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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL COLLEGE

Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene
Admission Information 2020 - 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The University	3
Admission to the Medical College	3
Who Can Apply?	4
Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene (ASDH)	5
Admission Process Summary	6
Eligibility Criteria & Other Requirements	7
AKU Undergraduate Admission Test for ASDH Programme	8
Application for Admission	9
Apply Online	10
Fees and Funding	13
Key Dates for 2020 – 2021 Admissions	14

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.

The University operates on the core principles of quality, relevance, impact and access, and prepares its students to lead change in their societies and to thrive in the global economy.

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.

ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL COLLEGE

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

Admission to all University programmes is based on merit and potential for leadership. Merit will be assessed by several criteria including scholastic achievements, performance on an AKU Admissions/Aptitude Test and interviews, productive use of time and other experiences indicating potential for leadership.

Fulfilment of basic eligibility requirements or a high academic score in any single discipline or any other outstanding achievement alone is not sufficient for selection. Candidates and their parents or supporters who expect their candidature to be strong enough to warrant selection are advised that the outcome of the selection process cannot be anticipated at any stage.

Experience over the years has shown that competition for admission is intense. Candidates are advised in their own interest to apply to other institutions as well.

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

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

It is in the best interest of students, particularly from overseas, to have a working knowledge of Urdu. The University would also make necessary arrangements for acculturation and strengthening of language skills through coaching, where possible.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC/graduate/postgraduate education in 2020 and meet the eligibility criteria for the programme as indicated in this brochure may apply.

PROVISIONAL APPLICATIONS

The Aga Khan University will accept applications for the ASDH programme from candidates who will be writing their final year examinations in 2020. All such applications will be evaluated for admission on a provisional basis. In cases where provisional admission is granted, candidates will be required to submit their pending HSSC examination or their graduation/postgraduate examination results in accordance with the minimum eligibility requirements by the dates specified in this brochure. The University does not process applications that do not meet eligibility requirements or are submitted, for any reason, after the deadline.

International students with pending equivalences or documents will be assessed provisionally as well.

It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that pending results are received in the admission office or are uploaded on the online portal according to the published schedule.

REPEAT APPLICATIONS

Candidates to the ASDH programme, not successful in their first attempt may reapply for admission with additional information supporting their application.

The University does not carry forward applications from one year to the next. Thus, a fresh application together with necessary documentation, must be submitted for any subsequent admission session.

ASSOCIATE OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE (ASDH)

The Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene is a two-year programme recognised by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in Pakistan. This field of study is well-established in developed countries and is gaining momentum in developing countries due to the high rates of oral diseases that prevail in those regions. Moreover, the lack of timely access to care and opportunity for public education on oral health diseases makes this programme more desirable to students desiring a health care profession.

Students in the first year learn foundational oral and health sciences, pre-clinical skills as well as start their clinical practice with exposure to community health practice for the promotion of health and prevention of disease. In the second year, the focus will be on a wide variety of clinical experiences, community practice in interdisciplinary setting as well as building leadership skills in oral health promotional activities.

The programme includes courses in liberal arts (English, sociology and psychology, leadership and management); basic sciences (anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, immunology, microbiology and pathology); and clinical sciences (dental hygiene, radiology, community health, and dental materials).

QUESTIONS ASKED BY CANDIDATES ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

i. What is the range of services performed by a Dental Hygienist?

The services include the following:

- Patient screening procedures; assessing oral health, reviewing health history, oral cancer screening, head and neck inspections, dental charting;
- Taking, developing and interpreting dental radiographs (X-rays);
- Educating patients on clinical oral findings (hard and soft deposits, gum disease, cavity risks);
- Removing calculus and plaque (hard and soft deposits) from all surfaces of the teeth;
- Applying preventive materials to the teeth (e.g. sealants, desensitisers and fluorides);
- Teaching patient's appropriate oral hygiene procedures to maintain good oral health;
- Nutritional counselling;
- Taking impressions of patients' teeth for study casts (models) used for making sports guards and fabricating temporary crowns and bridges.

ii. Does a Dental Hygienist work with the Dentist?

Dental hygienists may be employed in dental clinics and work in close collaboration with dentists as important members of the dental health care team. They use their knowledge and clinical skills to provide therapeutic and preventive care to patients. Dentists benefit by employing dental hygienists in hospitals and practice settings to meet the increasing demand and urgent dental needs of the population.

In a community health setting, dental hygienists are part of an interdisciplinary group of other health care professionals providing care to the public. The interdisciplinary group of medical and paramedical professionals include physicians, nurses and pharmacists.

iii. *How is a Dental Hygienist different from a Dental Assistant?*

A dental hygienist supports the work of dentists by promoting oral health and preventing diseases of the gums that support the teeth in the mouth.

A *dental assistant* primarily helps the dentist to provide procedures carried out on the teeth, preparing and sterilising instruments and helping patients feel comfortable before, during and after dental treatment. Dental assistants have shorter technical training and do not work independent of the dentist.

iv. *Career Opportunities*

Dental hygienists have opportunities to work in a variety of settings including hospitals, educational institutions, public health clinics and private dental clinics. Dental hygienists motivate and educate patients on methods to prevent oral disease and maintain optimal oral health to enhance systemic health.

In the public health setting, graduates will have the knowledge to take a leadership role in presenting public education on disease prevention and health promotion.

In the dental office, the dentist and the dental hygienist work together to maintain the oral health of their patients. Technical skills are developed to work on the removal of hard deposits from beneath the gums that are known to cause gum disease.

Dental hygienists can also apply their skills and knowledge to other career activities such as teaching dental hygiene to students in dental schools and in dental hygiene education programmes. Additionally, employment opportunities may be available with companies that market dental-related products.

Graduates can use their Associate Degree to pursue undergraduate studies in areas like health sciences, education, research, office management and business administration as career options.

ADMISSION PROCESS SUMMARY

Stage I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submitting an application according to the eligibility requirements of AKU.• Writing the AKU Undergraduate Admission Test for ASDH programme.
Stage II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interviews: Based on the achievement in the Admission Test, candidates are shortlisted and interviewed. <i>The number of candidates interviewed is limited.</i> Candidates will be required to attend two independent interviews.• Final Selection: Shortlisted candidates are rank ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements and interview evaluations.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The minimum entry requirement is to have Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC) in pre-medical subjects i.e biology, chemistry and physics with minimum aggregate of 50% or equivalent.

REQUIREMENT FOR CANDIDATES WITH QUALIFICATIONS OTHER THAN PAKISTANI SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

All candidates, local and foreign, who have certificates of education other than the Pakistani Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSSC), may apply provisionally.

In order for admission to be confirmed, an equivalence certificate from the Inter Board Committee of Chairmen (IBCC) is required. The equivalence certificate must state that the candidate's qualification is equivalent to an overall aggregate of at least 50% HSSC pre-medical qualification in Pakistan.

The IBCC offices are located in Karachi and Islamabad. They may be directly contacted at the following addresses or visit their website for more details: www.ibcc.edu.pk

Islamabad: Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Foundation (FGEHF), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106630-1-2-3-4-5-6

Karachi: Sindh Board of Technical Education, Block 6, Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi. Tel +92 21 99244121

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR FOREIGN APPLICANTS

For foreign applicants, admission will be confirmed upon submission of the following documents:

- i. IBCC equivalence as mentioned above.
- ii. Valid passport and study visa to join the programme in Pakistan. For more information on study visa, visit: www.visa.nadra.gov.pk/student-visa/

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The University reserves the right to request candidates to complete an enrichment programme before making a final offer of admission. In such cases, admission into the ASDH programme will be confirmed upon successful completion of the Enrichment programme.

AKU UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION TEST

All applicants to the ASDH programme are required to write the AKU Undergraduate Admission Test. The Test is administered in English and consists of multiple choice questions designed to test recall of factual information, application of knowledge, deductive reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

The Test includes an English language component, which aims to test candidates' competency in English; a section on mathematics reasoning and a section on science achievement comprising of questions in biology, chemistry, and physics.

The questions in science are based on the Higher Secondary School Certificate curriculum in Pakistan. The curriculum is available on the AKU website within the Undergraduate Admission page at www.aku.edu/admissions/asdh. Candidates are advised in their own interest to go through the curriculum provided. The mathematics reasoning section is based on the Secondary School Level curriculum in Pakistan. Additional details about the Admission Test are provided in the sample test paper.

The Admission Test scores are valid for consideration only in the year in which they have been written.

For applicants residing overseas, the University will try, to the extent possible, to administer the Admission Test at a centre convenient to the applicant.

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.

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 admissions.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 admissions.query@aku.edu for the required information and application details.

Please note:

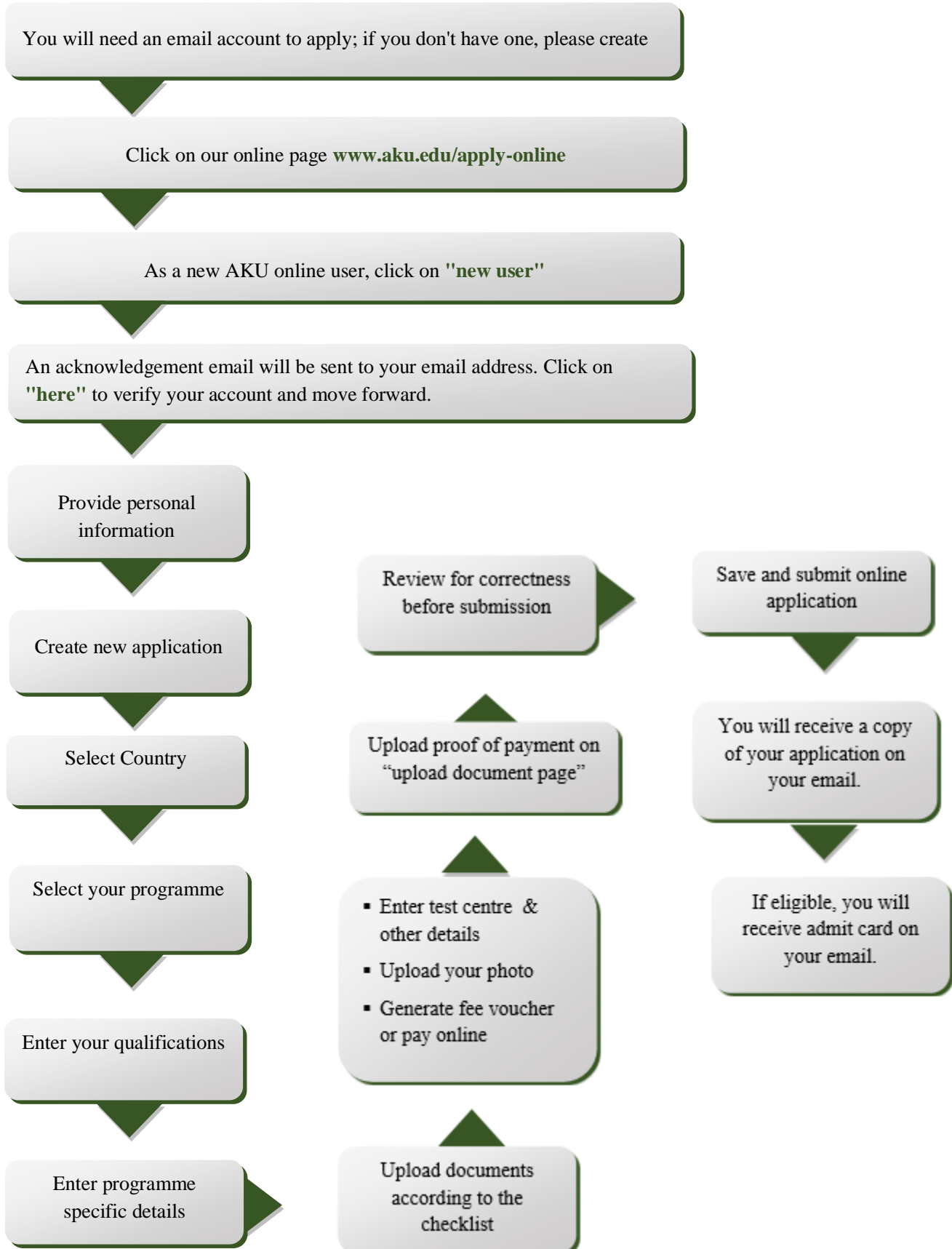
To write the Test, candidates must bring:

- 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. B-Form / CNIC / NICOP (*front & back copy*) or *relevant Passport pages (for foreign nationals)*
3. Mark sheets / official transcripts / general certificates as entered on the form
4. 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*)

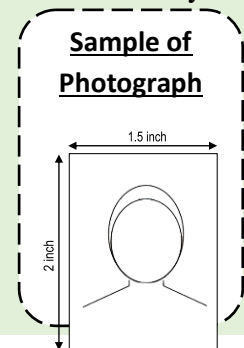
*Afghanistan, Burundi, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda

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.



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

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

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in the University hostels managed by the University. These hostels provide single and shared, furnished accommodation. Hostel space is only available for students who do not have residential accommodation in Karachi.

A fee is charged for all accommodation. Accommodation charges for the 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 hostels are expected to conform to rules and regulations. Residence is conditional upon proper use and care of the property, considerate behaviour and periodic reappraisal of the student's need for such accommodation.

KEY DATES FOR 2020-2021 ADMISSIONS

Admissions Open March 16 – June 23	Applications accepted for registration.
AKU - Admission Test October 3	Test Centres - Pakistan Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur
	Test Centres - Overseas Doha, Dubai, Iran, Kabul, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Uganda
<i>Please note: Timings and address for the venue will be stated on the admit card. In case of a change, candidates will be notified through the press.</i>	
October / November	Shortlisting of candidates and interviews.
September 25	Last date to submit the photocopy of Pakistani HSSC examination results.
August 24	Last date to submit A-Levels Results and other High School transcripts (grade 12) for all systems of education except Pakistani Intermediate Examination
January 29, 2021	In case candidates are opting for A levels exam in Oct/Nov session can submit their result.
Upon Selection	Last date to submit the photocopy of IBCC equivalence certificate, if applicable.
February 2021	Class Commencement with Orientation.

DISCLAIMER

This booklet contains information about the Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene programme offered by the Medical College at Aga Khan University, Pakistan for the academic year 2020-2021. The information provided is subject to change and without written notice. Candidates aiming to apply for programmes in any other academic year are responsible for requesting updated information about minimum eligibility requirement, application and admission process by emailing admissions.query@aku.edu

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
Stadium Road, Karachi 74800, Pakistan
Tel: **(92) 21 3486 4410/4412**
Email: **admissions.query@aku.edu**
Website: **www.aku.edu**