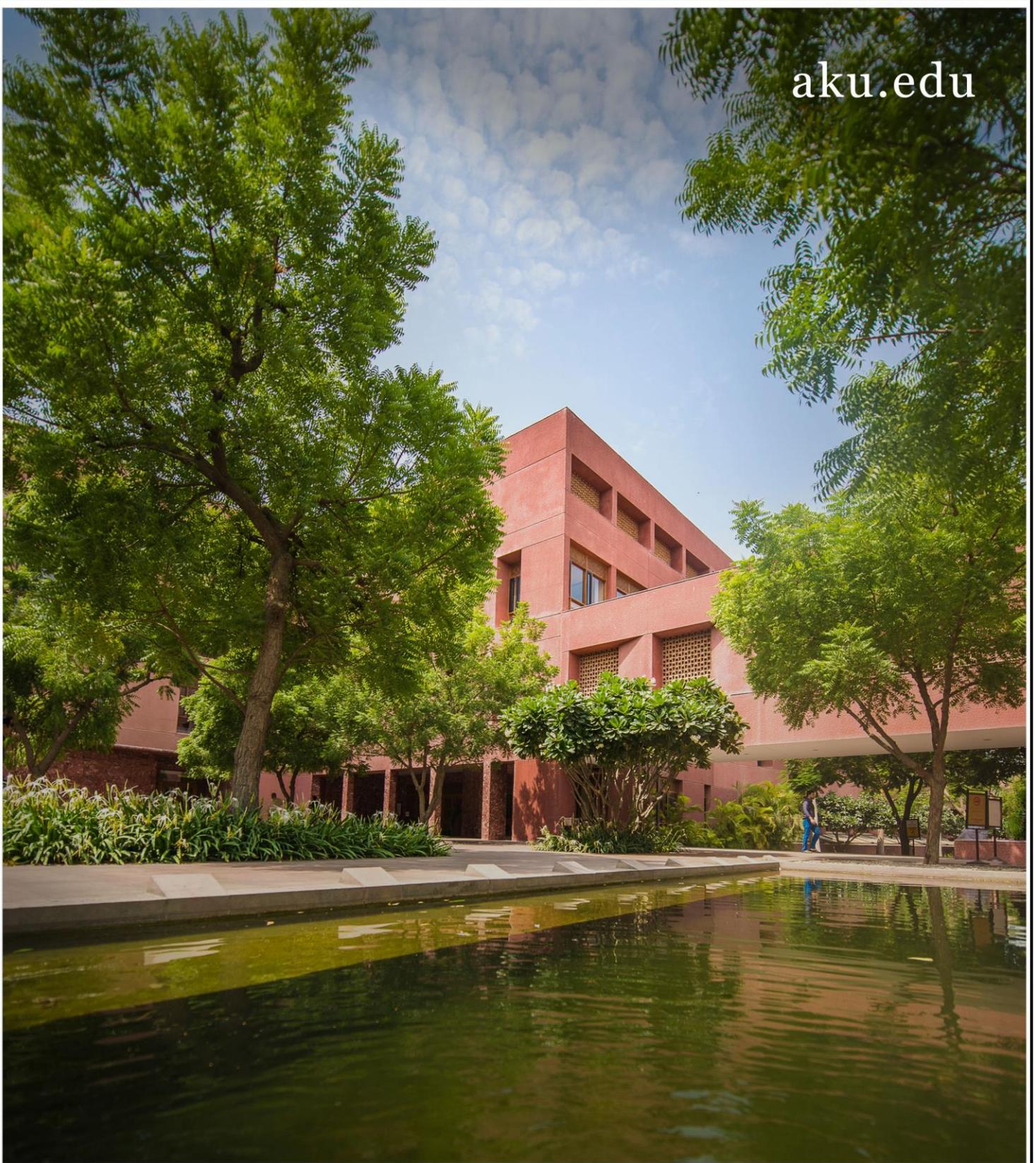


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آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

## Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics

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**Admission Information  
2019 – 2020 Academic Year**

## **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.

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 needs-sensitive financial assistance programme attempts to ensure, to the extent possible, 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 some common criteria include: fluency in English.

## **THE PROGRAMME**

The Department of Community Health Sciences (CHS) of the Aga Khan University offers a two-year programme of Master of Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics (MSc EB), which is recognized by Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan. The programme is designed to train health professionals to have in-depth knowledge of epidemiology, biostatistics and their application in analysing major public health issues in Pakistan and developing countries with a focused approach to regional problems and needs.

Graduates of the programme are expected to play a leading role in the field of public health by analysing major public health problems and identifying ways to address them. To date, most of our graduates have been offered excellent employment opportunities by well-known national and international organisations.

## **CLINICAL RESEARCH SPECIALISATION**

MSc Epidemiology and Biostatistics programme also offers a Clinical Research Specialisation (CRS) which is a specialised track nested within the MSc EB programme. This track is unique in the country and the region as no such programme is offered by any other educational institution currently. This track is designed for academicians, clinical

researchers, residents, fellows, nurses, young faculty and individuals in medical and allied fields who wish to pursue a career in clinical cum research work. Candidates interested in this specialisation must indicate their preference on their admission application form.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE MSc EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIostatISTICS PROGRAMME**

After completing the programme, it is expected that the graduates would be able to:

1. Conceptualize the principles and practice of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.
2. Critically identify public health problems and use epidemiology and biostatistics to characterise them at the population level.
3. Manage epidemiological studies using appropriate design, and analytic techniques to interpret public health problems for proposing interventions.
4. Relate epidemiological principles to public health problems in the context of resource limitations of developing countries.

### **For Clinical Research Specialization (Track)**

In addition to the above four objectives, CRS students would also be able to:

1. Critically identify contemporary clinical problems.
2. Design, conduct and evaluate applied research; investigating clinical problems to enhance clinical care at individual and population level.
3. Demonstrate the use of principles of epidemiology and biostatistics within a specific clinical discipline.

### **PROGRAMME STRUCTURE**

This is a two-year programme comprising of four semesters. Each semester will have a maximum of 12 credit hours courses. In addition to course work, students are required to complete a thesis on a critical and current public health problem affecting the region. Faculty members provide the required support and guidance as advisors and committee members for completion of thesis work. The students are required to defend their thesis at the end of the programme.

Different assessment techniques are used in each course for gauging students learning and understanding. These include: home assignments, quizzes, class presentations, course projects, report writing, mid and final examinations during each semester.

### **PART-TIME PROGRAMME**

The University offers candidates the option of completing their stipulated two-year programme requirement in extended time; i.e. either in three or four years. Health

professionals with other responsibilities and commitments who wish to upgrade their qualifications, are able to benefit from the part-time programme to complete the required courses in three or four years instead of two years. Additional details regarding this option are available from the Programme Director and Programme Office housed within the CHS.

### **INDIVIDUAL STUDY COURSES / STANDALONE COURSES**

The Department of Community Health Sciences offers selected courses (taught within the MSc EB programme) as “Standalone courses” which are ideal for individuals who wish to enhance their knowledge and skills in specific areas of Epidemiology and Biostatistics without formally enrolling in the MSc programme. Candidates with 16 years of education in Science or Health Sciences are eligible to apply for these courses. Admission in these courses is opened prior to the beginning of the semester in which a standalone course is being offered (not all courses are offered as standalone courses). Individuals can take up to 3 courses as standalone courses (accumulate up to 9 credits of course work). This option provides an excellent opportunity for individuals to get a flavour of the programme without committing two full years at the outset.

Candidates who will achieve a cGPA of 3.5 or above after completing two courses or cGPA of 3.0 or above after completing three courses are exempted from writing the Admission Test. They will be required to appear for an Interview. The courses are valid for three years only for entry into the MSc EB programme. For further details on available standalone courses, please contact the Programme Office at [msceb.programme@aku.edu](mailto:msceb.programme@aku.edu).

### **THE CURRICULUM**

The curriculum of the programme focuses on the integration of its major components: Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health. Recently the curriculum of the programme has been revised to align it with international programmes offered in the area of Epidemiology and Biostatistics. There is a good balance between Epidemiology and Biostatistics courses offered in the programme. MSc EB Students also get to choose elective courses during the two year programme.

The students of Clinical Research Specialisation track are required to undertake track specific courses.

The students have access to the latest information through free Internet access and a well-equipped library at the University.

### **THESIS RESEARCH**

The programme takes pride in the quality of thesis work students carry out as a requirement for graduating from the programme. MSc EB theses are based on primary

data collection and address local public health and clinical issues. All students are required to develop a research protocol, collect and analyse data and write a thesis. This provides the students an opportunity to gain first-hand experience of conducting a complete research study. Each thesis committee comprises of thesis supervisor and at least two committee members who provide guidance and support and supervise the research project.

### **STUDENT EVALUATION AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

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 Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.50 in all course work is required for graduating from the programme.
- Successful completion and defence of the thesis.

### **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR GRADUATES**

To date all our graduates have been readily hired by different organisations. There are employment opportunities available for our graduates not only within the country but also at the regional and international level. Our alumni are engaged with various esteemed national / international organisations such as Aga Khan University (as faculty and fellows), Aga Khan Development Network (Aga Khan Foundation), Health Services Academy, National Institute of Health, Islamabad, World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (Vancouver, Canada), Centre of Disease Control (USA) and academic institutions in USA, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, public health institutes of Middle East and with different non-government organizations.

### **ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAMME**

Admission in the programme is based solely on merit and potential commitment to public health. Merit will be evaluated through scholastic achievements and performance of candidates in the AKU Admission Test. The commitment of the candidate will be assessed through multiple interviews with senior faculty at AKU.

Candidates currently working in the public or private sector from Pakistan and overseas may apply.

### **CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION**

Candidates who have at least one year of work experience after graduation, preferably in a health-related field at the time of application (part-time, internship and voluntary work is not included) and hold at least one of the following degrees are eligible to apply:

- Sixteen-year undergraduate degree from an accredited / recognised university in Sciences / Health Sciences including Bachelor degree such as MBBS, BDS, BScN, DVM, B Pharm (or equivalent).
- Candidates with clinical experience, especially young faculty in research track positions in clinical departments.
- Fellows within the PGME programme will receive consideration.
- Residents with two years of residency.
  - All AKU-PGME trainees require a nomination from their parent departments.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

### **EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES**

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; this is formally approved by University's Admission Review Committee.

### **APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION**

- Applications for admission will be accepted from March 18, 2019 until May 20, 2019 only. Candidates must apply online by logging on to [www.aku.edu/apply-online](http://www.aku.edu/apply-online). In cases where this is not possible, candidates may request for a paper based application by e-mailing at [postgrad.query@aku.edu](mailto:postgrad.query@aku.edu)
- To complete the online application, candidates are requested to read and follow the instructions provided. Before submitting the application, candidates must ensure that they have complied with the instructions given with the application form and information brochure. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
- The programme brochure and sample test paper may be downloaded from our website <https://www.aku.edu/admissions/msc-epi-bio/Pages/home.aspx>.

### **ADMIT CARD**

Candidates will be issued an admit card on their online portal as well as through e-mail which will allow them to write the Admission Test. Where admit card is not received 15 days before the date of the test; candidate must e-mail the Admission Office for the required information and application details. Applicants are required to bring the following to the test centre:

- The hard copy of the Admit Card emailed to you;
- Your CNIC or Passport or appropriate Photo ID for identification.

Without a photo ID and the Admit Card, AKU reserves the right to disallow you from writing the test.

#### **ADMISSION TEST**

The Admission Test will be conducted on **Saturday, June 15 2019**.

The Admission Test comprises three components: English Language, Quantitative Reasoning and a Speciality 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 Speciality Specific Exam will assess basic knowledge related to the specific speciality.

**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. The purpose of the interview is to assess a variety of attributes, including motivation, maturity, social and cultural awareness, knowledge of public health issues in developing nations and evidence of interest, and commitment to the programme.

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

#### **VALIDITY OF TEST SCORES**

The AKU Admission Test scores are valid for a period of two years from the date the test is written. For admission to the academic year 2019-20, the results of the test written in the year 2017 or 2018 will be acceptable for further processing of an application.

## DOCUMENTS TO BE UPLOADED WITH AN APPLICATION

Candidates must note that they are required to upload following documents with the application on the online portal. In case you are submitting a paper based application, you are required to submit hardcopy of these documents.

Document	File Size	File Format
1 Photograph – Coloured and taken one week prior to application; <i>(please refer to photograph specification section)</i> ;	1 MB	JPEG
2 Attested scan copy of CNIC / NICOP / relevant pages of the Passport <i>(passport is required for foreign nationals)</i> ;	1 MB	PDF
3 Curriculum Vitae and list of publications, if any;	1 MB	PDF
4 <b><u>Educational Documents:</u></b> Attested copies of the following educational documents must be uploaded individually and sequentially (marks sheet and certificate / degree). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Secondary School Certificate / O Levels or equivalent;</li> <li>- Higher Secondary School Certificate / A Levels or equivalent;</li> <li>- Undergraduate qualification (E.g.: MBBS, BScN, BDS, BSc or equivalent). <i>Undergraduate degree and mark sheet should have been attested by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan (HEC).</i></li> </ul>	1 MB	PDF
5 <b><u>Application Fee:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Applying from AKU residential countries<sup>1</sup> is Rs. 6,300/-</li> <li>▪ Applying from AKU non-residential countries is US \$ 306/-</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The application fee is non-refundable;</u></b> candidates must ensure that they are eligible for the programme before applying. The fee should be paid only through the modes mentioned in the mode of payment section. Cash, money orders, postal orders, personal cheques, banker’s cheques and local and foreign bank drafts are not acceptable.</p> <p>Please upload the receipt or evidence that the payment has been made.</p>	1 MB	PDF
6 Grade Card / Transcript or enrolment information of the courses completed at Aga Khan University in the past or currently in progress, if applicable; <p>If you are currently enrolled in any other institution, please provide attested mark-sheets of recent examination taken or progress reports, as applicable.</p>	1 MB	PDF
7 Attested copies of Work Experience Certificates (for all the experiences mentioned in the application form);	1 MB	PDF
8 Letters of recommendation: 3 letters of reference are required. Referees should be individuals who are well-acquainted with your previous academic work and professional experience. <p>These letters should be received in sealed envelopes or emailed directly by your referee to <a href="mailto:postgrad.query@aku.edu">postgrad.query@aku.edu</a>. The letters should be current or not more than one-year-old.</p> <p>You must provide the name of your referees on the application form.</p>	-	-
9 A statement of purpose, summarizing (in application form): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The reason for your interest in the programme;</li> <li>ii. How this programme will benefit your institutional / professional / personal / academic development;</li> <li>iii. Any additional factors which make you suitable for the programme?</li> </ol>	-	-

<sup>1</sup>Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

## MODE OF PAYMENT

Candidates may use following options to make payment. The original receipt should be uploaded on the AKU portal. **Please do not upload the payment request slip.**

Candidates may pay their application fee through the following options:

### 1. Online Transfer or Deposit into University Account

Candidates may pay through online deposit to any branch of Habib Bank Limited or Soneri Bank Limited in the below accounts;

<i>Account Title</i>	The Aga Khan University	The Aga Khan University
<i>Bank Name</i>	Habib Bank Ltd.	Soneri Bank Ltd.
<i>Branch Name &amp; Code</i>	Karsaz Branch 0896	Aga Khan University Branch 0024
<i>Account #</i>	0896-79006003-01	0024-20000014401
<i>NTN #</i>	1206240-5	1206240-5
<i>IBAN #</i>	PK27HABB00089679006003-01	PK93SONE0002420000014401

### 2. University's E-payment Facility

Candidates may choose to pay fee online through a credit / debit card. Please use this web link to pay <https://payonline.aku.edu>

Please notify the Finance Office by emailing at [student.finance@aku.edu](mailto:student.finance@aku.edu) when making e-payments. Student name, address, application tracking ID, amount, payment reference number and the purpose of payment should be clearly stated in the notification. **The acknowledgement e-mail received against e-payment must be uploaded with the On-line Application Form.**

## HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

On the Online portal, the application must be completed and submitted no later than May 20, 2019. Applications received after the deadline are not accepted.

In case a paper application is being submitted, the completed application with all the required documents and proof of application fee payment must be sent through a reliable courier service at the following address by May 20, 2019. Applications are not accepted over the counter.

*Postal Address;*

Graduate Programme Admission Office  
Office of the Registrar  
Aga Khan University  
(School of Nursing and Midwifery Bldg.),  
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800  
Pakistan

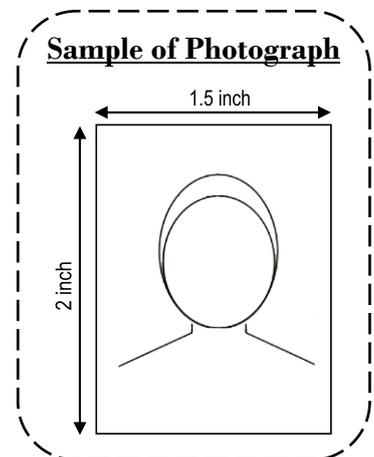
It remains the responsibility of the candidate to complete the application requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule. Once acknowledged, an application will not be returned. **Application will consider incomplete if the required documents are not included with the applications.**

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.

### **PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION**

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully. If photographs received do not meet these requirements your application will be considered incomplete.

- A colour photo is required;
- The background of the photograph should be plain white.
- The photo must measure: width: 1.5 inch, height: 2 inch
- Should have been taken within the last 1 week to reflect your current appearance.
- The photo should show a clear, front view, full face of the person. Side or angled views are **NOT** acceptable.
- Snapshots, magazine photos, low quality vending machine or mobile phone photos and full-length photographs are not acceptable.

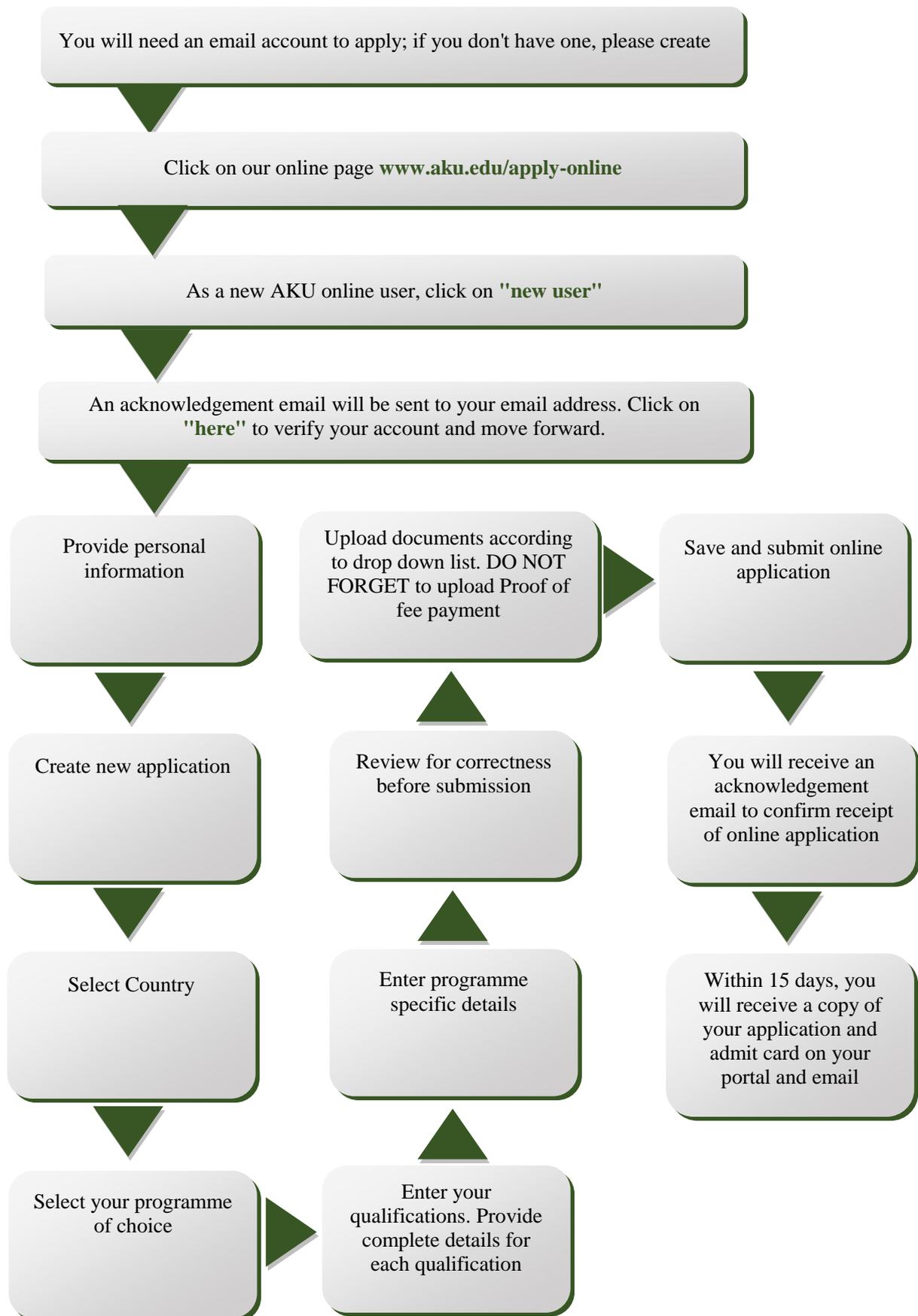


**If your photograph does not reflect your current appearance, even if it is not older than one week, the university will not allow you to write the Admission Test.**

## ADMISSION SCHEDULE 2019-20

Last date to receive applications	May 20, 2019
Admission Test	June 15, 2019
	<u>Test Centres:</u>
	<i>Pakistan:</i>
	Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Quetta, Peshawar, Chitral, Gilgit, Islamabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Multan
	<i>International:</i>
	Dubai, Kabul, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, Doha
Interviews	July / August, 2019
Announcement of Result	October, 2019
Commencement of Classes	First week of January, 2020

## STEPS TO APPLY ONLINE



## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

### **TUITION AND OTHER CHARGES**

AKU charges fees for all of its programmes. The tuition and fees structure and schedule for the 2019-20 academic year will be available separately. Those responsible for a student's financial obligations should plan accordingly.

The University categorises students as 'residential' and 'non-residential'. AKU considers residential countries to include Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Candidates categorized as 'non-residential' are required to pay their dues in US dollars only. The University reviews its tuition and fees annually to cover inflation and other cost increases. Students are advised to plan their financial obligations for the course of study accordingly.

Candidates shall be categorised as 'non-residential' (whether holding Pakistani or dual citizenship), if the candidate meets any one or more of the following criteria:

- a) Residence of the principal wage earning member of the family; source of income during the previous three years in a non-residential country;
- b) Whether the student was educated in AKU residential or non-residential countries 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 or principal earning member is reimbursed educational expenses by their employer.

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

If the candidate's parents are Pakistani citizens deputed to a government mission overseas, such students will be charged the fee prescribed for students in Pakistan. Documentary evidence will however, be required in such cases.

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 and binding.

Successful candidates are required to pay a component of the fee on acceptance to the programme and the balance over the year of study.

Students defaulting on payments within the due dates may be suspended and/or barred from classes and/or progression to the next year of study until the clearance of dues in accordance with the University's policies and procedures.

Payments may be made in cash or through a bank draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University”. Personal cheques are not acceptable.

#### **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 4537 / 5531 / 5456.

#### **UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME**

Admission to AKU are needs blind. Students admitted to the Master’s programme may apply for financial assistance by submitting an application to the Financial Assistance and Counselling Office.

Through the University's Financial Assistance Programme, students joining the graduate programme are awarded soft loans. The loan is payable in easy instalments after graduation from the programme. Details should be obtained from the Student Financial Assistance and Counselling Office.

Assistance is offered on the basis of demonstrated need as evaluated by the University from data provided by students and their families and other avenues that the University may deem appropriate. Every student applying for financial assistance must also demonstrate that he or she has thoroughly explored all other possible sources of assistance. However, every student is required to make some contribution towards fees, living expenses and other costs, so as to not totally depend on the University for assistance. Continuation of financial assistance is conditional upon yearly assessment of financial needs.

Applications for financial assistance for students admitted to the 2019-20 academic year will be acceptable within seven working days after receipt of the admission letter.

Application forms are available online at; <https://www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding/Pages/financial-assistance-pk.aspx>. These are also available from the Student Financial Assistance and Counselling Office.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation for outstation students is arranged in the hostels managed by the University which are located off-campus. 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. The charges for hostel accommodation for the 2019-20 academic year are given separately. 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.

**Disclaimer**

*This booklet contains information about the programme offered by Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2019-20. 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 through University Admission Office.*

**THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY**

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Web: [www.aku.edu](http://www.aku.edu)