



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**



*Celebrating 25 years*

**Master of Science in Nursing**

**Admission Information**

**2008**

## **The Aga Khan University**

Chartered in 1983 by the Government of Pakistan as the country's first private international university, Aga Khan University (AKU) is committed to excellence in education, research and service and to the full utilisation of modern communication and information technologies.

Under its Charter “Aga Khan University is open to all persons of either sex and of whatever religion, race, creed, colour or domicile who are academically qualified for admission to the courses of study offered by the University”.

## **School of Nursing**

Established in 1980, the Aga Khan University School of Nursing (AKU-SON) was the first academic component of AKU and its Faculty of Health Sciences. The School offers several programmes in nursing, including a three-year General Nursing Diploma Programme, four year BScN and a two-year Post RN BScN, as well as the two-year Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) Programmes.

## **Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) Programme**

In October 2001, AKU School of Nursing introduced a two-year Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) programme, the first of its kind in Pakistan. The MScN is

a two-year programme to prepare advanced practice nurses who will develop innovative, practical solutions to complex health problems from a scientific perspective. Nursing practice in both rural and urban areas will be emphasized with the student selecting their specialty areas of advanced practice.

Upon graduation, it is expected that graduates will become leaders with decision making skills in the areas of education, administration, research and clinical practice and will utilize the existing theories and research findings in caring for individual families and communities. The programme will also provide nurses the necessary skills to develop and test theory and conduct research that will contribute to the body of knowledge defining the discipline of nursing.

The MScN programme will prepare graduates who, in their practice of nursing, are able to meet specific core competencies. These core competencies address the following six domains of practice for advanced practice nurses:

1. Management of client's health and illness status. Encompasses health promotion and illness prevention activities, as well as management of acute and chronic disease.
2. Monitoring and ensuring the quality of health care practices. Incorporates professional standards and ethics into practice to promote quality of care.

3. In managing and negotiating health care delivery systems-emphasizing leadership through policy-making activities.
4. In the Professional role, promoting a scientific foundation to implement the advanced practice-nursing role and provide leadership in professional activities.
5. In the Teaching and coaching function, utilizing psychological principles in eliciting information and providing information to individuals, families and communities.
6. In the Collaborating and consulting role, creating relationships which protect and enhance human dignity in the provision of health care services.

The opportunity to take theory and clinical courses overseas may be explored.

### **Programme Structure**

In this academic programme, the medium of instruction is English. Students are expected to fully participate in the learning process through classroom discussion, clinical rotations, presentations, seminars, and completion of a thesis.

### **Flexible Programme**

Applicants may enroll in the programme as full-time (two years) or part-time students. Application for part-time

studies will be considered on an individual basis. Part-time students will be required to complete the programme in maximum of five years.

### **Transition Programme**

Transition Programme is for those Registered Nurses who do not possess a BScN and have a BSc/BA/BCom (general academic programme) and wish to apply to the MScN Programme. During this one year, the applicants will be required to successfully complete the prerequisite courses of the undergraduate nursing programme to be able to progress to the MScN Programme

### **Application for Admission**

Applications for admission will be accepted until March 28, 2008. There is no provision for late applications. Information on admissions may be downloaded from the web page. It is available free of cost from:

The Admission Office  
Aga Khan University  
School of Nursing  
MSc Nursing Programme  
P. O. Box 3500, Stadium Road  
Karachi-74800

Email: [son.admission@aku.edu](mailto:son.admission@aku.edu)/[www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)

Before submission, applicants must ensure that they have complied with the instructions given with the

application form. It remains the responsibility of the applicant to complete the application form according to the instructions and time schedule.

Incomplete applications will not be processed by the Admission Office. An application is considered incomplete when the required documents are not attached.

### **Repeat Applications**

Applicants not successful in the first attempt may apply again with additional information supporting their candidature. A fresh application together with the necessary documentation must be submitted for a particular admission session. The University does not have a policy of carrying forward applications from one academic year to another.

### **Criteria for Application**

Applicants in the public or private sector throughout Pakistan and overseas may apply. Following are the eligibility criteria in direct MScN programme.

- Successful completion of BScN Programme.
- Current RN licensure in Pakistan or equivalent
- At least 2 years of relevant nursing experience after completion of the BScN Programme
- Successful completion of Admission Test and Interview.

- No objection certificate from employer. Admissions of government employees will be confirmed only if they have the relevant NOC before the first day of school.

### **Admission to the Programme**

Admission to the MScN Programme is based on merit and proven commitment to advanced nursing practice. Merit will be evaluated through scholastic achievement of applicants who will be assessed on the basis of past experience and future plans.

A high academic score in any single discipline or any outstanding achievement alone may not be sufficient criteria for selection.

### **Application Requirement**

Application for admission must be on the prescribed application form, along with the following supporting documents.

#### **1. Scholastic Achievements**

A complete set of copies of official transcripts, degrees, diplomas and certificate courses from college, graduate and professional schools should be attached with the application form. All copies must be duly attested from a gazetted officer.

## **2. Statement of Purpose**

A statement summarizing past education, training and experience as well as interests and future aims is required. A curriculum vitae and list of publications, if any should be included.

## **3. Letters of Recommendation**

Letters of recommendation from at least three people who are well acquainted with applicant's previous academic work and professional experience. Forms are included in the admission packet.

## **4. Application Fee**

### For Residents in Pakistan

A non - refundable application fee of Rs. 2,000/- payable in cash or bank draft drawn in favour of Aga Khan University.

### For Applicants Currently Residing Abroad

A non-refundable application fee of US\$ 30 or its equivalent in Pakistani rupees, payable only by a bank draft in favour of Aga Khan University drawn on a bank in Karachi.

The completed application form with all requirements should be posted by registered mail, or through a reliable courier service or delivered in person to the School of Nursing Admission Office from Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon.

## **Admission Test & Equivalent**

All eligible applicants will be required to write an Admission Test which will be administered in selected test centres on April 05, 2008. The test comprises of sections in English, Mathematics, Logical Reasoning and Nursing Knowledge.

### **The University has not authorized any publication or preparatory classes for the Admission Test.**

Applicants residing overseas may submit GRE score in lieu of the Admission Test by April 30, 2008. Applicants whose first language is not English are required to provide evidence of their proficiency in English by including details of any recognized test of English Language such as TOEFL or IELTS.

## **Shortlisting**

Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of the Admission Test or TOEFL and GRE, as applicable and interviews.

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

## **Interview Process**

Each applicant will meet three interviewers for

approximately one hour each. The purpose of the interview is to assess a variety of attributes, including integrity, motivation for and interest in the programme, maturity, social and cultural awareness, knowledge of public health issues in developing nations and evidence of research initiative and commitment to the profession.

Interviews are conducted in Pakistan. For all applicants who reside overseas, every effort will be made to conduct the interviews in the applicant's home country. However, if this is not possible, alternate arrangements will be made and information will be conveyed to the applicants. Interviews will be conducted in May 2008.

### **Transition Programme**

Transition programme is for the applicants who meet the required criteria given below but do not have BScN or equivalent and wish to apply to the MScN Programme. Applicants in this programme will be considered on individual basis for their entry to the programme. The transition programme is one year of academic study. Students may challenge the transition courses by taking an examination (challenge test).

### **Criteria for Application**

- RN's with undergraduate degree other than nursing.
- RN's with non-nursing Masters degree.
- Applicants with RN, RM and Diploma in Ward Administration (DWA) and Diploma in Teaching Administration (DTA).

- Applicants with RN, RM and advance diploma from abroad.
- Current RN licensure in Pakistan or equivalent

All above applicants must have a minimum of seven years of working experience in nursing with at least two years in leadership positions.

### **Courses for Transition Programme**

Courses to be completed

Computer Applications in Nursing (0 credit)

Nursing Research (3 credits)

Health Assessment (3 credits)

Pathophysiology (4 credits)

Biostatistics (3 credits)

Advanced Concepts in Nursing (5 credits)

English (3 credits)

However students will be required to audit prerequisite courses if needed.

### **Note:**

Transition students who score at least C grade in all courses with GPA of 2.5 are considered for enrollment in the MScN. Candidates not fulfilling these criteria will not be enrolled in the MScN programme but will receive transcript for the courses taken in the transition programme.

## **Tuition and Other Charges**

The students are required to pay their tuition fee along with other dues at the beginning of each term.

Students who wish to make payment on a monthly basis may do so in consultation with the Finance Department.

Students defaulting on payments within the due dates may be suspended and/ or barred from classes and examinations until the clearance of dues in accordance with the University's Policies and Procedures.

## **Financial Assistance**

The University operates a financial assistance programme and accepts applications for financial assistance from students who are selected on merit and have demonstrated financial need after having thoroughly explored all other possible sources of financial assistance. Limited Teaching and Research Assistantships may be available.

## **Facilities and Resources**

### **Library**

AKU library provides a wide range of books, materials focusing on health, nursing education, international periodicals and journals, as well as a large selection of

video and audio cassettes and CD-ROMS are available. Furthermore, MScN Library is also available within the campus with a wide range of books on nursing.

### **Computer and Internet Facilities**

MScN Computer Lab is located within the campus of AKUSON for students to prepare their assignments and search various materials on the internet. Furthermore, students can also avail computer and internet facility at Learning Resource Center of AKU

### **Students' Lounge**

The Students' Lounge offers comfortable surroundings for casual conversations and a place to take a break. The Students' Lounge is located within the campus of AKUSON.

### **Accommodation**

Accommodation for outstation students are arranged in the hostels managed by Aga Khan University. These hostels provide single room, non-air conditioned, furnished accommodation for men. There are single rooms with similar facilities and a limited number of flats in the School of Nursing hostel for women. There is limited accommodation on campus. Preference in allocation of rooms is given to those from outside Karachi. The charges of a single room are Rs.4, 500/-

payable on a monthly basis in advance. Women graduate students who share a flat are charged Rs. 4, 325/- per person per month, payable in advance. Meals cost extra and may be purchased from the University cafeteria.

### **Medical Facilities**

MScN students are eligible for medical facilities offered by the Aga Khan University Hospital as per University Student Health Policy.

### **Sports Facilities**

The Sports and Rehabilitation Centre at the AKU

Stadium Road Campus provides recreational facilities for students for a nominal fee.

### **Contested Decisions**

In all matters pertaining to selection of students, fees, grants, evaluation of scholastic performance, discipline and student affairs, the decision of the University shall be final.

Appeals in matters regarding the above will be considered only if the appeal cites circumstances suggesting that the University has violated provisions of its Charter or that there was failure to comply with the procedure as described in the prospectus.

<b>Financial Commitments 2008-2010</b>			
<b>Tuition*</b>		<b>OtherCharges</b>	
Local students	Rs.200,000	Student Health	Rs.4,600
Overseas students	US\$ 9,300	Graduation	Rs.5,600
Sponsored students	Rs. 412,900	Deposit	Rs.5,000
		Student Activity	Rs. 500

*\* Does not include the cost of thesis, research presentation and other selected costs.*

## MScN Curriculum

Academic Session 2008-2010

<b>Term I: October 06- December 26, 2008</b>	
NU 541	Theoretical Basis of Nursing (3)
*NU / CHS 592	Fundamentals of Biostatistics (3)
EL 511	Elective (3)
Total Credits = 11	
<b>Term II: January 12 - April 03, 2009</b>	
NU 593	Nursing Research [Qualitative & Quantitative] (4)
NU 542	Ethics in Health Care (3)
NU 551	Leadership and Management in Nursing Practice (3)
Total Credits = 10	
<b>Term III: April 20 - July 10, 2009</b>	
NU 561	Educational Design and Administration (4)
NU 543/544	Pathophysiology / Pharmacology for Advance Practice (5)
NU 697	Thesis I [Proposal Development] (3)
Total Credits = 12	
<b>Term IV: October 05 - December 25, 2009</b>	
NU 644	Advanced Health Assessment (3)
NU 645	Advanced Theoretical Concepts in Clinical Care (3)
NU 671	Advanced Theoretical Concepts in Public/Community Health Nursing (3)
NU 594	Research Seminar (1)
Total Credits = 10	
<b>Term V: January 11 - April 02, 2010</b>	
NU 646/ NU 672	Advanced Specialty Practicum (8)
**EL	Elective (3)
Total Credits = 11	
<b>Term VI: April 19 - July 09, 2010</b>	
NU 697	Thesis II (4)
EN 512	Scholarly Writing [Thesis Tutorial] (2)
Total Credits = 6	
<b>Term VII: July 12 - September 30, 2010</b>	
NU 697	Thesis III (4)
Total Credits = 4	
<b>Total credits: 64</b>	

\*courses offered with the Medical College - CHS Department of AKU.

\*\* Electives could be taken anytime during the two-year programme. Number would be assigned depending upon the course chosen for the electives.

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Stadium Road, P.O. Box 3500, Karachi 74800, Pakistan.

Fax : (92)21 4934294 ; Tel : 4930051

E-mail : [student.affairs@aku.edu](mailto:student.affairs@aku.edu)