THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

School of Nursing and Midwifery

Master of Science in Nursing (MScN)
Admission Information 2025 - 2026

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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 IV. 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. Admission is based on merit, and our needs sensitive financial assistance programme ensures that individuals from lower-income backgrounds are able to attend.

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Established in 1980, the Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery (AKU-SONAM) was the first academic component of AKU and its Faculty of Health Sciences. The School offers several programmes in nursing: a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN); a two-year Post-RN Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN), a two-year Post-RM Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (BScM); a two-year Master of Science in Nursing (MScN) and a PhD in Nursing.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING PROGRAMME

In October 2001, the AKU School of Nursing and Midwifery (AKU-SONAM) introduced a 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 capable of developing innovative and practical solutions to complex health problems from a scientific perspective. Moreover, they will be able to utilise existing theories and research findings in providing care to individuals, families, and communities. The programme will also provide nurses with the necessary skills to conduct research that will contribute to the body of knowledge defining the discipline of nursing. It is also expected that graduates will become leaders with decision-making skills in the areas of education, administration, and clinical practice.

The aim of the MScN Programme is to prepare graduates who are able to:

1. Apply contemporary knowledge and the best available evidence from different sources for professional decision-making during nursing practice.

2. Apply critical and reflective thinking skills, as well as utilizing systematic approach to problem-solving and professional decision-making.

3. Demonstrate the ability to translate and meaningfully use research findings.

4. Engage in effective ethical decision-making with respect to own practice area (e.g. clinical, education, leadership, and management), and the broader health care team.

5. Use advanced communication and interpersonal skills in professional work. Communicate clear, consistent and accurate information verbally and in written or electronic forms, in a manner sensitive to the context.

6. Work collaboratively with other professionals in health care to enhance the quality of practice and services offered.

7. Articulate, promote, and advocate for nursing professional development, in general, and the specialist role, particularly, in clinical, legal/political, and professional contexts.

8. Contribute to knowledge and practice by identifying research areas and conducting independent supervised research.

9. Demonstrate leadership, management (planning, organizing, collaboration, delegation, problem-solving, human and material resources etc.) and policy development skills.

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, working in small groups, clinical rotations, presentations, and seminars. Moreover, they are expected to be self-directed learners and team players.

The MScN curriculum offers two speciality tracks including Education and Clinical. Students are required to take 18 credit hours of core courses and 15 credit hours of courses in their selected speciality track. In addition, each student must complete a practicum and a thesis in their area of interest. The purpose of the thesis is to prepare the students for future research and scholarly activities.

Core Courses (3 credits for each course)

Theoretical Basis of Nursing
Applied Statistics in Healthcare
Research Methodology
Academic Writing
Ethics in Health Care
Leadership & Management

Applicants will be expected to share their preferred selected speciality track with the interview panel, from the following two tracks:

- **Education Track Courses (3 credits for each course)**

    Educational Design and Administration
    Clinical Education
    Principles and Methods of Assessment
    Teaching for Critical Thinking
    Elective Course

- **Clinical Track Courses (3 credits for each course)**

    Advanced Pathophysiology
    Advanced Pharmacology
    Advanced Clinical Care I
    Advanced Clinical Care II
    Advanced Health Assessment

Practicum (6 credits)*

Thesis I: Proposal Development (3 credits)
Thesis II (6 credits)*

*Each student will have to do practicum and complete a thesis in their area of interest.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to apply for the MScN programme, candidates may apply through any of the following two routes.

ROUTE I:

- Secondary School Certificate (SSC) (Science Group) or equivalent;

- Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) (Pre-medical) or equivalent;

- Four-year BScN degree and transcript attested from Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (HEC);

- Minimum 2 years clinical experience as an RN by November 1, 2025 including One-year Internship in a hospital;

- Valid Registration with the Pakistan Nursing Council or equivalent.

ROUTE II:

- Secondary School Certificate;

- Three-years General Nursing Diploma (RN);

- One-year Midwifery Diploma (RM) or any post basic speciality for male in lieu of midwifery.

- Proof of completion of three compulsory courses: English, Islamic Studies/Ethics and Pakistan Studies at BA/BSc- level, as per Higher Education Commission's Nursing policy guidelines.;

- Two-years' Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BScM degree attested from Higher Education Commission, Pakistan (HEC) with a minimum of 60 credit hours;

- Minimum two-years' experience as an RN by November 1, 2025 [One-year before Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BScM and One-year experience as RN after Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BScM (clinical include inpatient and outpatient in primary and tertiary care, as well as teaching and research)].

- Valid Registration with the Pakistan Nursing Council or equivalent.

- 16-years of equivalence from HEC in relevant field for candidates applying with Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BScM or foreign degree.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Candidates are evaluated in stages:

Stage I	• Submitting an application according to the eligibility requirements of AKU. • Writing the AKU Undergraduate Admission Test.
Stage II	Candidates who are shortlisted based on the Admission Test will be required to: • submit relevant academic documents, work experience certificate/ letter and reference letters. • attend panel interview with faculty members of the University.
Stage III	The final selection is based on an overall assessment of each candidate's dossier which is formally approved by the University's Admission Review Committee.

DISABILITY

Candidates aspiring to apply to and attend the Aga Khan University must declare formally any disability (whether, mental, physical or otherwise) with all evidence to the University. This includes but is not limited to dyslexia, medical conditions and mental health problems. This allows the University to share with the candidate reasonable accommodation as mandated under the relevant and applicable policies.

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 nursing discipline.

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

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 based on the Admission Test scores. Interviews will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. 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.

The mode of the interview will be in person and/or virtual depending on the program office's decision and feasibility of the interviewer and interviewee. The information related to the interview will be shared with the selected candidates.

VALIDITY OF TEST SCORES

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

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between **March 9 - May 8, 2025**. This date will not be extended. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

Applications must be submitted via the online process. Applications will only be accepted if a candidate completes following:

1. Upload the application fee on the online form.

2. Upload CNIC/NICOP both sides as one file or relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)

3. Upload the HEC-Attested educational documents (both sides as one file)

    16-years equivalence by HEC if applying with Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BSM degree or a foreign degree.

4. For unattested documents, upload HEC receipt of application submitted as evidence. **This is a mandatory requirement**.

5. Upload Detailed curriculum vitae (see CV specification section)

6. Upload the attested copy of NOC from your current employer/ respective government department, mentioning that your institution (current employer) has no objection on you to apply in MScN Programme at Aga Khan University. *(Applicable for Government employees)*

7. Submit the application form online. *(Candidate will receive a copy of the application form on their registered email as a confirmation when the application is submitted successfully)*

Incomplete applications or applications submitted after the deadline are not processed.

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 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.

Candidates may apply for multiple programmes simultaneously. Candidates who are shortlisted for interviews in multiple programmes will be required to provide their order of preference. This information will remain confidential with the Admission Office, and the candidates must attend interviews for all shortlisted programmes. If the candidate is accepted in more than one programme, the preference order provided by the Candidate will be considered by the University, the University reserves the right in its absolute discretion to offer the programme, which it determines to be the most suitable for the Candidate and the decision made by the University will be final.

ADMIT CARD

The admit card to 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 sonadmission.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.
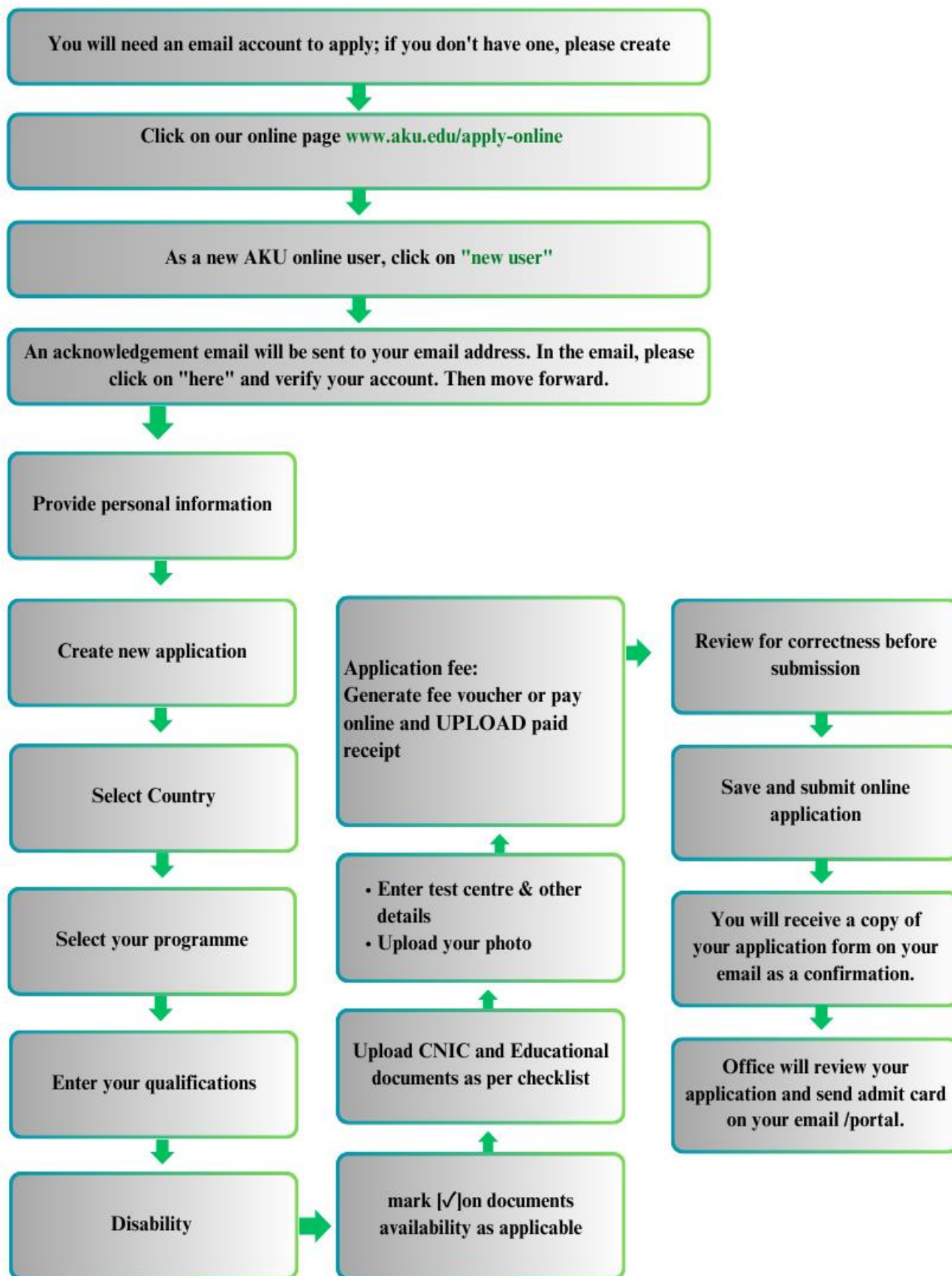
Please note:

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 a candidate 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

↓

Disability

→

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 not exceeding 2 MB size and all other documents should be in PDF format not exceeding 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. HEC attested undergraduate mark sheet/ degree (BScN / Post-RN BScN/ Post-RN BSM)) or evidence that you have applied for it (front & back copy pdf)

5. HEC equivalence (16 years of education) or evidence that you have applied for it (if applying with Post-RN BScN / Post-RN BSM or foreign qualification).

6. For unattested documents, upload HEC receipt as evidence to suggest that an application has been made. **This is a mandatory requirement.**

7. Upload the attested copy of NOC from your current employer/ respective government department, mentioning that your institution (current employer) has no objection on you to apply in MScN Programme at Aga Khan University. *(Applicable for Government employees)*

8. 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)*

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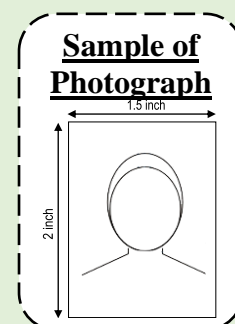   Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.

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

PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.
- Passport size coloured 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.

If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, the University will not allow you to write the Admission Test.

Sample of Photograph

1.5 inch
2 inch

CURRICULUM VITAE (CV) SPECIFICATION:

Your CV must include the following:
- qualifications with grades/percentage and passing year
- work experiences with job responsibilities and duration
- other Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses
- list of publications (if any)
- other additional information to support your application

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

1.   Attested copies of educational documents:

   - SSC / O Level / equivalent mark sheet or certificate.

   - HSSC / A Level / equivalent mark sheet or certificate.

   - Undergraduate qualification (E.g.: BScN or Post RN BScN / Post-RN BSM). *Undergraduate degree and mark sheets should be attested by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC);*

   - RN and RM Diploma/Post Basic Diploma *(In case of Post RN BScN / Post-RN BSM qualification);*

   - Mark sheet of three compulsory courses: English, Islamic Studies/Ethics and Pakistan Studies at BA/BSc level; *(In case of Post RN BScN / Post-RN BSM qualification).*

   Note: In case of Post RN BScN / Post-RN BSM and other foreign qualifications, an equivalence letter from HEC must be submitted with the application stating that the candidate has completed at least 16 years of education.

2.   All work experience certificates as entered on the form;

3.   Attested copy of valid Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC) License or equivalent;

4.   Attested copy of the domicile certificate;

5.   Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV): *(see CV specification section);*

6.   **Two letters of recommendation / references** on a prescribed format available at www.aku.edu/admissions/mscn to be sent in sealed envelopes or emailed directly by your referee to sonadmission.query@aku.edu if you have been shortlisted for interviews *(One referee must be your immediate supervisor and the other must be professionals, preferably a member of faculty. The letters should be current or not more than one-year-old.*

7.   Transcript / enrolment information of all the courses undertaken or completed at AKU (if applicable)

8.   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 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 "Application Fee Information"
2. For **payment options**, 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 2025-2026 session, and financial assistance is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding

STUDENTS ON SPONSORSHIP

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

For more details, please contact Admission Office, AKU SONAM, Phone: +92-21 3486 5535 / 5406.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for graduate 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 2025-2026 session will be 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.

AKU SONAM WEBSITE:

Please visit https://www.aku.edu/sonampk/Pages/home.aspx for information related to MScN faculty, research updates, training updates and more.

KEY DATES FOR 2025-2026 ADMISSIONS

March 9 – May 8, 2025	**Admission Open:** Apply online via www.aku.edu/apply-online

Saturday, July 19, 2025	*AKU Admission Test -Pakistan*	**Test Centres** Karachi, Rawalpindi, Gilgit, Chitral
	AKU Admission Test - Overseas	*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.*

Upon Shortlisting - August	*Last date to submit:* ▪ *HEC attestation on 16 years of undergraduate transcript and degree* ▪ *HEC equivalence of 16 years of undergraduate transcript and degree*
August/September	Interviews
January 2026	Commencement of Classes

HEC equivalence applicability*: In case of Post RN BScN / Post-RN BSM 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 graduate programmes offered by the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2025-2026. 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 sonadmission.query@aku.edu

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