



As of 22 November 2020

POLICIES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION

in the

SHEIKH MOHAMED BIN ZAYED SCHOLARS PROGRAM

and

SCHOLARS GENERAL AGREEMENT

Class of 2021-2022

Diane C. Yu, Esq., Executive Director

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program 2021-2022

Part A: POLICIES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

SMSP reserves the right to change program elements including the US trip according to health and safety regulations and program needs.

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 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, regardless of whether they are face-to-face or online. . On class days, Scholars should plan to dedicate the entire day for class. Scholars should plan their academic, work, and personal schedules accordingly. Additionally, Scholars are expected to participate in various leadership and cultural experiences on Saturday or Sunday evenings during Academic weekends.
- To be granted an excused absence from class, Scholars must give at least 4 days' advance notice by email to **smsp.absence@nyu.edu**. The email must include the following information:
 1. Cohort (Odds/Evens)
 2. Date of absence
 3. Reason for absence
 4. Mobile number

Scholars must also contact their Instructors (individuals who assist with the instruction of that course) for information regarding the coursework missed.

- 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 university administrator to try to resolve the problem. We expect that, in most instances, the university administrator 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 Spring 2022.
- 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 Ceremonies, 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 Instructor 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 Day Ceremonies, 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 Instructors will note the frequency, degree, and quality of that participation in preparing their evaluations and assigning grades. For in-person classes, Scholars may bring laptops to class for course-related work only. Scholars are not permitted to use mobile phones at any time during class sessions and 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. Formal attire or national dress is required during leadership guest visits.

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 members to 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 exemplary and 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 form 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 may be provided by the SMSP, depending on the Scholars specific location. Scholars should email the Program their need for transportation no later than two (2) business days prior to the date of a required class/activity. We may not be able to accommodate last minute changes.
- Transportation for attendance at optional programs and events sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi will be arranged for Scholars on an as-needed basis. 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, university administrators, and/or parents with questions may address them at any time to the SMSP Senior Director Pamela McInroy.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program 2021-2022
PART B: SUMMARY OF THE PROGRAM

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 Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute, and the Abu Dhabi Education Council.

Courses:

- For the principal academic course, the Scholars will be divided into two groups. There are two courses offered - "Challenges of the New Political Economy," taught by the former U.S. Ambassador to the UAE Michael Corbin and "Crises in Context: The Forces that Shape the Great Events of Our Time" taught by NYU Professor James Traub.
- The English Enrichment course has two components and will be taken by all Scholars.
 - Part One is "Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing," taught by Yusuf Samara and Jonathan Marsh. 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 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.
- Typically, 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. Letters of recommendation will be provided for Scholars who completed the Program in good standing.

Academic Enrichment Events Sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi: Scholars will be invited to attend seminars, lectures, and special programs sponsored by the NYU Abu Dhabi 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 2022, 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 economy class on Etihad Airways and will be accompanied to the U.S. by chaperones from the three participating Schools. Only under certain circumstances and with approval from a travel policy exception committee at NYU Abu Dhabi will a single class upgrade be allowed, i.e. economy class to business class. 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 2022. Povashni Naidu, Assistant Manager for Programming and Strategy, will be in contact about the U.S. visa application process in September 2021.

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 academic course, (2) the English Enrichment course, and (3) the Leadership Development course.

Program Leadership: The Program is headed by Executive Director Ms. Diane C. Yu, Esq., who is based in New York and serves as Advisor to Leadership at NYUAD, with consultation from Her Highness Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Ms. Pamela McInroy is the Senior Director and is based in Abu Dhabi.

Role of Participating Schools: The SMSP will engage in regular communications with the universities to keep them apprised of developments and any changes or additions to the schedule or activities. The Program will also update universities on Scholar academic performance, behavioural concerns, attendance, or any other issue that may arise. 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.
- to assist with any scheduling conflicts between SMSP and classes at the home university.

The university administrators are:

For HCT: Sabina Naik - snaik1@hct.ac.ae

For UAEU: Rana Al Katheeri - SMSPI@uaeu.ac.ae

For Zayed University: Man Baker - Man.Baker@zu.ac.ae



**Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program
2021-2022
Part C: SCHOLAR'S GENERAL AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT BY SCHOLAR

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 possible trip to the United States, and adhere to these policies and other implicit rules and procedures of the SMSP.

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ Date: _____



THE SHEIKH
MOHAMED
BIN ZAYED
SCHOLARS
PROGRAM

**Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program
2021-2022
Part D: FERPA WAIVER**

In accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 ("FERPA"), I

(PRINTED NAME OF SCHOLAR) hereby grant permission
to Diane C. Yu (Executive Director), Pamela McInroy (Senior Director), or an appointed designee, to
discuss the following matters with my parents and/or university coordinator and to share with
them information from my education record concerning these matters:

- My academic progress in the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Community Program
- My personal behavior during the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Community Program
- My health during the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Community Program

This consent shall be valid until revoked by me in writing.

Scholar Signature: _____ **Date:** _____