

Study in the UAE

INT → DXB • Dubai, UAE

The United Arab Emirates is an increasingly attractive destination for international students seeking internationally recognised qualifications, English-taught programmes and strong career opportunities. Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah host local universities and branch campuses of established institutions from the United Kingdom, United States, Australia and other countries.

AT A GLANCE

Quick Facts

TUITION (UNDERGRADUATE)
AED 35,000 – 110,000+ / year

ACCOMMODATION
AED 2,000 – 5,500 / month

TEACHING LANGUAGE
English

POST-STUDY STAY
Up to 180 days after completing studies

WHY UAE

Why Study in the UAE?

- ✓ Wide selection of English-taught bachelor's, master's and doctoral programmes
- ✓ Modern campuses, laboratories and learning technology
- ✓ A safe, multicultural and internationally connected environment
- ✓ Access to major industries, including business, finance, technology, engineering, healthcare, tourism and logistics
- ✓ Convenient travel connections to Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East
- ✓ Internship, networking and graduate-employment opportunities
- ✓ Scholarships and tuition discounts for academically strong applicants
- ✓ No personal income tax under the UAE's current tax system

COSTS

Tuition & Living Cost

Fees vary considerably according to the institution, programme and emirate.

EXPENSE	INDICATIVE AMOUNT
Undergraduate tuition	AED 35,000 – 110,000+ per year
Postgraduate tuition	AED 45,000 – 150,000+ for the programme
Student accommodation	AED 2,000 – 5,500 per month
Food and personal expenses	AED 1,200 – 2,500 per month
Transport	AED 300 – 1,000 per month
Insurance, visa and related charges	Depends on the institution and emirate

A practical annual budget, including tuition and living expenses, is often approximately AED 75,000 – 180,000. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are generally more expensive than Sharjah, Ajman and some other locations. These figures are planning estimates; applicants should obtain a complete fee schedule directly from the university.

WHAT YOU NEED

Entry Requirements

Requirements vary by university and programme, but applicants normally need:

Bachelor's degree

- ✓ Recognised secondary-school certificate
- ✓ Academic transcripts
- ✓ Passport copy and photograph
- ✓ English-language evidence, such as IELTS, TOEFL or an accepted alternative
- ✓ Attested or legalised educational documents where required
- ✓ Personal statement or motivation letter for some programmes
- ✓ Portfolio, interview or entrance examination for selected courses

Master's degree

- ✓ Recognised bachelor's degree in a relevant or acceptable subject
- ✓ University transcripts and graduation certificate
- ✓ English-language evidence
- ✓ CV and statement of purpose
- ✓ Recommendation letters, if requested
- ✓ Relevant work experience for certain MBA and professional programmes

Medicine, dentistry, engineering and other regulated programmes may have additional academic, scientific-subject or entrance-test requirements.

LANGUAGE

Language Requirement

English-language evidence, such as IELTS, TOEFL or an accepted alternative, is required for English-taught programmes. Each university sets its own accepted tests and scores.

Student Visa Process

An international student can normally be sponsored by an eligible parent residing in the UAE or by the university where the student is enrolled. The residence period is generally connected to the study programme. Official guidance also states that students may remain in the country for up to 180 days after completing their studies, subject to the applicable immigration conditions.

The process commonly includes:

- 1 Receiving an unconditional or final admission offer.
- 2 Paying the required university and visa deposits.
- 3 Obtaining an entry permit, where applicable.
- 4 Completing a medical fitness examination.
- 5 Arranging health insurance.
- 6 Providing biometric information.
- 7 Receiving the residence permit and Emirates ID.

A passport should normally remain valid for at least six months.

WHAT TO STUDY

Popular Courses

Business, finance and management

Artificial intelligence and data science

Computer science and cybersecurity

Engineering and architecture

Medicine and health sciences

Hospitality, tourism and events management

Media, communication and digital marketing

Law and international relations

Aviation and logistics

Education and psychology

Popular Universities

| Specialist universities

Students seeking highly specialised education may also consider:

- Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence: AI, machine learning, computer vision, robotics and natural-language processing
- Emirates Aviation University: aviation management, aerospace engineering and logistics
- Dubai Medical College for Girls: medicine
- Mohammed Bin Rashid School of Government: public policy and administration
- The British University in Dubai: postgraduate education, business, engineering and technology
- Rabdan Academy: safety, security, defence and emergency preparedness

| Engineering and technology

- Khalifa University
- American University of Sharjah
- United Arab Emirates University
- University of Sharjah
- Heriot-Watt University Dubai
- Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai

| Medicine and health sciences

- United Arab Emirates University
- University of Sharjah
- Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences
- Ajman University
- Gulf Medical University

| Business and management

- American University of Sharjah
- University of Dubai
- Abu Dhabi University
- University of Birmingham Dubai
- University of Wollongong in Dubai
- Middlesex University Dubai

| Artificial intelligence and computer science

- Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence
- Khalifa University
- University of Birmingham Dubai
- Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai
- Heriot-Watt University Dubai

| Architecture and design

- American University of Sharjah
- American University in Dubai
- Canadian University Dubai
- Ajman University
- Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation

Ready to study in the UAE?

We are based in Dubai, on the ground where you will study. Our counsellors know the universities, the licensing checks and the residence process first-hand.

Prepared by Edu Consultancy (IEC Management Consultants LLC), August 2026. Fees, requirements and visa rules are indicative and change over time; our counsellors will confirm the latest details for your profile.