

SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

Module: Further Study in the United Arab Emirates



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GLOSSARY

Term	Definition
Emirate	A political territory ruled by a dynastic Arabic or Islamic-styled emir. There are 7 Emirates in the UAE: Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Umm al Quwain, Ras Al Khaimah, Ajman, and Fujairah.
Emirati	A native of the United Arab Emirates.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

UAE is a federation consisting of 7 emirates, with each emirate being government by one monarch. Out of these, one monarch is selected to be the President of the UAE as a whole. In this way, laws and rules tend to vary across each emirate and so you should check out the legal set up of the location you wish to study at. Laws tend to be very particular and strict and so it is best to enter the UAE informed. Note that most universities are housed in either Dubai or Abu Dhabi, but you can also find some campuses in the smaller emirates.

Though UAE is popular as a tourist destination, it has many higher education opportunities alongside this. While there are some public colleges and universities that only admit UAE citizens, there are also many private institutions that accept international students! Additionally there are many transnational universities in the UAE, located in 'free-zones' where infrastructure has been developed for the purpose of education and human resource development.

MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO UAE

1. Variety of Emirates Cultures

Each location in the Emirates is unique in its cultural and social environment so while studying there you will be exposed to a variety of different kinds of people. In this way, the UAE is a multicultural nation.

2. International Universities

The UAE is a hub for international universities, from America, Britain, Australia, Malaysia, and even Canada. You can experience these without traveling as far as America, for example.

3. Islamic Culture

Despite being a multicultural state, you will get to experience an Islamic and Arab culture in a very cosmopolitan environment.

4. Large Pakistani Community

There is a very large Pakistani community existent in the UAE, so there will always be a place to fit in if you're studying abroad there by yourself.

Job Prospects

Generally in the UAE, the major industries are Aluminium, construction, boat building and repair, fishing, petroleum, handicrafts and textiles ([Prospects](#)). Job advertisements exist via recruitment agencies and online resources. Note that it is likely that job positions will specify gender, nationality and age within the requirements. In terms of job prospects, job opportunities tend to be limited within the UAE, though they tend to be better in Abu Dhabi and [Dubai](#)

Working while studying

Students are allowed to work while studying. This can be in the form of on-campus work.

Working in the UAE after graduation

If you want to work in the UAE, you will need a labor card and a resident visa. Before getting these you will need to pass medical examinations. Your employer will have to apply for your work and residency permits; working without permits is illegal. In this way, you must first secure a job offer before applications for permits can be sent.

The following links are useful for more information on this:

- [Preparing to Work](#)

OVERVIEW OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS:

Type of University	Description
Public Universities	At the moment, there are three publicly funded universities in the UAE. The three universities have numerous colleges and campuses across the Emirates. Getting admission into these universities as an expat is extremely difficult. Unlike Emiratis, you will have to pay tuition fees even if you gain admission.
Private Institutions	There are a number of private institutions available that encourage international and local students to apply. A large majority of them are internationally accredited. Students pay tuition fees at these institutions.
International Universities	Universities from a number of countries (USA, UK, Australia, France, etc) have opened campuses of their universities in the UAE. These universities cater more to expats and are a great option for international students. A lot of these universities are located in special education areas such as Dubai's Knowledge Village.

SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

TYPES OF DEGREES

Types of Undergraduate Degrees
Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)
Bachelor of Arts and Sciences (B.A.Sc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.B.A.)- Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.)- Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. & Fin.)
Bachelor of Social Sciences (B.S.S.)
Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.)
Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.)
Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Bachelor of Dental Surgery (B.D.S.)- Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS)

HOW TO PREPARE FOR AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN

British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels) OR International Baccalaureate

If you are completing your A Levels or International Baccalaureate, you are typically eligible to apply directly for an undergraduate degree in the UAE for American, British, and Local universities. You will be subject to university-specific and program-specific requirements, such as how many subjects you have to take at what level, and what grades you need to get. Make sure to view these requirements very carefully on the relevant university websites.

Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)

- **Local universities** in the UAE will typically accept the HSSC for your undergraduate admission, but they will usually require you to get your HSSC attested by the UAE Ministry of Education. For more information on how to do this, you can visit [this link](#).
- **British universities** will usually require you to join a 1-year foundation program after you have completed your HSSC before you are able to join the undergraduate degree program.
- **American universities** may or may not accept the HSSC — it depends entirely on the university. Make sure to check your desired university's requirements.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

There are a variety of universities in the UAE, following various school systems, as mentioned above. The following are general guidelines but it is best to consult the university specific sites and follow their individual admission processes.

Application Components

- Certificate of Senior Secondary education
- Application Form
- English Proficiency Tests (one of the following is usually required):
 - IELTS
 - TOEFL
 - [EmSAT](#) for local Universities
- Previous Academic Transcripts

Sometimes required:

- Statement of Purpose (In English)
- Letters of Recommendations
- Interview
- Personal Statement
- Entrance Examinations

American Universities: If you have completed the American High School Diploma then you may be required to submit your SAT or ACT scores.

Application Cycle

The deadlines for universities in the UAE vary depending on program and university.

Application Process and Timeline

There is no general admission portal for applying to universities in the UAE; you will need to apply directly through the university website.

SECTION 3: POSTGRADUATE STUDY

DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS (TIERS)

Level of Education	Types of Degrees	Duration and Structure (Full time programs)
Master's	Taught	1-3 years
	Research based	1-3 years
	A Taught Master's will follow a delivery style similar to that of your undergraduate degree: you will have seminars and lectures, and will have to work in groups. A Research-based Master's, on the other hand, will involve more self-directed study. It will also be narrower in terms of focus. You may have some classes and will be expected to spend time with your supervisor, but most of your work will be independent.	
Doctorates (PhD)		

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S

- **Local universities** in the UAE will accept a Bachelor's degree where you have the equivalent of at least a 3.0 GPA out of 4.0, but the institution of your undergraduate degree must be accepted by the UAE's Ministry of Education. In order to fulfil this requirement, you can get your degree attested from the following, or visit [this](#) link:
 - UAE Embassy or Consulate in home country
 - Ministry of Education in UAE
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs in UAE
- **British universities** will usually require you to have a 3 year Bachelor's degree from a UK institution, or a 4 year Bachelor's degree from a non-UK institution. If you have a 2-3 year Pakistani Bachelor's degree, you may not be able to apply directly to a Master's program and may have to join a 1-year foundation course.
- **American universities**

EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs

- **Local universities** in the UAE typically expect you to have done a Master's degree in a relevant subject before you can apply for a PhD, but some will accept a Bachelor's degree as well. In both cases, the institution of degree must be accepted by the UAE's Ministry of Education. In order to fulfil this requirement, you can get your degree attested from [this](#) link, or from visiting the following:
 - UAE Embassy or Consulate in home country

- Ministry of Education in UAE
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs in UAE
- **British universities** will usually require you to have a 3 year Bachelor's degree from a UK institution, or a 4 year Bachelor's degree from a non-UK institution. **Some institutions/programs may require you to have done a Master's degree before you can apply for a PhD.** If you have a 2-3 year Pakistani Bachelor's degree, you may not be able to apply directly to a Master's program and may have to join a 1-year foundation course.

APPLYING

OVERVIEW

There are a variety of universities in the UAE, following various school systems, as mentioned above. The following are general guidelines but it is best to consult the university specific sites and follow their individual admission processes.

Application Components

- Certificate of Undergraduate Studies
- English Proficiency Tests
 - IELTS
 - TOEFL
- Previous Academic Transcripts

For MBA programs, GMAT is a requirement

- For PhD applicants, a research proposal is often required

Sometimes Required:

- Statement of Purpose (in English)
- Letters of Recommendations
- GRE scores
- CV
- Interview
- Entrance Examinations

Application Cycle

The deadlines for universities in the UAE vary depending on program and university.

Application Process and Timeline

There is no general admission portal for applying to universities in the UAE; you will need to apply directly through the university website.

SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION

(Applicable to all Applicants)

TRANSLATABILITY KEY

How applications to the UAE are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for UAE compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

TRANSLATABILITY KEY	Are they required?	Compare importance to UK/USA
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	<p>For American universities, follow the advice given on the US country profile.</p> <p>For UK universities, follow the advice given on the UK country profile.</p> <p>For Local universities:</p>	For Local universities:
STANDARDIZED TESTS	<p>English proficiency tests are usually required by most universities with similar score requirements as the USA and UK.</p> <p>Some fields/universities may have some entry-tests/other standardized tests that you may be required to take.</p> <p>Some schools and programs will require you to do the GRE and/or GMAT in order to gain admission just like the USA.</p>	<p>Having the required English proficiency proof is equally as important in the UAE as it is in the UK and USA. You will not be granted admission without this.</p> <p>Entry tests (whether those are field-specific or general aptitude tests) are important when required. How you score in these can affect your admission.</p>

BUDGETING

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses

2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

APPLYING FOR A VISA

DO YOU NEED A VISA

You will be required to apply for a student visa if you have gained admission into an undergraduate or graduate program in the UAE.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

The visa will cost AED100 for first time issuing and renewal.

Valid Health Insurance

You will need to pass a Medical Fitness Test, to be eligible to apply.

HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY IN UAE

Currently, the student visa is issued for a duration of one year, at a time. It can be renewed for the same period upon proof of continuation of your study (this needs to be provided from the university you are enrolled in).

APPLYING

This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.

In order to apply for the visa, you will need to meet key requirements, including:

- Passing a Medical Fitness Test,
- Having a suitable visa sponsor (your institution, or a parent/relative)
- Approval from the General Directorate of Residency and Foreign Affairs

OTHER INFORMATION

- In November 2018, the UAE government approved a decision to grant a 5-year visa to 'outstanding students'. Outstanding students are those students who have graduated with a grade of 95 percent or above in secondary school (for undergraduate study) and students who have graduated with a CGPA of more than 3.75 from their university (for graduate study). Visa benefits may also extend to the families of outstanding students.

ACCOMMODATION

GENERAL OPTIONS

If you are studying in the UAE, you can either choose to live on campus, in university-provided accommodation, or you can choose to live off campus, in private accommodation. You can find general information about each of the options listed below.

Type	Details
On-Campus Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University-based accommodation is usually available for undergraduate and graduate students (and students who are studying English). - There are usually separate areas for males and females. - On-campus accommodation will typically include the following items (in your accommodation fees): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bed and mattress, - Desk and chair, - Wardrobe, - A communal kitchen, - Transportation to and from the university campus, - Supervision and guidance from Accommodation/Residence Officers. - It is recommended that you apply for student accommodation as early as possible, since space may be limited -- and most universities issue dorms on a first-come, first-served basis. In some universities, preference will be given to undergraduate students as well.
Off-Campus Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you prefer to live independently or with family, you will need to make those arrangements <u>on your own</u>. - Most universities will be willing to provide you a list of reliable real estate companies that provide furnished and unfurnished accommodation. - If your apartment is unfurnished, you will have to purchase all necessary items on your own.

Different types of Off-Campus Accommodation

1. Apartments
2. Private Housing

The advantages and disadvantages of each type can be seen in the table below.

On-Campus Accommodation	Off-Campus Accommodation
Living with other students from your university can help you integrate in a better way.	Off-campus accommodation offers greater privacy, and you will not be subject to things like curfew, quiet hours or signing in and out.
On-campus accommodation will typically be cheaper, and you will not need to be pay for utilities (as you would for off-campus accommodation).	Many on-campus accommodation options will be self-catering, meaning you will have to purchase or prepare your own meals -- so this will not be an extra cost.

Cities ranked according to living cost

Cities like Abu Dhabi and Dubai are typically more expensive than smaller emirates such as Umm al Quwain and Ras Al Khaimah.

SECTION 5: CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

The following sources were consulted in developing this country profile:

[Education in the UAE](#), [Preparing to work](#), [Work in the UAE](#), [Postgraduate requirements](#), [Admissions](#), [Learning for life higher education in the UAE](#), [Accommodation](#), [Accommodation Types and Costs](#), [Accommodation](#), [Dubailand](#), [Study in UAE](#), [Work after study in UAE](#).