

## Personal data

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**Last Name:** Benkhaldoun      **First Name:** Zouhair

Date of birth: 6/3/1959

Current function (s): Oukaimeden Observatory Director.

Laboratory: High Energy Physics and Astrophysics Laboratory.  
(LPHEA)

Field of research: Astrophysics and Space Science.

## Academics

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### **Doctorate (Doctorat d'État) in Astrophysics**

Cadi Ayyad University of Marrakech / University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, January 1994.

### **PhD in Energetics**

University of Provence in Marseille, December 1985 (First Class Honors).

### **Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (Equivalent to Master's) in Energetics**

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, June 1983 (with Honors).

### **Master's in Physics (Theoretical Physics)**

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, 1982.

### **Bachelor's in Physics**

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, 1981.

### **D.E.U.G. (Mathematics and Physics)**

University of Nice Sophia Antipolis, 1980.

### **Baccalaureate in Mathematical Sciences**

My Youssef High School in Rabat, June 1978.

## Summary of Responsibilities and Activities:

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### **Teaching:**

- **Undergraduate Level:**
  - Advanced Optics Module
  - Supervision of bachelor final year projects
- **Master's Level:**
  - General Relativity and Cosmology
  - Image Processing
  - Astrophysics
  - Supervision of Master's internships (2 to 3 per cohort)

### **Research and Outreach:**

- Ongoing supervision of 4 doctoral theses
- Moroccan representative in several international organizations
- Lead coordinator for multiple research contracts with institutional and private partners

### **Professional appointment in Morocco**

- Feb/1986-sept/1993: Assistant Professor at **Research Center** (CNRST, Rabat, Morocco)
- Sept/1993-Jan/1994: Assistant Professor at **University Presidency**, Cadi Ayyad University
- Jan/1994-Jan/1996: Associate Professor (Maître de conférence) at **University Presidency**, Cadi Ayyad University

## CV BENKHALDOUN ZOUHAIR

- Jan/1996-Jan/1998: Associate Professor (professeur Habilité) at **University Presidency**, Cadi Ayyad University
- Jan/1998-Jan/2006: Full Professor (professeur de l'enseignement supérieur) at **University Presidency**, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco
- Sept/2006-August 2025: Full Professor (Professeur de l'enseignement supérieur) at **Faculty of science Semlalia**, Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco

### International Professional appointment

- 2025/2026 Professor at Sharjah University and Sharjah Academy for Astronomies, Space Science and Technology (SAASST)
- 10 to 30 Jul/2016: Invited Professor at Nice University, France
- 15 to 24 Nov/2014: Invited Professor at Nice University, France
- 01 to 31 Oct/2013: Invited Professor at Nice University, France

### Responsibilities with Moroccan Institutions

- Director of Oukaimeden Observatory, Cadi Ayyad University, (Since 2009-2025)
- Elected member of the Cadi Ayyad University council (Cadi Ayyad) (2021-2023).
- Director of the High Energy Physics and Astrophysics Laboratory. (LPHEA) (1999-2009)
- Director of the UFR High Energy Physics and Astrophysics of the FSSM (2000-2004).
- Head of Master of Astrophysics and High Energy Physics (2000-2006).
- Deputy head of the physics department 1997-1998.
- Elected member of the college and the council of the physics department in 1995-1996-1997
- Elected member of the university council (Cadi Ayyad) (1997-1998).
- Member of the FSSM scientific committee (2003-2006).
- Member of the IT commission of the Semlalia faculty of science 1999-2004.
- Responsible for the computing Lab of the physics department (FSSM) 1999-2002.

### Responsibilities with International Institutions

- Elected member of International Astronomical Union division F (2021)
- Member of the International Astronomical Union.
- President and founder member of the Arab Astronomical Society (**ArAS**)
- Founder member of Africa Initiative for Planetary and Space Sciences (**AFIPSS**)
- Member of the African Astronomical Society (**AfAS**)
- Member of Science Committee of the African Astronomical Society (**AfAS**)
- Member of International Organization for Science and Training (Canada)
- President of the National Committee for Astronomy in Morocco
- Member of the International Space Weather Initiative
- Member of the American network Global Oscillation Network Group (**GONG**).
- Member of the African group of the United Nations for space sciences.

## PHD supervising:

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### As a Supervisor:

1. **Soubkiou Abderrahman**, "Caractérisation d'exoplanètes en transit avec le Satellite d'Étude des Exoplanètes en Transit (TESS)" Cadi Ayyad University, November **2024**.
2. **Ghachoui Mourad**, "Contribution à la détection d'exoplanètes en transit autour d'étoiles proches par

- la mission TESS”, Cadi Ayyad University (Cotuelle with Liège University), October, **2024**
3. **Boskri Abdelkarim**, «Etude d'un suiveur de franges de nouvelle génération pour l'interférométrie optique à longue base», Université Cadi Ayyad, 3 Decembre **2022**.
  4. **Loutfi Amal**, « Couplages ionosphère-thermosphère à basse latitude lors d'événements solaires extrêmes. Exploitation conjointe d'instruments de l'Observatoire de l'Oukaimeden au Maroc et des satellites Swarm », Université Cadi Ayyad, 8 décembre **2021 (Cotutelle Université de Toulouse)**
  5. **Moulane Youssef**, “Monitoring the activity and composition of comets with TRAPPIST telescopes”, Université Cadi Ayyad, 22 mars **2021, (Cotutelle Université de Liège)**
  6. **Barkaoui Khalid**, "Détection et caractérisation d'exoplanètes en transit avec le télescope TRAPPIST-Nord", Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, 8 Septembre, **2020. (Cotutelle Université de Liège)**
  7. **Kaab Mohamed**, « Exploration du Couplage Ionosphérique-Atmosphérique via des instruments d'Optique : Expérience RENOIR », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Observatoire de l'Oukaimeden, 30 Novembre, **2019**.
  8. **Guennoun Meryem**, « Observation des météores depuis le sol et analyse par un réseau dédié », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Observatoire de l'Oukaimeden, 26 Juin, **2019**
  9. **Ait My El Arbi, Mamoun** « Observation depuis le sol et analyse des émissions associées aux chutes de météorites sur la lune », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Observatoire de l'Oukaimeden, Septembre **2016. (Cotutelle, Université de Toulouse)**
  10. **Daassou Ahmed**, « Contribution à la mise en place de l'Astrophotométrie de précision à l'OUCA, « Application à la détection des exoplanètes de type Jupiter Chaud et Etudes de l'impact des météorites dans le système Terre-Lune », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Observatoire de l'Oukaimeden, Juin **2015**.
  11. **Hach Youssef**, « Analyse et Modélisation des Paramètres Astroclimatiques pour l'Evaluation des sites Astronomiques », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Octobre **2012**.
  12. **Bounhir Aziza**, « Qualification des sites Astronomiques: Nouvelle approche par l'utilisation des mesures satellitaires et des données météorologiques », FSSM, Juin **2009**.
  13. **Habib Abdelfettah**, « Application de la technique du Scidar aux étoiles simples et Réalisation d'un « Single Star Scidar » », FSSM, 1-03- **2007**
  14. **Abahamid Abdelouahed**, « Contribution à la modélisation et l'évaluation de la turbulence atmosphérique & Mise en oeuvre et exploitation d'un moniteur de seeing astronomique », FSSM, **2005**.
  15. **Siher El Arbi** (Doctorat d'Etat), “Extraction de l'extinction atmosphérique à partir des données Heliosismologiques et Satellitaires”, FSSM, Décembre **2004**.
  16. **Jabiri Abdelhadi**. (Doctorat d'Etat), «L'Oukaimeden Comme site d'Observation Astronomique : Caractérisation climatologique et optique et modélisation de la turbulence atmosphérique », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Mai **2001**.
  17. **Siher El Arbi** (DES) « Photométrie en Astronomie. Application d'une Camera CCD à l'Etude de la Variabilité d'une Étoile. Réduction des Données enregistrées par un Photomètre Diurne à L'Oukaimeden », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Octobre **1996**.
  18. **Jabiri Abdelhadi**. (DES), « Études Météorologiques du site de l'Oukaimeden. Climatologie du seeing par modélisation », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Octobre **1994**

#### As co-supervisor:

1. **Chouqar Jamila**, “Detectability and Characterization of Exo-atmospheres with JWST”, Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Mars **2022**.
2. **Sabil Mohamed**, « Prospection et étude de sites astronomiques au Maroc: Le site d'Aklm dans l'Anti-Atlas. Réalisation d'un nouvel Instrument de mesure du Seeing: Le moniteur Interférentiel du Seeing », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Octobre **2012**.
3. **Azagrouze Ossama**, « Contribution à l'Apodisation par Interférométrie, Coronographie et Détection des exoplanètes », FSSM Avril **2012**.

4. **EL Halkouj Thami**, « Vers l'interférométrie optique d'étoiles extragalactiques », Université Cadi Ayyad, FSSM, Janvier **2008**.

## Scientific production:

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More than **380** publications, **5** in **Nature** and **6** in Nature Astronomie, **160** referred

See this **links** for most of the articles and communications:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=vnoOQ84AAAAJ&hl=en&oi=sra>

and

[https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/search/p\\_0&q=orcid%3A%220000-0001-6285-9847%22%20or%20author%3A%22Benkhaldoun%2C%20Z.%22%20or%20%20author%3A%22Zouhair%2C%20Benkhaldoun%22&sort=citation\\_count%20desc%2C%20bibcode%20desc](https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/search/p_0&q=orcid%3A%220000-0001-6285-9847%22%20or%20author%3A%22Benkhaldoun%2C%20Z.%22%20or%20%20author%3A%22Zouhair%2C%20Benkhaldoun%22&sort=citation_count%20desc%2C%20bibcode%20desc)

**H-index** (up to September 10, 2025):

- google Scholar: **38**
- Astrophysics Data System (ADS): **33**
- Scopus: **33**
- Web of Science: **31**

**Citations number** (up to September 10, 2025):

- Google Scholar: **6970**
- Astrophysics Data System (ADS): **5061**
- Scopus: **4515**
- Web of Science: **4469**

## Workshops Schools and meetings as Chairperson:

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1. Symposium, IAUS 393, Held in Cape Town on August **20224** as part of IAU General Assembly
2. Astronomical Site Selection Workshop for the Egyptian Large Optical Telescope (Virtual) 9- 10 June 2020
3. ArAS International school for Astrophysics (ArAS-SfA 4), Kotamia Egypt 2019
4. ArAS International school for Astrophysics (ArAS-SfA 3), Beirut Lebanon 2018
5. Arab Winter School for Astrophysics (AWSA2), Ifrane, Morocco, 2017
6. First Arab School for Astrophysics FAWSA, Marrakech, Morocco, 2016
7. **6** OISA Schools (Oukaimeden International School for Astrophysics). from 2007 to 2015
8. International IAU Workshop on Site Testing : « IAU site 2000 », November, 2000, Marrakech.
9. Organization of the 7th IRIS Work-shop on the installation of an international network in solar seismology, in March 1995, Marrakech.
10. Organization of the 3rd IRIS Work-shop, in October 1990, Marrakech.
11. Member of the organizing committee of the seminar "Relation between Research and Industry, organized in Mohammedia by the CNR 1988.
12. Member of the scientific committee of the 18th International School for Young Astronomers organized by the C.N.C.P.R.S.T. and U.A.I. in Marrakech, September 1990.

13. Member of the organizing committee of the 3rd Work-shop of the I.R.I.S. group (Installation of the International Solar Seismology Network), organized by the C.N.C.P.R.S.T. in Marrakech, October 1990.
14. PI for the organization of the 7th Workshop of the I.R.I.S. group organized by Cadi Ayyad University. in Marrakech, March 1996.
15. PI for the association between the CNCPRST and the Semlalia Faculty of Sciences of the Cadi Ayyad University in Marrakech in the astrophysical field.

### Research Project and contract as PI

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1. Agreement with Chinese Academy of Science, Shanghai Observatory (in the **SSA** field), **China** 2024 (in progress)
2. Agreement with Spaceflux, company (in the **SSA** field), **United Kingdom** 2022 (in progress)
3. Agreement with Astronomical Astronomie Gérard Thérin, **France**, 2022 (in progress)
4. Agreement with SpaceAble company (in the **SSA field**), France, 2021 (in progress)
5. Agreement with NRIAG, Egypte, 2021 (in progress)
6. Agreement with Astronomical Scientific Center Joint Stock Company (in the **SSA field**), the **Russian Federation**, (2020, in progress)
7. SVOM collaboration, Partner: CNES, **France** (2020, in progress)
8. Hubert Curien / Toubkal with Toulouse University, **France** (2018-2021)
9. Vliuos Project: Strengthening international scientific, collaboration and teaching at the Oukaimeden Observatory in Morocco, SI-2019-01-95 -, Partners: **Morocco-Senegal, France** and **Belgium** (2018, 2020)
10. TRAPIST-Nord, Partener: University of Liège-FRS **Belgium** (2016, in progress)
11. OWL-Net project, Partener **Korean** Astronomical Space Institut (2014, in progress)
12. KACOLR project, Partener: King Abdulaziz University, Kingdom of **Saudi Arabia** (2014, in progress)
13. RENOIR project, Partener: University of Illinois, **USA** (2013, in progress)
14. Volubilis Integrated Action, Partener: University of Toulouse, Observatory of **Paris**, Hassan II University. (2011-2013)
15. MOSS project, Partener, **France, Switzerland** (2010, in progress).
16. ELT project, Partener: Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Techniques (2008-2009)
17. E-ELT project, Partener: **European Union**, FP6 (2006-2009).
18. PICS, Partener: University of Nice, **France**, " Site prospecting for future very large telescopes (ELT) and study of atmospheric seeing. ", (2004-2007).
19. PI of a research contract with ESO (**European Southern Observatory**) 2003 -2005
20. PARS 66 SDU **CNRST** Program, (2001-2006)
21. Integrated Action, partner: University of Nice, **France** (1997-2000)

### Outreach and responsibilities:

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## CV BENKHALDOUN ZOUHAIR

- **President** of Moroccan National Committee for Astronomy
- **International Astronomical Union, member since 1990**
- **International Astronomical Union /National Outreach Coordinator** for Morocco
- Founding Member and president of **Atlas Dark Sky Foundation**
- Founding member and first president of the Association of Amateur Astronomy (**3AM**), president from 1999 to 2012.
- Member of several socio-cultural NGOs.
- More than 60 conferences for schools and a large public audience.
- Organization of 22 Astronomy Festivals (Festivale d'Astronomie de Marrakech).

## Distinctions and expertise:

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### Distinctions :

- Best Reacher in Morocco in the field of "Earth and Planetary Science", **awarded by Scopus in 2022.**
- Benkhaldoun Astéroïde (133892) Benkhaldoun = 2004 RN8 = 2000 XH46 , « Zouhair Benkhaldoun (b. 1959) is a researcher in Cadi Ayyad University's department of physics in Marrakech. Since 2007 he has been the director of the Oukaimeden Observatory. [Ref: Minor Planet Circ. 78271] » <http://ssd.jpl.nasa.gov/sbdb.cgi?sstr=133892>
- 1st Prize for the best Inter-University Morocco-France cooperation (FES 2008).
- 2nd Prize of the Best Research Structure of the UCA (2009).
- Quoted in the directory of 100 of the "Morocco Business Intelligence, 2010 edition".
- Nominated by the Hassan II Academy of Sciences and Techniques (MOROCCO) for the 2013 prize of the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS).

### Expertise and evaluation

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- Scientific expert for **FRS** (Belgian Scientific Research Fund)
- Expert evaluator for National Center for Scientific and Technical Research (Morocco).
- Expert to the European Union for the Tempus program.
- Member of Recruitment Commissions of Assistant Professors (Morocco).
- CNAE expert for the accreditation of training courses in MOROCCO (Morocco).
- Referee of scientific journals.
- Referee of several PHD theses.
- Jury member of several PhD theses.

## Others

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- Teaching: Responsible of several courses in various Bachelor's degree (SMP) and Master (High Energy Physics and Astrophysics)
- Supervision of Master internship (**more than 70**).