



THE SHEIKH
MOHAMED
BIN ZAYED
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

Dossier Information & Application Packet Class of 2021-2022

As of 24 November 2020

Dear Students and University Administrators:

Thank you for your interest in The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP). This Dossier Information and Application Packet contains important information for applicants and university administrators regarding:

- The SMSP Selection Process
- Instructions for completing a dossier for nomination to the SMSP
- Submission deadlines

Please read the information carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the SMSP staff or your university's SMSP administrator.

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Sabina Naik, Officer – Student Life, Higher Colleges of Technology Administrator: snaik1@hct.ac.ae

Rana Al Katheeri, Head – Student Exchange Unit, Student Affairs Division, United Arab Emirates University Administrator: SMSP@uaeu.ac.ae

Man Baker, Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, **Jameela Abdo**, Academic Advisor, or **Thamna AlRashdi**, Administrative Officer, Zayed University Administrators: SMSP@zu.ac.ae

Sincerely,

Diane C. Yu, Executive Director



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INTRODUCTION TO THE SMSP SELECTION PROCESS

To apply to the program a student must meet the following criteria:

- ❖ Be in his/her second or third year of a bachelor's program at the time of application
- ❖ In the Fall semester of the Program's academic year, be enrolled at one of the UAE's three federal universities: UAEU, ZU, or HCT
- ❖ Complete and submit a dossier to the designated administrator at his/her home university
- ❖ Be nominated by his/her university for the Program

The SMSP does not have a minimum required GPA or IELTS/TOEFL exam score; students, however, are expected to:

- ❖ Be top students with noted intellectual curiosity and a record of accomplishment
- ❖ Possess excellent English language competency
- ❖ Be self-aware
- ❖ Have outstanding interpersonal skills and be able to contribute to the class
- ❖ Be creative or have other special talents or gifts
- ❖ Demonstrate leadership potential
- ❖ Be enterprising and demonstrate a spirit of adventure and flexibility

To be a Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholar, applicants must successfully complete a highly competitive Selection Process comprising three phases: The Nomination Stage, The Finalist Stage, and Selection Days.



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PHASE 1: NOMINATION STAGE

The SMSP does not accept applications directly from students. Instead, there is a two-step process:

- ❖ Interested students submit dossiers to their designated university administrator by the specified deadline (please see information below for each university)
- ❖ Each of the three universities reviews all of the submitted dossiers and nominates twenty complete and exceptional applications to the SMSP Office at NYU Abu Dhabi no later than Sunday, March 28th, 2021, at 10:00 AM.

NOTE: A nomination is not complete unless all documents are received by the deadline.

Dossier Deadline and Submission Instructions

- ❖ **Higher Colleges of Technology Students**
 - Deadline for dossier submission: **Sunday, March 14th, 2021**
 - Please consult with the appropriate campus administrators, listed below, on your application before submission.
 - For more information about the submission process, please contact Sabina Naik on snaik1@hct.ac.ae.

Campus	Designated Coordinator	Email Addresses
HCT Abu Dhabi Men’s Campus	Rida Almansoori	ralmansoori@hct.ac.ae
HCT Abu Dhabi Women’s Campus	Fatima Alkatheeri	falkatheeri@hct.ac.ae
HCT Al Ain Men’s Campus	Meera Alshamsi	malshamsi5@hct.ac.ae
HCT Al Ain Women’s Campus	Al Jazia Al Etaibi	aaletaibi@hct.ac.ae
HCT Dubai Men’s Campus	Khalid Al Noaimi	kalnoaimi@hct.ac.ae
HCT Dubai Women’s Campus	Hanadi Bashir	hbashir@hct.ac.ae
HCT Fujairah Campuses	Ayesha Al Mesmari	aalmesmari@hct.ac.ae
HCT Madinat Zayed Campuses	Nuha Zaghari	nzaghari@hct.ac.ae



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HCT Sharjah Men's Campus	Hamda Lootah	hlootah@hct.ac.ae
HCT Sharjah Women's Campus	Reem Khammas	rkhammas@hct.ac.ae
HCT Ras Al Khaimah Campuses	Randa Alzaabi	ralzaabi1@hct.ac.ae
HCT Ruwais Campus	Nuha Zaghari	nzaghari@hct.ac.ae

❖ United Arab Emirates University Students

- Deadline for dossier submission: **Thursday, March 18th, 2021**
- Please consult with Rana Al Katheeri on SMSP@uaeu.ac.ae about your application and the submission process.
- Please submit completed dossiers via this [link](#).

❖ Zayed University Students

- Deadline for dossier submission: **Wednesday, March 10th, 2021**
- Please consult with Dr. Man Baker, Jameela Abdo, or Thamna AlRashdi on SMSP@zu.ac.ae about your application and the submission process.
- Please submit completed dossiers via this [link](#).



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PHASE 2: FINALIST STAGE

The SMSP selection committee will review the nominees' dossiers and will select up to 36 finalists from the 60 nominees. These finalists will be invited to participate in the final stage of the selection process — Selection Days. Finalists will be announced in mid-April.

PHASE 3: SELECTION DAYS

Finalists will be invited to participate in Selection Days — a rigorous national competition during the week of May 23rd, 2021. At this event, finalists will undergo a combination of individual and small group interviews with distinguished judges from the U.S. and the UAE, a group problem-solving exercise, a writing exercise, and informal interactions with the judges. Only the most meritorious of the finalists — up to 24 — will be selected as Scholars. The announcement for next year's class of Scholars will be made in early summer. The Program begins in early September.



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Students and University Administrators must ensure that the nominee applications are complete by the applicable deadlines. **NOTE: A nomination is not complete unless all documents are received by the deadline.** Below is a checklist of all documents that must be included in the dossier.

Part A. DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED BY THE STUDENT:

- 1. Completed Biographical Information Form
- 2. Signed Student/Parental Consent Form
- 3. Curriculum Vitae that follows the format indicated by SMSP
- 4. Color copy of passport including page with unified number and valid UAE visa (if applicable)
- 5. Personal statement from the student (limit of 850 words)
- 6. Description of a project completed by the student
- 7. Video summary of the project completed by the student
- 8. Brief self-description (biography) of the student (limit of 120 words)
- 9. Color photo taken within the last year
- 10. Copy of an English Proficiency examination score from IELTS, TOEFL, or a similar test taken within the past two years, if available.

Part B. DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED BY UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE STUDENT:

- 1. University Nomination and English Language Certification Form
- 2. Two faculty letters of recommendation
- 3. Official academic transcript (unofficial school transcripts will not be accepted.)



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Please save your documents using exactly the following naming convention for each document, including the numbers:

Document #. Document Name— Your First Name(space)Your Family Name.

See examples below:

Document	Document Name Example
Biographical Information Form	A.1. Biographical Information Form— Amir Al Shamsi
Nominee and Parental Consent Form	A.2. Nominee and Parental Consent Form— Amir Al Shamsi
Curriculum Vitae	A.3. Curriculum Vitae— Amir Al Shamsi
Passport Copy	A.4. Passport Copy— Amir Al Shamsi
Personal Statement	A.5. Personal Statement— Amir Al Shamsi
Project Description	A.6. Project Description— Amir Al Shamsi
Project Video Summary	A.7. Project Video Summary— Amir Al Shamsi
Brief Self-Description	A.8. Brief Self-Description— Amir Al Shamsi
Color Photo	A.9. Color photo— Amir Al Shamsi
IELTS/TOEFL Score	A.10. IELTS/TOEFL— Amir Al Shamsi
University Nomination and English Language Certification	B.1. University Nomination and English Language Certification— Amir Al Shamsi
Faculty Letter 1	B.2.1. Faculty letter1— Amir Al Shamsi
Faculty Letter 2	B.2.2. Faculty letter2— Amir Al Shamsi
Official Academic Transcript	B.3. Official Academic Transcript— Amir Al Shamsi



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A.1. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION FORM (to be filled out by student)

Full Name (as in passport): _____

Male/Female: _____

Name of University/Campus: _____

Address (now through August 2021): _____

Date of Birth: Date _____ Month _____ Year _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address (valid through August 2021): _____

Will you be in a Higher Diploma or a Bachelor's Degree program in the Fall of 2021? _____

How many years of university have you completed? _____

Expected Graduation Date: Month _____ Year _____ (You must have at least one semester to complete at your home university during the 2021-2022 academic year)

Expected Degree to be awarded: _____

Academic Major: _____

Have you previously applied to be a Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholar? _____

If yes, have you previously attended Selection Days? _____

How did you hear about SMSP? _____



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A.2. STUDENT / PARENTAL CONSENT FORM (to be filled out by student and guardian)

I certify that the information I have attached to this form is complete and correct and that the personal statement and project description have been written by me alone. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be cause for denying consideration for, or acceptance into, The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (“the Program.”) I understand that any items submitted to the Program in conjunction with my candidacy become the sole property of the Program and will not be returned.

I understand that the Program reserves the right to deny consideration or acceptance to anyone whom it considers not sufficiently qualified and to require withdrawal of any student at any time for any reason, including scholarship, character, attendance, and/or personal conduct.

My family and I understand that this is a mixed-gender program.

I understand that the Program may include a nine-day chaperoned trip to the U.S. during the Spring semester of 2021 and I have my family’s approval to attend. To facilitate my participation in the U.S. trip, I understand that it is my responsibility to apply for my visa to the U.S. . The Program reserves the right to cancel the trip.

I certify that I have read the “SMSP Guidelines and General Agreement” that is available on the Program’s website and that I fully understand its content, and that, if selected, I will sign this document as an indication of my readiness to participate fully in the Program for 2021-2022.
I certify that I have shared all of this information with my parents and/or guardians, and that I sign this Student/Parent Consent Form with their full knowledge and agreement. My parent/guardian’s signature appears below.

Student Name (Please print)	Signature	Date
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Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)	Signature	Date
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A.3. CURRICULUM VITAE

Please prepare your *curriculum vitae* for submission as a nominee for the SMSP Class of 2021-2022 using the following format:

Section 1 – Heading

Name, address including P.O. Box (now through August 2021), mobile phone number, home phone number, and email address

Section 2 – Education

With dates, including major(s) and degree(s) obtained and sought, and expected date of graduation

Section 3 – Activities

Relevant university co-curricular, extracurricular, and other activities (with dates)

Section 4 – Work Experience

Volunteer and/or work experience (with dates)

Section 5 – Honors and Awards

Honors, scholarships, awards, publications, leadership accomplishments, and/or creative works (with dates)

Section 6 – Other Relevant Skills or Interests

Hobbies, previous travel abroad (including to the U.S.), etc.



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A.4. COLOR COPY OF PASSPORT PHOTO PAGE – include photo page, and visa if applicable.

A.5. PERSONAL STATEMENT FROM THE STUDENT – up to 850 words, in English, describing the following: (1) why you would like to be a Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholar, (2) what leadership skills or attributes you hope to improve or develop through the program, and (3) how you see the relationship between the Program and your academic trajectory and career goals.

A.6. DESCRIPTION OF A PROJECT COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT – (or presentation of its results) that demonstrates your interests, intelligence, creativity, and academic or artistic accomplishment. Examples might include an essay, story, painting, drawing, print, photography, website project, laboratory/scientific/research project, or similar undertaking.

A.7. VIDEO SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT – in a one-minute video, summarize your project (the project you described in A.6) and why it was important to you. Be sure to start the video by introducing yourself.

A.8. SELF-DESCRIPTION (AUTO-BIOGRAPHY) OF THE STUDENT – up to 120 words, in English, of a brief narrative auto-biography or self-description suitable for use by the media and/or the Program should you be selected as a Finalist or Scholar. NOTE: Program administrators may need to edit this for style or consistency.

A.9. COLOR PHOTO

A.10. COPY OF AN ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAMINATION SCORE – if available, include a copy of a score from an English proficiency examination, such as IELTS, TOEFL, or a similar test taken within the last two years.



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B.1. UNIVERSITY NOMINATION AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE CERTIFICATION FORM

(Please ask your nominator to email this form to your university administrator.)

I certify that the below named student has been nominated by a SMSP participating university, is able to communicate well in written and spoken English, and that he/she is a student in good standing at his/her home institution.

Student's Name: _____

Nominator's Name: _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

SUPPORTING COMMENTS

1. Student's strengths (academics, leadership, character, ability to gain from and contribute to the program):

2. Student's potential for growth and development:



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3. Impact of this student on his/her school and/or community:

4. What this student has done that might be considered creative or exceptional:



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B.2. FACULTY RECOMMENDATION LETTER

(Two Faculty Letters required per student. Please ask your recommenders to email this form together with the written narrative to your university administrator.)

Student's Name: _____

University: _____ Major: _____

Recommender's Name: _____ Position: _____

The above named student is applying for acceptance to the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP) for the coming academic year. The SMSP is a specially designed program by New York University and New York University Abu Dhabi in conjunction with the Government of Abu Dhabi to offer exceptional university students in their third or fourth year of a bachelor's program in one of the three national universities in the UAE, an outstanding academic, cross cultural and leadership development experience. The program offers the following opportunities and benefits:

- ❖ A course taught by former US Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin on the Challenges of the New Political Economy; OR (2) a seminar taught by noted journalist, author, and foreign policy expert James Traub, titled Crises in Context: The Forces that Shape the Great Events of Our Time.
- ❖ A class entitled, "What Makes a Great Leader?"
- ❖ Public Speaking and Public Presentations class
- ❖ Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing class
- ❖ Cross-cultural experiences with students from throughout NYU's Global Network University
- ❖ Roundtable meetings with global leaders from around the world
- ❖ Advice and counseling on graduate education options and admissions processes,
- ❖ Nine-day trip to U.S. (New York and Washington, D.C.) to meet noteworthy leaders and experience the intellectual and cultural riches of these cities. (Subject to change based on health and safety regulations for travel, and Program needs.)

Scholars will be expected to complete all their coursework, including extensive readings, regular essay assignments, class participation, and team projects as assigned. Overall, the work is demanding and rigorous.



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Scholars should:

- ❖ Be top students with noted intellectual curiosity and a record of accomplishment
- ❖ Possess excellent English language competency
- ❖ Be self-aware
- ❖ Have outstanding interpersonal skills and be able to contribute to the class
- ❖ Be creative or have other special talents or gifts
- ❖ Demonstrate leadership potential
- ❖ Be enterprising and demonstrate a spirit of adventure and flexibility

Please complete all three (3) parts of this recommendation as outlined below.

1. **WRITTEN NARRATIVE:** Please answer the following questions in an attached letter about this student:
 - a. How long and in what context do you know this candidate?
 - b. What are this candidate's outstanding achievements, talents, and skills? Please be specific in your description.
 - c. What, if any, are the candidate's weaknesses?
 - d. How would this candidate benefit from The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program?

2. **QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION:** Please assess candidate's ability in each category below:

	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good	Superior	Unable to Judge
Analytic ability	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Leadership	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Integrity	1	2	3	4	5	NA

3. **SUMMARY EVALUATION:** Please check the appropriate box.
 - Highly Recommend
 - Recommend
 - Recommend with reservation noted
 - Do not recommend



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Please complete this form and attach it to your written narrative with the candidate's name indicated on each document. Both the form and narrative should be returned to the designated university administrator (please obtain contact and deadline information from your student) in a sealed and signed envelope.

Signature: _____ Date: _____