



Honors Alumni Book 2023

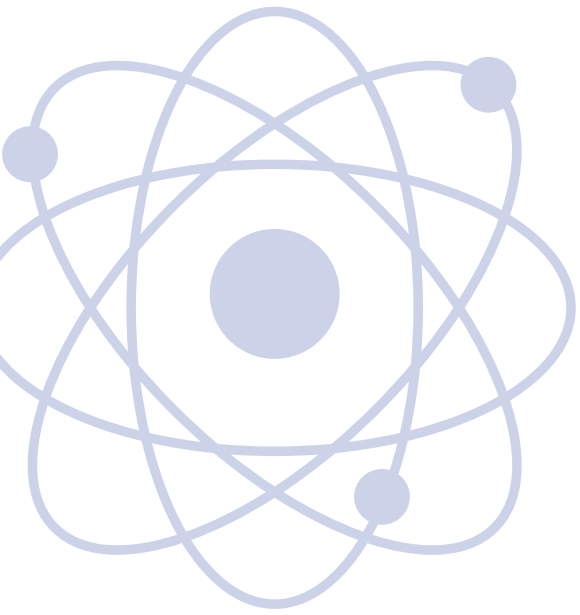


About UFAZ University

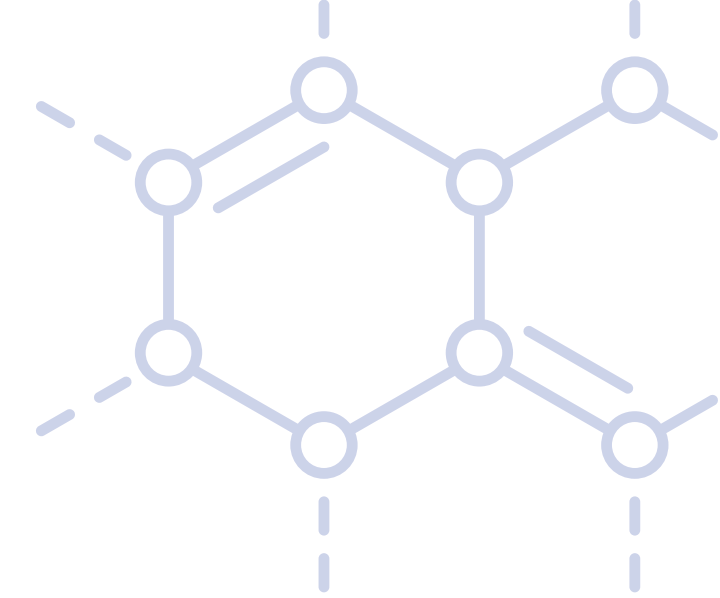
Established in 2016, UFAZ is a collaboration between the University of Strasbourg (UNISTRA) and Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (ASOIU).

Offers dual national diplomas: one from ASOIU and another from either the University of Strasbourg or University of Rennes, depending on the speciality.





Centre for Scientific Experimental Teaching and Research



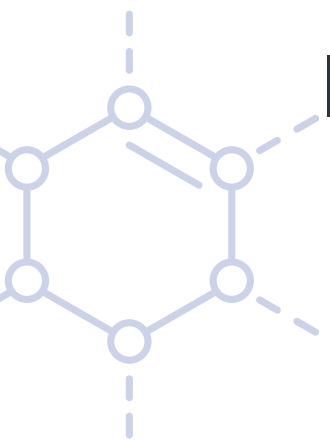
UFAZ's six-floor laboratories adhere to UNISTRA's standards.

Equipped with cutting-edge technology sourced primarily from France and Germany.

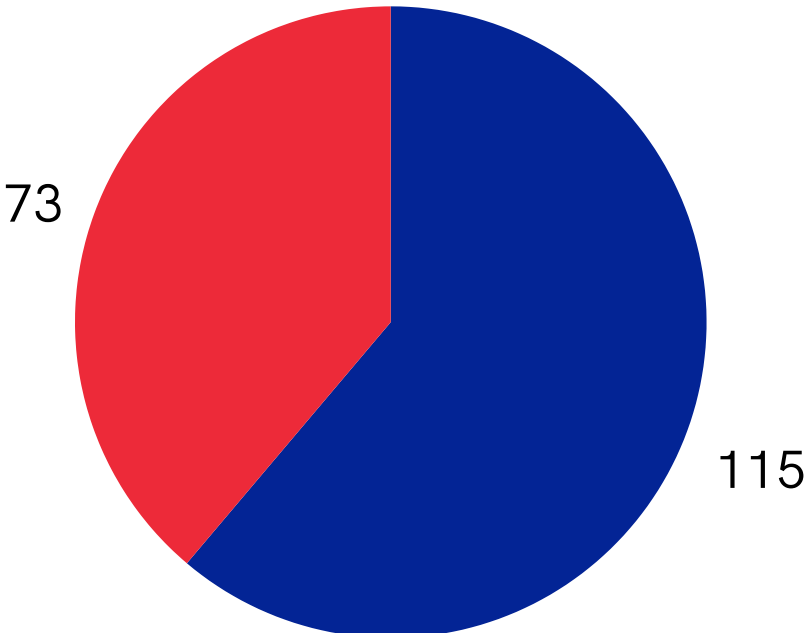
Academic Excellence

UFAZ emphasizes academic excellence through highly qualified professors from France and Azerbaijan.

Instruction in English, supplemented with comprehensive French language courses.



Further Education



67.41% of responders* currently study abroad

32.59% of responders* currently study in Azerbaijan

*224 responders

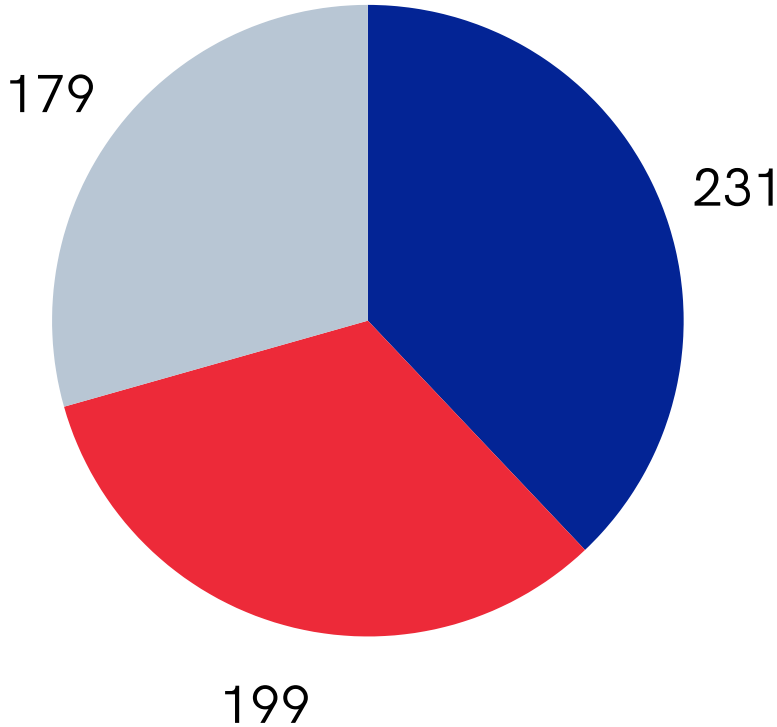
Employment

59.5% of responders are currently employed

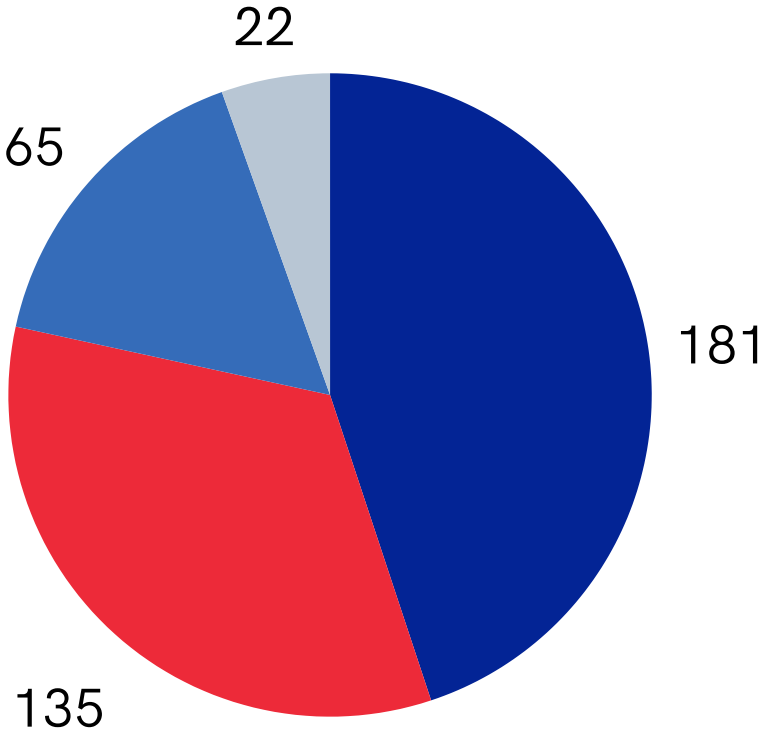
working in Azerbaijan ● working abroad ●

34.84% of responders are currently studying

*442 responders



Undergraduate Programs



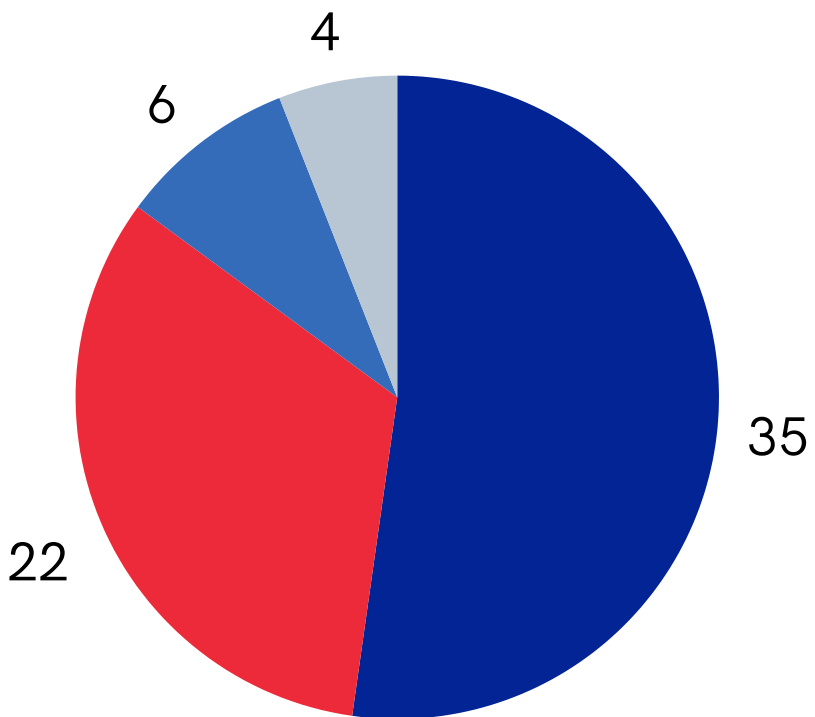
● currently employed
● currently studying
● currently employed and studying
● currently unemployed

*404 responders

Graduate Programs

● currently employed
● currently studying
● currently employed and studying
● currently unemployed

*67 responders





VUSAL AZIMOV

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering, MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
Well Planning Geologist Trainee working at bp**

Throughout my academic journey, I expanded my expertise in Geosciences by actively engaging in interdisciplinary research, industry projects, and enriching field trips. During the first year of my master's program, I focused on an M1 research project centered on predicting water temperature in geothermal reservoirs in Guadeloupe. This involved modeling heat transfer coupled with fluid flow in porous media, employing the Finite Elements Method (FEM). I had the opportunity to present this project at the 13th ICTEA conference held in Baku. In the summer of 2022, I worked as a Well Planning Geology Intern at BP. Following that, I undertook my master's internship at the ITES laboratory in Strasbourg, France. There, over a five-month period, I contributed to a research project involving the modeling of heat transfer in porous media using Physics-Informed Neural Networks (PINNs). Moreover, along with my group mates, we published a research paper on the geophysical investigation of Uzun Rama kurgans located in Goranboy.

Post-graduation, I chose to pursue a career in the industry. Currently, I am working as a Geoscience Graduate at BP AGT, contributing to the New Well Delivery process by planning wells in the giant Azeri Chirag Guneshli (ACG) oil field.

For future and current UFAZ students, my advice is to embrace internships, research projects, and increase awareness about industry/academia, as they immensely contribute to holistic growth and career readiness.



LAMAN JALILOVA

BSc in Chemical Engineering at UFAZ;

MSc student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT);

Parliamentary Assistant at Deutscher Bundestag

I graduated from UFAZ in 2022 as the top student of my cohort. During my university years, I served as the President of the UFAZ Student Council, achieved success in various hackathons and startup competitions, and, as a Clean and Affordable Energy Ambassador for Sustainable Development Goal 7, represented Azerbaijan at international events such as COP28 in Dubai and the SDG Summit at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. I am fluent in six languages, including French and German. Besides engineering, I have been actively involved in leading the "Goal+" startup since 2022.

Currently, I am pursuing my MSc in Chemical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). It is noteworthy that I am the first female in the history of Azerbaijan to be accepted to the Engineering School at MIT. In the Fall of 2023, I worked as a Technical Consultant at Shell (Houston, TX, USA) and EGA (Dubai, UAE).



RAUF FATALI

BSc in Business Informatics at ASOIU;

MSc in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at UFAZ;

PhD student at UNISTRA; Teaching Assistant at UFAZ

I obtained my bachelor's degree in Business Informatics at Azerbaijan State Oil and Industrial University in 2020, laying the groundwork for my academic pursuits. Building on this foundation, I pursued a master's degree in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at UFAZ in 2022, honing my skills in modern technologies. Beyond my studies, I adeptly combined theoretical knowledge with practical applications through industrial and research internships in Azerbaijan and France during both my undergraduate and master's studies.

Currently, as a Ph.D. student in Artificial Intelligence, specializing in Computer Vision, I am part of a joint program between the French-Azerbaijani University and UNISTRA. As part of my doctoral program, I concurrently teach Computer Science courses at UFAZ and Icam, site de Strasbourg-Europe, enhancing my academic journey with practical experience.



ELMAR HAJIZADA

BSc in Computer Science at UFAZ; MSc in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at the Chalmers University of Technology; Data Engineer at Ericsson, Sweden

After graduating from UFAZ in 2020, I decided to deepen my knowledge in the field of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence. I was accepted into the master's program of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at Chalmers University in Sweden. During my first year of studies, I applied for a summer internship at Ericsson AB, a globally renowned leading telecommunications and technology company. After successfully passing the interview stage, I was accepted for a summer internship at Ericsson AB in Gothenburg.

I conducted my master thesis work at Ericsson in the last semester of my master's degree, spanning six months. I focused on 'Predicting Next Critical Alarm using Multimodal Logs and Natural Language Processing Techniques,' which was subsequently published at the Chalmers library. Immediately after completing my master thesis in 2022, I received a job offer from Ericsson for a data engineering role. Given my enduring curiosity about big data and efficient data handling, Ericsson, with its terabytes of data, provided an excellent environment for gaining experience in this field. During my first working year, I was selected to represent Ericsson at a Gothenburg Artificial Intelligence Alliance (GAIA) event, where I explained our contributions to society.

Now, having worked at Ericsson as a data engineer for more than a year, I am currently developing systems and pipelines that gather and transform unprocessed data into actionable insights. This facilitates data scientists and business analysts in their interpretation efforts.



RUSLAN MALIKOV

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering, MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
Researcher at WAVERITY**

As a second-year undergraduate geophysics student, I joined eiLink R&D as a research assistant, working on the application of AI methods to solve real-world geophysical problems. Here, I became very interested in geophysics and data science, as I was able to apply my acquired knowledge, learn new techniques, develop my skills, and get closer to the industry. After graduating, I continued to work as a junior researcher while studying for a master's degree in geosciences at UFAZ. Eventually, due to the rapid development of the company, separate spin-offs were created, and our team founded a separate start-up called WAVERITY. Here, I continued to work as a researcher and continue to this day.

Currently, I am responsible for developing new methods for geophysical problem solutions, providing technical support in signal and image processing, as well as interpreting results and QC. Being an active contributor to WAVERITY, I believe that this continuous development in all aspects will help me achieve success in my career.



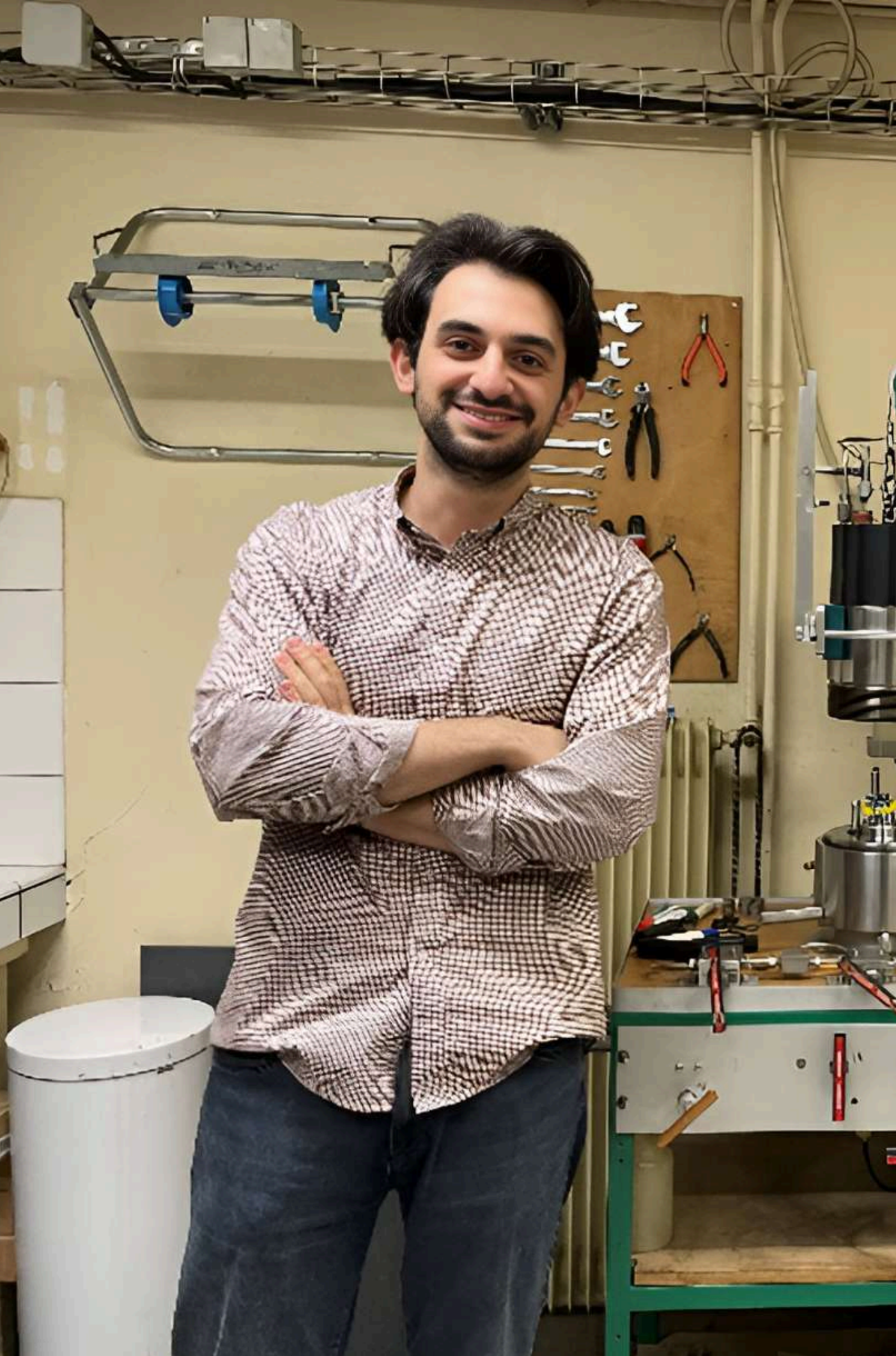
TOFIG NAZARBAYOV

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering, MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
Geophysicist at bp**

As a graduate of the very first cohort of UFAZ students, I achieved the highest score among Geophysical Engineering faculty Bachelor's degree graduates in 2020 and graduated with honors from the Master's degree program in 2022. Currently, I am working as a Geophysicist Graduate at BP.

With a Master of Science in Geophysical Engineering from UNISTRA, I prefer a computational and analytical approach to problem-solving, applying my coding and image data processing skills in both my master's and bachelor's theses. Specifically, in my master's thesis titled "Analyzing pore filling alteration in volcanic rocks from La Soufrière de Guadeloupe," conducted under the supervision of Prof. Mike Heap, I utilized image processing of cross-sectional slices of rock samples and analyzed the extracted data using Python. The study from my master's thesis contributed to the research paper titled "The influence of heterogeneity on the strength of volcanic rocks and the stability of lava domes," published in Bulletin of Volcanology, Springer, with my co-authorship. During my bachelor's and master's studies at UFAZ, I focused on developing technical expertise in the geoscience field.

I have served as a wellsite geophysicist on the Guneshli-11 production platform in the Caspian Sea during my internship at SOCAR AQS, worked as a geophysical data processor at Lighthouse GEO, and participated in the Schlumberger Regional Summer Camp in Aktau, Kazakhstan, and the BP Summer Geology Field Course in Azerbaijan. As a passionate data analysis and machine learning enthusiast, I applied my skills in real projects, such as Geospinner. Our project won the International Hackathon Act In Space 2018 in Azerbaijan and the International GSA Geekie Award by the European Space Agency (ESA), leading to an invitation to present at European Space Week 2018 in Marseille, France.



KAMAL BAYRAMOV

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering, MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
PhD student at UNISTRA**

Currently, I am pursuing my Ph.D. in geophysics/rock physics at UNISTRA, ITES, under the lead supervision of Prof. Michael Heap and co-supervision of Prof. Patrick Baud and Prof. Adalat Hasanov (ASOIU). My Ph.D. is cotutelle, as with some other students' Ph.D.s at UFAZ, meaning that I am going to be at UFAZ for the second semester. I also completed my Master 2 internship at the same lab. During my master's, I was awarded the Movsum Bay Khanlarov scholarship for my academic excellence and finished as the 1st of my group.

My Ph.D. involves studying compaction localization in volcanic rocks. Since my master's internship, I have been dealing with volcanic rocks and using various machines such as a permeameter, helium, pycnometer, uniaxial, and triaxial deformation machines available at ITES to study their mechanical and physical behavior.

Moreover, since my master's, I have been involved in three research projects:

- Influence of High Temperature on the Physical and Mechanical Properties of Porous Limestone from Baku (Azerbaijan) - published in the Journal of Fire.
- Geophysical investigation of kurgans in Uzun Rama steppe, Goranboy region, Azerbaijan - submitted to the Journal of Leading Edge, published early January.
- Compaction and permeability evolution of tuff from Krafla volcano - in review and will be submitted early January.



SHABNAM RAJILI

BSc in Chemical Engineering at UFAZ; Process Engineer at SOCAR Downstream

I was admitted to UFAZ with a SEC score of 688, choosing Chemical Engineering as my field of specialization. Throughout my university years, I took the initiative to establish UCESS (UFAZ Chemical Engineering Students' Society) and, in collaboration with my peers, organized various activities for Chemical Engineering students with the aim of learning through sharing.

Leveraging my robust theoretical and experimental knowledge from our experimental chemistry courses at UFAZ, I decided to bring this newfound interest to life by crafting a range of organic soaps using various oils. This venture quickly became both captivating and profitable, eventually evolving into my own successful soap-making business. I remained devoted to this endeavor until I received a job offer that I believed would further catalyze my professional growth.

After graduating from UFAZ, I received two diplomas with the highest honors from two universities. Since my graduation, I have been working as a process engineer at the Heydar Aliyev oil refinery under SOCAR Downstream Management for 2.5 years. In this journey, my primary responsibilities include monitoring, optimizing, and maximizing the yield and energy efficiency of Crude and Vacuum Distillation (CDU/VDU) and Kerosene, Naphtha Treatment units. Additionally, I have participated in the engineering document revision of the new CDU/VDU project in Azerbaijan, which will have an irreplaceable impact on our country's economy.



NIGAR ALLAHVERDIYEVA

BSc in Chemical Engineering, MSc in Chemical Engineering at UFAZ;

Production Planning Engineer at SOCAR Downstream

I have been working as a Production Planning Engineer (LP Planning) in the Planning and Optimization Department at SOCAR DOWNSTREAM MANAGEMENT LLC since 2022. This company was launched to manage the Modernization and Reconstruction project at Heydar Aliyev Oil Refinery. Since this job requires a background in chemical/process engineering, understanding of refinery downstream processes, petrochemistry, and economics, it turned out to be a perfect opportunity to build my career in the Oil and Gas industry.

As a Planner, my key responsibilities include preparing long-term, mid-term, and short-term production plans to ensure optimal refinery production, improve plant economics, and carry out development studies to enhance refinery and petrochemical plant performance. All these tasks are performed using ASPEN PIMS software, which allows crude evaluation, product blending, and economic evaluations. I believe the desire to become a highly experienced production planning engineer will lead me to success in my career in the future.



ASLAN HUSEYNLI

**BSc in Oil and Gas Engineering at UFAZ;
MSc in Smart Energy and the Built Environment at University
College London**

I am currently studying at UCL (MSc. Smart Energy and the Built Environment) on a full governmental scholarship. I was also selected as one of the students to participate in the BP Engineering Education Program. Based on my academic achievements at UFAZ, I participated in the "Summer School" program in the city of Strasbourg.

In the academic year 2023-2024, within the framework of the State Program, I am pursuing a master's degree at University College London in the field of "Smart Energy and the Built Environment." This specialization explores the critical aspects of applying continuous energy experiments in buildings to ensure a more sustainable environmental environment. I firmly believe that this program holds global importance as it plays a significant role in addressing climate change, improving the quality of life, ensuring energy security, and stimulating economic growth.

I believe that in Azerbaijan, for the sake of environmental cleanliness, we should increasingly leverage green energy in the future.



IMRAN JABRAYILOV

**BSc in Computer Science, MSc student in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at UFAZ;
Software Engineer at Simbrella**

In my first year at UFAZ, I delved into the exhilarating realm of the NASA SpaceApps challenge. Collaborating with third-year students, our synergy propelled us to clinch the 1st place, marking a memorable initiation into the world of problem-solving and innovation.

The subsequent years brought me to the International Collegiate Programming Contest (ICPC). In 2021/2022, my team secured a notable 2nd-degree diploma. My personal tour in the same competition earned me a High Achievement diploma, validating my commitment to excellence. This trend continued into the 2022/2023 ICPC, where I once again earned a High Achievement Diploma, reinforcing the consistency of my skills on a global stage.

The ripple effect of my ICPC success resonated when I received an invitation to the 1st Contest Talent Summit by Huawei in Minsk, Belarus. It was a testament to the doors that academic excellence could open. Embracing opportunities beyond borders, in 2023, I ventured to China. As a Software Engineer Intern at Huawei in Hangzhou, I spent three months navigating the dynamic landscape of real-world challenges, further honing my skills and broadening my global perspective.

Now, I am proud to contribute as a Software Engineer at Simbrella. This role marks a continuation of my journey, where I bring my skills and experiences to a dynamic professional setting. I am grateful for the opportunities UFAZ has provided, shaping me into the professional I am today.



VAFA BABANLI

**BSc in Chemical Engineering;
MSc student in Integrative Chemistry and Innovation at PSL
Research University;
Research Intern at French National Centre for Scientific Research**

I graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from UFAZ and decided to continue my education with a master's degree due to my passion for the sciences. For this purpose, I chose one of the best universities in France and in the world, PSL University.

I got accepted into the Ph.D. tracks program in Chemistry and am currently pursuing a Master's degree in Sciences and Technology in Integrative Chemistry and Innovation at Chimie ParisTech.

My master's degree is allowing me to explore various disciplines of chemistry and will help improve my abilities as a researcher, thanks to laboratory internship opportunities. After completing my master's degree, I plan on pursuing doctoral studies to further excel in my skills in scientific research.



TURGAY GARDASHLI

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering at UFAZ;
MSc in Solid Earth Geophysics at École normale
supérieure de Lyon;
Geophysicist at CGG**

I graduated from UFAZ with a degree that equips me well for any future endeavors in either research or industry. This led me to the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Lyon, where I pursued a Master's degree with the prestigious Ampère Excellence Scholarship. Supported by dedicated professors, I delved into various research projects that expanded my understanding of geophysics.

I then embarked on an exhilarating career journey. Joining TotalEnergies in Paris, I contributed to an exciting project aimed at increasing certainty in offshore wind assessment, fostering unforgettable memories along the way. I later moved to London to work at CGG, supporting industry giants like BP and Equinor in exploration efforts and data processing.

My experiences have not only shaped my expertise but also inspired a commitment to innovation, leaving an enduring mark in the dynamic world of energy.



MURAD ILDAROV

BSc in Geophysical Engineering at UFAZ;

**MSc in Geophysics and Seismology at Ecole et Observatoire des
Sciences de la Terre - EOST;**

Geophysicist at CGG

I graduated from UFAZ with a Bachelor of Science in Geophysical Engineering in 2020. During my studies, I had the opportunity to participate in an Erasmus exchange program at UNISTRA, where I discovered my passion for geophysics. I decided to pursue a Master of Engineering in Geophysics at the same university, which I completed in 2022.

As part of my master's degree, I completed an internship at TotalEnergies in Pau, France, where I worked on the deblending process, a technique that improves the quality and resolution of seismic data. I applied to CGG, a leading provider of geoscience solutions, and was accepted as an imaging geophysicist. I have been working there for five months now, developing and testing innovative software products that help clients optimize their exploration and production activities.

I am grateful for the opportunity to study at UFAZ, which gave me a solid foundation in science and a chance to explore new horizons. I am proud to be an alumnus of this prestigious institution, and I hope to maintain a strong connection with the university and its community.



JAVIDAN KARIMLI

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering at UFAZ; MSc in Petroleum Geosciences at IFP School;
Exploration Geoscientist at TotalEnergies**

Starting my geoscience journey, I gained a strong foundation in geophysical engineering from UFAZ and furthered my expertise in petroleum geosciences at IFP School in Paris with a scholarship from TotalEnergies. Hands-on experience from internships at Socar Fugro and TotalEnergies complemented my academic pursuits.

Joining Umid Babek Operating Company (SOCAR) as a geoscientist provided valuable real-world application of my skills. Seeking to integrate AI and geosciences, I joined WAVERITY, where I collaborated on projects blending geoscience principles with cutting-edge technologies.

I have been offered a position at TotalEnergies headquarters in Paris and joined the Oman & Yemen team as a geoscientist, focusing on exploration and development stages.

Throughout my educational and professional career, I have been involved in many different projects, conferences, and organizations such as SEG, SPE, and have held several seminars and webinars, focusing on both technical and soft skills.



SARKHAN JAFARLI

BSc in Computer Science at UFAZ;

Project Manager at Bank of Baku OJSC

I graduated from UFAZ a semester late due to an exchange semester, during which I traveled abroad and experienced a shift in perspective. This change influenced my decision not to apply to a master's program immediately after finishing school. Instead, I took time off from academic duties and focused on gaining experience in fields I might be interested in. I started working as an IT Business Analyst at SetClapp.

Currently, I am working as a Project Manager at Bank of Baku. In this role, I manage projects such as the acquisition and maintenance of PCI DSS certification. Additionally, I coordinate the execution of requirements and the integration of Apple Pay functionality into the bank's ecosystem by partnering with Visa and Mastercard. My future plans include obtaining professional certifications and working in different fields to diversify my portfolio.



RASHAD ABBASOV

**BSc in Geological Engineering at ASOIU;
MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
PhD student and researcher at UNISTRA**

I am currently pursuing PhD studies at UNISTRA in the Earth Sciences specialty. The UFAZ master's program, particularly the internship opportunity offered in the last semester at UNISTRA, played an outstanding role in shaping my research career. Organized field trips during this program provided deep knowledge into understanding geosciences. The experience gained in the master's degree also helped me secure a PhD scholarship within the framework of the "State Program for 2019 - 2023."

My research in the PhD program aims to achieve more reliable, accurate, and robust models for rainfall-induced landslides (RILS). Our focus in this research is to integrate numerical modeling, laboratory experiments, and field studies to investigate the current remediation strategies and evaluate the risks of landslides under the effect of high-intensity rainfall events.



AYNUR JARRAHOVA

BSc in Oil and Gas Engineering; Site Engineer Trainee at bp

I am an UFAZ alumnus in Oil and Gas Engineering, as well as a University of Rennes alumnus in Petroleum Engineering. Currently, I am a Site Engineer Trainee at bp. I was interested in broadening my understanding of safety and applied for an HSE intern role at the bp Internship program during my 3rd year. I enjoyed every bit of my internship with bp, as the work environment was amazing, and the fact that safety was an inseparable part of bp's strategy made me sure that I would want to work for such a company in the near future.

As part of the yearly internship program, bp holds the bpChallenge (previously Technofest) event for interns and graduates, which is a great opportunity to demonstrate the project you have been working on to senior leadership. I was the winner of Technofest 2019 with my project - Systematization of Hazardous Materials data.

After graduating from UFAZ, I joined the bp Graduate program as a Safety Advisor Trainee. During these 2 years, I have supported the Risk Management process & Safety Campaigns, conducted HSE self-verifications, and taken part in Incident Management & Risk Assessments. Currently, I am on my last rotation of the Graduate scheme - supporting Shah Deniz Bravo operations as a Site Engineer Graduate.



MALIK SHEYKHLI

**BSc in Geophysical Engineering, MSc in Geosciences at UFAZ;
Development Geologist at bp**

During the academic years of 2016-2017, I was among the first students to participate in the Strasbourg summer camp. Two weeks of immersive learning and exploration broadened my horizons, leaving an indelible mark on my academic and personal growth.

In 2018, as a result of showcasing exceptional skills and innovation, I emerged as the second winner in the Act in Space competition. As a special honor, our team received an award to participate in a conference held in Marseille. This experience not only added a feather to my cap but also opened doors to new opportunities and connections in the geophysical world.

The following year, after a rigorous application process, I secured a coveted position as a geophysicist summer intern at bp Azerbaijan in 2021. This hands-on experience in the professional realm allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations, gaining invaluable insights and skills in the process.

January 2022 marked the beginning of a new chapter as I transitioned into the role of a geologist graduate at BP Azerbaijan. The journey from student to professional was an enriching one, filled with challenges that were met with determination and an unwavering passion for the field.



ISMAYIL SAFARLI

BSc in Chemical Engineering, MSc in Chemical Engineering at UFAZ; PhD student at ICPEES, UNISTRA

After obtaining my Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from UFAZ, I pursued a Master's in Material Science and Engineering with a focus on Polymer Engineering at the Faculty of Physics and Engineering at UNISTRA. This was accomplished with a scholarship from Total Energies. During this time, I also completed two internships in research laboratories.

Currently, I am a second-year PhD student at CIFRE collaboration between the French tyre manufacturer, Michelin, and the Institute of Chemistry and Processes for Energy, Environment, and Health (ICPEES). I am working on the preparation of reinforcements for hydrogen fuel cell membranes using a technique called electrospinning.

I believe that curiosity and a willingness to learn are the key skills that have allowed me to come this far.