LIFE BEYOND SAADIYAT
CLASS OF 2016

NYU ABU DHABI CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER
YOU HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO BE AN ADVOCATE FOR THE VALUES YOU’VE EMBRACED HERE. THE VERY SAME VALUES THAT WILL MOVE THE WORLD FORWARD: INNOVATIVE THINKING, TOLERANCE, RESPECT FOR OTHERS, HOSPITALITY, A CULTURE OF HOPE. IF YOU HELP BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE BASED ON THESE PRINCIPLES, YOU WILL LEAD THE WORLD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. MORE THAN THAT, YOU WILL WRITE THE NEXT GREAT CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR.

HIS EXCELLENCY YOUSEF AL OTAIBA
United Arab Emirates Ambassador to the United States
Class of 2016 Keynote Graduation Speaker
This report includes NYUAD graduates from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Placement data is self-reported. Figures in this report are rounded to the nearest whole number; therefore, totals do not always equal 100%.

### Class Profile

**By Major and Demographics**

46% **Social Science**
- Economics
- Social Research and Public Policy
- Political Science

24% **Arts and Humanities**
- Arab Crossroads Studies
- Film and New Media
- History
- Literature
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theater
- Visual Arts

22% **Science**
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

8% **Engineering**
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

51 Languages Spoken

56% Female
44% Male

62 Countries Represented

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**Sara Bahermez**

"NYUAD gave me a strong and vibrant foundation. I look forward to using my higher education and Fulbright experience to be an active participant in the transformative economy and ever-growing global culture in the UAE."

**Current Role:** Fulbright Foreign Student Scholar, MFA Student, Theater, Towson University

**Baltimore, Maryland, United States**

**Major:** Theater, Economics

**Home Region:** Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
We make our own opportunities. We should never expect success to be handed to us—hustling to find new opportunities and aggressively pursuing them is essential. Whatever successes I’ve had have come from failing many other times.

The project taught Louis that meaningful interactions with local people is the best way to truly appreciate complex global problems. “It is impossible to understand any issue without understanding how it affects those who are living it most deeply.” The trip also prepared him for a longer exploration: he plans to travel from Europe to South Africa by bike to interview and photograph people in order to understand their everyday efforts to adapt to climate change.

LOUIS PLOTTEL
CURRENT ROLE:
Traveler, Magazine Editor
Vancouver, Canada
MAJOR:
Arab Crossroads Studies
HOME REGION:
Vancouver, Canada

This desire to jump into difference was cultivated at NYUAD and gave him the confidence to pursue projects that are beyond the ordinary. “NYUAD gave me a small taste of the diversity of the globe, and how to approach it with an open heart and investigative mind.”

MORGANTE PELL

CURRENT ROLE:
Founder, Gandalf Software Engineering
New York, New York, United States
MAJOR:
Computer Science
HOME REGION:
Hinesburg, Vermont, United States

Louis decided to take a road less traveled and instead of starting a career or continuing his studies, he decided to go exploring. After graduation, he commenced a journey around the Perigord region of France in a horse-drawn carriage, visiting prehistoric caves, meeting with farmers and artists in the region, and practicing a traveling artistic project aimed at addressing the relationships between humans, animals, and nature.

The trip also prepared him for a longer exploration: he plans to travel from Europe to South Africa by bike to interview and photograph people in order to understand their everyday efforts to adapt to climate change.

LOUIS PLOTTEL
CURRENT ROLE:
Traveler, Magazine Editor
Vancouver, Canada
MAJOR:
Arab Crossroads Studies
HOME REGION:
Vancouver, Canada

Both his travels around Perigord and his transcontinental journey by bike are aimed at deeply acquainting himself with new people and places.
ABDULLAH I. MAHOMED

Internships, out-of-class interactions, and extracurricular activities were the most valuable part of my university experience. Volunteering at remote villages in Sri Lanka and Ethiopia, co-founding and leading Student Interest Groups, being a resident assistant, and interacting with students from different backgrounds are experiences that shaped who I am and how I act in the workplace today.

CURRENT ROLE: Consultant, Monitor Deloitte
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering
HOME REGION: Durban, South Africa

FIRST DESTINATIONS
CLASS OF 2016

As of December 31, 2016

92% PLACEMENT

56% Employed
8% Seeking or Undecided
9% Volunteer or Gap Year
27% Graduate School and Continuing Studies

BY DIVISION

ARTS AND HUMANITIES

ENGINEERING

SCIENCE

SOCIAL SCIENCE

53% 53% 52% 64%
27% 27% 29% 24%
20% 20% 19% 12%

*As of December 31, 2016
WHERE DID THEY GO?

TOP DESTINATION COUNTRIES

- United Arab Emirates: 26%
- United States: 19%
- United Kingdom: 7%
- Canada: 6%
- China: 5%
- Other: 37%

34 different post-grad country destinations

65% are not in their home country
Dora is studying at the intersection of biological sciences and technology. While majoring in biology, flexible programming at NYUAD allowed her to pursue interests in technology through various hackathons, spending time in the Engineering Design Studio, and starting the student group weSTEM (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). She credits the curriculum of study that gave her “the ability to quickly adapt to new environments and grasp new ideas,” as well as developing her curiosity and pushing her to face new challenges in and out of the classroom. These skills are helping her succeed in her master’s course of study, Human Computer Interaction and Design at the European Institute of Innovation and Technology in Stockholm, Sweden, where she is constantly assessing people’s wants and needs in order to design better technological solutions for their problems. It is exciting to think about how you can take all the amazing experiences and knowledge you gained during the four years with you to create value and impact wherever you are going next.

Dora Palfi

CURRENT ROLE: Master’s Student, Human Computer Interaction, European Institute of Innovation and Technology
Stockholm, Sweden

MAJOR: Biology
HOME REGION: Budapest, Hungary

“I am now transitioning from a consumer to a producer of knowledge, and this new path really excites me. The stimulating yet forgiving environment that I am in allows me to explore new ideas without fear.”

Hee Eun Kwon

CURRENT ROLE: PhD Student, Sociology, University of California, San Diego
San Diego, California, United States

MAJOR: Social Research and Public Policy
HOME REGION: Seoul, Republic of Korea
My degree prepared me for both the academic rigor and the social challenge of an MBA. The liberal arts education and my major equipped me with the tools I need to succeed. My experiences studying abroad and living in a diverse community taught me how to adapt to changing situations and build valuable relationships with individuals.
OSAMA MOHAMMAD ALI SALMAN

The quality of teaching and the caliber of my student peers at NYUAD enhanced my ability to think analytically. Travel, relationships with professors, and the friendships I made, were my most meaningful takeaways from NYUAD, a truly unique community.

CURRENT ROLE:
Senior Status Law Student, University of Cambridge
Cambridge, United Kingdom

MAJOR:
Political Science, Social Research and Public Policy

HOME REGION:
Essex, United Kingdom

GRADUATE SCHOOL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

BY DEGREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Average (Percentile)</th>
<th>Max (Percentile)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRE Verbal</td>
<td>162 (90)</td>
<td>170 (99)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE Quantitative</td>
<td>162 (83)</td>
<td>170 (97)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCAT</td>
<td>512 (88)</td>
<td>520 (98)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSAT</td>
<td>163 (88)</td>
<td>174 (99)</td>
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15 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF ENROLLMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Countries</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>United Kingdom</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>China</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Netherlands</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td></td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>6%</td>
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AVERAGE TEST SCORES
With semesters in Madrid and New York, and classes in Florence and Shanghai, Tessa has been all over the map both literally and academically. She started her first year immersed in science courses, but discovered quickly that it was not the path for her. So she turned her focus toward the social sciences. Studying economics and psychology allowed her to examine how people think, act, and make decisions, which has been hugely important for her current work. “Learning the behavioral side of economic theory helped me understand the crucial linkage between business processes and humans.” Understanding this linkage has allowed Tessa to excel as she navigates client relations and aims to improve business processes as a business analyst at Partners in Performance in Sydney, Australia.

It was the environment and support at NYUAD that allowed her to get to where she is today. “I’ll never forget what it was like to go through so many realizations and emotions and learnings in a single day, to be in one language one moment and another the next, one meeting of deep practical importance in the morning and then some kind of completely and delightfully abstract philosophical conversation that same night. I will never forget the people who became my second family and made me realize in large part who I am and where I am comfortable.”

Down the road, Tessa plans on getting her doctorate after gaining more work experience.

TESSA AYSON
CURRENT ROLE: Business Analyst, Partners in Performance Sydney, Australia
MAJOR: Economics, Psychology
HOME REGION: Auckland, New Zealand
I’ve always had a passion for development work. Seeing my efforts make a positive impact on the community gives my work purpose. I choose to engage in projects that I know have and drive values aligned with my own.

CURRENT ROLE: Management Trainee, Republic Cement Services  
Makati, Philippines  
MAJOR: Economics, Political Science  
HOME REGION: Quezon City, Philippines
# NKOS’KHONA MSIMANGA

"I have been working on team projects for the past four years. NYUAD has given me the ability to listen to my coworkers’ ideas and work on tasks effectively, and engineering classes enhanced my problem solving skills."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CURRENT ROLE: Field Engineer, Judlau Contracting New York, New York, United States MAJOR: Mechanical Engineering HOME REGION: Bulawayo, Zimbabwe</th>
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## EMPLOYMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEAN ANNUAL BASE SALARY (AED)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>330K</strong> North America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>185K</strong> Western Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>130K</strong> Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>80K</strong> Eastern Europe &amp; Central Asia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Graduates in these regions did not report salary and/or are not employed.</em></td>
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| DATA NOT ADJUSTED FOR COST OF LIVING DIFFERENCES. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>TOP COUNTRIES</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United Arab Emirates 40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States 12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom 7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>China 6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea 4%</td>
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## CAREER PREPARATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>80% HELD AT LEAST ONE INTERNSHIP</th>
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<tr>
<td>INTERNSHIPS HELD OVER FOUR YEARS</td>
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<tr>
<td>250+</td>
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| 38% PREVIOUSLY INTERNE AT THEIR COMPANY |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMPLOYMENT MEAN ANNUAL BASE SALARY (AED)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>110K</strong> Latin America &amp; Caribbean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>140K</strong> East Asia &amp; Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>n/a</em> South Asia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **n/a** Sub-Saharan Africa |

| **130K** Middle East & North Africa |

| **80K** Eastern Europe & Central Asia |

| DATA NOT ADJUSTED FOR COST OF LIVING DIFFERENCES. |
Being an entrepreneur is about the journey, not the destination. You get to become a better person every day thanks to circumstances that constantly test your limits, but at the end of the day you get to harvest the fruits of your labor.

CURRENT ROLE:
Co-founder and CEO, VUL9 Security Solutions | Managing Associate, eSquare Middle East | Co-founder, Editor in Chief, Gulf Elite Magazine
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

MAJOR:
Economics

HOME REGION:
Rabat, Morocco
GLOBAL AWARDS
CLASS OF 2016

RHODES SCHOLAR

FARAH SHAMOUT
" Studying at the University of Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar will provide me with the opportunity to further grow as a cosmopolitan leader and return to the UAE with the vision to develop health informatics.
CURRENT ROLE: UAE Rhodes Scholar, Master’s Student, Engineering Science, University of Oxford
OXFORD, UNITED KINGDOM
MAJOR: Computer Engineering
HOME REGION: Amman, Jordan

YENCHING SCHOLAR

VERONICA HOUK
" I hope to use my Mandarin and China studies knowledge to support critical attention on the country’s artists and promote greater appreciation for artists of diverse and underrepresented backgrounds.
CURRENT ROLE: Yenching Scholar, Master’s Student, China Studies, Peking University
BEIJING, CHINA
MAJOR: Literature
HOME REGION: New York, New York, United States

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

ZOË HU
" The Literature and Creative Writing program transformed my outlook, my ways of thinking, and my understanding of the core questions that undergird the human experience.
CURRENT ROLE: US Student Fulbright Study Grant Scholar to Morocco Affiliated with Al Akhawayn University
CASABLANCA, MOROCCO
MAJOR: Literature
HOME REGION: San Diego, California, United States

SAMIA AHMED
CURRENT ROLE: US Student Fulbright Study Grant Scholar, Master’s Student, Religious Studies, McGill University
MONTREAL, CANADA
MAJOR: Political Science
HOME REGION: Somerset, New Jersey, United States

CENTER FOR ARABIC STUDY ABROAD SCHOLAR

EMMA LEATHLEY
CURRENT ROLE: Center for Arabic Study Abroad Scholar, Qasid Arabic Institute
AMMAN, JORDAN
MAJOR: Arab Crossroads Studies
HOME REGION: Castro Valley, California, United States
INSPIRE.
Share your story. Reveal career possibilities. Host a site visit at your organization.

EMPOWER.
Build understanding about your industry. Pass on skills through a workshop or training session. Bridge the gap between academics and work.

CONNECT.
Join our career fairs. Raise your campus profile with a presentation or coffee chat. Engage students at our events.

RECRUIT.
Post an opportunity. Interview on campus. Hire students for internships and full-time jobs.

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