

# LIFE BEYOND SAADIYAT CLASS OF 2016



جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



CAREER  
DEVELOPMENT  
CENTER

LIFE  
BEYOND

SAADIYAT

CLASS OF 2016

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي

 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

# CLASS PROFILE

## BY MAJOR AND DEMOGRAPHICS

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%.

### 46% SOCIAL SCIENCE

- Economics
- Social Research and Public Policy
- Political Science

### 24% ARTS AND HUMANITIES

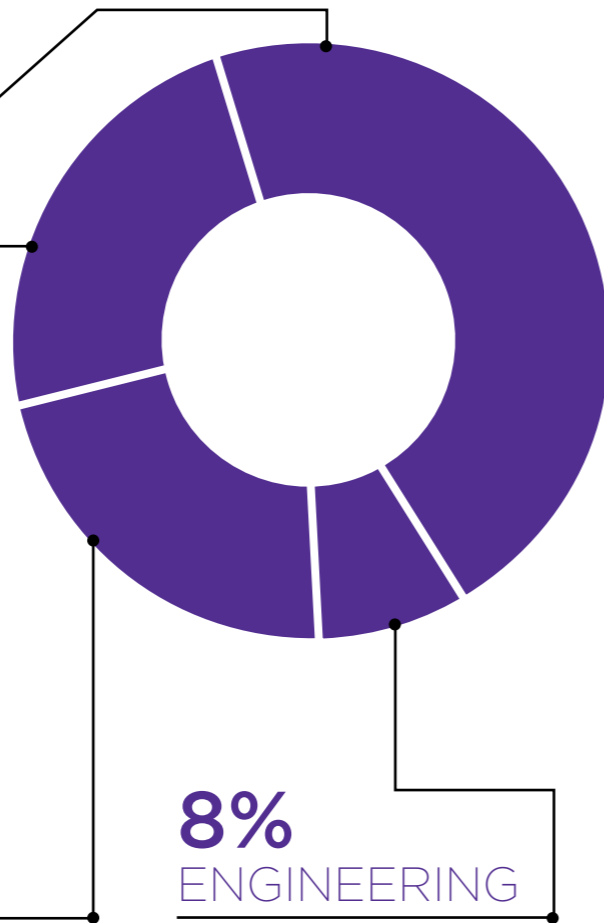
- Arab Crossroads Studies
- Film and New Media
- History
- Literature
- Music
- Philosophy
- Theater
- Visual Arts

### 22% SCIENCE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

### 8% ENGINEERING

- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering



51  
LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN



62  
COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED



### 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

---

## MORGANTE PELL

---

“ 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.

---

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
Founder, Gandalf Software Engineering  
New York, New York, United States

MAJOR:  
Computer Science

HOME REGION:  
Hinesburg, Vermont, United States



---

# FIRST DESTINATIONS

CLASS OF 2016

---

**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 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 developed his passion for environmental issues during his time at NYUAD. He was part

of the core team who organized Biih 2014, the first youth climate change conference in the UAE. The conference was an opportunity for like-minded university students in the UAE to work together “to create a better national environmental landscape,” by addressing climate change holistically and inviting speakers to “talk about art and climate change, youth activism, national policy, and environmental law.”

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

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.”**

---

## LOUIS PLOTTEL

---

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
Traveler, Magazine Editor

**Vancouver, Canada**

MAJOR:  
Arab Crossroads Studies

HOME REGION:  
Vancouver, Canada

## 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**

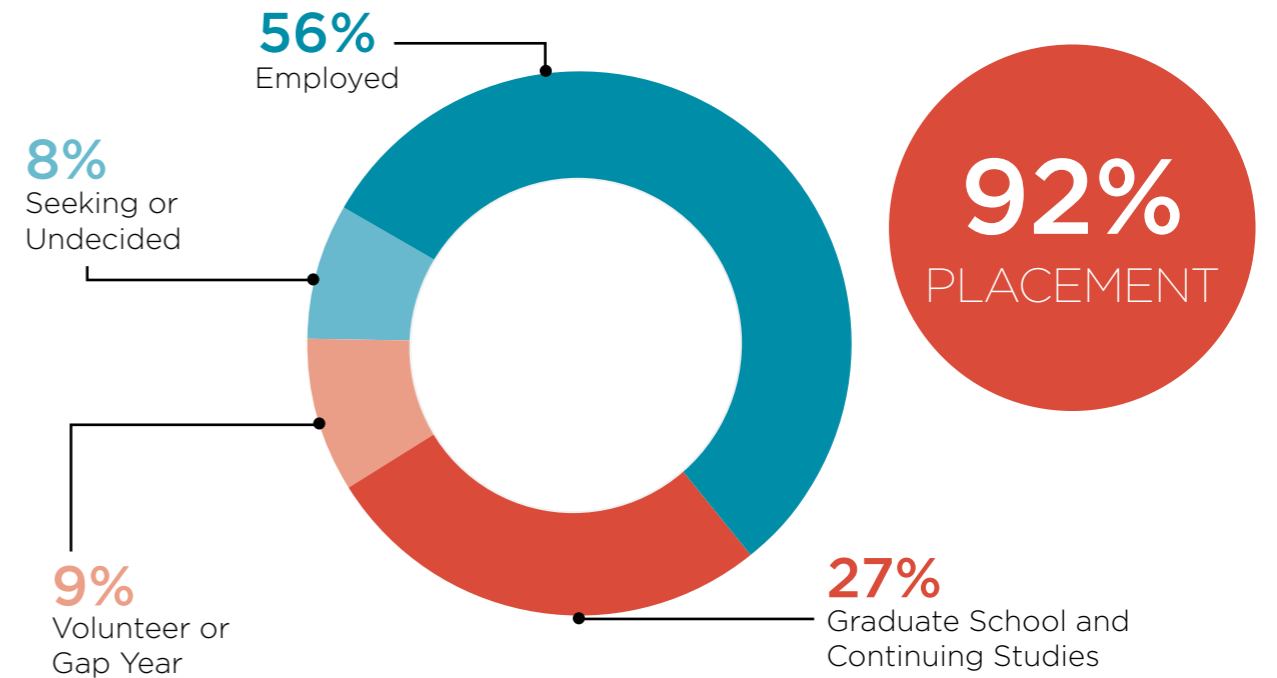
**MAJOR:**  
Mechanical Engineering

**HOME REGION:**  
Durban, South Africa



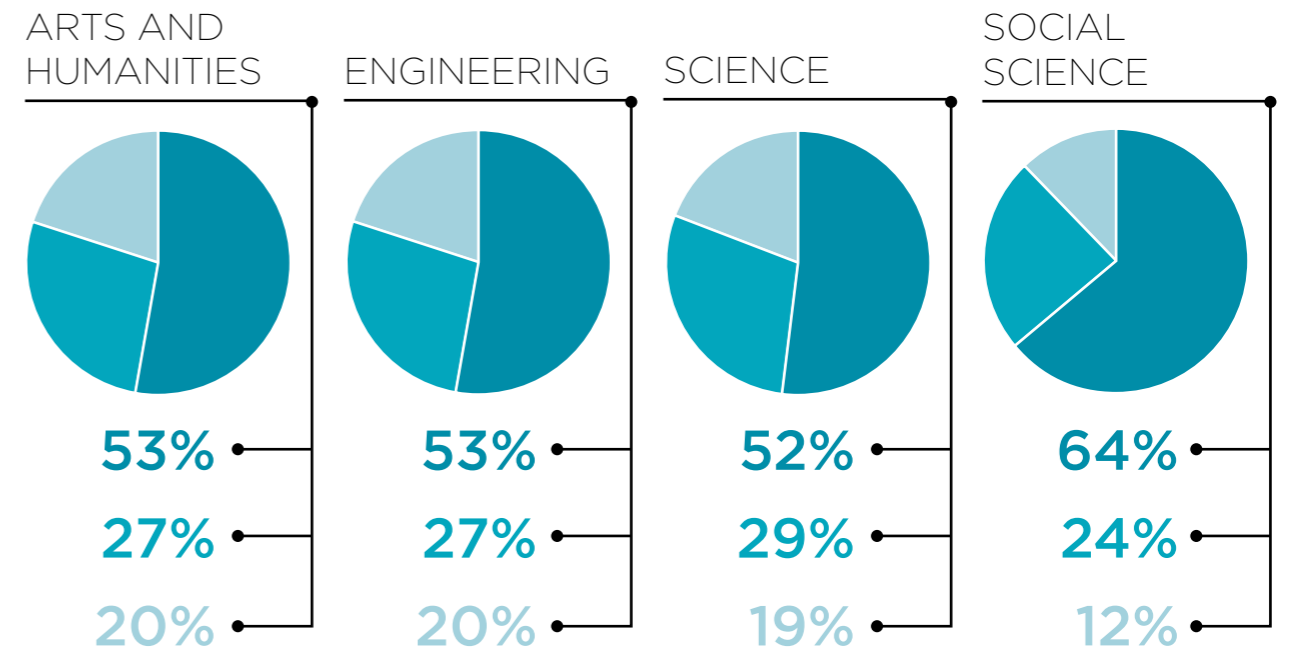
# FIRST DESTINATIONS

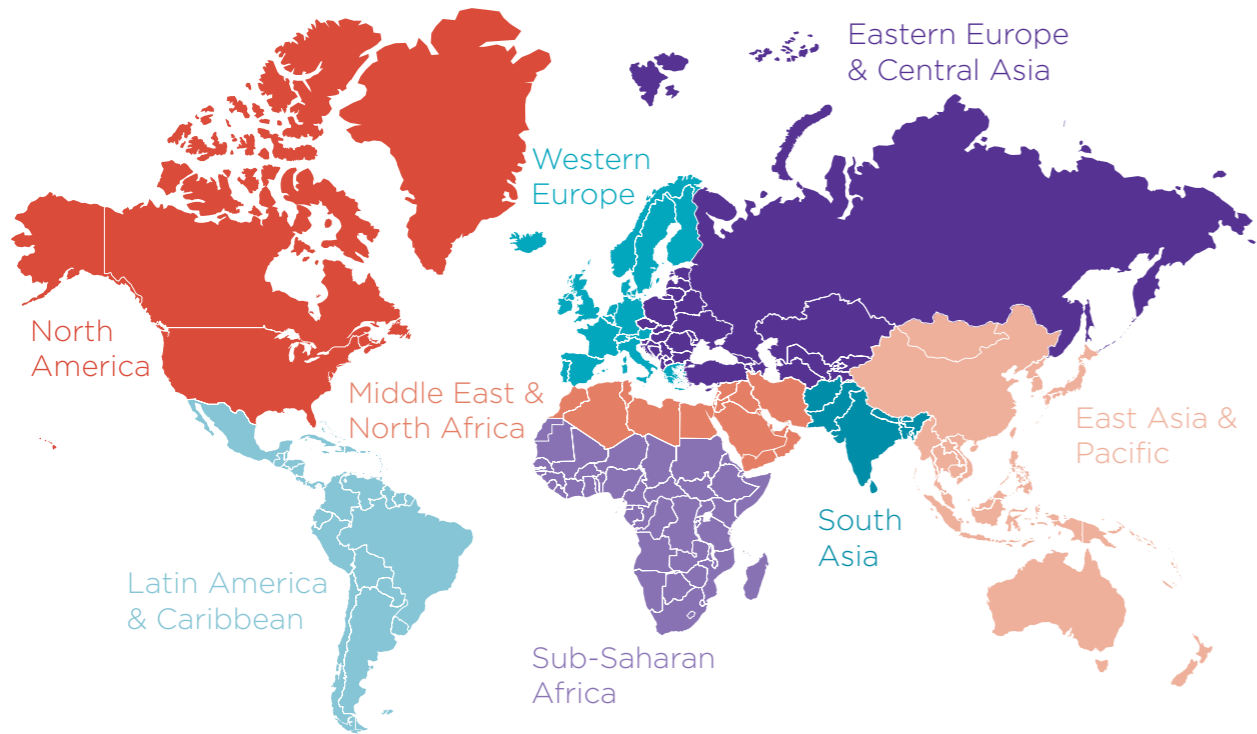
CLASS OF 2016



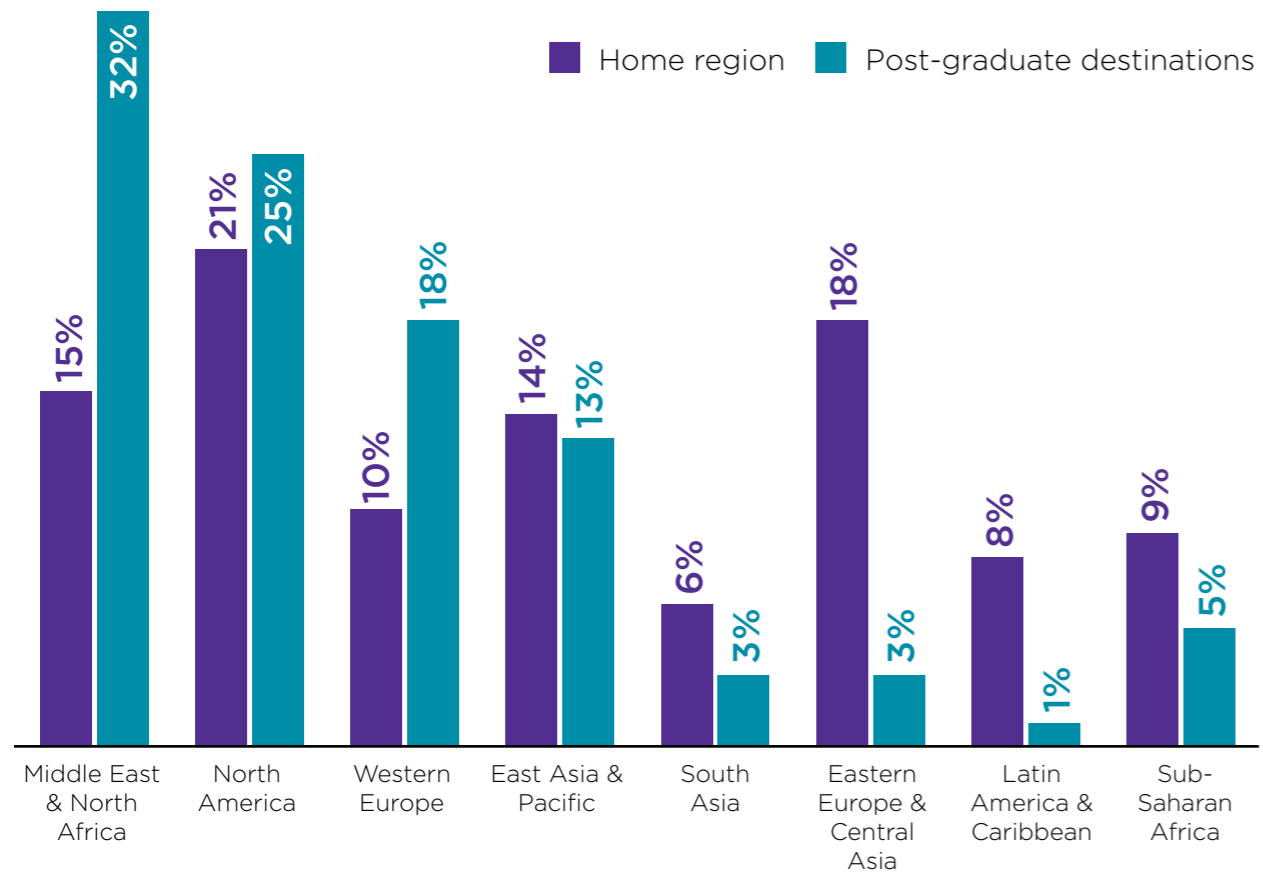
\*As of December 31, 2016

BY DIVISION ■ Employed ■ Graduate School and Continuing Studies ■ Other



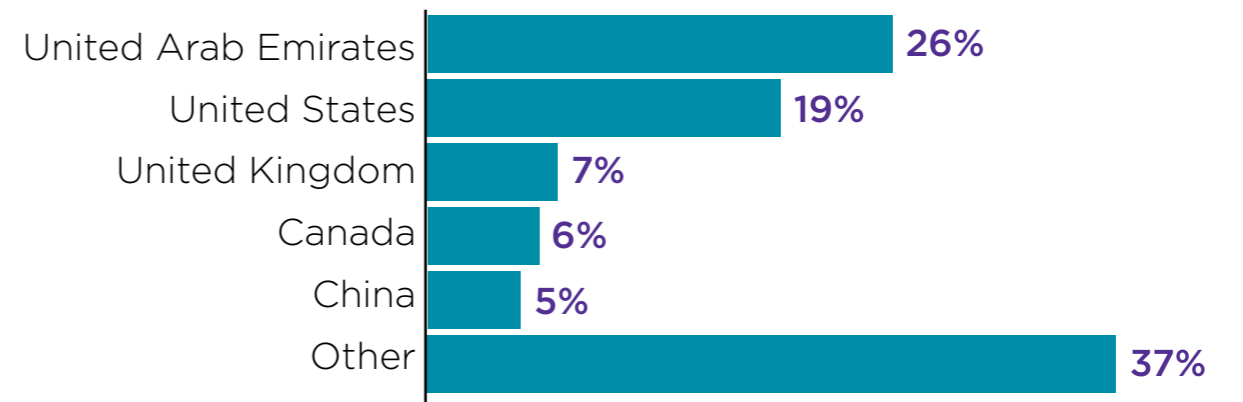


## HOME REGION VS. POST-GRADUATE DESTINATION



## WHERE DID THEY GO?

### TOP DESTINATION COUNTRIES



34

DIFFERENT POST-GRAD COUNTRY DESTINATIONS

65%

ARE NOT IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY

---

# GRADUATE SCHOOL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

---

CLASS OF 2016

---

**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



---

## HEE EUN KWON

---

“ 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.

---

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

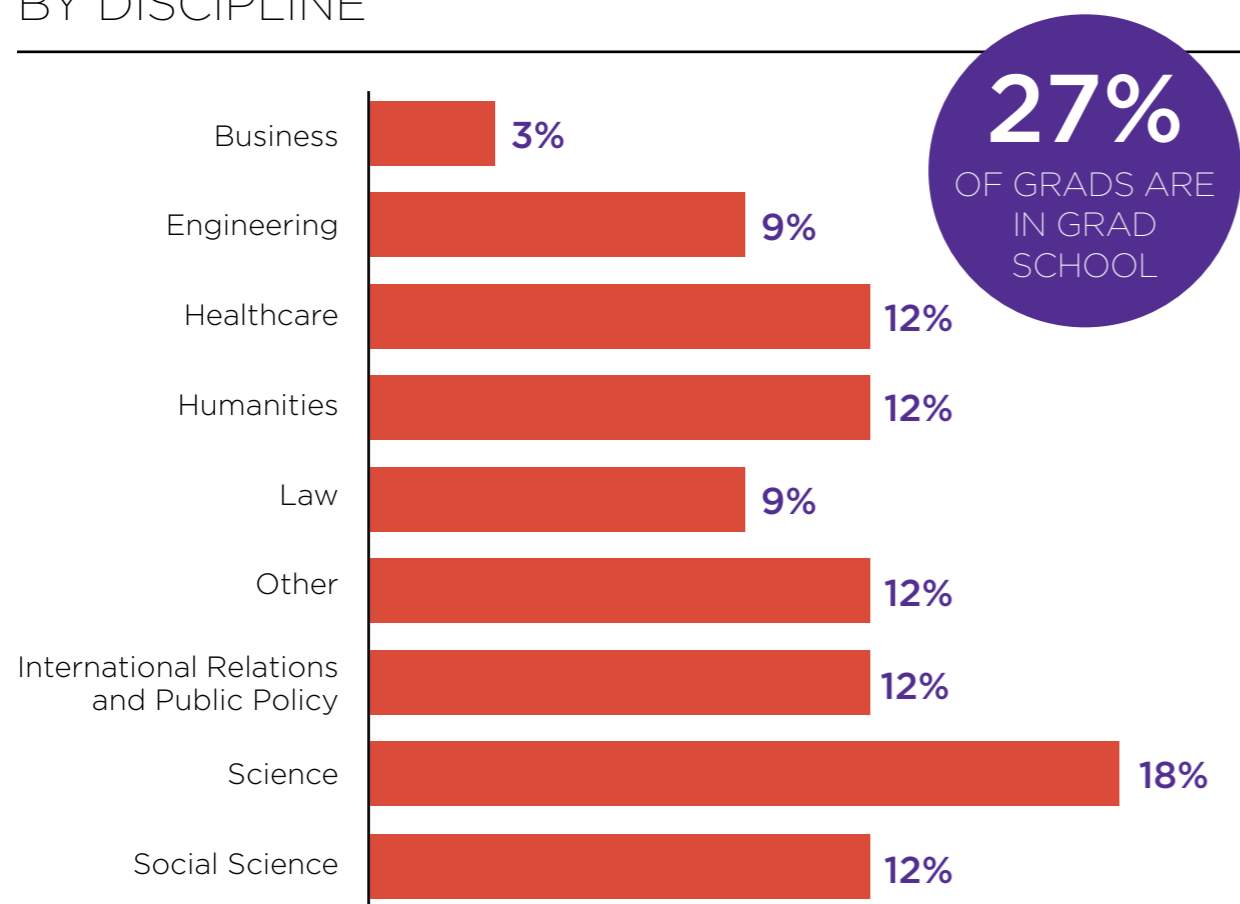
MAJOR:  
Social Research and  
Public Policy

HOME REGION:  
Seoul, Republic of  
Korea



# GRADUATE SCHOOL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

BY DISCIPLINE



## SELECTED SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS ATTENDED

- **Brown University**  
Poetry
- **Communication University of China**  
Advertising
- **ETH Zurich**  
Neuroinformatics
- **International Center for Theoretical Physics**  
High Energy, Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics
- **KTH Royal Institute of Technology**  
Machine Learning
- **London School of Economics**  
Local Economic Development
- **Maastricht University**  
Public Policy
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**  
Advanced Manufacturing and Design
- **McGill University**  
Religious Studies
- **University of Cambridge**  
Law
- **Towson University**  
Theater
- **Tufts University**  
Biomedical Sciences
- **Washington University in St. Louis**  
Medicine



**LAYAN ABU YASSIN**

“ 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.

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
MBA Student, Berkley Scholar, NYU Stern School of Business

**New York, New York, United States**

MAJOR: Economics

HOME REGION:  
Amman, Jordan



**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

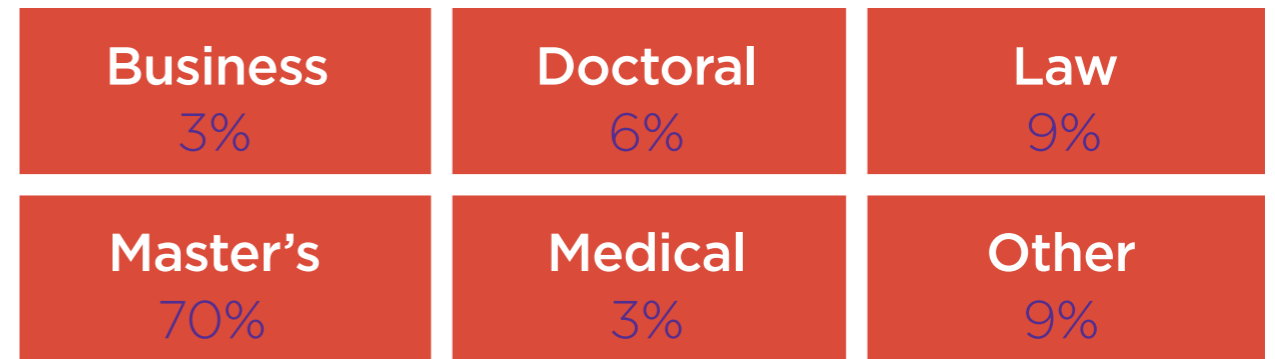
**Cambridge, United Kingdom**

**MAJOR:**  
Political Science, Social Research and Public Policy

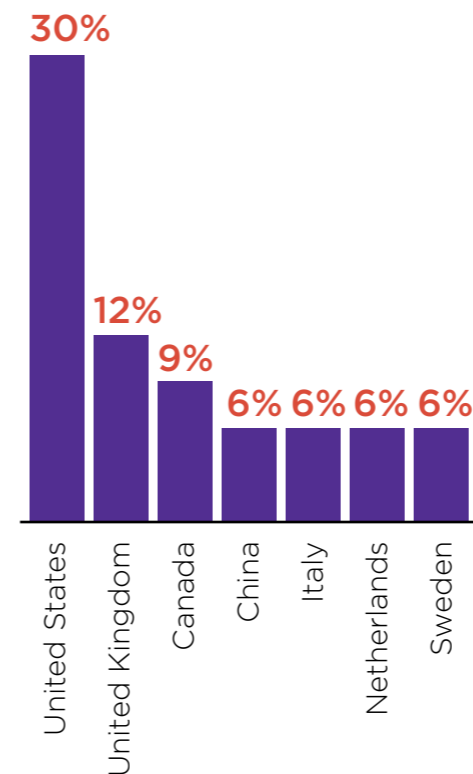
**HOME REGION:**  
Essex, United Kingdom

# GRADUATE SCHOOL AND CONTINUING STUDIES

BY DEGREE



## TOP COUNTRIES



## AVERAGE TEST SCORES

Test	Average (Percentile)	Max (Percentile)
<b>GRE Verbal</b>	162 (90)	170 (99)
<b>GRE Quantitative</b>	162 (83)	170 (97)
<b>MCAT</b>	512 (88)	520 (98)
<b>LSAT</b>	163 (88)	174 (99)



---

## IMEN HADDAD

---

“ NYUAD taught me to be curious about what I am yet to learn, stay open to the unexpected, and how to work effectively and compassionately with other people. **My work is pushing me everyday to make a difference.**”

---

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
**Operations Manager,**  
**Lakeside Adventure**  
**Park | Marketing**  
**Consultant, Swanair**  
**Travel and Safaris**  
**Kampala, Uganda**

MAJOR:  
Film and New Media  
HOME REGION:  
Tunis, Tunisia

---

# EMPLOYMENT

---

## CLASS OF 2016

---

**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



---

## TESSA AYSON

---

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
**Business Analyst,**  
**Partners in Performance**  
**Sydney, Australia**

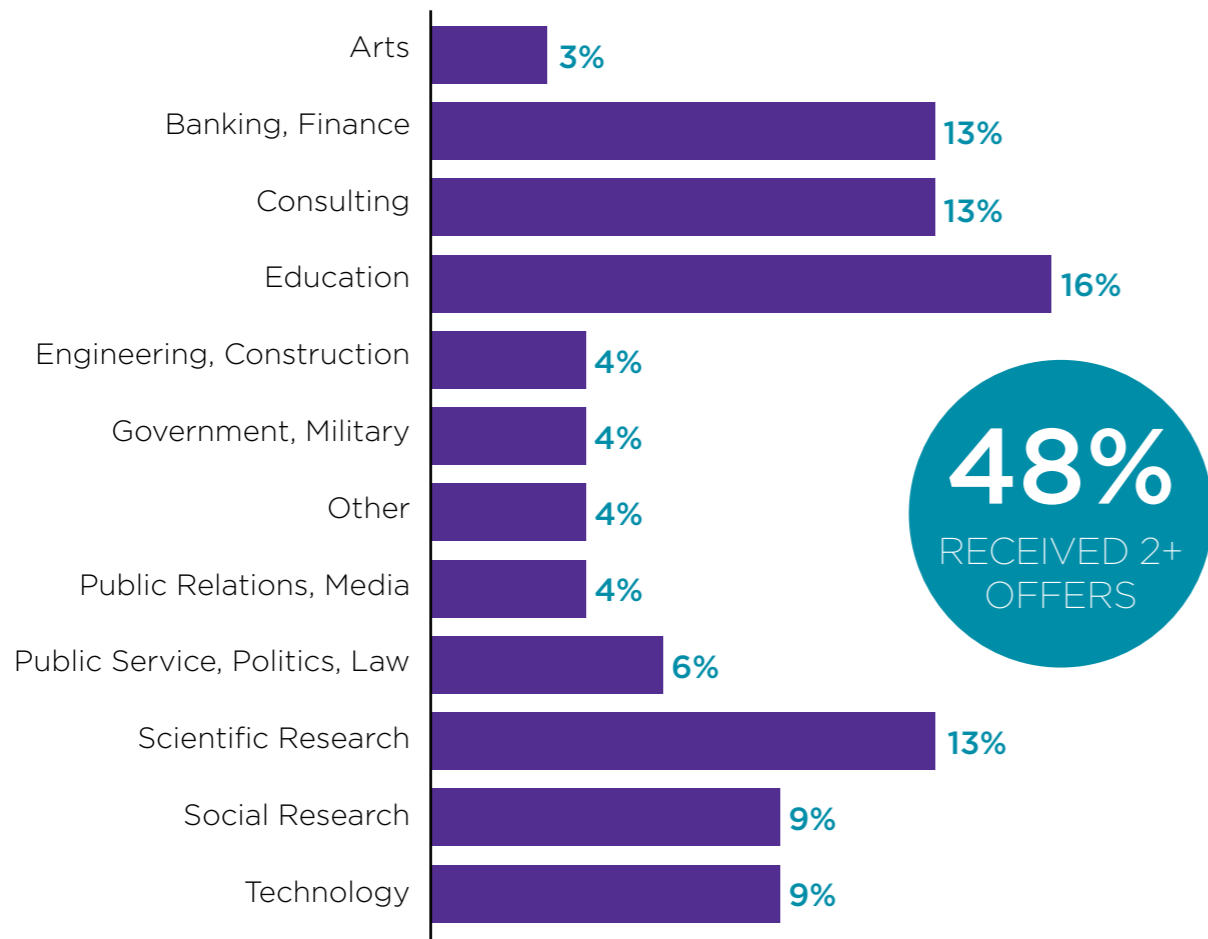
MAJOR:  
Economics, Psychology  
HOME REGION:  
Auckland, New Zealand

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.

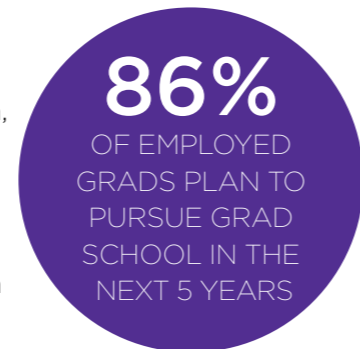
# EMPLOYMENT

## BY INDUSTRY



## SELECTED ORGANIZATIONS

- **ARM Holdings**  
Cambridge, United Kingdom
- **Bank of America, Merrill Lynch**  
London, United Kingdom
- **Clifford Chance**  
London, United Kingdom
- **Deloitte**  
Seoul, Republic of Korea
- **Ernst & Young**  
Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Fortress Investment Group**  
Tokyo, Japan
- **JPMorgan Chase**  
New York, New York, United States
- **Judlau Contracting**  
New York, New York, United States
- **Parliament of Victoria**  
Melbourne, Australia
- **PicsArt**  
San Francisco, California, United States
- **QInvest**  
Doha, Qatar
- **Reddal**  
Seoul, Republic of Korea



## GEO KAMUS

“ 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.

**CURRENT ROLE:**  
Field Engineer, Judlau Contracting

**New York, New York, United States**

**MAJOR:**  
Mechanical Engineering

**HOME REGION:**  
Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

# EMPLOYMENT

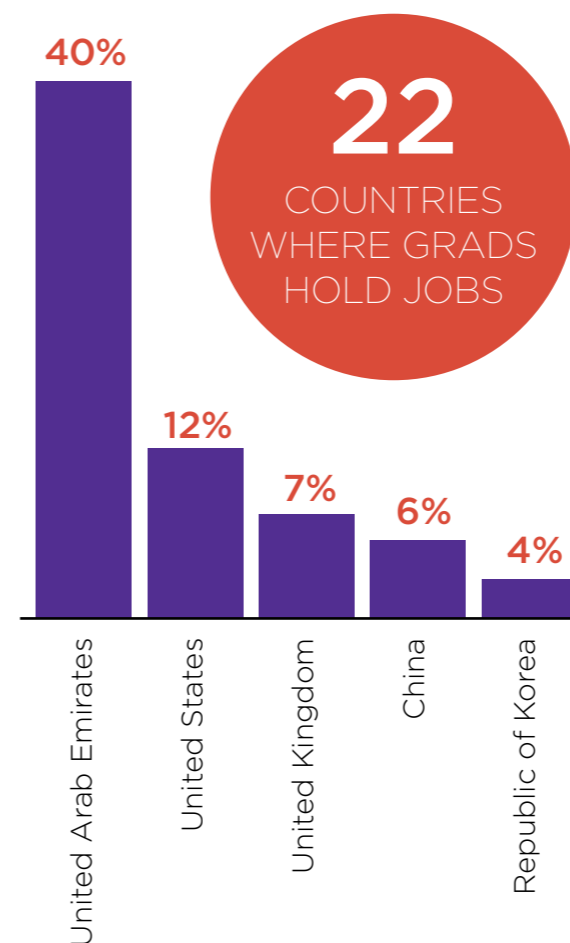
## MEAN ANNUAL BASE SALARY (AED)

Data not adjusted for cost of living differences.

\*Graduates in these regions did not report salary and/or are not employed.

<b>330K</b> North America	<b>185K</b> Western Europe	<b>130K</b> Middle East & North Africa	<b>80K</b> Eastern Europe & Central Asia
<b>n/a*</b> Latin America & Caribbean	<b>110K</b> Sub-Saharan Africa	<b>140K</b> East Asia & Pacific	<b>n/a*</b> South Asia

## TOP COUNTRIES



## CAREER PREPARATION

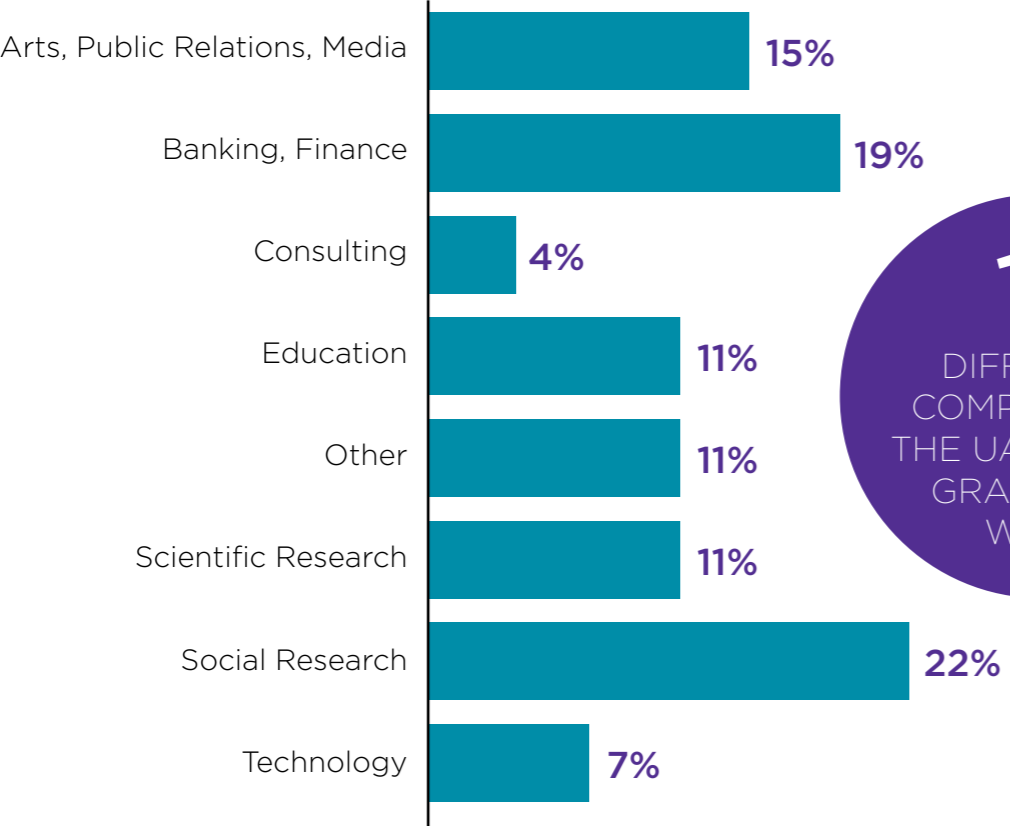
**80%**  
HELD AT LEAST ONE INTERNSHIP

**250+**  
INTERNSHIPS HELD OVER FOUR YEARS

**38%**  
PREVIOUSLY INTERNED AT THEIR COMPANY

# EMPLOYMENT IN THE UAE

BY INDUSTRY



**17**  
DIFFERENT COMPANIES IN THE UAE WHERE GRADUATES WORK

## SELECTED ORGANIZATIONS

- **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority**  
Abu Dhabi
- **CNN**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Delma Institute**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Deloitte**  
Dubai
- **Deutsche Bank**  
Dubai
- **Edelman**  
Abu Dhabi
- **eSquare**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Image Nation**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Maysaffron**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Pricewaterhouse-Coopers**  
Abu Dhabi
- **Tourism and Culture Authority**  
Abu Dhabi

**22%**  
OF GRADUATES ARE WORKING IN THE UAE

**82%**  
OF GRADUATES IN THE UAE WORK IN ABU DHABI



**MOHAMED AMINE BELARBI**

“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

## 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:  
Sumerset, 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.



**CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER**

NYU Abu Dhabi, Campus Center  
P.O. Box 129188  
Abu Dhabi, UAE

**TEL:** +971 (0)2 628 4141

**EMAIL:** [nyuad.career@nyu.edu](mailto:nyuad.career@nyu.edu)

**<http://nyuad.nyu.edu/cdc>**

جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي



**NYU | ABU DHABI**