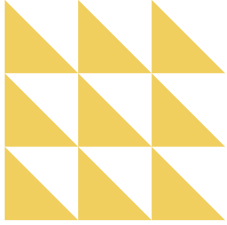


جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

 NYU ABU DHABI



✦ Class of

2026

✦ wrapped

علا NYUAD





جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي
NYU ABU DHABI



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

✦ Dear Class of 2026,

As you reach this point at NYU Abu Dhabi, it is worth recognizing not only what you have achieved, but what you have built together and with us. That will be your legacy that you leave here and will take with you.

While your academic pursuits have served as a foundation for your time at NYU Abu Dhabi, it is the profound experiences and relationships you have cultivated that truly define your journey. You have navigated moments of both rigorous challenge and remarkable discovery, gaining insights into the world and, perhaps more importantly, into yourselves. Ultimately, the care and steadiness you have shown toward one another will remain among your most enduring memories. These engagements, occurring both within and beyond the classroom, are what constitute the very essence of this community.

You have shown openness and a willingness to engage seriously and openly with perspectives different from your own. You have been asked to, again, adapt to a dramatic shift in the world around you. And all this has shown a collective leadership that makes you - the Class of 2026 - historic.

Throughout these experiences, you have shown that you embody the thoughtful leadership and the kind of engagement the world now demands. The relationships and rituals you built, and the particular character of this community, are not incidental to your education. For many of you, they will prove to be among its most lasting dimensions.

This year has presented itself as a deeply challenging circumstance, marked by events

that have tested our community deeply. Yet, you recognized this moment as an opportunity to navigate and advance amidst a landscape often devoid of clarity or control. You met these circumstances with a resolute sense of purpose, vitality, and an abundance of generosity and grace. The manner in which you have supported one another exemplifies what I shall always associate with your cohort: a distinctive and elegant leadership.

Wherever you go next, carry these experiences with you. Apply them with intention. Stay in conversation with one another, and continue to listen, learn, and build across boundaries.

You join a community of nearly 4,000 NYU Abu Dhabi alumni within a global NYU network of more than 700,000, one you can draw on for support and one that will be shaped by your contributions.

Congratulations, Class of 2026!



FABIO PIANO
INTERIM VICE CHANCELLOR ✦



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS



✦ Dear Class of 2026,

Congratulations, you made it.

As you turn these pages, filled with friendships, late nights, learning, and yes, campus cats, I hope you see more than memories. You see evidence of who you have become. This class did not simply complete a degree, you navigated a year that asked more of you than most.

You faced a shifting geopolitical landscape, sudden changes to plans, and moments of real uncertainty. You adapted quickly, recalibrated expectations, and kept moving forward. When circumstances moved you out of familiar spaces and into temporary accommodation, you did something remarkable, you rebuilt community. You showed up for one another, created new routines, and turned an unexpected chapter into one defined by connection, care, and shared resilience. That is not incidental, it is leadership in action.

As you step into what comes next, whether further study, the workforce, or a path still

taking shape, carry that with you. The flexibility you practiced, the resilience you lived, and the ability to find meaning and belonging even in disruption, these are not temporary skills, they are enduring advantages.


Class of 2026, you leave behind a legacy that is both visible and deeply felt. You strengthened this community, not just in moments of ease, but when it mattered most. And while your next chapter will take you across different places and pursuits, one thing remains constant, wherever you go, Abu Dhabi and NYU Abu Dhabi will always be part of your story, and always a place you can call home.

You are ready for what comes next. No doubt about it.



AISHA ALNAQBI
SENIOR DEAN OF STUDENTS ✦




NYUAD 
 CLASS OF
 **2026**
WRAPPED 




"I CAME TO NYU ABU DHABI"

✦ TO LEARN HOW TO THINK

✦ PRE-CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

BECAUSE IT WAS MY DREAM SCHOOL

TO BECOME THE LEADER I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE

✦ SEEKING A CHALLENGE AND A NEW WORLD

✦ FEELING HESITANT

✦ WANTING TO BE AN ASTROPHYSICIST

IN TEARS AND SCARED, LEAVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS BEHIND

WITH VERY LITTLE IDEA OF WHO I AM

CURIOUS, OBSERVANT, AND EAGER TO UNDERSTAND HOW THINGS WORK

✦ IN SEARCH OF MYSELF

✦ SEEKING INDEPENDENCE

✦ AS A CURIOUS BLANK SLATE SEEKING CHALLENGE AND CONNECTION

TO GROW BEYOND MY COMFORT ZONE

TO EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OUTSIDE MY HOME COUNTRY

✦ ALONE

✦ FOR THE ACADEMICS AND LABS

✦ AFRAID OF MISTAKES

✦ TO MEET PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD

"I LEFT NYU ABU DHABI"

✦ MAIN CHARACTER

✦ AS A STRONGER VERSION OF MYSELF

AS A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF THE PALMS

✦ FIXING MISTAKES

GROUNDED IN MY TRUEST SELF, CARRYING MANY SHARED STORIES

✦ WITH MORE DREAMS TO CHASE

✦ KNOWING THE UAE WILL NOW ALWAYS BE HOME TO ME

✦ WITH A FAMILY

✦ WITH PEOPLE THAT SHOW ME WHO I AM

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD FAR BETTER THAN I IMAGINED

TRAINED TO REASON UNDER UNCERTAINTY

✦ FEELING CONFIDENT

✦ VALUING COMMUNITY

✦ HAVING FRIENDS FROM 50+ COUNTRIES AND VISITING 20+ COUNTRIES

MORE CONFIDENT, RESILIENT, AND COMFORTABLE LEARNING THROUGH UNCERTAINTY

LIKE A SECOND HOME, FULL OF FRIENDSHIPS AND MEMORIES

✦ MORE CAPABLE THAN I EVER IMAGINED

ARTS & HUMANITIES

WHO WE ARE



✦ **Abdulla AlHosani**
UAE



✦ **Abigail Chien**
Taiwan



✦ **Afra Lootah**
UAE



✦ **Ahmad Hafizh**
Indonesia



✦ **Ahmed Alawadhi**
UAE



✦ **Aisha Alshehhi**
UAE



✦ **Aissatou Faye**
USA



✦ **Alreem AlAbbas**
UAE



✦ **Alreem AlQubaisi**
UAE



✦ **Alyazya Alremeithi**
UAE



✦ **Amna Baobaid**
UAE



✦ **Ana Maidana**
Paraguay



✦ **Andy Xu**
China



✦ **Aryam Almemari**
UAE



✦ **Asha AlZaabi**
UAE



✦ **Aysha Salma**
Bangladesh



✦ **Azzah Almansoori**
UAE



✦ **Batool Al Tameemi**
Iraq



✦ **Better Hao**
China



✦ **Catherine Holland**
USA



✦ **Charlie Fong**
Hong Kong



✦ **Chloe Mae Delena**
Philippines



✦ **Clara Juong**
South Korea



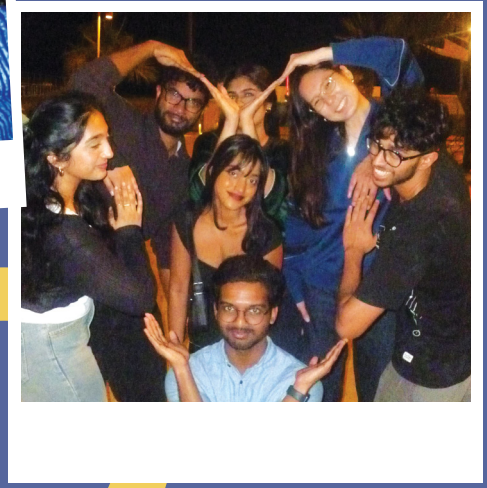
✦ **Diana Donatella**
USA



BEST MEMORIES



WE LOVE NYUAD



#NYUAD2026

MEMORIES



Dulce Maria Pop-Bonini
Guatemala



Eduarda dos Santos Brandao
Brazil



Elora Trotter
USA



Ema Higaki
Japan



Isabel Ortega
USA



Jason Xia
China



Jiho Choi
South Korea



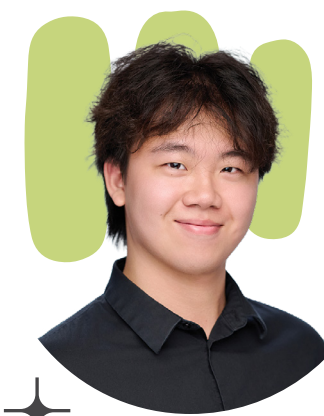
Joshua Isaac
India



Fatima Alameri
UAE



Fatma Albastaki
UAE



Fausto Fang
Argentina



Frances Lopez
USA



Juan Fernandez-Bussy
Argentina



Kalkidan Haile
Ethiopia



Kareena Gurunani
Jamaica



Kate Ezubova
Russia



Ghadah Madani
UAE



Ghadir Foad Madani
UAE



Ghalya Alzaabi
UAE



Hamdah AlSuwaidi
UAE



Kyrie Park
South Korea



Leo Qian
China



Liyan Mustafa
UAE



Lukrecija Paulikaite
Lithuania



Hannah Yche
USA



Ilian Contreras Ruvalcaba
Mexico



Inshirah Meer
Pakistan



Iqra Bano
Pakistan



Lydia Lee
South Korea



Maha Al Seiri
UAE



Maitha Almansoori
UAE



Manayer Alahmad
UAE

Student Stories

✦ Beyond my comfort zone

When I first arrived at NYU Abu Dhabi, I came without knowing anyone and was a very closed-off person, unsure of where I would fit in.

Over time, this place pushed me beyond my comfort zone in ways I never expected. Living away from family, studying across cities like Shanghai and New York, and navigating life in a completely new environment helped me grow more confident and independent.



Along the way, I learned to embrace new cultures, perspectives, and experiences through travel and friendships with people from all over the world. What started as a small circle in freshman year slowly grew into a diverse community of friends I met through classes, campus jobs, and shared adventures across countries.

No matter where life takes me, I know I'll carry these connections and memories with me – reminders that home can exist anywhere in the world.



✦ CHELSEA HOANG

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Manoj Dhakal
Nepal



Mariam Al Khoori
UAE



Mariam Almagboul
UAE



Mariana Castro Baumgartner
Costa Rica



Paing Paing
Myanmar



Paolo Faelnar
Philippines



Pierre Maged
Egypt



Rafia Alshamsi
UAE



Mariyam Fathima PMK
India



Maryam Alkenji
UAE



Maryam Galadari
UAE



Mirette Dahab
Egypt



Reem Alhosani
UAE



Rufaidha Fathima
India



Sabrina Karimzada
USA



Sahetmyrat Abdullayev
Turkmenistan



Mohammed Khalaf Al Otaiba
UAE



Mohidul Alam
Bangladesh



Mouza Al Ali
UAE



Mouza AlJaberi
UAE



Sara Abdulla Alblooshi
UAE



Sara Mubarak Al Mehairi
UAE



Sarah Attyani
Palestine



Shahad Al Marzooqi
UAE



Muneera Al Khalifa
Bahrain



Nafiha Mohd Noushad
India



Nediyya Khan
Pakistan



Noor Alnahdi
UAE



Shaikha AlKaabi
UAE



Shamma Alhameli
UAE



Shamma Almehairi
UAE



Sharifa Al Faheem
UAE



Sirish Joshi
Nepal



Siva Nanda Rajesh
UAE



Sofi Tuholukova
Ukraine



Sofia Dementieva
Russia



Sophie Pfisterer
Canada



Victor Alves
Gomes Nadu
Brazil



Yaakulya Sabbani
India



Yiyang Xu
China



Yousef AlMazrouei
UAE



Zayne Elam
USA



Zebo Furqatzoda
Tajikistan



Alea Memedi
North Macedonia

Not Shown

Aaron Wajah (Ghana)
Ayyad Al Khalifa (Bahrain)
Amal Almazrouei (UAE)
Ayesha Alhosani (UAE)
Camila Echeverria (Ecuador)

Dana Almehairbi (UAE)
Fatima Al Qubaisi (UAE)
Haya Alfalasi (UAE)
Jiire Smith (N/A)
Mariam Almansoori (UAE)
Meera Al Hosani (UAE)

Mudi Khaled Alkhaaldi (UAE)
Shamma Aljneibi (UAE)
Shamsa Aldarmaki (UAE)
Shereena AlNuaimi (UAE)
Sumaya Aldhaleei (UAE)
Vlera Mehani (Kosovo)

Student Stories



I sometimes tell people that I major in climbing and minor in Arab Crossroads (my actual major) because the sport has become such an important part of my life at NYUAD.

I started bouldering seriously in the summer of my freshman year while I was on June Term in Berlin (shoutout to the dorms for being a 10-minute walk away from a climbing gym) and got more into it during my time here. Working at the NYUAD wall was a cornerstone of my undergraduate experience as I made many like-minded climber friends there and also founded the climbing club in my senior year.



Some of my highlights of being an NYUAD student include outdoor trips to the Stardust Climbing Crag in Ras al Khaimah and placing 7th in Squad Games by GoClimb, a team climbing competition. These student climber days will definitely be missed!

CHARLIE FONG

STORIES

Student Stories

✦ When I think about my time at NYUAD, I don't immediately think about the big moments. I think about the random, ordinary ones that somehow ended up meaning the most.

I think about the late-night conversations that started with "just five minutes" and somehow turned into hours. Walking across campus and running into someone who completely changed my day.

Sitting with friends and talking about everything and nothing at the same time. NYUAD has this way of making people from completely different places feel like family so quickly, and that's something I never expected but will always be grateful for.



At the same time, some of the learning experiences here were so unique that they almost don't feel real when I think back on them. Through J-Terms and classes, I found myself doing things I never imagined I'd do in college, like snorkeling in Ramhan Island looking for archaeological remains



underwater, traveling to Uganda to interview teenage mothers about their experiences with health inequity, building houses in Jordan, and studying the bubonic plague in Spain and visiting the places where that history unfolded. Moments like that made learning feel incredibly real and meaningful in a way that goes far beyond a classroom.

Of course, it wasn't always easy. There were moments when things felt overwhelming, when I was trying to figure myself out, or when the future felt uncertain. But what made those moments easier was always the people around me. Someone checking in, sitting with you, or reminding you that you're not going through things alone.



Eegy



If there's one thing I'll take with me from NYUAD, it's the people – the friendships, the laughter, and the sense of community that somehow makes this place feel like home, even though we come from different corners of the world.



I came to NYUAD curious about what these four years would bring. I'm leaving with so much more than I expected – friendships I can't imagine my life without, memories that will stay with me forever, and a deep love for this place and the people who made it what it is.

✦ **MERNA ELRAKKAD**

ENGINEERING

WHO WE ARE



Albert Tsododo
Zimbabwe



Aleksandar Boljević
Montenegro



Alfonso Martinez Castro
Spain



Ameena Zewail
Egypt



Andrew Surendran
Sri Lanka



Asini Subanya
Sri Lanka



Atiquzzaman Bhuiyan
Bangladesh



Aysha Alblooshi
UAE



Aalia Imran
UAE



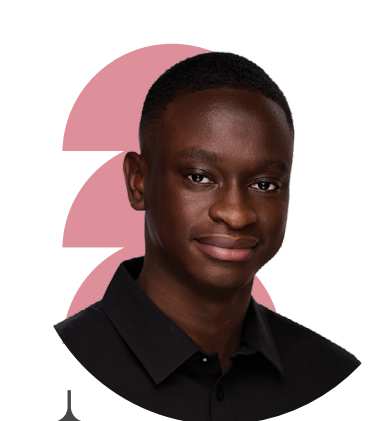
Abbas Raza
Canada



Abdul Hadi Hameed
Pakistan



Abdullah Alhussni
Syria



Babacar Thiam
Senegal



Bethel Sisay
Ethiopia



Bibek Poudel
Nepal



Calvin Gutsa
Zimbabwe



Abdullah Taha
USA



Aby Sall
Senegal



Achyuta Muthuvelan
India



Ahmad Farroukh
Lebanon



Chengze Song
China



Dheyab Saleh Abubaker
UAE

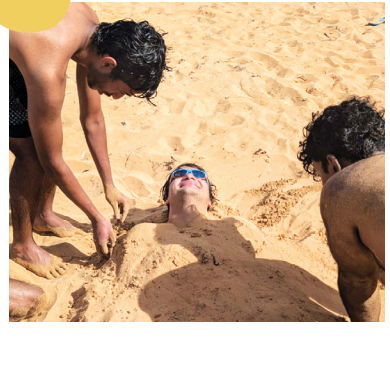


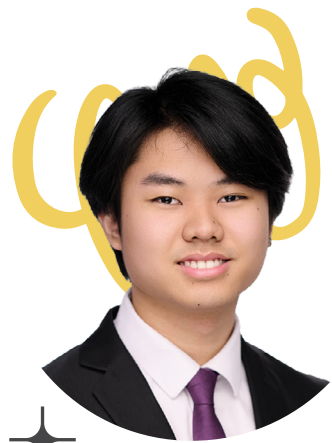
Đorđe Irić
Montenegro



Elisavet Perpatari
Greece

MEMORIES





Emman Sychiuco
Philippines



Erfan Noorbakhsh
Noshahri
Iran



Fatma Ramadhan
Alahmadi
UAE



Gaelle Mechleb
Lebanon



Khalid Dfa Alla
Sudan



Khaoula Achab
Morocco



Maimuna Yusuf
Somalia



Maram Abdelfattah
Egypt



Ghaya Alrasasi
UAE



Hassan Zou'bi
Jordan



Helin Mazi
Türkiye



Hisham
Dimashkieh
Lebanon



Mariam
Abdelfattah
Egypt



Mariam Hafez
Egypt



Maulen Mukhatbek
Kazakhstan



Mehdi Marrakchi
Tunisia



Hoor Almazrouei
UAE



Jaesung Park
South Korea



Jiwoo Lee
South Korea



Jiya Kumari
Chaudhary
Nepal



Milutin Milojkovic
Serbia



Momcilo
Randelovic
Serbia



Moncif Dahaji
Bouffi
Morocco



Mst Airin Haque
Anika
Bangladesh



Joan Ritte
Tanzania



Jody Aly
Egypt



Kevin Brian
Kenya



Khadidiatou
Doucoure
Senegal



Mst. Farzana
Haque
Bangladesh



Mujtaba Kamran
Pakistan



Mustafa Waqar
Pakistan



Noor Alhaddad
Palestine

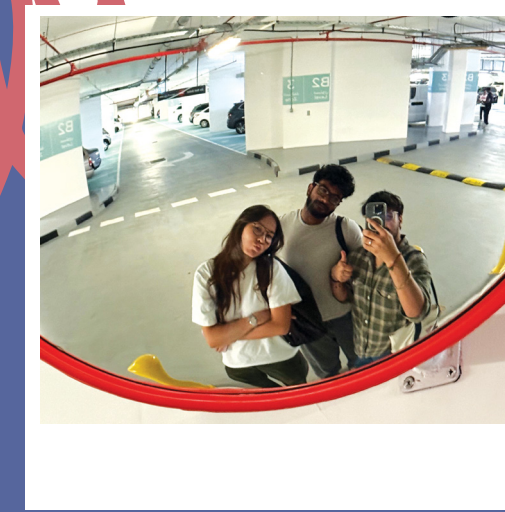
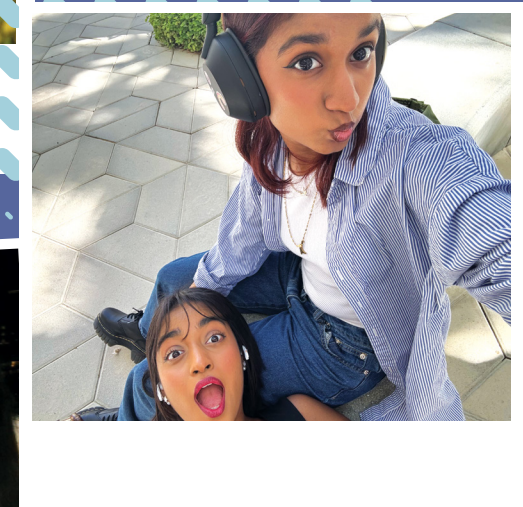
MEMORIES



★ BEST MEMORIES



★ WE LOVE NYUAD



★ #NYUAD2026



Nurik Serikbayev
Kazakhstan



Omar Alkhateeb
Egypt



Omar Mostafa
Egypt



Pasindu Wickramasinghe
Sri Lanka



Sevinch Rakhmon-Zoda
Uzbekistan



Shamma Alhadhrami
UAE



Tariro Gurudza
Zimbabwe



Terezia Juras
Slovakia



Rawan Badr El-Din
Egypt



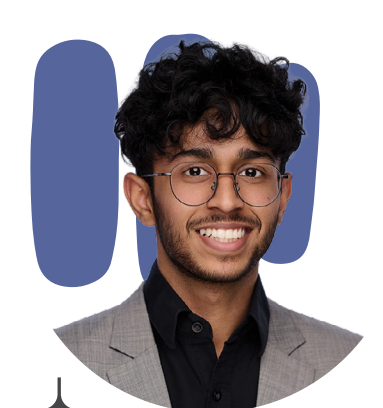
Rehnuma Taskin
Bangladesh



Renata Espinosa Gonzalez
Mexico



Riad Nassri
Syria



Uday Menon
India



Udgam Bhattarai
Nepal



Will Mekvabidze
Georgia



Yana Peeva
Bulgaria



Rocell Trinidad
Philippines



Ruxandra Burian
Romania



Saleha Firdouse
India



Salma Alsaghir
Egypt



Yara Saleem
Palestine



Yasmine Elsisy
Egypt



Youssef Andraws
Egypt



Youssef Ben Arab
Tunisia



Samira Aldybergenova
Kazakhstan



Sarah Alteneiji
UAE



Sayda Abusalih
Sudan



Sesath Udukalage
Sri Lanka



Youssef Hossam
Egypt



Youssof Saleh
Egypt



Yugmee Gidiya
India



Zayed Al-Tamimi
UAE



✦ **Zhansaya Makhambetova**
Kazakhstan



✦ **Ziad Bougerfaoui**
Morocco



✦ **Rayyan Almaazmi**
UAE



✦ **Alreem Alteneiji**
UAE

✦ **Not Shown**

- Adit Chopra (N/A)
- Arbinda Pandey (Nepal)
- Hind Aldashti (UAE) Shaikha
- Altamimi (UAE) Yernar
- Bekbash (Kazakhstan)

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عيد



✦ #NYUAD2026

Student Stories

✦ At NYU Abu Dhabi, I found more than a place to study. I found a community that profoundly shaped who I am becoming as a researcher, leader, and mentor. Within its halls and laboratories, curiosity was encouraged, collaboration was natural, and growth felt limitless.

Serving as President of the Graduate Student Council was one of the most meaningful chapters of this journey. It allowed me to work alongside students from across the world, learn from diverse leadership perspectives, and contribute to building a stronger graduate community.

Together, we created spaces where graduate students, postdocs, and researchers could connect, exchange ideas, and support one another in truly memorable moments. Watching these initiatives continue to live on today is one of the most rewarding memories of my time here, and receiving a leadership award for these efforts remains a deeply humbling reflection of the growth this institution nurtured in me.



Equally meaningful was the opportunity to pursue research on sour natural gas treatment, a challenge central to the UAE's energy landscape and one that felt personally significant to me, having been born and raised in this region. This journey expanded far beyond the laboratory as I got the chance of teaching in classrooms, mentoring more than 60 students, presenting at international conferences, and engaging with global research environments, including a research experience at Argonne National Laboratory collaborating on cutting edge research.

When I reflect on my time at NYU Abu Dhabi, I think of the people, the shared ambitions, and the moments of discovery that defined these years. It has been a chapter filled with purpose, growth, and gratitude. One that will continue to guide how I contribute, lead, and create impact in the world ahead.

✦ **SAIFELDEEN ABED ALRHMAN**

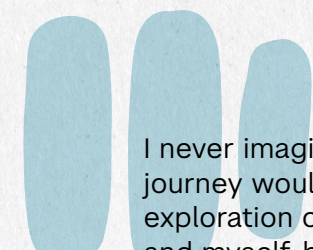
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Student Stories

✦ The most transformational years of my life

To be honest, NYUAD was never part of my plan. It was an impulsive, gut-driven decision, and I am so glad I followed that feeling. I wouldn't trade the experience this campus and its people have given me over the last four years for anything. I've met such special people I never would have crossed paths with otherwise, each one changing me slightly for the better.

The dorm functions, RealAD, D2 fried rice, and the 15+ trips across the globe, from Argentina to Georgia to Vietnam, are just a few memories I will forever hold dear.

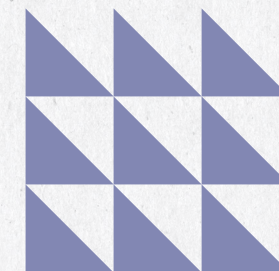


I never imagined my undergrad journey would involve so much exploration of both the world and myself, but I wouldn't have had it any other way.

NYUAD and this city have become my home, providing a sense of comfort I never even dreamed of. It was the perfect environment to grow into who I am and prepare for who I will become, surrounded by people so wonderful that I cannot imagine my life without them now.



These truly have been the most transformational years of my life, and I could not be more grateful.



✦ MISHKA PARIKH

Student Stories



One of my favorite memories from NYU Abu Dhabi was when my sister came to visit me.

I showed her everything that has quietly become part of my routine: my dorm, the academic buildings, the dining hall, even the shortcuts I take across campus. We walked around Mamsha in the evenings and just talked. It felt strange, in a good way, seeing her in the middle of a life I've built on my own.



She met my friends, and we all went out together. Watching her get along so easily with the people I spend most of my time with meant more than I expected. She tried the same food I eat almost every day and sat in the same spaces where I usually study or unwind. Seeing her step into my normal made me realize how natural this place has become for me.

For those four days, my life here and my life back home didn't feel separate. Everything felt connected and NYUAD felt even more like home.



✦ SADAF HABIB

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✦ WE LOVE NYUAD

love



✦ #NYUAD2026

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SCIENCE

WHO WE ARE



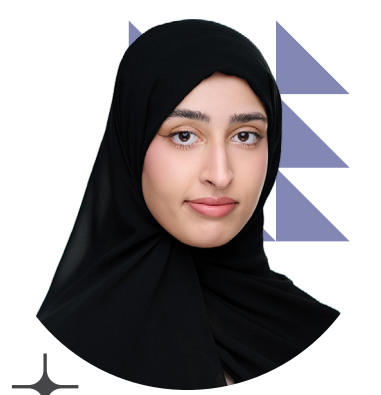
Afomia Mengistu
Ethiopia



Ahamed Foisal
Bangladesh



Ahnaf Adel
Bangladesh



Alhanooof Al Beshr
UAE



Allen Kayesu
Rwanda



Amine Tabsissi
Morocco



Amira Mustafina
Kazakhstan



Anastasiia-Lei Yang
Russia



Aabaran Paudel
Nepal



Aadim Nepal
Nepal



Aaisha Alshehhi
UAE



Aaima Rehman
USA



Aneeka Paul
India



Angela Noh
South Korea



Anubhav Shrestha
Nepal



Ari Angeles
Philippines



Abdelrahman
Mallasi
Sudan



Abdullah Othman
UAE



Abdullah Suri
Pakistan



Absera Yihunie
Ethiopia



Artem Knyazev
Kazakhstan



Aruzhan Bolatova
Kazakhstan



Arwa Alabbasi
UAE



Ashir Rashid
Pakistan



✦ BEST MEMORIES

Handwritten signature

Student Stories

✦ Dear NYUAD,

What an incredible three years it's been – I've loved every minute! From sunlit summer mornings on Saadiyat to crisp winter evenings in New York, each day felt like an invitation to learn something new. Whether it was stepping inside Google headquarters, wandering through teamLab, or getting lost in the Louvre, my classrooms extended far beyond campus and into key global cities.

I found purpose in every role I took on at NYUAD – as the Business, Organizations and Society major representative, founder of the Real Estate Student Network, Social Sciences peer tutor, AI Advisory Committee Student Government member, and more. Each experience pushed me to think bigger, question deeper, and explore the intersections of business, law, urbanization, and technology in ways that both challenged and excited me.

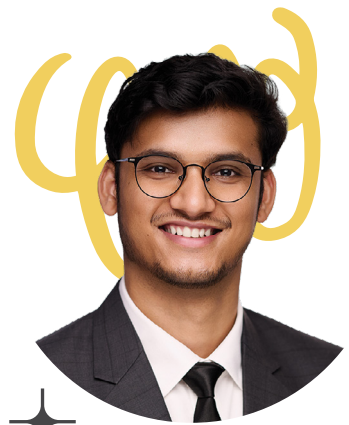


As I commuted home from campus for the last time, I noticed how much of myself I'd brought to NYUAD and how much NYUAD had left in me. Even in retrospect, I wouldn't change a thing, as all the lessons and conversations along the way have shaped who I am today: even more confident, equipped, and inspired to excel in my future career in real estate that I've been preparing for all this time.

It's so special to have a university experience like this one that makes saying goodbye so hard.

LOVE,
SOHA MULLA

Throughout this transformative journey, I'm ever grateful for my constant: my family who have supported me in every step, from helping me set up my dorm at the beginning of the year to celebrating with me when I received my grades at the end of each semester. I'm very grateful for the amazing people I met along the way: my professors and TAs who helped me reach my full potential, and my friends from all over the world who brought warm talks and endless laughter. I'm also grateful for my daily iced Spanish lattes from Marketplace that fueled my work sessions!



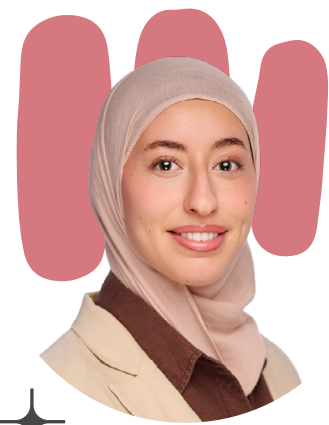
Ashok Timsina
Nepal



Asif Tauhid
Bangladesh



Asma Al Qadi
UAE



Asma Khalil
Palestine



Buka Enkhjargal
Mongolia



Caleb Mi
China



Carlota Suarez
Rochard
Venezuela



Dana Mash'Al
Palestine



Aymane Omari
Morocco



Aysa Binte Masud
Bangladesh



Ayshah Jaljuli
Jordan



Ayyub Shaffy
Sri Lanka



David Benavidez
Mexico



Dea Likaj
Albania



Deborah Sisay
Ethiopia



Dina Mobaraki
Iran



Basil Otieno
Kenya



Bereket Deneke
Ethiopia



Bimarsha Adhikari
Nepal



Bipana Bastola
Nepal



Dina Zahraa
Syria



Donat Kovacs
Hungary



Elyazia Abbas
UAE



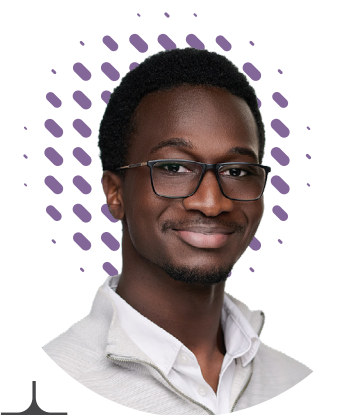
Emma Pongracova
Slovakia



Bivas Ghimire
Nepal



Blair Guo
China



Boubacar Ballo
Senegal



Brettany Gamutea
Philippines



Enock Mecheo
Kenya



Era Budjav
Mongolia



Esther Jung
Canada



Ewurabena
Boateng
Ghana

Student Stories

✦ **Nadie me quita lo bailado
(No one can take away what I have danced)**

When I first learned I could study abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, I thought: "Pinch me... I must be dreaming!" A trip to Latin America? That sounded like a post-retirement fantasy – a "one day, when I have time, money, and freedom, I'll wander wherever, however, for as long as I want" plan. And yet, somehow, that plan came true... at 20.



In Buenos Aires, we were placed with host families. Mine turned out to be Abuela (grandma) Mercedes – who, as it happened, was the daughter of an Argentinian ambassador to Poland and later to the UAE. (Isn't that a crazy coincidence?!) When I told her I wanted to become a diplomat and loved horse riding, we realized we were basically the same person, just living in different eras. As excited as we were to live together, there was one tiny caveat: I didn't speak a word of Spanish. And she – not a word of English.



A month later, I was telling my Brazilian friends about the Polish Pope and pierogi recipes – in Spanish. Two months in, I was working at the Polish Embassy, participating in meetings entirely in Spanish. Soon after, I was taking horse-riding lessons in Mendoza's high Andes, receiving instructions on how to tame over-energetic horses without being thrown off. Somewhere in the back of my mind, five-year-old Julia was watching, probably thinking: "Whoa... she's cool." And really, what more could you wish to hear from your five-year-old self?



The world became my oyster. My friends and I traveled across Brazil, Uruguay, and nearly all of Argentina. My highlight? A month-long backpacking trip through Patagonia, which began because we couldn't cross the Chilean border as the snow had trapped us in Argentina.



✦ **JULIA OLESZYNSKA**

Every journey deserves a soundtrack. If NYUAD had one, it would be *I Lived* by *OneRepublic*. Because that's exactly what I did – lived. Loved. Laughed. Fully. In a place that teaches far beyond the classroom – pushing us into the unknown, asking us to lean into discomfort. I found that real growth begins exactly where comfort ends. NYUAD made me the happiest I've ever been, with not one, not two, but five suitcases full of memories, lifelong friends, sky-high highs, stories my future kids will think make me a "cool boomer," and 600 new homes of friendship – a family that will travel with us wherever we go. And through it all, the dances no one can ever take away.



✦
**Eyerusalem
Hawoltu Afework**
Ethiopia



✦
Fady John
Egypt



✦
Faisal Mahmud
Bangladesh



✦
Farah El-Sadaany
Egypt



✦
Ikya Ekanayake
Sri Lanka



✦
Iman Lalani
Pakistan



✦
Ioane Kapanadze
Georgia



✦
**Irfan
Karukappadath**
India



✦
Farzan Ali
Pakistan



✦
Fatima Alsuwaidi
UAE



✦
Fedi Ben Othmen
Tunisia



✦
Geon Tack Lee
South Korea



✦
Irvan Chengadu
Mauritius



✦
Izah Sohail
Pakistan



✦
Jackie Zhou
China



✦
Jada Shaw
Jamaica



✦
Grace Chang
New Zealand



✦
Gunjan
India



✦
Gwen Petagra
Philippines



✦
Haad Mehboob
Pakistan



✦
Jessie Wang
China



✦
John Yun Moe
Myanmar



✦
**Josemaria Loza
Vera**
Ecuador



✦
Junyong Moon
South Korea



✦
Hamza Anver
Sri Lanka



✦
**Hariharan
Janardhanan**
India



✦
Harsh Sahu
India



✦
**Haziél de Oliveira
Soares**
Brazil



✦
Katja Cundric
Slovenia



✦
Keya Shah
India



✦
**Khaleeqa Aasiyah
Garrett**
Trinidad and Tobago



✦
Khatira Kazemi
UK

Student Stories

✦ The person I am today was built here

My time at NYU Abu Dhabi has given me a life I could never have imagined for myself. I came here inexperienced, wanting to grow, to explore, and to learn. NYUAD didn't just deliver on that. It exceeded every expectation I had and then kept going, opening doors to a life I never knew was possible.

This place sent me to the milongas of Argentina, where I learned to tango with strangers who became friends before the song even ended. It put me in the middle of Manhattan at 3am, roaming the streets with people who felt like home. It sent me to the beaches of Miami, where I still failed to get a tan. But most importantly, it introduced me to the love of my life.



✦ ERFAN NOORBAKHS NOSHARI

These aren't things you plan for. They are things that happen to you when you put yourself out there, when you surround yourself with people who want to enjoy life the way you do, which sometimes just means munching on a San Francisco from Rashid Ali at 5am.

The person I am today was built here, through the late nights, the hard conversations, the sad goodbyes, the moments of doubt, and the ones of pure, overwhelming joy, and of course, through rigorous games of Avalon with Biggie Cheese watching my every move.



And through all of it, I collected something no degree could ever capture: memories that will never fade, stories I'll be telling for the rest of my life, and friends who, over four years, quietly and completely became my family.

If I could do it all over again, I would. Every second of it.



✦
Khawla Sharaf
UAE

✦
Kian Busico
Philippines

✦
Komal Neupane
Nepal

✦
Kwaaku Boamah-Powers
Ghana

✦
Mariam Al Shamsi
UAE

✦
Matthias Kebede
USA

✦
Maureen Okine
Ghana

✦
Meher Md Saad
Bangladesh

✦
Lincoln Ahiadu
Ghana

✦
Lisa Brighenti
Italy

✦
Lisa Soloman
Ukraine

✦
Luca Sipoteanu
Romania

✦
Minseok Kim
South Korea

✦
Mishka Parikh
India

✦
Monica Jasmine Dereka Madrid
Philippines

✦
Moudjahid Nouroudini Moussa
Nigeria

✦
Luis Camacho
Mexico

✦
Lujain Elmallah
Egypt

✦
Maggie Li
China

✦
Maheen Eatazaz
Pakistan

✦
Muhammad Ali Asgar Fataymamode
Mauritius

✦
Muhammad Hamza Arshad Majeed
Pakistan

✦
Muhammad Musa Khan
Pakistan

✦
Muneeb Alvi
Pakistan

✦
Mahlet Atrsaw Andargei
Ethiopia

✦
Mahmoud Kassem
Egypt

✦
Maitha Al Neyadi
UAE

✦
Mallak Tartir
USA

✦
Nahyan Ahmed Alhosani
UAE

✦
Namu Go
South Korea

✦
Nancy Jing
China

✦
Nathan Behailu
Ethiopia

Student Stories

✦ The past four years have given me some of the greatest adventures, memories, and friendships of my life, far beyond anything I could have ever wished for. And for that, I will forever be grateful.

From Marhaba, to my first spontaneous pneumothorax in the second week of university, to engineering ethics in Jordan and visiting Petra, to Buenos Aires J-term and seeing a glacier for the first time.

From my NYC study away and my trip to California, to research opportunities in Milan and NYC, and incredible trips across the world, from Europe to Sri Lanka to Kyrgyzstan, I can only say alhamdulillah.



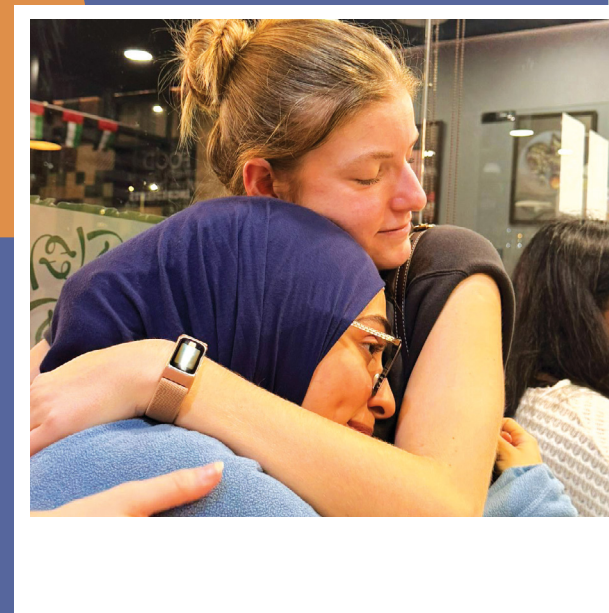
But the best part of all of this has been the people. The friends I was lucky enough to share these moments with, live with, travel with, and the football team that I had the honor of co-captaining during my senior year. You are all family now.

Three spontaneous pneumothoraxes later, a broken nose, messed-up hips and knees, and a few other things here and there, I can honestly say I wouldn't have had it any other way.



✦ **YOUSOF SALEH**

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✦ #NYUAD2026

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Naya Sewar
Syria



Naya Alafifi
Palestine



Nicolas Rios Trevino
Mexico



Nikita Gupta
India



Ritz Guan
Philippines



Rohan Sabu
India



Ronal Bista
Nepal



Rylee Rosenlieb
USA



Nikoloz Tskitishvili
Georgia



Nisa Shahid
Pakistan



Nour Bader
UAE



Nurtas Shyntas
Kazakhstan



Saarah Shaikh
USA



Sabrina Gonzalez Bustillo
Mexico



Sadaf Habib
Pakistan



Saif Khraiweh
Jordan



Omar Shehab
Egypt



Phuc Nguyen
Vietnam



Pragya Chapagain
USA



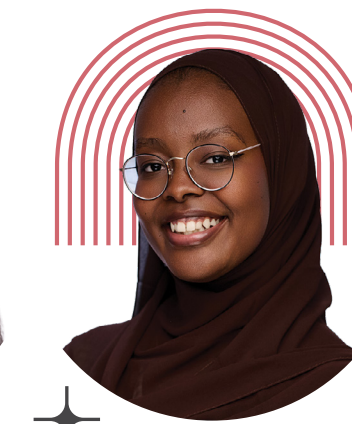
Prakrati Mamtani
India



Sami Hassan
Sudan



Sara Badar
USA



Sarah Were
Kenya



Savaiz Nazir
Pakistan



Rabeya Zahan Mily
Bangladesh



Rahma Alhashimi
UAE



Raid Zaid Duraid Thabit
USA



Reginald Appiah-Sekyere
Ghana



Savannah Vennard
Australia



Sera Curuki
Fiji



Serene Dbouk
Lebanon



Shahram Chaudhry
Pakistan



Shamsah Aldhanhani
UAE



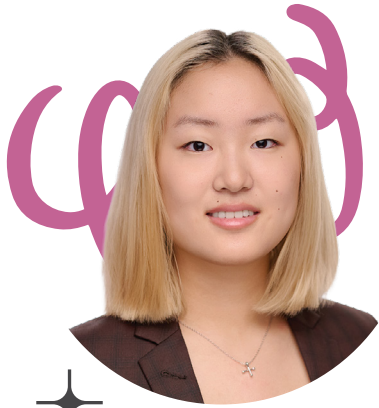
Shraddha Gagneja
India



Sindija Dicmane
Latvia



Sohaila Abdulsattar Mohammed
Egypt



Sophie Lin
China



Soyini Alexander
Jamaica



Sudarshan Jajoo
India



Sudiksha Kalepu
India



Suhana Kassam
Tanzania



Sulav G. Shrestha
Nepal



Tenuun Lkhagvadorj
Mongolia



Tewoflos Fassil Girmay
Ethiopia



Tiesta Dangwal
India



Uzair Haroon
Pakistan



Vir Malhotra
India



Yaghyesh Ghimire
Nepal



Yana Holovatska
Ukraine



Yanlin Wu
China



Yash Raj
India



Yongje Jeon
South Korea



Youssab Ibrahim
Egypt



Zainab Hsini
Morocco



Hyeseung Jeong
South Korea

✦ Not Shown

Ameena Al Mazrouei (UAE)
Apollinaria Oleinikova (Russia)
Bohdan Zlenko (USA)
Hatim Rehmanjee (Sri Lanka)
Hessa Al Ali (UAE)
Lemisa Selimi (Kosovo)
Lingfeng Ren (N/A)
Mahra AlKhouri (UAE)

Matija Susic (Montenegro)
Mohamad Altrabulsi (Syria)
Nour Elgamal (Canada)
Qixuan Bi (China)
Sasha Malik (N/A)
Shahed Khalaf (N/A)
Ziyue Tao (N/A)

Student Stories

✦ Celebrating the Ethiopian New Year

Senior year felt different. We realized it was our last year together, so we chose to make every day count. From the senior kashtah trip and the last first week of classes to celebrating the Ethiopian New Year, we made memories we'll never forget.

We traveled across the seven emirates from Abu Dhabi to Dubai, and up to Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah and every moment meant more because we were together. Even the late-night study sessions in our dorms somehow became some of our favorite memories.

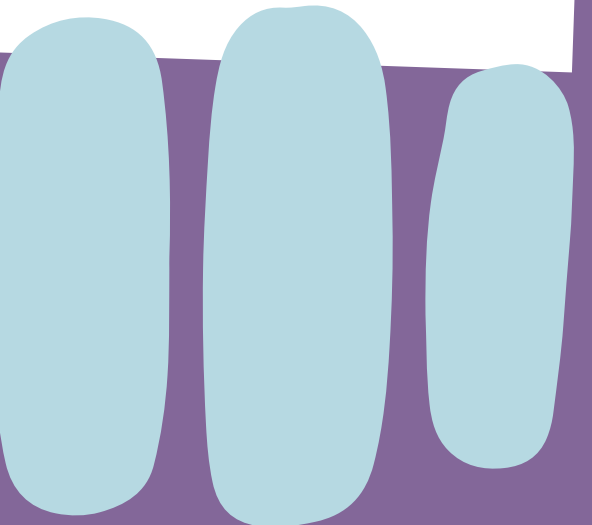


When we first arrived during Marhaba at NYU Abu Dhabi, we didn't know we would connect like this. We couldn't have imagined how close we would become. It wasn't just a school year. It was a collection of memories, friendships, and moments we'll carry with us forever.

✦ **FREWYNI, MAHLET, AND SEBRIN**



✦ WE LOVE NYUAD



✦ #NYUAD2026

M E M O R I E S

Student Stories

✦ Drinking a triple espresso

Coming to NYU Abu Dhabi felt a bit like drinking a triple espresso and trying to function on three hours of sleep. I arrived with big ambitions, a packed course load, and absolutely no idea what I was doing. Overloading for three semesters quickly taught me that lesson.

But somewhere between the chaos of assignments and late-night questioning of my life choices, things began to settle, and I finally had space to figure out who my people were. Some friendships started immediately.



I met Roudha in the lobby of our residential building during freshman year, and within minutes we were already grabbing snacks together before we even knew each other's last names.

Others took longer to form. One of my now closest friends, Rawan, drifted into my life through mutual friends, and eventually we discovered we shared the exact same sense of humor. Now the three of us go on our pre-Taraweeh coffee runs, go to the gym together, and call each other "fashfusha" - weak, in Syrian Arabic - while pretending we're bodybuilders and then analyzing the most absurd relationship drama around campus.



Other friendships were forged through survival. Foundations of Science was three semesters of some of the toughest classes I've taken, and the friends who sat beside me through it all became the kind of people you only bond with that closely after surviving a bit of shared trauma together.

Then there's Naya, a Syrian biology major, and probably the person most similar to me at NYUAD. After taking many of the same classes together, we now find ourselves attempting the next step of the journey side by side as we both work toward medical school.

Some of my favorite memories happened outside the classroom: celebrating UAE National Day in the palms with Ameena and Arwa, having long conversations about everything and nothing, and standing on a race podium with my track teammates Mariam and Aya after one of the most exhilarating races I've run.



By senior year, it felt like all of these moments came together. One of my favorite photos is a group picture we took right after finishing our senior portraits, standing by the palm trees at the center of campus. It perfectly captured what NYUAD has meant to me, not just the classes or the milestones, but the people who made the experience unforgettable.

✦ DINA ZAHRAA

SOCIAL SCIENCE

WHO WE ARE



Abdulla AlAli
UAE



Afra Al Mansoori
UAE



Afra Alhammadi
UAE



Afra Alshehhi
UAE



Ahad Kushal
Bangladesh



Aisha Al Mulla
UAE



Aisha AlAli
UAE



Aisha Almheiri
UAE



Alejandra Perez
Spain



Alya Al Shehhi
UAE



Ambeta Teqja
Albania



Amer AlZarouni
UAE



Amna Albahar
UAE



Andreja Zivkovic
Montenegro



Arham Ahmed
Pakistan



Aryam Alhosani
UAE



Asma AlMannaee
UAE



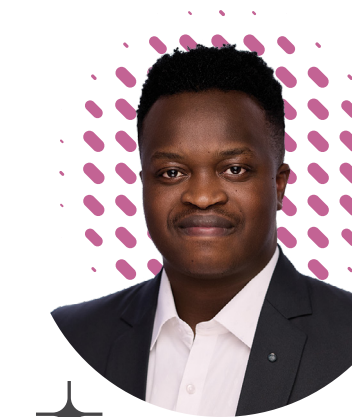
Athba Omar
Alghurair
UAE



Aysha AlMheiri
UAE



Azamat
Tursuntoshev
Uzbekistan



Bedan Maiywa
Kenya



Cecilia Wang
China



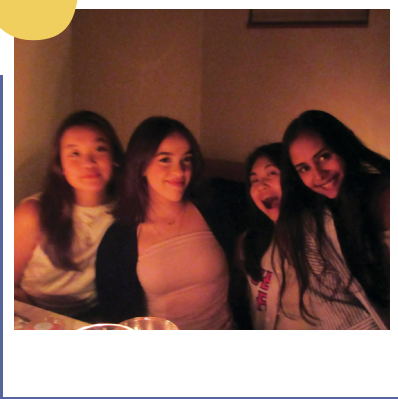
Chaea Lee
Philippines



Chelsea Hoang
UK

MEMORIES

BEST MEMORIES



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Chelsea Wang
China



Christos Manesiotis
Greece



Danial Zhanbyrshy
Kazakhstan



Danny Lee
South Korea



Fifa Hajji
Morocco



Hallelujah Abe
Ethiopia



Hamad Al Zaabi
UAE



Hamad Alharthi
UAE



Dhwani Agarwal
India



Diana Alibekova
Kazakhstan



Dilnur Yermukanova
Kazakhstan



Ekram Mohammed
Ethiopia



Hamd Akmal
Pakistan



Harsh Kapoor
India



Haya Arabi-Katbi
Jordan



Heesung Hwang
South Korea



Emily Yuan
USA



Eunbom Jo
South Korea



Farangiz Babajanova
Turkmenistan



Fatima Alameri
UAE



Hessa Alzaabi
UAE



Hoor Ahli
UAE



Hyun Na
South Korea



Ioanna Kontogianni
Greece



Fatima Alawlaqi
UAE



Fatima Mohammed Almheiri
UAE



Fatima Alsheryani
UAE



Felipe da Costa Queiroz
Brazil



Izza Tirmizi
USA



Jack Ma
China



Jacob Getty
Israel



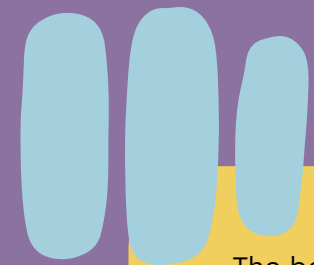
Jahan Farjana
Bangladesh

Student Stories

✦ A girl who is truly the epitome of the beauty

My mother told me that when she chose my name, there wasn't much meaning behind it, other than how pretty it sounded. After one library room study session with a girl I didn't know at the time, I found the meaning behind my name in Reem Albastaki. A girl who is truly the epitome of the beauty her name connotes gave me a friendship that movies fail to recreate.

She was my comfort zone in the constant changes NYUAD took us through. From experiencing a Holi celebration together in our London study away semester, to her visiting New York to see me when we were separated, we experienced everything this university had to offer together, even when we were physically apart.

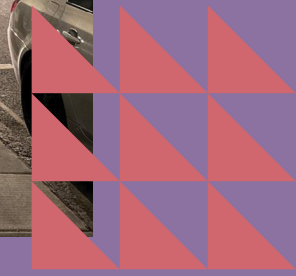


The best thing this university has taught me is how deeply rewarding friendship can be, and the best thing it has given me is her. I see a reflection of our friendship all around campus in the connections we've all made with each other.

We've all created a community and family that I'm so proud to always belong to!



✦ REEM ALHOSANI





Jana Mohsen
Bahrain



Jia Xi Zhang
China



Joshua Clarke
Ghana



Josie Zhao
China



Lujza Reova
Slovakia



Magdalena
Blykosz
Poland



Maha Rashid
Pakistan



Maitha Alblooshi
UAE



Julia Oleszynska
Poland



Julie Beaulieu
Canada



Kamila
Baimakhanova
Kazakhstan



Karen Hannoush
Jordan



Maitha Alriyami
UAE



Maitha Alshamsi
UAE



Malavika Rajesh
India



Malika Khakimova
Uzbekistan



Kelvin Mungai
Kenya



Khaled Al
Sheryani
UAE



Khalid Alhaj
UAE



Khulan
Tserenmyagmar
Mongolia



Mana Iketani
Japan



Manahil Faisal
Pakistan



Mariam Al Dhaheri
UAE



Mariam Al Hashmi
UAE



Khusanboy
Kotibjonov
Uzbekistan



Lakshya Bhanot
India



Lateefa Alkhamisi
UAE



Leonardo Jesus
Brazil



Mariam Al
Mazrouei
UAE



Mariam Al Otaiba
UAE



Mariam Alhosani
UAE



Marija Janeva
North Macedonia

Student Stories

✦ A huge sense of belonging

In my first year, I remember thinking about my upcoming four years as a blank canvas that's waiting to be painted. Little did I know that those years would produce such a beautiful and intricate picture.

When I first arrived on campus, I was so afraid of painting the canvas because I did not know what should go on it. Over time, the blank canvas slowly began to fill itself with moments: late nights going out for karak or trips to Denny's, staying up in the lounges studying together, complaining about stressful deadlines, practicing for Diwali dances, spontaneous outings to Mamsha, and the countless small interactions with people that slowly turned classmates into my lifelong friends whom I call my family.



Studying away added new colors to that canvas. New York, for me, was bright yellow, the color of excitement and pure happiness. It felt like my own literal utopia, a city where everything moved quickly and every corner held something new to discover. What made it even more special was that I didn't experience it alone; my family was there with me, making the city feel both exhilarating and comforting at the same time.



London, on the other hand, felt red. Maybe it was the red buses and phone booths that colored my memories of the city, but it was also the warmth of the experience itself. There was something chaotic but also charming about learning to navigate the Tube and getting lost in quiet streets. Just walking around the city made me appreciate it so much.

Looking back now, the canvas that once seemed empty is filled with memories and relationships that will stay with me long after graduation. What began as four unknown years became a journey that shaped who I am today and gave me a huge sense of belonging.



✦ WAJD ASHIRA



Mateja Damchevski
North Macedonia



Meera Al Qubaisi
UAE



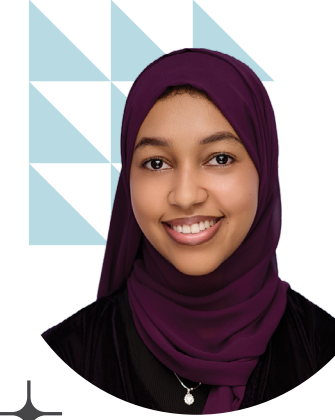
Meera Almarzooqi
UAE



Meera Alremeithi
UAE



Mukhamed Sagyntaiuly
Kazakhstan



Muna Ahmed
Ethiopia



Munira Abdul-Nasir
Ghana



Mustafa Aqeel
Pakistan



Megi Tarughishvili
Georgia



Mehraneh Saffari Anaraki
Iran



Merna Elrakkad
Egypt



Merwan Ibrahim
Sudan



Nada Al Mosheky
USA



Nada Alwahedi
UAE



Nadia Chan
Malaysia



Nayla Tozin
UAE



Milos Vojinovic
Montenegro



Minahil Shahid
Pakistan



Minseo Kim
South Korea



Mohamed Hassan
UAE



Noor Amiri
UAE



Noora Al Khaled
UAE



Noora Alsuwaidi
UAE



Nowsheen Fatema
Bangladesh



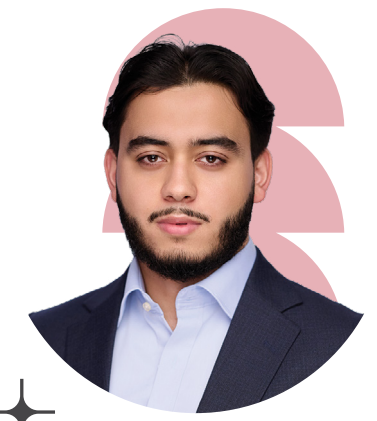
Mohammed Awal Ibrahim
Ghana



Mouad Kouttroub
Morocco



Mubadir Zaman
Pakistan



Muhammad Etimov
Tajikistan



Obaid Jaber Al Marri
UAE



Osman Idris Zeinu
Ethiopia



Payton Reynolds
USA



Rayanne Nayfeh
USA

Student Stories

✦ These memories, they will be with me for the rest of my life

The version of home I will miss most has a half-open door, laughter spilling into the hallway, and friends who never really had to knock. Some of my favorite NYUAD memories live inside that room.

From the outside, my dorm probably looked a little messy, but to me, it was sacred. It was where we sang karaoke like nobody could hear us (sorry to my RA), played charades until we were crying from laughter, and argued way too seriously about who the imposter was.



It was Galentine's nights, Secret Santa gifts, hot chocolate, and random food experiments that were either unexpectedly amazing or completely tragic. And then there were the days beyond the room.

Trips that started as group chats and turned into adventures, sunsets, and new streets we learned to pronounce together, and the months of living abroad that taught us that home had stopped being a location.

NYUAD gave me classrooms and opportunities and challenges that shaped me. But the people gave me the comfort of being seen without having to explain yourself, the safety of laughing until you cry and crying until you laugh, and the quiet assurance of always having people in your corner.



✦ REEM ALBASTAKI

As graduation approaches, there's a kind of heartbreak in realizing how quickly time can move. I don't want this chapter to end, but I also know that what we made here doesn't belong to one campus. These people, these memories, these lessons, they're not staying behind in a dorm room or in a photo spread, they will be with me for the rest of my life. And how lucky does that make me?



Reem AlBastaki
UAE



Reina Makarem
Lebanon



Revathi Angajan
South Africa



Rishika Panda
India



Shamma Alkhoori
UAE



Shamsa Alsaeedi
UAE



Shayma Alshehhi
UAE



Sibel Hadzimusovic
Bosnia and Herzegovina



Sabik Hasan
Bangladesh



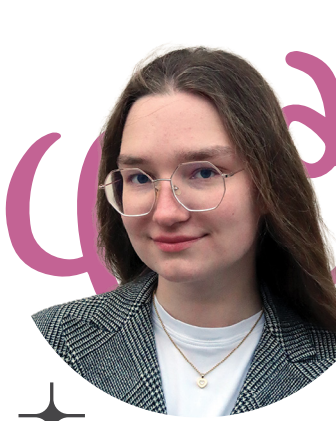
Salma Al-Imam
USA



Sameer Kamran
Pakistan



Samuel Legissa
Ethiopia



Sofya Trifonova
Russia



Soha Mulla
India



Sophiya Paudel
Nepal



Sredha Nair
India



Sarah Mukeshimana
Rwanda



Sayzana Gashaw
Ethiopia



Sebastian Paz
Bolivia



Sebrin Abdu
Ethiopia



Sumit Mainali
Nepal



Syeda Tahiyat Ahmed
Bangladesh



Tahsin Mohammad
Bangladesh



Tarek Baraki
UAE



Shaima Alsaeedi
UAE



Shajee'ah Ramjaun
Mauritius



Shamma Albreiki
UAE



Shamma Aldhaheri
UAE



Victoria Wang
China



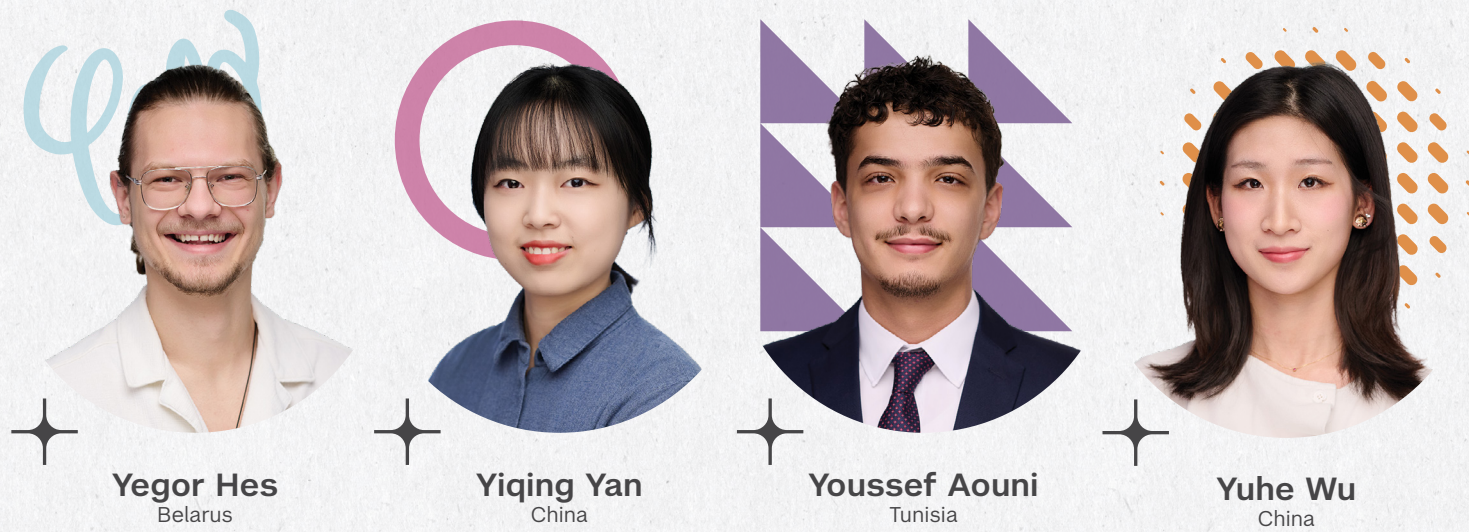
Wajd Ashira
Syria



Wakyl Jankeepersand
Mauritius



Yara Alkhalifa
Saudi Arabia



Yegor Hes
Belarus

Yiqing Yan
China

Youssef Aouni
Tunisia

Yuhe Wu
China



Zam Paragas
Philippines

Zareth Ramos
Mexico

Shaikha Alzaabi
UAE

Joe Manyalla
Tanzania

Not Shown

Abdulmalek Alhakem (UAE)
Ahmad Hijazi (UAE)
Ahmed Alzarouni (UAE)
Ali Tamer (Egypt)
Chris Kacso-Sandru (Romania)
Duc Le (N/A)
Fadel Alshamsi (UAE)
Fatima Khizar (Pakistan)
Hanin Al Hinai (UAE)
Jennifer Ralison (N/A)

Mariam Aljneibi (UAE)
Matthew Abate (USA)
Maysoon Alshamsi (UAE)
Meera AlShami (UAE)
Minjae Kim (South Korea)
Nathan Jacob (India)
Noora Almheiri (UAE) Roudha
Almarzooqi (UAE) Ryunosuke
Hashimoto (Japan)

Saif Al Shurafa (Palestine)
Salama Mallalla Alameri (UAE)
Samad Farhat (USA)
Sara Al Suwaidi (UAE)
Sara Sanad (UAE)
Shaikha Alhosani (UAE)
Simon Ji (N/A)
Suhaila Alfalahi (UAE)
Tamirlan Meiram (Kazakhstan)

Student Stories



After missing six flights in a row trying to get back from Istanbul, I had more than enough time to rethink my life decisions.

Four years with people I do not call friends, but family. Five continents later, I realized I have always been someone who says yes. Yes to people, yes to places, yes to last-minute flights, and yes to ideas that sounded insane, but somehow became the moments worth living for. Somewhere along the way, my camera roll turned into a 100,000-picture archive of a life I never planned, but somehow built.



I bonded with people who taught me their cultures. Cities that humbled me. Moments that felt ordinary until they stayed with me for years. And somewhere between airports, classrooms, and conversations that went deeper than they were supposed to, I learned that life is always bigger than whatever we think we understand.

I made it on the seventh flight.

PIERRE MAGED

S
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MASTERS

WHO WE ARE



Almaha Jaralla
UAE



Maha Alasaker
Kuwait



Nour Elbery
Egypt



Shaima Shamsi
Bahrain



Tooba Shahbaz
Shaikh
Pakistan



Yuehan Dai
China

Student Stories

When I was five years old, I told my mom that I wanted to be an artist who lived on a farm. She laughed. But here I am, 18 years later, with a degree in the arts, a passion for documentary filmmaking, and a keen interest in sustainable food systems. It's weird how dreams actually come true with a bit of communication skills, a lot of hard work, and just the right amount of luck. I'm just simply so grateful that my luck led me here, halfway across the globe.

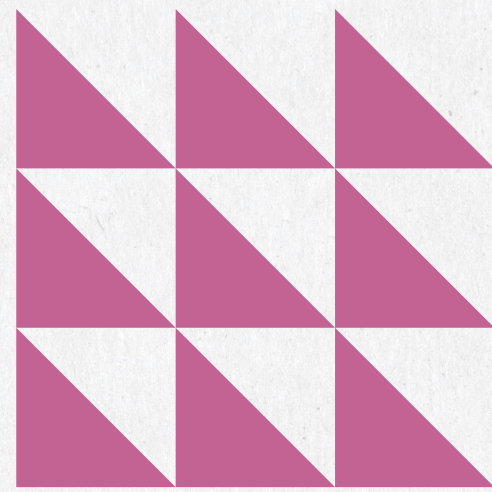
Coming from a tiny town, I never knew what opportunities might be available to me, but I always had a hunger to push things further and further. NYU Abu Dhabi offered me the opportunity to build my filmmaking skills from zero, make lifelong friends, push my boundaries, challenge my perspectives, and create what I didn't think possible.



SOPHIE PFISTERER

Between learning from historical sites like Qasr Al Hosn, working with the men from an Afghan bakery to make a film, interviewing the heads of the Mormon church, navigating Mussafah, going parasailing, partying on a few yachts, trying out countless restaurants, practically melting as we ran around the city on 12-hour film shoots, learning to wear a hijab, discovering my favourite farm cafe, kayaking, climbing, traveling, attending screenings and performances, cultivating relationships with various filmmakers, shopkeepers, and doctors, as well as swimming in any obscure location I could find, I wouldn't give up my experience in Abu Dhabi for anything.

PhDs



Abdulrahman Jaber
Syria



Aktham Alchaar
Syria



Fayrouz Abou Ibrahim
Lebanon



Hiba Aljayyousi
Jordan



Massinissa Merouani
Algeria



Ola Ghassan El Khatib
Lebanon



Saifeldeen Abed Alrhman
Jordan



Salmane Naoumi
Morocco



Semih Sonkor
Türkiye

Not Shown

- Akhileswar Chowdary Gaddam (India)
- Nuha Salem (Palestine)
- Sara Khaled (Egypt)

Student Stories

Late night hotpot and more...

I am sitting in the hotel as I write this. It has been exactly one week that the campus has been shifted to a hotel due to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. I had planned a lot for this final semester, but shelter-in-place alerts and moving into a hotel with friends was definitely not on the list.



But I believe God is the best of planners and hence amid all this I found myself to be deeply grateful. This unexpected turn of events made me grateful for my friends, for my time at NYUAD and for all the memories that I made along the way. Just like many others, I too was very excited for our Commencement and the events leading up to it but with the looming uncertainty it's hard to tell what the future holds. I hope we can all come back together on campus once again, have late-night runs to hotpot with my friends and just hang out on the Highline and in the palms.

NEWSHEEN FATEMA



Student Stories

✦ Bagel Tuesdays

In the midst of the busy streets of New York City, quiet moments of comfort were hard to come by. One of my most cherished memories from my time at NYUAD was "Bagel Tuesdays" at 19WSN, NYU Abu Dhabi's headquarters in NYC. It was a simple tradition, but one that became deeply meaningful to me.

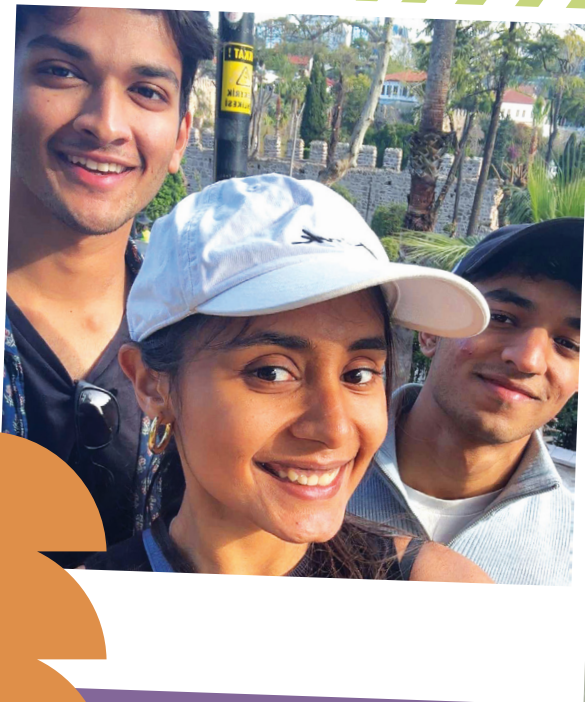


As I moved through the fast pace of the city, I often found myself keeping to my own world, walking through the crowds with music in my ears. Yet the moment I entered the NYUAD hub, that feeling would shift completely. Suddenly, everything felt familiar again.



Seeing my friends, reconnecting with classmates, and gathering over bagels and spreads created a sense of warmth and belonging that reminded me of Abu Dhabi. In those moments, it felt as though distance disappeared, and as if we had never left home at all.

✦ HAYA ARABI-KATBI



#NYUAD2026

Student Stories



NYU Abu Dhabi has transformed me in more ways than one. In my first year, there were moments when I wondered whether I truly fit in. But over time, through shared meals, long conversations, and the everyday rhythm of campus life, I found my people – friends who stayed through difficult moments, helped me work through challenges, and listened without judgment. Those friendships became one of the most meaningful parts of my experience here.



As I grew more comfortable in the community around me, I also began to understand my own path more clearly. I have always wanted to build technology that helps people who are often overlooked, and my time at NYUAD gave me the knowledge and space to pursue that goal. The opportunities to travel to New York, Paris, Italy, and Madrid also allowed me to encounter new perspectives and ideas that shaped the way I think about the world and myself.



Looking back, I realize my time here was never about having everything figured out. It was about discovering my path step by step, building friendships that feel like family, and learning to trust that my journey will unfold in its own time. Wherever I go next, I will carry the resilience and confidence that NYUAD helped me build.

ANEKA PAUL

Student Stories

✦ My journey to Dharavi, Mumbai, the largest slum in the world, was nothing short of transformative. As part of the Engineers for Social Impact trip, we pushed our engineering skills and critical thinking beyond the classroom, turning ideas into real, lasting change.



From reimagining a customs house into a shared community space to designing solar-powered lighting for the streets, every project we touched came to life in ways I'll never forget. It was an honorable and deeply humbling experience that showed me the true impact of purposeful work.



I'm incredibly grateful to Carol Brandt, Matt Karau, and Prince Annor for their guidance, and to my amazing teammates who made every moment meaningful. This experience will forever remain one of the defining highlights of my journey at NYUAD – I'll truly miss the people, the memories, and the passion we shared.



✦ MARAM ABDELFATTAH

WELCOME TO THE NYUAD ALUMNI COMMUNITY

You leave Saadiyat not only as graduates, but as lifelong members of the NYU Abu Dhabi Alumni community, a close-knit group of over 4,000 alumni across more than 80 countries.

As you move forward, you carry the spirit of NYUAD with you: bold, curious, and committed to shaping a better world. You also carry the experience of a truly global education, shaped by the people you met and the memories you made.

You have been part of a community that came together in challenging circumstances with care, generosity, and strength. The resilience you have shown, and the way you have supported one another, will stay with you wherever your path leads.

As an NYUAD alumnus, you share a bond with fellow alumni from New York to Shanghai, London, Florence, Accra, and beyond - and most defining of all, with each other in Abu Dhabi. This is something special. Together, we form a powerful global community, with each of you leveraging your world-class education to drive positive change wherever you are.

✦ Keeping You Connected



Your connection to NYUAD doesn't end here. The NYU Alumni Association (NYUAA) brings together more than 700,000 alumni worldwide and is here to keep you engaged wherever life takes you. Our Alumni Relations team, NYU Clubs, and regional volunteers host events around the globe, bringing the NYU spirit to wherever you are.

In moments of distance, connection matters more than ever, and we look forward to continuing the relationships you built here in the years ahead.

We would love to stay connected as you begin this next chapter - through alumni gatherings, reunions, volunteering opportunities, and much more. Wherever you go, you will always have a home in the NYUAD family.



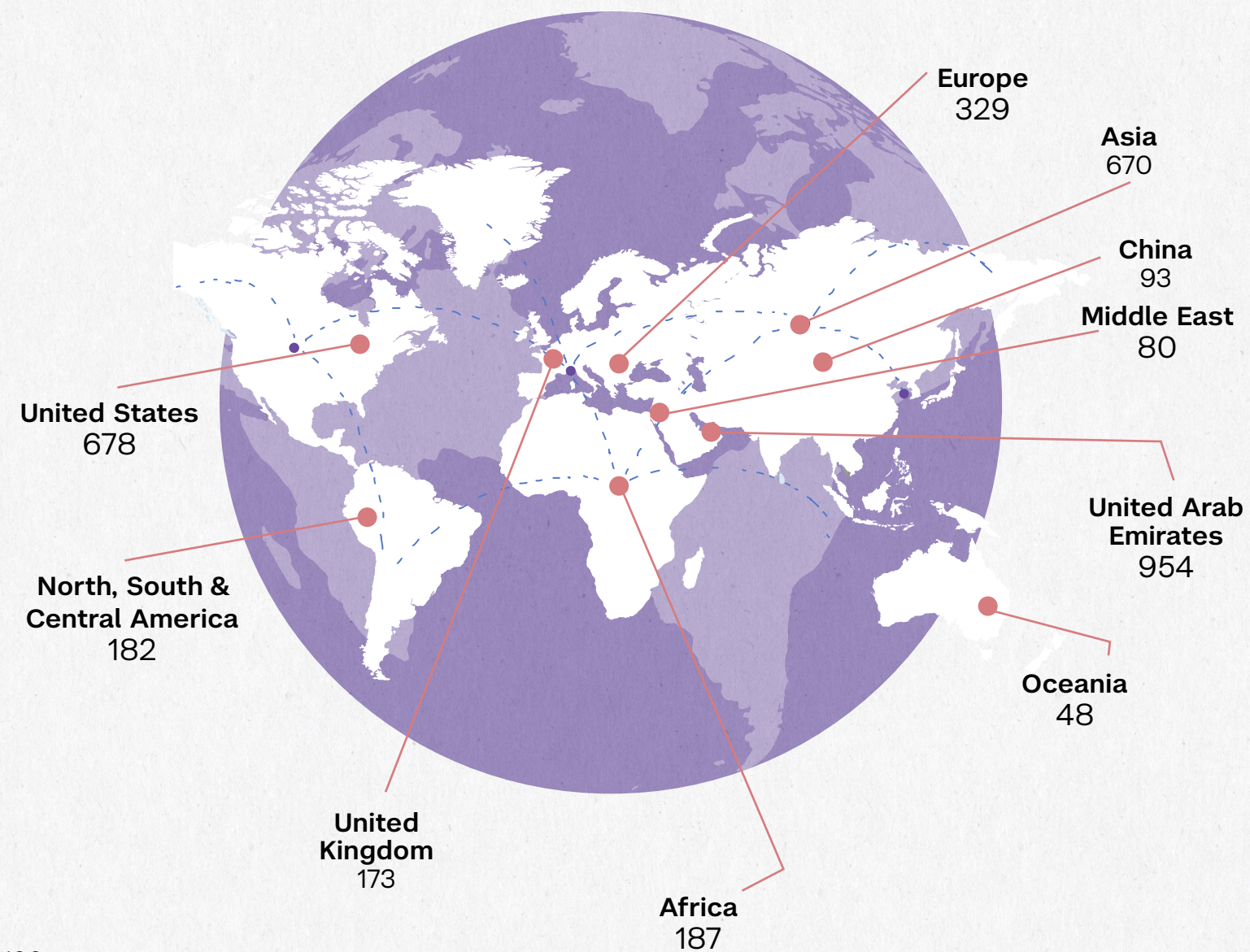
✦ nyuad.alumni@nyu.edu

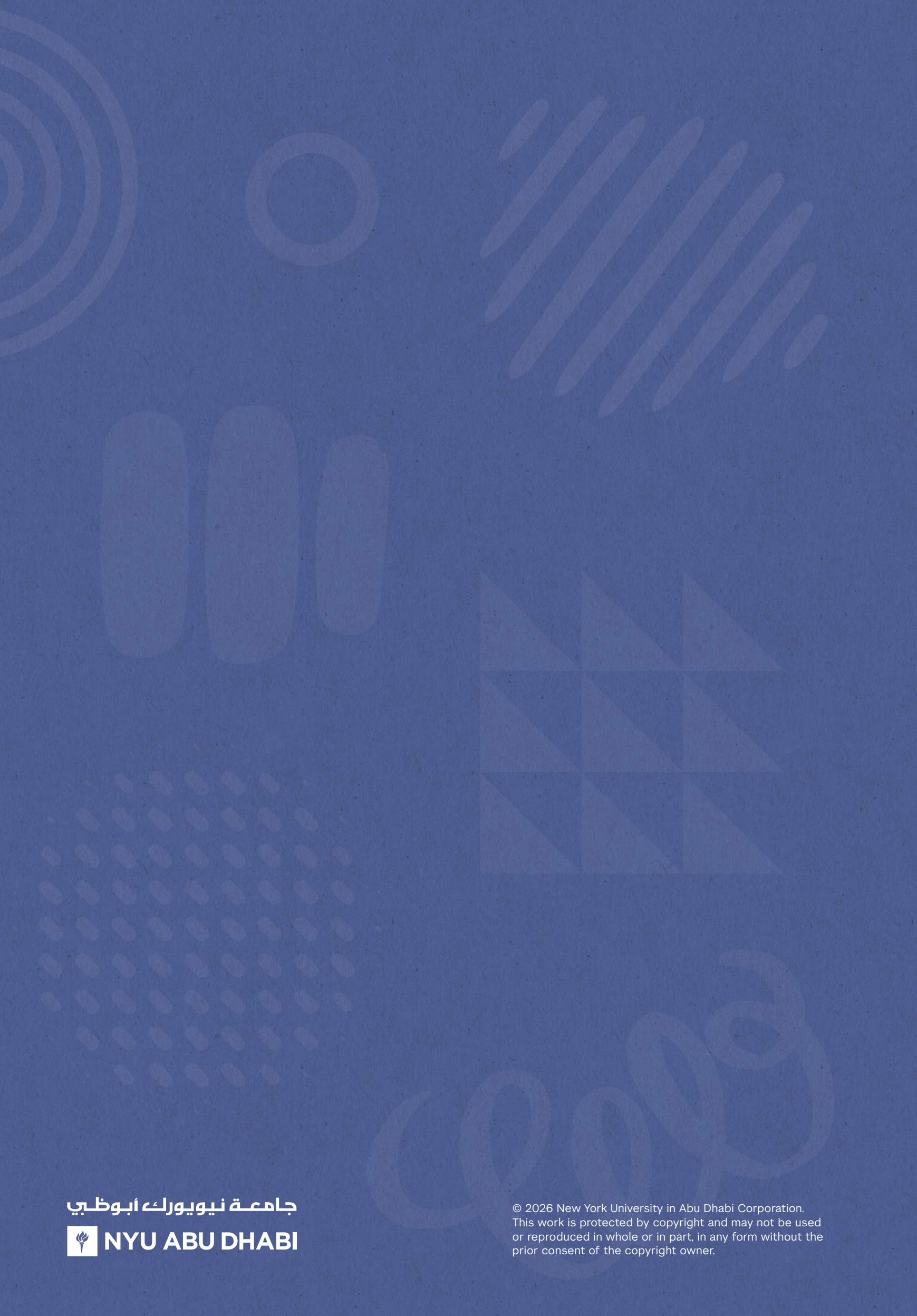
Welcome to the next chapter - your journey with the NYUAD alumni family is just beginning!

YOUR GLOBAL ALUMNI COMMUNITY



✦ Number of alumni in each country/region





جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU ABU DHABI

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