

# Office of Social Responsibility

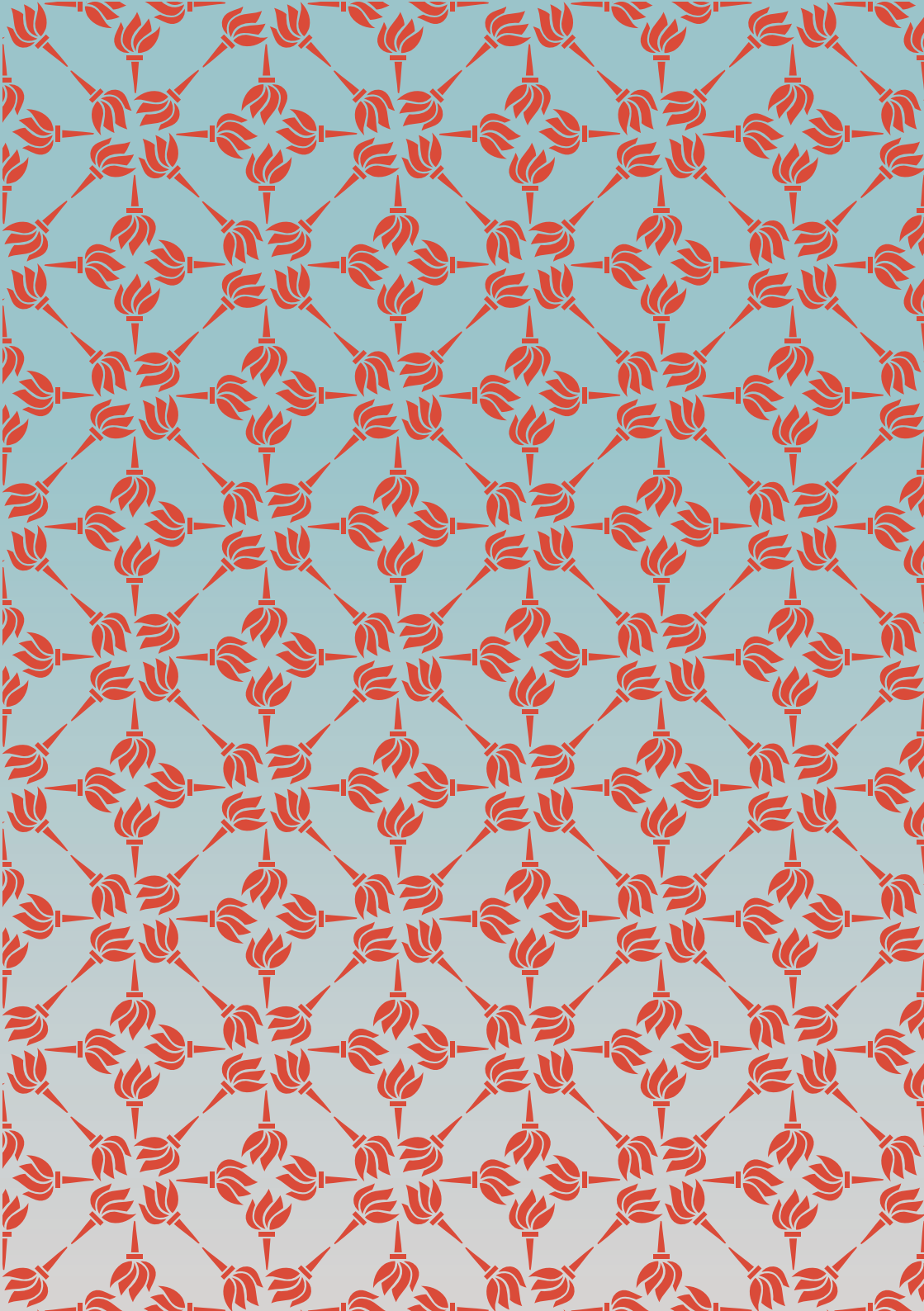
HIGHLIGHTS | ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024



جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU ABU DHABI



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AT NYU ABU DHABI

**NYUAD's Office of Social Responsibility (OSR) offers a comprehensive program of educational opportunities that meet the expressed educational and social needs of contracted staff employed by NYUAD and domestic workers employed by our NYUAD community members.**

Educational programs for NYUAD contract staff began in 2012 with a pilot program of English in the Workplace (EWP), the pillar of our programming. The English in the Workplace Program has since served 1,700 of our contracted and domestic worker colleagues. Over the last 12 years, OSR has expanded our adult education offerings to a full-scale, comprehensive program that offers 13 certificate courses in an array of subjects, including Arabic instruction, computer and financial literacy, public speaking, and professional development and has served 6,500 contracted and domestic workers. This is the first adult education program in the MENA region and serves as an educational model for other organizations in the UAE.

OSR also collaborated with Re:Set, a leading platform for mental health, well-being, growth, and inclusion to provide tailored mental health resources in the eight top-most spoken languages for its domestic workers and contracted staff. OSR and Re:Set offer a wide array of in-person certificate programming, ranging from the basics of Anxiety and Depression to Navigating Common Mental Health Challenges Women Face and Building Confidence through Mindfulness, and much more.

Recognized as a visionary educational model for promoting lifelong learning opportunities to contracted workers in organizations in the UAE, NYUAD's adult education program has partnered with Careem, CNN International, TwoFour54, and Rotana Hotels to offer English in the Workplace, financial literacy, and creative writing programs for their contracted staff. Our programming has enabled contracted staff and domestic workers to develop their professional and personal skills so that their time spent at NYUAD not only provides them with an opportunity to support their families but also builds their capacity as contributing members of the NYUAD community, the UAE, and their communities at home.



*Photo of the English in the Workplace Course, Fall 2023*

In April 2024, OSR piloted an Advanced Entrepreneurship Series in collaboration with Milestone Ventures, which helped contracted staff further develop their business ideas and gain a deeper understanding of multiple aspects such as entrepreneurship, finance, content creation, sales, and more. The social responsibility programming directly correlates with contracted workers' retention and upward mobility. In 2023-2024, OSR's annual survey was filled out by over 40% of NYUAD's contracted workers through which they provided feedback on NYUAD's DEI initiatives as well as OSR's education programming.

Many of our contracted and domestic worker staff who have participated in OSR's adult education programming have developed their communication and professional skills, resulting in them advancing their careers within NYUAD and beyond. Vinay Kumar from India started as a janitorial staff at NYU Abu Dhabi. He was promoted to a soft service team supervisor, taking English in the Workplace courses through OSR to enhance his language and communication skills.

# DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR CONTRACTED COLLEAGUES

While our colleagues serve our institution in different capacities, they've collectively served as a backbone of our institution through their invaluable support of facilities management, keeping our community safe, and providing technology, maintenance, and food and beverage services.

**824**  
CONTRACTED  
STAFF



20% female colleagues  
80% male colleagues

FROM **25**  
COUNTRIES



SPEAKING **23**  
LANGUAGES



# ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Office of Social Responsibility creates educational opportunities for contracted staff, domestic workers, and the wider NYUAD community and their families. The office regularly organizes various workshops and courses for the community, ranging from language to theater.

## 719 PARTICIPANTS

204

ENGLISH IN THE WORKPLACE

195

ARABIC LANGUAGE

167

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## NEW PROGRAMMING



ADVANCED ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERIES



CHAT GPT SERIES

## 17 COURSES OFFERED



ENGLISH IN THE WORKPLACE



ARABIC LANGUAGE



CHAT GPT SERIES



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES



MENTAL HEALTH SERIES: CULTIVATING INNER HAPPINESS



SOUND HEALING WORKSHOP



MENTAL HEALTH SERIES: BUILDING CONFIDENCE



ADMISSIONS INFORMATION SERIES



PUBLIC SPEAKING WORKSHOP



ADVANCED ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERIES



IT WORKSHOPS



THEATER WORKSHOPS

## SOCIAL MEDIA STATISTICS



@NYUADSHUKRAN

**2362** Followers **182.2% ↑** Profile Visits **609** Posts



@NYUADAPPRECIATES

**2.6k** Followers **199.7% ↑** Profile Visits **2K** Likes

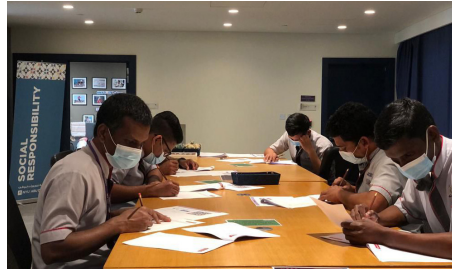


OSR GUIDEBOOK

**1856** Total Downloads **29,227** Total Times Accessed

# OSR ORIENTATION AND ASSESSMENT

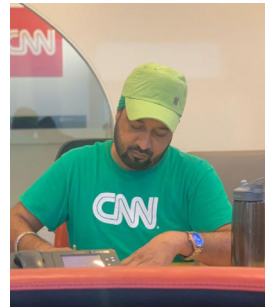
OSR conducts in-person assessments and orientations for all newly hired contracted staff and domestic workers to give them a brief overview of the NYUAD community and the facilities available, as well as the adult education programming available. The orientation is followed by an English Proficiency Test that is mandatory for all contracted colleagues to take. This assessment test helps us understand the level of English proficiency for all our contracted colleagues and tailor programming based on their needs. In the Academic Year 23-24, OSR conducted assessments of 175 contracted colleagues across our three main vendors: Royal Catering Services, EFS Facilities Management, and G4S Security.



# EDUCATIONAL MODEL FOR THE MENA REGION

Recognized as a visionary educational model for promoting lifelong learning opportunities to contracted workers in organizations in the UAE, NYUAD's Adult Education Program has partnered with Careem, CNN International, TwoFour54, and Rotana Hotels to offer English in the Workplace, financial literacy, and creative writing programs for their contracted staff and welcomes opportunities to work with other organizations interested in establishing adult education programs of their own.

OSR has developed strong connections with the academic program of NYU Abu Dhabi, as well as visiting group programs from other NYU sites.



# ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

## International Migration in Global Perspectives

Fall 2023

In Fall 2023, three of our contracted colleagues and one domestic worker colleagues attended an undergraduate course titled "International Migration in Global Perspectives" as guest lecturers leading a panel discussion. Naresh Vannela and Mary Dasal from Facilities Management, Richard Musanje from Campus Safety and domestic worker colleague Deepika Perera shared their experiences as migrants in the UAE while answering student questions.



## Care Across Borders

January 2024



In January 2024, our domestic worker colleagues joined an undergraduate J-term course titled "Care Across Borders" as guest panelists. Brenda Belaza, Deepika Perera, Nona Safreena, and Fareena Hassim, delved into their migrant experiences as domestic workers in the UAE. Students had an enriching experience through a question and answer session in the end.

## Our Learning Community

Spring 2024

In Spring 2024, two of our contracted colleagues Aamir Shehzad from Campus Safety and Muhammed Ali Haris from EFS Facilities, taught mini-courses at NYUAD's Our Learning Community Event. Shehzad took inspiration from OSR's Mental Health Series and taught a 30 minute course on the importance of mindfulness. Haris on the other hand taught a mini course on the values of traveling based on his own passions and past experiences.



# LE'NAKTASHIF AL EMARAT HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to our adult education programming, the Office of Social Responsibility has developed Le Naktashif al Emarat (Let's Explore the Emirates), a program that fosters greater knowledge of cultural immersion into the UAE for our faculty, staff, and their families. Our LNAE program offerings include a lecture series on UAE history and culture as well as edutaining exploration opportunities that bring our community members to heritage sites, museums, and cultural festivals. On campus, it offers storytelling, local art classes, Hag al Laila celebrations, and more.

## 574 PARTICIPANTS

274

CHILDREN'S BOOK READING EVENTS

50

TRIP TO THE BAPS HINDU TEMPLE

42

TRIP TO THE ABRAHAMIC FAMILY HOUSE

## NEW PROGRAMMING



CHILDREN'S BOOK READING, MA'SALAMA MARIËT



TRIP TO THE BAPS HINDU TEMPLE

## 10 PROGRAMS OFFERED



TRIP TO ABRAHAMIC FAMILY HOUSE



TRIP TO QASR AL HOSN



CHILDREN'S TRIP TO VINE COMMUNITIES



TRIP TO SHEIKH ZAYED HERITAGE FESTIVAL



TRIP TO BAPS HINDU MUSEUM



CHILDREN BOOK READING



TRIP TO AD CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



DOMESTIC WORKER IFTAAR



# COMMUNITY INCLUSION

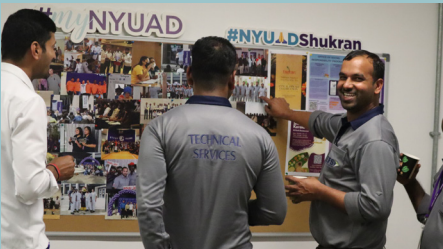
In addition to education and cultural programming, OSR also organizes multiple community initiatives for our contracted colleagues, domestic workers, and wider community members. These initiatives are usually offered in collaboration with various NYUAD student groups and departments.

## Global Collection

Together with NYUAD Library, the OSR launched its Global Collection. The project features books that were requested by our contracted colleagues in the survey conducted by the Office. The collection caters to various languages, including Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, and Malayalam.



## Colleague Lounge



In the Fall, the OSR officially launched the Colleague Lounge. The space is open to all contracted and sub-contracted colleagues to relax, eat, socialize, rest, and use as they see fit. The lounge also has resources created by Re:Set for mental health, financial literacy, physical health, and more.

## Gully Cricket

In collaboration with NYUAD Athletics and the Pakistani Student Association, OSR hosted our annual Gully Cricket Event bringing together contracted colleagues and undergraduate students in a two-day cricket tournament. With around 80 contracted colleagues and 70 student participants, the event was attended by members of senior leadership as well as the NYUAD community to celebrate the spirit of sports and community.



# COMMUNITY INCLUSION

## 10 Year Colleagues' Celebration

In January, 83 contracted colleagues (of NYUAD's original 120 colleagues from the downtown campus) received recognition for completing 10 years of service at NYUAD. This marked OSR's second 10 Year Colleagues' Celebration, where around 400 community members came together to celebrate and express gratitude for colleagues who completed a milestone of 10 years.



# OFFICE OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PRESS

## OSR Nominated for the Times Higher Education MENA Region Award 2023



### New York University Abu Dhabi

Submission title or project name

NYU Abu Dhabi Office of Social Responsibility (OSR)

Nominee or key personnel

Liria Gjidja, Director, Global Outreach and Programs Department of Global Education, NYU Abu Dhabi Aasna Sijapati, Assistant Instructor, Office of Social Responsibility, NYU Abu Dhabi

URL

<https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/about/social-re...>

Submission

OSR offers a comprehensive program of educational opportunities that meet the expressed educational and social needs of over 750 contracted workers working on the NYUAD project and domestic workers employed by our NYUAD community members. Over the last 11 years, OSR has expanded our adult education offerings to a full-scale, comprehensive program that offers 13 certificate courses in an array of subjects, including English and Arabic instruction, computer and financial literacy, public speaking, and professional development and has served 5,500 contracted and domestic workers. OSR has also collaborated with Re-Set, a leading platform for mental health, well-being, growth, and inclusion, to provide weekly mental health and preventative health resources in the eight top-most spoken languages for its domestic workers and contracted staff. This is the first of its kind adult education program in the MENA region and serves as an educational model for organizations in the UAE.

[show less](#)

## OSR featured in the Entrepreneur Middle East Magazine

