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UOSMUN Reaches New Heights!

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By Muniba Saeed

Finals Week or Final Week

As finals week approaches, so does the stress, caffeine-fueled nights, and never-ending deadlines. For some students, this is their final week of finals, marking the end of their university chapter. It's bittersweet for many, the end of an era. But for most, it's just bitter and exhausting. Regardless of which year you're in, here's a guide from University of Sharjah students on how to survive finals week:

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UOSMUN Reaches New Heights!

By Muniba Saeed
6th April 2025

***"The long-term plans are only to keep getting bigger and bigger each time,"* - Dima Al Wazani, the Director of Logistics**

The UOSMUN Association held the 4th edition of its conference from 4th to 6th April, attracting students from schools and universities across the UAE. This time, the conference welcomed participants from over 46 institutions, making this the highest turnout since its inception.

"It feels genuinely very overwhelming. Each conference we've had after the first one we keep getting more delegates, it keeps growing, it keeps getting way bigger, way more successful," said Asma'u Isa Ali, the Founder of the UOSMUN Association.

The theme of this year's conference was 'Uniting for Global Transformation: Crafting Solutions For Peace, Progress, and Sustainability.' Yasir Magdi, a member of the organizing team, expressed that seeing delegates learn and grow through this experience has been extremely rewarding for him and his team.

UOSMUN closing ceremony, taken by Hiba Sharjeel, UOSMUN Media Team

Dima Al Wazani, the Director of Logistics, conveyed a similar sentiment: "Regardless of the chaos, of the struggles, we managed to pull this off, and seeing this conference come to life has been the most rewarding thing for me."

The success of the fourth edition of this conference serves as a testament to how far the UOSMUN has come. First established in November 2023, the UOSMUN Association was a modest initiative founded by students of the College of Public Policy with the aim of fostering dialogue on global issues.

"We proposed the idea to the university and our department, the department was very accepting, very happy with it," said Asma'u. "They really encouraged a lot of student involvement in such activities. They wanted us to have this moment for ourselves."

She also spoke of the challenges they faced trying to hold their first conference. "The first edition we had, all of us in the board, the co-founders, we had no idea how to form a board." According to her, this initiative had required them to learn and relearn everything.

The team behind UOSMUN 4.0

What started as a 10-member board has now grown to 57, reflecting the growth mindset of its founders and their incredible vision. "The long-term plans are only to keep getting bigger and bigger each time," said Dima, who has been part of the board since it was established.

Mohammed Zaitun, a delegate at the conference, shared how this experience has pushed him to step outside his comfort zone and participate more actively. He also added that it taught him to research properly and communicate more openly with those around him.

Another delegate, Ayisha Wali, also praised the conference, saying that it's "definitely one of the best conferences I've attended."

According to Asma'u, the future plans for the UOSMUN Association are only to keep getting bigger each time. "With how much enthusiasm the members have, with how successful each conference has been so far— I'm genuinely very confident that one day it's going to be the best in UAE, one day in the Middle East and one day in the world. And I will be there to see it."

From a humble beginning to new heights achieved with every edition, the UOSMUN Association's journey reflects the passion and resilience of its founders and members. As they look ahead with ambitious goals and an incredible community, one thing is clear — this is just the beginning of what promises to be an ever-growing legacy.

***"For the future, im looking at UOSMUN to be the best MUN in the UAE, in the middle east and in the world one day"* - Asma'u Isa Ali, founder of the UOSMUN**

UOSMUN Association Hosts a Night of Culture and Connection

By Sherlyn Elza Mathew
6th April 2025

On Saturday, April 5th, the UOSMUN Association hosted an extravagant Cultural Night as part of the social night of the 4th MUN edition. Running from 5 PM to 10 PM, the event brought together a vibrant mix of participants, celebrating diverse cultures.

Taken by Dana Alzarooni, UOSMUN Media team

"During the cultural event, I got the opportunity to meet and interact with people from different countries and cultural backgrounds. I got to know more about their traditions, food, music, and art… It was a wonderful experience that brought all of us together, promoting unity, friendship, and mutual respect amongst ," said Eshal Sherfudeen, a 1st year student majoring in Nursing.

The cultural night was successful at reflecting this year's theme for UOSMUN - 'Uniting for Global Transformation: Crafting Solutions for Peace, Progress, and Sustainability', with over 18 countries represented through all the country-based club booths.

Khadeejath Shazfa Shafeer, a second-year student and the content creator head of UOSMUN, expressed her joyful experience in giving a glimpse into the Mauritian culture for the cultural night through her booth. She also shared her delight in seeing how UOSMUN becomes a hub for bringing together people from different cultures.

"As a UOSMUN board member and coordinator of the Mauritius booth, it was a joy to bring the spirit of Mauritius to life. From serving traditional drinks to hosting interactive games, we created a space that felt like a warm welcome into a Mauritian home." said Khadeejath Shazfa Shafeer.

Asma Aboobacker, a first-year student majoring in Chemistry, voiced her doubts about organizing the Mauritius booth due to none of the other organizers having roots in Mauritius:

"We didn't have much knowledge of the food, culture, and activities." But later expressed her elation over how it became "one of the best events" that she went to at the university.

"I was part of organizing the Mauritius booth in the MUN social night. Going in, I didn't have high expectations as none of the organisers were from Mauritius and our knowledge of the food, culture, and activities was limited to information we've learnt from the internet," said Asma Aboobacker. "However, we decided to try our best and were pleasantly surprised at how fun and enjoyable it was, probably being one of the best events I've attended in UOS to date," she added.

Eishal Sultan, a Computer Engineering student, conveyed how radiant the event was as she learned about different cultures. "As I attended the Cultural Night, I was truly delighted by the vibrant and welcoming atmosphere of the event. The more I explored, the more I learned about the beauty and uniqueness of different cultures… Not to mention, the highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the fashion show," said Eishal Sultan.

The Cultural Night marked a vibrant revival of intercultural engagement on campus after a two-year gap in Global Day activities. The event, which was planned with great excitement and attention to detail, brought students together in a joyful atmosphere to celebrate the university's cultural variety. Featuring traditional clothing and music, as well as real cuisine and heritage-themed booths,

The UOSMUN Association, created in November 2023, began as a modest but ambitious project by students from the College of Public Policy. The group was founded on a common enthusiasm for diplomacy, international relations, and youth participation, with the goal of creating a forum that encourages meaningful conversation on important global challenges.

F1 Unboxed

By Intesar and Yassmin Mohammed Khalil
20th April 2025

Sector One: Season Overview

Formula 1 is back for the 2025 season, marking its 75th year, and in true motorsport fashion, the anniversary celebration was a showstopper. For the first time in the sport's history, every team unveiled their new liveries at a single mega-event, F1 75 Live. This centralized launch not only streamlined what once used to be a calendar scattered with car reveals, but it also hinted at a new approach that F1 plans to take when it comes to how it markets itself—big, bold & unified.

Credit: Zak Mauger/Getty Images

F1 75 Live isn't the only thing shaking up the start of the season. Eight out of ten teams rolled out fresh driver line-ups, making this one of the most shuffled grids in recent years. And the change is already impacting team chemistry and race outcomes. The first big shock of the season came just two races in when Red Bull's 2nd driver Liam Lawson was unceremoniously dropped and replaced by Racing Bulls driver Yuki Tsunoda. It was a reminder that the second Red Bull seat remains one of the most volatile in the sport. The fallout sparked the start of the so-called "Silly Season", which no longer waits for summer to kick off.

A few races into the 2025 season and it's clear that the front-runners are facing unexpected turbulence.

After losing the constructors' championship last year, the Red Bulls are now facing a downward curve, sitting fourth in the performance pecking order and it seems their era of invincibility has come to an end. The reigning champion, Max Verstappen, however, remains consistent and sharp behind the wheel but the pace simply isn't there. Whether it's the competition finally closing the gap or internal performance ceilings being reached, one thing is clear: the cracks aren't just forming; they've been there since last year.

New residents of the first garage slot, the McLarens, seem to be carrying over their newfound pace with confidence and intent from last season into this year. They started the season off strong by being the breakout stars of pre-season testing in Bahrain. However, fast forward a few races and while the McLaren driver Lando Norris is currently in the title fight with a promising car, his post-session interviews are telling a different story. According to the British driver, he is facing car struggles and is not quite satisfied with his performance. And beneath the podium smiles, tension is building inside the McLaren garage as his teammate, Oscar Piastri, is no longer a quiet presence. It appears he is a legitimate championship contender and when both drivers are eyeing the same prize, sparks often follow.

"...not because they've been bad weekends necessarily but because they've not been as good as they should be and as they can be..." - Norris

Across at the Ferrari garage, they seem to be experiencing struggles of their own. After Lewis Hamilton's bold decision to leave Mercedes behind and start in red, the seven-time world champion brought fresh hope and sky-high expectations. But so far, strategy hiccups and internal pressure have made his transition anything but seamless. Paired with Charles Leclerc, another title contender, Ferrari's biggest challenge might not be the competition but managing their battle plan. And finally, we have some rule updates, no more bonus points for fastest lap, a rule that removes the late-race pit-stop gambles we've gotten used to. And in an added twist, if qualifying is cancelled, the championship standings now determine the race grid.

Sector Two: Race Replays

As teams and drivers settle into the rhythm of a new season, these are standout moments that have shaped the grid so far.

Australian GP

The lights went out in Melbourne, and so did six drivers with a dramatic six DNFs shaping a chaotic season opener. Norris took an early lead in the championship for the first time in his career, while rookie Kimi Antonelli impressed with a P5 debut. Piastri had a mid-race spin but recovered to finish in the points. However, the real heart of the race came before the green flag when rookie Isack Hadjar spun into the wall during the formation lap, ending his debut before it began, while returning to the paddock, he was met by a warm embrace from Anthony Hamilton, who had been there to watch his son [Lewis Hamilton] race in red.

"I just wanted to give him a hug. I felt for him like a father." - Anthony Hamilton

Credit: Formula 1 Facebook

Chinese GP

The weekend came with a sprint format, and Hamilton stole the show. He snagged pole, shattered the track record, and claimed his first win in Ferrari. In Sunday's race, McLaren, sealed their 50th 1–2 finish. Mercedes also celebrated a milestone with their 300th podium, courtesy of George Russell. And while both Haas cars scored points, Fernando

Credit: Greg Baker/AFP/Getty Images

Alonso had to DNF. Post-race however, Pierre Gasly, Hamilton, and Leclerc got disqualified for breaching regulations.

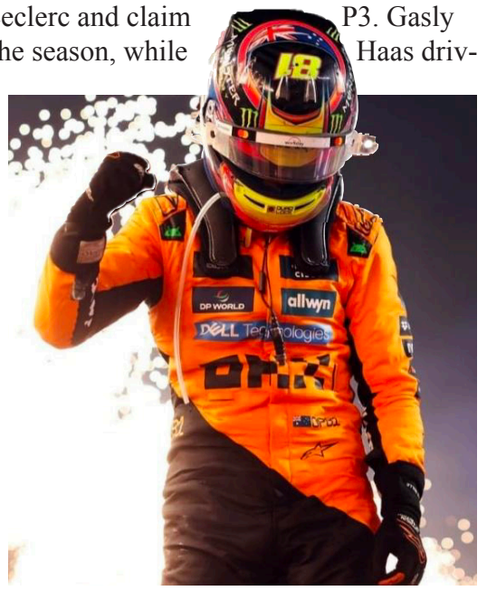
Japanese GP

Credit: PlanetF1

Verstappen returned to winning ways, converting his first pole of the season into a dominant win and breaking track record. McLaren followed close with a P2 and P3, but not without visible tension between Norris and Piastri in the closing laps. Verstappen and Norris also had minor battle in the pit lane exit on lap 22. Rookie sensation Antonelli led the Grand Prix at one point, making him the youngest driver in F1 history to do so, before finishing P6. Local hero Yuki Tsunoda wrapped up his home race in P12, while Hadjar finally scored his first F1 points.

Bahrain GP

Piastri bagged his second win of the season, narrowing the championship gap to just three points. Russell brought home P2, despite technical issues. While for Norris, it was a recovery weekend as he battled hard to overtake Leclerc and claim P3. Gasly scored his first points of the season, while Haas drivers finishing in the points again. Carlos Sainz's weekend ended early, retiring after contact with Tsunoda.



Saudi GP

Piastri claimed victory, securing the championship lead by 10 points from Norris, becoming the first Australian since Mark Webber to top the standings in 15 years. Drama unfolded on the opening lap as Verstappen received a 5 second penalty for cutting Turn 1, a mistake that cost him the lead and finishing P2. Norris, bounced back following his rough Qualifying crash, recovering his way up to P4 after battling with Leclerc for P3 till the end. The race saw two early exits, with Gasly and Tsunoda colliding on Lap 1.

Sector Three: Drivers Standing

Every point counts. Here's a look at who's leading and who's trying to close the gap.

Credit: F1 Instagram

End-of-Semester Buzz: What Events are Coming Up?

By Muniba Saeed
22nd April 2025

As the semester nears its end, you'd expect activities and events to wind down. However, that's far from the case. Mark your calendars for one final burst of energy. From groundbreaking collaborations to the debut of our first-ever TEDx event, the end of this semester promises a celebration of ideas, unity, and identity. Here are three stand-out events that will shape a powerful finale for your semester.

Syrian-Palestinian Day: A Celebration of Culture and Resilience

The Syrian and Palestinian Cultural clubs will be hosting the biggest event this semester on April 24th at 2:00 pm in Al Razi Hall, Medical Colleges.

More than a celebration, it's a heartfelt tribute to the history, identity, and unity of the people of Syria and Palestine.

Sadeer Ahmad Alsoboh, an organizer, shared what this event means to her and her team: "We hope to make this event a celebration that stays in people's memories. What happened in Syria in recent years is something that truly deserves to be remembered. We want this to be a joyful occasion one that reflects the pride we feel when we say we are Syrian."

She shared her hopes of everyone having the best time at the event. From food to performances, there will be plenty to enjoy. "At the Syrian-Palestinian Day, you can definitely expect a variety of delicious foods (don't miss out). There will also be performances that reflect both Syrian and Palestinian cultures so make sure to enjoy them," she said. "And when the dabke is on, bring your energy and let the stage light up with your enthusiasm"

TEDx Arrives on Campus

For the first time in our university's history, TEDx is coming to campus. As a student-led initiative, it promises to spotlight bold ideas and inspiring stories from within our own community. The event, limited to VIP guests, will be shared globally through the official TEDx YouTube channel.

TEDx UniversityofSharjah Rehearsal

TEDxUniversity Of Sharjah

Maryam Rafat Suliman, the founder, shared the inspiration behind making this happen. "What really inspired me and keeps me going is knowing that I can be the reason and give the chance to a lot of bright minds in our university… to give them a stage to speak their valuable ideas." She also expressed her hopes for the impact this would have on the campus community: "Having this type of events in our own university shows what we should always aim for, toward international success and recognition."

"And you never know, it might grow to an event bigger success then whatever were working on right now"

As for what to expect, there's an exciting line up of talks. For instance, one of the speakers will be talking about Spacetoon, "it is one of the things you would never expect to hear from a TEDx speech," said Maryam. But that's what makes it special.

Moot Court: A UOS x AUS Collaboration

Once again, two of the best universities in the UAE have joined hands to host a Moot Court Competition, showcasing the best and sharpest minds from both universities. The competition will take place on 28th April, from 5 to 7pm at the AUS Main Auditorium. This unique event is the result of a partnership between two student-run societies, IR Society of UoS and SAFA of AUS, driven by a shared vision of unity.

We asked Danah Atieh, the President of IR Society, how it all began: "It started with one of our professors in IR Department named Dr. Muhammad Ali that taught one of the members from AUS SAFA … he suggested that it'd be a great idea to collaborate with the IR Society," she said.

The aim has been to create a community to celebrate one another. "Our main priority is for both of Sharjah's universities to come together. To sit in a room amongst one another and celebrate each other. It's about building a community."

"Our main priority is for both of Sharjah's universities to come together. To sit in a room amongst one another and celebrate each other. It's about building a community."

And it's done exactly that. "IR and SAFA have grown beyond just student body clubs … we've become good friends and built ourselves into one unified team. I truly believe that in the years to come, the vision we share will continue to endure," said Dana. "We hope the bridge we've built continues to strengthen, and we recognize that despite attending different universities, we are all united by the heart of Sharjah."

Finals Week or Final Week

By Mira Fadi
17th April 2025

As finals week approaches, so does the stress, caffeine-fueled nights, and never-ending deadlines. For some students, this is their final week of finals, marking the end of their university chapter. It's bittersweet for many, the end of an era. But for most, it's just bitter and exhausting. Regardless of which year you're in, here's a guide from University of Sharjah students on how to survive finals week:

Stress is inevitable during finals, but it doesn't have to consume you and it's more manageable than you think:

- **Map it out:** It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you don't know where to begin or when you have exams lined up consecutively and a ton of chapters you haven't started. To-do lists and visual planners help organize the chaos into what to do and when.

- **Pause and reset:** When it feels like you're drowning in deadlines and upcoming exams, just pause, take a breath, reset, and resume.

- **Romanticize the process:** Choose an organized space, get your favorite drink, and make studying feel less like a chore.

Now that your in the studying mindset, where you study can make or break your study sessions. It's important to find a spot that'll motivate you and prevent distractions.

- **House of Wisdom (Al Juraina):** A modern, free entry library with plenty of quiet zones and refreshing interiors that make you want to study. A 2nd year student shared, "It's my favorite place. It motivates me to study when I'm surrounded by others doing the same."

- **Sharjah Public library:** This free-to-enter public library is calm and has quiet corners perfect for deep brainstorming. It also offers multipurpose rooms that can be reserved in advance for group study sessions.

- **Oláh Café (Aljada):** An ideal spot for long hours of studying with aesthetic interior, free Wi-Fi, and plenty of plug points. (AED 25–35 average)

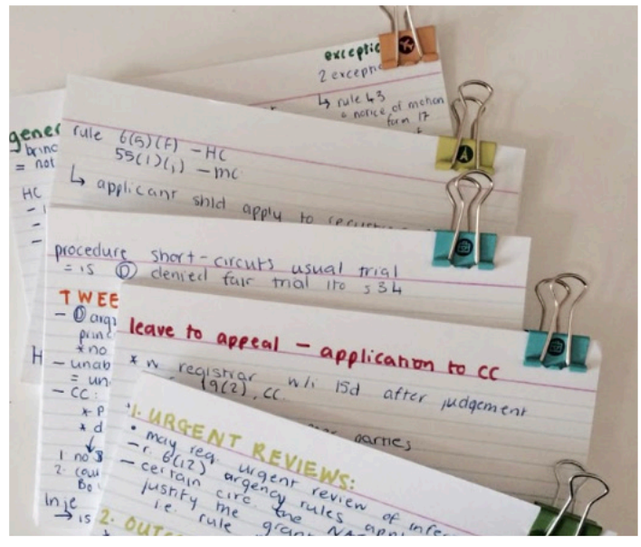
- **A4 Space (Dubai, Alserkal Avenue):** Another free-entry hidden gem with cozy couches, free Wi-Fi, a café, and even a rare books bookstore upstairs. Perfect for getting into study mode.

When UOS students were asked how they stay on track during finals, they suggested study methods that actually work:

- **Pomodoro:** Study for 25 minutes, then take a 5-minute break. After 4 sessions, take a longer break. "It's a lifesaver for me especially as someone who burns out easily," said a Mass Communication student.

- **Active recall:** Use flashcards and quiz yourself to actually pull information from your memory rather than just rereading notes.

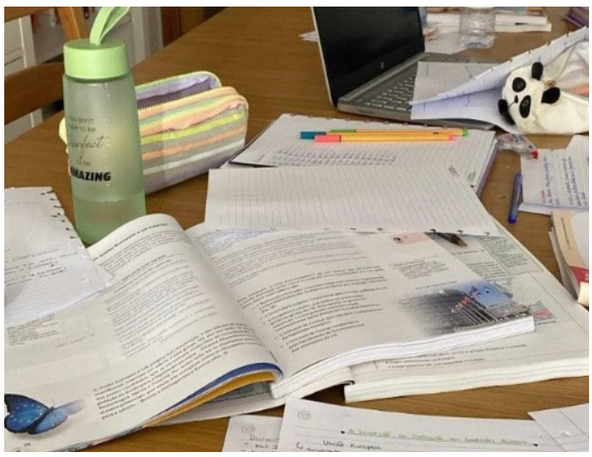
- **Teach-back method***:* Try explaining the topic to someone else or even an inanimate object because, as a medical student said: "If you can teach it, you know it."



Burnout (noun): physical or mental collapse caused by overwork or stress.

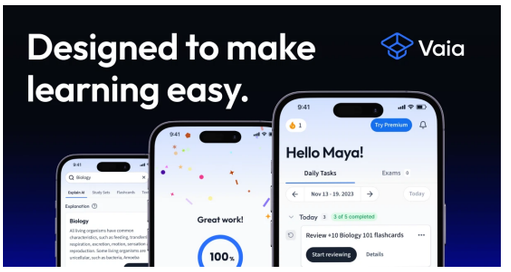
Burnout is very real, don't ignore it. Instead, here's how to prevent it:

- **Be realistic**: Let's be honest, you're not finishing all 5 chapters included in your final in 2 days. Set goals that you can actually achieve rather than overwhelming yourself with unrealistic ones.
- **Prioritize sleep:** Yes, pulling all-nighters might feel productive, but these extra exhausting hours spent studying are better spent sleeping. Manage your timet to take advantage of every hour in the day. Well-rested brains work faster. And no, coffee and energy drinks don't replace actual sleep.
- **Take breaks:** Long, non-stop study sessions are draining. Don't overwork yourself. Even 25 minutes of focused work deserves a break.
- **Stay connected:** Our first instinct during finals is to go into complete isolation mode to get work done, but talking to your friends or family helps reduce stress and avoid loneliness.



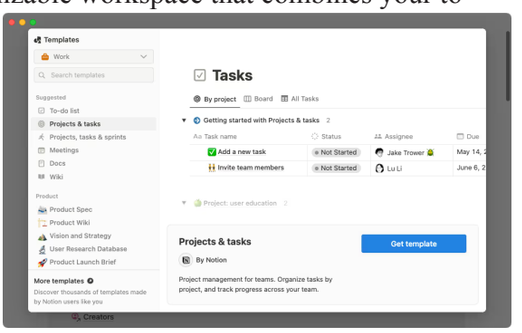
Of course, technique matters. But the right tools? They can make all the difference. Here are some student-approved study and focus apps that are helpful:

- **Vaia:** Create digital flashcards with spaced repetition and active recall that'll help you retain information. It also summarizes notes and gets the help of AI to explain concepts.



- **Focus Tree***:*
Helps you stay focused and off your phone by rewarding you after a successful focus session with an item to add to your digital garden. You can also invite your friends & build the garden together. "I love this app, it keeps my tendencies of frequently checking my phone while studying under control," mentioned Mariam, a dental surgery student.

- **Notion:** A customizable workspace that combines your to-do lists, notes, schedules, and projects all in one place. You can create daily planners, track assignments, and even collaborate with your friends . A Mass Communication student shared, "Honestly, it's the only app I use and really the only one you'd need. It just has everything."



Finals are tough and, let's be honest, pretty dreadful, but don't forget how far you've already come. You've survived the lectures, the assignments, the group projects, and all those late-night study sessions. Now, it's just one last push to the finish line. This is your moment to prove to yourself just how capable you are.

Through it all, remember to be kind to yourself. Take breaks, get some sleep, drink water (not just coffee!), and breathe. The stress won't last forever, and soon enough, you'll be swapping textbooks for sunglasses. A long, well-deserved summer vacation is just around the corner.

Need ideas to make the most of it? Check out our Summer Bucket List on page 19, you've earned every second of joy that's coming your way.
Good luckyou've got this!

Experiencing Tennis From A Whole New Perspective: Serving as a Line Umpire at the Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open

By Youssef Amr
18th March 2025

"I remember one match so vividly, where the final set was on a knife's edge"

I had the incredible opportunity to work as a line umpire at the 2025 WTA Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open, held from February 3 to February 8 in Abu Dhabi. The event was organized by IMG and presented by the Abu Dhabi Sports Council, under the leadership of Aref Al Awani, the council's General Secretary. It was truly one of the most intense and exciting experiences I've ever had.

From day one, the atmosphere was electric. The courts were pristine, the stands were filled with passionate fans, and the tournament featured some of the biggest names in women's tennis—Elena Rybakina, Paula Badosa, Ons Jabeur, Belinda Bencic, and Leylah Fernandez, to name a few.

Being on the court as a line umpire, I felt I was at the very heart of the action—but with the immense responsibility of ensuring that every call I made was accurate and fair. There's this unique adrenaline rush you get when you're laser-focused on the line, anticipating the ball's path during a high-stakes rally. Some shots are easy to call—you just know, but then there are those moments when the ball lands so close to the line that you have milliseconds to decide.

I remember one match so vividly, where the final set was on a knife's edge. A player blasted a crosscourt shot that landed so close to the sideline, that I could barely see any daylight between the ball and the line. I called it "OUT"—and instantly, the crowd gasped. The player challenged the call, and as the replay played on the big screen, everyone in the stadium held their breath—including me. When the replay confirmed my call was correct, I could finally exhale. It's nerve-wracking, yes, but also deeply rewarding.

Throughout the week, I witnessed some breathtaking tennis, moments of true sportsmanship, and a few intense player reactions—which, as an official, comes with the territory. Regardless of the heat of the moment, there was always mutual respect between players and umpires. We all share the goal of maintaining fairness and integrity in every match.

I even spotted a few familiar faces in the crowd, including celebrities like Kevin Hart, Steve Harvey, and David Beckham, adding an extra layer of excitement to an already unforgettable week.

I owe a great deal of gratitude to the UAE Tennis Federation for making this opportunity possible. As a second-year student at the University of Sharjah's College of Mass
Communication, I was honoured to be selected for such a prestigious role. The federation even supported my request for academic leave so I could fully commit to the event without worry.

By the time the finals concluded, and the champion held the trophy high, I felt a deep sense of pride. Sure, I was exhausted—but also incredibly fulfilled. Being part of the Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open wasn't just about standing on a court and calling lines; it was about contributing to something bigger, being part of a global tennis family, and experiencing firsthand the passion that drives this sport.

The Theatre Club is Gearing Up to Put On a Play for the Ages!

By Batool Maher
10th April 2025

"I would love to collaborate with the music club and do a musical play, I think it would be enjoyable."

I had the opportunity to sit with Zafar Khan a finance major and the president of the theater club. We discussed all things theater and spoke about the club's goals, where he hopes to see it go and what made him interested in becoming the club's president.

Zafar was inspired to join the club and become president to become more socially active within the university community; meet new people and make friends. Additionally, joining the club added to his appreciation of theatre, writing, directing, and acting.

The club's first play is planned to be held somewhere between September and October of the 2025 Fall semester. It will be an immersive murder mystery, Khan explained that the audience will get to engage with the actors "For example, when the murder happens the audience will get the murder weapons and some clue cards, and they must guess who the murderer is." The name of the play will be revealed soon so stay on the lookout for that!

As we got to talking, he revealed that not all of it was easy, a setback that the club experienced was that the timing did not go according to plan, in fact, the play was supposed to be held in April but due to finals coming up, it was best to push it to next semester.

In his opinion, students are ready for the club. Surprisingly, 50 students signed up for the form that was shared back in January of this year.

But what might be shocking to the students is that theatre clubs take a lot to manage.
Considering you need to write the script, prepare props, direct and handle costumes- it is not an easy job! He explained that managing the club as the president is a taxing job, especially since the club members have finals to study for, the way they work around it is that they must have 2 or 3 different timings for meetings.

Zafar's determination as the club's president stems from his childhood, "All throughout school, I was always performing at least once a year. We had annual days, and I was very active in it,"
he recalls, "Apart from this, my family has always encouraged me and supported me in performing on stage, they have always helped me, and it always helped me be more social, meet new people and experience new things."

Confidence is key in theater, Zafar explained that confidence comes from finding your "thing", which is another way of saying you need to find what you instinctively feel-good doing, whether it is acting in a drama or writing an article. He also said, "I recommend everyone tries different, new things that challenge them, but also find the thing you're naturally gifted in and once you find that, you'll automatically become confident."

In the hopes of the club going forward, Zafar hopes to one day put on an interesting play about an Arab man from the 12th century meeting an Arab man from the 21st century, touring the Arab countries and exploring the type of progress the Arab nation has made over the years.

In addition to original plays, he hopes to put on written plays, "The Phantom of the Opera", "Chicago" and "Aladdin" to name a few, he expressed a love for musicals stating: "I would love to collaborate with the music club and do a musical play, I think it would be enjoyable."

His vision for the future of the club is that is lasts a long time, "I hope that the next person that manages the club has an easier time managing it and I hope that people keep having fun and try out new things." He adds.

It was an eye-opening conversation on the theatre club and their interesting play; it will captivate the audience in a very important way! You can keep updated on the incredible theatre club on their Instagram account (@uostheatreclub) and keep an eye out on the upcoming plays they are performing!

Campus Couture

By Yassmin & Intesar Mohammed Khalil
19th April 2025

The semester is coming to an end; finals have started and summer is already here. What better time than for an issue of Campus Couture to be dropped. This time, we'll be predicting trends that will be hot this summer, spotlighting student styles, debating whether bag charms are cute or chaos and discussing a campus norm—sunglasses indoors.

Trend Predictions: *The Summer Style Forecast*

As the campus begins to quiet down and textbooks are traded for summer essentials, this edition predicts trends that will bloom, whether students stay behind for summer classes or return in the fall. Gone are the heavy layers and dark palettes, and in their place, a trio of fresh trends is set to emerge. Once the highlight of early 2000s fashion, ballet flats are now tiptoeing back into campus wardrobes. Revamped to come in all kinds of styles, from bold and embellished designs like those at Zara to classic, minimalist looks offered by SHEIN, and even sporty options like the PUMA Speedcats, making them every student's warm weather staple. While the season may bring with it a rotation of styles, one mustn't overlook the quiet charm of colour. This summer, it is none other than butter yellow, and no one, it seems, can escape the influence of this captivating shade, and our university students are no exception. Whether it is styled as an accent piece during the summer semester, a flowy abaya worn effortlessly on a well-deserved break, or stylish totes flaunted upon return in the fall, butter yellow looks to be the season's most irresistible colour that captures the essence of summer. It appears the craft of accessorizing will take an unexpected turn with charms, chains, and pearls now embracing a bolder identity. This season, one might spot them draped across sneakers or strung boldly along belt loops. These accessories are a simple way to add individuality, boldness, and just the right amount of personality to any outfit. This summer, it seems subtlety will take a back seat since accessorizing will have its moment in the sun, whether students are on or off campus. The rise of adornments doesn't stop there, polka dots and sequins are set to make a return to campus fashion. Whether dotting flowy fabrics or catching the sun in shimmering details, these classic embellishments are predicted to be popular among those looking to add texture and visual interest to their everyday looks.

Campus Fit Check

Even though most of us have already tapped out of this semester, there are some who are closing out the semester in style and so let's take a closer look at them.

Sarah – *Biotechnology Student*

"Comfy, edgy and unique" are three words Sarah uses to describe her personal style. She dresses depending on how tasking her day would be and adds "If I know it's going to be a long day, I'll go for a comfier and more convenient outfit rather than going for aesthetics." Band tees, satin skirts and boots are three items that Sarah always opts for as her go-to outfit. Most of the time, she picks her clothes based on her morning moods but says "I do generally have a vague concept in mind the night prior". Her must have accessories are a gorgeous set of custom nails from @bionailtech—her own nail business she started with her friend where they create affordable and custom-made nails that are tailored to everyone's liking. A fashion advice she has is "Take risks, bask in the attention and let it drive you. Good style in your view won't always be someone else's cup of tea."

"Love them… but being loaded with bag charms/pins sometimes give off punk and junk vibes."
- Sarah

Jameela – *English & Literature Student*

Jameela uses the words "elegant, modest and radiant" to describe her personal style. She balances between style and comfort for university by choosing comfortable fabrics. When choosing her go-to outfit, an abaya is what she'd go for always. Dressing based on her mood is what she does usually but she adds "On certain occasions, I do plan ahead". To complete her look, Jameela says she uses "jewellery especially hand adornments". Her fashion advice is "Choose pieces that make you feel confident and comfortable while respecting the Uni dress code. A smile and good attitude are always the best accessories!"

"I can do without them, and I do think if there are too many charms on a bag it becomes tacky."
- Jameela

"I love all charms…but too many can make it look cluttered though, and balance is key."
- Ayah

Ayah – *Visual Communication Student*

Ayah describes her style as "alternative, soft but dark". She values both style and comfort and balances between them by some days going for wide pants with fitted a top or vice versa and other days wearing long flowy skirts or dresses. When choosing her go-to outfit, she usually wears boots or comfy shoes with wide legged pants and any blouse she's feeling that day. She adds, "It's simple, but all in black and easy to throw on." Ayah mixes between planning in advance and dressing based on her mood. Sometimes she plans ahead to not waste time and other times she dresses based on her schedule and mood. She says "if it's a long day, I go for something comfier, but if it's a short or special one, I might wear something a bit more stylish."

Her go-to accessories to complete her look are black shoulder bags, chunky shoes and jewellery. She says "A simple black shoulder bag with any chains is a must! It adds just the right amount of detail. Chunky shoes always complete the look too. And I usually add some accessories like rings or layered necklaces to make the outfit feel more put together." For her fashion advice, she says "Style is a subtle form of self-expression. Mine is always rooted in black, sometimes soft, sometimes bold. I'm someone who doesn't like to stand out too much, but I still want my outfit to reflect who I am. Wear what makes you feel good, and not what you think you're supposed to wear."

Trend Court: *The Bag Charms Trial*

In this session of trend court, we have the case Bag Charms: Cute or Chaos?

Yassmin: Seeing as I've lost count on how many bag charms I've got; I have to be the defendant in this case. I argue that you can never have enough bag charms!
Intesar: I hear you, and I agree to an extent. They do add personality to your bags but sometimes they can get chaotic.
Yassmin: What's wrong with having too many bag charms? They're harmless and super cute!
Intesar: Well, the evidence against them is hard to ignore. The results of our campus wide survey show that most students find bag charms cute but in moderation. Why? Most of them prefer a minimalistic look.
Yassmin: Really? I have seen way too many bag charms in the hallways, I thought Team Charms would win!
Intesar: It's not like bag charms are cancelled. The majority sided with having a limit, otherwise it's a case of cute turning into clutter.
Yassmin: When does it become too much, 10 charms?
Intesar: No, the final verdict is in:
One charm? Slay.
Two maybe three charms? Iconic.
Anything more? Enough, you're bag needs its own ID card!

Sunglasses Indoors: *A Campus Norm*

As butter yellow, ballet flats, and charms prepare to make their entrance into students' wardrobes, there has been one trend that has long secured its spot in the campus dress code: sunglasses indoors. From bustling hallways to brightly lit lecture halls, students are often seen wearing tinted shades indoors. What's surprising is that this trend even extends to some faculty and staff members. These dark-coloured lenses have become more than just a shield from the sun, they are now used to avoid awkward eye contact in the corridors, to look effortlessly cool, or to even find comfort under bright indoor lights. What may be considered unusual anywhere else, sunglasses indoors have quickly become a normal sight on this campus.

Celebrating Athletic Excellence: The 2025 UAE University Games Finals in Abu Dhabi

By Reem SirAlkhatim
22nd April 2025

The UAE University Games culminated on April 20, 2025, in Abu Dhabi, celebrating a vibrant display of collegiate sportsmanship and talent.

Among the number of impressive institutions, the University of Sharjah has had an outstanding performance, topping the tables in men's table tennis, women's chess, and women's badminton. Besides, there are some Uos second places for both men's and women's basketball events an even greater stamp of authority by which it still stands out as a leading force in university athletics.

The Games took place through the concerted efforts of the UAE School and University Sports Federation and the Abu Dhabi Entertainment Company and were supervised by the Ministry of Sports, featuring over 1,100 athletes from 28 universities in different sports-from football, basketball, and volleyball.

The event was about bringing together students from all over the country to witness competition and athletic excellence.

Such achievements at the Games speak a lot toward the University of Sharjah's commitment to growing athletes and developing a sense of sportsmanship among its student population. Well-designed composite sports programs and infrastructure have aided the institution in producing top-performing students both on and off the field.

"I am very proud of my team. Getting second place in this big tournament shows how hard the players worked. We are growing step by step, and I believe we will achieve more in the future." - Coach Omar El-Asmar, Men's Basketball Coach, UoS

As the UAE ramps up its investment in sports development through nationwide initiatives such as the University Games, institutions like the University of Sharjah (UoS) are emerging as key players in nurturing athletic talent and promoting a culture of competitive sports. With a strong focus on student engagement, UoS continues to provide opportunities for athletes to grow, compete, and represent their university on both national and international stages.

The University's support for its sports teams, modern training facilities, and commitment to well-rounded student development has made it a driving force in the country's push toward a more active, sports-oriented future. By encouraging participation across various disciplines and organizing events that unite students from different colleges and backgrounds, UoS is not only contributing to the national sports agenda but also fostering a sense of unity and school spirit on campus.

University of Sharjah Collaborates With AIESEC To Distribute Food

By Batool Maher
27th March 2025

On 27th March 2025, University of Sharjah collaborated with AIESEC to pack boxes for distribution, an organization aiming to engage the youth in different charity events.

When asking the organizer Shatha, who works for AIESEC, what inspired her to organize this charity event, she said her main reason behind it was to acknowledge "the many humanitarian crises happening in the world today… we were inspired to make a change for the people in need."

The university sent out announcements via WhatsApp groups encouraging students to volunteer to pack the boxes and distribute them. The students gathered early morning at the Women's Student Center in W21 and packed sugar, salt, flour, oil, and canned tuna.

The expected time to end was at 2 pm but with the number of volunteers, they finished at noon. I had the pleasure of talking to two volunteers, Haleema Awais majoring in Human Resources and Ridha Zainab majoring in accounting.

Interview with Haleema Awais:

Q: What inspired you to join the event?
A: My friend sent me the link and I thought about how Ramadan encourages people to give back so I wanted to participate and help.

Q: What did you take away from this experience?
A: It was heavy work honestly, the oil and rice were very heavy but the work is rewarding and I can empathize with people who are struggling, I am very grateful that my complaints are about how heavy something is for a couple of seconds when other people are struggling with worse. I think my takeaway would be to be grateful for what I have.

Q: What impact do you think it will have on the people we are helping?
A: I hope it makes their lives easier and it helps them while they get back on their feet.

Interview with Ridha Zainab:
Q: What are your thoughts on how organized the event is?
A: I would say it is very organized, which helped keep all sorts of communication clear and the work easier.

Q: What did you take away from this experience?
A: Helping society and giving back when you can.

"The event was not easy to organize", the organizer Shatha explained, "The main challenge was to get all the volunteers in one place and the supplies secured on time." She also mentioned how motivating it was to see all the volunteers be so engaged in their work "The most motivating thing was the overwhelming support because the minute we released the volunteer forms; they were full Mashallah!"

Because of the empowering and inspiring work of the students, they were able to pack 145 boxes of food supplies, exceeding the originally planned amount by 10 boxes. The hard work of the students has paid off as they also earned a certificate for their contribution to such an important event.

On 29th March 2025, students who could drive or had a car were asked to help in sending the packages to the families, the organization had the areas noted and students were asked to sign where it would be the most convenient for them to drive to.

This event is a reflection on how giving and community-based University of Sharjah is and how important it is to keep the community-based events alive and to help people in need, it was very touching to see the students and some of the security staff help and gather around during holiday to help others in need.

Haleema Awais

"It was honestly so organized I love it, I think it is easy to get lost on where stuff can be, so to see it this organized helped smooth things over and the work moved faster."

Ridha Zainab

"It will have a big impact on the people we are helping and I am glad to have helped."

Alserkal Art Week, Back for Another Sucessfull Year

By Haaniyah Memon
April 19th 2025

Alserkal Art Week is an event that art fanatics look forward to each year. Known for its thematic exploration of Gaza in 2023, “A Love Letter to Gaza,” it continues to stage beautiful & influential pieces of art each year. Successfully platforming artists from all over the world, Alserkal Art Week exhibits art, talks, and workshops to “pay tribute to the simple, fleeting, yet revolutionary act of being here”

Each year, Alserkal selects a theme, this year “a wild stitch.” From April 13th-25th, Alserkal platforms art that gathers voices challenging the single grand narrative, giving space for art that represents multiplicity, hybridity, and refuses to be neatly stitched into place.

Artists including Imran Qureshi, Reza Derakshani, and K.M. Madhusudha were able to show their work in galleries curated specially for them and what their Art represents. While some galleries are set up just for the week, others are up until early May. (Refer to Alserkal online to know more.)

One of the first galleries you stumble upon when entering Alserkal is the “Efie Gallery” curated by Faridah Folswiyo, it showcases paintings by Maria Magdalena, a Cuban artist who uses mixed media & symbolism in her work to capture the essence of diaspora.

Using flowers & fauna to “blend nature and spirituality,” she narrates migration, and the deep ties between landscape and history through her eyes. Magdalena demonstrates history, memory, gender, and religion, and how each plays a role in identity formation through her work.

Another must-visit gallery is “Unravelling” set in the “Third line” gallery, which shows the work of renowned Egyptian artist Dr. Huda Lutfi, current associate professor at the American University, Cairo. She blends the line between traditional and modern art by using materials like charcoal, thread, and gouache to start conversations in a larger political context.

Lutfi often uses the human figure in her work to make political statements on the value of bodies in the urban context and gender.

Some of her displayed work includes “Missing shoe,” “White Bride,” and “Blue waves.”

While this event is something to look forward to for spectators, it’s also a chance for art history and fine art majors to earn experience. Andrew andhenopo, an intern at the Efie gallery, mentioned how this opportunity will bring his CV “to another level.”

Alserkal contunues to excite the public, from alerskal art fest to art week and even events like XXX it’s awags an oppurunity to enage with different commnites and learn how art is made from different point of views.

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque: A Haven of Spirituality and Generosity During Ramadan

By Nour Mohammad Nader
1st April 2025

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi transforms into a place of community, introspection, and faith during the holy month of Ramadan. The mosque, one of the most recognizable religious sites in the United Arab Emirates, hosts hundreds of worshippers and tourists every day, fostering an environment of harmony, dedication, and serenity.

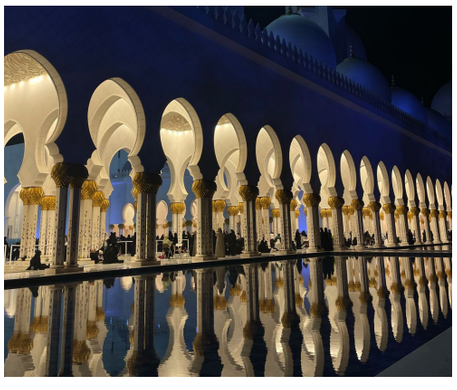
The mosque provides meals to those who are fasting throughout the 30 days of Ramadan through a comprehensive Iftar and Suhoor program. More than 2.6 million iftar meals were distributed throughout this years holy month

Tens of thousands of people from various backgrounds can be accommodated in the mosque's magnificent courtyard, where long rows of tables are set up every evening as the sun sets.

The aroma of freshly cooked food fills the air, and the generosity of heart permeates each meal that is served. To make sure that everyone has their Iftar, volunteers put in endless effort, encouraging compassion and a sense of community.

The mosque turns is a beautiful place of worship and introspection outside of the meals. It provides a peaceful setting for Taraweeh and Qiyam prayers. The recitation of the Quran along with the mosque's stunning architecture and illuminated domes creates a captivating and profoundly spiritual experience In contrast to the busy crowds, its tranquillity enables visitors to discover moments of devotion and inner calm.

During Ramadan, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque is more than simply a place to pray; it is a representation of religion, charity, and camaraderie that perfectly captures the spirit of the holy month.



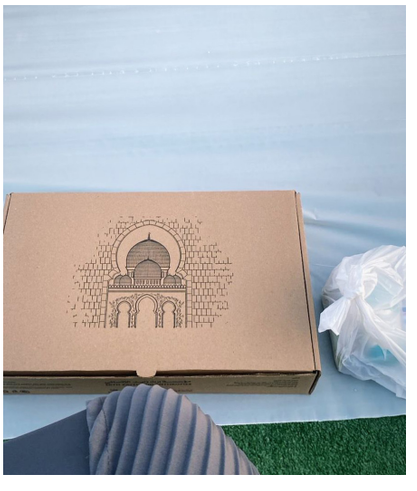
Thousands of worshippers find comfort in this hallowed place, whether they are participating in prayers, breaking their fast, or just taking in the serene atmosphere of the mosque. The soft hum of recitation echoes through its grand halls, wrapping every visitor in a sense of peace. Families gather in quiet corners, sharing smiles and stories as the sun sets. Even in stillness, the mosque radiates a powerful sense of unity and reflection.

Sheikh Zayed Mosque part of top 5 places of worship for muslims in UAE along with

Jumeirah Mosque
Al Farooq Omar Bin Al Khattab Mosque
Al Noor Mosque
Safa Park Mosque

Fun Fact!

The carpet in the main prayer hall is the largest hand-knotted carpet in the world. It took 8 months to finish the design, a year to knot it and 2 months to bring it in one place and knot it all together. About 1,200 carpetmakers worked hard to create this 5,700 meter long piece of art.



Zaina Qwaisy, Student, Photographer, Soon to be Alumni

By Haaniyah Memon
April 19th 2025

Zaina Qwaisy is a mass communication major in her fourth and final year. As a senior, she's excited to start working after graduation, but also nervous to leave the familiarity of the UOS campus behind.

Zaina expresses the reason she chose mass communications is because of her family, "Since I was young, my family always said I had the presence of a news presenter … I knew Mass Communication was the right path for me."

Her time at the university has left her fulfilled. From the very first day, she's had a "positive impression," and as the years went by, even though she faced some issues, she wouldn't change a thing about her university career.

Over the four years, her experience being a UOS student has shaped who she is today. "My personality has become stronger, and I've become more outgoing. I've also gained valuable skills in photography, filmmaking, writing, editing, and design, especially through my internship and project experiences." She emphasizes.

What's one thing you're really proud of achieving?

"I'm proud of producing my entire 8.5-minute graduation documentary by myself—from planning and shooting to editing. It was a huge accomplishment I managed independently."

Did you participate in any clubs, events, or internships?

Yes, I joined the photography club, helped organize multiple campus events, and completed a one-month internship at the University's Media Center during the summer.

One of her favorite memories is when she was walking through campus and unexpectedly saw her photography pieces displayed in an exhibition, "I hadn't known when it [exhibition] would open, so it was a joyful surprise." This moment inspired her and showed her how full of talent she is, "I inspired myself. I took the lead in projects, participated actively, learned new skills, and pushed through difficult days with determination and pride."

The professional world isn't something Zaina fears, rather, she is "excited and curious." She looks forward to finding out where her first "real job" will be and what it'll look like.

In five years, Zaina sees herself as a "professional photographer, working with major clients and events, shooting with influencers and celebrities, and mastering drone photography."

She tells current and future UOS students to "Stay focused. Even when it feels overwhelming, keep going and believe that every effort counts. Trust that your hard work will come back to you. God never forgets."

Zaina shows gratitude towards all the professors who taught her, as well as her parents, sister, and best friends, for "their endless support and patience," and standing by her through it all.

More Than Just a Degree: Saniyyah Naveed Reflects on Growth and Finding Her Path at UOS

By Haaniyah Memon
April 21st 2025

Saniyyah Naveed is in her fourth year of physiotherapy, nervous about progressing into the professional world but excited to finally be graduating.

For Saniyyah, physiotherapy wasn't her first choice; all she knew was that she wanted a hands-on job in the healthcare world. After weeks of skimming through different options, she chose whatever felt right, it was more of a gut choice than a logical one.

Saniyyah emphasizes that at first, she knew she had chosen the wrong major, but after a few weeks, it started feeling more and more right. "Somewhere along the way, I realized I'm good at this and it's fun? It became more than just a degree."

Her first impression of the university was when the world was healing from the pandemic: "Everything was online, but we still came to see what the campus was like." Saniyyah recalls a moment when she and her friends were just freshers, "We were roaming around the entire campus in the red bus looking for the student center, only to find out we had already passed it like three times." Looking back, she remembers how big the campus felt, "It felt SO huge and so empty," while mentioning how much it has changed, "The campus feels so different now, like it grew up with us… We were there to see the worst and the best, it's crazy to look back on now."

Some of her best memories are from when she and her friends would skip class to catch up, "we'd sit in empty rooms and talk for hours." She emphasizes how she found comfort in the most unusual places: "We'd go to the main building for hours, honestly, that was home for a few semesters."

Saniyyah's university career never lacked fun, She explains how with the right people, anything could be entertaining: "Physio labs were pure chaos, it seemed like at moments we were just there to laugh at each other struggling with goniometers and trying to do MMTs."

When reflecting on her personal growth, Saniyyah speaks of her first-year self as "unhinged." Getting to class 15 minutes before it started, colorcoding all her notes "like it was a life-or-death situation." She emphasizes that not everything needs to be done perfectly: "I was so burnt out and the semester had just started."

She also notices how university doesn't get easier, but you get better at it. When it comes to studies, social life, and keeping your calm, you're more in tune with how to manage it all. "Somewhere along the way, I found my people, found my pace, and stopped treating every week like it was finals season."

"I'm really proud that I didn't just survive this degree, I lived it. I showed up (not always on time), I laughed through the stress, I crammed last minute, and managed to come out of it actually feeling ready for the real thing," when asked what she's proud of, the fourth year student explains how even though not every moment was her best or perfect, at the end of the day she had fun and and is now a soon to be physiotherapist.

Saniyyah's advice to future and current UOS students is "Don't get so caught up in trying to do everything perfectly that you forget to actually enjoy it. Years from now, you're not gonna remember every quiz you crammed for or that 8 am you sprinted to half-asleep. What will stick with you is the people you met and the random 2-hour conversations outside class."

She thanks her friends who made the unbearable bearable. "From late-night drives to spontaneous beach days, weekends that began with the intention to study and ended in deep conversations and starting yet another reality show with no intention to finish, and all the unexpected laughter in between, they were the reason I made it through, somehow even the most overwhelming days felt manageable with them around." "Who knew that a cup of chai, *okay, multiple cups*, and shared panic over labs could turn into some of my favorite memories ?"

SUMMER BUCKET LIST

By Haaniyah Memon
April 17th 2025

We all procrastinate during finals week, thinking about and planning everything we're going to do in the summer, whether it's just chilling at home, traveling, or catching up on your Goodreads 2025 list - EVERYONE is excited to get some time off studying and focus on themselves. (Go to page 7 to find tips on how to prevent finals burnout)

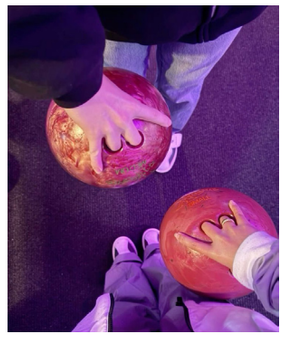
A list will help you check off all that matters this summer vacation, from internships to re-watching your favorite comfort shows, the best way to fit EVERYTHING into the three months is to create your own bucket list!

> *Bucket list*
> Noun **INFORMAL**
> A number of experiences or achievements that a person hopes to have or accomplish
> *"Going on a hike is the first thing on my summer 2025 bucket list"*

There isn't a specific way to make a bucket list. Lots of people think they're only supposed to add things that are impossible to do, but the best way to create your list is to add anything you want to do, easy or difficult; the greatest thing about a bucket list is not what you're doing, but the sense that you're getting a lot done.

The most basic way of making a bucket list is to get a piece of paper and make a checklist of everything you want to get done, as well as some things you haven't even thought of doing. (Refer to paragraph 7 for a list of ideas.) While some prefer keeping it simple, there are others, the maximalists if I may, who crave a more artistic approach. Buying a sketchbook or even just a normal notebook from your local stationery and treating your list as a column of contents can allow you to create your own summer scrapbook/junk journal. With each thing you tick off, create a spread using pictures and doodles. Gluing down random things from your activity or using stickers can also give your spread more personality; don't be afraid to unleash your inner art demons. Jotting down how your activity went or how it made you feel can also make your scrapbook more personal.

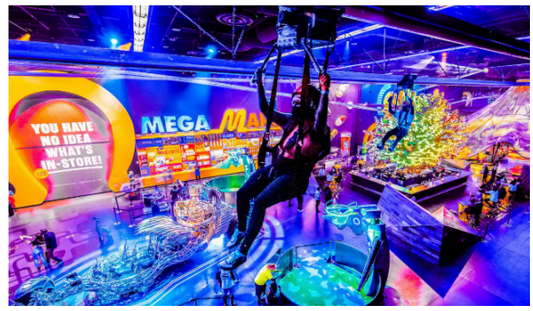
One is fun, *but two, though?* Grab your siblings or friends and get them to create a list with you, it's double the fun when you have someone to complete your list with! Bucket lists are great since they're full of personal goals, but for those who don't like alone time, create a shared list full of activities that are better with a friend. Using websites like Canva can allow you and your friend to have a shared list digitally; this is easier to keep track of, as you can have a copy that updates whenever either one of you edits it. Using Canva can also be great for those who don't want to spend any money on their scrapbook-style bucket list (pro tip: For inspiration and decor ideas, search "Canva scrapbook elements" on Pinterest; loads of different elements to fill your spread with will show up.)



Not sure what to add to your list? Is Google recommending outdoor activities not fit for the desert heat? This list is UAE heat-approved, curated for students on a budget as well as those who are ready to splurge!

Air-conditioned adventures: For those who want to experience adrenaline-filled activities without the heat

- **Adventure HQ Climbing (Times Square, Dubai) –** *~95 AED/hour (includes gear).*
- **Air Maniax / Bounce** – *80–110 AED for 1-hour jump sessions.*
- **Glitch (Al Ghurair Centre)** – *Entry is free, activities range from 25–100 AED depending on what you do (e.g. bowling, VR, ninja course).*



Creative Escapes: For the art lovers

- **The Workshop Dubai** – *Entry free, workshops range 150–300 AED (painting, design).*
- **Yadawei Studio / Clay Corner** – *~130–200 AED for one pottery session (includes materials & firing).*

Mind & Body: For those who need to heal after a stressful semester

- **Yoga/Pilates Studios** – *Drop-in classes: 50–80 AED/session. Some places offer resident deals or monthly passes.*
- **Floatation Therapy (Point Zero, Dubai)** – *~280 AED/session (but you can find 1st-time offers for 150–180 AED).*

The heat-proof adventurer: Never gets hot- enjoys the summer heat

- **Hatta sign hike** – *Free*
- **Al-Majaz kayak** – *20 AED/ single adult kayak (can also be done at night)*

- **Adventura Park** – *275 AED for up to 4 hours (zipline, climbing wall, rope obstacle)*
- **Circuit X** – *35 AED to 110 AED, depending on the package (zipline, climbing wall, free fall, and ropes course).*

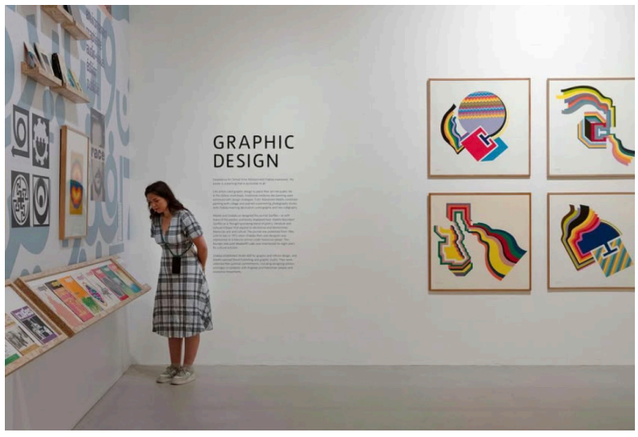
Foodies: It's not fun if it's not food

- **Happy grasslands, Al Majaz** – *All-you-can-eat hotpot & Korean BBQ 69 AED/ adult.*
- **Matcha hop** – *Visit multiple cafés in one day to try different matcha drinks and treats; tasting adventure for matcha lovers.*

- **Romantic Baka, Al Ghurair Center** – *Korean BBQ, 149 AED for 2–3 people.*
- **Potluck picnic** – *Everyone brings a dish to share; best done at a public park or the beach Free/group-shared cost.*

The anti-social club: for those who dont want to interact with anyone but still want to have fun

- **Jubail Mangrove Walk, Abu Dhabi** – *Peaceful wooden trails through mangroves, ideal for slow walks and nature watching. AED 15 entry.*
- **Jameel Arts Centre, Dubai** – *Contemporary art museum with quiet reading spaces and garden views. Free entry.*
- **Sharjah Art Foundation** – *art/photography exhibitions and serene courtyards. A great midweek escape. Free entry.*



- **Al Qudra Lakes, Dubai** – *Morning walk or solo picnic spot with desert views and birdwatching. Free access.*

Productive at home: Those who don't want leave the house but also don't want to rot all day

- **Work on a Passion Project** – *Whether it's writing, music, or painting, make space for it.*
- **Follow a Home Workout** – *YouTube channels like MadFit or Pamela Reif = no equipment, no excuses.*
- **Read a Book** – Flipping pages > doom scrolling.

Whether you are interested in adrenaline-filled obstacles or calming art galleries, this list has all the ultimate summer activities. Don't be afraid to get creative with your plans and bucket list and remember to post your list on IG and tag us @uostimes, we're so excited to see what you come up with!

From Classroom to Career: Skills You Should Be Building Now

By Mawada Esaam & Razan Abdullah, April 20th 2025

As university students, we often focus on obtaining high grades, believing that higher grades and qualifications will automatically lead to successful careers. However, given the rapidly changing employment market of our time, companies are increasingly looking for applicants who, besides showcasing specialized knowledge, have a complete set of interpersonal skills. Including skills such as communication competence and flexibility, is essential for efficiently dealing with the complex issues of working environments.

The Importance of Interpersonal Competencies
Soft skills are personal traits that enable efficient and collaborative interactions between people. Soft skills complement hard skills, which are the technical abilities required for performing specific tasks. Key soft skills, such as time management, flexibility, and creativity, are essential to attaining success in one's professional life. These skills are valued by employers since they contribute extensively to a productive and collaborative working environment.

Identifying Key Soft Skills for Career Development
1. Effective Communication
Clear and effective communication is critical in any business setting. This process involves not just the clear articulation of ideas but also active listening and the ability to read non-verbal cues. Engaging in activities like public speaking, writing workshops, and group discussions can greatly enhance one's communication skills.

2. Adaptability and Flexibility
The ability to adapt to changing circumstances and remain open to new challenges let's say getting out of your ComfOrt ZOne is highly valued in the workplace. Working on different projects, internships, and extracurricular activities can help promote the development of adaptability skills and openness to experiences.

3. Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving
Employers look to hire those who can assess situations, think critically, and come up with new solutions. Engaging in research projects, case studies, and group discussions can strengthen problem-solving skills.

5. Teamwork and Collaboration
Team cooperation is essential in many different work environments. Working together as a group, such as on project work, sports teams, or student organizations, can enhance one's ability to coordinate efforts toward common goals.

Perspectives from University Professors
These are the insights from two professors that highlights the importance of developing both personal and professional abilities beyond academics. Dr. Massimo Ragedda, Associate Professor in Digital Media, New Media, and Media Theory, and Dr. Fatima Refaat Ahmad, Associate Professor in Critical Care and Emergency Nursing.

Both Dr. Fatima and Dr. Massimo emphasize that university is more about than just earning a degree, it's about building essential skills for the future. As Dr. Fatima stated, "Current university students need a diverse set of skills to succeed in an increasingly complex and competitive environment." Similarly, Dr. Massimo said, "University isn't just about earning a degree, it's about laying the groundwork for your future." They both highlight the importance of critical thinking and problem-solving. Dr. Fatima said these skills help students "analyse information, evaluate arguments, and devise effective solutions," while Dr. Massimo emphasized that students must "think independently, assess situations, and find creative solutions. They both agreed on the importance of digital literacy in today's world, and the necessity of time management, self-discipline, and teamwork. As Dr. Fatima noted, these skills are vital for "balancing academic responsibilities with extracurricular activities and personal commitments," and Dr. Massimo reminded students, "University life gives you freedom, but also requires focus."

Pragmatic Approaches to Enhancing Interpersonal Skills
- **Take Part in Extracurricular Activities:** Involvement in clubs, societies, or volunteer groups offers opportunities for developing leadership skills, building teamwork, and improving communication skills.
- **Obtain Evaluative Criticism:** Getting constructive criticism from mentors as well as peers can help identify areas for improvement, thus aiding personal development.
- **Pursue Internships:** Gaining real-world experience through internships allows you to apply soft skills in professional settings and understand workplace dynamics.
- **Take Part in Workshops and Seminars:** Participation in formal skill-development workshops provides structured learning experiences specific to individual soft skills.

While achieving academic success is very important, developing soft skills is equally essential for preparation in professional pursuits. By focusing on skills like effective communication, and flexibility, one can prepare to meet the demands of the modern workplace. As you continue your education, it is important to understand that developing these competencies will not only enhance one's job prospects but also promote general personal and professional development.

Student-led Bazaar at University of Sharjah Women's Dorms: A Celebration of Entrepreneurship and Community

By Nour Mohamed Nader
9th April 2025

The recent event turned the women's dorms into a vibrant bazaar that encouraged entrepreneurship and brought students together in a joyous atmosphere. The bazaar offered dorm students a fun experience full of shopping, culture, and socialization in addition to giving aspiring student entrepreneurs a stage to display their skills, services, and small businesses.

There were several different booths during the festival, each selling handcrafted and distinctive goods. The most popular amongst the crowd included traditional bukhoor, a range of accessories, candles, and beautiful perfumes that filled the air with entrancing scents. Food vendors were also a big draw, providing a delicious assortment of traditional and home-cooked meals of various cuisines.

The Bazaar was more than just a place to shop; it was a major source of inspiration for students to consider their business possibilities. To have practical experience in marketing and customer interaction, several participants seized the chance to start or grow their enterprises. Student vendors were inspired to be innovative, creative, and self-reliant by the encouraging atmosphere

The event was more than simply a marketplace for the occupants of the dorms; it was a way to get their minds off the stress of midterm week, offering happiness, camaraderie, and a respite from the routines of school. It was a memorable event because of the vibrant atmosphere, interesting conversations, and shared cultural experience.

The bazaar's success has established a standard for next-student-led projects that encourage a strong feeling of community amongst University students and empower young entrepreneurs.

2025 Announced as The Year of Community

By Haaniyah Memon
20th April 2025

For the past decade, the UAE has been announcing nationwide yearly initiatives, focusing on specific themes for the respective year. From the year of innovation in 2015, to the year of giving in 2017, and the year of the 50th in 2021. The UAE started this campaign 10 years ago, aiming to encourage citizens and residents to promote certain values nationwide or to honor public figures.

The President of the UAE, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan announced 2025 as the Year of Community under the tagline "Hand in Hand." Inspired by the UAE's values of resilience, ambition, and openness, the Year of Community is dedicated to encouraging a united and empowered society. Aiming to inspire behaviours that strengthen family and social ties, as well as shared responsibility, and unlock potential for sustainable growth.

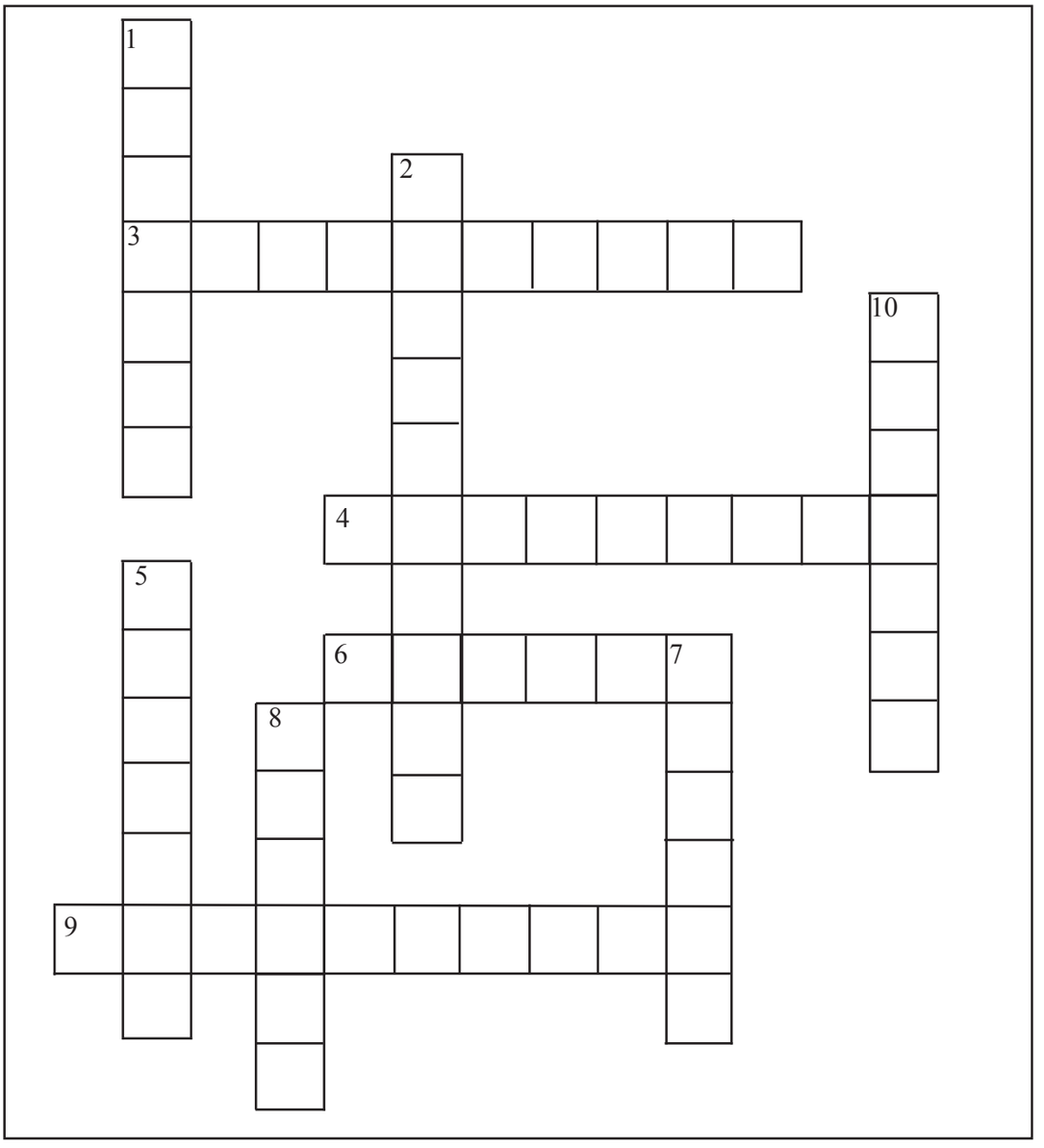
Through this vision, the UAE aims to achieve:

Unity
By preserving cultural heritage and nurturing intergenerational and intercultural relationships and creating spaces for all the UAE aims to encourage collaboration, belonging, and shared traditions.
Contribution
By encouraging all who call the UAE home to actively engage in bettering society through volunteering, meaningful campaigns, and fostering mutual care nationwide.
Growth
By unlocking the potential of all people, families, and organizations to build skills and develop talent, as well as embrace innovation and entrepreneurship the UAE focuses to promote growth nationwide.

By promoting "Hand in Hand," the UAE aims to emphasize the diverse population of the country and strengthen the nation by connecting all cultures to create a stronger society and celebrate this cultural diversity that defines the UAE.

Cross-word puzzle

Use the clues given below the grid and find the answers to fill the numbered boxes



Across

3 Work/professional experience usually in the summer
4 The fashion segments special topic for this issue
6 The most stressful week (after submissions) in a students semester
9 Fast-paced sport with engines, speed, and global races

Down

1 Students in their last year
2 Last day as a student
5 A local platform for spreading inspiring ideas and hosting talks on campus
7 The season when students chase internships, vibe, or go on vacation
8 UoS's annual event where students become diplomats for a day
10 Lead driver by points on the F1 grid

Flip to page #25 for answer key

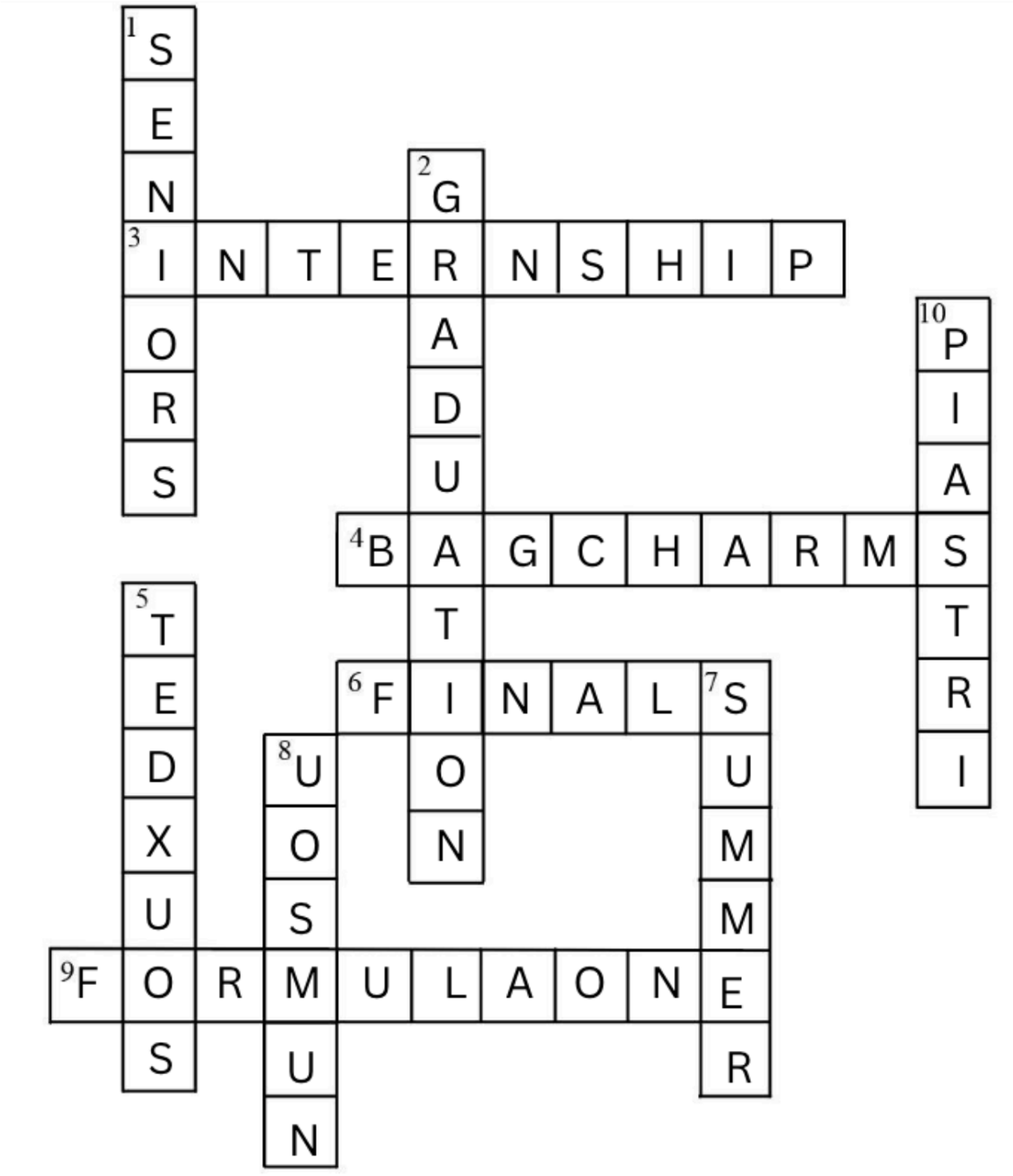
Sudoku

6	4	9		5		1	2	
7	1		4					6
			7			4		
	5	3	9		8			
	6			3	7		1	
9	8	7				5	3	4
3	2		6			7		5
	7		3			8	9	1
	9					2	6	3

The goal of Sudoku is to fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9

Flip to page #26 for answer key

Crossword Puzzle Answer Key



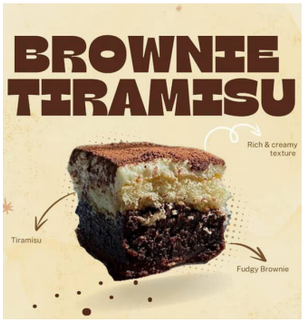
Sudoku Answer Key

6	4	9	8	5	3	1	2	7
7	1	5	4	9	2	3	8	6
8	3	2	7	6	1	4	5	9
1	5	3	9	4	8	6	7	2
2	6	4	5	3	7	9	1	8
9	8	7	2	1	6	5	3	4
3	2	1	6	8	9	7	4	5
5	7	6	3	2	4	8	9	1
4	9	8	1	7	5	2	6	3

Sahib AI

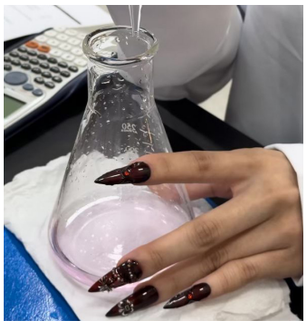
Sahib AI is an AI-powered platform that simulates exams, allowing students to choose any subject and topic to practice questions. The AI provides personalized feedback, highlights areas of strength and weakness, and offers practical steps for improvement. It also explains the answers in detail, helping students better understand their mistakes and enhance their learning.

Scan for website



From my kitchen straight to you,
With fudgy dreams and ganache too.
S'mores cookies, tiramisu flair,
Like nothing else—you won't compare.
Just me and my whisk, baking with heart,
Aurora's treats—a little work of art.

Scan to follow on instagram



Bionailtech offers handmade, custom press-on nails designed by two student entrepreneurs.
Affordable, reusable, and tailored to your style, perfect for any occasion.
Every set is crafted with care and delivered straight to your door.
Stylish nails made simple, because beauty shouldn't break the bank.

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