Congratulations Class of 2022

Your families and all of us at NYU Abu Dhabi are very excited to celebrate your achievements with you. In this moment when the pandemic that has caused such loss is receding, we also recognize how many difficult and unpredictable obstacles you have had to overcome on the road to graduation. You have been magnificent, coming through with the support of each other and of our caring community.

You did it!

You are one of more than 350 remarkable students from the UAE and over 80 other countries, collectively speaking 64 languages, and often communicating in languages that go beyond and enrich the spoken word. Together, you made NYU Abu Dhabi your home in our vibrant crossroads city.

You redefined the possibilities of virtual and hybrid learning. You made an impact through your studies, your research, your internships, and your SIGs, here and abroad. You attained prestigious awards and scholarships, and earned entry into renowned and demanding graduate schools. You found new paths into fields and professions you had never considered. You did all that in the face of significant pandemic restrictions, evolving with the world as it changed.

You have helped lead and move forward our vital conversations on inclusion and equity, in and outside the classroom. You have called on our NYUAD to do its part in the fight against the climate crisis and against global inequality. You, the Class of 2022, give hope for a more just and inspired world.

I have no doubt that you will go on to be force for good in our shared global home. Each of you, in your boundless diversity, courage, and empathy, has it in you to make positive change, no matter where you will seek to make it.

The next leg of your journey starts now. NYU Abu Dhabi sends you off with glowing pride.

Mabrouk, beloved Class of 2022!

Mariët Westermann, Vice Chancellor
أجمل التهاني لدفعة خريجي 2022

تجمعنا هذه المناسبة مع أسركم وأميرة جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي بأكملها للاحتفال بكل ما حققتموه خلال السنين الماضية. في هذه الفترة التي تشهد اشتعال حرب كورونا التي تسببت بعدد كبير من الاضرار غير المتوقعة ومع كل ذلك فقد اجتمعت هذه المعايدات مما ساجعة وتعاون في طريقكم مما إلى مرحلة النهاية.

وها هي تكريمكم

إكم مجموعه من أكثر من 350 شهباً يتمثلون دوله الإمارات العربية المتحدة وأكثر من 80 بلداً، ولا تعلم مدراكم في التواصل مع العالم في 64 لغة، بل إكم تعلمون بناء الارواح بشئى الطاق. لقد جعلتم من بيئة جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي موطننا لكم في على هذه المدينة العالمية.

ساهمتم على مدى الأشهر الماضية في إعادة تعريف التعليم العالي، وفي توصية تطبيقات التعليم عن بعد والتعليم الهجين، مما تساهمكم واهتمامكم جراح قاعة الدراسة، مما آثر على حياتكم وتطوركم الشخصي كما آثرت المستمر من دوكم خلال ودوككم في الدولة ودارها.

قد حددتم أبرز الدورات والتخصصات وتحتتم في الدول لبرامج دراسة عليا مرفوعة سعياً لاستكشاف مجالات مفيدة وأكاديمية وعربية قد لم تنظر بلاكم سابقاً. ومن الجدير بالذكر أنكم تحققتم ذلك في فهم سبق ومعرفتم فرحتكم جدها الحالة التعليمية.

شكراً لكم على مساهمتكم في زيادة الدراسات العليا في الإمارات الإخبار ووساً، للطبيعة الخاصّة بقطاع الدراسات والدرا. كما دفعت جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي إلى تعزيز جهودها من مواجهة تغير المناخ وفي سياقها لدعم العدالة الاجتماعية حول العالم إكم تمثلون لنا الأمل بعالم أكثر عدالة وإوضع

لا شك في أنكم ستكونون عاملاً إيجابياً في عالمنا المشترك. لامكم تملكون ما يكفي من القدرات والأفكار والاطماع والتعاطف لتكوين مؤسسات حلماً مرميه تمتد نحو الأبد.

تودعون في نهاية هذه المرحلة ونتمنى لكم كل النجاح في المعامرة الجديدة التي تبدأ الآن

تبارك لدفعة 2022!

ماري ف. وستمان، بال رئيس الجامعة

nyuad.nyu.edu/commencement
One would think that after attending a high school with fewer than 50 students per class in his home country of Fiji, Aayush Deo would have been keen to attend a university with more students in the classroom. However, when he began his search for where he’d spend the next four years, Deo looked no further than NYU Abu Dhabi and its emphasis on small, intimate classrooms.

In his first year, Deo noticed the University’s efforts to arrange for students of different backgrounds to live together to promote dynamic interactions. With over 80 nationalities representing the Class of 2022, students are intentionally assigned to live with those from a different country. It allows for students like Deo, who may not have much exposure to cultures and interactions outside their own, to begin their global learning experience beyond the classroom.

Activities during term breaks, J-Terms, and semesters abroad are other ways that ensure students are continuously exposed to a global dialogue and igniting their curiosity about the world.

Try New Things
As someone who had always been more active in academic activities than playing sports, Deo was surprised by the warm welcome he got at NYU when he became more engaged in sports. Deo loves the inclusive nature sports teams have for new joiners and novices. “You can be part of a team and be really welcomed... I went from not knowing much to becoming the captain of the dragon boat team,” Deo said.

Deo still remembers coming to NYU wondering how he would adjust to living in such a diverse community. Four years here has taught him so much — he leaves knowing that everyone has shared commonality regardless of where they are from. “You really extend your education beyond your four years here.”

From roommate placements to sports, NYU Abu Dhabi gave Aayush Deo a life education that will continue beyond his undergraduate years.

A GLOBAL EDUCATION BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

تعلم عالمي بتجاوز حدود قاعات الدراسة

AAYUSH DEO
آيوش ديو

Computer Science
علوم الحاسوب

Fiji
فيجي

NYU ABU DHABI
“There was nothing that could have prepared me for the amount I would learn just by talking to people about their experiences and sharing my experiences.”

WAAD ABRAHIM
Interactive Media | United States
Al Mulla had easy access to materials and course work that were beyond her field of study — something her peers studying in other universities did not experience due to the linear nature of their courses. Being able to study abroad was also a bonus for Al Mulla who has been to Greece, Germany, and the Czech Republic in the last four years.

A Different Type of Directing

As Al Mulla looked back at her time at NYUAD, she pointed to a class by Associate Arts Professor of Film Scandar Copti called Directing the Non-Actor. The class offered Al Mulla insights into the process of creating drama by getting people to react emotionally to a fictional situation. In this course, Al Mulla learned to direct a film in a constructed plot that brings non-actors to respond to a series of scenarios without being aware that they are being directed. She enjoyed the engaging and interactive nature of the class, “I did not think I was capable of doing such things and producing such works.”

The Ideal Study Environment

Having spent months studying virtually, Al Mulla was surprised at how she could fill up her free time within the walls of her home. It was a valuable lesson. “I’ve learned that boredom is not an excuse… there’s always something to do,” Al Mulla said.

Yet, like many of her fellow students, Al Mulla longed to be back in the stimulating environment of the campus and at the body that would give her exposure to a range of cultures and backgrounds while still being in the UAE.

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Computer Science | Fiji
After completing four years at NYU Abu Dhabi and graduating with an economics degree, Andrés Ancona Velasco has his sights set on applying to law school.

The journey that led Ancona to where he stands today was fast changing situation would have sent him home to Mexico. Had he reached Shanghai, the travel safety guidelines and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic might have prevented him from returning to his home country of Mexico to spend a year devoting to providing migrants with the humanitarian aid he need.

In the south of Mexico, Ancona will be assisting migrants in shelters and refugee centers by providing them with food, accommodation, and helping them put together whatever shelters and refugee centers by providing them with food, accommodation, and helping them put together whatever they may need to move on to the next stage. Aside from wanting to give back to his community, he also wanted to learn by adjusting to life as it happens. "I have been interested in this for a long time now… we read about migration when he goes to law school."

Before embarking on this journey, Ancona was keen on taking advantage of the fast changing situation would have sent him home to Mexico. Had he reached Shanghai, the travel safety guidelines and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic might have prevented him from returning to his home country of Mexico to spend a year devoting to providing migrants with the humanitarian aid he need.

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The pandemic allowed Ancona, who thrives in social environments, to appreciate more intimate gatherings. As we were all asked to keep social distance and limit large gatherings, he began to notice a preference for small group sizes when meeting with friends.

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A PASSION PROJECT AFTER GRADUATION

One thing that online classes and a virtual learning environment did not affect was the diversity of his class—their thoughts, and their ideas. It made classes lively with rich insights that stem from classmates living in and coming from different countries.

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"I’ve come to love the idea of just sitting with three of my peers because we were able to actually have a conversation, unlike when you get a big table of 10 people, you end up not talking to the people who are at the far end," Ancona explained. These deeper conversations sustain Ancona and he makes more of a conscious effort to attend small group outings.

As a way to conclude his undergraduate life, Ancona will go around campus to say goodbye to friends, faculty, and staff who have helped him or interacted with him in one form or another – but this time, in person.

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PIVOTING WITH THE SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

The pandemic opened Muyan Jiang up to endless possibilities and rigorous academic research.

When a Great Teacher Comes Along

As a mathematics major, Jiang appreciates that the subject isn’t always seen as the most interesting. But when you have a Great Teacher, it can make all the difference. This is where Professor of Mathematics Ilya Spitkovsky came into the picture. Spitkovsky was not only able to make his classes easy to follow, entertaining. “At the same time, he’s a very nice person who is very patient at explaining things and accommodating student needs,” Jiang added.

Professor Spitkovsky is the kind of mathematician who can explain complicated concepts very clearly. While mathematics courses can be dry and intense, Professor Spitkovsky was not only able to make his classes easy to follow, but entertaining. “At the same time, he’s a very nice person who is very patient at explaining things and accommodating student needs,” Jiang added.

A Change in Perspective

Jiang was planning to pursue a PhD in mathematics after graduation. While his passion for mathematics endures, the pandemic has opened up other possibilities. Throughout the past two years, Jiang was involved in projects related to COVID-19, utilizing his knowledge in computer science and collaborating with professors from NYUAD, as well as researchers from Europe, to understand more about the virus. The more Jiang got involved in those projects, the more he saw potential to broaden his scope. As well as diving deeper into the theoretical aspect of academia, Jiang realized he could also create projects that are practical and can be implemented in real life.

“When I just feel like I have so many possibilities yet to explore, so many interests and other things I really want to try out,” Jiang said. “I can be a professor, I can go into the industry, I can start a startup… there are so many possibilities ahead of me.”

Jiang will pursue a PhD degree in industrial engineering and operations research at University of California, Berkeley, in the US, conducting research on robotics in a setting of healthcare systems.

Muyan Jiang did not waste time getting involved in research. From his first year, he took many opportunities to gain valuable experience resulting in work with a number of professors on a range of research topics.

“I know in some other big universities, it’s not a common thing to be able to work with so many professors and explore research work that you like,” Jiang explained. “This phenomenon is pretty unique to NYUAD and that’s something I really like. I have the privilege to work with so many professors and use various resources available on campus to enhance my knowledge,” Jiang said.

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EWAN LEWIS
Political Science | United Kingdom
Two classes, Tolerance and Saving Strangers, would not necessarily be top of the list as the most impactful for professors in his classes also meant more mentorship and guidance to navigate various courses and discover new ways of thinking.

Taught by Associate Professor of Philosophy Matthew Silverstein, Tolerance led students to explore questions on being tolerant of the beliefs and practices of others while discussing topics on relativism in different philosophical and religious traditions. Saving Strangers, with lecturer Camilla Boisen, discussed whether humanitarian intervention can be morally justified in society. These two classes were not only engaging, they helped Hussein develop as a thinker and as a writer, and changed the way he approaches problems.

“It actually enabled me to go out and do my own reading about topics I find interesting and approach it with a more analytical lens,” Hussein said.

OMAR HUSSEIN

Computer Science

United Kingdom
Growing up in the UK and the US, the schools Ewan Lewis attended were not very diverse. Lewis’s first glimpse of what life would be like at NYU Abu Dhabi was during his Candidate Weekend trip. “I was talking to students from countries I’ve never even heard of before,” Lewis said. 

Although half of Lewis’s university life was in the midst of the pandemic, it showed him just how much he values the friendships he has formed at NYUAD. As students were attending online, flexible course plans, and plentiful sunshine all contributed to having a lively conversation while having a fresh cut. It reminded Lewis of Black-owned barber shops that he used to cut students’ hair, which became especially pertinent to Lewis’s peers had a penchant for cutting hair and offered to discuss anything under the sun. It wasn’t uncommon for sure,” Lewis said.

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Despite the virtual sites across the world, Lewis had to be very intentional on campus, flexible course plans, and plentiful sunshine all contributed to having a lively conversation while having a fresh cut. It reminded Lewis of Black-owned barber shops where he used to cut students’ hair, which became especially pertinent to Lewis’s peers had a penchant for cutting hair and offered to discuss anything under the sun. It wasn’t uncommon for sure,” Lewis said.

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AMINA AL MULLA
Film and New Media | United Arab Emirates
Getting involved in research helped to pave Odmaa Bayaraa’s career in biology.

Odmaa Bayaraa still gets nervous thinking about how she almost didn’t apply to NYUAD four years ago.

NYUAD created an entry into research for Bayaraa, who got involved by emailing science professors, sitting in lab meetings, and exploring new scientific fields and disciplines, until she discovered her passion for genetics.

Bayaraa’s career in biology.

Getting involved in research is the great memories they had made in their time here. To continue to build the community on campus and welcome underclassmen herself,” said Bayaraa, who became co-president of weSTEM.

In STEM (weSTEM), a student interest group created to provide a great learning experience. Members of the lab were an integral part of her undergraduate journey and she is grateful for the support they offered.

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Bayaraa’s career in biology.
A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK TO FLOURISH

Price Maccarthy came to NYU Abu Dhabi unsure of her abilities and identity, but leaves as an empowered advocate for herself and others.

She was looking for somewhere that could accommodate a supportive aunt who managed to persuade Maccarthy's parents to change their minds, Maccarthy is now a graduating member of NYUAD's Class of 2022.

Full of enthusiasm, Maccarthy returned home to tell her parents that she had found the right university but they were worried. “When I came here, I became more comfortable within my skin. Seeing fellow students like me also helped make me more comfortable,” Maccarthy said.

Flourishing as a University Student
At NYUAD, Maccarthy began to flourish. Her university life became more enriched because of the people she met and the opportunities she was offered. “It’s so different here,” Maccarthy commented. convincing her parents that NYUAD was the right choice, Maccarthy decided to drop out of her school, prepare for her SAT exams, and look for another university to attend. She was worried that I would be too far away for them to be able to help me,” Maccarthy explained. With time, patience, and an understanding of the lectures, Maccarthy joined a deeper dialogue on ensuring policies were even more transparent with the professors. In several classes she was able to avoid unwanted attention, her classmate was completely accommodating to those with visual impairments.

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Price Maccarthy was studying aerospace engineering in Ghana when she had to undergo an operation that left her with visual impairment. She was concerned. “Because of my (visual) disability, they were worried that I would be too far away for them to be able to help me,” Maccarthy explained. With time, patience, and an understanding of the lectures, Maccarthy joined a deeper dialogue on ensuring policies were even more transparent with the professors. In several classes she was able to avoid unwanted attention, her classmate was completely accommodating to those with visual impairments.

encouraged Maccarthy to speak for all of her peers. “When I came here, I became more comfortable within my skin. Seeing fellow students like me also helped make me more comfortable,” Maccarthy said.

Four years at NYUAD would not have been the same without one of Maccarthy’s closest supporters. Maccarthy especially thanks her aunt Shantel Awuni for her help convincing her parents that NYUAD was the right choice, and her friends Endi Molam, Fansi Mbozi, and Furqan Mohamed who never stopped encouraging her to try new things and push her limits. After graduation, Maccarthy will be working in the UAE as a researcher to help build databases.

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I came using my abilities and my identity, but I’m leaving with much more belief in my ability to change myself and the world,” Maccarthy said.

A SUPPORTIVE NETWORK TO FLOURISH

Shakespeare and love letter to the Queen

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“There’s been a great sense of togetherness... people coming together to support each other.”

YEHOWAH SEKAN
Mechanical Engineering | Ghana
Sharing experiences with classmates from all walks of life was the biggest difference for Shinyi Kang.

Shinyi Kang has come to appreciate that NYU Abu Dhabi and its people have and will always be there for me.

Flexible Academic Trajectory

The NYU Global Network that NYUAD is part of provides Kang with an unparalleled opportunity to not only study topics and issues relevant to the UAE, but to also study elsewhere in the world and meet new people.

Kang joined NYUAD with the intention to major in biology, and despite not having any experience or background in certain fields, she was able to explore courses outside the realm of science. She developed new interests and chose a double major in interactive media and business, that, “NYU Abu Dhabi and its people have and will always promote internationalism on campus. "It makes for an interesting atmosphere that I could fit so well into,” Kang said.

Starting as a biology major, to developing a board game raising awareness of the perils of cocoa farming, Shinyi Kang has come to appreciate that NYU Abu Dhabi celebrates eclecticism in their students’ education and promotes internationalism on campus. “It makes for an interesting atmosphere that I could fit so well into,” Kang said.

She likes how tight-knit the student body is despite the fact everyone comes from very different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. This global exposure opened up her views, thoughts, and knowledge about the world.

Kang enjoys her friends’ companionship so much that she hosted regular dinner gatherings in her residential building where friends came together to cook or order takeout and enjoy a few hours exchanging life experiences.

A DIVERSE YET TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY

Business, Organizations and Society

South Korea

Korea (Asia)

A DIVERSE YET TIGHT-KNIT COMMUNITY

مجلة متنوع يميزه التماسك والترابط

كان الفرق الأكبر للطالبة شيني كاينغ هو تعايشها مع هذه التشكيلة المتاحة من الأشخاص من القرى الأولى في حياتها.

Cookies COVID-19 taught Kang the important lesson of being comfortable with not knowing what tomorrow will bring. The pandemic gave her more confidence in living in the moment and being spontaneous. Kang came to NYUAD as a confused and excited first-year student, but now knows that, "NYU Abu Dhabi and its people have and will always be there for me."
Yehowahi Sekan took every opportunity he had at NYU Abu Dhabi to make it a learning moment to grow holistically.

From co-founding the Black Professional Network, to learning how to play the saxophone, and earning a degree in mechanical engineering, Yehowahi Sekan fondly looks back at his last four years at NYU Abu Dhabi.

"I wanted a place where my classroom education would not necessarily be the only kind of education I get," Sekan said. To his parents, NYUAD was an easy sell. Having been to the UAE before, Sekan’s parents understood the country’s commitment to building a nation that hosted world-class institutions and nurtured human capital with global ambition. In their minds, they had no doubt that a university in the UAE would be going to something special.

Co-founding the Black Professional Network
During his third year at NYUAD, Sekan found himself in mechanical engineering, Yehowahi Sekan fondly looks back at his last four years at NYU Abu Dhabi.

FINDING HIS STRIDE

Sekan was clear since he began applying to universities. Sekan wanted to be in an environment where his classroom education would be closer to his home in Ghana, NYUAD provided him the opportunity to be in a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. It is an environment that fosters young academics to bridge the gap between disciplines.

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The past four years helped Waad Abrahim gain new perspectives and find her path.

A Different University Experience
School breaks and classes are other ways to gain new perspectives. “We have so many opportunities to just see different things,” Abrahim explained. While trying to figure out her major, Abrahim took a J-Term interactive media class. The course included a trip to Ethiopia where she and her classmates helped build creative resources that supported local communities to enhance their day-to-day lives. “I remembered the feeling and the gratification of looking at something that I did, and knowing that I made some sort of impact,” Abrahim said. It was there that the idea of effective altruism became a real thing rather than a concept, for Abrahim. The course led Abrahim to explore more about the different applications of technology that interactive media uses, and eventually declared it as her major.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Abrahim has learned to not look too far ahead into the future as things can change quickly. Reflecting on her graduation, Abrahim said, “I’m just ready to continue experiencing the world because there is no way I can know everything or figure out every single experience in life.” One thing she is certain of is her desire to continue to make connections as she journeys through life. “People will make the experience worth it, regardless of where you are.”

Abrahim will join American Express in New York as a user experience designer after graduation.
“I just feel like I have so many possibilities yet to explore, so many interests and other things I really want to try out.”

MUYAN JIANG
Mathematics and Computer Science | China
The NYUAD alumni network feels very much like a community, which is exemplified in how easy it is to reach out to and interact with fellow graduates in one’s vicinity. It is really comforting knowing that I will always know someone or someone who knows someone in any part of the world. As NYUAD grows, it is exciting to see the development of a strong alumni network that can leverage its unique global reach.

— Hayat Muhammed Seid (NYUAD ’17)

The education of NYUAD continues even after graduation. Previously, I was based in Singapore where I had a core group of friends—most of whom were graduates of NYUAD. We stimulate and support each other both professionally and personally.

— Shintaro Hashimoto (NYUAD ’16)

GET INVOLVED
nyuad.nyu.edu/alumni

Today, you are joining a family of nearly 1,700 NYU Abu Dhabi alumni that span the globe in more than 80 countries. Each of you are leveraging your world-class education to become catalysts for positive change in your community.

Alumni of NYUAD are a unique part of the extraordinary whole that is NYU. We share a common bond with graduates from across the world, whether they spent four years in Shanghai, London, or New York. The perspective that NYUAD alumni bring to the NYU community is a valuable piece of the global network to which we all belong.

You are now part of the NYU Alumni Association (NYUAA), the umbrella organization for all University alumni from every NYU school, with a network of more than 600,000 worldwide.

NYU Alumni Association membership
• Begins upon graduation
• Free for life
• Includes alumni benefits

“NYUAD offered an unparalleled academic experience that prepared students, like me, to tackle global challenges with multidisciplinary teams from different cultural backgrounds.”

— Peter Ndichu (NYUAD ’14)

“NYUAD’s proximity to Abu Dhabi is unique among universities in the region and provides a great opportunity for students to learn from the real-world application of theory.”

— Bani Hashmo (NYUAD ‘14)

“Hayat Muhammed Seid (NYUAD ‘17)”
"I came unsure of my abilities and my identity, but I’m leaving with much more belief in my ability to change myself and change the world."

PRICE MACCARTHY
Legal Studies | Ghana
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

أجمل التهاني
بمناسبة تخرجكم!
SHARE YOUR MOMENTS!

Share your photos with
#NYUAD2022

CHECK OUT THE CLASS OF 2022 FILTERS ON INSTAGRAM

إختاروا من تشكيلة فلاتر دفعة 2022 على تطبيق إنستغرام

Follow NYU Abu Dhabi and visit nyuad.nyu.edu/commencement to see photos

Please remember to follow all current health and safety guidelines, including physical distancing and wearing your mask indoors.