POLICIES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION

in the

SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

and

SCHOLARS GENERAL AGREEMENT

Class of 2017-2018

Diane C. Yu, J.D., Executive Director
Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program 2017-2018
Part A: POLICIES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

1. Guiding Principles

● The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP) carries the name of His Highness, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and is operated by New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) and New York University. The Scholars agree to conduct themselves in a manner deserving of the highest confidence and faith of His Highness.

● The Program will bestow upon the Scholars a number of unique benefits and opportunities to help develop their intellectual and leadership potential and cross-cultural perspective. Scholars therefore agree to abide by the policies set forth by NYUAD and the SMSP Executive Director to ensure smooth administration of the Program and equitable and respectful treatment of all participants.

● Scholar participation in the SMSP will commence upon receipt by the Executive Director of Part C: Scholar’s General Agreement (at the end of this document) signed by the Scholar and his/her parent or guardian.

2. Attendance

● Attendance is critical. Scholars are expected to be prompt and attend all academic and enrichment classes throughout the Program term. On class days, Scholars should plan to be in Abu Dhabi through the evening. Scholars should plan their academic, work, and personal schedules accordingly. Additionally, Scholars are expected to participate in various leadership and cultural experiences on Saturday evenings during Academic weekends.

● To be granted an excused absence from class, Scholars must give at least 4 days' advance notice by email to (1) Diane Yu, the SMSP Executive Director, (2) Laurie Behringer, the Senior Director, (3) the Scholar’s Instructor or Principal Instructor for the class to be missed, and (4) the Scholar’s School Coordinator. In the event of an emergency, the Scholar should have another Scholar email Laurie Behringer, laurie.behringer@nyu.edu, the Senior Director, as soon as possible if he or she cannot do so personally.

● If the reason for the proposed absence from the SMSP class is an exam, school-based activity, or internship conflict, the Scholar must first contact his or her School Coordinator to try to resolve the problem. We expect that, in most instances, the School Coordinator will be able to arrange a satisfactory solution.

● If a Scholar has more than one unexcused absence during a semester, the Scholar will jeopardize his or her eligibility to attend the U.S. trip and/or the Closing Day Ceremonies in May 2018.
● If a Scholar has more than two unexcused absences from any scheduled SMSP class sessions during the program year, he or she will be subject to discipline, which may include ineligibility for the U.S. trip or Closing Day festivities, denial of credit for the affected class or classes, or dismissal from the Program.

3. Assignments

● Scholars are expected to submit all written assignments on time, even if they have an excused absence to miss a class, unless the relevant Assistant Instructor (individual who assists with the instruction of that course) approves an extension or alternative arrangement in advance of the due date.

● If a Scholar has two or more unexcused or missed assignments, he or she will be subject to discipline, which may include ineligibility for the U.S. trip or Closing Weekend festivities, denial of credit for the affected class or classes, or dismissal from the Program.

4. Academic Integrity

Scholars must accept individual responsibility for ensuring that all written assignments, group projects, and other works of scholarship or written graded work produced during their participation in the SMSP are of the highest quality and adhere to the highest standards of integrity. Plagiarism (e.g., copying another student’s work, copying work from another source and claiming it as original work) is considered cheating and is not permissible during any part of the Program. Any Scholar who is conclusively shown to have plagiarized is subject to appropriate action, including dismissal from the Program.

5. Classroom Conduct

● Scholars should be prepared for each class; assigned readings and written assignments should be completed and Scholars are expected to take part in the class discussions and group activities and other interactive elements that are integral to the courses. Class participation is an important part of the academic experience and the Assistant Instructors will note the frequency, degree, and quality of that participation in preparing their evaluations and assigning grades. Scholars may bring laptops to class for course-related work only if they first receive approval from the relevant Instructor or Assistant Instructor. Scholars are not permitted to use any other electronic devices, including mobile phones, BlackBerries, IPods, etc., at any time during class sessions and all should be on “silent” during the classes. Instructors may request that Scholars deposit their mobile devices in a location in the front of the room to minimize disruption.

● Scholars are expected to treat all leadership speakers and guests with the utmost courtesy and attentiveness. Scholars should be prepared to ask thoughtful questions of leadership speakers after they have finished their formal remarks as a sign of interest and respect, as well as to further their understanding and knowledge.
6. U.S. Trip

- The trip to the U.S. is a privilege and benefit of the SMSP for those worthy of representing the country and NYUAD; it is not an entitlement or guarantee. Scholars must have contributed and participated actively and fully during the first semester and early second semester in order to be eligible to travel with the class. If a Scholar fails to fulfill his or her commitments to the Program or engages in inappropriate conduct, he or she may forfeit the privilege of joining the trip.

- The SMSP will bear sole responsibility for the oversight of Scholars participating in the Program while they are on-site attending required activities, participating in academic enrichment events, and traveling to the U.S. Scholars are expected to observe all rules of conduct delineated by the SMSP, in addition to those set by their home Schools. In the event of an inconsistency between the SMSP and a Scholar’s home institution, the policy of the SMSP shall prevail until such time as the Program leaders and School Coordinators can resolve the matter.

7. Family Members

- In order to preserve Program cohesiveness and collegiality, parents and/or family members of Scholars will not be able to attend, observe, or participate in any of the Scholars’ classes, programs, meals, guest presentations, tours, or events. As a rule, we do not encourage family member travel to the U.S. in conjunction with the Scholars’ trip, as part of the cross-cultural experience is aimed at developing the Scholars’ maturity and independence.

- Family members who nevertheless decide to accompany their Scholar to the U.S. will have to do so at their own expense and make their own arrangements (airfare, hotel, meals, etc.). Once in the U.S., they will not be able to attend nor be included in the SMSP activities. All Scholars must fly together with the school chaperones and travel with the group in New York and Washington, D.C.

8. General Code of Conduct & Expectations

- Throughout all of the SMSP activities, whether in the UAE or in the U.S., Scholars are expected to comport themselves with maturity, dignity, courtesy, and cooperation. They are to show respect for all persons and property with which they come into contact and adhere to the SMSP rules, regulations, and policies. Their personal conduct should be consistent with that required by their home institutions, and each Scholar is expected to assume full responsibility for his/her actions. Scholars are encouraged to maintain communication with their School Coordinators about various Program matters, as well as to seek their guidance and academic support as necessary to help bolster the Scholars’ own preparation and success in the Program.

- In addition, it is hoped that during the Program year, Scholars will interact constructively with each other, and with Program Instructors, Assistant Instructors, Staff, SMSP alumni and special guests, for the mutual benefit of themselves and their fellow Scholars. Together, the Scholars form a cohort that can establish networks which have the potential to facilitate their shared access to resources, information, contacts, and promising opportunities.
throughout their academic and professional careers. Periodic reunions of the alumni of the SMSP will be scheduled by the Program sponsors to foster these relationships on a continuing basis. These will include special leadership opportunities, lectures, community service events, and academic and social activities at the NYU Abu Dhabi campus and in the broader community.

9. Scholars’ Participation in Publicizing the Program and NYUAD

- As a result of the extraordinary and valuable opportunities afforded by the SMSP, Scholars will be asked to cooperate in publicizing the Program to help ensure that its opportunities will be available to future classes of students. This includes participating in various presentations, group photographs, press coverage, and/or publicity efforts at their sponsoring institutions. Some photographs or videotaping of individuals and/or groups of Scholars interacting during classes or activities will be taken from time to time as a way of showcasing the success and accomplishments of the Scholars and the Program. Scholars will be asked to submit a Photo and Media Release to serve as a guideline to Program administrators regarding their individual needs for exclusion from certain types of media (e.g., photographs, video) based on cultural norms or family concerns. The SMSP will respect these preferences.

- In addition, from time to time, current or past Scholars will be asked to take part in recruitment sessions with prospective students for incoming first-year classes of NYUAD to describe student life and aspects of living in the UAE.

10. Transportation

- If needed, transportation of Scholars to classes in Abu Dhabi will be provided by the SMSP directly. Scholars should alert Povashni Naidu, Program Administrator, of their need for transportation in writing (via email) no later than two (2) business days prior to the date of a particular required class/activity. For a Sunday class, notify the SMSP staff no later than the Wednesday prior to class. We may not be able to accommodate last minutes changes.

- Transportation for attendance at optional programs and events sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute will be arranged for Scholars on an as-needed basis upon request to Povashni Naidu. Such requests for transportation for these events should accompany a Scholar’s RSVP, which should be submitted by the deadline listed in the invitation or announcement.

11. Questions

Scholars, School Coordinators, and/or parents with questions may address them at any time to the SMSP Executive Director, Diane C. Yu, at diane.yu@nyu.edu or Senior Director, Laurie Behringer, at laurie.behringer@nyu.edu.
The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP), named in honor of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, is a unique educational, mentoring, and leadership experience for outstanding college students chosen from the three national universities in the UAE following a rigorous, competitive nomination and selection process. It was founded in the spring of 2008 in conjunction with Her Highness Shaikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, and the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

Courses: In 2017-18, these courses will be offered:

- For the principal academic course, the Scholars will be divided into two groups.
  - Some of the Scholars will be enrolled in the seminar, “The U.S. Supreme Court’s Treatment of the Relationship between Church and State.” The course is taught through the lens of decisions of the American Supreme Court on the Establishment and Free Exercise clauses contained in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The Instructor is NYU President Emeritus John Sexton, who has taught this seminar at NYU for over 25 years, in the SMSP each year since 2008-09, and at NYUAD since 2010.
  - The other Scholars will take a seminar, “U.S. Foreign Policy” and be taught by expert journalist and author James Traub. It will address major themes and influences relating to the development and execution of U.S. foreign policy over the past 100 years. James Traub has taught this seminar at NYU for over 25 years, and in the SMSP each year since 2009-10.

- The English Enrichment course has two components and will be taken by all Scholars.
  - Part One is “Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing,” to be taught by Senior Director Laurie Behringer via in-person and online instruction. In addition to covering important aspects of academic and analytical writing, it provides guidance and feedback on the written work for the Scholars’ other courses.
  - Part Two of the English Enrichment course is “Public Speaking and Public Presentations,” taught by SMSP Executive Director, Diane C. Yu; the course makes use of videotaping and feedback to help Scholars gain the necessary skills and understanding to improve their oral presentations.

- All Scholars will also take a leadership development course - “What Makes a Great Leader?” - taught by SMSP Executive Director, Diane C. Yu, who has offered this seminar to NYU students for over ten years and to SMSP Scholars since the program began. The class includes meetings with noteworthy leaders and distinguished individuals at the top of their fields and professions in the UAE and the U.S. who will share their lessons on leadership with the Scholars.

- Most of the classes will be taught at the NYU Abu Dhabi Saadiyat campus, located on Saadiyat Island off exit 11. Each of the participating Schools - Higher Colleges of
Technology, United Arab Emirates University, and Zayed University - will host one of the classes on its campus.

**Graduate and Professional School Admissions Advisement:** One goal of the SMSP is to encourage Scholars to seek advanced academic degrees. Scholars will therefore receive both general and specific advice and counseling on how to maximize their chances of successful graduate school admissions. If a Scholar or former Scholar is admitted to a graduate or professional school of NYU in New York, he or she will be eligible to receive a full scholarship, including tuition, room and board, travel, fees, insurance, books and supplies, and a personal stipend. For Scholars who have decided on a particular program of graduate or professional study (whether or not at NYU), tutoring is available upon request to help prepare them for specific entrance examinations and applications. Letters of recommendation will be provided for Scholars who completed the Program in good standing.

**Academic Enrichment Events Sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute:** Scholars will be invited to attend seminars, lectures, and special programs sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute to enhance and enrich their educational experience. Attendance at these events and programs is highly desirable, but optional. For some events, private meetings with invited speakers will be arranged.

**Trip to the United States:** During late March and early April of 2018, Scholars will embark upon a 9-day trip to the cities of New York and Washington D.C. In past years, Scholars have interacted with numerous groups of faculty and students on the NYU campus, met U.S. Supreme Court Justices, talked to members of the White House staff and toured the White House, had briefings by top officials in the U.S. State Department and the United Nations, and visited major museums and cultural institutions. Several classes will also be held during the trip. The Program will provide Scholars and their families with a detailed itinerary that lists the planned destinations, meetings, classes, and activities.

Scholars will travel together round-trip to the U.S. via coach class on Etihad Airways and will be accompanied to the U.S. by chaperones from the three participating Schools. While in the U.S., Scholars will be escorted to all activities by the Executive and Senior Directors, Program staff, and the School chaperones. For many events and activities, the SMSP Assistant Instructors will also be present.

The SMSP leaders have consulted with the participating universities about the manner in which they conduct international trips and have adopted policies consistent with the protocols and practices that they have used with success regarding expectations, travel arrangements, hotel bookings, meals, and other considerations. The cost of airfare, accommodations, meals, tours, entry fees, internal transportation, and other trip-related expenses will be borne by the SMSP.

**IMPORTANT:** All trip participants must have a current passport (that will not expire within 6 months of the trip date) with a valid U.S. visa prior to departure in March 2018. Since obtaining visas can take several months, Scholars must begin the U.S. visa application process as soon as possible, but in no event later than September 3rd, 2017, to avoid disappointment. A family member who is coming to the U.S. with a Scholar should also begin the U.S. visa application process without delay. Scholars with any questions on the visa process should contact Povashni Naidu, Program Administrator.
**Academic Credit:** Upon receipt of the Instructors’ and Assistant Instructors’ evaluations and certification of successful completion of all academic work, NYUAD will issue transcripts to Scholars with grades and recommended academic credit for the following courses in the Program in accordance with school policies of the participating universities: (1) the Sexton or Traub class, (2) the English Enrichment course, and (3) the Leadership Development course.

**Program Leadership:** The Program is headed by Executive Director Ms. Diane C. Yu, J.D., who is based in New York and serves as Counselor to Leadership at NYUAD, with consultation from Her Highness Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Dr. Laurie Behringer is the Senior Director and is based in Abu Dhabi; Ms. Lisa Springer is the Associate Academic Director and is located in New York.

**Role of Participating Schools:** The SMSP will engage in regular communications with the Schools to keep them apprised of developments and any changes or additions to the schedule or activities. Each of the three participating national universities has officially designated a Coordinator for the SMSP, whose role is as follows:

- to help facilitate the nomination process;
- to provide advice and counsel to the Scholars during their participation in the Program;
- to serve as a liaison between the Scholars and Program leaders, communicating about Scholars’ needs and circumstances, and helping to resolve issues which may arise; and
- to advise Program leaders about relevant curriculum content, academic schedules, policies, and cultural particularities at the Scholars’ home institutions.

**COORDINATORS FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:** Each of the participating universities has a SMSP Program Coordinator to support Scholars. Program Coordinators can assist with any scheduling conflicts between SMSP and classes at your home university. They also can help answer any questions that Scholars may have about the program. The coordinators are:

**For HCT:** Ahmed Al Mulla - aalmulla1@hct.ac.ae

**For Zayed University:** Deborah Williams - Deborah.Williams@zu.ac.ae

**For UAEU:** Eman Saeed Al Shandouri - SMSP@uaeu.ac.ae
Having read and understood all of the Policies Governing Participation in the Program (“policies”),

I, ___________________________________________ do indicate by my signature that I

Scholar’s Name (please print)

agree to abide by these policies and other implicit rules and procedures of the SMSP.

Scholar’s Signature: _______________________________ Date: _________________

AGREEMENT BY SCHOLAR’S PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Having read and understood all of the Policies Governing Participation in the Program (“policies”),

I, ___________________________________________ do indicate by my signature that I

Parent/Guardian’s Name (please print)

agree to have my daughter/son participate in the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program and all of its elements and requirements, including co-educational classes and the trip to the United States, and adhere to these policies and other implicit rules and procedures of the SMSP.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _______________________________ Date: _________________