THE STERN AT NYUAD CAREER ADVANTAGE



جامعة نيويورك أبوظبي ستـــرن

NYU | STERN ABU DHABI

CAREER DEVELOPMENT
THAT MOVES YOU FORWARD

At the Stern School of Business at NYU Abu Dhabi, a dedicated team of career development professionals provide you with tailored resources and coaching to enrich your MBA journey.

The Career Management Center (CMC) works closely with you to explore your career options, offering guidance in self-assessment, job search strategies, networking tips, industry knowledge, and salary negotiations. Additionally, the CMC team assists you in crafting a personal narrative, writing resumes and cover letters, mastering interview techniques, and effectively managing your job search for targeted positions.



DEDICATED CAREER SUPPORT

The CMC offers a wide range of services to support students in their MBA career development and job search efforts. These services include:

- **Career Coaching/Advisory**
  Individual and group sessions with career advisors to discuss career goals, job search strategies, CV and cover letter reviews, and interview preparation.
- **Workshops and Seminars**
  Workshops, seminars, and webinars on topics such as resume writing, LinkedIn optimization, networking strategies, personal branding, and salary negotiation.
- **Mock Interviews**
  Mock interview sessions (behavioral, case) to help you practice and improve your interviewing skills, receive feedback, and gain confidence for real-world job interviews.
- **Career Development Resources**
  Career guides, industry research, market intelligence, and online databases.
- **Networking Events**
  Bespoke exposure to MBA-relevant networking events such as employer information sessions, Stern alumni panels, and industry-specific events (i.e. fireside chats) to connect you with business leaders and professionals in various fields.
- **Job Postings and Recruitment**
  Job postings, internship opportunities, and recruitment events through internal online job boards.
- **Personal Career Tools/Assessments**
  Individual personality diagnostics/assessments to help you identify your strengths, weaknesses, interests, and career preferences to make informed career decisions.

Alumni Insights



KATARINA
MBA 2025
SLOVENIA – PRODUCT MANAGEMENT

"The Career Management Center is very helpful. I had career coaching sessions, and they hosted a lot of skillbuilding workshops: how to make your CV stand out, how to do well in an interview."



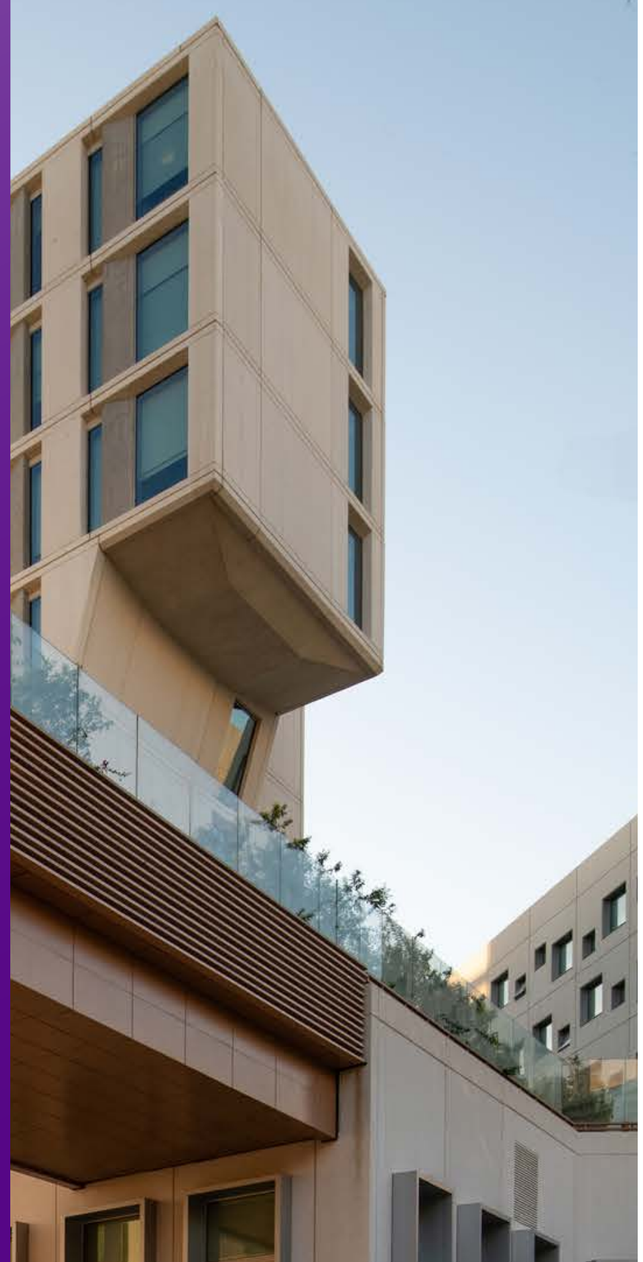
EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Employer engagement is also a critical component of the CMC. The Corporate Relations team within the CMC is dedicated to building strong partnerships with leading organizations worldwide, facilitating connections between you and industry professionals looking to recruit top talent for the UAE, MENA region, and beyond.

INDUSTRY GUIDANCE

The CMC provides targeted industry support to help you explore opportunities and prepare for success across key sectors:

- **Corporate Connections**
  You will network with top organizations via industry projects, corporate and guest presentations, and professional mixers. These experiences help you gain sector-specific insights, build your professional network, and maximize your visibility to potential employers.
- **Interview Preparation**
  To help you navigate the competitive recruitment process with confidence, the CMC offers tailored workshops, one-on-one coaching, and mock interviews – including both fit and case formats – so you can sharpen the specific skills you need to excel across sectors including consulting, finance, technology, and healthcare.





AS A STERN AT NYUAD MBA GRADUATE, YOU WILL:

- Understand the complexities of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional market and the demands of established global economies.
- Have the ability to seamlessly navigate fast-growing, innovation-driven industries in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).
- Gain the cultural adaptability and strategic thinking skills required to succeed in dynamic, multicultural business environments.
- Demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to leadership and career development to employers by choosing to position yourself at the forefront of the Middle East's growth trajectory.
- Be an ideal candidate for roles in finance, strategy, consulting, technology, infrastructure, and more, due to your global outlook, regional expertise, and practical problem-solving skills.

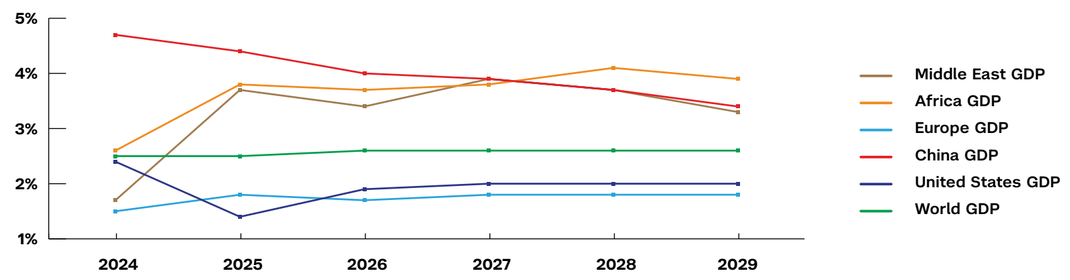
THE MENA LANDSCAPE

Continued Growth and Rising Demand for Top Talent in the Region

According to a recent macro forecast by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the year-on-year real GDP growth continues to see an increase in most of the MENA region, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia leading at over 4.0% in 2025. This is a strong reflection of the resilience and growth potential of industry and businesses in the region, despite geopolitical situations and economic challenges. EIU forecasts that the Middle East will reach a GDP growth of 3.9% by 2028.

REAL GROWTH (MARKET EXCHANGE RATES) % YOY

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
World GDP	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
United States GDP	2.4	1.4	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0
China GDP	4.7	4.4	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.4
Europe GDP	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.8	1.8	1.8
Africa GDP	2.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	4.1	3.9
Middle East GDP	1.7	3.7	3.4	3.9	3.7	3.3



2024 REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY%)



	Algeria	Bahrain	Egypt	Iran	Iraq	Israel	Jordan	Kuwait	Lebanon	Libya
GDP growth (yoy%)	3.8	3.5	2.4	3.9	-0.3	0.7	2.2	-2.9	-2.0	3.8

	Morocco	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	Saudi	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey	UAE	Yemen
GDP growth (yoy%)	2.9	0.7	-15.9	2.0	1.5	-1.6	1.6	3.1	3.5	-1.1

2025 REAL GDP GROWTH (YOY%)



	Algeria	Bahrain	Egypt	Iran	Iraq	Israel	Jordan	Kuwait	Lebanon	Libya
GDP growth (yoy%)	3.1	3.2	3.4	2.4	4.1	4.1	2.1	3.0	3.0	9.0

	Morocco	Oman	Palestine	Qatar	Saudi	Syria	Tunisia	Turkey	UAE	Yemen
GDP growth (yoy%)	3.1	3.6	11.2	2.5	4.8	4.3	1.8	3.2	4.1	2.4

(Source: The Economist Intelligence Unit)

A GROWING APPETITE FOR **PREMIUM TALENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

With strong economic growth forecasted, the Middle East stands out as a fast-growing, thriving region. Many countries within the region are quickly diversifying their economies and a demand for business talent with a broad range of skills has grown dramatically as a result.

According to a market study by Strategy& (2021), there are currently more than 6,000 MBA graduates from top MBA programs working in the GCC region, with room for additional new MBA hires each year. Despite the current and growing number of MBA graduates working in the region, there remains a significant skills gap and a shortage of managerial talent. A degree in business management will likely be a highly sought-after educational qualification by employers in the region to fill this talent gap. Strategy& expects demand for MBA graduates among local employers to grow at 11.7% per annum.

According to the latest Corporate Recruiters Survey conducted by GMAC (July 2025), more than a third of Middle Eastern employers planned to expand their hiring of MBAs, with an increased focus on management, accounting, business analytics, and industry verticals. While all Middle Eastern employers in the survey stated that demand for talent should either stay constant or increase, more than half expect to see a rise in demand over the next five years.



CONSULTING INDUSTRY

The consulting industry remains a magnet for MBAs globally, with top firms like McKinsey, Bain, BCG, Roland Berger, Strategy&, and Kearney leading in prestige and opportunities. Whilst some of these firms have scaled back recruitment following a post-COVID hiring boom, opportunities continue to expand with specialized consultancies, and AI is reshaping the industry's landscape. This creates diverse and evolving career pathways for MBAs in a competitive, tech-driven landscape.

Looking ahead, major firms remain cautious on recruitment in the region, with some reports of notable reductions. Any growth will depend on economic stabilization and sustained demand for consulting services in the coming months. In addition, slower consulting recruitment in other regions has drawn more talent to the Middle East, intensifying competition – but also underscoring the region's enduring appeal.

Across the GCC, hiring momentum has been supported by large-scale national transformation agendas, infrastructure expansion, energy transition strategies, and broader economic diversification efforts. Governments and leading corporations across markets such as the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman continue to rely on consultants as strategic partners for long-term planning, delivery oversight, and operational transformation.

While more disciplined public and private sector spending has tempered overall consulting recruitment, the market is clearly shifting away from broad, high-level strategy mandates toward specialized, sector-focused advisory work. Across the region, there is growing emphasis on cost optimization, performance improvement, digital enablement, and implementation-led support, driving demand for consultants with deep technical expertise and industry-specific knowledge.

Beyond traditional firms, specialized consulting areas such as ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), digital transformation, and infrastructure/transportation are emerging as attractive options for MBAs. These roles often require targeted efforts like networking or pre-MBA experience but align with broader industry shifts toward specialization and innovation. AI is also disrupting the consulting sector by transforming standard ways of working. This shift lowers barriers to entry, enabling smaller boutiques and niche practices to tackle projects that once required extensive staffing and resources. As the consulting landscape evolves globally and regionally, MBAs can explore diverse pathways into both established firms and agile newcomers, offering dynamic career options in an increasingly AI-driven market.





FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY

The financial sector in the Middle East continues to expand, playing a central role in the region's economic transformation. Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh serve as key financial hubs, attracting investment across banking, asset management, private equity, fintech, and risk management. While the sector remains fundamentally strong, hiring activity has been steadier but more segmented, shaped by workforce localization policies and the region's evolving financial landscape.

While public project funding in the region has fueled hiring surges in consulting, finance hiring has been more steady and segmented, with firms prioritizing specialized expertise in key growth areas. Traditional banking roles remain highly competitive, with firms favoring experienced hires, particularly for mid-to-senior-level positions. Meanwhile, fintech remains a high-growth area, attracting global investors looking for the next breakthrough in the region. However, challenges remain — while early-stage incubators and high-ticket start-ups receive significant funding, venture capital in the mid-market space is still maturing. Efforts are underway to close this gap and create a more sustainable funding ecosystem for start-ups and scale-ups.

Localization policies, such as Emiratization in non-free zones and financial institutions like pension funds and sovereign wealth funds, play a role in hiring decisions. Similarly, Saudization influences hiring in key financial roles. However, firms continue to seek professionals with specialized expertise in areas like financial technology, ESG investing, and sovereign wealth fund management, where global best practices are being integrated into regional strategies.

Looking ahead, hiring is expected to gain momentum, particularly as financial institutions and investment firms adapt to evolving market conditions. Sovereign wealth funds, private equity firms, and fintech startups continue to seek talent with a global perspective and strong technical expertise. Riyadh remains an emerging financial hub, where consulting firms and the Big 4 have already laid the groundwork, but financial services are expected to gain further traction as this market matures.

For MBAs, breaking into the finance sector in the region requires both industry knowledge and a well-established network. While traditional paths exist in banking and investment roles, alternative finance careers — such as fintech, venture capital, and corporate finance within multinational firms — are increasingly viable options. As with consulting, MBAs looking to enter finance will benefit from a strategic approach to career navigation, leveraging industry connections, hands-on experiences, and specialized training to secure roles in this evolving market.

TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

The Middle East's technology sector is undergoing a transformative period, offering substantial opportunities for MBA students to drive business growth. With strong government initiatives, investments in high-tech industries, and an expanding digital landscape, the region is positioning itself as a global technology leader. This evolving environment provides opportunities for MBA graduates to leverage their skills in driving change and innovation.

The Middle East is rapidly embracing digital transformation, supported by initiatives like the UAE's National Innovation Strategy and Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. These efforts are reshaping industries across sectors, creating opportunities for businesses to implement technologies like AI, blockchain, and IoT. MBA graduates can add value by leading digital transformations and helping companies stay competitive.

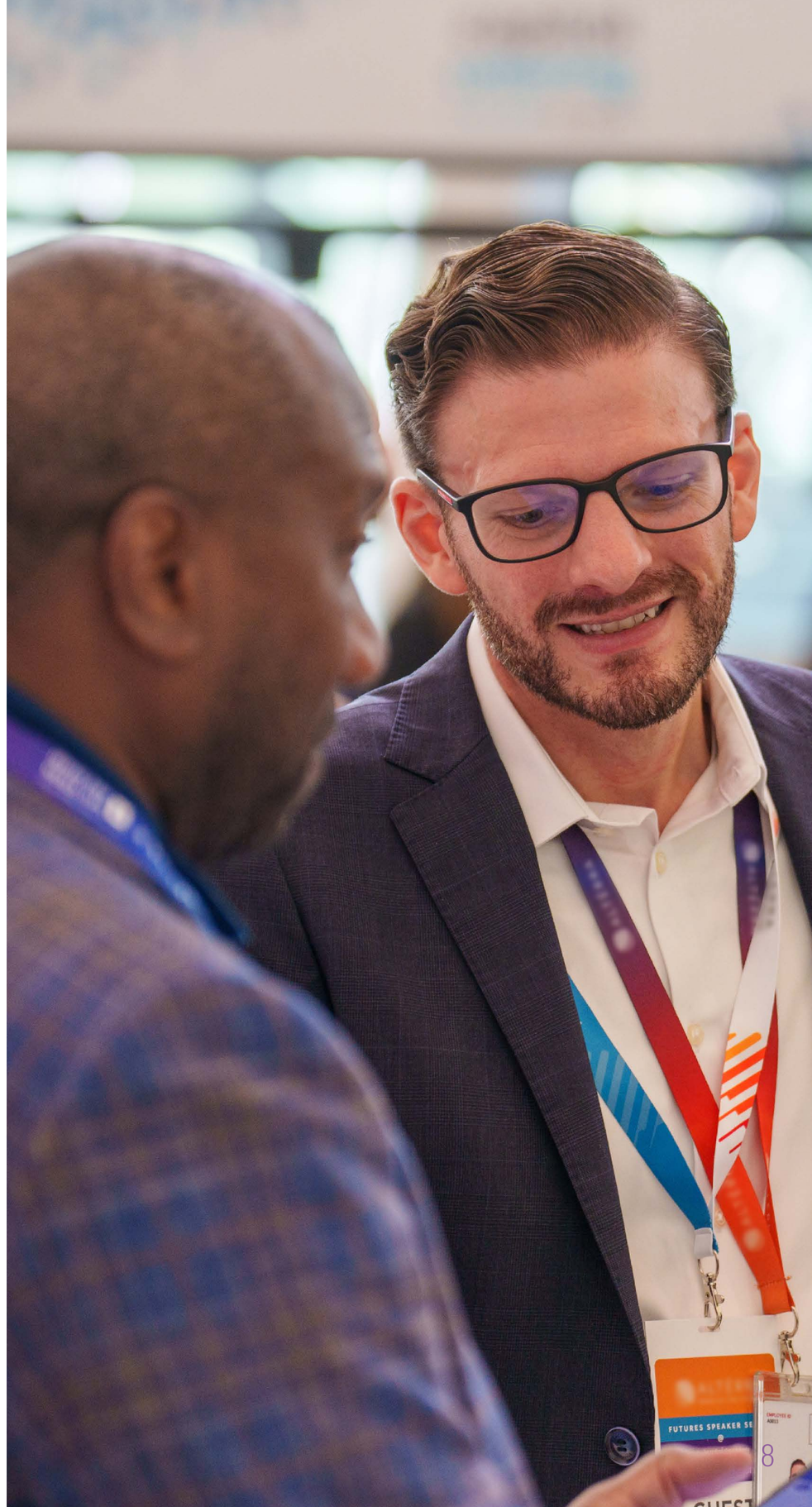
Additionally, the region is experiencing significant demand for leadership talent in tech-driven sectors like fintech, healthcare, and cybersecurity. MBA graduates, especially those with expertise in technology management or innovation, can take on leadership roles in shaping the future of these industries, leading digital strategies and scaling tech solutions.

The Middle East is also emerging as a center for tech innovation and startups, with growing hubs in cities like Dubai and Riyadh. MBA graduates have the opportunity to join high-growth startups, invest in emerging companies, or even launch their own tech ventures. The region's focus on entrepreneurship offers a unique environment for business development and strategic partnerships.

With significant investments in areas like AI, cybersecurity, and data analytics, the Middle East offers a dynamic environment for MBA graduates interested in the intersection of technology and business. MBA students can contribute to the investment landscape through managing portfolios, advising startups, or leading corporate strategy in technology-driven firms.

Positioned at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, the Middle East offers access to global markets. MBA graduates will find themselves in a diverse, competitive business environment that encourages innovation and cross-border collaboration, with opportunities across multinational corporations, regional businesses, and emerging tech startups.

The Middle East's tech sector presents great potential, with growing demand for professionals who can combine technical expertise with business leadership. MBA graduates with a focus on digital strategy, tech entrepreneurship, and innovation can be well-positioned for leadership roles. As the region's startup ecosystem grows, so do opportunities to scale businesses or drive innovation.





SUSTAINABILITY SPACE

The Middle East's sustainability landscape is rapidly evolving, with the UAE leading its development. The country’s Net Zero by 2050 target, innovative initiatives like Masdar City, the World Future Energy Summit, and COP28 highlight this commitment.

The UAE has established a strong foundation for sustainable growth, including the Dubai Clean Energy Strategy 2050 and The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) sustainable finance guidelines. Renewable energy, particularly solar, is experiencing rapid expansion as well, demonstrated by the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park. The Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), Abu Dhabi’s international financial center and free zone, plays a crucial role in developing green finance across the region, with similar initiatives gaining traction in other financial hubs. Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) integration is also accelerating, driven by both regulatory requirements and increasing investor focus.

Key players in Middle East sustainability span several critical sectors. Energy giants like Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) lead traditional energy transformations. Meanwhile, a growing cohort of regional companies are driving innovation in renewable energy. Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power has established itself as a leader in power generation and desalinated water projects, with a strong focus on renewables. In green building, Beeah Group and Diamond Developers are pioneering sustainable construction practices, whilst companies such as Enerwhere and Edama Solutions are advancing sustainable technologies throughout the region.

While the Middle East is making significant strides, challenges remain. Water scarcity, dependence on fossil fuels, and the need for greater private sector engagement are ongoing concerns. However, the region is actively working to address these challenges through investments in desalination technologies, water conservation strategies, diversification of energy mixes, and the development of supportive policy frameworks.

MBAs prepared to combine business acumen with a robust understanding and passion for sustainability will be able to identify opportunities across the Middle East. A strong understanding of regional regulations and industry trends is crucial, as are core skills like financial analysis, strategic thinking, and effective communication. Developing specialized knowledge in areas like green finance, ESG, and renewable energy, along with a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in each national market, can position MBAs for success in this dynamic and evolving landscape. Cross-cultural competency and fluency in Arabic are highly valued assets.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND STARTUP SPACE

The Entrepreneurship and Startup sector in the Middle East is dominated by startup hubs, incubators, accelerators, and ecosystems. In Abu Dhabi, Hub71 is the premier startup platform for tech-focused startups.

Sponsored by Mubadala and the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO), Hub71 is home to edtech, health tech, climate tech, and space startups, among others. Organizations apply for incubation and/or acceleration in Abu Dhabi from all over the world with the hope that their time in the emirate will spark growth in this ever-evolving, emerging market. This same strategy is seen throughout the region with other accelerators, incubators, hubs, venture capital firms, and ecosystems such as Flat6Labs, Venture One, Dubai Angel Investors, AstroLabs, DIFC Innovation Labs, Dubai Future Foundation, and in5.

In alignment with this vibrant ecosystem, CMC collaborates closely with startAD, Abu Dhabi's leading startup accelerator powered by Tamkeen and anchored at NYU Abu Dhabi. Through this collaboration, MBA students are actively supported throughout their entrepreneurship journey — from ideation and validation to venture building and scaling. Students benefit from hands-on engagement with startup founders, mentors, and investors, as well as access to structured programs, workshops, and mentorship designed to translate academic learning into real-world entrepreneurial outcomes.

One of the unique selling points for having a startup in the UAE is that many accelerators provide access to large legacy firms. For example, a sustainable energy startup may gain access to Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), while a property technology startup could engage with Aldar, Abu Dhabi's leading regional developer. This model is reflected across the region, with similar opportunities available in Riyadh and Doha. Through continued exposure to venture builders and innovation partners, MBA students gain insight into how startups collaborate with corporates, pilot solutions, and scale within complex regional markets.

MBAs will find their place in the startup and entrepreneurship market through leadership roles such as co-founder or strategy lead, as well as roles in business development and venture growth. Other positions offer MBAs broad, hands-on experience across functions, enabling them to grow alongside early-stage ventures. Through CMC's engagement with startAD and ongoing interaction with venture builders, students graduate with both the strategic mindset and practical exposure needed to thrive in the region's dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem.



The Stern at NYUAD One-year Full-time MBA

THE MBA THAT TAKES YOU PLACES

Alumni Insights



MAIQI
MBA 2025
CHINA – STRATEGY

“The CMC is very helpful. They’ve done mock interviews, resume screening, career mapping and given me one-on-one support throughout. It feels like I’m not job hunting by myself, but working with a bunch of brilliant minds.”

YOUR NEXT STEP STARTS HERE

No matter your industry interests or career goals, the Stern at NYUAD Career Management Center partners with you throughout your MBA journey — helping you translate industry insight into a focused career strategy and actionable next steps.

Interested in learning how the Stern at NYUAD One-year Full-time MBA can support your professional ambitions in the UAE and MENA region? Connect with the Admissions team using the options below to begin the conversation.







ATTEND AN ADMISSIONS EVENT

We regularly host virtual and in-person admissions events.

See full schedule

SPEAK WITH OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM

The Stern at NYUAD admissions team is available at 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM in both the Abu Dhabi and New York time zones.

Contact us at +971 262 88777
or mba.admissions@stern.nyu.edu.

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