

2026-27 QUICK GUIDE

NYU's Three Global Degree-Granting Campuses

New York, Abu Dhabi & Shanghai — the same NYU degree, three very different costs, odds and experiences.

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One NYU, Three Real Degrees

New York, Abu Dhabi & Shanghai — all fully degree-granting

NYU New York, NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai are NYU's three 'portal campuses' — each one is a genuine, standalone degree-granting institution, not a satellite or study-abroad site. All three sit inside the same Global Network University, alongside 13 smaller academic centres across six continents where students from any portal campus can study away for a semester. Your degree carries the NYU name regardless of which portal you start at — but the cost, selectivity and day-to-day experience differ enormously.

Parameter	NYU New York	NYU Abu Dhabi	NYU Shanghai
Founded	1831	2010	2012–13
QS World Rank 2026	~#35–55	Ranked via NYU's global standing	Ranked via NYU's global standing
Acceptance rate	~12–15%	~3% for Indian applicants — more selective than NY	Selective; smaller applicant pool
Sticker tuition/year	~\$62,000–68,576	~\$70,000	Comparable to NY/AD before aid
Typical Indian-applicant cost after aid	Averages ~\$37,000 in aid; most still pay a substantial net cost	80%+ of admits get FULL need-based aid — effective cost often \$0–\$15,000/yr	Need-based aid available; check current terms
Student body	58,000+ total, 22% international	~2,000 UG, 120+ countries, 90% international	Students from 60+ countries
Academic focus	Full research university — 10 schools, 230+ areas of study	Liberal arts & sciences; 26 UG majors	Arts & Sciences, CS/Data Science/Engineering, Business — 19 majors

The counterintuitive headline: NYU Abu Dhabi is simultaneously harder to get into than NYU New York (~3% vs ~12–15% for Indian applicants) **and** effectively free for most students who are admitted, thanks to universal need-based financial aid covering tuition, housing, meals and travel. Don't rule it out on cost before checking the aid model — it's the opposite of what the sticker price suggests.

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Which Portal Fits You?

Same NYU degree, three genuinely different paths to it

NYU New York

The original, full-scale research university experience — the broadest course catalogue, the biggest alumni network (Martin Scorsese, Lady Gaga, Jack Dorsey), and direct access to NYC's job market. The trade-off is genuinely high cost of living on top of tuition, in one of the world's most expensive cities.

NYU Abu Dhabi

A small, elite liberal arts college (under 500 students per year) on Saadiyat Island, next to the Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. It has produced 22 Rhodes Scholars since 2010 — a remarkable rate for a university this young and this small. Graduates have gone on to the UN, Mubadala, McKinsey/BCG/Bain in the UAE, and Goldman Sachs Dubai. The near-universal full-ride aid model makes this genuinely the most cost-effective NYU portal for most admitted Indian students — if you can clear the ~3% acceptance bar.

NYU Shanghai

Jointly run with East China Normal University, with genuine strength in Computer Science, Data Science, Engineering and Business alongside the core Arts & Sciences liberal arts foundation. Every student is required to study away for at least one semester within the network — built-in exposure to NYU's other campuses and academic centres is not optional here.

Studying away is core to the model, not an add-on — students from any of the three portals can spend one or two semesters at the other two campuses, or at one of 13 global academic centres (Berlin, Prague, Accra, London, Paris and others). Your 'home' campus is where you're admitted, not necessarily where you'll spend all four years.

See current NYU New York fees and admissions: [NYU on Shiksha](#). NYU Abu Dhabi specifically: [NYU Abu Dhabi on Shiksha](#). [Explore all USA study-abroad content](#).

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Not sure which NYU portal fits your profile?

Our counsellors help Indian students compare NYU New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai honestly — including the financial aid model that changes the real cost — completely free of cost.

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This guide reflects NYU's global network structure, rankings, acceptance rates and financial aid model current as of mid-2026, sourced from NYU's official pages and Shiksha's own NYU coverage. Acceptance rates, fees and aid terms vary by campus, programme and year, and change periodically — always verify current details directly with NYU before applying. Shiksha Study Abroad is an independent counselling platform.