



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**



*Celebrating 25 years*

**PhD Health Sciences**

**Admission Information**

**2008**

## **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 and health services and to the full utilization of modern communication and information technologies. Through ongoing partnerships with prestigious overseas institutions, AKU brings international expertise to bear upon the establishment and enhancement of its current and future programmes and services.

AKU occupies a pivotal position in the social development activities of Aga Khan Development Network, prioritizing higher education and research initiatives relevant to the problems of Pakistan as well as those of other Muslim and developing countries.

The Faculty of Health Sciences consists of the Medical College and School of Nursing, both working in an interactive partnership with Aga Khan University Hospital, which serves as the principal clinical and teaching facility. These two components of AKU are located at our Stadium Road campus, stretching over 84 acres of land gifted by the Government of Pakistan. Reflecting the architectural ambience of the Islamic courtly tradition as well as the local vernacular tradition of the province of Sindh, the campus situated in the heart of the city of Karachi has become a significant traditional landmark that attracts a large number of visitors every year.

Since 1986, the University has been offering Postgraduate Medical Education for training in a variety of clinical specialties. These programmes are approved by the College of Physicians & Surgeons, Pakistan. Additionally, several residency programmes are approved for fellowship by the Royal College of Edinburgh and Glasgow, and by the Royal College of England.

In the academic year 1996-97, the University introduced a Masters programme leading to Master of Science degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. In 1999, the PhD in Health Sciences programme was successfully launched. In 2000 the Masters programme in Health Policy and Management was introduced. In 2001, the University embarked upon another Masters programme leading to Master of Science in Nursing.

## **PhD Programme**

The PhD programme in Health Sciences was successfully launched in October 1999. Course work and research are two integral parts of this programme. Health related research has always been a high priority activity of AKU. The major thrust of the University's research efforts have been in the areas of infectious diseases, health care delivery systems and epidemiology of diseases. More recently, the University has identified additional areas where future research activities are mainly focused. These include human development, infectious diseases, cardiovascular diseases, cancer biology and nutrition.

The Programme offers advanced courses and research not only in the basic medical sciences, but also in cellular and molecular biology of cancer, infectious diseases, nutrition, cardiovascular disorders, metabolic diseases, neurosciences and molecular genetics.

## **Objectives**

The goal of the PhD programme is to produce innovative researchers, scholars and educators who are capable of becoming leaders in their fields. Our graduates will possess:

- a) solid academic competence obtained from in-depth course work;
- b) state-of-the-art experimental skills developed as a result of varied research experiences;
- c) analytical skills evidenced by design, production and defense of a qualitative and quantitative thesis;
- d) strong potential for leadership in academia, government or industry.

## **Admission to the Programme**

Application material may be downloaded from the AKU website or procured free of cost by writing to:

The Admission Office  
PhD Programme  
Aga Khan University, Medical College  
P.O. Box 3500, Stadium Road  
Karachi 74800, Pakistan  
Email: [phdinfo@aku.edu](mailto:phdinfo@aku.edu)      Web page: [www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)

**The last date to submit application is March 28, 2008.**

Admission to the PhD programme in Health Sciences is based on merit and proven commitment to research. Merit will be evaluated through scholastic achievement of the applicant, while the commitment of the applicant 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 for selection.

## **Eligibility Criteria**

Candidates who hold at least one of the following degrees may apply.

- An MBBS/DVM degree with one year of working experience in a biomedical field or
- A masters degree in one of the biological sciences or higher qualification or
- A 4-year bachelor's degree in a biological science including B. Pharmacy.

## **Admission Test**

### Candidates applying from Pakistan

Candidates will be required to write an AKU-PhD Admission Test. The Test consists of sections in mathematics, English language, biological sciences and logical reasoning.

### Candidates applying from Overseas

For candidates resident overseas, the University will accept Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores in lieu of the Admission Test. A minimum score of 1200 is required for eligibility. The last date to receive the official GRE in the Admission Office is April 30, 2008.

## **Application Requirements**

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

1. Scholastic Achievements

A complete set of official transcripts with copies of certificates of degrees conferred, courses taken and grades received.

2. Statement of Research Interest

A statement of research interest (max. 500 words) summarizing previous training, current work and future aims. A curriculum vitae and list of publications, if any, must be included.

3. Reference Letters

Letters of recommendation from at least three individuals who are well acquainted with the applicant's previous academic work and professional experience. The letters must be dated, not more than two years old and should show that the writer knows that the candidate is applying for

admission to the PhD programme. Please use the 'Confidential Letter of Reference' and envelope included with the application form.

4. Application Fee

A non-refundable application fee of Rs.2,000/- in cash if deposited in person or as a bank draft if mailed in Pakistan. For overseas applicants, the fee is US \$30 or its equivalent in Pakistani rupees. The draft should be drawn in favour of 'Aga Khan University' on a bank in Karachi.

## **Evaluation of Applicants**

Applicants are evaluated in two stages:

**Stage I:** Administration of admission test and shortlisting of applicants.

**Stage II:** Interviews with senior faculty members of the Medical College.

AKU Graduate Admissions Committee will make final selections.

## **Interview Process**

Applicants will be shortlisted on the basis of academic records, work experience, and the results of the Admission Test or GRE (for foreign applicants only). The purpose of the interviews is to assess a variety of

attributes, including strengths and weaknesses, integrity, motivation and interest in the programme, maturity, knowledge in biomedical sciences, evidence of initiative, and commitment to research. All interviews will be conducted at AKU Campus in Karachi. Special arrangements to interview overseas applicants may be made in their country of residence, if possible.

### **Financial Assistance**

The University operates a financial assistance programme and accepts application for limited financial assistance from students who are selected for admission on merit. The student should have demonstrated financial need after having thoroughly explored all other possible sources of financial assistance. Experience has shown that students have been successful in obtaining scholarships from various sources to complete their training.

### **Fellowships**

Two fellowships for four years of support in the PhD Programme will be awarded on merit to candidates with an outstanding record of achievement, evidence-based recommendations from teachers/supervisors, and high scores in the Admission Test/GRE. Candidates will be required to maintain a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 throughout the programme. Fellowship will cover only tuition and provide a stipend of Rs.8,000/- per month for teaching assistance.

### **Assistantships**

Two teaching / research assistantships will be awarded on merit to non-fellowship doctoral students with an outstanding record of achievement, evidence-based recommendations from teachers/supervisors, and high scores in the Admission Test/GRE. A stipend of Rs.8,000/- per month will be provided for this assistantship. Financial assistance (loan and grant) are available to cover the cost of tuition. Students with assistantships will be required to maintain a GPA of 2.5 throughout the programme. Students will be encouraged to obtain scholarships from various external sources to offset the cost of tuition.

### **Accommodation**

Due to limited accommodation on Campus, male students joining the programme are required to arrange their own accommodation. The Housing Department of Aga Khan University may be approached to facilitate outstation students to the extent possible. Female outstation students joining the programme may apply for on-campus accommodation.

### **Course Work**

Half the course work is scheduled during the first 12 months, while the following years are mainly for

research, thesis writing and advanced level courses. In addition to lectures, tutorials and laboratory exercises, students are trained in protocol writing, data collection and finally conducting a research study, in which the faculty members provide all possible support and guidance as advisors. The expected duration of the programme is 4 years.

### **Tuition and Other Charges**

All students are required to pay their tuition fee along with other dues as noted in the following schedule.

Other charges payable to the University include:

- a) Student Health Service: Rs. 4,600
- b) Deposit: Rs. 5,000
- c) Graduation fee: Rs. 5,600

<b>ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST 2008-2009</b>		
<b>Due by</b>	<b>Payment for</b>	<b>Amount in Pak. Rupees</b>
September 01, 2008	Tuition	159,750
December 01, 2008	Tuition	159,750
March 02, 2009	Tuition	159,750
June 01, 2009	Tuition	159,750

<b>ADMISSION SCHEDULE 2008</b>	
Last date for receiving applications	March 28, 2008
Admission Test at the following centres Karachi; Rawalpindi	April 05, 2008
Interviews	June 2008
Announcement of Class	July 2008
Commencement of Class	October 06, 2008

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**

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