Over the past several years, I have learned a lot outside of the classroom. My internship at an education & tech company in Shanghai has been an incubator for my ideas to expand and develop. As a software engineer intern, I get to design an augmented reality app and go on business trips to teach kids how to code. I have seen how the education concept of “Learn, Master, Hack” has been demonstrated on these kids when they were playing, understanding, and trying to control the car model displaying in the real world through the camera of their iPads.

My boss believes that everyone in the company should be part of the decision-making so even though I was only a high school student, I was always invited to online conferences and meet staff from around the globe. A meeting that greatly opened my mind was a brainstorm session on a programming course for kids. An Indian teacher at the conference pointed out that few kids in India have access to computers. I was shocked to hear this. I had this preconception that India provides excellent computer education for kids as the CEO’s of Google, Microsoft, and Adobe were all from India. Realizing how wrong I was to assume that the CEO’s represented the mass of the country, I decided that I will make a free code learning website for everyone in the world.

To finish the free code learning website, I would need to learn computer science to create an algorithm that generates specific courses based on each user’s data. I would need to understand international education systems to provide relevant educational content and electrical engineering to design efficient hardware. I believe the place to best attain this knowledge is at NYU Abu Dhabi.

By communicating with an alumnus from NYU Abu Dhabi, I found that the university is a special incubator for those who want to make a real, positive impact in the world. I could cooperate with educators, computer scientists, and engineers at StartAD and use microcontrollers and 3D printers to build prototypes for my computer in Al Warsha. Under startInvest and Beyond the Pitch programs, I could create partnerships with local industries and seek out local angel investors to support my idea.

More importantly, NYU Abu Dhabi is a university that shares a similar value of mine - making meaningful contributions to the lives of others by challenging the traditional concepts and dismantling misunderstanding. I am looking forward to meeting classmates from NYUAD who have their own sets of beliefs and languages. With them, we would work together to generate new ideas to understand and solve the complexities of the world.