

GRADUATE POST

Deanship of Graduate Studies
Fall 2020 | **Issue No. 1**



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جامعة زايد
ZAYED UNIVERSITY

Zayed University

Graduate Post

Deanship of Graduate Studies

Fall 2020 | Issue No. 1



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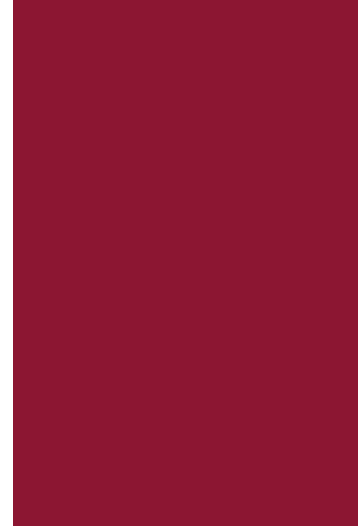
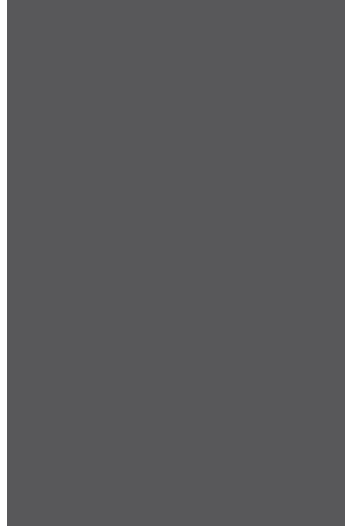
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Dean's Message

COVID-19 has strongly impacted graduate programs in Fall 2020. The semester started with most Zayed University faculty working remotely and most courses taught online. However, our dedicated staff, **Fatma Al-Ali AlKhadar**, **Kalthoum AlMarzouqi**, and **Maureen Goodwin** worked diligently to ensure that all newly admitted and returning graduate students were registered for their coursework and be ready to learn and engage with our graduate faculty and fellow students.

We welcomed 73 new graduate students who joined 148 continuing students, resulting in a total enrolment for Fall 2020 of 221 graduate students. This is 57 more students than in Fall 2019. Two of the graduate programs offered courses on both campuses: The Master of Science in Information Technology (Cyber Security) welcomed a total of 19 new students and the Master in Diplomacy and International Affairs welcomed a total of 22 new students on the campus located in Dubai. Student enrolment in all our programs is growing steadily, and we are anticipating a better than expected intake for Spring 2021. We awarded 37 newly admitted graduate students with Merit and ZU Alumni Scholarships.

To kick off the new semester, we conducted our new graduate student orientation seminar online for the first time. Nearly 60 participants made it one of the best attended new student orientations ever. As a result of this success, we are considering offering the orientation seminar in a hybrid format where students will have the option to choose whether to attend on-campus or virtually.

This online format has also facilitated the introduction of a few more initiatives for graduate students. In October and November 2020, the Library and Learning Commons conducted six research workshops to assist students with Arabic library resources, finding articles, and research methods resources for their projects. The Deanship of Graduate Studies also organized an introductory session about studying for a PhD in the United States of America. As students start engaging in research, we want to ensure they are receiving the support they need to be successful in their graduate education.

Although these online formats open new ways of working and allow us to be more flexible, the Deanship of Graduate Studies misses interacting face-to-face with faculty, students and other colleagues. We are reminded every day that communication and relationships are the foundation of a strong community. As the newly appointed Acting Dean of Graduate Studies, I am looking forward to the day I can see our graduate students on campus. Meanwhile, I will continue to support our graduate community in every way possible.

Sincerely,

Gaelle Picherit-Duthler, PhD
Acting Dean, Graduate Studies

Graduate Student Corner

Impact of Graduate Student Contribution at Graduate Council

As the graduate students' representative in the University's Graduate Council for the academic year 2019-2020, I take this opportunity to share my views on the pivotal role played by the graduate students' voice in enhancing the Council's effectiveness and innovativeness, as well as promoting the academic and social welfare of graduate students.

The Graduate Council's mission is to provide a platform through which issues of mutual concern with regards to graduate education in the university can be addressed appropriately. Besides playing a critical role in strengthening the link between the Graduate Council and graduate students, student representation ensures Council representation of graduate student interest in university governance with the aim to foster a quality academic environment. I have learned that the



interests of graduate students are best represented when they form part and parcel of the Graduate Council.

The experiences I have gained within the short period I have served in the Council is a clear demonstration that graduate students' voice is central to the Council's effectiveness and progress with regards to graduate education.

Fatima Al Hallami

Master in Diplomacy and International Affairs

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Did You Know?

The Deanship of Graduate Studies Intranet Portal was recently revamped with the aim to improve communication and promote collaboration between graduate program stakeholders. The Intranet Portal provides current graduate students, faculty and staff members with instant access to centralized learning resources, i.e. the graduate student handbook and guidelines, important announcements and information about events. The Intranet Portal also provides information about the facilities, resources and services available to support graduate students in their graduate studies. You can gain access to the Intranet Portal on the website <http://zuportal.zu.ac.ae/gsdbsite/Pages/Home.aspx>

Academic and Career Development Workshops

Deanship of Graduate Studies

The Deanship of Graduate Studies offered the following academic and career development workshops in Fall 2020:

SEPTEMBER 2020

Graduate Student Online Forum

Date: September 29

The Graduate Student Online Forum is designed to update students on activities in the Deanship of Graduate Studies, to provide important information regarding academic policies, and to listen to students' feedback.

OCTOBER 2020

Introduction to Library Resources

Date: October 6

Instructors: Mary Sengati-Zimba & Tine Stewart

Introduction to Arabic Resources

Date: October 13

Instructors: Abdelaziz Galal & Hanin Abueida

Finding Articles for Graduate Students

Date: October 18

Instructor: Dev Misra

From Topic to Thesis Statement

Date: October 25

Instructor: Abdelaziz Galal

NOVEMBER 2020

Manage Citations for RefWorks

Date: November 1

Instructors: Judith Mavodza & Mary Sengati-Zimba

SAGE Research Methods for Graduate Students

Date: November 9

Instructor: Tine Stewart

Studying and Applying for PhD in the USA

Date: November 15

Panelists:

Mohammad-Amin Kuhail, PhD, Assistant Professor, College of Technological Innovation

Azmat Rasul, PhD, Assistant Professor, College of Communication and Media Sciences

Don Shin, PhD, Professor, College of Communication and Media Sciences

Rwan ElKhatib, PhD, Associate Professor, College of Business

Ornanong Husna Benbourenane, PhD, Professor of Practice, College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The Deanship of Graduate Studies will offer the following academic and career development workshops in Spring 2021:

FEBRUARY 2021

Application for PhD in UK and Europe

Date: February 16

Panelists:

Konstantinos Syriopoulos, PhD, Professor, Finance, College of Business

Martin Sposato, PhD, Assistant Professor, Management, College of Business

Ahmad Wazan, PhD, Associate Professor, College of Technological Innovation

Ahmed Seffah, PhD, Professor, College of Technological Innovation

Zoe Hurley, PhD, Assistant Professor, College of Communication and Media Sciences

Vlada Botoric, PhD, Assistant Professor, College of Communication and Media Sciences

MARCH 2021

After Graduation: Job, Entrepreneurship, Freelance, and Other Options

This workshop will consider what is being seen across industries in the UAE. With the pandemic and the rise in remote work, how do future job or work seekers need to position themselves? What about freelancing or entrepreneurship? Who do you want to work for?

Date: March 14

Panelists: TBD

APRIL 2021

Pros and Cons: Moving into Leadership Positions

Do you see yourself as a leader and have you always dreamed of leadership, within your field, a business, or your community? There are many unexpected consequences that come with this dream. This workshop will examine some of the literature, as well as personal experience with Alumni for various masters programs.

Date: April 18

Panelists: TBD

For announcements about upcoming academic and career development workshops, please visit the events section on the Graduate Studies website www.zu.ac.ae



Program Spotlight

Master in Diplomacy and International Affairs College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Zayed University has a distinguished reputation as one of UAE's leading public universities that educates future leaders and prepares them for success in their chosen careers. Since its inception in 1998, the emphasis at Zayed University has always been on challenging, guiding, and supporting students to be the very best that they can be and producing graduates who can innovate, change and lead in today's dynamic business climate.

Launched in 2009 on the Abu Dhabi campus with 18 participants, the Master in Diplomacy and International Affairs (MDIA) program is dedicated to cultivating highly effective diplomats, researchers, managers and well-rounded leaders by providing them with the mindset, knowledge, skills, and management capabilities to succeed in today's constantly changing global world and to influence and work across organizational and cultural boundaries. Since 2009, 149 students have graduated. In Fall 2020, program delivery was extended to the Dubai campus.

Outstanding faculty and a strong focus on team leadership provide a unique and challenging academic experience for students. The curriculum of ten courses with a total of 30 credit hours, offers students the opportunity to develop an in-depth knowledge of public diplomacy and diplomatic history, international political economy, area studies and regional and global relations.

Knowledge gained during classes is further enhanced by sharing real-world experience with other students, guest lecturers, top professionals and leaders in the field of diplomacy and international affairs. For example, on September 29, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences delivered a webinar on "The Mediterranean Vocation" with H.E. Maria Calleja, the Ambassador of Malta as guest speaker.

The MDIA program is offered in English over three semesters by a mix of international faculty (some of whom were former ambassadors) who have research and extensive teaching experience at the graduate level. They bring their expertise and valuable real-world perspectives right to your graduate class. The internationally accredited master's degree program is designed to meet the needs of accomplished professionals who strive to enhance their knowledge without interrupting their careers. Typically, students register in four courses per semester. Classroom instruction is conducted in the evening four times a week, Sunday through Thursday. Since Spring 2020, courses are delivered online in response to COVID-19. Course instructors are teaching virtual classes using Zoom and BlackBoard is used for assignments and exams.

Zayed University's academic reputation, coupled with its established links to government, business, and industry, means that our graduates are the first choice for many leading companies. Zayed University graduates have used their MDIA degree either as a steppingstone in their career paths, or as a chance to enhance their skills in their current positions.

We invite you to share the collective Zayed University experience and join the select group of MDIA graduates who now hold key positions of influence in public and private sector organizations in the United Arab Emirates and Gulf Arab States. For more information on the MDIA program and admission in Fall 2021, please contact the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at +971-2-599-3605 / cgs.admissions@zu.ac.ae or visit the website www.zu.ac.ae





New Graduate Program Announcement

Master of Science in Information Systems Management College of Technological Innovation

The Master of Science in Information Systems Management program offers a unique blend of career-oriented, industry-focused, and fast-paced curriculum that equips students with the skills needed to deploy cutting-edge technologies in digital transformation and information systems management. The program also equips students with a global perspective required to make a difference in an ever-changing world.

The curriculum design combines rich research-oriented and strong skill-based components to provide students with advanced theoretical knowledge and marketable practical skills. The program takes a multidisciplinary approach and offers students a chance to acquire skills and expertise in some of the world's most rapidly growing fields, such as digital transformation, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, blockchain, big

data, business intelligence, and information management. The curriculum also includes a research thesis component designed to develop students into self-motivated and lifelong learners to keep up with a fast-evolving field.

The program, which is offered in English on both campuses, is enabled by state-of-the-art computer laboratories supporting many of the courses through hands-on labs and projects, combining the best of breed in hardware and software platforms. The aim is to give students a first-hand experience with many of the technologies in demand today.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates can find employment as digital transformation and information systems experts in a variety of advanced positions. Our graduates go on to become leaders in a diverse range of global industries, including commerce, non-profit, and government sectors. As industries rely on information technology, graduates may find not just rapid job growth but many diverse job possibilities. This is particularly true as the program is aligned to UAE government needs and the UAE 2021 vision initiative in digital transformation and artificial intelligence.

Admission is now open for Fall 2021.

For more information on the program, admission requirements and scholarship opportunities, please contact the College of Technological Innovation at +971-2-599-3605/cgs.admissions@zu.ac.ae



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Farkhund Iqbal, PhD

Associate Professor
College of Technological Innovation

Dr. Iqbal was awarded his master's degree in 2005 and Doctor of Philosophy in 2011 from Concordia University, Canada. His research expertise focuses on using artificial intelligence technologies including deep learning and data analytics techniques for problem solving in healthcare, cybersecurity and cybercrime investigation in smart and safe city domains. His expertise is well established by a strong publication record in high ranking journals and venues. In addition to his faculty position at Zayed University, he is an Affiliate Professor in the School of Information Studies, McGill University, Canada and Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Business and Information Technology,

University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Canada.

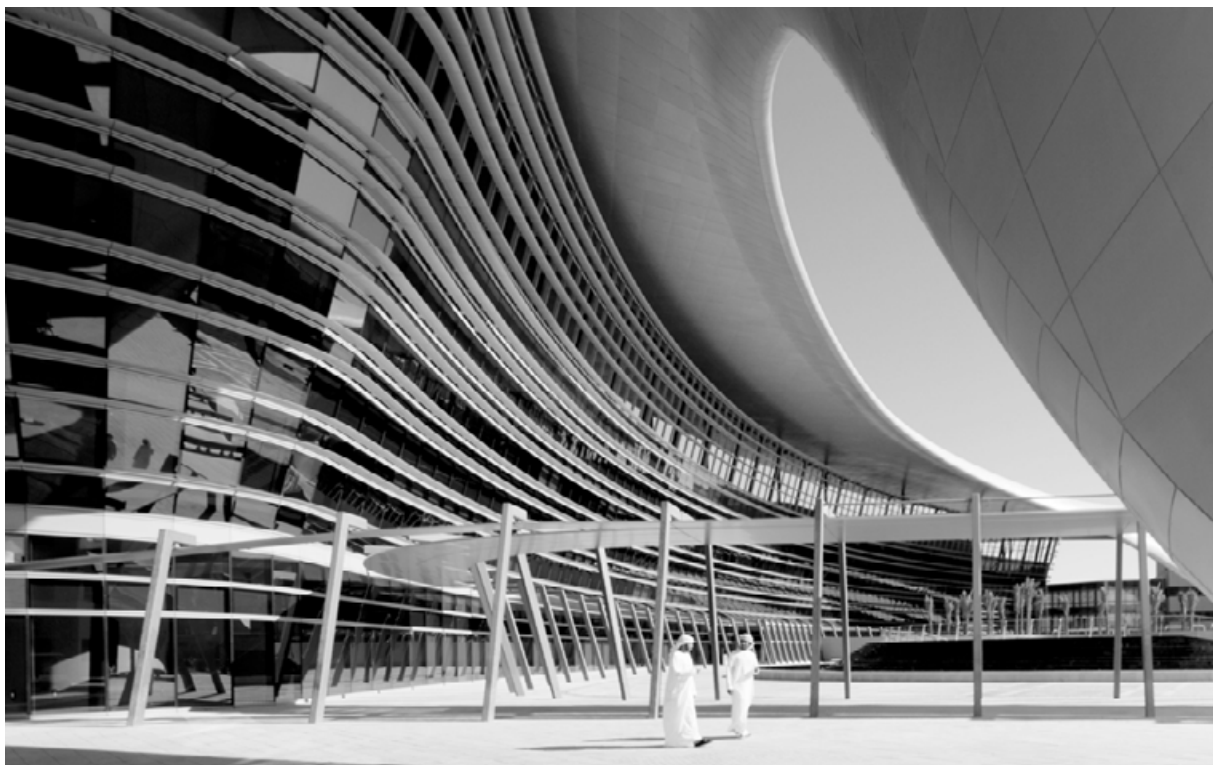
Dr. Iqbal teaches cyber forensics and penetration testing courses in the Master of Science in Information Technology (Cyber Security) program at Zayed University. One of his favorite aspects of teaching in the graduate program is how he involves his graduate students in his research projects. He enjoys collaborating with his students by helping them turning their course projects into conference papers. In 2019, Dr. Iqbal co-authored eight research papers which his graduate students presented in peer-reviewed conferences (see bibliography below).

His latest research culminated in a highly anticipated book titled "Machine Learning for Authorship Attribution and Cyber Forensics" with co-authors Mourad Debbabi and Benjamin Fung, International Series on Computer Entertainment and Media Technology Springer Nature, 2020, ISBN 978-3-030-61674-8.

List of Publications Co-Authored with Graduate Students

- Haifa Al Hosani, Maryam Yousef, Shaima Al Shouq, Farkhund Iqbal and Djedjiga Mouheb, "A Comparative Analysis of Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking Laws in the UAE, US, UK and Canada", Scopus Indexed 2019 IEEE/ACS 16th International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications (AICCSA), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2019, pp. 1-7.
- Salam Khanji, Farkhund Iqbal, Zakaria Maamar and Hakim Hacid, "Boosting IoT Efficiency and Security Through Blockchain: Blockchain-Based Car Insurance Process - A Case Study", 2019 4th International Conference on System Reliability and Safety (ICSRS), Rome, Italy, 2019, pp. 86-93.

- Haifa Husain, Shaima Alshouq, Maryam Yousef and Farkhund Iqbal, "A Comparative Legal Analysis of Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking in the United Arab Emirates, United States of America, United Kingdom and Canada", UAE Graduate Students Research Conference (GSRC), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2019.
- Duaa A. Hamdi, Farkhund Iqbal, Saiqa Aleem, Abdulla Kazim and Áine MacDermott, "Drone Forensics: A Case Study on DJI Phantom 4", Scopus Indexed 2019 IEEE/ACS 16th International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications (AICCSA), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 2019, pp. 1-6.
- Abdullah Kazim; Fadya Almaeeni, Shamsah Al Ali, Farkhund Iqbal and Khalil Al-Hussaeni, "Memory Forensics: Recovering Chat Messages and Encryption Master Key", 2019 10th International Conference on Information and Communication Systems (ICICS), Irbid, Jordan, 2019, pp. 58-64, doi:10.1109/IACS.2019.8809179.
- Farkhund Iqbal, Benjamin Yankson, Maryam A. AlYammahi, Naeema AlMansoori, Suaad Mohammed Qayed, Babar Shah, Thar Baker, "Drone Forensics: Examination and Analysis", Scopus Indexed Int. J. Electron. Secur. Digit. Forensics 11(3): 245-264 (2019).
- Salam Khanji, Farkhund Iqbal and Patrick Hung, "ZigBee Security Vulnerabilities: Exploration and Evaluating", Scopus Indexed 10th International Conference on Information and Communication Systems (ICICS), Irbid, Jordan, 2019, pp. 52-57, doi: 10.1109/IACS.2019.8809115.
- Maryam Yousef and Farkhund Iqbal, "Drone Forensics: A Case Study on a DJI Mavic Air", Scopus Indexed IEEE/ACS 16th International Conference on Computer Systems and Applications (AICCSA), Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Short Paper, 2019, pp. 1-3.



Graduate Alumni Corner



Salwa Husain

Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration
Graduate with High Distinction, 2017
College of Education

Salwa's graduate studies journey assisted her to become a creative and innovative course instructor at the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, University College. Currently, she is teaching a course on positivity and wellbeing. Her goal is to spread positivity and happiness with the aim to encourage students to practice positivity as a way of thinking and a lifestyle.

She is of the opinion that empowering and motivating students enhance their critical and creative thinking as well as their problem-solving skills. She also

appreciates meaningful class discussions with students and interactive interventions through a psychologically safe classroom atmosphere which encourages students to share ideas with acceptance, respect, and openness.

COVID-19 caused a significant change in the educational landscape. To cope with this unprecedented change, Salwa has put into practice the theories and educational philosophies that she acquired during her graduate studies. She developed and implemented relevant teaching strategies that inspired her students to become highly-engaged and resilient amidst the changes they are experiencing. Salwa firmly believes that this sense of efficacy is attributed to her earned master's degree from Zayed University.

Salwa is a PhD candidate at the United Arab Emirates University majoring in Leadership and Policy Studies in Education. Her dissertation is about "The Influence of Faculty Members' Emotional Intelligence on Faculty-Student Relationships in Higher Education Institutions in the UAE".



Alumni Liaison

Share Your Success Story

Zayed University has a growing number of talented graduate alumni members who hold key positions of influence in public and private sector organizations and who are committed to making a difference in the world. During Fall 2020, the Deanship of Graduate Studies participated in a Let's Talk series that was hosted as live interview sessions by the Student Careers and Alumni Department on LinkedIn and YouTube.

On July 28, Kalthoum AlMarzouqi, Graduate Programs Senior Admissions Officer and ZU Alumni (BSc in Education 2011) was hosted by Hind AlKhayyal from Student Affairs Deanship and discussed Zayed University's graduate programs, scholarship opportunities and the application process to apply for admission in Spring 2021. On September 23, Dr. Gaelle Picherit-Duthler, Acting Dean, Graduate Studies, and Dr. Noura Al Obaidli, NYUAD Fellow and ZU Alumni (BS CCMS 2006, MA MAC 2013) discussed reasons why students should pursue a graduate education. Dr. Al Obaidli also discussed how the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Higher Education Scholarship Program allowed her to pursue her PhD in the UK. The College of Education also participated in the Let's Talk series on October 7. Dr. Frederico Conde, Associate Dean, and ZU Alumni Serena Aoun (MA MEELA 2019) discussed the benefits of studying for a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration.

Kalthoum AlMarzouqi
ZU Bachelor Alumni - Class of 2011
Senior Graduate Programs Admissions Officer at Zayed University
Graduate Studies at Zayed University
Tuesday - 28th of July, 2020
Live Streaming on LinkedIn and YouTube - Zayed University's accounts
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Dr. Gaelle Picherit-Duthler
Acting Dean of Graduate Studies
Dr. Noura Al Obaidli
ZU Bachelor Alumni of 2006
ZU Master Alumni of 2013
College of Graduate Studies at Zayed University and Scholarships
Wednesday - 23 September 2020
Live Streaming on LinkedIn and YouTube - 8 PM - 9 PM
Zayed University's accounts
*This session will be in the English language

Dr. Frederico Conde
Associate Dean - College of Education
Serena Aoun
ZU Master Alumni of 2019
The Benefit of Studying Master of Education in Educational Leadership and Administration at Zayed University
Wednesday - 7 October 2020 - 8 PM - 9 PM
Live Streaming on LinkedIn and YouTube
Zayed University's accounts
*This session will be in the English language

By sharing inspiring and relatable graduate alumni stories, the Deanship of Graduate Studies aimed to

- enhance Zayed University's brand and reputation;
- build awareness of the variety of graduate programs that Zayed University offers;
- showcase the exceptional achievements of former graduate students and provide prospective students with inspiring examples of what can be achieved post-graduation;
- strengthen relationships with the Zayed University alumni community; and,
- boost graduate enrolment.

The Deanship of Graduate Studies showcases graduate alumni success stories to encourage aspiring students who wish to follow their academic and professional paths to think about how Zayed University could prepare them. If you are a graduate student alumni who would like to share your story, we would be pleased to hear from you about your success or other aspiring life changing events since leaving the university. Please contact the Student Careers and Alumni Department Team at +971-4 402-1885 / +971-2-599-3397 / alumni@zu.ac.ae





Partnerships & Outreach

Sponsoring Organizations Add Value to Graduate Programs

Since the launch of Zayed University's graduate programs in 2001, several public and private sector organizations have paid all or some of the tuition fees for their employees to undertake graduate studies at the university. In Spring and Fall 2020, 41% of newly admitted graduate students were sponsored by their employers. These organizations have clearly understood the value and benefit of supporting key employees in their career aspirations. These sponsored professionals enhance their managerial effectiveness and leadership skills without interrupting their careers. Students have and continue to network with participants from a diverse mix of professional backgrounds, industries and areas of expertise. Learning has been applied immediately thus bringing significant impact to the workplace. A bonus is the retention of top talent that expectedly over time will speed track the future of the organization.

It is for these reasons that Zayed University encourages organizations to support graduate students who are eager to gain professional and personal growth. To assist organizations further, corporate discounts for a maximum of 20% of tuition fees are available to sponsoring organizations who sponsors a group of admitted graduate students in a semester in one or more master's degree programs. More information about this can be gained by either contacting the Deanship of Graduate Studies on +971-2-599-3605 or by email at cgs@zu.ac.ae



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CONTACT

Deanship of Graduate Studies

Zayed University
Abu Dhabi & Dubai
United Arab Emirates
Phone: +971-2-599-3605
Email: cgs@zu.ac.ae

www.zu.ac.ae

