APPLICATION PACKET

Dear Students and University Administrators:

Thank you for your interest in the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP). This application packet contains important information for students and university administrators regarding:

- The SMSP selection process
- Instructions for submitting an application for nomination to the SMSP
- Submission deadlines

Please read the information carefully. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the SMSP staff or your university's SMSP administrator.

Povashni Naidu, Assistant Manager for Programming and Strategy, NYUAD Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Community Programs: nyuad-smsp@nyu.edu or 02 628 4885

Noura Al Nuaimi, **Naser Al Kaabi**, and **Bakheeta Al Mansoori**, Higher Colleges of Technology Administrators: hct-smsp@hct.ac.ae

Rana Al Katheeri, United Arab Emirates University Administrator: SMSP@uaeu.ac.ae

Thamna Alrashdi, Zayed University Administrators: SMSP@zu.ac.ae

Sincerely,
The SMSP Team

INTRODUCTION TO THE SMSP SELECTION PROCESS

Students typically apply to SMSP during their 2nd or 3rd years of study. To apply to the program, students must meet the following criteria:
- Students must have completed 4 Fall/Spring semesters by the time the Program starts in September 2024. Students may apply during their 4th semester
- When the program starts in September 2024, students must be enrolled at their home university
- Once students submit their applications, only those chosen for nomination by the home universities will be reviewed by the SMSP Selection Committee. Only completed applications will be considered

SMSP does not have a minimum required GPA or IELTS/TOEFL exam score; candidates, however, are expected to:
- Be top students with noted intellectual curiosity and a record of accomplishment
- Possess excellent English language competency
- Have outstanding interpersonal skills and be eager to contribute to the class
- Be creative or have other special talents or gifts
- Demonstrate leadership potential
- Be enterprising and demonstrate a spirit of adventure and flexibility

To be a Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholar, applicants must successfully complete a highly selective Selection Process comprising three phases: The Application and Nomination Stage, The Finalist Stage, and Selection Days.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program
Application Packet
Class of 2024-2025
As of 17 November 2023

PHASE 1: APPLICATION AND NOMINATION STAGE

The SMSP does not accept applications directly from students. Instead, there is a two-step process:

- Interested students submit their completed applications to their designated university administrator via the NYU application system by the specified deadline (please see information below for each university)
- Each of the three universities reviews all of the submitted applications and nominates twenty complete and exceptional applications to the SMSP Office at NYU Abu Dhabi no later than <u>Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 10:00 AM</u>.

NOTE: A nomination is not complete unless all documents are received by the deadline.

Application and Submission Instructions

- **Higher Colleges of Technology Students**
  - Deadline for application submission: <u>Monday, March 4th, 2024</u>
  - Please consult with Noura Al Nuaimi, Naser Al Kaabi, and Bakheeta Al Mansoori at hct-smsp@hct.ac.ae about your application
  - Please submit completed applications via this link

- **United Arab Emirates University Students**
  - Deadline for application submission: <u>Monday, March 4th, 2024</u>
  - Please consult with Rana Al Katheeri at SMSP@uaeu.ac.ae about your application
  - Please submit completed applications via this link

- **Zayed University Students**
  - Deadline for application submission: <u>Monday, March 4th, 2024</u>
  - Please consult with Thamna Alrashdi at SMSP@zu.ac.ae about your application
  - Please submit completed applications via this link

PHASE 2: FINALIST STAGE

The SMSP Selection Committee reviews all nominated applications and selects up to 36 finalists from the 60 nominees. These finalists will be invited to participate in the final stage of the selection process - Selection Days. Finalists will be announced in mid-April 2024.

PHASE 3: SELECTION DAYS

Finalists will be invited to participate in Selection Days - a rigorous national competition during the week of May 6th, 2024. At this event, finalists will undergo a combination of individual and small group interviews with distinguished judges from across the NYU community, a group problem-solving exercise, a writing exercise, and informal interactions with the judges.

Only the most meritorious of the finalists - up to 24 - will be selected as Scholars. The announcement for next year's class of Scholars will be made in the summer. The Program begins in early September 2024.

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Students and university administrators must ensure that all applications are complete by the noted deadlines.

NOTE: A nomination is not complete unless all documents are received by the deadline.

Below is a checklist of all documents required from the students by Monday, March 4th, 2024:

1. Biographical Information - text entry
2. Student/Parent Consent Form - upload
3. CV or Resume - upload
4. Why SMSP? - text entry
5. Personal Essay - text entry
6. Academic Project - upload and text entry
7. Video - upload
8. Copy of your Passport - upload
9. Copy of your Emirates ID - upload
10. Official Academic Transcript (unofficial school transcripts will not be accepted) - upload
11. Two Faculty Letters of Recommendation - text entry

Once applications are submitted, university administrators must complete the following by Monday, March 18th, 2024, at 10:00 AM:

1. Review all submitted applications and nominate twenty complete and exceptional applications to the SMSP Office
2. Provide a certification that all twenty students are of good academic standing at the university

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Fill out your biographical information on the application, including your contact and address information, academic history, and emergency contact information.

2. STUDENT/PARENT CONSENT FORM

Upload a signed consent form (available for download on the application), certifying the following:

I certify that the information I have attached to this application is complete and correct and that the personal statement and project description have been written by me alone. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be cause for denying consideration for, or acceptance into, The Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program ("the Program.") I understand that any items submitted to the Program in conjunction with my candidacy become the sole property of the Program and will not be returned.

I understand that the Program reserves the right to deny consideration or acceptance to anyone whom it considers not sufficiently qualified and to require withdrawal of any student at any time for any reason, including scholarship, character, attendance, and/or personal conduct.

My family and I understand that this is a mixed-gender program.

I understand that the Program may include a chaperoned international trip during the academic year and I have my family's approval to attend. To facilitate my participation in the trip, I understand that it is my responsibility to apply for the appropriate visa. The Program reserves the right to cancel the trip.

I certify that I have read the "SMSP Guidelines and General Agreement" that is available on the Program's website and that I fully understand its content, and that, if selected, I will sign this document as an indication of my readiness to participate fully in the Program for 2024-2025.

I certify that I have shared all of this information with my parents and/or guardians, and that I sign this Student/Parent Consent Form with their full knowledge and agreement. My parent/guardian's signature appears below.

_____

Student Name (Please print)   Signature   Date

_____

Parent/Guardian Name (Please print)   Signature   Date

3. CV OR RESUME

Upload your CV or resume, which must include the following sections:

1. Heading
   Name, address including P.O. Box (now through August 2024), mobile number, and email address

2. Education
   Major(s) and degree(s) obtained (with dates) and sought (with expected date of graduation)

3. Activities
   Relevant university co-curricular, extracurricular, and other activities (with dates)

4. Work Experience
   Volunteer and/or work experience (with dates)

5. Honors and Awards
   Honors, scholarships, awards, publications, leadership accomplishments, and/or creative works (with dates)

6. Other Relevant Skills or Interests
   Hobbies, experience with travel abroad, etc.

4. WHY SMSP?

Submit your response to the following: Why did you choose to apply to the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program and how will the program support your academic and career goals? 250 - 300 words.

5. PERSONAL ESSAY

Submit your response to the following: Identity can refer to a multitude of roles we play in our lives - from our age, religion, and nationality to our hobbies, interests, and goals. Tell us about an identity you possess as it relates to the issues you are committed to and/or to your academic and career goals. 250 - 300 words.

6. ACADEMIC PROJECT

Submit the following:
1. Upload a piece of academic writing or undertaking that has been submitted to and graded by a university professor. This could be an essay, article, report, research project, presentation, portfolio, or anything similar created in an academic setting while at your home institution. We accept submissions that contain your professor's grades or feedback, but do not require it.
2. In addition, submit a description of this academic writing or undertaking, summarizing the work that you contributed, your learnings from this project, and why this project was important to you. 250 - 300 words.

7. VIDEO

Upload a video highlighting an aspect of your resume or application that you feel showcases your passions, goals, or accomplishments. This must include video and audio. 60 - 90 seconds.

8. OFFICIAL ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT

Upload an official and certified transcript that is clear and entirely visible. The transcript must show that you will have completed 4 Fall/Spring semesters by the time the Program starts in September 2024. You may apply during your 4th semester.

9. TWO FACULTY LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Submit details for two faculty letters of recommendation. The following is an example of the information that will be requested from your faculty. To submit their letter, faculty will receive a link from the NYU application system once you enter their details.

Student's Name:
University:
Major:
Recommender's Name:
Position:

The above-named student is applying for acceptance to the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP) for the coming Academic Year 2024-2025. The SMSP is a specially designed program by New York University and New York University Abu Dhabi in conjunction with the Government of Abu Dhabi to offer exceptional university students, in their third or fourth year of a bachelor's program in one of the three national universities in the UAE, an outstanding academic, cross-cultural and leadership development experience. The program offers the following opportunities and benefits:

- One of two academic core courses taught by NYU faculty and instructors. Each course includes an international travel component that enriches and builds upon the topic of the course, leading students to develop global and international perspectives on critical issues of our time.
- What Makes a Leader course
- Public Speaking and Public Presentations course
- Critical Thinking and Persuasive Writing course
- Cross-cultural experiences with students from throughout NYU's Global Network University
- Roundtable meetings with global leaders from around the world
- Advice and counseling on graduate education options and admissions processes

Scholars will be expected to complete all their coursework, including extensive readings, regular essay assignments, class participation, and team projects as assigned. Overall, the work is demanding and rigorous.

Scholars should:
- Be top students with noted intellectual curiosity and a record of accomplishment
- Possess excellent English language competency
- Have outstanding interpersonal skills and be eager to contribute to the class
- Be creative or have other special talents or gifts
- Demonstrate leadership potential
- Be enterprising and demonstrate a spirit of adventure and flexibility

Please complete all parts of this recommendation as outlined below:

1. <u>WRITTEN NARRATIVE:</u> Please answer the following questions in an attached letter about this student:
   a. How long and in what context do you know this candidate?
   b. What are this candidate's outstanding achievements, talents, and skills? Please be specific in your description.
   c. Student's level of motivation and determination.
   d. In what areas does the candidate need to grow and improve?

2. <u>QUANTITATIVE EVALUATION:</u> Please assess the candidate's ability in each category below:

	Below Average	Average	Good	Very Good	Superior	Unable to Judge
Analytic ability	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Leadership skills	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Creativity	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Ability to work in different situations and groups	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Positive social interaction with peers	1	2	3	4	5	NA

TECHNICAL GUIDE

Welcome to our friendly how-to page to help answer your frequently asked questions about the application and new student process. Below you'll find a guide to the application process (activating your Net ID, accessing your application, and accessing your admissions decision).

How do I log into my application?
Students who begin a multi-step application like SMSP will receive an email titled "[Program Name] Next Steps!" This email will contain your login information for the application login page. You will be provided a temporary PIN to complete the login process. After you have logged in, you will be able to continue your application.

How do I activate my Net ID?
One of the first steps of setting up your account with NYU begins with the instruction of setting up your Net ID. In your "Your NYU ID Numbers and Status Page" communication, you should have received information about your Net ID and N#.

You'll need to activate your NYU NetID and create your password by following the instructions on the NYU Start Page. If your NYU account was activated previously, you may reset your password (if needed) by clicking Reset Password on the NYU Start Page. If you cannot initially activate your credentials, we ask you to try again after 24 hours have passed. Below you'll see a short clip of how to enter your N# and birthdate to activate your Net ID.

Please note: the N# and birthdate entered below are for test purposes only. Your N# should be in the "Your NYU ID Numbers and Status Page" communication, and you should use your real birthdate.

How do I log into my Slate status page?
Logging into your slate status page is easy! Simply login to the applicant portal using your Net ID and password that you created previously. Once you have logged in, select the application that you wish to review. On your status page, you'll be able to see pending items or if your application is complete. For those who have had their applications reviewed, you will see an update to your application that indicates a decision.