

Academic Success Center **HIGHLIGHTS**

Fall 2021

Hello Hybrid!





Dr. Thomas Glas- Hochstettler

Provost

Dear Students!

It is a great pleasure to greet you this academic year. As we slowly return to a more normal routine in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, I for one am tremendously excited to be back working on campus and interacting face to face with students and with colleagues in the faculty and staff.

Please let me take this welcoming message as the opportunity to remind you of how critically important it is for you as a student to have all the right tools in place for a successful college career. That is why we have created the Academic Success Center, which is your go-to place for a wide array of helpful services, provided by the most welcoming people at ADU. Whether you think you need just a little help or a whole lot of help, the ASC is poised and ready to work with you toward resolving any academic bottlenecks that may be holding you back.

Have a great year ahead!

All my best,

Prof. Thomas J. Hochstettler, Ph.D.
Provost

Coffee with **THE DEAN**



Dr. Sreethi Nair
Dean, College of Arts and Science

A virtual meet was organized on Oct 7th from 2:00 – 3:00 pm with Dean, Dr. Sreethi Nair, at the helm. Her energetic personality, interactive and dynamic nature were the highlights of this meet. While the meet was memorable, Ms. Tarteel, our academic tutor did a good job of adding her own twist on the show with a little bit of humor and some interesting games. The meet brought to limelight the fabulous efforts of all our 104 peer tutors and 47 peer mentors. ASC classifies them as College of Arts and Sciences royalty!

[Click here](#)  to watch the meet.

The meet ended with a wonderful surprise from Dr. Sreethi where she gave away a coffee voucher to all the attendees!

Ms. Beena Vijayan | ASC Coordinator - AD Campus

Hiring the **BEST TALENT**



Mr. Abdulkarim
Academic Tutor - AD

Hi, I am Abdulkarim, and I am an academic tutor at Abu Dhabi University. A little bit about me - I am a mechanical engineering alumnus. I am full of energy, and I enjoy helping people to reach the levels they want to get to. Come by and get to know me and the wonderful ASC services.



Ms. Sara Mahmoud
Academic Tutor - AD

Hi everyone! This is Sara Mahmoud. Your new friend at the Academic Success Center. I am an accounting alumnus of Abu Dhabi University and currently working as an Academic Tutor. It will be my pleasure to assist you face-to-face and virtually in your studies anytime. Just approach me by email or MS Teams, and we can discuss further on.

FORWARD LOOKING START TO 2021-22

If 2020 was the year for staying home, then 2021 is not much different. Academic Success Center is already on the ADU radar for its innovative approach to student success and is now taking it a step further with the help of the growing technology. It is hard to imagine the process of tutoring taking place online, but we at the ASC have made it work.

ASC is now aiming to change the course of its operations in terms of how its services are fueled. We aim to grow through utilizing all the digital technology at our disposal. We are on a quest to optimize our services to serve the student community in every area and requirement.

To both continue to meet the needs of students and to keep the center fresh and engaging for both the students, faculty, and staff alike, ASC is constantly being scaled up.



Ms. Beena Vijayan
ASC Coordinator – AD Campus



ASC UPGRADES ITS TUTORING SERVICES

A hush had fallen over the campus – corridors and passageways that used to be busy with the usual footfall of students, instructors and staff were empty; the steady stream of conversations and greetings were replaced by eerie silence – where had everyone gone? Why the silence?

I am sure no-one needs to be re-reminded of those stark early days of Spring Semester when our world turned topsy-turvy so unexpectedly. Like all other ADU services, the Academic Success Center (ASC) also had to find new ways of offering its services.

So, in the spirit of 2020, the ASC also went fully online. With the support and dedication of our hard-working Academic Tutors, Course Assistants, Peer Tutors and Peer Mentors, we also turned to Microsoft Teams (our knight in white armor) to deliver our tutoring services. And ever since that memorable semester, ASC has continued to offer its tutoring in a hybrid mode – online as well as face to face in our physical spaces. Check us out some time.

And if you are on Al-Ain Campus, come and see our beautiful new home – come and take a session, pop in and talk to our Academic Tutors, attend one of our programs, or better still, join us as a volunteer.



Ms. Deenaz Kanji
ASC Coordinator – AA Campus



Letter from a **HYBRID STUDENT**

Dear future hybrid students,

Covid-19 struck the globe and with it came the shutdown of many businesses, switching education to online, and the economic downfall. But with the dawn of the new academic year 2021-2022 came the new hope of the hybrid learning mode, and I, as a hybrid student want you to get the most out of the experience as hybrid learning is here to stay.

When I heard that I would be in class every fortnightly only, I thought it was wonderful, and I was going to have so much free time. I was wrong. Hybrid courses require an unusually high level of commitment on your part. Procrastination will work against you. Our campus is huge with a lot of facilities like the ASC which helps students to succeed academically. Utilize the free services for your benefit.

Staying healthy is very important, and the state-of-the-art sports facilities at ADU are a marvel to enjoy and relax. Do visit the library on the 1st floor where you can also socialize, have discussions in the discussion rooms, and do much more. Remember, do not procrastinate. Be dedicated and focused. Plan well and be organized. Do not think that the course will be easy just because it is a hybrid class instead take yourself seriously as a student. Good luck!

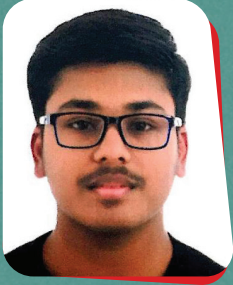
Best regards,



Omar Sami Altoukhy
Hybrid student - Peer Tutor



TUTORING DELIGHTS



Mr. English - Course Assistant

Many students misunderstand tutoring as favours. Some students would approach me for favours like "PLEASE write the outline for me so that I can score well as I am not that good in English and feel embarrassed when my instructor gives feedback in front of the whole class." Some also come to me begging to put a word to professors to give them good grades.



I am not a Dr! - Dana Mohammad Ali - Course Assistant

During a class visit, there was one comment which was "Thank you Dr.". Back then, I thought maybe it was a mistake. Later, when the same student contacted me for a tutoring session, I found out that he thought I was an instructor! I needed to clarify to him that I am a student too and a part of the ASC.



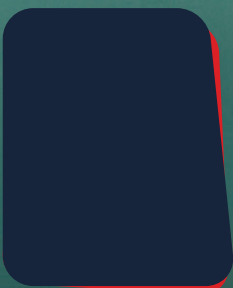
In The Wrong Time, Zoom! - Ebrahim M. Khair Alost - Course Assistant

I had a hard time using Teams at first, so I tutored through my phone. Once, I needed to share my screen with a tutee, and I suggested Zoom as an alternative platform. However, when I wanted to start the Zoom meeting, the application decided to update! Hold on to Teams, everyone!



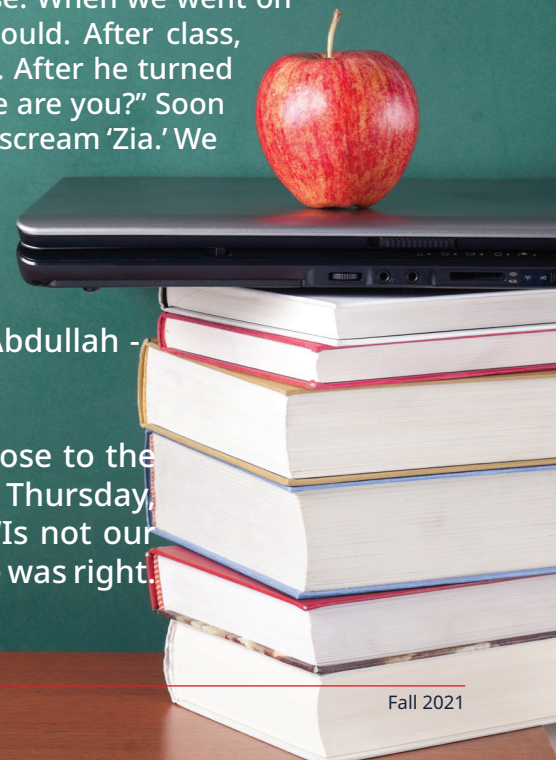
Tutoring to Friendship - Zia Farhan - Course Assistant

I tutored one of the students frequently until we became online friends. Then in this fall semester, we enrolled in the same course. When we went on campus, he could not recognize me though I could. After class, he talked to me in Arabic unaware of who I was. After he turned around, I got a message from him asking "Where are you?" Soon it dawned on him, and he turned his head only to scream 'Zia.' We both burst out laughing.



Different Thursdays - Fatima Mohammad Abdullah - Course Assistant

Usually, students book a session on a day close to the weekend. Once, a girl booked with me for a Thursday, and I waited endlessly until she messaged "Is not our meeting next Thursday?" Little did I know, she was right.



I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY, I AM SAYING IT, AND **THAT IS POETRY.** - JOHN CAGE

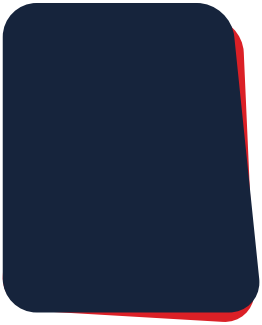
You'd start a new semester
Another section among your chapters.
You'd walk around the corridors
The vast and the narrow
Deep behind your gates,
You know your charming lights.
What keeps you forward,
Even when failure seems
Like a hopeless abyss.
You're the passionate lion
Of your day against obstacles.
You're the hungry wolf
Of your night against your fears.
Always loyal and determined
To fulfill the meritorious mission
of your amazing works and future.
The mission of harvesting the stars
and gaining knowledge restlessly.
Into the boundless universe,
You'd dive creatively and curiously.

This is your steal heart,
As it follows its focus persistently.
And you know your best method
Is to march with respect and benevolence
Between the many faces of life.



Syrin Suhail Alabrach
Peer Mentor and Course
Assistant
Computer Engineering

EXPERIENCES OF HYBRID LEARNING



Raghad Hasan - Peer Mentor

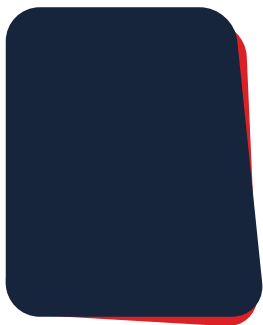
The UAE is one of the many countries to transition the education system to an online and remote one due to the Corona Virus. It was my 1st semester at ADU, and I was worried about not being able to manage the university work. However, the instructors were cooperative and considerate and the processes too were transferred seamlessly to the digital platforms. Overall, I would say, I had a positive experience, and I believe ADU's efforts of transferring their educational system to a remote one has been successful in helping us complete our courses. In addition to that, the quality of the system was comprehensive and exceeded expectations.



Fardeen Ahmad - Tutee

I am Fardeen Ahmed, a student of ADU, Al Ain, who has been a part of the hybrid learning protocol. It has been a great time studying in the campus as I could understand and absorb the concepts a lot faster and easily. However, much to my surprise, I have been much more productive since the start of the hybrid learning procedure. I have been able to get started early rather than rushing to my classes, and it has also helped me to interact well with my fellow classmates. Overall, I am very happy and impressed with the new hybrid learning procedure.

SUCCESS STORIES



Raghad Hasan - Peer Mentor

Studying in college all through the Covid 19 pandemic was not constantly expedient. In fact, this was my first time studying online and found it hard to stay on track with some of my course work. Hence, I approached the Academic Success Center for help, a decision that helped me immensely. I needed support in the Introduction to Mechanical and Industrial Engineering and the tutor helped me with tailored resources that helped me earn a good grade in my final exam.



Omar Amgad Abdelrahman - Tutee

My tutoring experience with Parth was way more professional than expected especially with the feedback that I got. He always motivated me despite the silly mistakes I made, and this made the learning process fun and inspirational.



Abdulla Mohamed - Tutee

My tutoring experience with Parth was wonderful. I learnt a lot from his feedback of my work, and I must say that I learnt how to write a perfect paragraph better than before. Thanks to his guidance.



Ayman Pathan - Tutee

As a freshman, I had a lot of queries in many things from enrolling in a course to even the smallest doubt in my subjects, but for all this, my peer tutor Violet came to my rescue. Things could not have been easier without her help and her constant motivation to keep doing better in all my subjects. I could clarify all my doubts with just a click of the mouse with Violet. I would not have been this confident without the help of my peer tutor today.

Where Leaders are Made..... **WHERE EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING MERGE**

Once the learning stops, the growing stops, and I can guarantee you that at the ASC, the learning never stops. We have a strong cohort of experienced student mentors who are striving every day to help their peers. In the process, they are always adding to their repertoire of skills to ensure that they can deliver to their utmost potential. They are constantly upskilling themselves, so they can offer the best support to their peers. As a peer mentor, you go full circle. You do your courses, and you are constantly staying up to date with all the resources and activities, so you can assist your mentees and channel their efforts to achieve academic success. Peer mentors at the ASC do not simply leave with an experience certificate but rather a cartload of experiences that will help them navigate the professional environment in a way that helps them and empower the people they work with too. Who does not love a team mate you can learn from!



Ms. Tarteel Jaafar Mohamed Salih
Academic Tutor - AA Campus

HARD WORK BEATS TALENT WHEN TALENT DOES NOT WORK HARD

If you ask me what is the most rewarding feeling in life is, I will simply tell you, it is the pleasure of seeing your hard work pay off. I have always believed in the idea of standing out whether it be between your group of friends or co-workers. You know what is the difference between someone who is ordinary, and someone who is extraordinary? It is the amount of work and dedication that each one of you puts in. My advice to you is to always do everything with your whole heart and trust me it is worth it! Give anything you do a touch of creativity; I promise you will be noticed and appreciated even when you think you are not. Do not think of your role as a tutor or mentor as just a task you need to finish; instead, think of it as a chance given to you to prove that you are capable of not only living up to someone's expectations but always amazingly exceeding them.



Ms. Huda Sawafta
Academic Tutor – AD Campus



BEAT TEAMS FATIGUE

We are spending a significantly large part of our day in virtual classes and meetings without the typical interactions or breaks, and this can often reduce our productivity.

Here are a few tips to combat Teams fatigue in your online classes.

- Move as the human body is not designed to sit for long periods, so every 20 minutes you spend looking at a screen, take 20 seconds to look at something 20 feet away. This can relax your eye muscles.
- Assume an upright posture as this allows you to access positive emotions more easily which can increase your energy.
- Be an interactive and responsive listener by engaging with the presenter as if you are having a personal conversation with that individual.
- Relieve your eyes by looking away every so often.
- Turn off self-view to avoid mirror anxiety that can lead to negative emotions.
- Suggest to your instructor to conduct some challenging games on different platforms like Mentimeter, Kahoot, Aha slides, etc.
- Do not multitask during your lecture as having many browser windows opened at the same time can increase your fatigue.



Ahmad Jasim Abdul Raheem
Course Assistant

ESSENTIAL ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS

Here are a few must-have tools to help you stay engaged and organized while lessons are being conducted remotely.

1. **IXL** - A website that helps you in improving your academic performance in specific areas such as math, science, and social studies. To explore more, [Click here](#) 🖱️
2. **Khan Academy** - The most popular website where you can learn about STEM courses which include science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. To explore more, [Click here](#) 🖱️
3. **Wabisabi** - An online platform ideal for lesson planning and collaborative learning tasks. To explore more, [Click here](#) 🖱️
4. **Quizlet** - A free study website where you can view flashcards related to any topic of your choice. Flashcards are used for reviewing, memorizing, and studying. To explore more, [Click here](#) 🖱️
5. **Trello** - An easy-to-use project management tool. Trello is useful for keeping track of where everyone is at with their various tasks. To explore more, [Click here](#) 🖱️



Sara Mahmoud Herzallah
(Academic Tutor - AD)



Mini Interview **SERIES**



Dr. Mohamed Fteiha

Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Deputy Director - Al Ain Campus and Director of the Centre for Smart Learning

About me

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Associate Professor of Special Education. I joined the Al Ain campus of Abu Dhabi University in 2012. I served as a Chair of Education Department for the last 6 years, from Sep 2016 till Aug 2021, and as Al Ain's Interim Campus Director from April 2016 till July 2019. My research work has been presented in a variety of local, national, and international conferences. I am a member of the editorial board and a reviewer for several international journals. I am a proud recipient of Teaching Awards from ADU, Khalifa Award for Education, Princess Haya Award for Special Education, and Harvard Medical School Dubai Center the TAMAYOZ Award for Health Care Professional.

My Favorites:

I enjoy fishing, traveling, reading books, and light sports such as walking.

Contact me:

E-mail: Mohamed.fteiha@adu.ac.ae

MS Teams: Mohamed Fteiha

Phone: 03 7090718 (AA campus), 02 5015354 (AD campus)

Mini Interview **SERIES**



Ms. Rachel Baldwin
Director of Student Affairs

About me

I am an international educator--born in Seoul, South Korea, raised in Upstate NY, and I have been in the field of higher education since 1999. My passion for international student success and development evolved from my deanship at Princeton University, where my primary focus was international students, multicultural affairs and student leadership. At ADU, I am fortunate to be part of a team of professionals within Student Affairs who have a shared commitment to the growth and success of our students. When I am not busy dedicating my time to the strategic direction of campus life at ADU, I may be found spending time with my family (including our 3 dogs), traveling the world, baking sugary sweets, or doing fun things fitness related.

My Favorites:

Spending time with family and friends
Staying active
Watching crime shows and horror films
Traveling

Contact me:

E-mail: rachel.baldwin@adu.ac.ae
Phone: 02-501-5237

Mini Interview **SERIES**



Mr. Shannon Glasgow
Senior Instructor of English
Al Ain Campus Coordinator, College of
Arts and Sciences

About me

I am a Senior Language Instructor at the College of Arts and Sciences and Coordinator for the Al Ain Campus. I have MA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language and a BA in International Relations. I have spent 60% of my life outside my home country, the US, living / working / studying in 8 countries and traveling in 50. I have helped organize a number of TEDxAlAin and regional Toastmasters events and is currently serving as President of the Humoroids Toastmasters Club (Abu Dhabi).


My Favorites:

History + cultural experiences
Helping others achieve their highest potential
Going on hikes with my family + cooking with my best friend
Alternative housing / alternative medicine.

Contact me:

E-mail: shannon.glasgow@adu.ac.ae

A Glimpse of Our Growing ASC FAMILY

At the ASC, students are our inspiration, so we are dedicated to making sure that we always meet their expectations. Whether you are looking for an efficient tutor, knowledgeable mentor, exciting competitions to participate, or simply a workshop to develop your skill, we strive to bring them closer to you! [Click here](#)  to discover a host of new additions to our growing family and stay tuned for more to come!



The coronavirus pandemic has forced us to innovate and adapt quickly. There was no contingency in place and at the ASC, we adapted and improvised quite quickly to ensure a seamless transition of operations in a way that we were able to continue helping the many students the ASC works with. As we collectively move into a new normal, we will take the benefits of technology and create an atmosphere where student success will be our highest priority.

For queries and joining the ASC family email asc@adu.ac.ae

