A Global Community

NYU Abu Dhabi offers an education unlike any other. It is the first liberal arts and science campus in the Middle East to be operated abroad by a major American research university. As such, NYU Abu Dhabi draws on both the knowledge acquired through New York University’s tradition of excellence and an innovative new model for higher education: the Global Network University. The NYUAD community nurtures tomorrow’s global leaders by bringing together exceptionally talented students from around the world and by offering these students a rigorous liberal arts and science education that is greatly enhanced by the opportunities for intellectual and cultural exploration afforded by NYU’s global network.
Building a Community of Global Leaders

New York University, through NYU Abu Dhabi and the global network, is responding to what is happening in the world today—the movement toward becoming a global community—by educating talented people from across the world who will be the next generation of cosmopolitan leaders.

As the dean of students, my role is to support our students in attaining their dreams—in growing into the global leaders that they are poised to become. At the most fundamental level, the NYU Abu Dhabi staff and faculty help to ensure that the students both benefit from and contribute to a supportive community, where they have the confidence to take risks, to grow, and to succeed.

Ultimately, what drew me to NYU Abu Dhabi were the people here; the students, faculty, staff, and administration are all very compelling. I hope you will recognize the uniqueness of the NYU Abu Dhabi community as we share our experiences of pursuing our dreams in the classroom, on campus, in our city, and around the world.

Julie Avina
Dean of Students
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Campus Life
As NYUAD students take courses in the arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences, they become adept at applying creativity, analytical thinking, and wisdom to any challenge they might face—in the classroom, in the workplace, or anywhere in the world.
Just ask HAZEL RAJA, director of NYUAD’s Career Development Center, and she’ll tell you...

Employers typically seek out students and graduates with a liberal arts and science degree because of their analytical skills, writing capability, cultural awareness and sensitivity, and, in most cases, their international language fluency. Though graduates with liberal arts and science degrees may not have spent the entirety of their undergraduate years on one course of study, organizations hire them because of their strong research, communication, and problem-solving skills and their ability to handle complex data and ideas across a variety of professional areas. A liberal arts and science education such as that which is offered at NYU Abu Dhabi prepares students to embark on careers or pursue advanced degrees with the ability to think critically on a wide range of topics, well beyond the scope of their majors.

In the CLASSROOM

You study the liberal arts and sciences and gain a strong foundation in critical thinking, research skills, analysis, and written and oral communication.

Your coursework is designed to transcend the boundaries of disciplines so you learn to solve problems and understand complex issues from multiple perspectives.

You participate in advanced faculty research; collaborative research experiences are woven throughout the curriculum, culminating in a yearlong senior capstone project of significant and original work.

Why study the liberal arts?

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NISHANT MOHANCHANDRA

I came to NYU Abu Dhabi with an idea of focusing on computer science, but one of my favorite courses so far has been a literature class called Becoming Human. If I had gone to college at home, in India, I would have started right away studying only computer science, and I would not have had this time to explore. I still intend to major in computer science, but it’s a whole different world when you take courses because you’re interested in them, rather than because they’re required. Outside of class, I had a little bit of fun creating a computer program with a list of propositions and nouns, and I tried to get it to javelin throwers. It didn’t work very well, but eventually it could. Isaac Asimov wrote a story about it, and Neal Cassady explored this with a typewriter that wrote the same stories. Why can’t computers write literature? What would they write about? So I’m a computer science guy who loves literature, but at NYU Abu Dhabi I could just as easily be a computer who loves computer science.

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At NYU Abu Dhabi, student support begins in the residence hall and extends throughout campus, into the city, and around the world. Wherever you go in the global network, you are supported by NYUAD’s array of academic, career, health, and wellness services that adhere to NYU’s exemplary standard of care for its students.
NICOLE LOPEZ DEL CARRIL

I'm from Argentina originally, but I spent the last 10 years in Colorado. One of my roommates is from Abu Dhabi originally; another is American but went to school in Bombay for two years. And my third roommate is from San Diego and Michigan. We're really from all over! Our friends say our room is a really welcoming environment because we're constantly learning so much about each other's cultures and backgrounds. Sometimes I’ll eat dinner at my Emirati roommate’s house, and when I’m there the culture and sense of family remind me of Latin culture and the way I grew up. For mom it is like a second mother to me so she even calls to check on me if she hears I’m not feeling well! I really have the best roommates, and they’ve taught me so much about new cultures and parts of the world that now I can’t wait to explore!

An Extraordinary Community Forms in the Residence

ON CAMPUS

You’ll find dining, health services, and a fitness center in your residence hall, Sama Tower, where you will live on single-gender, student-only floors with upperclass resident assistants (RAs), who will help you make the most of NYUAD’s many student resources.

A well-rounded student experience is fundamental to NYUAD’s living-learning community—you can find spiritual space, academic support, and career development services right in Sama Tower.

With more than 30 student organizations founded in NYUAD’s first year, students have the opportunity to take on leadership roles and share their interests through student government, the Advanced Math Club, Darbashtra Arabic Club, the Photography Club, community service, cultural groups, intramural and intercollegiate sports teams, and more.

Professor INGYIN ZAW talks about the value of community building.

We have a very close-knit community in Sama Tower. Because the student body is still fairly small, we’re like one big family. The students are very close with one another, remarkably so. They work through cultural differences and social issues in a very mature way. But the students and faculty also have close relationships. I think. In Sama, I talk to my students about course work, research problems, and anything else. I moved halfway around the world for college myself, so I know precisely what they are going through. Whether students are feeling homesick or stressed about final exams, I’m happy to be right in Sama with them. I always tell my students that they should feel free to come talk to me. It’s nice to have that close-knit, social, and supportive atmosphere among the students themselves, as well as between students and faculty.
In an emerging idea capital, with a progressive agenda in health care, the arts, economic and environmental sustainability, and educational and human development, the opportunities for students to engage with the local community and gain professional experience are endless.
IN ABU DHABI

What's Happening in the City?

You intern, volunteer, attend lectures, and conduct research in a great city on the rise.

In your day-to-day life, you explore the city and its multicultural offerings in your own way—through shops, foods, local events—and, of course, by making friends from among this intensely international population.

From concerts and movies to athletic competitions and intellectual events, you become part of the Abu Dhabi community.

PETER NDICHU

There are so many things to do in the city—concerts, camping, shopping, and all kinds of cultural events—but I love being outdoors. I love kayaking and sailing out in the Gulf and jogging and biking on the boardwalk, the Corniche. There are also a lot of free events on the Corniche. An NYUAD professor staged a theatrical performance there, and there are lots of concerts and even a car show for Ferrari World. And it’s the best place to watch the sunset. And that’s just the Corniche! I’ve been to beach bars in the city, and I go to the cinema sometimes. I had an internship at the American Chamber of Commerce one semester, and I was able to attend their conferences and learn about important economic issues—everything from education to defense. There’s such a wide range of activities going on in Abu Dhabi all the time!

RENEE DUGAN, director of community outreach, recalls some recent activities.

The overwhelming majority of NYUAD students participate in programs that engage them with the community and enable them to give back to the community in a meaningful way. The students have monitored middle and high school students, worked with special-needs children, raised environmental awareness, participated in global education conferences, and much more. The students engage and collaborate with their peers at other universities and host the local community at student-initiated events, all while gaining important professional experience.

In the first year at NYUAD, students created a musical score that was showcased at the WOMAD (World of Music, Art and Dance) festival in Abu Dhabi; volunteered at the Abu Dhabi Film Festival; interned in the government relations, communications, and media sectors; conducted research at a UAE nature reserve; kayaked through the mangroves of Abu Dhabi; played music as members of the UAE Philharmonic Orchestra; participated in TedxAbu Dhabi; got creative with a library journal produced by students at Zayed University; watched the excitement of Formula One at Yas Marina Circuit; walked to create awareness for autism and breast cancer; and joined thousands of fellow Abu Dhabi citizens on the Corniche to represent Abu Dhabi’s support of Earth Hour.
NYU’s global network allows students to move around the world to pursue research, cultural, and professional opportunities and to build the cultural dexterity they will need to become tomorrow’s global leaders.
Moving in the NYU Global Network

You are encouraged to spend at least two full semesters at any of NYU’s global academic centers around the world—and with January Term, summers, and mid-semester study trips, the opportunities to expand your horizons are endless!

This January, students will study on four continents through courses ranging from The Social Life of Finance in Buenos Aires, Argentina; to Immigration: An American History in New York, USA; to State and Fate of the Earth in Shanghai, China; and more.

Course-related excursions throughout the semester take you to historical and cultural sites in nearby places, such as Dubai, Doha, Petra, and Muscat.

Sora Yang

Growing up in Australia, I thought I would study abroad when I was at university, but that would only mean spending a few months somewhere else and coming right back. Through NYU and the Global Network University, it’s not just a one-off thing. You’re constantly in contact with people from all over the world; you have seminar rooms with webcams, and you talk to people who are half the world away and study with them. I want to spend a semester at NYU Paris—learning French and traveling there has always been a dream of mine. I look forward to that—but here you always feel like you’re part of something bigger than just where you are at one moment. You will have the opportunity to go to places that other people have only ever read about on the Internet; you can study things that people have hardly heard about, and you can bring to light issues that you’d only ever wished you could be a part of.

Cyrus Patell, associate dean of humanities, explains why NYU’s global educational opportunities are exceptional.

The Global Network University provides our students with educational opportunities that far exceed typical study away programs. A student might spend only a few semesters at the campus where he or she enters, but will have the opportunity to experience so many different cultures and will have so many different research opportunities—visiting archives, visiting lab galleries, meeting with scholars in other places. Our students have studied and volunteered not only in Abu Dhabi, but also New York, Shanghai, London, Turkey, India, Kenya, Ethiopia, Qatar, Kuwait, and more—and when they’re here in Abu Dhabi, they’re still living and learning with students who call those places home. The Global Network University will make them global citizens in a way that they couldn’t be if they felt themselves to be limited to one particular campus with a typical model of one isolated semester abroad or one year abroad.
At any moment, wherever NYUAD students are—in the classroom, on campus, in the city, or in another country—they are cosmopolitans determined to obtain an unmatched global education that will prepare them to be tomorrow’s world leaders.
Students on the Move

1 • On a camping trip in the desert, students enjoy sand surfing, camel rides, a campfire, and stargazing.

2 • Students may choose to take a January Term course or spend an entire semester in Shanghai, which is also the home of NYU’s newest portal campus, set to open in September 2013.

3 • NYUAD students go scuba diving in the Gulf after earning their scuba certifications through NYUAD’s Athletic Department.

4 • Cameroonian singer, songwriter, and musician Muntu Valdo conducts a music workshop for NYUAD students while in town for the World of Music, Arts and Dance Festival.

5 • Semesters abroad, January Term, and courses via video conference are all ways that students at NYUAD connect to their classmates in New York City.

6 • Students travel to Turkey with a course called Urbanism and Modernism: Paris, Istanbul, Berlin.

7 • Students gather with thousands of Abu Dhabi residents—and millions of people around the world—to participate in the global climate change awareness event, Earth Hour.

8 • An NYU Abu Dhabi student who spent his summer volunteering at the Makindu Children’s Center in Kenya.

9 • Students spend January Term in London taking a course on Politics in Modern Europe.
In keeping with NYU’s commitment to sustainability, this publication is printed on 100% certified paper that includes 10 percent post-consumer fiber. (The FSC trademark identifies products that contain fiber from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the rules of the Forest Stewardship Council.) For more information about NYU’s Green Action Plan, go to www.nyu.edu/sustainability.


New York University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution, Predominantly White Institution (PWI) and Hispanic-serving institution.