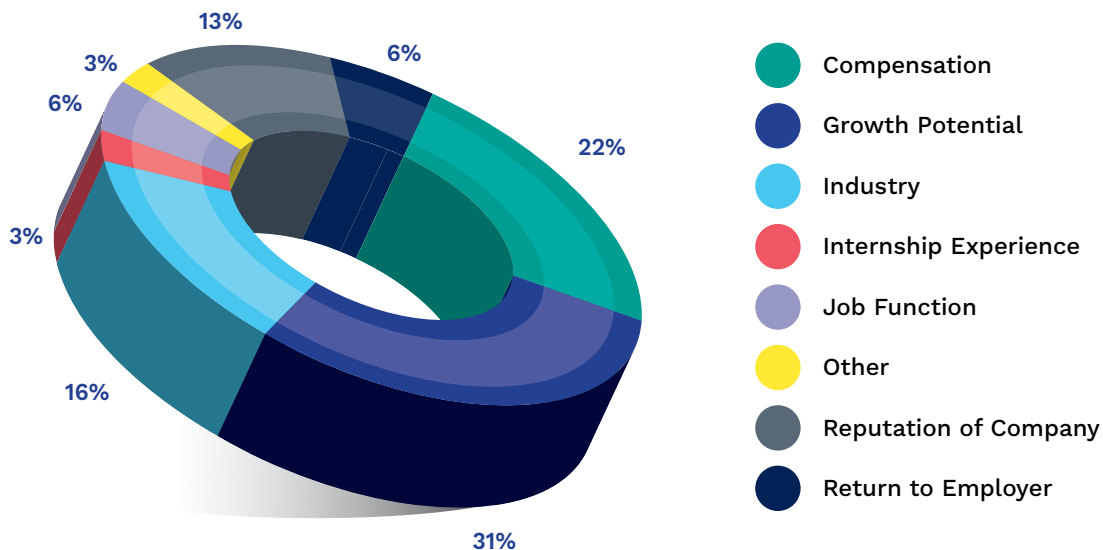
Top Reasons & Sources

Similarly to Cohort 2, Cohort 1 graduates also identified growth potential as the top reason for accepting an employment offer. Compensation was another key factor and industry (which also scored in the top three reasons for Cohort 2).

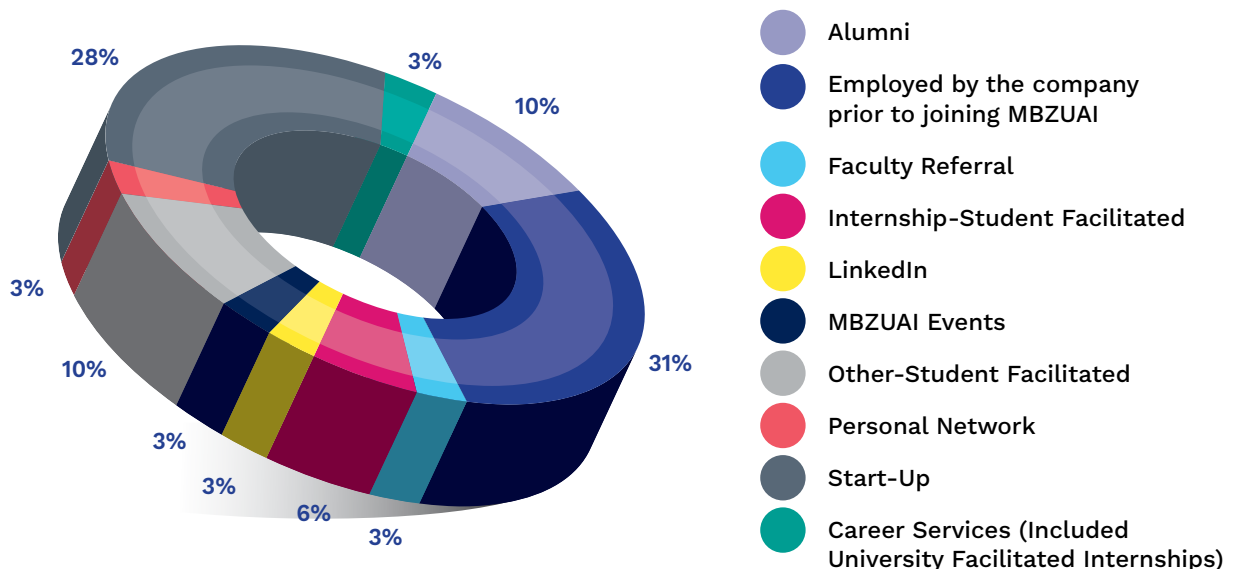
Again, reputation of the company was important, but interestingly in comparison to Cohort 2, location was not a top factor. As with Cohort 2, several graduates were obligated to return to their employer, as they were on study leave and part of the contractual requirement was then to implement their AI knowledge and skills within their organization.

In terms of how the graduate found the opportunity, as with Cohort 2 the majority were via faculty referral, which again correlates to students being successful in obtaining MBZUAI based Research Associate positions. Other key routes for gaining employment included via Career Services, including university facilitated internships. Following this personal network and returning to their employer were notable factors.

Top Reason for Choosing Position



How the Opportunity was sourced



Interested to connect with our talented AI students for internship opportunities, have access to a pipeline of AI talent for recruitment opportunities or take part in a range of industry partner engagement initiatives at MBZUAI? Please reach out to the MBZUAI Career Services and Internships team:



Head of Career Services
and Internships team

Emma Blakemore

emma.blakemore@mbzuai.ac.ae

Senior Specialist Career
Services and Internship team

Jay Tasanyurek

Jitka.Tasanyurek@mbzuai.ac.ae



Senior Career Services
and Internships Officer

Fatema Alshehhi

Fatema.Alshehhi@mbzuai.ac.ae







**MOHAMED BIN ZAYED
UNIVERSITY OF
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

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