Bachelor of Science in Midwifery

Admission Information

2014
The University

Founded by His Highness the Aga Khan in 1983, the Aga Khan University's (AKU) objective is “to be on the frontiers of scientific and humanistic knowledge” while inspiring students to be independent learners and researchers imbued with a spirit of service and respect for others. In the 30 years since its founding, AKU’s major focus has been in the fields of health and education. For the decades ahead the University plans to step beyond success in these areas and become a more diversified university, both geographically and scholastically.

The University currently has programmes in eight countries spread over three continents. In Pakistan, there is a Medical College; a School of Nursing and Midwifery; and a 560-bed teaching hospital, Aga Khan University Hospital; an Institute for Educational Development offering a PhD and Master of Education degree and includes Professional Development Centres in northern Pakistan. In East Africa, the University has a School of Nursing and Midwifery offering degree and diploma programmes in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania; and Master of Medicine programmes in Kenya and Tanzania. These programmes are supported by a 250-bed teaching hospital, the Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi. The Institute for Educational Development, East Africa offers a Master of Education degree as well as certificate courses out of Dar es Salaam. In London, UK, there is the Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations that offers a Master of Arts degree in Muslim Cultures.

The University is also working with the governments of Afghanistan, Egypt and Syria to improve nursing and medical education curriculum, teaching standards and clinical practice.

Faculties of Health Sciences and of Arts and Sciences are to be set up in Nairobi and Arusha, respectively, and a Faculty of Arts and Sciences in Karachi. These are part of the University's plans to introduce new faculties and undergraduate, graduate and professional programmes. The University is currently planning the launch of the Master of Arts in Multi-Media Journalism programme in Nairobi.

The University is also part of the Aga Khan Development Network, with links to institutions that can apply the University's creative solutions in the field. The Network is a group of development agencies with mandates ranging from health and education to architecture, culture, microfinance, rural development, disaster reduction, the promotion of private sector enterprise and the revitalisation of historic cities.

As the University expands into new geographical
and academic spheres, the institution seeks to further its vision as an international university serving primarily the developing and Muslim worlds. Through its high academic standard and programmes relevant to the needs of developing societies, its work as a dialogue partner with governments on issues of health and education policy, and its delivery of critical social services, the University is redefining education as it transcends national boundaries and strives to create a global learning community.

**School of Nursing and Midwifery**

In 1980, three years prior to the establishment of the University, Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery was established. It became the first operational academic unit of 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 (MScN) programme in 2001. In 2012, AKU again established another “first” as it became the only university in Pakistan to offer a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery programme.

The University's Founder and Chancellor, His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, provides the vision for School of Nursing and Midwifery, which in his word is “to raise the standard and standing of the profession itself, so that it is accorded the recognition and prestige earned and deserved by the women whose working lives are dedicated to the demanding and honourable task of caring for the sick.”

The School of Nursing and Midwifery aspires to become a centre of excellence in the region, providing the highest level of education, promoting and disseminating knowledge and technology, and providing education, research and service with particular relevance to the development of Pakistan, developing nations and the Muslims 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 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 important universities such as McMaster University, University of Alberta, and the University of California San Francisco. 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 and has also been able to bring international expertise to bear 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, East Africa and North America. Faculty expertise in clinical practice, education, management and research enriches nursing education of students across all programmes.

Aga Khan University's School of Nursing and Midwifery encourages young men and women from all over Pakistan, and abroad, 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.

Bachelor of Science in Midwifery Degree Programme

Admission to Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (BScM) at 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.

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.

Women from within Pakistan and overseas may apply.

The BScM programme will prepare its graduates to provide 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) will be the guiding framework for the programme. The curriculum has been written with the aim 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 legal frameworks of the country.

The programme is spread over two years, comprising four semesters, 18 weeks each of full-time study.
The programme comprises midwifery and related courses offering a unique blend of face-to-face and distance-learning approaches for theory and practice.

Applications for Admission

Applications for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Midwifery will be accepted until May 15, 2014.

The application material can be downloaded from the University’s website www.aku.edu or obtained personally from the Admission Office. It can be requested by writing to the Admission Office if required by post, for delivery in Pakistan at the following address:

BScM Admissions
Office of the Registrar,
School of Nursing and Midwifery
Aga Khan University,
P.O. Box 3500, Stadium Road,
Karachi-74800

Submitting an Application

An application for admission must be submitted on the prescribed application form. Before submitting an application, candidates must ensure that they have complied with the instructions given with the application form. The Admission Office will not process incomplete applications. An application is considered incomplete when the requested information and / or documents are not enclosed with the application.

Candidates are required to write their name on the application form as stated on their Secondary School Certificate.

The following should be submitted with the application form:

- Attested copies of mark sheets/transcripts as applicable.
- CNIC (Pakistan only).
- The No Objection Certificate (NOC) from relevant employer for government employees.
- A copy of the passport pages where the passport number is available for overseas candidates.
- Two attested photographs, taken no more than seven days before submitting the application.
- The application fee.

Application Fee

The application fee is non-refundable; the fee can be paid online or as a bank draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University”. Cash, money orders, postal orders and personal cheques are not acceptable.
The application fee for candidates applying from Pakistan is Rs 5,000. For candidates who will be overseas during the admission process, the fee is US$200.

** Government employees are not required to pay the application fee; written evidence of the same will be required at the time of application submission.

The completed application form should be posted by registered mail or sent through a reliable courier service or delivered in person to the Admission Office from Monday to Friday, between 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. The last date for receipt of applications in the Admission Office is May 15, 2014. There are no provisions for processing late applications. All applications must be mailed to the following address:

BScM Admissions  
Office of the Registrar,  
School of Nursing and Midwifery  
Aga Khan University,  
P.O. Box 3500, Stadium Road,  
Karachi-74800

**Mode of Payment**

The payment can be made by a demand draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University” or by online deposit to any branch of Soneri Bank Limited. The banking details are as follows:

Title : The Aga Khan University  
Account No. : 01021227508  
Branch Code : 0024  
Branch : The Aga Khan University  
Branch, Stadium Road, Karachi

**Important Note**

It remains the responsibility of the candidate to complete the application requirements according to the instructions and time schedule. The Admission Office will not send any reminders. Once acknowledged, an application will not be returned. Aga Khan University reserves the right to revoke admission and registration if an application form 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.

**Requirements for candidates with qualifications other than Pakistani system of education**

All candidates to the School of Nursing and Midwifery, local and foreign, who have certificates of education other than the Pakistani Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) are required to submit an equivalence certificate of their HSC from
the Inter Board of Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). IBCC offices are located in Karachi and Islamabad. They may be directly contacted on the following addresses:

**Islamabad:** 342, St 97, G-9/4, Peshawar Morh, Islamabad. Ph: 051-2852041; Fax: 051-2280665

**Karachi:** Karachi Board of Intermediate Education, Bakhtiari Youth Centre, North Nazimabad. Ph: 021-36639878; Fax: 021-36639878

For candidates from overseas, a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to study in Pakistan is required. The NOC is obtained from the Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the Ministry of Interior after the student is admitted into the programme. Admissions will not be confirmed without the NOC and the equivalence certificate as applicable to overseas candidates.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Women are eligible to apply regardless of age and marital status.

**Academic Criteria**

All candidates to the Bachelor of Science in Midwifery Programme must meet the following criteria:

- Have achieved at least Second Division Standing in Diploma in Nursing and Diploma in Midwifery in the Provincial Nursing Board examination;
- Mandatory three year Diploma in Nursing and one year Diploma in Midwifery is required. Preference will be given to candidates with DWA and DTA with two years of teaching experience in Midwifery
- Hold current / valid registration/licensure of Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery in their country of residence;
- Complete and document at least one-year on-the-job work experience as an RN, at the time of application submission. Applications will not be accepted on provisional basis;
- For government employees, a minimum of two-years teaching experience / two-years of midwifery related experience. Preference will be given to candidates with DWA / DTA;
- Achieve a competitive score on the AKU-SONAM Admission Test;
- Enrichment programme will be offered to candidates who the University feels would benefit from the additional preparation before commencement of the formal BScM programme;
Overseas candidates must be eligible for registration with the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) and must submit evidence of successfully passing their National Nursing Registration/Licensure examination.

The AKU Admission Test

All candidates to the BScM programme are required to write an Admission Test conducted by the AKU-SONAM. The Test is administered in English and consists of multiple-choice questions designed to test application of knowledge, deductive reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

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

For candidates residing overseas, the University will make every effort to administer the Admission Test at a centre convenient to the applicant.

The Test comprises two sections: i) English language; and ii) Midwifery knowledge. (Please see sample test paper for details.)

Shortlisting

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

Interviews

Interviews are held at the Aga Khan University. Alternate arrangements are made in other cities which are centrally located including Islamabad and Quetta if there are sufficient numbers of candidates. Each candidate meets a panel of two interviewers for approximately 30 minutes.

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

For candidates who are residing overseas, every effort is made to conduct the interviews in the candidate's home country. However, if this is not possible, alternate arrangements are made and information is conveyed to the candidate.

Deferred Admissions

Candidates for admission are encouraged to apply in the year in which they wish to begin their studies. It is understood that from time to time circumstances beyond the control of the candidate may warrant a deferral of admission.

A request for deferred admissions must be made in writing prior to the start of the academic session. The decision taken by the University will be considered final.
Tuition and other Charges

Tuition and fees are payable at the beginning of each semester. The tuition and fee structure and schedule for the 2014 session is available separately. Students sponsored by other institutions should bring a letter from their sponsoring agency at the time of registration.

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, progression to the next year of study and/or examinations until the clearance of dues in accordance with the University's policies and procedures.

In cases where a student withdraws or is asked to withdraw from the University after commencement of a term, tuition for the entire term will be charged.

Payments may be made in cash or through a bank draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University”. Personal cheques are not acceptable.

Accommodation

Preference in allocation of rooms is given to students from outside Karachi. Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in the hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide shared, non-air-conditioned, furnished accommodation.

A fee is charged for all accommodation on campus. The charges for the hostel for the 2014 session are given separately. Meals may be purchased separately from the University's cafeteria.

All students living in the hostels are required to comply with the 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 the University brochure.
Application Schedule for the 2014 Session

Applications accepted between
January 13 – May 15

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(Venue and timings are noted on the admit card. In case of changes, candidates will be notified through press).

Shortlisting and Selection
Based on Admission Test scores or its equivalent, the University shortlists candidates for interviews. An Admissions Committee reviews scholastic achievements, interview reports, test scores, and all other accomplishments to determine appropriate candidates for each programme.

Announcement of Results – August 2014
All candidates will receive a letter informing them of the University's decision.

Enrichment
Mid-September to Mid-November