آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programme

Admission Information 2024 - 2025

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THE UNIVERSITY

The Aga Khan University is a pioneering institution of higher education and research that works to improve quality of life in the developing world and beyond. We educate leaders, generate life-saving knowledge and set an example that raises standards in the societies in which we work. We empower women and the disadvantaged, strengthen pluralism and partner with world-renowned institutions to address problems that affect millions of people.

A not-for-profit institution, AKU was founded in 1983 by His Highness the Aga Khan. As Pakistan's first private university, we paved the way for the growth of the country's private higher education sector. In the early 2000s, the University expanded to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom. AKU is a part of the healthcare education branch of the larger Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN).

At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces diversity, demands excellence and encourages leadership and directs engagement with real-world challenges. Our graduates go on to study and work at eminent universities and organizations around the world, and to make a difference in their home countries.

AKU is open to all, regardless of race, religion, gender or geographic origin. Two-thirds of students and half of faculty members are women. Admission is based on merit, and our needs sensitive financial assistance programme ensures that individuals from lower-income backgrounds are able to attend the educational programs.

THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

The Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery, AKU-SONAM, was established in 1980, three years prior to the establishment of the University and the University Hospital. It was the first operational academic unit of the Aga Khan University and the first School of Nursing and Midwifery in the country to be affiliated with a university.

The School of Nursing and Midwifery has also accomplished many other firsts in Pakistan. It was the first to start a two-year Post Registered Nurse Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Post-RN BScN, programme for diploma-qualified nurses in 1988, the first to start a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BScN, in 1997, and the first to begin a Master of Science in Nursing, MScN, programme in 2001. In 2012, it was the first to start a Post-RM Bachelor of Science in Midwifery, Post-RM BScM, and in 2015, the first to begin a PhD in Nursing in Pakistan.

Under the greater vision of the University's founder and Chancellor, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, the School's common vision across Pakistan and East Africa is "transforming nurses and midwives for a global future".

The School of Nursing and Midwifery aspires towards becoming a centre of excellence in the region, by providing a high level of education, research and service and promoting and disseminating knowledge and technology with particular relevance to the development of Pakistan, developing nations and the Muslim Ummah. Following the University's international mandate, the School of Nursing and Midwifery is currently working towards improving the access to and quality of nursing and midwifery education initiatives in Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Afghanistan.

In order to meet its goal to achieve the highest international quality, the School of Nursing and Midwifery has forged mutually beneficial and long-term partnerships with international universities such as the Universities of Alberta, Calgary, Johns Hopkins, and Washington. In collaboration with its partners, the School of Nursing and Midwifery has been able to provide unique higher education opportunities to prepare its faculty members for distinguished careers in academics like teaching and learning in classroom, clinical education and using simulation as strategy to prepare learners, they also have opportunities for joint and individual research, and access to international expertise in developing innovative curricula and evidence-based pedagogies.

The School combines the talents of national and international faculty with educational and professional experiences from Pakistan, Africa and North America. Faculty expertise in clinical practice, education, management and research enriches nursing education of students across all programmes. Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery motivates young men and women from all over Pakistan, and overseas, to choose nursing as a career in order to strengthen the delivery of healthcare services. In the process, these young individuals are encouraged to play a more meaningful role in their nation's development, and advancement for women, which is in harmony with the traditions of Islamic society.

The Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery offers the following undergraduate programmes:

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing, BScN
- Post-RN Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Post-RN BScN
- Post-RM Bachelor of Science in Midwifery, Post-RM BScM

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES AT SONAM

I. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) Degree Programme

The BScN is a four-year academic programme with an additional one-year mandatory internship. At the conclusion of five years, students become eligible to apply for the PNMC licensure examination and receive the license as a Registered Nurse.

This programme equips students with knowledge, skills and attitude needed to practice in nursing profession. It is designed to prepare clinically competent professional nurses, who delivers care to patient, their families and community. Upon completion of the programme, nurses are able to utilise their nursing skills for holistic care and play a role as change agents in nursing practice and education in any health care setting.

INTERNSHIP FOR BSCN PROGRAMME (BSCN)

All students entering the four-year BScN programme are required to complete an additional one year of internship. This is a mandatory requirement for obtaining licensure from the Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council. The internship will begin after the completion of the fourth year of BScN studies in which the students are expected to work in the assigned units as nursing interns to strengthen their clinical experience.

The AKUSONAM will be responsible to arrange internship of their graduates in AKUH/AKDN teaching hospitals approved by Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PNMC). An internship programme will be planned between the school and the hospital to facilitate rotation in several clinical areas.

The graduates will receive the internship salary as per AKUH policy. The internee will receive the certificate of completion of required theory and clinical hours co signed by Dean, SONAM and CNO, AKUH. Dean will send the final list of eligible applicants to the PNMC through RO office. All applicants will be required to write the PNMC licensure examination to obtain the license to practice.

II. Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Post-RN BScN) Degree Programme

The Post-RN BScN is a two-year degree programme designed to give experienced Registered Nurses, RNs, an opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge and skills needed to practice nursing care as clinically competent professional nurses. With entry-to-practice in nursing soon officially moving towards a compulsory Bachelor's qualification, this programme offers working RNs an opportunity to continue and improve their career prospects for the future. Graduates will be able to provide leadership and influence the development of the nursing profession in Pakistan. Upon completion of the programme, nurses are able to utilise critical thinking in providing holistic nursing care and play a role as change agents in nursing practice and education in any healthcare setting. Both full time and part time study options are available, with a flexibility of completing the programme in 3 years.

The minimum number of students required to offer the programme is at least 12.

III. Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (Post-RM BScM) Degree Programme

The Post-RM BScM is a two-year degree programme for Registered Midwives, that will equip them with comprehensive, evidence-based midwifery care essentially to healthy women throughout pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum care, neonatal care and family planning.

The comprehensive educational standards developed by the International Confederation of Midwives, ICM, provide the guiding framework for the programme. The curriculum has been designed with the objective of producing clinically competent graduates and clinical leaders who meet the knowledge, skills and standards set out at national and international levels and also to respond to the socio-cultural, ethical and the legal frameworks in the country.

At AKU, the programmes are spread over two semesters in a year in a unique blended learning approach, requiring online learning. The University encourages students to bring a functional laptop for study.

The minimum number of students required to offer the programme is at least 12.

ADMISSION TO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Under its charter, AKU is open to all academically qualified candidates without consideration to gender, religion, race, creed, colour or domicile. Students from anywhere in Pakistan and overseas may apply. There are no quotas, reserved seats or admissions against donations. Merit-based admissions are open to candidates from around the world.

Admission to the Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery, AKU-SONAM, is based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an admission test and interviews, productive use of time and other experiences indicating potential for leadership. The gender ratio for admission to the BScN, Post-RN BScN and the Post-RM-BScM programmes will be in accordance with the University stipulations.

Fulfilment of basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline or any other outstanding achievement alone will not be sufficient for selection. Selection to the AKU-SONAM is made with great care and concern. Its decisions are irrevocable and are not negotiable.

Experience over the years has shown that competition for admission is intense. Candidates are advised in their own interest to apply to other institutions as well. A deliberate effort is made to select students from diverse economic and educational backgrounds. This is done in the belief that diversity in the student body greatly enriches the educational experience.

As English language is the medium of instruction at AKU, candidates must be able to demonstrate competence in English comprehension and expression, both written and verbal communication.

It is in the best interest of students, particularly from overseas, to have a working knowledge of Urdu. The University would also make necessary arrangements for acculturation and strengthening of language skills through coaching, where possible.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC / graduate / postgraduate education in the year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure and meet the eligibility criteria as indicated in this brochure may apply.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

The Aga Khan University will accept provisional applications from candidates who will be writing their Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) examination/graduation/postgraduate examination until the summer of 2024. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, applicants will be required to submit their (pending) HSSC examination or their graduation/postgraduate examination results in accordance with the minimum eligibility requirements by the dates specified in this University brochure. If the HSSC/graduate/postgraduate examination result of a provisionally admitted candidate is less than the minimum eligibility requirement and is not submitted within the due dates, the admission offer made by University will stand cancelled.

It is candidate's responsibility to ensure that the pending results are received in the admission office according to the published schedule.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Candidates to the SONAM programme, not successful in their first attempt may reapply for admission with additional information supporting their application. Candidate's most current academic qualification will be used for evaluation purposes.

The University does not carry forward applications from one year to the next. Thus, a fresh application together with necessary documentation, must be submitted for any subsequent admission session.

From the 2025 academic year, candidates will be allowed a maximum of two attempts to apply to the BScN programme. Following two unsuccessful applications, candidates will be ineligible to apply to the BScN programme and are encouraged to apply for other University programmes, provided they meet the eligibility criteria. The University will accept, for the last time, a third attempt from candidates applying for the 2024 academic year.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Stage I	• Submitting an application according to the eligibility requirements of AKU. • Writing the AKU Undergraduate Admission Test.
Stage II	Candidates who are shortlisted based on the Admission Test will be required to: • Submit relevant academic documents. • Candidates will be required to attend panel interview with faculty members of the University. The number of candidates interviewed is limited
Stage III	**Final Selection:** Rank order of shortlisted candidates is based upon the review of scholastic achievements and interview reports.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

I. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAMME (BSCN)

In line with Pakistan Nursing and Midwifery Council (PNMC), candidates may apply for the four-year BScN Programme if their age is within 14 years to 35 years on January 1, 2025. Marital status is not a consideration.

Candidates applying to the BScN programmes should have completed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSSC) in the pre-medical group with a minimum of 50% or equivalent in the pre-medical group with biology, chemistry and physics. Candidates should have completed the Secondary School Certificate or equivalent in the Science group with biology, chemistry and physics as compulsory subjects.

Candidates with equivalent qualifications (in the British, American, Canadian or any other system of Education in Pakistan and overseas) must submit equivalence certificates from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). The equivalence must state that the qualification is equivalent to an overall aggregate of at least 50% HSSC pre-medical qualification in Pakistan. Applicants must note that applications will not be processed for final selection without required equivalence certificates.

Candidates who have completed two years in intermediate college, or have an undergraduate or graduate degree are also required to have achieved a minimum aggregate of 50% or equivalent in their HSSC in the pre-medical group.

OBTAINING AN EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE FROM IBCC

All applicants to the School of Nursing and Midwifery, local and foreign, who have certificates of education other than the Pakistani Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC), are required to submit an equivalence certificate of their HSSC from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). The equivalence must state that the qualification is equivalent to an overall aggregate of at least 50% HSSC pre-medical qualification in Pakistan.

For more details and updates please visit website: *www.ibcc.edu.pk* or visit IBCC offices located in Karachi and Islamabad:

Islamabad: Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106631.

Karachi: Plot No. ST-2, Liaquat Memorial Library premises near PTV Regional Office (Opposite to Liaquat National Hospital), Stadium Road, Karachi. Tel +92 21 99230583 / 85
For other cities, please visit: *www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/*

AKU Admission Test

All applicants to the BScN degree programme are required to write the AKU Admission Test. The Test is administered in English and consists of multiple-choice questions designed to test recall, application of knowledge, deductive reasoning and problem-solving ability.

NOTE: *The test will be conducted online onsite on computers.*

Test Components

BScN Degree Programme: The test comprises sections in English language, Mathematics Reasoning, and Science Achievement (Chemistry, Biology and Physics). Please see sample test paper for details.

Place the link here

All applicants to the School of Nursing and Midwifery programmes are required to demonstrate proficiency in the English language.

For applicants residing overseas, the University will attempt to administer the Admission Test at a centre convenient to the applicant.

The University does not provide any special preparation for its test, nor does it endorse or authorise any publication or preparatory classes for this purpose.

The University reserves the right to evaluate the applications for shortlisting purposes on the criteria developed at the time.

Validity of AKU Admission Test Scores

The AKU Admission Test scores are valid for a period of two years from the date the test is written. For admission to the 2024 session, Admission Tests written in 2022 and 2023 will be considered valid. The test scores of previous years will be used for shortlisting purposes only in cases where applicants do not write the Admission Test in the year of application and inform the Admission Office in advance. Candidates applying to programmes in the School of Nursing and Midwifery in the 2024 academic year are encouraged and advised to write the Admission Test with adequate preparation even if they have written the Admission Test in the preceding two years.

Application for Admission

Applications for BScN admission will be accepted between **March 17 - May 16, 2024.** Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

Applications must be submitted via the online process. Applications will only be accepted if a candidate completes following:

1. Upload the receipt of application fee on the online Portal.
2. Submit the application form online. *(Candidate will receive a copy of the application form on their email as a confirmation if the application is submitted successfully)*

The University does not have a policy of processing incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline.

NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in the programme brochure. Moreover, candidates are responsible to complete the application and other requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule.

Aga Khan University reserves the right to admission; to revoke admission and registration if an application is discovered to be inaccurate or incomplete, or if supporting documents are discovered to be fraudulent. Any candidate who presents a fraudulent document in support of an application for admission may be identified to other universities and colleges.

ADMIT CARD

The admit card allow you to write the test, it will be received by candidates who apply online on the portal and/or through an email.

In cases where the admit card is not received 12 days before the date of the test; candidates must email the Admission Office at sonadmission.query@aku.edu for the required information and application details.

If a candidate would like to write the test at a different test centre from the one originally mentioned in the application form, candidate must inform the admission office via email at least 72 hours before the test; to send your information to the designated Test Centre. Walk in candidates are not encouraged to write the exam in any centre.

Please Note: The University does not take responsibility to conduct the test for candidates who walk into a Test Centre without information.

To be allowed into the designated Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:

- A hard copy of the admit card issued by AKU **AND**
- A valid current photo ID card/original CNIC/college ID card/enrolment card for identification.

Without these documents, AKU reserves the right not to allow you to write the Test.

SHORTLISTING

On the basis of the Admission Test scores, applicants are shortlisted and invited for interviews.

INTERVIEWS

Interviews are held at the Aga Khan University. Alternate arrangements are made in other cities in Pakistan if a sufficient number of applicants request for it.

For all applicants who are residing overseas, interviews will be conducted on Zoom. Information will be conveyed to the applicants.

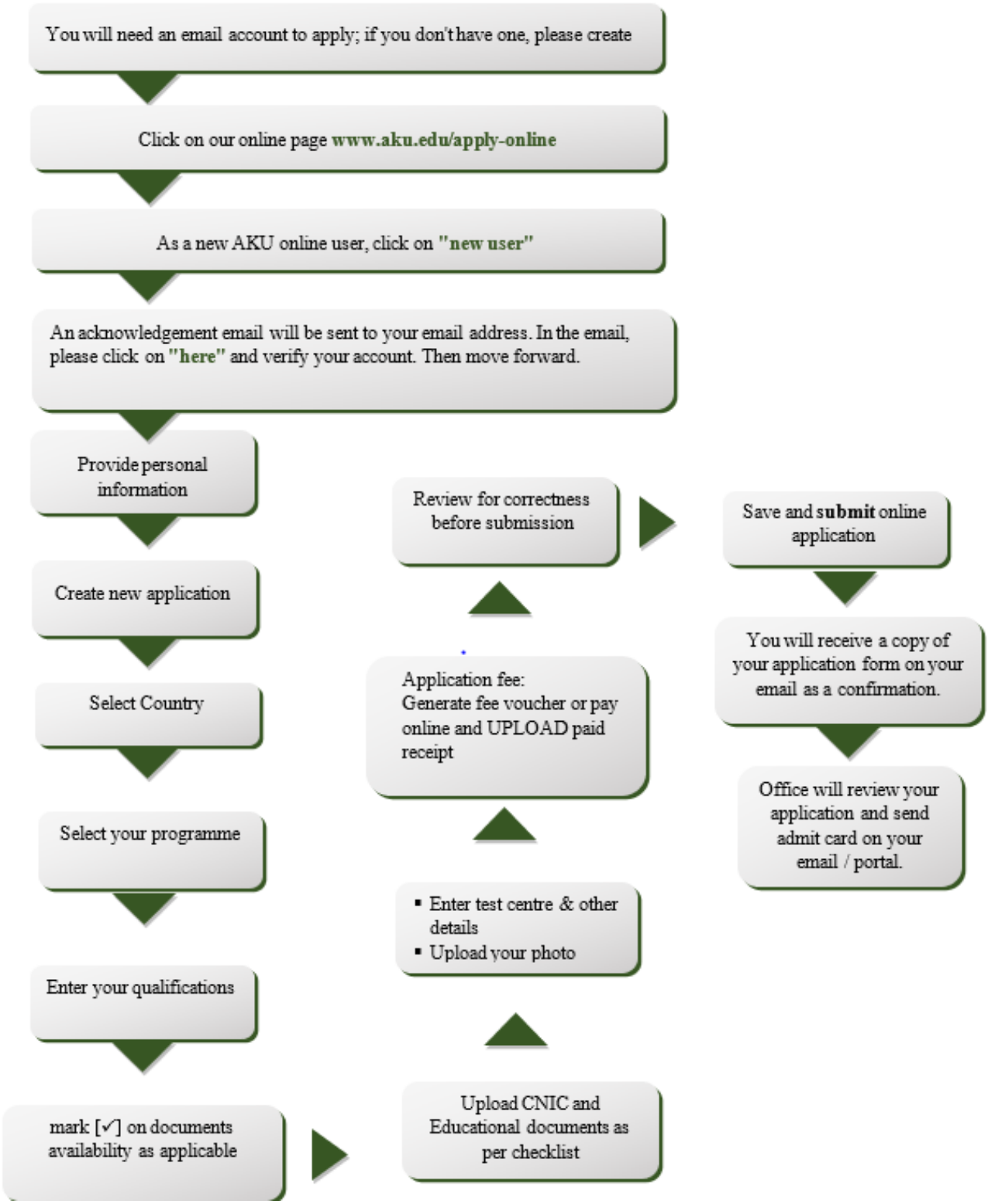
Applicants should note that interviews are a component of the application process and do not guarantee selection.

DEFERRED ADMISSIONS

A request for deferred admission must be made in writing prior to the start of the academic session for a maximum of one year. The entity support the flexible pathway to enter into the program, however, the reasons for deferral are reviewed by a committee constituted by the Dean, SONAM before taking a decision. All decisions are final.

APPLY ONLINE

Follow the steps below to apply for an academic programme online:



Please upload the following documents when applying online

Note: The photograph should be in JPEG format with 2 MB size and all other documents should be in PDF format with 5 MB file each.

BSCN PROGRAMME

1. Photograph ***(see photograph specification section)***

2. B-Form/CNIC/NICOP *(front & back copy)* for candidates applying from Pakistan or relevant pages of passport for overseas applicants.

3. Application Fee: **-Applying from AKU residential countries* is Rs. 7000/-**
   -Applying from AKU non-residential countries is US $ 150/-
   -(see mode of payment section for details)

   The application fee is non-refundable.
   Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.

Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

BSCN PROGRAMME

1. Secondary School Certificate (SSC) (Science Group) or equivalent

2. Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) (Pre-medical) or equivalent
   Applicants with overseas qualifications are required to obtain an equivalence certificate from IBCC. Admissions will not be finalised without equivalence certificates. (As applicable).

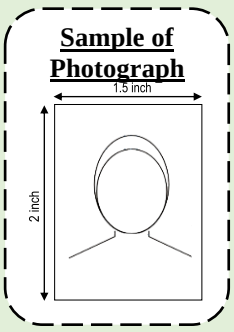
3. Domicile (Compulsory).

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.

- Passport size coloured photograph with a plain background; taken within the last 1 week to reflect your current appearance.
- File size and format: 2 MB and JPEG format.
- The photo should show a clear front view, full face of the person.

If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, the University will not allow you to write the Admission Test.



APPLICATION FEE (AS APPLICABLE)

Candidate applying from AKU residential countries*: Rs. 7,000
Candidate Applying from AKU non-residential countries: US $ 150

**Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda*

MODE OF PAYMENT

Candidates may pay the application fee through any of the following modes. ***When the fee is paid, please upload the receipt on the online admission portal to complete the application.***

FEE VOUCHER (FOR PAKISTANI CURRENCY ONLY)

Please follow these steps to pay the application fee through fee voucher:

1. On the application home page, please click on "Application Fee Information"
2. For **payment options**, select "Fee Voucher"
3. Click "Yes" to generate the voucher *(make sure that your pop ups aren't blocked)*
4. Take the printed voucher to any branch of Habib Bank Ltd (HBL) and pay the fee. ***(Please do not transfer online)***
5. Upload the paid voucher by clicking the "Upload Button" on the proof of payment section.

ONLINE PAYMENT THROUGH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD (PAKISTANI & US$ CURRENCY)

Follow these steps to pay application fee online through a debit / credit card:

1. On the application home page, please click on "Application Fee Information"
2. For **payment options**, select "Online Payment" and click yes *(make sure that your pop ups aren't blocked)*
3. Complete your payment details on online web portal: https://payonline.aku.edu/
4. Upload the payment acknowledgement email or screenshot by clicking the "Upload Button" on the proof of payment section.

In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing your query along with tracking Id, name, and programme name at student.finance@aku.edu

FEES AND FUNDING

Admissions to all the academic programmes at Aga Khan University are based on merit and are needs blind, i.e., without considering the financial background of the student.

Upon acceptance into an academic programme, a student who is unable to pay for the cost of education at the University, may apply for financial assistance.

The financial information including student's fee-paying status, fee structure for the 2024-2025 session, and financial assistance is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

The University will offer sponsorships to students joining the BScN and Post RN BScN programme. These are awarded based on merit and at the discretion of the University. The eligibility criteria and other requirements are decided by the relevant University Committee. There is no separate application form to apply. The University's decision is final. Details will be made available with the admission offer letter.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide single and shared, furnished accommodation. Hostel space is only available for students who do not have residential accommodation in Karachi.

A fee is charged for all accommodation. Accommodation charges for the 2024-2025 session is available online along with the fee structure. Meals may be purchased separately from the University's cafeteria. All students living in the hostels are expected to conform to rules and regulations. Residence is conditional upon proper use and care of the property, considerate behaviour and periodic reappraisal of the student's need for such accommodation.

CONTESTED DECISIONS

In all matters pertaining to the selection of students, fees, grants, evaluation of scholastic performance, discipline and student affairs, the decision of the University shall be final. Appeals in matters of student selection will be considered within 15 days of the announcement of the new class only if the appeal cites circumstances suggesting that the University has violated provisions of its Charter or that there has been failure to comply with the admissions procedure as described in this document.

KEY DATES FOR 2024-2025 ADMISSIONS

BScN (Four year programme)

March 17 – May 16, 2024	**Admission Open:** Apply online via www.aku.edu/apply-online	
Saturday, July 20, 2024	***AKU Admission Test* -Pakistan***	**Test Centres** Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur
	AKU Admission Test* - Overseas	Chicago, Dar es Salam, Dubai, Edmonton, Houston, Iran, Kabul, Kampala, Khorog, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Toronto *(Additional overseas centres will be confirmed if there are at least 10 candidates to write the test)*
***Please note:** Timings and address for the venue will be stated on the admit card. In case of a change, candidates will be notified through email.*		
September 30	*Last date to submit:* Attested copy of Pakistani HSSC / High School or equivalent examination results	
September / October	Interviews	
Upon Selection	If applicable, submission of IBCC equivalence certificate copy.	
End of January 2025	Commencement of Classes	

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the undergraduate programmes offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2024-2025. The information provided is subject to change and without written notice. Candidates aiming to apply for programmes in any other academic year are responsible for requesting updated information about minimum eligibility requirement, application and admission process by emailing sonadmission.query@aku.edu

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan
Tel: **(92) 21 3486 5406/5140**
Email: sonadmission.query@aku.edu
Website: www.aku.edu/sonampk
Facebook: @AKUSONAMPK