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آغا خان یونیورسٹی
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL COLLEGE

Master of Health Professions Education (MHPE)
Admission Information 2021 - 2022

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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 are able to attend.

While we do not discriminate on faith, gender or national origin, we are selective in the students we accept. Our selection process varies by academic programmes, but a common criterion includes fluency in English.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Department for Educational Development (DED) was established in 1987 for strengthening educational programmes at AKU.

VISION

To emerge as a centre of excellence in health professions education for the Faculty of Health Sciences at AKU as well as a resource to regional, national and international institutions.

MISSION

The Department for Educational Development introduces philosophical underpinnings and promotes excellence in education through graduate programmes, courses, other faculty development initiatives, curricular reviews and participation in curricular activities in Health Professions Education (HPE).

The Department focuses on innovations in curricula, educational pedagogy and assessment methods, integrating e-learning and web-based resources, courses and programme evaluation.

The Department conducts and encourages research, especially in assessment in health professions education and aims to play a key role in creating an environment at AKU in which health professions education is valued as an integral and essential component of the academic mission of the Medical College and the School of Nursing and Midwifery.

MASTER OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

This programme is offered by the Department for Educational Development. Launched in 2012, the programme has successfully developed excellent teachers; innovators and researchers as well as leaders in health professions education.

Graduates from this programme will be able to use best evidence medical education to make informed decisions for improving the standards of undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing health professions education (medical, dental, nursing and allied health) in Pakistan and abroad.

The programme also provides a platform for educators in the health professions to share experiences resulting in the development of collaborations and linkages optimising education and research at national and regional levels.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

By the end of the MHPE Programme, the graduates should be able to:

- Demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills on national and international issues pertaining to HPE.
- Inculcate critical thinking and problem solving.
- Develop and implement curricula using knowledge of educational philosophies and theories to enhance problem solving abilities.
- Develop and apply innovative teaching, learning and assessment strategies, using best evidence to make informed decisions in HPE.
- Demonstrate high quality research in medical, dental, nursing, and allied health education.
- Develop linkages, optimising education and research.
- Demonstrate ethical leadership at institutional, national and international levels.

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

It is expected that graduates of this programme will become:

- Educator
- Researcher
- Communicator
- Leader
- Problem Solver
- Collaborator

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The flexible programme consists of required courses, elective courses and a thesis, requiring a minimum three years of study.

Each course consists of pre-reading, on-campus full-time contact period of intensive interactive teaching and learning; and an application-oriented project. The project is an independent study and written assignment.

THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to develop educators and leaders in HPE who are academically informed and practically competent, who will also have the ability to think critically, solve problems and contest and/or contribute to the body of knowledge in health professions education.

Students are expected to complete the required readings prior to the start of each course. Attendance is mandatory in the on campus face-to-face contact period. During this time, students have numerous opportunities to learn with expert course faculty, engage with class fellows, present and discuss topical issues, interact with invited speakers, gain from the immersion experience and finalise their research thesis. In each course, students complete a large part of the course work at their home institution through independent study and application-oriented written assignments based on challenges and problems they may face as health profession educators.

Course Name	Credit Hours
Prerequisite	
Introductory Short Course*	1.0
Advanced Level Courses (ALCs)	
Curriculum Development	4.0
Teaching & Learning I	3.0
Teaching & Learning II	4.0
Programme Evaluation	3.0
Assessment I	3.0
Assessment II	4.0
Leadership	4.0
Additional Required Courses (ARCs)	
Quantitative Research Methodologies	4.0
Qualitative Research Methodologies	3.0
Issues	4.0
Electives (at least two courses)	6.0
Thesis	6.0
	Total
	48.0

*Pre-requisite for MHPE (not included in 48 credits required for MHPE)

PREREQUISITE: INTRODUCTORY SHORT COURSE (ISC)

This course in Health Professions Education introduces students to globally endorsed educational philosophies and to innovative teaching, learning and assessment strategies. The course is also offered as an introductory and orientation course for faculty members and residents involved in teaching and is a prerequisite to apply for the MHPE.

The ISC-HPE course is offered (thrice per year) as a standalone course as well.

ADVANCED LEVEL COURSES

The Advanced Level Courses (ALCs) aim to provide in-depth knowledge and skills in defined areas and ensure review of literature, analysis and problem-solving by each participant, based on current best evidence. The ALCs may be taken in any sequence, as long as a total duration is not exceeded. All ALCs are complete courses in themselves.

ADDITIONAL REQUIRED COURSES

The Additional Required Courses (ARCs) deal with more advanced concepts in health professions education. The 'Research' course focuses on research methodologies in HPE (qualitative, quantitative, and multi-method), development of a research proposal and a vision for research. The 'Issues' course focuses on institutional, national and global student, curriculum, faculty and governance issues in HPE, and evidence-based solutions to overcome them.

The ALC /ARC courses are valid for four years only for entry into the MHPE programme. For further details on available standalone courses, please contact the Programme Office.

ELECTIVES

The aim of the electives is to help students build and/or gain expertise in area(s) of their own interest. Electives also provide an opportunity for students to interact with diverse faculty and students, either in Pakistan or abroad. For a course to be considered for elective, it must be a graduate level course offered by a university accredited by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of that country. Approval of the Elective course has to be taken from the MHPE curriculum committee prior to registering for the course. Successful completion of six credits of elective courses is required, However all six credits cannot be obtained from a single course. Students are required to complete six credits of elective through two or more courses. Credits for electives are calculated in accordance with AKU policies.

THESIS

MHPE students are required to write a thesis based on research which may employ qualitative, quantitative or a combination of both techniques.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENT OF MHPE PROGRAMME

Students will be eligible for the MHPE degree upon successful completion of all course requirements, electives and the successful defence of a written thesis with a minimum CGPA of 2.50.

ADMISSION TO THE MASTER OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Admission in the programme is based on merit and potential commitment to health professions education. Merit will be evaluated through scholastic achievements and performance of candidates in the AKU Admission Test. The commitment of the candidate will be assessed through multiple interviews with senior faculty at AKU who assess past experience and future plans.

Candidates currently working in the public or private sector from Pakistan and overseas may apply. A high academic score in any single discipline or any outstanding achievement alone may not be sufficient for selection.

MHPE ENTRY OPTIONS

Two routes of entry in the Master of Health Professions Education (MHPE) programme are available. Candidates opting for any option must apply online: www.aku.edu/apply-online

Option 1: Following the completion of one/two ALC(s) and/or ARC(s), candidates are eligible to apply to the MHPE programme provided they have achieved a minimum CGPA of 3.00.

Option 2: Through the AKU graduate programme application process: (details are mentioned in the admission process summary)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The MHPE programme is open to health professionals holding a minimum of four-year undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline. For international candidates, this should be an MD degree with or without residency or specialty training and board certification (or equivalent).
- At least two years of certified teaching experience is required. (*Residency/postgraduate training will be considered equivalent to teaching experience*)

Please Note: The candidate must be attached with an academic institution with a teaching responsibility at the time of submission of application.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Candidates are evaluated in stages:

Stage I	Online submission of application. candidates are invited to write the AKU Admission Test.
Stage II	Candidates who are shortlisted based on the Admission Test will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• submit relevant academic documents, work experience certificate/ letter and reference letters• attend interviews with senior faculty members of the University.
Stage III	Final selection is based on an overall assessment of each candidate's dossier which is formally approved by the University's Admission Review Committee.

ADMISSION TEST

The Admission Test comprises three components: English Language, Quantitative Reasoning and a Subject Specific Exam.

- The English Language component evaluates a candidate's competency in the English language.
- The Quantitative Reasoning component is designed to assess problem solving and logical thinking ability.
- The Subject Specific Exam will assess basic knowledge related to the speciality.

Sample test paper for the Test is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/hpe

The University does not provide any special preparation for the Admission Test nor does it authorise any publication or preparatory classes for this purpose.

SHORT-LISTING AND INTERVIEWS

Candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of the Admission Test. Interviews will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. There will be multiple independent interviews with faculty members of the University. The purpose of the interview is to assess a variety of attributes, including motivation, maturity, social and cultural awareness, knowledge of public health issues in developing nations and evidence of interest, and commitment to the programme.

Interviews are conducted in Pakistan. For all candidates who reside overseas, interviews are conducted over Skype / Zoom.

VALIDITY OF TEST SCORES

The AKU Admission Test scores are valid for a period of two years from the date the test is written.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between **April 19 and July 28, 2021**. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

In cases where applicants are unable to access the online portal, candidates may request for a paper based application by e-mailing postgrad.query@aku.edu

Candidates completing the paper-based form are requested to follow the instructions mentioned within the form for fee payment and submission. Please courier the completed paper based form to reach the Admission Office latest by **July 28, 2021**. Applications are not accepted over the counter and 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 applying online or through a paper-based application, 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 to allow you to write the test will be received by candidates who apply online on their portal and through an email.

Candidates who submit a paper application will receive their admit card 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 postgrad.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.

Please note:

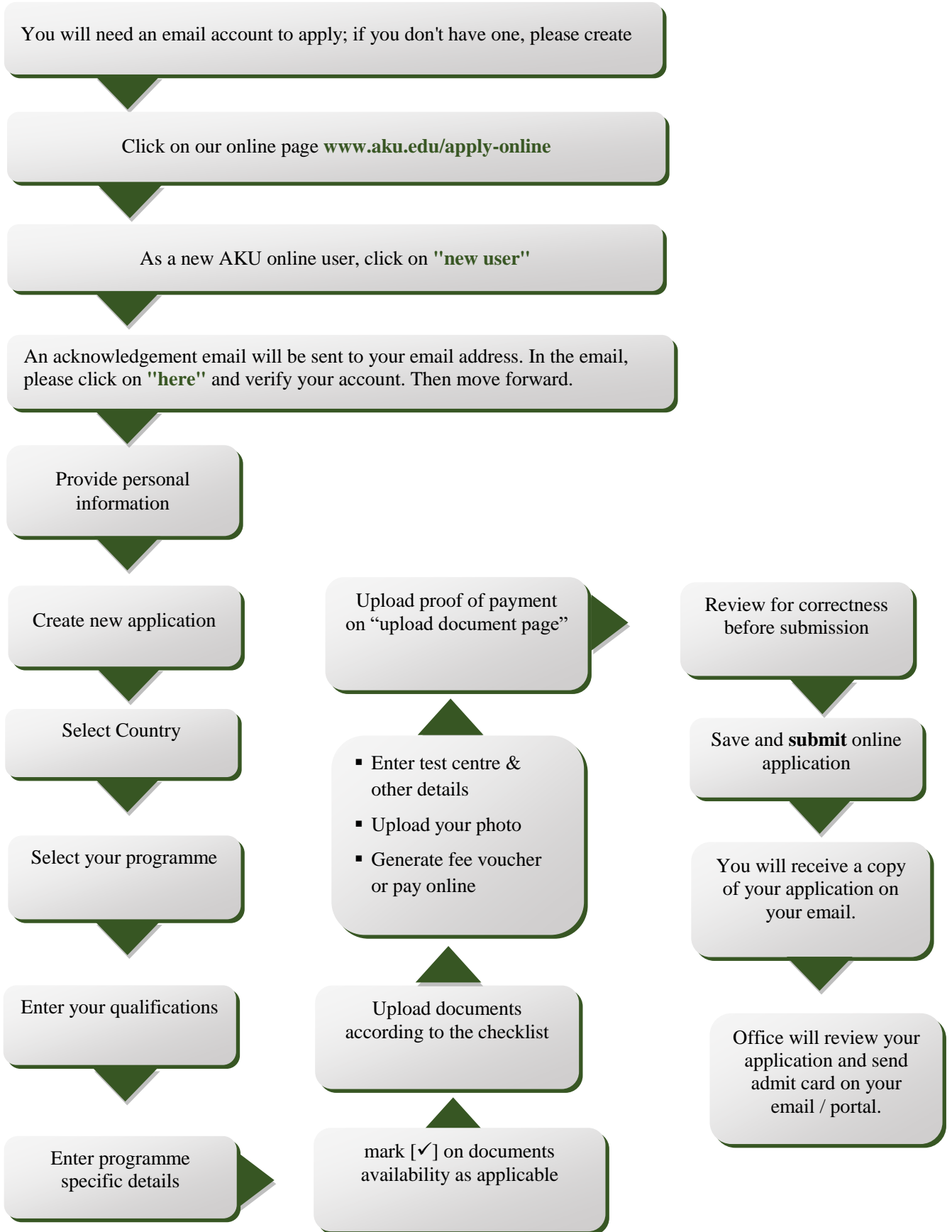
To be allowed into the Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:

- 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:



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. CNIC / NICOP (*front & back copy*) or relevant Passport pages (*for foreign nationals*)
3. Detailed curriculum vitae (*see CV specification section*)
4. Application Fee: - **Applying from AKU residential countries*** is **Rs. 7400/-**
- **Applying from AKU non-residential countries** is **US \$ 375/-**
- (*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

1. SSC / O Level / equivalent mark sheet or certificate
2. HSSC / A Level / equivalent mark sheet or certificate
3. Consolidated mark sheet of undergraduate qualification / equivalent to 16 years - attested by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan
4. Degree of undergraduate qualification / equivalent to 16 years - attested by (HEC)
5. HEC equivalence of 16 years for candidates applying with Post RN BScN or foreign degree
6. All relevant work experience certificates as entered on the form
7. Detailed curriculum vitae (CV) - (*see CV specification section*)
8. Three reference letters / recommendation to be sent in sealed envelopes or emailed directly by your referee to postgrad.query@aku.edu
(*Referees should be individuals who are well-acquainted with your previous academic work and professional experience. The letters should be current or not more than one-year-old.*)
9. Transcript / enrolment information of all the courses undertaken or completed at AKU (if applicable)
10. Latest mark sheets / progress reports, if currently enrolled in any other institution (if applicable)

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.***

- **FEE VOUCHER (PAKISTANI CURRENCY ONLY)**

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

1. On the application home page, please click on “Fee, photograph and other details”
2. For payment mode, select “Fee Voucher”
3. Click “Yes” to generate the voucher (*make sure that your popups are not 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 Document Page” by selecting fee payment
6. When uploading, type fee voucher receipt # on document name field.

- **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 “Fee, photograph and other details”
2. For payment mode, select “Online Payment” and click yes (*make sure that your popups are not blocked*)
3. Complete your payment details on online web portal: <https://payonline.aku.edu/>
4. Upload the payment acknowledgement email or screenshot on “Upload Document Page” by selecting fee payment.
5. When uploading, type online payment reference # / transaction # on document name field.

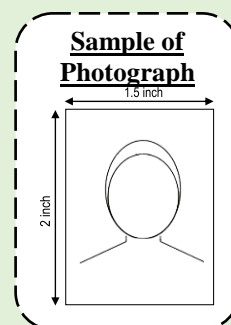
In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing: student.finance@aku.edu

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

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

- Passport size coloured photograph with white 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.



CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) SPECIFICATION

Your CV must include the following:

- qualifications with grades/percentage and passing year
- work experiences with job responsibilities and duration along with current educational responsibilities
- courses undertaken or completed at AKU (if applying with standalone courses)
- other Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses / educational courses
- list of publications (if any)
- academic achievements
- computer related skills
- other additional information to support your application

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.

The financial information including student's fee paying status and fee structure for the 2021-2022 session is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding

STUDENTS ON SPONSORSHIP FROM EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Students expecting to receive sponsorships or scholarships to complete the programme are requested to submit the relevant documents and approval letter from external agency when accepting the offer of admission.

For more details, please contact Graduate Programmes Admission Office, Aga Khan University, Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan, Phone: +92-21 3486 4410 / 4412.

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 appeals 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 2021-22 ADMISSIONS

April 19– July 28, 2021	<u>Admission Open</u> Registration	
Saturday, September 4, 2021	<i>AKU Admission Test - Pakistan</i>	Test Centres Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur
TBD To be determined	<i>AKU Admission Test - Overseas</i>	Dubai, Iran, Kabul, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda <i>(Overseas centres will be confirmed if there are at least 10 candidates to write the test)</i>
<i>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.</i>		
September 24	<i>Last date to submit:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>HEC attestation on 16 years of undergraduate transcript and degree</i> ▪ <i>HEC equivalence* (if applicable)</i> 	
September / October	Interviews	
January 2022	Commencement of Classes	

****HEC equivalence applicability:*** *In case of Post RN BScN and other foreign qualifications, equivalence letter from HEC must be submitted stating that the candidate has completed at least 16 years of education.*

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the programme offered by the Aga Khan University, Pakistan, for the academic year 2021-22. The information provided is subject to change over time. Candidates aiming to apply for programmes in any other academic year are requested to get updated information about minimum eligibility requirement, application and admission process from the University Admission Office.

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