



MEDICAL COLLEGE

Master of Philosophy in Biological
and Biomedical Sciences (MPhil)
Admission Information 2020 - 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The University	3
MPhil in Biological and Biomedical Sciences Programme	3
Eligibility Criteria	7
Admission Process Summary	7
Admission Test	7
Application for Admission	8
Apply Online	9
Fees and Funding	12
Key Dates for 2020-21 Admissions	13

THE UNIVERSITY

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. It is a unique hybrid: an institution of academic excellence that is also an agent for social development.

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 six campuses spread over three continents, we are planning three new faculties and six graduate schools to deliver a range of educational choices in an environment that respects cultural diversity.

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

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.

MPhil in Biological and Biomedical Sciences Programme

The MPhil in Biological and Biomedical Sciences, launched in 2019, is designed to produce competent, confident and productive biomedical scientists who can continue their passion for research and learning onto PhD training or have a successful career in academia and industry straightaway. Our mission is to educate graduate students with broad-based integrated concepts of basic health sciences in the field of research based education, to integrate the desired attributes of knowledge, skills and attitude as outcomes and to welcome meritorious applicants from a wide range of disciplines. Upon completion of the MPhil, we expect that the students will have the capacity to ask innovative questions and provide answers to these questions using innovative approaches; contributing to their fields by unfolding their creative energy.

The MPhil Programme in Biological and Biomedical Sciences is accredited by the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan.

The MPhil programme is an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary programme in Biological and Biomedical Sciences with four specialities/streams.

- Anatomy
- Physiology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology

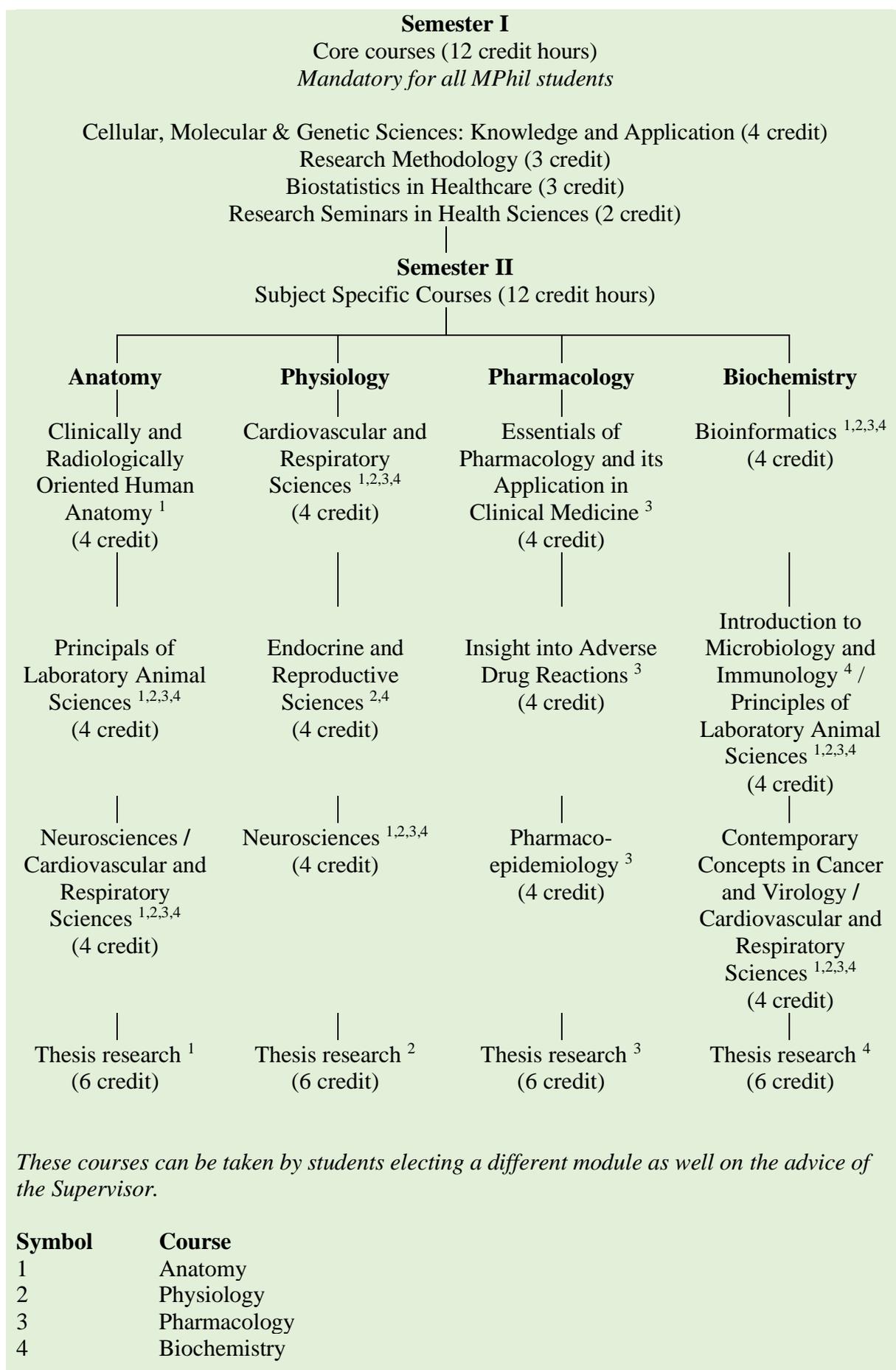
PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To provide an understanding of modern and integrated concepts in biological and biomedical sciences by recognizing and applying subject-specific theories, paradigms, concepts.
- To provide research friendly enabling environment to nurture scientists.
- Develop skills to apply subject knowledge and understanding to address familiar and unfamiliar problems
- Recognize the moral and ethical issues of investigations and appreciate the need for ethical standards and professional codes of conduct.
- Develop the ability to read and use appropriate literature with a full and critical understanding, while addressing such questions as content, context, aims, objectives, quality of information, and its interpretation and application.
- Develop the ability to employ a variety of methods of study in investigating, recording, analyzing and reporting investigations.
- Develop the ability to think independently, set tasks and solve problems.
- Develop an appreciation of the multidisciplinary nature of science and of the validity of different points of view.
- Developing the skills necessary for self-managed and lifelong learning.
- Obtaining, recording, collating and analyzing data using appropriate techniques working by students themselves or in a group, as deemed most appropriate for the subject under study.
- To enable students to understand modern concepts of health and disease, opportunities and dilemmas.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND DESIGN

The MPhil programme is a two-year full-time programme, requiring 24 credits of coursework and 6 credits of original research. Upon successful completion of coursework with minimum cGPA of 2.5 followed by review and approval of research work by internal and external reviewers and successful defence of the thesis, the candidate will be awarded the degree of the “Master of Philosophy in Biological and Biomedical Sciences” with specialization in any one of the 4 disciplines - Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology.

COURSEWORK



RESEARCH WORK

The basic research work for the Thesis will proceed in parallel with the subject specific coursework. Hence, by the time students will reach Semester 2, they would have selected a Principal Thesis Supervisor, and started to formulate a research project. When developing the protocol / proposal, approval from the Ethics Review Committee will be required for research on human subjects and/or animals.

The research project of MPhil students, leading to a thesis and the award of degree will follow the AKU policy.

MENTORSHIP

In the MPhil programme, mentoring is a custom-built feature. Each student will be assigned a Primary supervisor, and a Secondary supervisor, who would in all likelihood be senior faculty members and seasoned scientists in their field of interest.

PLACEMENTS

In cases where students require placements, i.e. to attend other institutions and work places for specific research exposure, data collection, laboratory or field-based work, etc., the primary responsibility will remain with the principal thesis supervisor and the student. The arrangement, however, will need to be approved by the Programme Committee of the Department and communicated to the Registrar's Working Group (RWG).

PROGRAMME TIMELINES

The MPhil in Biological and Biomedical Sciences is a full time programme. Students are expected to graduate in 2 years. Extension of one year may be given if valid justification is provided by the student.

SCHEDULE OF SEMESTERS

The programme will have two regular Semesters (Spring and Fall), each comprising of 17 weeks and an 8-week summer break. The summer break may be used by students to undertake research electives to gain more exposure to research or complete their remedial courses if required. The MPhil programme will commence in March 2021.

PROGRESSION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENT

The following are minimum requirements for progression and graduation:

- A Cumulative Grade Point Average (cGPA) of at least 2.50 is required at the end of each Semester for progression.
- A Cumulative Grade Point Average (cGPA) of at least 2.50 in all the course work is required to be eligible for defence of thesis.
- Successful completion and defence of the thesis.

In order to be eligible for admission into PhD programme, the minimum cGPA required is 3.00 out of 4.00 or 1st Division (in the annual system) in MS/MPhil/Equivalent.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates must have at least 16 years of undergraduate education / 4 years of education (124 credit hours) after HSSC or equivalent in Health Sciences with a minimum cGPA of 2.50 or equivalent in percentage.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Candidates are evaluated in stages:

Stage I	Applications are reviewed and candidates are invited to write the AKU Admission Test.
Stage II	Candidates who are shortlisted based on the Admission Test are invited for 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/mphil-bbs

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 will be conducted in Pakistan. For all candidates who reside overseas, interviews will be conducted on 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 **March 16, 2020 and June 23, 2020**. Candidates must apply online by logging on to www.aku.edu/apply-online

In cases where applicants are unable to access our 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 on this form for fee payment and submission. Please courier the completed paper based form to reach the Admission Office latest by June 23, 2020. Applications are not accepted over the counter.

NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application requirements before applying. These are listed in the programme brochure. Additionally, candidates applying online or with a paper based application, are responsible to complete the application 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 15 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.

Please note:

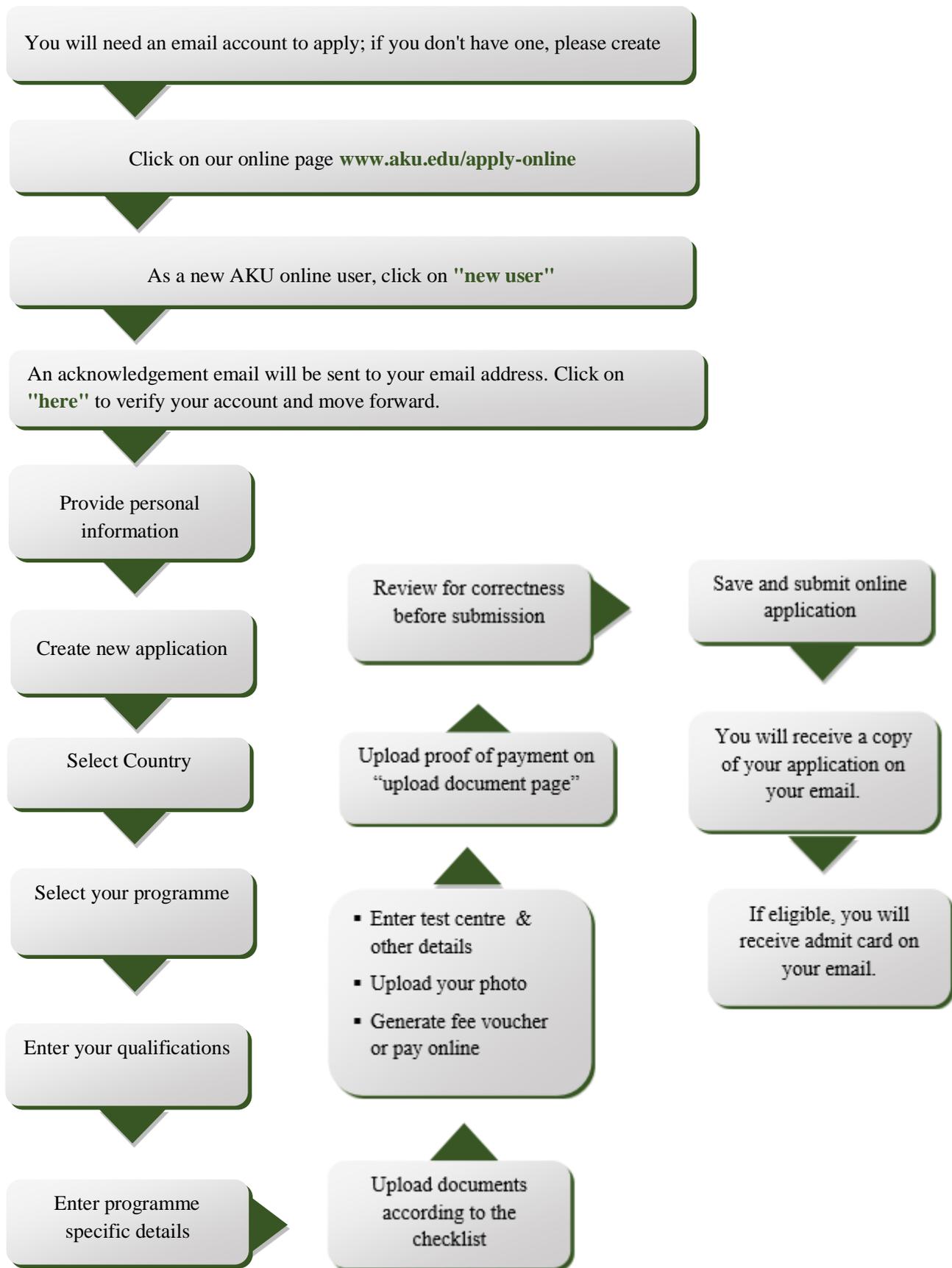
To write the Test, candidates must bring:

- 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 SUBMIT 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. Curriculum Vitae and list of publications, if any;
4. Attested copies of educational documents must be uploaded sequentially:
 - HSSC or equivalent (Pre-medical);
 - Undergraduate qualification (*E.g: MBBS, BScN, DVM, BSc or equivalent*)
Undergraduate degree and mark sheets should be attested by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC).

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

5. Application Fee: - **Applying from AKU residential countries* is Rs. 6,800/-**
- **Applying from AKU non-residential countries is US \$ 350/-**

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

6. If applicable:
 - Transcript / enrolment information of all the courses undertaken or completed at AKU
 - Latest mark sheets / progress reports, if currently enrolled in any other institution
7. All work experience certificates as entered on the form

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

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED SEPARATELY

3 letters of recommendation / references to be sent in sealed envelopes or emailed directly by your referee to postgrad.query@aku.edu **Name of your referees should be provided on the application form.** (*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.*)

MODE OF PAYMENT

Candidates may pay the application fee either through the fee voucher or the AKU online payment portal. *When the fee is paid, please upload the receipt on the online admission portal.*

- **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 “Fee, photograph and other details”
2. For payment mode, 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 Document Page” by selecting fee payment

- **PAY ONLINE THROUGH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD (FOR 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 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 Document Page” by selecting fee payment

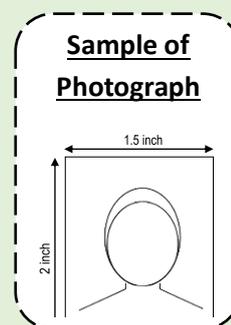
In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing student.finance@aku.edu

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.



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 one of our academic programmes, students who are 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 2020-2021 session, and financial assistance is available on: www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding

SCHOLARSHIPS

There are 2 scholarships available for candidates selected in the 2020-2021 admission cycle. The top candidates are selected on criteria designed by the University. No applications are required.

Students receiving the scholarship will have their tuition waived and will receive monthly stipend of Rs. 25,000/-

All M. Phil. students will get US \$ 1,000/- start-up fund for their research project.

STUDENTS ON SPONSORSHIP

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

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

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for outstation students is arranged in the hostels managed by the University. These are shared, non-air-conditioned, furnished accommodation. Hostel space is restricted to students from outside Karachi only.

A fee is charged for all accommodation. Accommodation charges for the 2020-2021 session is available online along with the fee structure. Meals may be purchased separately from the University's cafeteria.

All students living in the university 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.

KEY DATES FOR 2020-21 ADMISSIONS

<u>Admission Open Registration</u>	March 16 – June 23, 2020
Admission Test	<i>October 3</i> <u>Test Centres:</u> <i>Pakistan:</i> Chitral, Faisalabad Gilgit, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta and Sukkur <i>International:</i> Doha, Dubai, Iran, Kabul, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda
Interviews	October / November
Commencement of Classes	February 2021

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the programme offered by the Aga Khan University, Pakistan, for the academic year 2020-21. 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.

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan
Tel: +92-21 3486 4410 / 4412
Email: postgrad.query@aku.edu
Web: www.aku.edu