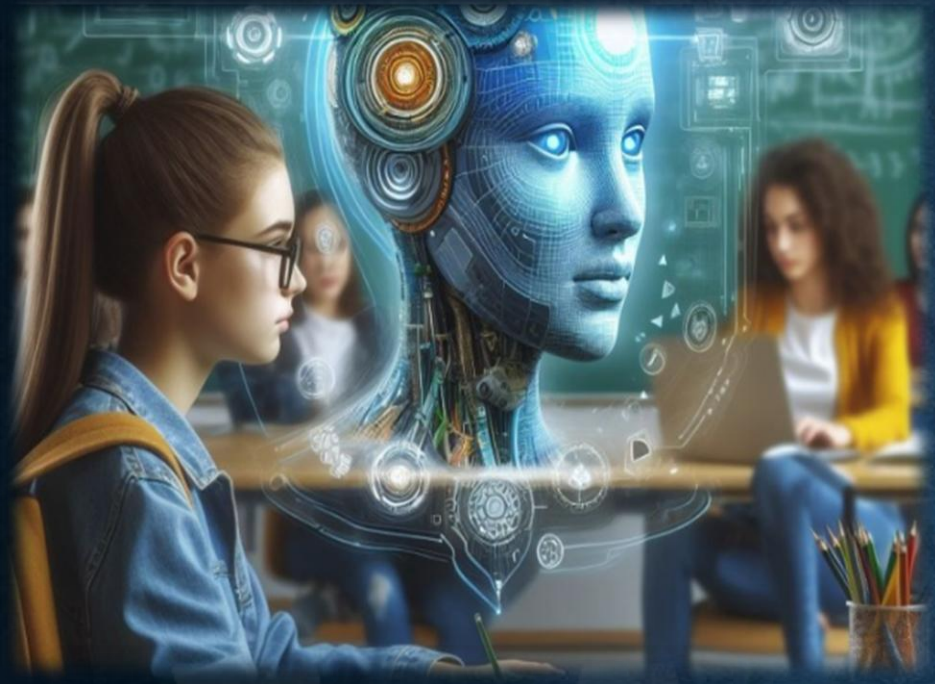


**2025 IEEE WISC Scholarship Program Awardees**

**2025 IEEE WISC Scholarship Program Chair  
Lorraine M. Herger**



# About the IEEE WISC Scholarship

- Begun in 2021, the program has awarded scholarships to deserving female students pursuing technical educations.
- Both graduate and undergraduate students are eligible for the scholarships.
- Applicants are judged based on their technical interests, career goals, and contributions to the STEM community.

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# The 2025 WISC Scholarship Applicants

- Worldwide Applicant Pool: Africa, Americas, Asia, Australia, Europe
- Focus Areas: AI, Computer Science, Data Science, Electrical Engineering, Security, etc.
- 4 Scholarships awarded: 2 Graduate students, 2 Undergraduate Students

*Decision making by the committee was extremely difficult. All the students have impressive resumes, along with their commitments to volunteer activities in support of their communities. Our goal is to continue to expand the program, to award more scholarships in the future!*

# Judges

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Lorraine M. Herger, Chair, IBM Research, TJ Watson Research Center, US

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Houda Chakiri, Al Akhawayn University Ifrane, Morocco

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Jordan Murray, IBM Research, J Watson Research Center, US

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Manar AbuTalib, University of Sharjah, UAE

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**The 2025 IEEE WISC  
Scholarship Awardees**

# SOHA GALAL AHMED

Soha Ahmed is a dual-PhD candidate at United Arab Emirates University in the United Arab Emirates and KU Leuven University in Belgium, specializing in Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems. With a strong foundation in computer science and engineering, she has accumulated over a decade of experience in research, software development, and academic instruction. Her doctoral work focuses on enhancing passenger trust and comfort in autonomous vehicles by integrating remote photoplethysmography (rPPG), Theory of Mind, and Explainable AI—earning her the **Best Research Proposal Award** at the 5th Forum for Women in Research (QUWA 2025) and the **2nd Prize** in the **ISUZU AI Innovation Challenge 2024**, which drew over 160 submissions from more than 30 countries.

She was also recognized under the UAEU "**Zero Government Bureaucracy**" initiative for proposing a MyST-based automation framework to streamline thesis and journal submission processes—an idea that reflects her commitment to improving academic efficiency through technology.



# Ilham Nait Him

Ilham Nait Him is a Mechatronics 3rd year engineering student at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco, pursuing her Bachelor of Science with honors. Her academic and research interests span robotics, thermodynamics, material science, signal processing, and control systems. She has led multiple engineering projects, including the design and modeling of a 5-DOF industrial manipulator for precision automation and an AI-powered hybrid drone for autonomous navigation and object recognition.

Ilham collaborated with KIT Company to develop an autonomous delivery robot. Her research contributions also include thermal and mechanical analysis of nanofluids for energy storage in solar power plants.

In addition to her technical work, Ilham serves as a tutor at her university, offering academic support in many engineering subjects, with a focus on inclusive and adaptive learning for students with special needs. She is also the founder and president of the Triple S (STEM Sorority Society), a student-led initiative that empowers women in STEM through mentorship, workshops, and leadership development. Passionate about innovation, equity, and impact, Ilham continues to bridge academic excellence with real-world problem-solving and community-driven leadership.

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# Yara Kouttane

Yara Kouttane is a computer science undergraduate at Al Akhawayn University, with strong interests in algorithms, artificial intelligence, and cybersecurity. She has consistently excelled academically, ranking among the top of her class in courses such as Physics and Design and Analysis of Algorithms. Her curiosity and drive extend beyond the classroom: Yara actively participates in cybersecurity competitions and hackathons to solve real-world problems.

She has contributed to impactful research, including a summer project on leveraging cloud-based GIS for improved forest fire response, where she demonstrated initiative, critical thinking, and technical skill. Yara also represented her university at the Quantum Computing Hackathon at NYU Abu Dhabi, where her team earned second place among international competitors.

In addition to her academic and research accomplishments, Yara volunteers her time to support tech education initiatives, including volunteering at the AI Summer School. She has also served both as a tutor and as a learning fellow for Physics II, offering peer support with clarity and compassion.



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# SIGNE GRAM SAND

Signe Gram Sand is currently pursuing a master's degree in biomedical engineering at Aarhus University, with a focus on machine learning and signal processing. As an International Bioinnovation Scholar, she moved to San Francisco to undertake a research internship at [Modality.AI](#), a company dedicated to creating machine learning tools for the remote evaluation of neurological and psychological disorders. Her research concentrates on innovative biomarkers related to cardiovascular activity and emotional dynamics, aiming to enhance the diagnosis and monitoring of conditions such as schizophrenia, autism, and depression.

In addition to her current work, Signe has made significant contributions to cardiovascular research at the Cardiovascular Experimental Laboratory at Aarhus University, where she engaged in various in vitro model experiments to study different diseases. This experience has strengthened her dedication to employing her technical skills in projects that seek to improve patient care and outcomes. She has co-authored several scientific papers, including serving as the first author, and is enthusiastic about sharing her research to foster active engagement within the scientific community.

Moreover, Signe holds a position as a student board member of the Danish MedTech Society, where she plays a role in organizing national conferences and encouraging student involvement in health technology initiatives.

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**THANK YOU TO  
ALL THOSE  
WHO ASSISTED  
OUR WORK ON  
THE  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

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**THE 2025 IEEE WISC SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE IS EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR  
ALL YOUR SUPPORT!**

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