



NYU Abu Dhabi Backgrounder

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



NYU Abu Dhabi

Established in partnership between New York University (NYU) and the emirate of Abu Dhabi, NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD) has assembled over the past decade a remarkable community of scholars, students, researchers, artists, inventors, and others who have contributed to the growth of the UAE's capital as a global hub of knowledge and culture, while establishing a new model of higher education for today's complex world.

NYU Abu Dhabi, which welcomed its inaugural class in 2010, was founded upon a shared understanding of the essential roles and challenges of higher education in the 21st century. Shared principles include:

- a common belief in the value of a liberal arts education;
- concurrence on the benefits a research university brings to the society that sustains it;
- A conviction that interaction with new ideas and people who are different is valuable and necessary;
- and a commitment to educating students who are true citizens of the world.

A Global University

NYU in New York, NYU Abu Dhabi, and NYU Shanghai form the backbone of NYU's global network of degree-granting campuses and academic centers across six continents that enable seamless international mobility of students and faculty in their pursuit of academic and scholarly activity. The first of its kind, this global university represents a transformative shift in higher education, one in which the intellectual and creative endeavors of academia are shaped and examined through an international and multicultural perspective. Designed to draw the most talented and creative students and faculty from around the world, it enables those students and faculty to circulate throughout the network while retaining access to the University's intellectual community and resources.

NYU Abu Dhabi's international composition, rigorous academic program, innovative research capacity, and location at the crossroads of the Arab world creates valuable opportunities for faculty and students across the global network to engage in academic dialogue in the Middle East and beyond.

Leadership

NYU Abu Dhabi – a portal campus of New York University, which is led by President Andrew Hamilton – is headed by Vice Chancellor Mariët Westermann. Westermann joined NYU Abu Dhabi from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation where she served as Executive Vice President. She is also the former provost of NYU Abu Dhabi, former director of NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, and an art historian. Westermann joined NYU Abu Dhabi in August 2019.

Academics

NYU Abu Dhabi is a degree-granting research university with a fully integrated liberal arts and science undergraduate program in the Arts and Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences, and Engineering.

NYU Abu Dhabi offers 25 majors across the Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Engineering. Students must complete the requirements of a major, which vary. Students declare a major by the end of their second year, however, some majors have requirements beginning in the first year. Majors include:

1. Arab Crossroads
2. Art and Art History
3. Bioengineering
4. Biology
5. Chemistry
6. Civil Engineering

7. Computer Engineering
8. Computer Science
9. Economics
10. Electrical Engineering
11. Film and New Media
12. General Engineering
13. History
14. Interactive Media
15. Legal Studies
16. Literature and Creative Writing
17. Mathematics
18. Mechanical Engineering
19. Music
20. Philosophy
21. Physics
22. Political Science
23. Psychology
24. Social Research and Public Policy
25. Theater

NYU Abu Dhabi's Core Curriculum forms the heart of our mission to provide an international student body with an outstanding, expansive education. The Core draws on the diversity and cultural wealth of the world's traditions and spans the content and methodologies of 21st-century disciplines across the Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Science, and Social Science. It offers Core Competencies that will help graduates address major global challenges, including the pursuit of equality, justice, peace, health, sustainability, and a rich understanding of humanity.

Graduating students complete a Capstone project during their final year. It is a year-long individual or group endeavor that aims at a significant piece of research or creative work — a historical narrative, musical composition, performance, invention, documented experiment, scholarly thesis, or other form appropriate to each student's goals. Unlike other courses in which faculty establish the structure and set assignments, the Capstone project puts the student in charge and challenges him or her to enter unmapped terrain.

NYU Abu Dhabi also offers 11 Global PhD Student Fellowships in collaboration with [Graduate School of Arts and Science](#) at NYU New York and [NYU Tandon School of Engineering](#).

The University also recently launched two new, full-time master's programs in Economics and Fine Arts. The first accredited Master of Science in Economics in the UAE offers students a blend of theoretical and quantitative analytical modules, enabling them to learn how to analyze complex data and solve economic problems, as well as apply economic theory and quantitative techniques to understand key economic issues. The Master of Fine Arts in Art and Media program, a first in the UAE, aims to attract promising, creative talent looking to thrive in a studio-based learning environment. Over time, the institution will offer additional graduate degree-granting and professional programs.

Research

More than a decade ago, NYUAD opened with an ambitious vision to be one of the world's great research universities addressing complex challenges of local and global significance. Since then, the University has established more than 80 faculty labs and projects, and 16 distinctive research centers led by accomplished

thought leaders. Researchers, scholars, writers, and artists at NYUAD have produced over 5,000 internationally-recognized academic papers, articles, books, and created and directed more than 450 creative works.

Cross-pollination of ideas and investment in state-of-the-art research technologies are key to NYUAD's continued growth across key interdisciplinary research areas including bio-innovation and health, cities, culture and heritage, environmental sustainability, and governance and peace.

Student Life

NYUAD students are drawn from the world's best. In just over ten years, NYUAD has grown to an undergraduate population of some 1,600 students from over 115 countries and speaking more than 115 languages, and a graduate population of more than 100. In time, this will grow to roughly 2,200 undergraduates and approximately 600 graduate students.

Students attending NYU Abu Dhabi are opened up to a world of new opportunities to learn and grow not only in the classroom but also by exploring their own interests within the UAE landscape and community. Students participate in a range of on-campus events from arts and culture activities, to professional development opportunities, in addition to off-campus opportunities from attending major festivals and celebrations to volunteering or interning with local or international organizations.

Public Programming

NYU Abu Dhabi Institute

Established in 2008, the NYU Abu Dhabi Institute is a center of advanced research, scholarly, and creative activity for Abu Dhabi, the UAE, and the world. Its academic conferences serve as a scholarly platform for NYU Abu Dhabi faculty, and faculty across the global network, to discuss and showcase their innovative research and creative activity. Its diverse public program of talks, panel discussions, film screenings, and exhibitions feature scholars, researchers, policymakers, and thought leaders who present topics of local and global significance. From its inception, The Institute has welcomed over 72,000 attendees to more than 800 academic conferences and public programs featuring more than 800 speakers.

The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi

Since opening in 2015, The Arts Center has hosted nearly 500 performances by more than 1,450 artists representing over 50 countries, which attracted over 105,000 attendees as of December 2020. The Arts Center also has commissioned 22 new performances, many of which have toured the globe, and organized more than 700 community and university engagement and educational events for over 11,000 participants.

The NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery

Since opening in 2014, The Art Gallery has hosted 12 landmark exhibitions at its main space, presented more than 70 community-based exhibitions at its auxiliary venue The Project Space, produced six book publications, published nine youth guides commissioned from local artists, mounted eight Christo and Jeanne-Claude awards, and organized over 130 public programs.

Sadiyat Campus

NYU Abu Dhabi's campus is located in the Marina District of Saadiyat Island. The pedestrian campus consists of state-of-the-art classrooms, library, and information technology facilities; laboratories; academic buildings; student residences; faculty and residential housing; and athletic and performance facilities. Designed by Rafael Viñoly Architects PC, NYU Abu Dhabi's Saadiyat Campus combines traditional and modern architectural elements to reflect the University's three identities: Abu Dhabi, New York, and the world. The campus covers nearly 40 acres and promotes interaction between living and learning, research and teaching, and the disciplines, as well as faculty, students, and staff. In addition to serving the needs of the NYU Abu Dhabi community, the campus also offers a number of public spaces, including world-class theater and performance halls, an art gallery, a conference center, and various retail offerings.