NYU Abu Dhabi is a highly selective undergraduate college with a liberal arts, science, and engineering curriculum that is fully integrated into a major research university: New York University. It is the first such campus operated by an American university outside the United States. With NYU’s other portal campus in New York City, it forms the backbone of a uniquely interconnected Global Network University, with faculty and students from both New York and Abu Dhabi circulating through the numerous academic centers that NYU maintains on five continents.
If I were a parent today, thinking about where my son or daughter should go to college, I would absolutely choose NYU Abu Dhabi. Why? Because, first of all, it is a great liberal arts institution.

It provides the intellectual depth, the skills, the wisdom, and the power to make a difference in the world that a fine liberal arts education offers. It is doing so in a way that other liberal arts colleges don’t: at a new crossroads of the world. Students will prepare to become leaders who can engage complexity, understand multiple perspectives, and come to common understanding and constructive action in a global world.

In addition, the recognition of NYUAD’s excellence will facilitate its students’ entry into any career field. Graduate schools, professional schools, and employers will all come to regard NYU Abu Dhabi as one of the finest places in the world from which a student could graduate, just as they do with New York University.

Students at NYUAD are enriched in a way that is hard to conceive happening in other places—both by the proximity of Abu Dhabi’s incredibly rich cultural mix and by the opportunity we provide to explore the regions around Abu Dhabi.

And then, the students can spend time not only in Abu Dhabi but also at other academic centers within the NYU global network—Accra, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Florence, London, Madrid, New York, Paris, Prague, Shanghai, and Tel Aviv.

“I can’t imagine a finer preparation that draws on the best of the liberal arts and adds this enriching, unmatched geographical component.”
Matching a Student to an Institution
The college admissions process can be a vehicle for children to define their priorities and preferences as they set out to shape for themselves a purposeful and fulfilling life, of which education will be a critical part. There is no single right or best school for everyone. The crucial steps are to identify the essential characteristics and personality of the student, to understand the essential qualities and “personality” of the potential institutions, and only then to find the right match.

How to Make the Match
Students should start by considering whether or not they have the kind of academic record that meets the school’s threshold for consideration. Students are assessed on their academic and extracurricular records, which include their high school grades, their activities, their references, their achievement scores, and so on. Additionally, students should display evidence of excellence sufficient to convince a college or university that they possess the requisite talent and promise. By looking at such measures, students can understand the array of possible schools that would welcome them.

There is also the requirement of the self—to find a place in which to flourish and keep growing, where students can step out of the familiar in an encounter with other worlds that will help them accomplish great things. The Admissions Committee cannot gauge how students might feel, but the students can. Students have to weigh what matters to them, what kind of people they are and want to become. This process of self-discovery often demands that they reject the conventional hierarchy and wisdom of what is a good school or a popular school or a validating school. In calibrating these internal factors, each student should try to get a feel for the “personality” of a college or university and how it meshes with his or her own personality.

Your Role as a Parent
The admissions process can also unfold for the parent’s benefit, but it will be important to both acknowledge and manage your own expectations, which may differ from those of your child. You may have some ideas in common, too. But again, let your child’s ideas lead the discussion. The choice of a college offers a genuine, uncontrived opportunity for you as a parent to allow your child to find out where he or she fits in this landscape and still be engaged in a way that helps your child make the best decision. This will, in turn, make it more likely that the fit of student and college will be successful.

Analyzing the Options
Through such reflection, students will come to know, for example, if the school they want should be a research university or a liberal arts and science college; urban or rural; large or small. They will learn what is important to them, such as involvement in athletics or the performing arts or study abroad or eco-advocacy.

If, for example, a student’s temperament and scholarship are suited to a research university with guaranteed access to top scholars, there are opportunities for that access even at the largest research institutions. In contrast, your child may be looking for a community characteristic of a smaller liberal arts and science college with a long and proud tradition of teaching excellence and high standards of scholarship.

Making the Decision
There is not necessarily a single right answer, only a choice of schools that your child has assessed as potentially a successful fit. Ideally, your child will find a place in which to engage in the thrill of discovery, embark on a vigorous but respectful encounter with a range of viewpoints, practice true civility in discourse, cultivate the ability to listen and a genuine willingness to change one’s mind—all necessary steps on a spectacular journey of lifelong learning.
When presented with the opportunity to create a complete degree-granting portal campus in Abu Dhabi, NYU embraced it enthusiastically. Now, NYU Abu Dhabi offers your child the chance of a lifetime alongside talented peers from every corner of the world.

Why Is NYU in Abu Dhabi?
The city of Abu Dhabi, as the capital of both the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is a perfect location for the vision and educational values NYU promotes. With one of the most dynamic economies in the world, the Emirate has embarked on an ambitious program to develop its intellectual, cultural, and educational resources. Like New York City, Abu Dhabi has a highly diverse and cosmopolitan culture—80 percent of its population is composed of international residents from 150 countries. For NYU, the location is the perfect match and provides an exciting opportunity for the University to extend its ability to offer a truly global education outside of the U.S. to students from around the world.

Key Cities as Idea Capitals
Abu Dhabi is a city on the rise and is well on its way to becoming a global idea capital. NYU’s President John Sexton has posited that in the 21st century, the long-term competitive advantage of cities is not just a matter of creating attractive financial conditions for businesses to thrive. For cities to be lasting magnets for talent, they must offer communities of diverse and creative people who are active at the highest levels of their fields: musicians, lawyers, writers, artists, philosophers, architects, humanitarians, professors. Such intellectual, cultural, and educational assets turn cities into idea capitals, and such idea capitals thrive in and around research universities, propelling innovation and educating leaders and citizens of the world. Over time, the dynamic relationship between NYU’s portal campuses in New York City and Abu Dhabi promises to become a vital force linking these unique and vigorous cities as innovative idea capitals.

A Partnership for the Future
By offering a complete undergraduate education at this strategic crossroads, NYU Abu Dhabi aligns with Abu Dhabi’s ambitious vision for its development into a leading global city. At the same time, NYU Abu Dhabi carries forward the spirit and daring characteristics of NYU. From its inception, NYU Abu Dhabi was envisioned to reflect the international composition, rigorous academic programs, and rich array of extracurricular options that NYU has traditionally embodied in New York City. NYU Abu Dhabi is building on NYU’s legacy of excellence and enhancing its ability to prepare students to succeed in a globalized world.
A Place to Learn

The campus is currently located in the heart of downtown Abu Dhabi, just off the Corniche, the city’s prestigious boulevard. The Corniche faces the waterfront and an expansive recreational zone with parks, jogging and bike trails, restaurants, a boardwalk, and public beaches.

The academic facilities were built for NYUAD and were designed for our unique programs, research opportunities, small classes, and interaction between students and faculty. The classrooms and library have state-of-the-art technology, and the campus has wireless access throughout.

Eventually the campus will be located on Saadiyat Island, a 27-square-kilometer natural island that lies a short distance from the main island of Abu Dhabi and is now under development. The master plan for Saadiyat Island calls for the creation of multiple districts, including the Cultural District, where several important institutions will be located, including the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi and the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

NYUAD’s Saadiyat Island campus will be located in the Al Marina District, distinguished by its prominent marina and downtown feel. The campus will occupy a site of approximately 15.4 hectares within a dense urban context that features a network of public amenities, including parks, bicycle paths, and public transportation. NYU Abu Dhabi will be an open, ungated campus; as in New York and as at the current Downtown Campus, the University will be “in and of the city.”

“What’s amazing about Abu Dhabi that will be of comfort is that it is very familiar. It feels very much like home. Students feel as though they can go and get their coffee in the morning. Students feel as though they can go to the supermarket and get the foods that they’re familiar with. But they’re also stretched simultaneously. And that’s what’s amazing about the mix in Abu Dhabi: students feel the comforts of home, but they also feel pushed, challenged by pursuing the kinds of intellectual questions that a liberal arts education provides.”

Linda G. Mills, Associate Vice Chancellor for Admissions and Financial Aid, NYU Abu Dhabi

NYU Abu Dhabi: A Portal Campus at a Strategic Crossroads

Regarding the partnership between NYU and the Abu Dhabi government, NYU’s President Sexton says, “Make no mistake about it: this takes us to a place where we have never been before and where no one else has been. The partner was as compelling as the move. We share important perspectives, a kind of mindfulness of history, combined with a focus on the future, a belief that there’s an evolving global dynamic that is going to bring about the emergence of a set of idea capitals around the world and a convergence through that to a kind of global ‘knowasphere’—a world of knowledge and ideas, a recognition that the requisite ingredient to the success of any idea capital, the hydraulic that will drive it, will be the university. These are the institutions that pump ideas into a society and, more importantly, magnetize talent from around the world and provide the underpinning of these idea centers.” How will these ideas impact your child’s future? By attending a college carefully positioned at a significant crossroads, by attaining a liberal arts and science degree from a top US research institution, and by gaining exposure to world locations and ideas, your child will graduate with the tools to pursue anything he or she desires.
As a student at NYU Abu Dhabi, your child will begin to establish a network of deep and lasting collaborations across national boundaries, share knowledge and engage in debate from many angles, and expand his or her vision beyond local knowledge and into a world of opportunity. The chairman of the Executive Affairs Authority of the Government of Abu Dhabi, HE Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, says that NYU has “a truly unique view of a global university not bound by precedent or place, but guided by an absolute commitment to academic excellence and the free flow of ideas.”

Because the global experience is deeply rooted in the mission of NYU Abu Dhabi and because NYU Abu Dhabi’s excellence is supported by the established reputation of New York University, NYU Abu Dhabi graduates will find themselves with a unique set of opportunities.

While at NYU Abu Dhabi, your child will use the Career Development Center, which provides guidance and information to students on how to explore career fields, seek out job opportunities in the UAE or globally, and prepare for graduate studies. The Career Development Center staff members support students’ career and personal development by providing career advising as well as connections to employers, NYU’s alumni worldwide, and other organizations.

In addition to NYU’s vast alumni network, which is available to NYU Abu Dhabi’s students as a professional resource, some of NYU’s most selective graduate and professional schools in New York will offer special consideration to NYU Abu Dhabi students who apply to these schools for graduate education.

Participating graduate and professional schools and programs include:

- Polytechnic Institute of NYU
- Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- School of Law
- Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
- Silver School of Social Work
- School of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- College of Dentistry
- Leonard N. Stern School of Business
- Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development:
  - Community Public Health
  - Education and Social Policy
  - Educational Leadership
  - Media, Culture, and Communication
  - Mental Health Counseling
  - Teacher Education

This special consideration recognizes the distinctiveness of an NYU Abu Dhabi education and the exceptional talent of the students who enroll at and graduate from NYU Abu Dhabi.
When did the first class of students enroll at NYU Abu Dhabi?
The first class of students enrolled at NYUAD in the fall of 2010. The application for admission and more information on financial support for coming years are available on our Web site at www.nyuad.nyu.edu/admissions.

Where do these students come from? Is admission open to all?
NYU Abu Dhabi is open to students from around the world and from all backgrounds. We seek students who fit comfortably at the very top of the world’s talent pool—tomorrow’s heads of state, Nobel laureates, Tony Award winners, and business leaders. Together, they comprise the most talented and globally engaged student body anywhere in the world, and they will form a global leadership network. We want to see that students have challenged themselves within the context of their secondary schools. A transcript that demonstrates high achievement through the student’s grades and GPA is ideal, but students should also have made the most of the opportunities available to them at their schools—whether in the classroom, on stage, or in the fine arts studio. We recognize that not all students have access to the traditional indicators that measure excellence. Therefore, the key criterion used in judging students’ candidacy is their ability to marshal evidence, in whatever form they choose, that they belong to this highly selective group of NYU Abu Dhabi scholars—that they have the extraordinary talent, intellectual passion, creative spirit, and dedication to shaping a better world. Students will be chosen without regard to economic status, race, religion, gender, nationality, or sexual orientation.

How much is tuition? Is financial support available?
A student’s family finances should not affect his or her decision to attend NYU Abu Dhabi, even when considering low- or no-cost public education alternatives. If your son or daughter meets the qualifications for admission, financial support is available to ensure that he or she will be able to attend NYU Abu Dhabi without having to incur debt to support the cost of the education. Financial support may cover not only the cost of tuition but also room and board, school supplies, many student life activities, and two trips to and from home each year. For more information on financial support, please visit www.nyuad.nyu.edu/admissions/financial.support.html or e-mail us at nyuad.financial.support@nyu.edu.

What degrees are offered?
The University offers two NYU undergraduate degrees through its NYU Abu Dhabi campus: Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) and Bachelor of Science (B.S.). Over time, NYU Abu Dhabi will begin phasing in select graduate programs.

What will my child study at NYU Abu Dhabi?
The NYU Abu Dhabi curriculum, in the tradition of a liberal arts and science college, exposes students to challenging ideas, bodies of knowledge, cultural traditions, and transformative achievements. It deepens reflection about the human condition to help students develop their abilities and realize their potential. Your child will also attain the specific skills necessary for lifelong learning—the ability to ask the right questions, to develop strategies for answering them, to think critically, to solve problems, and to communicate effectively both orally and in writing. The core curriculum of NYU Abu Dhabi provides broad introductions to the major questions, research protocols, and thought processes that drive the humanities, arts, sciences, social sciences, and engineering. Students choose their core courses from each of four areas: (1) Pathways of World Literature; (2) Structures of Thought and Society; (3) Art, Technology, and Invention; and (4) Ideas and Methods of Science.

Additionally, students in the arts, humanities, and social sciences will specialize in a major that is declared no later than the fourth semester. Science and engineering students will normally begin their major during the first year. Students will also take at least three courses in a multidisciplinary concentration that is declared no later than the sixth semester. Each student’s academic program will culminate with a capstone project.

In what language is the academic work be conducted?
English is the language of instruction at NYU Abu Dhabi. Select courses in language and literature are conducted in the relevant language.

Is NYU Abu Dhabi coeducational?
NYU Abu Dhabi’s classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and most other facilities are fully coeducational. Students live in Sama Tower on single-gender floors.

More FAQs can be found on our Web site at www.nyuad.nyu.edu/about/faq.html.
THE NYUAD VISION:
NYU President, John Sexton

Just as New York is a microcosm of the world, so also is Abu Dhabi a microcosm of the world. Just as New York is a great crossroads of civilization, so also is Abu Dhabi a great crossroads of civilization. Abu Dhabi is a city that forecasts the future; it leans into the wind. New York City has always been a city that forecasts the future and leans into the wind. So, as the 21st century develops, the cosmopolitan—the citizen of the new global civil society—has an urge to embrace an education that exposes him or her not to a single space, but to the world.

As cosmopolitans, NYU Abu Dhabi students truly understand the notion that they’re going to live in a global civil society, a world beyond boundaries and beyond borders, beyond sovereignty. And as these cosmopolitans feel the urge to make the tasting of the different cultures of the world part of their education, the Global Network University will be an obvious choice—a choice that is uniquely NYU.

NYU Abu Dhabi is not for every student. If a student does not want to encounter difference, does not want to encounter the global civilization that’s emerging, NYU Abu Dhabi is not right for him or her. But for a student who understands where the world is going, a student who understands that globalization is not just an economic phenomenon, but instead a phenomenon of human beings moving beyond intellectual boundaries, physical boundaries, nation-state boundaries—for students who want to be part of this emerging world community, NYU Abu Dhabi is an extraordinary, unique opportunity.