

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 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 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.

It was announced last year that Bloom will step down from the position of Vice Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi in August 2019. Mariet Westermann -- Executive Vice President of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, former provost of NYU Abu Dhabi, former director of NYU's Institute of Fine Arts, and art historian -- will take up the role of Vice Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi effective August 1, 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 24 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. Biology
4. Chemistry
5. Civil Engineering

6. Computer Engineering
7. Computer Science
8. Economics
9. Electrical Engineering
10. Film and New Media
11. General Engineering
12. History
13. Interactive Media
14. Legal Studies
15. Literature and Creative Writing
16. Mathematics
17. Mechanical Engineering
18. Music
19. Philosophy
20. Physics
21. Political Science
22. Psychology
23. Social Research and Public Policy
24. 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 10 Global PhD Student Fellowships in collaboration with Graduate School of Arts and Science at NYU New York and NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Over time, the institution will offer additional graduate degree-granting and professional programs.

### **Research**

NYU Abu Dhabi is pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge through innovative research that responds to vital local and global challenges. Research spans the disciplines to address questions that are important for humanity: rising sea levels, changing weather patterns, growing cities, a global economy, and critical public health issues, such as incidences of diabetes and heart disease in the UAE and the spread of malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. Researchers from NYU Abu Dhabi's four academic divisions and at the NYU Abu Dhabi Research Institute have propelled the University to the forefront of 21st century research in the UAE and Middle East region.

NYU Abu Dhabi has more than 80 designated labs, centers, and projects — many are multidisciplinary in line with the institution's vision to be one of the world's great research universities that addresses complex challenges of global significance.

## **Student Life**

NYU Abu Dhabi currently has a student body of some 1,350 undergraduate students, hailing from over 120 countries and speaking more than 120 languages. In time, this will grow to roughly 2,200 undergraduates and approximately 600 graduate students (currently there are over 60 PhD students enrolled).

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, policy makers, and thought leaders who present topics of local and global significance. From its inception, The Institute has hosted more than 700 academic conferences and public events and welcomed over 700 speakers 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 NYUAD 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 regional relevance and international significance. The Gallery and its projects serve as a catalyst and locus of intellectual and creative activity through multiple venues and projects. The main gallery is a teaching museum, connecting the curriculum and the public. The Project Space is an exhibition laboratory for community artists. Collectively these two spaces, the new Reading Room, the annual Christo Award, the Campus Collection, and a series of original publications catalyze regional and international dialogue.

## **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.