

An aerial photograph of Dubai, United Arab Emirates, featuring a dense skyline of skyscrapers. The Burj Khalifa is the most prominent building, reaching high into a clear blue sky. The foreground shows a mix of urban development, including smaller buildings and green spaces. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

STUDENT GUIDE TO **THE UAE**

STUDY ABROAD REFERENCE - 2026/27 INTAKE

ABOUT THE UAE

- The UAE is a **tax-free** hub in the Gulf and a fast-growing **education destination**.
- Home to around **10 million people** and dozens of **international branch campuses**.
- Famous for **UK, Australian and US degrees** delivered locally.
- **English** is the language of instruction across branch campuses.
- The **UAE Dirham (AED)** is the official currency.
- Some of the most popular student cities:



INDIA TO THE UAE

CURRENCY

UAE Dirham (AED) · 1 AED ≈ ₹23 (indicative)

Delhi	≈ 3h 30m	the UAE
Mumbai	≈ 3h 15m	the UAE
Bengaluru	≈ 4h 00m	the UAE
Chennai	≈ 4h 15m	the UAE
Hyderabad	≈ 3h 45m	the UAE



FACTS

- Capital: **Abu Dhabi**
- Flight distance: ~2,200 km
- Time zone: **GST (UTC+4)**
- Tuition: **AED 40,000–100,000 / yr**
- Proof of funds: ~AED 30,000
- Main intakes: **Sep · Jan**

International branch-campus tuition. Figures indicative — verify per campus and intake.

WHY STUDY IN THE UAE?



Tax-free income and a global business hub.



UK / Australian branch campuses with the same degree.



Green & Golden visas for graduates.



Close to India — short, affordable flights.



The UAE combines **globally recognised branch-campus degrees** with **tax-free careers** and long-term visas.

TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS

- The UAE hosts dozens of international branch campuses.
- They fall into three broad groups:



INTERNATIONAL BRANCH CAMPUSES

UK, Australian and US universities in the UAE.



PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Locally established private institutions.



ACADEMIC FREE ZONES

Hubs like Dubai Knowledge Park and Academic City.



Dubai and Australian
Branch campuses of universities in .

TOP UNIVERSITIES

- the UAE hosts several **globally recognised** universities.
- Admission is **merit-based** and competitive.

Heriot-Watt University Dubai

DUBAI

UK degrees in business and engineering.

University of Birmingham Dubai

DUBAI

Full UK campus experience in the UAE.

Middlesex University Dubai

DUBAI

Broad UK programmes and strong support.

University of Wollongong Dubai

DUBAI

Australian degrees, long-established campus.

Curtin University Dubai

DUBAI

Australian business and IT programmes.

Murdoch University Dubai

DUBAI

Media, IT and business degrees.

Indicative selection — confirm each programme's entry requirements and intake before applying.

POPULAR FIELDS OF STUDY

- The UAE is strong in **business, engineering and hospitality**.



BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

MBA, finance and marketing.



ENGINEERING

Civil, mechanical and electrical.



IT & COMPUTING

Software, cyber-security and AI.



AVIATION & LOGISTICS

A regional aviation and trade hub.



HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

World-class tourism industry.



MEDIA & DESIGN

Film, communications and design.

TUITION & COSTS

- Branch-campus tuition is often **lower than studying at the home campus** in the UK or Australia.

Undergraduate
branch campus, per year

AED 40,000–75,000

Postgraduate / Master's
per year

AED 55,000–100,000

Foundation / diploma
per year

AED 30,000–45,000

Living (Dubai)
per year

AED 40,000–60,000

Proof of funds for visa

~AED 30,000



Many campuses offer **merit scholarships** of 10–30% for strong applicants.

COST OF LIVING

- Dubai and Abu Dhabi cost more than the northern emirates like **Sharjah** and **RAK**.

Accommodation
shared / student housing

AED 2,000–4,000

Food & groceries

AED 800–1,200

Transport
metro / bus

AED 300–500

Health insurance
mandatory

AED 200–500

Phone, internet & leisure

AED 400–700

Estimated monthly total

~AED 4,500–6,500

Figures indicative for 2026 — costs vary between the capital and smaller cities.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FUNDING

- Most branch campuses offer their own merit-based tuition discounts.

Merit Scholarships

INSTITUTIONAL

Tuition discounts for high achievers.

Sports & Talent Awards

INSTITUTIONAL

Support for exceptional talent.

Alumni & Sibling Discounts

INSTITUTIONAL

Fee reductions for families.

Early-Bird Waivers

INSTITUTIONAL

Discounts for early applications.

Eligibility, deadlines and amounts change each cycle — confirm on the official scholarship pages.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

BACHELOR'S

- **12 years** of schooling with a strong Class 12 record.
- **IELTS 5.5–6.5** or equivalent.
- Passport and attested academic documents.
- Apply directly to the branch campus.

MASTER'S

- A recognised **bachelor's degree** in a relevant field.
- **IELTS 6.0–6.5**.
- Statement of purpose and CV.
- Attested transcripts (MoFA / apostille).

INTAKES

- **September** — main intake at most campuses
- **January** — strong second intake
- **May** — limited intake at some campuses

STUDENT VISA & FUNDS

1

OFFER & ACCEPTANCE

Accept your offer and pay the deposit.

2

SPONSORSHIP

The university sponsors your student visa.

3

MEDICAL & EMIRATES ID

Complete the medical test and Emirates ID.

4

ENTRY PERMIT

Receive your entry permit to travel.

5

RESIDENCE VISA

Stamp your student residence visa after arrival.

6

HEALTH INSURANCE

Arrange mandatory medical insurance.

WORK & POST-STUDY

- Graduates get a **12-month grace period** to find work, plus **Green and Golden visa** routes.

Part-Time Work

DURING STUDY

Permitted with university / free-zone approval.

Post-Study Grace

12 MONTHS

Stay up to a year to seek work (2026 rule).

Green Visa

5 YEARS

Self-sponsored residence for graduates.

Golden Visa

10 YEARS

For outstanding graduates (GPA-based).

HOW TO APPLY

1

SHORTLIST

Choose a branch campus and programme.

2

PREPARE DOCUMENTS

Transcripts, IELTS and passport (attested).

3

APPLY

Apply directly to the campus.

4

OFFER & DEPOSIT

Accept your offer and pay the deposit.

5

VISA

The university sponsors your student residence visa.

6

DEPARTURE

Arrange housing and prepare to travel.



Your the UAE study journey — one step at a time.