GRADUATE PROGRAMS AT NYU ABU DHABI
Thank you for your interest in NYU Abu Dhabi’s graduate programs! NYU Abu Dhabi is a leader in global higher education and an international research hub. Our community of scholars creates a vibrant atmosphere for intellectual exchange. We share a commitment to building a diverse and inclusive climate that allows students to ask challenging questions and pursue groundbreaking research.

Our renowned faculty is committed to addressing the dynamic challenges of the 21st century. Collaboration between faculty and graduate students across disciplines and global hubs helps shift perspectives and push the boundaries of knowledge. NYU’s commitment to becoming a Global Network University provides an exceptional opportunity for graduate students to build networks that will sustain them throughout their professional careers.

Innovative pedagogy is the bedrock of our campus. Because of our commitment to supporting students holistically, mentorship is a central focus of graduate instruction. We want students to not only reach the height of their chosen professions, but to also pursue meaningful vocations. In order to prepare graduates for the shifting landscape of tomorrow, our curriculum emphasizes meta-professional skills such as oral communication, data analysis, ethics, and leadership.

This is an exciting time to be a graduate student at NYU Abu Dhabi. I encourage you to explore our programs, research centers, and faculty in this viewbook and across our website.

CAROL GENETTI
Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Programs
GLOBAL PHD FELLOWSHIPS.
Two Cultural Epicenters. One Life-Changing Journey.

NYU Abu Dhabi’s PhD Fellowships offer a unique opportunity to engage in a global setting, with students beginning their coursework in New York and completing their research in Abu Dhabi. Featuring twelve different concentrations, all NYU Abu Dhabi Fellowships are offered in collaboration with NYU Graduate School of Arts and Science or the NYU Tandon School of Engineering.

For more details on PhD Fellowships, go to page 10.

MASTER’S PROGRAMS
Two standout programs unique to the region.

The MSc in Economics and the MFA in Art & Media are designed to take full advantage of the University’s location at the center of a global crossroads. The unique culture and experiences provided in the region will provide students with a perspective that prepares them to engage the future with a global mindset. World-class faculty are shaping the leaders of the future by teaching students critical skill sets emphasizing analysis, interpretation, understanding, and context.

For more details on the MSc in Economics, go to page 16.
For more details on the MFA in Art & Media, go to page 20.
PLACING YOU AT THE CENTER.

NYU Abu Dhabi sits at the center of a global crossroads, providing graduate students with the opportunity to build strategic connections, gather cultural inspiration and context, and pursue opportunities all around the world after graduation. In addition to the strategic placement of the university, students will also thoroughly enjoy their time in the region, as Abu Dhabi is known for its beautiful architecture, active art community, and lively social scene.

**Location**
Abu Dhabi is a global centerpiece, offering easy access to most economic and cultural hubs around the world. Did you know, London, Johannesburg, and Hong Kong are each only a seven-hour flight away from Abu Dhabi?

**Workweek**
The workweek in the UAE is from Sunday to Thursday, with Friday and Saturday as the weekend. However, retail and many other consumer focused businesses are open six to seven days a week.

**Climate**
October through March is considered the mild season with average temperatures ranging from 20°C to 22°C (about 68.5°F to 71.6°F). August is the hottest month of the year with an average temperature of 40°C (104°F). There is very little rain in Abu Dhabi from May to October, with January typically being the wettest month.

**Timezone**
The UAE is in Greenwich Mean Time plus four hours. In Standard Time, the UAE is nine hours ahead of New York. During Daylight Savings Time, Abu Dhabi is eight hours ahead of New York.

**Language and Demographic**
While Arabic is the official language in the UAE, English is widely spoken, and is primarily used in education and business, particularly in Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

**Safety**
The UAE is considered one of the safest countries in the world, with extremely low violent crime rates. However, incidents of property crime do occur, and appropriate alertness and safety measures should be taken as you would anywhere else in the world. Numbeo’s Quality of Life Index named Abu Dhabi the safest city in the world.

**National Day**
The United Arab Emirates celebrates National Day annually on December 2. NYU Abu Dhabi hosts lively events to educate the community about UAE traditions and culture.
A PURPOSEFULLY COMMUNAL ATMOSPHERE.

NYU Abu Dhabi’s campus was specifically designed to foster community spirit between students, faculty, and staff. Every corner of our campus was thoughtfully structured with the intention of promoting interaction: from the connection points between buildings and the arrangement of offices, to the open visibility of our interior spaces, and beautiful settings for outdoor gatherings.

Our state-of-the-art facilities including research labs, private art studios, performance spaces, and recreational areas, ensure that students have opportunities to excel both inside and outside of the classroom.

Did You Know?

Our campus was designed by internationally renowned architect Rafael Viñoly. His firm’s projects span across the world on six of the seven continents.

Located a short walk from our academic buildings, the graduate student housing on campus is intended to maximize your holistic student experience while you are here. You will find the graduate residences in the A3 and A4 buildings on campus. These buildings are dedicated entirely to PhD and Masters students and feature private, fully-furnished apartments varying in size from studios to 2-bedroom units. Lounge areas provide an opportunity to work, relax, and hang out, while students with families can take advantage of on-site daycare and children’s play areas. In all these ways, we hope to foster an environment that optimizes your academic journey, while making sure your personal life is integrated into our community.

In addition to the beautiful graduate student housing, NYU Abu Dhabi is pleased to offer a number of different dining venues. A vibrant student cafeteria, on-the-go marketplace, Starbucks, Blacksmith Coffee Shop, and Sushi Counter are all located directly on campus, giving you high quality options for whatever you’re in the mood for any given day.

Additionally, an indoor gym gives students the opportunity to enjoy free fitness classes, access multiple different sport courts, or take advantage of the indoor track and olympic size swimming pool.
Founded in 1886, the Graduate School of Arts and Science at NYU is among the oldest schools offering doctoral programs in the United States. PhD Fellows at NYU Abu Dhabi will join this long tradition of excellence by completing initial coursework in New York before returning to the UAE. While on our Abu Dhabi campus, students will pursue cutting-edge research under the close supervision of NYU’s internationally recognized research faculty. By combining NYU’s renowned classroom environments with unparalleled research opportunities and intercultural travel experiences, our Arts and Science PhD programs prepare students to excel on the global stage.

PhD candidates wishing to pursue a degree in engineering will do so in direct collaboration with the NYU Tandon School of Engineering in New York. By pursuing concentrations in cutting-edge fields, students will join a research community dedicated to building sustainable, innovative, and healthy urban communities. PhD Fellows complete most of their coursework in New York, and return to Abu Dhabi to complete a number of years of research before receiving the same PhD degree as students attending NYU in the United States. Deep relationships with faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and invaluable experience around the globe all contribute to making this program a truly unique experience for graduates.

Fellowships provide competitive compensation packages, covering tuition costs, housing in Abu Dhabi, and providing a monthly stipend, as well as additional support for relocation and research start-up costs.

“Our small community gives students the opportunity to collaborate with faculty and researchers, as well as the use of lab facilities and research methods, without the wait time or hierarchy that you might find at a larger university.”

Antje Von Suchodoletz
Assistant Professor of Psychology

Where You’ll Find Our Alumni

Concentrations
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Computer Science

Concentrations
- Biomedical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Transportation Planning and Engineering
After completing the five-year program at NYUAD, Pankaj Rajput landed a position as a computational fluid dynamics engineer at ANSYS, a company that develops and markets engineering simulation software. Ask him about his experience as a PhD Fellow in Mechanical Engineering, and he’ll tell you his education at NYU Abu Dhabi prepared him well for his new job:

“Advice from advisors and networking at conferences helped me to get my foot in the door,” Rajput said. “I also participated in workshops organized by the NYU Abu Dhabi Graduate Programs office related to public speaking, teaching, and instruction.” Rajput says it’s NYUAD’s global approach to learning and research that helps him and other students stand out as job candidates.

When asked what advice he would give prospective PhD Fellows, he shared the following insights.

• Look up your prospective advisor’s background by checking their publications to see what research areas he or she is working on.
• Do not be shy about approaching faculty whose work interests you — go ahead and send an email to introduce yourself and express your interest.
• There are many interdisciplinary research opportunities at NYUAD. If you are interested in an industry career after your PhD, start adding some width to your research portfolio.
• If you already know what kind of job you would like after graduation, start including the skills that your ideal job position would need into your research work as soon as possible.
• Don’t fall into the trap of brand names. Evaluate graduate programs based on how it can take you from where you are to where you’d like to be.
Salma Abdulrazak Abubakar PhD in Chemistry

Salma Abdulrazak Abubakar is one of the distinguished members of NYU Abu Dhabi’s Trabolsi Research Group within the PhD in Chemistry program. Thanks to personal guidance from Ali Trabolsi, Principal Investigator and Associate Professor of Chemistry, Salma has been able to expand her research skills in the areas of material science, water purification, and green chemistry.

The strong relationships and communication with faculty have been critical to Salma’s success in the PhD program: “I regularly meet with them to discuss my progress, get the support I need, and get outside perspectives on how to handle the challenges I’m facing.”

Salma graduated from United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) with a BA in chemistry and environmental biology in 2018. She also graduated from Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Scholars Program (SMSP) at NYUAD in 2018. She joined the chemistry department in the Global PhD Program at New York University Abu Dhabi in 2019. As she enters her third year in the program, Salma’s primary research focus is on covalent organic frameworks.

While only halfway through her PhD program, Salma has already been greatly impacted by the extracurricular opportunities provided by NYU Abu Dhabi: “I absolutely loved exploring New York during my free time, but my favorite part of my time at NYU Abu Dhabi has been the richness of our Chemistry department. I recommend everyone take advantage of the extra opportunities presented to you, including workshops, collaborative projects, and relationships with faculty.”
A MASTER’S PROGRAM FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC LEADERS

The Master of Science in Economics at NYU Abu Dhabi provides program graduates with the theoretical and quantitative foundations for a successful professional career in national and international policymaking institutions, or for continuing PhD studies at the world’s best doctoral programs in economics. The master’s program aims to satisfy the demanding requirements of modern economic theory and practice.

This program benefits from a diverse body of international students and faculty, each providing cultural insights and lived experiences on the ways economic theories are playing out in real world scenarios across various global communities. By placing an emphasis on quantitative research and econometric methods, the Master of Science in Economics prepares graduates for a lifetime of leadership in whatever vocation they pursue.

Conduct quantitative research on the frontiers of knowledge. Students collect, analyze, and present economic data using the latest statistical methods.

Students will experience immediate ROI with a one year to completion program. This helps fast-track their influence in either the workplace or future academic endeavors.
When Abir Arabi returned to the UAE after graduating from college in the US, she found herself in a competitive job market where candidates with more work experience had an edge over her. So, she began researching the professional steps she would need to take in order to be competitive in the workforce. Her strategy included reaching out to a faculty member at NYU Abu Dhabi, and after working as a research assistant with Assistant Professor of Economics Wifag Adnan, Arabi began learning about the graduate programs available at NYUAD. A year later, she applied to join the Master of Science in Economics program.

When asked to describe her classmates, Abir said her cohort is, “a small knit enthusiastic set of individuals who are willing to overcome the rigor of the one-year program.” She really enjoys the global insight of her cohort, with classmates from all around the world including the UK, Pakistan, India, Trinidad & Tobago, Egypt, and the UAE.

As an undergraduate economics student in the US, Arabi was not exposed to analyzing real-world data, a practice that the master’s degree in NYUAD emphasizes: “I realized what I needed the most to move forward was not only to be exposed to (analysis work) further, but also being fostered in an academic community that is really enthusiastic in seeing someone explore this field even further,” Arabi said.

The NYUAD graduate student has her eyes set on a promising future: learning and reinforcing techniques from her classes to build up her experience and reputation for a PhD program in the long run.
NYU Abu Dhabi’s Master of Fine Arts in Art and Media is an interdisciplinary degree program sitting at the crossroads of practice and theory. Students can choose to focus their work in one of our nine disciplines, or spread their studies across multiple art disciplines.

Located in a culturally vibrant and diverse part of the world, Abu Dhabi provides a remarkable opportunity for young artists to engage in creative experimentation. The MFA curriculum leans into the cultural heritage of the surrounding MENASA region, while exploring the exciting trends of contemporary art and emergent technology. By immersing students in contemporary research and art training, graduates leave with strongly developed voices, as deep thinkers and artistic innovators.
TAREK AL GHOUSSEIN  
MFA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Tarek Al-Ghoussein, who has been a part of the NYU Abu Dhabi community for years as a Professor of Visual Arts, was recently named the Program Director for the MFA. It’s a role that truly excites him as students from all around the world converge in Abu Dhabi for the inaugural MFA class at a globally recognized epicenter for academic excellence. And it’s this academic rigor that lays the groundwork for both cultural inspiration and artistic exploration.

Inspired by his Palestinian origin, Tarek has spent decades cultivating an ability to bring creative ideas to life in self-portraiture, landscape photography and performance art. His professional work, much of which deals with how his identity has been shaped by both inaccessibility and loss, has been exhibited extensively across Europe, the United States and The Middle East.

His craft brings a unique and valuable perspective for students looking to gain experience in strengthening their individual art practice as well as their relationship with critical theory and relevant discourse. Even more than that, Tarek can’t wait to continue cultivating an experience that takes advantage of the strategic geographic and cultural factors that make the MFA program at NYU Abu Dhabi so unique to the region. Students will be encouraged to lean into different landscapes, materials, traditions, and specific art and craft practices native to their surroundings.

This distinct graduate program will begin to shape regional and global leaders right from the beginning as there is nothing like it in the UAE. Though students may need to apply multiple times before getting accepted into the program, it’s something Tarek Al-Ghoussein says is worth the effort and wait. It’s people just like Tarek that make studying at NYU Abu Dhabi such a significant milestone in the lives of all our students.
All of NYU Abu Dhabi’s graduate programs have been purposefully designed to set our students up for success, no matter what their next step may be, or where in the world they wish to pursue a career. Graduates can go on to join the world’s most innovative companies, pursue additional education in the world’s most prestigious environments, or establish themselves as a global leader in science, engineering, economics or studio art.

NYU Abu Dhabi provides all graduate students with a specialized career counselor who can help you make connections, plan for life after graduation, and assist in positioning you as a leader in your field. It’s this kind of one-on-one support that makes all the difference in not only your educational experience, but your level of impact after transitioning out of the university.
We are in a city that pushes innovation, and in a country that really pushes innovation. As a result of this, inspiration is truly everywhere at NYU Abu Dhabi. Our students have the opportunity to research, study and innovate according to their own personal interests and make an immediate impact they can be proud of and passionate about.

All of the resources and facilities that I have experienced around the world are now at my disposal on NYU Abu Dhabi’s campus. Not only are these facilities state-of-the-art, but they are also readily available. Restrictions that exist elsewhere simply aren’t an issue for our small group of students and faculty.

I would encourage new students to select a mentor who both challenges you, but is also a strong supporter of you. At NYU Abu Dhabi, you’re surrounded by people who will encourage a sense of belonging, equip you with the necessary tools, and stretch you to engage your imagination every day. This, along with our vibrant community and breadth of expertise is what makes our program different than any other in the world.

One great thing about our community is that we are small in size and concentrated on campus. This makes interaction inevitable which promotes collaboration and helps our students further their research with the help of their colleagues. I would encourage prospective students to come and visit us to see how amazing the NYU Abu Dhabi campus and community is.

The MSc program here at NYU Abu Dhabi is the most unique educational environment I have ever been a part of. Our programs give you the tools to be able to explore and research in your specific area of study on a whole different level. Additionally, our students are surrounded by people from all over the world with unique points of view which creates an experience that prepares you for a career anywhere upon graduation.

One of my recent PhD students recently told me how different the experience at NYU Abu Dhabi is from other programs. NYU Abu Dhabi concentrates on a smaller group of graduate students which allows for you to get the time and attention you need from your advisor. This is a different type of program for the student who wants individual attention.
APPLY NOW

Learn more about our graduate programs by visiting nyuad.nyu.edu/admissions/graduate

Email nyuad.graduateadmissions@nyu.edu with questions and/or interest