

NEW GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION SEMINAR

FALL 2026

SCHEDULED FOR:

DAY

01

TUESDAY

AUGUST 25, 2026

DAY

02

THURSDAY

AUGUST 27, 2026

DAY

03

SATURDAY

AUGUST 29, 2026

SPEAKER(S)	SESSION TITLE	KEY TOPICS
DAY 1, TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 - 4:30 PM-6:00 PM		
Dean of Graduate Studies Dr Gaelle Picherit-Duthler	Welcome	Introduction to Zayed University graduate community
Graduate Program Coordinators Dr Jonathan Fulton Dr Mohammad Alazaizeh Dr Walid Ben Salah Prof Maria Santos Prof Farkhund Iqbal Dr Feras Al-Obeidat Prof Yousef Nazzal Dr Mahmoud Agha Prof Lynne Kennedy	Welcome and Program Overview	- Individual graduate program expectations - Master's in Diplomacy and International Affairs - Master of Arts in Communication (Strategic Public Relations) - Master of Legal and Judicial Studies - Master of Science in Counseling Psychology - Master of Science in Cybersecurity - Master of Science in Digital Transformation and Innovation - Master of Science in Environment and Sustainability Sciences - Master of Science in Finance - Master of Science in Human Nutrition



DEANSHIP OF GRADUATE STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

AI-ENABLED ACADEMIC RESEARCH

**Symbio Living Lab, College of Technological Innovation
Deanship of Graduate Studies**

Co-Coordiators: Dr Gaelle Picherit-Duthler and Prof Ahmed Seffah

**Students must create an account (ChatGPT or Claude)
and bring their laptop to all sessions.**

SPEAKER(S)	SESSION TITLE	KEY TOPICS
DAY 1, TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 - 6:00 PM-7:30 PM		
Session 1 Prof Ahmed Seffah Prof Fatna Belqasmi	From AI To AI-Enabled Research: How AI is Being Used in Academic Research	• What AI-enabled research means and why it matters now • Overview of AI tools reshaping academic research workflows • From data collection to publication: Where AI intervenes • Opportunities and limits of AI in different research disciplines
DAY 1, TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026 - 7:30 PM-9:00 PM		
Session 2 Dr Samia Loucif Prof Ravishankar Sharma	Ethical Frameworks for AI in Research	• Core ethical principles: Transparency, accountability, fairness • Authorship, attribution, and intellectual honesty with AI • Bias in AI-generated content and how to detect it • Institutional and journal policies on AI use in research • Building an ethical AI research practice from day one

SPEAKER(S)	SESSION TITLE	KEY TOPICS
DAY 2, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 - 6:00 PM-7:30 PM		
Session 3 Dr Iqbal Taleb Prof Ahmed Seffah	Academic Peer Review and AI-Retraced Papers	• What it means to retrace a research paper using AI • Using AI to reproduce, validate, and extend published findings • Live walkthrough: Retracing a seminal paper step by step • Identifying gaps, errors, and opportunities in existing literature • Building a research contribution on top of AI-retraced foundations
DAY 2, THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026 - 7:30 PM-9:00 PM		
Session 4 Dr Samer Wazan	Writing with AI: Proposals and Research Papers	• Structuring a research paper with AI • Writing a research paper: Where AI can help and where it should not • Maintaining your scholarly voice in AI-assisted writing • Peer review simulation: AI-generated drafts under critique

SPEAKER(S)	SESSION TITLE	KEY TOPICS
DAY 3, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 - 9:00 AM-12:00 PM		
Session 5 Session Chairs Prof Ahmed Seffah Prof Fatna Belqasmi Dr Hamda Albreiki Dr Rachid Bentoumi Dr Samia Loucif Prof Ravishankar Sharma Dr Samer Wazan Dr Iqbal Taleb Dr Imane Belyamini Dr Manar Mfarrej	AI Tools 360 Workshops: Qualitative versus Quantitative Research at the Age of AI	The Graduate Student Journey: How AI Tools are Used in Research Projects - AI-assisted literature review: Strategies, tools, and pitfalls: Research Rabbit, Elicit, NVivo - Reference management: Zotero, Elicit, Semantic Scholar with AI - Data analysis: AI-assisted coding with Python and R - Visual research communication: AI-generated figures and diagrams - AI guide for writing a convincing research proposal, research paper, master's thesis, and research grants - AI-Enabled Research 2.0: Book Companion Portal
DAY 3, SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2026 - 1:30 PM-4:30 PM		
Session 6 Moderators Prof Ravishankar Sharma Prof Ahmed Seffah	Discussion Panel The Future of AI in Academia	- Is AI a tool, a co-author, or a threat to academic integrity? - How universities and journals govern AI use in research - Participant Q&A: Research challenges and AI solutions - Certificate closing: Commitments and next steps