AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY
POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (PGME)
INDUCTION
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. **PGME Induction Process**
   a. Submitting the application form
   b. Application Fee
2. **Admission Test**
3. **Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs)**
4. **Internship / House Job**
5. **Residency Programmes**
6. **Flexible Residency Programmes**
7. **Accommodation**

---

**Q.** How many Postgraduate Medical Education programmes does AKU offer?

**A.** Currently, AKU offers 64 programmes as follows:

   1. Internship Programme (House Job) 01
   2. Residency (FCPS Training) 33
   3. Fellowship (Sub Specialization) 30

---

**Q.** How and when does the induction process start?

**A.** The induction process is an annual activity which spans over six to seven months. Normally, it starts in June with an advertisement in selected national newspapers. Please click [here](#) to view the timelines of the induction process for 2018. The process concludes in December. All programmes commence from 1\(^\text{st}\) January of the following year.
Q. When will the application form be available? How can I obtain it?

A. The on-line application form will be available after admissions are announced through an advertisement. Candidates have access to the application form by clicking on “How to apply” on the right hand navigation on the web page and then clicking the option “on-line application”. Candidates will have to first register themselves by defining username and password. Application form for programmes offered will be displayed after registration. Candidate may partially fill the form and save online and resume filling out the form using login credentials.

Q. How many applications may I submit?

A. Each candidate can apply only for one programme hence only one application form can be submitted.

Q. What is the procedure to submit the on-line application form?

A. Once the on-line application form is filled and submitted, candidate will receive PDF version of the application form on the email address provided at the time of online registration which the candidates are required to take a printout.

The hard copy of the application form, all the required documents and proof of payment of your application fee must be mailed through a reliable courier service to

The Admissions Office (PGME Programmes)
Office of the Registrar
Aga Khan University
Stadium Road
Karachi 74800.

Please Click here for information about application fee.

Applications will not be accepted over the counter.

Q. What documents do I need to attach with the application form?

A. The list of documents required to be attached with the application form are mentioned on the application form itself.
Q. I am awaiting some of the documents and cannot provide with the application form? What should I do?

A. Please tick a cross mark (x) on the application form against the document you cannot provide and write “pending”. All pending documents must be submitted before December 15 of the application year.

Q. How can I pay the application fee?

A. Candidates may pay their (non-refundable) application fee through the following modes of payment:

For candidates in Pakistan: The payment can be made by a pay order / demand draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University” or by online deposit to any branch of Soneri Bank Limited. The banking details are as follows:

Title: The Aga Khan University
Account #: 01021227508
Branch code: 0024
Branch: The Aga Khan University Branch, Stadium Road, Karachi

The acknowledgment of payment given by the bank on the deposit slip should be sent along with the application form to the Admission Office.

For candidates overseas: The payment may be made by demand draft in favour of “The Aga Khan University”.

Q. I am from outside Karachi and want to send my application form. What is the procedure?

A. Candidates must send the printout of the online filled application form, proof of payment of application fee and relevant documents through a reliable courier service by the deadline. Cash payments are not accepted. Click here for information about application fee.

Please send your completed application to the following address:

The Admissions Office (PGME Programmes)
Office of the Registrar
Aga Khan University, Stadium Road
Karachi. Tel: 3486 4410 / 3486 4412
Q. What are the salary packages for postgraduate trainees?
A. Information on salary and fringe benefits can be obtained from the general information by clicking [here](#).

---

**Admission Test**

Q. What is the objective of the Admission Test?
A. The Admission Test for all our programmes provides for a uniform measure and tool of assessment to gauge the knowledge base of candidates applying to the relevant programmes. There is an English language component to check language competency.

Q. Who are exempted from writing the Admission Test?
A. **Internship:** Only those AKU graduates who have completed their MBBS programme in 2015 will be exempted from writing the AKU Internship Admission Test. This facility can be availed only once. All AKU graduates completing their MBBS prior to 2015 are also eligible to apply. However, they will be required to write the relevant AKU Admission test and appear for interviews.

**Residency:** Only those candidates who have completed one-year Internship programme with good standing from Aga Khan University in December 2015 will be exempted from writing the AKU Admission Test. This facility can be availed only once. Applicants completing one-year Internship from AKU prior to December 2015 are eligible to apply and will be required to write the relevant AKU Residency test.

Q. What types of questions are asked in the test?
A. The scenario-based multiple choice questions mostly cover clinical subjects.

Q. Do you have any prescribed book(s) to prepare for the test?
A. No, there are no prescribed books to prepare for the test.
Q. Can I change my discipline? What is the procedure?

A. Candidates can change the discipline before submitting the application subject to fulfilling the eligibility criteria of the discipline which s/he wishes to change. Once submitted, candidates will have to approach the PGME Office to change the discipline by 15th August. No change of discipline will be permissible after that.

To change the discipline, the candidate must send an email at pgme.admissions@aku.edu stating his/her full name, registration number, discipline applied and discipline s/he wishes to change to. **The change of discipline will only be allowed once. Also change in tracks from 1 to 2 or 2 to 1 will not be allowed after application is submitted**

Q. Can I change my Test Centre? What is the procedure?

A. Yes, you can change the Test Centre only once.

To change the Centre, the candidate must send an email by 15th August to pgme.admissions@aku.edu mentioning his/her full name, registration number, discipline applied, Test Centre opted initially and Test Centre s/he wishes to change to.

Q. What do I need to bring at the Test Centre?

A. You will be required to bring the following to the Test Centre:

1. The Admit Card sent to you by the Admission Office
2. Original CNIC or Passport

Please do not bring the following:

1. Stationary (this will be provided to you at the Centre)
2. Calculators, cameras, mobile phones or any other electronic device
Q. What are Multiple Mini-Interviews (MMIs)?
A. MMI consists of multiple interactions of shorter duration (like OSCE), testing interpersonal and clinical skills to evaluate the candidate as a safe doctor on the ward. Each interaction looks at one aspect of the skills required for Internship. There is one interviewer on each station, where each candidate performs the same task and goes through the similar set of questions. This gives a fair chance to each candidate to show their ability in a non-threatening standardized environment.

Q. Who can appear for MMIs?
A. MMIs are only for short-listed candidates of Internship as well as Paediatrics and Child Health Residency Programme. They are NOT for other Residency and Fellowship positions.

Q. Will the scores of MMIs count in the final selection?
A. Yes.

Q. Who can apply for Internship?
A. ONLY medical graduates who have completed their MBBS are eligible to apply. Graduates of other disciplines (B.Sc.; M.Sc.; B.Pharm; D.Pharm, etc.) are not eligible to apply.

Q. Do you offer Internship for BDS graduates?
A. No.
Q. What is the difference between Internship and House Job?

A. Basically, there is no difference between Internship and House Job, as certificates of both tracks are acceptable by Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) for permanent license as well as College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) for appearing in FCPS Part 1 examination.

Candidates joining the Internship programme from the date it starts are offered Internships; candidates joining the programme from 1st February are offered House Jobs.

Interns after completing the programme (i.e. 365 days contract) are entitled to march in the academic procession at the PGME Graduation Ceremony and receive the completion certificate.

Interns are also exempted from writing the admission test, should they wish to pursue their Residency training at AKU provided they have a good standing record during their Internship and fulfill the eligibility criteria for applying to the discipline of choice. House Officers are not entitled to these privileges. They are awarded a completion certificate on the University letterhead which is acceptable to both PM&DC and CPSP.

Q. What are the requirements to apply for Internship?

A. Eligibility criteria to apply for Internship include:

1. MBBS or equivalent degree from an institution recognized by PM&DC
2. One-year temporary license from PM&DC

Q. My final year professional exams will be held in the last quarter of the year? Am I eligible to apply?

A. All candidates who are expecting their final year results by end-November are eligible to apply. All the required documents including result of final year and PM&DC temporary license (or proof of submitting the application) must be submitted before December 15 of the year of application.
Q. I have done six months of House Job from other institution. Can I join Internship Programme at AKU?

A. Yes, you can join the Internship Programme even if you have done few months of House Job from other institution provided you commit to complete the entire duration of Internship at AKU i.e. one full year. Those who leave the programme in the middle will not be issued any academic certificate. They will be given an experience letter from our Human Resource Department which will not be acceptable by PM&DC or CPSP.

Q. Will I get completion certificate if I join the House Job half way from the middle?

A. Candidates joining the House Job half way will be eligible to receive a completion certificate for the duration they have been on-board provided they complete the contract. This certificate will be acceptable by PM&DC and CPSP.

Q. I have done my MBBS from AKU. What privileges do I have?

A. Candidates completing their MBBS from AKU in 2015 and onwards are exempted from writing the admission test and appearing in the interviews. They will however be required to formally apply. This opportunity can be availed once.

Q. I have done my MBBS from other country and want to join Internship. Am I eligible?

A. Candidates completing their MBBS or equivalent degree from outside Pakistan are required to first approach Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) to obtain temporary license after getting their degrees verified and recognized. The website of PM&DC is www.pmdc.org.pk.

Q. How are rotations allotted? Can I get a rotation of my choice?

A. Rotations are allotted purely on merit. The merit list is drawn based on the performance of the candidates assessed in the AKU admission test and the interviews (MMIs). If an Intern leaves the programme, the House Officer appointed in replacement is offered rest of the rotations of that Intern.

Exchange of rotation will only be through Interns’ mutual understanding. Once the understanding is developed, both candidates will be required to fill Exchange
of Rotation Form available in PGME Office and will be subject to approval by Internship Director.

Residency Programmes

Q. Do you offer MCPS training?
A. No. We only offer FCPS (Part 2) training.

Q. Do you offer MRCP Training?
A. The training of following disciplines is acceptable for MRCP:

- Internal Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Nephrology
- Pulmonary Medicine

Q. What are the requirements to apply for Residency Programmes?
A. Generic eligibility criteria to apply for Residency include:

1. MBBS or equivalent degree from an institution recognized by Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC)
2. One-year Internship (House Job) with six months in Medicine and Allied and six months in Surgery and Allied disciplines
3. Valid PM&DC permanent license
4. FCPS Part 1 from College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan (CPSP) except for the programmes mentioned in the answer of the following question.

Other criteria vary from discipline to discipline. Please refer to the information of respective programmes.
Q. I have not cleared FCPS Part 1. Am I eligible to apply?

A. Candidates can apply in following disciplines where FCPS Part 1 is not mandatory but preferred:

1. Anaesthesiology
2. Community Medicine
3. Family Medicine
4. Obstetrics/Gynaecology
5. Otolaryngology/Head & Neck Surgery
6. Ophthalmology
7. Psychiatry

They will however be required to clear FCPS Part 1 within a stipulated period of time after joining the Residency Programme.

Q. I am interested to join medicine sub-specialty but do not have experience in Internal Medicine. What discipline should I mention on the application form?

A. If you want to join medicine sub-specialty and do not have experience in Internal Medicine, you will need to apply for 2-year Internal Medicine Track. After two years, you will be required to apply again for medicine sub-specialty.

Q. If I choose 4-year Internal Medicine Track can I switch to 2-year Internal Medicine Track or vice versa?

A. No. If you choose any one track in Internal Medicine (2-year or 4-year) you cannot switch to other track. This is in accordance with CPSP rules.

Q. I am interested to join surgical sub-specialty but do not have experience in General Surgery. What discipline should I mention on the application form?

A. If you want to join surgical sub-specialty and do not have experience in General Surgery, please mention the sub-specialty you are interested (e.g. Orthopedics, Urology, etc.). If you get selected, you will first rotate through General Surgery core training and then progress to the relevant sub-specialty.
Q. I want to apply in surgical sub-specialty but I have not given my FCPS Part 1 exam yet. Can I apply?

A. If you plan to appear in FCPS-I exam in the November attempt of the application year, you may apply if you expect to receive the results at the latest by December 15 of the application year. If you wish to apply in surgical specialty without FCPS-I you may do so provided you have not completed your General Surgery core training. However, preference will be given to the candidates who have cleared FCPS-I.

Q. I am a foreign candidate and want to join the Residency Programme. Am I eligible?

A. Candidates completing their MBBS or equivalent degree from outside Pakistan are required to first approach Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) to obtain license after getting their degrees verified and recognized. The website of PM&DC is www.pmdc.org.pk.

(Back on Top)

Flexible Residency Programmes

Q. What is Flexible Residency?

A. Flexible Training Programme is a part-time residency training track. Many doctors are constrained by their individual circumstances and cannot undertake full-time postgraduate education. In an attempt to provide access to higher education to such medical practitioners, AKU’s PGME programme offers the flexible training option. This allows the selected individuals to train part-time in a way that lets them have time to take care of other responsibilities. Doctors opting for this facility may do so for a limited period of time.

A switch to full-time training must be made at an agreed-upon time. Not all programmes offer this option and the time limits set by the CPSP have to be followed. Selecting the flexible programme will increase the total duration of your training.
PGME offers flexible hours in specialties of

- Anaesthesia
- Paediatrics and Child Health
- Internal Medicine and

Q. What are the working hours during Flexible Residency?

A. The working hours are half of the normal residency working hours including on-calls.

Q. What salary package and benefits are offered during flexible training?

A. Residents opting for flexible training are offered 50% of the salary offered to full-time residents. Other benefits offered are:

- Outpatient medical entitlement would be halved of the full annual entitlement;
- AKU will bear 42.5% of the total hospitalization expenses instead of 85%.

Accommodation

Q. I am from outside Karachi and selected for the training programme. Is there any accommodation facility?

A. Accommodation is not guaranteed.

Limited on-campus accommodation for female candidates is available on first-come-first-served basis. The date and time of the AKU payment receipt of the application fee will form the basis of first-come-first-served basis.

Limited off-campus accommodation for male candidates is available on first-come-first-served basis. The date and time of the AKU payment receipt of the application fee will form the basis of first-come-first-served basis.