

# FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bachelor of Studies in Arts & Sciences  
Admission Information 2025 - 2026



آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY





# 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 can attend.





# THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The mission of the Aga Khan University's Faculty of Arts and Sciences (AKU-FAS) is to educate youth to become future leaders. It will develop leaders through a transformative education that is challenging, stimulating, and mind-opening — one that prepares graduates for innovative thought and consequential action.

This form of education develops the whole person with a wide-ranging, multidisciplinary learning experience that equips graduates for success in whatever career they eventually choose, producing leaders in every field of human endeavor, for active citizenship, and meaningful lives.

At FAS, leaders will possess the character and intellectual capacities necessary to improve people's lives. They will be impassioned and well-informed visionaries who say, "We must do better," and then take considered action to bring about the future they wish to see.

To accomplish this, FAS draws on the rich tradition of arts and sciences education at the highest international standards while adapting it to local and regional contexts, infusing it with AKU's distinctive values of impact, quality, relevance, and access. We believe the result is one of the most exciting developments in higher education in Pakistan in recent memory.



## Address by His Highness the Aga Khan

December 19, 2013

*“In addition, the Trustees have also embraced a second great challenge - the challenge of becoming a distinguished liberal arts university.*

*We are planning now to build new undergraduate Faculties of Arts and Sciences, one in Karachi and one in Arusha in Tanzania. We plan to achieve this goal progressively as circumstances and resources allow. Yes, it will be a time-consuming exercise, but our planning has been advancing very quickly indeed.*

*Again, developing a liberal arts capacity will not only fulfil AKU’s founding vision, but it will also follow in the tradition of the great Islamic Universities of past centuries, and their effort to expand, and to integrate a wide array of knowledge. At that time, of course comprehending the full expanse of knowledge was seen as an achievable goal; today, the explosion of knowledge seems overwhelming. But the knowledge explosion is precisely what makes a liberal arts platform even more valuable. The liberal arts, I believe, can provide an ideal context for fostering inter-disciplinary learning, nurturing critical thinking, inculcating ethical values, and helping students to learn how to go on learning about our ever-evolving universe.*

*A liberal arts orientation will also help prepare students for leadership in a world where the forces of civil society will play an increasingly pivotal role.”*

## BACHELOR OF STUDIES IN ARTS & SCIENCES

An undergraduate degree in the Arts and Sciences

Higher education is often understood to be a medium of professional growth. That is, students attend university to obtain the qualification needed to begin a career in medicine, engineering, or law, or to study a single subject such as business. There is, however, another approach with a long and distinguished history, one that seeks, in the words of an early proponent, “not to teach that which is peculiar to any of the professions, but to lay the foundation for that which is common to them all.”

The FAS undergraduate degree is a transformative programme. It is a deeply integrated and holistic academic structure with four connected principal components. These components balance disciplinary knowledge with an aspiring general education anchored in practical learning.

The four components are:

- The Core Curriculum
- Interdisciplinary Majors
- Senior Thesis
- Experiential Learning

More details can be found at

<https://www.aku.edu/faspk/study/programmeme/Pages/home.aspx>



## ADMISSION TO THE AKU-FAS

Under its charter, AKU is open to all academically qualified candidates without consideration to gender, religion, race, creed, color, or domicile. Students from anywhere in Pakistan and overseas may apply. There are no quotas, reserved seats, or admissions against donations. Merit-based admissions are open to candidates from around the world.



Admission to all University programmes is based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an AKU administered Admission Test, 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 is not sufficient for selection. Candidates and their parents or supporters who expect their candidature to be strong enough to warrant selection are advised that the outcome of the selection process cannot be anticipated at any stage.

Every effort is made to select students from diverse backgrounds. This is done in the belief that diversity in the student body greatly enriches the educational experience.

As English is the medium of instruction at AKU, candidates must be able to demonstrate competence in English comprehension and expression, both written and verbal.





## WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications may be submitted for Year One of the Bachelor of Studies programme. The University will accept applications for admission in advanced standing, based on acceptability and assessment of transferable credits by the University at the time of admission. All rights of admission are reserved by the University. Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their Higher Secondary School (HSSC) examination in the year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure may apply. To be admitted into the programme, candidates must meet the University's minimum academic eligibility requirements and successfully compete and complete the admission processes as stated in this brochure.

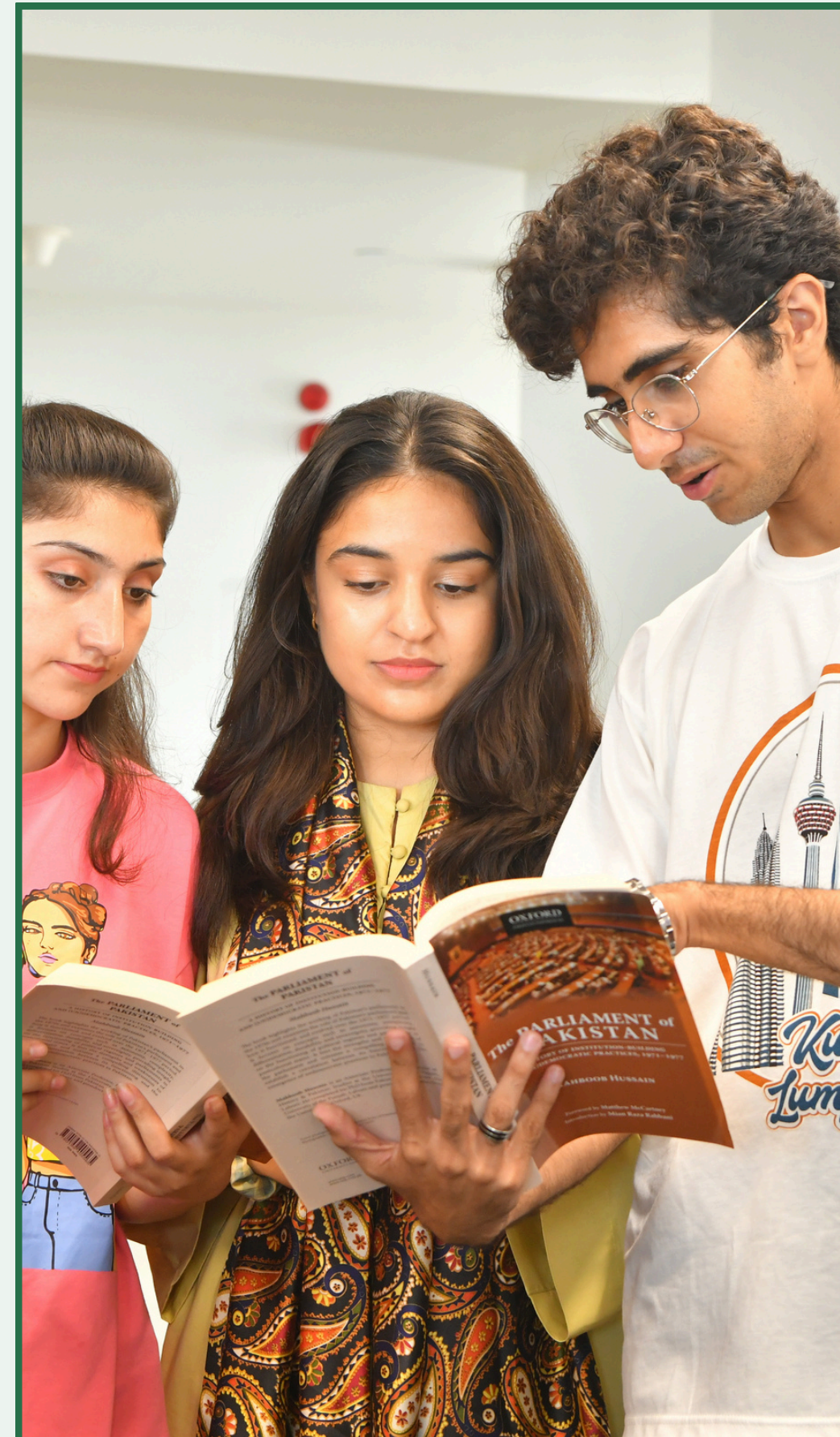


## PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

The Aga Khan University will also accept applications for the Bachelor of Studies programme from candidates who will be writing their HSSC examinations in the summer of the application year, provisionally. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, candidates will be required to submit their pending HSSC examination or their graduation/postgraduate examination results in accordance with the minimum eligibility requirements by the dates specified in this brochure. The University does not process applications that do not meet eligibility requirements or are submitted, for any reason, after the deadline.

## REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Candidates applying to the Bachelor of Studies programme, not successful in their first attempt, may reapply for admission with additional information supporting their application. Candidate's most current academic qualification will be used for evaluation purposes. The University does not carry forward applications from one year to the next. Thus, a fresh application together with necessary documentation, must be submitted for any subsequent admission session.





# ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Stage 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Applying online according to the eligibility requirements of AKU.</li><li>Writing the AKU administered Test for admission.</li><li>Submit SAT-I Scores (as per AKU requirements) <i>(Please refer to the relevant section in this brochure)</i></li></ul>
Stage 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Interviews:</b> Shortlisting of candidates is based on Test achievements. The number of candidates interviewed is limited. Candidates will be required to attend two independent interviews.</li></ul> <p><u>Shortlisted candidates will be required to submit following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>One Reference Letter:</b> One reference letter from your head teacher or class coordinator who knows you well. This must be submitted in the University's prescribed format.</li><li><b>Submission of official marksheets/ result sheet:</b> from your institution previously attended, with notarized English translations of documents, if in a language other than English.</li></ul> <p><b>Please note:</b> Fulfilment of the basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline, or any other outstanding achievement alone will not be sufficient for selection.</p>
<p><b>Final Selection:</b> Shortlisted candidates are ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements, interview evaluations and other attributes assessed through documents provided.</p>	



## REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBILITY

The programme has no preference for any preparation and qualification. Candidates prepared in Urdu or English-medium institutions, in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC education in Summer 2024 and meet the eligibility criteria may apply. Candidates must present qualifications that are appropriate to the system of education in which they have been prepared. The University will evaluate applications based on the candidate's achievements in the most current academic qualification.



# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, the minimum academic requirements for candidates following different systems of education, are outlined here. For further clarification, candidates are requested to write to [fas.query@aku.edu](mailto:fas.query@aku.edu)

## **Pakistani System of Education:**

Matriculation/Secondary School Certificate

An overall aggregate of 75% with a minimum 65% in English and

Higher Secondary School Education

An overall aggregate of 75% with a minimum 65% in English

## **British System of Education (O and A Levels)**

In addition to English, six subjects at the O-Levels and three principal subjects must be written at the A- Levels. The University has no specific subject or grade requirements.

All Pakistani nationals appearing for examinations from Pakistan must have Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at any level of the programme.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence certificate of 75% for the O and A- Levels combined.

## **International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB):**

In addition to English, three principal subjects are required.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence of 75% for the complete IB diploma.

All Pakistani nationals appearing for examinations from Pakistan must have Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at any level of the programme.

## **American and Canadian High School Diploma:**

In addition to English, three principal subjects are required.

All Pakistani nationals in Pakistan must have studied Urdu, Islamiyat, and Pakistan Studies at the Secondary or Higher Secondary level.

The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence Certificate of 75% for the High School diploma.

## **Indigenous Higher Secondary School Certificates of Education:**

Candidates who have studied in an educational system not mentioned in the above sections may apply if they provide evidence of satisfactory completion of an HSSC education with a minimum 65% in English. The University will accept an IBCC attested cumulative equivalence Certificate of 75% for the High School diploma.

## **OBTAINING AN EQUIVALENCE CERTIFICATE**

Candidates following systems of education other than Pakistani Higher Secondary Certificate may use the IBCC grade calculator to assess their equivalence. This must be followed by an attested equivalence certificate from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC). This equivalence certificate must state that their High School qualification is equivalent to the HSSC qualification in Pakistan with a minimum aggregate achievement of 75%.

For more details and updates, please visit website: [www.ibcc.edu.pk](http://www.ibcc.edu.pk) or visit IBCC offices:

Islamabad: Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106631.

Karachi: Plot No. ST-2, Liaquat Memorial Library premises near PTV Regional Office (Opposite to Liaquat National Hospital), Stadium Road, Karachi. Tel +92 21 99230583 / 85

For other cities, please visit: [www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/](http://www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/)



## AKU CONDUCTED ACCUPLACER TEST OR EQUIVALENT

Eligible candidates may apply on the basis of the **SAT I**. The AKU minimum requirements are:

- A score of at least 600 each in the Math and the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing sections.

Note: Candidates who have scores may email these to the Admission Office at [fas.query@aku.edu](mailto:fas.query@aku.edu); for those who have registered, please submit evidence of registration. The SATs written between 2023 and 2025 February are acceptable for the 2025 admission cycle.

- Candidates submitting the SAT I will be exempted from writing the AKU conducted Accuplacer Test.

### **ACCUPLACER** Test details:

For candidate who are opting to write the AKU conducted Accuplacer test: there will be four components, English as a Second Language (ESL) and the Quantitative Reasoning, Algebra, and Statistics test.

Resources are available here:

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/accuplacer-esl-tests-sample-questions.pdf>

<https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/accuplacer/pdf/next-generation-sample-questions-quantitative-reasoning.pdf>

The AKU conducted Accuplacer Test for the Bachelor of Studies programme will be administered in centres identified by the University in the application form.

The AKU conducted Accuplacer test or equivalent will be the key determining factor in shortlisting candidates for the interviews.



## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Applications for admission will be accepted between **November 04 to December 17, 2024**. Candidates must apply online by logging on to [www.aku.edu/apply-online](http://www.aku.edu/apply-online). Applications must be submitted via the online process. For an application to be processed, the following is mandatory:

1. Submit the complete application form online. (Candidate will receive a copy of the application form on their email as a confirmation if the application is submitted successfully)
2. Upload the receipt of application fee on the online portal.
3. Upload SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript.
4. Upload HSC / A-Level / High School / IB transcript equivalence calculated or IBCC equivalence Certificate if available.
5. Submit SAT-I Scores as per AKU requirements.

*Incomplete applications or submission of applications after the deadline is not accepted.*

### NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in this programme brochure. Moreover, candidates are responsible to complete the application and other requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule.

Please note - *Application fee is not refundable to any candidate who has submitted an application online.*

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 will allow you to write the test and 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 [fas.query@aku.edu](mailto:fas.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.

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

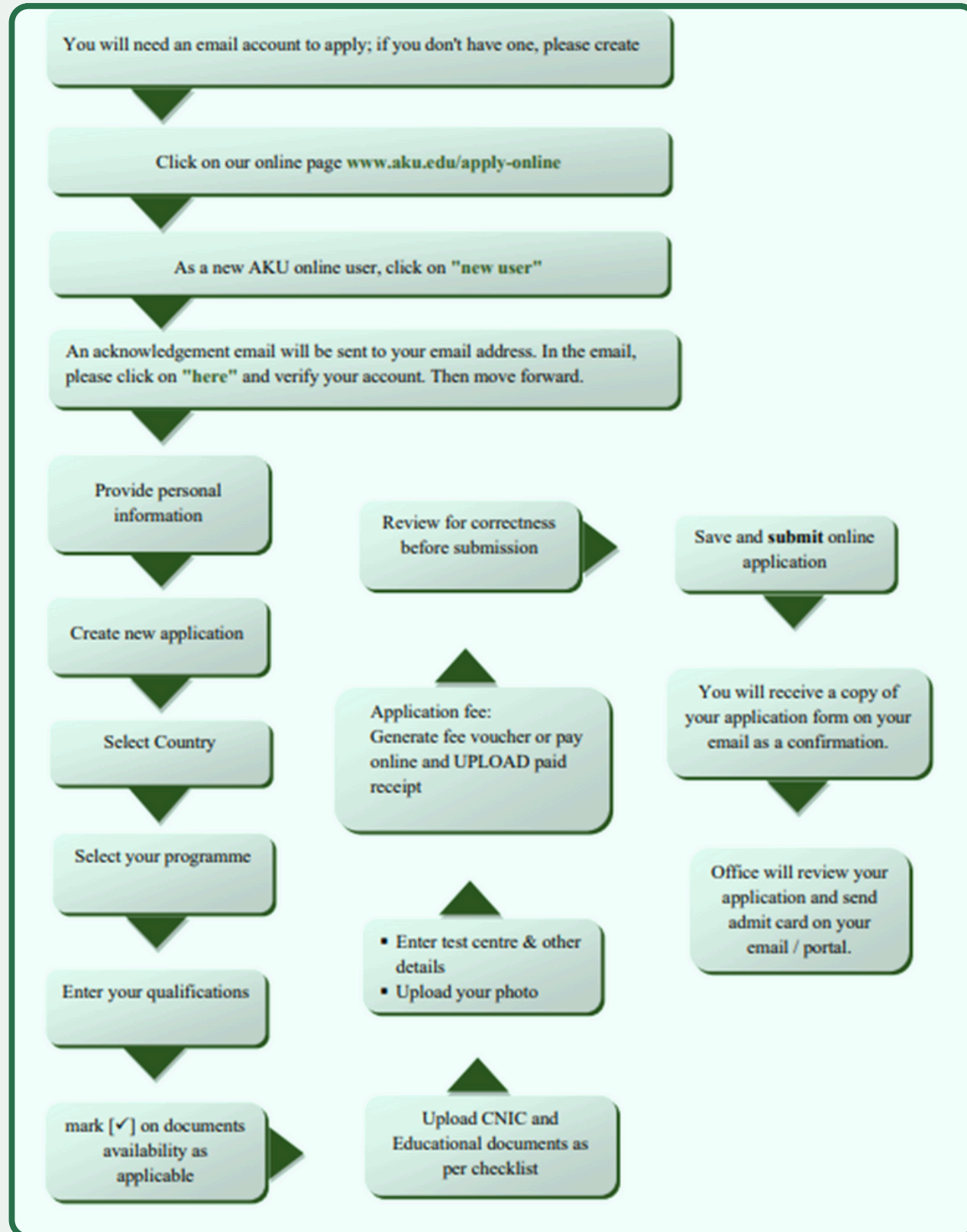
- A hard copy of the admit card issued by AKU and
- A valid current photo ID card/original CNIC/college ID card/enrolment card for identification

*\*Without these documents, AKU reserves the right not to allow you to write the Test.*





# APPLY ONLINE



## 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 with 5 MB file each.

1. Photograph (see photograph specification section)
2. B-Form / CNIC / NICOP (front & back copy) or relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)
3. SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript HSC / A- Level / High School / IB transcript.
4. SAT-I Scores (if available).

### 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)

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

The application fee is non-refundable.

*Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.*

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

- SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript / equivalent documents required to finalize selection.
- HSSC mark sheet / A- Level general certificate / High School transcript / IB transcript / equivalent documents required to finalize selection.



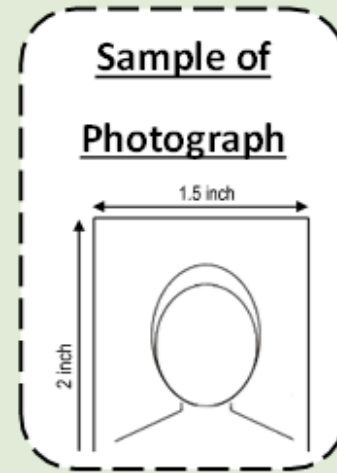
# PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

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

Passport size colored 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.

**Your photograph must reflect your current appearance to be allowed to write the AKU Test.**



## PAYING APPLICATION FEES

Application fee is only receivable as a Fee Voucher or through a Credit/Debit card as explained below. The University will not be responsible for payments made through any other means.

### MODE OF PAYMENT:

Candidates may pay the application fee as follows:

(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 the last step "Application Fee Information"
2. Go to Proof of Payment section and click payment mode to 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](mailto: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 session, and financial assistance is available on: [www.aku.edu/faspk/study/Pages/financial-assistance.aspx](http://www.aku.edu/faspk/study/Pages/financial-assistance.aspx)



## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for undergraduate 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 2024 session is 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.



# KEY DATES FOR ADMISSION

Admission Open: November 04 <sup>th</sup> to December 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2024		Apply online via <a href="http://www.aku.edu/apply-online">www.aku.edu/apply-online</a>
Submission of SAT I Score: January 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2025		
January 25, 2025	AKU Admission Test* - Pakistan	Test Centers Chitral, Gilgit, Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad
	AKU Admission Test* - Overseas	Dar es Salam, Iran, Kabul, Kampala, Khorog, London, Nairobi, Syria
<i>(Additional overseas centers 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>		
March, 2025	Interviews	
End April, 2025	Offers of Admissions	
Mid-August, 2025	Commencement of Classes	

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**  
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan  
Tel: +92 21 3486 9880  
Email: [fas.query@aku.edu](mailto:fas.query@aku.edu)  
Website: [www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)