FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Studies (BS)

Admission Information 2024 - 2025

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

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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.

At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces diversity, demands excellence, and encourages leadership and direct 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 can attend.

THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), established in 2022, offers programmes that maintain high quality and flexibility which allows students to develop broadly and function effectively. The University attaches great emphasis to the professional, personal, and intellectual development of students, so that its graduates become contributory members and leaders of society.

This form of education develops the whole person with a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary learning experience that equips graduates for success in whatever career they eventually choose, producing leaders in every field of human endeavour, for active citizenship, and meaningful lives. At FAS, leaders will possess the character and intellectual capacities necessary to improve people's lives. They will be impassioned and well-informed women and men who say, "We must do better," and then take considered action to bring about the future they wish to see.

To accomplish this, FAS draws on the rich tradition of arts and sciences education at the highest international standards while adapting it to local and regional contexts, infusing it with AKU's distinctive values of impact, quality, relevance, and access. We believe the result is one of the most exciting developments in higher education in Pakistan in recent memory. And we invite you to explore how FAS will transform your higher education experience.

ADMISSION TO THE AKU- FAS

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 all University programmes is based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an AKU administered Admission Test, interviews, productive use of time and other experiences indicating potential for leadership.

Fulfilment of basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline or any other outstanding achievement alone is not sufficient for selection. Candidates and their parents or supporters who expect their candidature to be strong enough to warrant selection are advised that the outcome of the selection process cannot be anticipated at any stage. 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.

Every effort is made to select students from diverse backgrounds. This is done in the belief that diversity in the student body greatly enriches the educational experience.

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

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

BACHELOR OF STUDIES

This four-year Bachelor of Studies (BS) in the Arts and Sciences is a transformative programme with a deeply integrated and holistic academic structure defined through four principal components that balance disciplinary knowledge with an inspiring general education anchored in practical learning.

Details of the programme, the four majors offered, their career pathways and the credit framework may be reviewed in the prospectus available at
https://www.aku.edu/faspk/study/programmes/Pages/home.aspx

WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications may be submitted for Year One of the Bachelor of Studies programme. The University will accept applications for admission in advanced standing, based on acceptability and assessment of transferable credits by the University at the time of admission. All rights of admission are reserved by the University.

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their Higher Secondary School (HSSC) examination in the year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure may apply. To be admitted into the programme, candidates must meet the University's minimum academic eligibility requirements and successfully compete and complete the admission processes as stated in this brochure.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

The Aga Khan University will also accept applications for the Bachelor of Studies programme from candidates who will be writing their HSSC examinations in the summer of the application year, provisionally. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, candidates 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 brochure. The University does not process applications that do not meet eligibility requirements or are submitted, for any reason, after the deadline.

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 Bachelor of Studies 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.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Stage I	• Submitting an application online according to the eligibility requirements of AKU. • Writing the AKU administered Test for admission. Please refer to relevant section in this brochure.
Stage II	• **Interviews:** Shortlisting of candidates is based on Test achievements. The number of candidates interviewed is limited. **Candidates will be required to attend two independent interviews.** **Shortlisted candidates will be required to submit following:** i. *One Reference Letter: One reference letter from your head teacher or class coordinator who knows you well. This must be submitted on the University's prescribed format.* ii. *Submission of official marksheets/ result sheet: from your institution previously attended, with notarised English translations of documents, if in a language other than English.* iii. *A Personal Statement: candidates will be provided with guiding questions. This is written prior to attending the interview.* ***Please note:** Fulfilment of the basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline, or any other outstanding achievement alone will not be sufficient for selection.*

Final Selection: Shortlisted candidates are rank ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements, interview evaluations and other attributes assessed through documents provided.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

The programme has no preference for any particular type of preparation and qualification. Candidates prepared in Urdu or English-medium institutions, in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC education in Summer 2024 and meet the eligibility criteria may apply. Candidates must present qualifications that are appropriate to the system of education in which they have been prepared. The University will evaluate applications based on the candidate's achievements in the most current academic qualification.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, the minimum academic requirements for candidates following different systems of education, are outlined here. For further clarification, candidates are requested to write to fas.query@aku.edu

Pakistani System of Education:

Matriculation/Secondary School Certificate
An overall aggregate of 75% with a minimum 65% in English

and

Higher Secondary School Education
An overall aggregate of 75% with a minimum 65% in English

British System of Education (O and A Levels)

In addition to English, six subjects at the O-Levels and three principal subjects must be written at the A- Levels. The University has no specific subject or grade requirements.

All Pakistani nationals appearing for examinations from Pakistan must have Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at any level of the programme.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence certificate of 75% for the O and A- Levels combined.

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB):
In addition to English, three principal subjects are required.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence of 75% for the complete IB diploma.

All Pakistani nationals appearing for examinations from Pakistan must have Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at any level of the programme.

American and Canadian High School Diploma:

In addition to English, three principal subjects are required.

All Pakistani nationals in Pakistan must have studied Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at the Secondary or Higher Secondary level.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence Certificate of 75% for the High School diploma.

Indigenous Higher Secondary School Certificates of Education:

Candidates who have studied in an educational system not mentioned in the above sections may apply if they provide evidence of satisfactory completion of an HSSC education with a minimum 65% in English. The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence Certificate of 75% for the High School diploma.

OBTAINING AN EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE

Candidates following systems of education other than Pakistani Higher Secondary Certificate may use the IBCC grade calculator to assess their equivalence. This must be followed by an attested equivalence certificate from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). This equivalence certificate must state that their High School qualification is equivalent to the HSSC qualification in Pakistan with a minimum aggregate achievement of 75%.

For more details and updates, please visit website: www.ibcc.edu.pk or visit IBCC offices:

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/*

THE AKU ADMINISTERED ADMISSION TEST

All eligible applicants will write the Accuplacer Test*:* English as a Second Language (ESL) **and** *the Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics* test.

Resources are available here:

https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/accuplacer-esl-tests-sample-questions.pdf

https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/next-generation-sample-questions-quantitative-reasoning.pdf

The Admissions Test for the Bachelor of Studies programme will be administered in centres identified by the University in the application form.

The AKU Test will be the key determining factor in shortlisting candidates for the interviews.

The Test scores are valid for consideration only in the year in which they have been written.

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.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between October 22, and December 15, 2023. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

Applications must be submitted via the online process. For an application to be processed, the following is mandatory:

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

2. Upload the receipt of application fee on the online portal.

3. Upload SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript.

4. Upload HSC / A-Level / High School / IB transcript equivalence calculated or IBCC equivalence Certificate if available.

Incomplete applications or submission of applications after the deadline is not accepted.

NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in this programme brochure. Moreover, candidates are responsible to complete the application and other requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule. Application fee is not refundable.

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 will allow you to write the test will be received by candidates who apply online on their 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 fas.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 noted in the application form, candidate must inform the admission office via email at least 72 hours before the test so that information can be sent to the Test Centre. Walk in candidates are not encouraged.

Please note:
The University does not take responsibility to conduct the test for candidates who walk into a Test Centre without information.
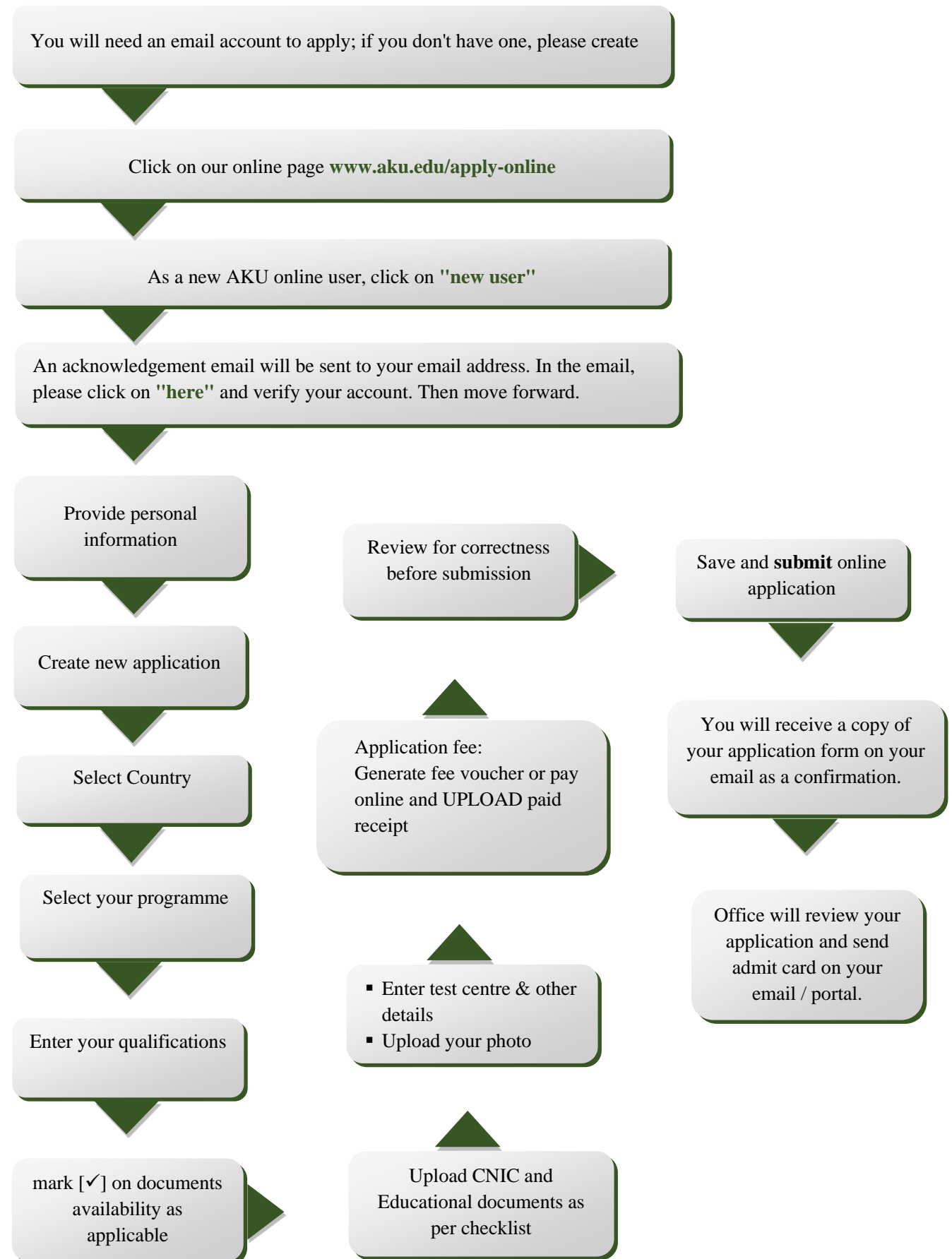
To be allowed into the Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:
- A hard copy of the admit card issued by AKU   **AND**
- A valid current photo ID card/original CNIC/college ID card/enrolment card for identification

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

APPLY ONLINE

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

You will need an email account to apply; if you don't have one, please create

Click on our online page **www.aku.edu/apply-online**

As a new AKU online user, click on **"new user"**

An acknowledgement email will be sent to your email address. In the email, please click on **"here"** and verify your account. Then move forward.

Provide personal information

Create new application

Select Country

Select your programme

Enter your qualifications

mark [✓] on documents availability as applicable

Upload CNIC and Educational documents as per checklist

- Enter test centre & other details
- Upload your photo

Application fee: Generate fee voucher or pay online and UPLOAD paid receipt

Review for correctness before submission

Save and **submit** online application

You will receive a copy of your application form on your email as a confirmation.

Office will review your application and send admit card on your email / portal.

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.

1. Photograph *(see photograph specification section)*

2. B-Form / CNIC / NICOP *(front & back copy)* or *relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)*

3. SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript

   HSC / A- Level / High School / IB transcript.

   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)

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

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

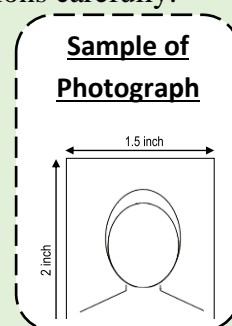## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

- SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript / equivalent Documents required to finalise selection.

- HSSC mark sheet / A- Level general certificate / High School transcript / IB transcript / equivalent

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

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

- Passport size colored 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.

Your photograph must reflect your current appearance to be allowed to write the AKU Test.

Sample of Photograph

1.5 inch

2 inch

PAYING APPLICATION FEES

Application fee is only receivable as a Fee Voucher or through a Credit/Debit card as explained below. The University will not be responsible for payments made through any other means.

MODE OF PAYMENT:

Candidates may pay the application fee as follows:
(***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
5. Upload the paid voucher on "Upload Documents" Page by selecting fee payment

- **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 the last step "Application Fee Information"
2. Go to Proof of Payment section and click payment mode to 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 on "Upload Documents" Page by selecting fee payment

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 session, and financial assistance is available on: www.aku.edu/faspk/study/Pages/financial-assistance.aspx

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 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.

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the Bachelor of Studies Programme offered by the Faculty of Art and Sciences at the Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2024. 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 fas.query@aku.edu

KEY DATES FOR 2024 ADMISSIONS

Admission Open: October 22 – December 15, 2023	Apply online via www.aku.edu/apply-online	
February 24, 2024	*AKU Admission Test* - Pakistan*	**Test Centres** Chitral, Gilgit, Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad
	AKU Admission Test* - Overseas (In alphabetical order)	Chicago, Dar es Salam, 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.*

April 2024	Interviews
End of June 2024	Offers of admission
September 2024	Commencement of Classes

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
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Website : **www.aku.edu**