



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



**Institute for Educational Development
PhD in Education**

**Preparing scholars to critique established ideas and generate
indigenous knowledge**

**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 six 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 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.

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, PAKISTAN

Established in 1993, the Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development, Pakistan is a centre of distinction for:

- developing educators, education managers, researchers and policy makers as exemplary leaders to improve the quality and delivery of education;
- generating knowledge to transform educational practices and policies; and
- implementing innovative and contextually relevant school improvement programmes in the under-served and hard to access areas.

Programmes

The Institute offers the following programmes for in-service professionals in education:

- PhD in Education
- MPhil in Education
- Master of Education
- Advanced Diploma in Education
- Certificate in Education and a variety of short/tailor-made courses

The programmes attract students not only from Pakistan but also from Bangladesh, Syria, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and other developing countries.

Research

Research is intrinsic to IED's work and its commitment to informing education policies and practices. Its focus is on conducting and disseminating research on critical issues ranging from the core problems of classroom teaching and school leadership to concerns related to educational policy.

Outreach

The Professional Development Centres (PDCs) in Gilgit, Chitral and Karachi function as the extended arms of IED. They reach out to under-served areas where teachers have limited opportunities to further their education and schools lack the support and resources to improve their performance. Serving as regional hubs, the PDCs offer contextually relevant capacity building programmes for educational professionals and implement innovative school improvement projects.

PHD IN EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Our 3-year PhD programme

- is recognised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan.
- is highly selective, critical and rigorous.
- has been designed in collaboration with experts from University of Toronto, Canada and Oxford University, UK.
- is offered in a vibrant research environment where national and international scholars share their research findings regularly and interact with students.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND DESIGN

The PhD programme is based on a total of 18 credits of coursework to be covered in the initial phase of the programme and followed by a period of two years assigned for original research. Upon completion of the coursework, confirmation for PhD candidacy is based on passing the comprehensive examination and successful defence of the research proposal.

The time lines and other details of the PhD programme for full-time students is as follows:

Year 1 and Year 2

- Compulsory 12-credit Core Courses
- 6-credit Electives;
- Preparation of a presentation on the **proposed research** and its evaluation by a committee;
- Comprehensive exam (written + oral);
- Written and oral presentation of the thesis synopsis and its defence in an open forum;
- Confirmation of PhD candidacy based on obtaining a minimum CGPA of 3.0 in the PhD coursework; passing the comprehensive exam; successful thesis synopsis defence.

Year 3

- Thesis writing
- Completion of research work and thesis, as per AKU policy.

Coursework

Core Courses:

- Advanced Qualitative Methods in Educational Research
- Advanced Quantitative Methods in Educational Research
- Issues and Challenges to Education and Development
- Studies in Educational Leadership

Elective Courses (two to be selected)

- Educational Assessment & Measurement
- Cross-cultural Study of Teacher Education
- Early Childhood Education and Development
- Policy Studies for Education
- Gender Studies in Education
- Curriculum Studies

Research Work

The basic research work for the thesis will proceed in parallel with the core and elective coursework. Hence, at the time of enrolment the student will select a principal thesis supervisor, and formulate a research proposal during Year 1. When developing the protocol / proposal, approval from the Ethics Review Committee will be required for research.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 18 years of Education (MPhil / MS in Education) with minimum cGPA of 3.0 on 4.0 scale.
- Minimum two years of teaching / research / leadership / educational development experience.

Additional requirements include:

- Achieving a minimum 70% score on the AKU Graduate Admission Test. This test comprises Subject-specific components (70%) and Quantitative Reasoning (30%). The English Language component tests language competency.
- Submitting a completed application form, including three letters of recommendation, a statement of purpose and brief research intent (500 words).

IDENTIFICATION OF SUPERVISOR:

Each applicant is expected to identify a potential PhD supervisor from the list of supervisor for PhD applicants available on the AKU website www.aku.edu/admissions/phd-education depending on their research interests. Candidates are encouraged to interact with their potential faculty supervisors to know more about the relevant research area before entering this information in the application. In addition, each student is required to submit a statement (500 words) which describes their research interest.

SCHEDULE OF SEMESTERS

The programme will have two regular Semesters/Terms (Spring and Fall), each comprising of 16 weeks. The regular PhD programme will commence in July 2019, as given below. During summer the students will be expected to work on their research proposal/ synopsis/ other related work.

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| Semester 1 | July 8, 2019 to November 2019 |
| Semester 2 | January 2020 to May 2020 |

APPLICATION PROCESS

EVALUATION OF CANDIDATES

Candidates are evaluated in stages:

- Stage I: Applications are reviewed and candidates are invited to write the AKU PhD admission test.
- Stage II: Shortlisted candidates are required to submit the research proposal and interviewed by a panel of 3 senior faculty members. Candidate would be required to make a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation on the research proposal of his/her interest.
- Stage III: Final selection is made on the basis of applicant's complete dossier and strength of the supervisory team

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION

Application for admission will be accepted from January 14, 2019 until February 15, 2019 only. Candidates must apply online at www.aku.edu/apply-online

The programme brochure and sample test paper may be downloaded from our website www.aku.edu/admissions/phd-education

An application must be submitted online. In case this is not possible, candidates may request for a paper based application by e-mailing at ied.ro@aku.edu

Please follow the necessary instructions to complete the online application. Before submitting an 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.

ADMIT CARD

Candidates will be issued an admit card 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 Registrar's Office for the required information and application details. Applicants are required to bring followings to the test centre:

- An admit card ;

- A CNIC or Passport or appropriate Photo ID for identification.

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

ADMISSION TEST

The Admission Test comprises three components: English language, quantitative reasoning and a subject speciality test. The English Language component evaluates a candidate's competency in English language. The quantitative Reasoning component is designed to assess problem solving and logical thinking ability. The subject speciality test 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 integrity, motivation and interest in the programme, maturity, social and cultural awareness, knowledge of educational issues in developing nations and evidence of initiative and commitment to the programme.

Interviews are conducted in Pakistan only. 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, the results of the test written in the year 2017 or 2018 will be acceptable for further processing of an application.

DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED WITH AN APPLICATION

Candidates must note that in either case, whether applying online or submitting the paper based application, to complete application requirements a hardcopy of the following documents must be couriered to the Admission Office;

- Completed application form: PDF of the completed online application;
- Two photographs with your name labeled at the back; this should be coloured on a white background showing full front view of the candidate;
- One attested copy of CNIC / NICOP / Passport (passport is required for foreign nationals);
- Curriculum vita and list of publications, if any;
- Statement of purpose and a brief research proposal;
- Identify a potential principal thesis supervisor;

- g Letters of recommendation from at least 3 people who are well-acquainted with the applicant's previous academic work and professional experience. Please download reference form from www.aku.edu/admissions/phd-education
- h **Scholastic Achievements:** For all achievements mentioned in the application form: attested set of official transcripts of academic record (secondary school, college, graduate school, and/or professional schools, with certification of degrees conferred, courses taken and grades received) must be attached. Please note that bachelor's onwards qualifications must be attested by Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistan;
- i Grade Card / Transcript or enrolment information of the courses completed at Aga Khan University in the past or currently in progress, if applicable;
- j **Application Fee:** Documentary evidence for payment of application fee; the fee can 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. The application fee is non-refundable.

Application Fee:

- The application fee for candidates applying from AKU residential countries¹ is Rs. 6,300/-
- For applicants applying from AKU non-residential countries the application fee is US \$ 306/-

The application fee is non-refundable; candidates must ensure that they are eligible for the programme before applying.

- k Attested copies of work experience certificates (for all the experiences mentioned in the application form);
- l If you are currently enrolled in any other institution, please provide attested mark-sheets of recent examination taken or progress reports, as applicable.

¹Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

MODE OF PAYMENT

The original payment receipt should be sent along with the application form to the Admission Office. **You must send original payment acknowledgement slip. Please do not send the payment request slip.**

Candidates may pay their application fee through the following options:

1. Bank Draft / Banker's Cheque

The payment can be made through demand draft in favour of "The Aga Khan University". Original draft can be sent with the application form to the Admission Office.

2. Online Transfer or Deposit into University Account

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

- Title of Account: The Aga Khan University
- Account No: 20000025365
- Branch Code: 0020

- Branch: Federal B. Area Branch
Shahrah-e-Pakistan, Karachi

In case of online transfer, original deposit slip (which is issued by bank) must also be sent with the Application Form.

3. 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 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 also be sent with the Application Form.**

HOW TO SUBMIT THE APPLICATION

Application must be submitted no later than February 15, 2019. The completed paper based application or the PDF of the online application form, proof of payment of the application fee and the required documents must be sent through a reliable courier service at the following address:

Admission Office

Office of the Registrar
Aga Khan University – IED
1-5/B-VII F.B. Area, Karimabad, Karachi-75950

The application form will only be processed if the application is received through courier to the Admission Office. The University does not accept late applications.

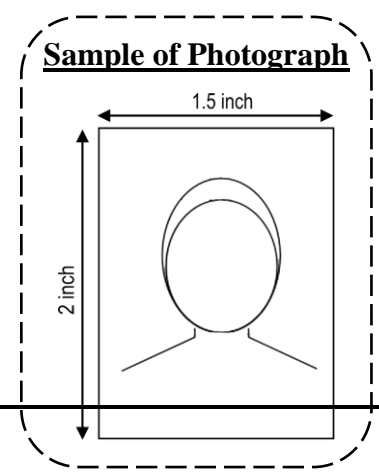
It remains the responsibility of the candidate to complete the application requirements according to the published instructions and time schedule. The Admission Office will not send any reminders. Once acknowledged, an application will not be returned. **Application will consider incomplete if the required 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 and height: 2 inch



- The photo 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 2019-2020 | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Last date to receive applications | Friday, February 15, 2019 |
| Admission Test | Thursday, February 28, 2019 |
| Duration for candidate-faculty supervisor interaction | March 16 - April 15 |
| Interviews | April 16 - April 30, 2019 |
| Announcement of result | June 20, 2019 |
| Commencement of classes | July 8, 2019 |

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

The fees structure for 2019 session is available online.

Scholarships (There are 04 scholarships available in 2019 admission cycle)

- Merit-based Scholarships are available which cover the tuition fee.
- Students accepting the scholarship will be required to sign the service agreement to serve the Institution for 5 years after graduation.
- A stipend of Rs. 25,000/- per month will be paid.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation may be available in hostels managed by the University. If and when available, this will be provided to the PhD students from outside Karachi. A fee is charged for all university accommodation. Meals are not included in this cost; however, these can be purchased from the Institute's cafeteria.

All students living in the hostels will be expected to conform to its rules and regulations. Residence will be conditional upon proper use and care of the property, considerate behaviour, and periodic re-appraisal of the student's need for such accommodation.

Disclaimer

This booklet contains information about the PhD programme offered by Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2019. 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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