SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

ADMISSION INFORMATION

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MIDWIFERY (BScM)

2016
Chartered in 1983, the Aga Khan University (AKU) is an international private university that currently operates in South and Central Asia, East Africa and the United Kingdom.

AKU occupies a pivotal place in the Aga Khan Development Network, a group of development agencies working under the leadership of His Highness the Aga Khan, and contributes in major ways to social development. AKU prioritises higher education and research initiatives relevant to the problems of the societies in which it operates, generally in the developing world.

Through on-going partnerships with prestigious institutions worldwide, AKU brings international expertise to bear upon the establishment and enhancement of its current and future programmes and services. With a growing programme offering, in addition to our existing five campuses spread over three continents, we are planning three new faculties and seven graduate schools to deliver a range of educational choices in an environment that respects cultural diversity.

Our merit-based, transparent admissions process and need-based financial assistance programme attempts to ensure that a diversity of high calibre students are able to attend the programmes at AKU.

**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, the first to start a Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (BScM) and in 2014, the first to begin a PhD in Nursing in Pakistan.

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 towards becoming 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, Africa and North America. Faculty expertise in clinical practice, education, management and research enriches nursing education of students across all programmes.

Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery motivates young men and women from all over Pakistan, and overseas, 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.

**ADMISSIONS AT THE SCHOOL OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY**

Admission to 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. There are no reserved seats. There are no admissions against donations. Students from anywhere in Pakistan and overseas may apply. There are no International/geographical/regional quotas. The gender ratio for admission to the BScN and the Post RN BScN programmes are in accordance with the regulations of the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC).

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.

Selection to the AKU-SONAM is made with great care and concern. Its decisions are irrevocable and are not negotiable.
**Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (Post RM- BScM) Degree Programme**

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 designed with the objective 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 in the country.

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

**Programme Objectives**

At the completion of the programme, the graduate is expected to be able to:

1. Utilize effective critical thinking and problem solving skills to bring about changes in midwifery practice.
2. Evaluate social and cultural influences on women’s lives and health and promote social equity, and ethical practice.
3. Utilize therapeutic communication skills including supportive care, counselling and teaching to the client and the family for improving maternal and child’s health outcomes.
4. Apply evidence based knowledge and skills in midwifery practice throughout the perinatal period and birth spacing in close partnership with women.
5. Promote physiological process of labour and birth with minimal intervention for low risk women.
6. Work effectively within systems of primary, secondary, and tertiary health care; collaborate with other health care providers; consult and refer appropriately; based on knowledge of the role and responsibility of others.
7. Exhibit accountability for one’s own behaviour and actions.
8. Demonstrate a commitment to personal and professional growth and the growth of the profession by recognizing learning as a continuous life-long process.
9. Adhere to established patterns of professional practice which support legal, religious, and ethical tenants of Pakistan.
10. Demonstrate oral and written communication skills in midwifery practice.
11. Provide basic EMONC services and ensure timely referral of the mother and baby.
Eligibility Requirement for BScM Programme

Women are eligible to apply for this two year programme regardless of age and marital status.

All applicants to the Post-RM BScM Degree Programme must meet the following criteria:

- Hold current/valid registration/license in their country of residence. Overseas applicants must be eligible for registration with the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC);
- Have achieved at least a second division in the Provincial Nursing Board examination. Overseas applicants must submit evidence of successfully passing their National Nursing Registration/Licensure examination;
- Documentary evidence of minimum three years of work experience as a RN & RM;
- Complete Secondary School Certificate SSC with biology;
- Complete RN & RM diploma;
- All Registered Nurses and midwives (RN, RM) must submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Institution where RN and RM have been completed. The NOC must clearly state that the institution and/or affiliated Hospital has No Objection if the candidate pursues higher education at the Aga Khan University for the academic session 2016;
- Achieve a competitive score on the AKU-SONAM Admission Test.
- Demonstrate qualities of communication and leadership and a commitment to the midwifery profession. Candidates must also have sufficient midwifery knowledge and skills appropriate for study at the baccalaureate level. These qualities will be evaluated through letters of reference and a personal interview with each candidate;
- Enrichment programme will be offered to candidates who the University feels would benefit from the additional preparation before commencement of the formal BScM programme.
HOW TO APPLY

The programme brochure and sample test paper may be downloaded from our website: www.aku.edu/admissions/undergraduate

Candidates applying to the BScM must submit hard copies of the following documents to the Admission Office; incomplete applications are not processed. An application is considered incomplete when required documents are not included in the application:

Post RM BScM Programme:

a) Completed application form;

b) Four photographs with your name labelled at the back; (refer page 8 for details);

c) Attested photocopies of Mark Sheets/Diploma/Certificates as recorded in the application form;

d) Current RN Licensure of Pakistan Nursing Council or equivalent agency/authority;

e) Birth certificate / Provisional certificate from school / Matric certificate;

f) Letters of recommendation from at least 3 people. Please download reference form from http://www.aku.edu/admissions/undergraduate/nursingandmidwifery/pakistan/bscmprogramme/Pages/bscmprogramme.aspx. Of the three, one referee must be your immediate supervisor or faculty and two others must be professionals you have known for at least 2 years (not relatives);

g) Attested copies of Work Experience Certificate as entered in the application form

h) One attested copy of ‘B’ Form/ CNIC/ Afghan Citizen Card (as applicable) or relevant pages of the Passport where passport number is available (overseas applicants);

j) One attested copy of Domicile;

k) Equivalence certificate from IBCC as applicable.

m) A self-addressed envelope for your admit card which will be couriered to you.
How to obtain an equivalence certificate of Education in Pakistan

All applicants to the School of Nursing and Midwifery, in Pakistan and from Overseas, who have certificates of education other than the Pakistani Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC), are required to submit an equivalence certificate of their HSSC 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: Plot no. 25, G-10/4, Islamabad. Near Federal Govt. Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF). Tel: 92 51 923 5023

Karachi: Karachi Board of Intermediate Education, Bakhtiari Youth Centre, North Nazimabad. Tel: 0092-21-36639878; Fax: 0092-21-36639878

Applicants overseas are required to submit the completed Equivalence application form to IBCC, Islamabad along with the following documents:

1. Original General Secondary School Education Certificate and transcripts Grade 9 and 10; If there are in native language; with English translation from an authentic source;

2. Higher Secondary Certificate and transcripts, Grade 11 and 12; If in native language; with English translation from an authentic source;

3. Copy of relevant Passport or/and visa to study in Pakistan as applicable.
Application Fee

The application fee for candidates applying from Pakistan: Rs.5500

For candidates who will be overseas during the application process: US $ 250.

The application fee is non-refundable; candidates must ensure that they are eligible to apply for the programme before applying. The application fee may 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. *(Please see mode of payment section for more details).*

Mode of Payment

The original payment acknowledgement receipt from the bank should be sent along with the application form to the Admission Office.

Please Note:  You must send the original payment acknowledgement slip.

Please do not send the payment request slip.

For Candidates in Pakistan:
The payment can be made by a demand draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University” or by online deposit to any branch of the Soneri Bank.

Banking Details for Pakistani Currency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>The Aga Khan University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Account #</td>
<td>01021227508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Code</td>
<td>0024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch</td>
<td>The Aga Khan University Branch, Stadium Road, Karachi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTN #</td>
<td>1206240-5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For Candidates Overseas:
The payment can be made by a demand draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University” or by telex transfer / international cheque.

Banking Details for Foreign Currency:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Title</th>
<th>The Aga Khan University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank Name</td>
<td>Habib Bank Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branch Name</td>
<td>Plaza Branch – Branch Code 786</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account #</td>
<td>0786-79014650-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift Code</td>
<td>HABBPKKA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION
Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.

- Coloured photo with white background;
- Size: 1.5 x 2 inches
- Taken within the last one week to reflect your current appearance.
- The photo should show a clear, front view, full face of the person.
- Snapshots, mobile phone photos or low quality photos are not acceptable.

If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, even if it is not older than one week, the university will not allow you to write the Admission Test.
**HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION**

An application may be submitted until October 7, 2016. *Applications received after this date will not be processed. The University does not accept late applications.*

The completed application form, the application fee and all required documents will be acceptable only through registered post or through a reliable courier service to the Admission Office at the following address:

**Office of the Registrar**  
**School of Nursing and Midwifery**  
**Aga Khan University**  
**Stadium Road, Karachi 74800**  
**Pakistan**  
+92-21-3486 5454/5406

Please ensure that you have complied with the instructions provided in this brochure. Incomplete applications will not be processed. It remains the responsibility of the candidate to complete the application requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule. The Admission Office will not send reminders. Once acknowledged, an application will not be returned.

Aga Khan University reserves the right to admission; 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.

**THE AKU ADMISSION TEST**

All applicants to the BScM degree programme are required to write the AKU-SONAM Admission Test. The Test is administered in English and consists of multiple choice questions designed to test recall, application of knowledge, deductive reasoning and problem solving ability.

*Bachelor of Science in Midwifery (Post-RM BScM) Degree Programme:* The Test comprises two sections: English language and Midwifery knowledge. Please see sample test paper for details.

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

The University reserves the right to evaluate the applications for shortlisting purposes on the criteria developed at the time.*
**SHORTLISTING**

On the basis of the Admission Test scores, applicants are shortlisted and invited for Interviews.

**INTERVIEWS**

Interviews are held at the Aga Khan University. Alternate arrangements are made in other cities in Pakistan if a sufficient number of applicants request for it. Each applicant meets a panel of two interviewers for approximately half an hour.

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

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

**Scholarships and University Financial Assistance Programme**

Admission into the University's academic programmes is based strictly on merit and on a needs-blind admission policy. Because of its needs-blind admission policy, the University operates a Financial Assistance programme that ensures that no student who qualifies for admission is excluded because of his / her inability to pay tuition and other fees. Scholarships are available for students selected to the programme based on University criteria. Students selected to the programme will be provided further details.

Financial assistance is offered on the basis of demonstrated need as evaluated by the University from data provided by the student, his / her family and other avenues that the University may deem appropriate. It is strongly recommended that every student desirous of receiving financial assistance from the University should thoroughly explore all other possible sources of assistance. Every student is required to make some contribution towards fees, living expenses and other costs so as not to totally depend on the University for assistance. Financial assistance decisions are finalised and communicated to the students before the commencement of the academic session.

The continuation of financial assistance is conditional upon a yearly assessment of the financial needs of the student. Financial assistance is awarded as a combination of grant-in-aid and student loan depending on the programme. Students are not required to repay the grant-in-aid portion of the assistance awarded. The student loan portion of financial assistance is interest free with only an administrative charge of 5% per annum levied from the time of the award of the student loan. The loan portion of financial assistance becomes payable following graduation.

Applications for financial assistance for students admitted to the 2016 academic year will be acceptable within seven working days after receipt of the admission letter. Application forms are available online. These are also available from the Student Financial Assistance and Counselling Office.
Tuition and other Charges

AKU charges fees for all its programmes. The tuition and fee structure and schedule for the 2016 - 2017 session will be available separately. Those responsible for a student's financial obligations should plan accordingly.

The University reviews its tuition and other fees annually to cover inflation and other cost increases. Therefore, students are advised to plan their financial obligations for the course of study accordingly.

The University categorises students as domestic and overseas. Fees for overseas candidates are charged and payable in US dollars only; fees for domestic student are paid in Pakistani rupees.

A student shall be categorised as “overseas” (whether holding Pakistani or dual citizenship), if the student meets any one or more of the following criteria:

a) Residence of the principal earning member of the family and source of income during the previous three years;

b) Whether the student was educated in Pakistan or abroad during the three years prior to the application for admission;

c) Whether the student is eligible for State-supported education overseas;

d) Whether the candidate’s parents are reimbursed educational expenses by their employer.

Students holding Pakistani nationality, CNIC and / or passport should be aware that this does not guarantee “domestic student” classification for the payment of tuition fee and any other charges. The University's conditions stated above for the application of “overseas” fee status will prevail.

Overseas students will be required to pay tuition and other charges based on the criteria provided above, are advised to plan their financial support from sources available to them before applying for admission. The University may consider applications for financial assistance where such students have demonstrated financial need and have thoroughly explored all other possible sources of assistance.

Students whose parents are Pakistani citizens deputed to a government mission overseas will be charged the fee prescribed for students in Pakistan. In such cases, documentary evidence will be required.

Candidates doubtful of their fee status should seek clarification from the Office of the Registrar before applying. The Registrar's decision on fee status shall be final.

Students may pay the tuition fee in monthly instalments. Students defaulting on payments within the due dates will not receive examination results and, thus, may not be permitted to progress in their studies from one year to the next.
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 accepted.

**ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in the University hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide single and shared, non-air-conditioned, 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 2016 - 2017 session will be provided separately. 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 new class only if the appeal cities circumstances suggesting that the University has violated provisions it’s Charter.
ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

APPLICATION PROCESS
Submit application in accordance with eligibility requirements of Aga Khan University

AKU-ADMISSION TEST

SHORTLISTING AND INTERVIEWS
Shortlisting for interviews is based on the AKU Admission Test score

FINAL SELECTION
Rank order of shortlisted candidates is based on the review of scholastic achievements, Interview reports, reference letters, co-curricular and other accomplishments.
## Schedule for 2016 Academic Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications accepted for registration: Last Date: October 7, 2016</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>October 15, 2016</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission Test</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TEST &amp; INTERVIEW CENTRES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chitral, Gilgit, Karachi and Rawalpindi</td>
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<td><strong>October- November</strong></td>
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<td>Interviews</td>
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<td><strong>January</strong></td>
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<td>Class Commencement with Enrichment and Orientation.</td>
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**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**

Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan

Fax: (92) 21 34934294; Tel: (92) 21 3486 5454/5406

Email: sonadmission.query@aku.edu

Website: www.aku.edu