

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



# NYU Abu Dhabi Backgrounder

## **NYU Abu Dhabi Backgrounder**

As a major intellectual hub at the crossroads of the Middle East, NYU Abu Dhabi serves as a center for scholarly thought, advanced research, and knowledge creation and exchange through its academic, research, and creative activities. NYU Abu Dhabi, which welcomed its inaugural class in 2010, was established in partnership with NYU and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi and 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 endeavours 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 Alfred Bloom, who oversees all academic, administrative, and operational affairs. He joined NYU Abu Dhabi from Swarthmore College, after an 18-year tenure as president. He graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University in 1967. He received his PhD from Harvard University in 1974, and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Richmond and Swarthmore College.

### **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. Over time, the institution will also offer graduate degree-granting and professional programs.

NYU Abu Dhabi offers 22 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 / BA
2. Art and Art History / BA
3. Biology / BS
4. Chemistry / BS
5. Civil Engineering / BS
6. Computer Engineering / BS
7. Computer Science / BS
8. Economics / BA
9. Electrical Engineering / BS
10. Film and New Media / BA
11. General Engineering / BS
12. History / BA
13. Literature and Creative Writing / BA
14. Mathematics / BS
15. Mechanical Engineering / BS
16. Music / BA
17. Philosophy / BA
18. Physics / BS
19. Political Science / BA
20. Psychology / BA
21. Social Research and Public Policy / BA
22. Theater / BA

Graduating students complete a Capstone project during their final year. It is a year-long individual or group endeavour 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.

### **Student Life**

NYU Abu Dhabi currently has a student body of some 1,200 undergraduate students, hailing from over 115 countries and speaking more than 115 languages. In time this will grow to roughly 2,200 undergraduates. 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.

### **Saadiyat 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.

## **Public Programming**

### **NYU Abu Dhabi Institute**

The NYU Abu Dhabi Institute hosts academic conferences, workshops, lectures, film series, performances, and other public programs directed both to local audiences and to the worldwide academic and research communities. It is a center of advanced research, scholarly and creative activity for Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, and the Gulf, bringing together academics, students, professionals, and leaders from around the world.

### **The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi**

Presenting music, theater, dance, film, family, and interdisciplinary performances that defy definition, The Arts Center at NYU Abu Dhabi is an internationally renowned performing arts center that presents distinguished professional artists from around the world alongside student, faculty, and community productions. The Arts Center draws on the resources of NYU Abu Dhabi to create a dynamic space for research, investigation, and the active pursuit of knowledge and wisdom for audiences as well as visiting artists.

### **NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery**

The NYU Abu Dhabi Art Gallery is an academic museum-gallery that presents work by internationally-established artists, curators, and scholars, to serve the intellectual and creative dialogue among the university and wider communities, via topics of international significance. The platform supports scholarly and experimental installations, artists' projects, guest curators, and landmark exhibitions, with an emphasis on projects that engage the uniquely non-commercial, experimental, and scholarly role of a University.