



جامعة خليفة
Khalifa University

International Student Services

EXCHANGE STUDENT GUIDE

Your Comprehensive Resource for
Studying at Khalifa University



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So you've accepted your offer and started your planning. Here's what you need to know before you leave home

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WELCOME TO KU!



We are delighted you have chosen to study at Khalifa University. We know that selecting a study destination is a big decision with many factors to consider. Rest assured, you have made the right choice. Our team is here to support you every step of the way.



This Exchange Student Guide provides all the key information you will need as you prepare for your arrival in Abu Dhabi. It is designed to support you during your first few weeks at Khalifa University and serve as a helpful reference throughout your time here.

Download and refer to this guide as a virtual PDF!



ABOUT KHALIFA UNIVERSITY

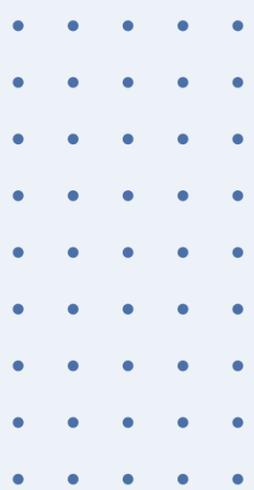


Khalifa University is the top-ranked university in the United Arab Emirates, offering academic and research programs that address key scientific and industrial challenges in today's rapidly evolving world.

The university is recognized for its distinguished faculty and state-of-the-art research facilities, providing an exceptional learning experience for students from the UAE and around the globe.



Khalifa University has two campuses in Abu Dhabi: the Main Campus, located on the island, and the Sas Al Nakhl (SAN) Campus, situated on the mainland. Both campuses are fully equipped with libraries, advanced research laboratories, fitness centers, and a range of other facilities that support high-quality academic and research activities, while also fostering a vibrant student life..



EMIRATI CULTURE



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Before we get into the serious stuff, why not prepare yourself to settle into Emirati culture.

”

Culture and customs

Emirati and Islamic culture are deeply rooted in values of hospitality, respect, and generosity. It is customary to greet others with a warm “Salaam” (peace). Traditional clothing is commonly worn, with men often wearing the kandura and women the abaya. While Western clothing is widely accepted, visitors are encouraged to dress modestly out of respect for local customs.



Local Holidays and Events

Take time to familiarize yourself with local holidays and events, such as UAE National Day, Eid celebrations, and various cultural festivals. These occasions offer great opportunities to experience and learn more about Emirati culture and traditions.

For up-to-date information on events happening in Abu Dhabi, visit: visitabudhabi.ae



Ramadan

During the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset. As a visitor, it is important to be respectful of this tradition by avoiding eating, drinking, or smoking in public during fasting hours. Many restaurants and cafes may adjust their hours.

LANGUAGE AROUND CAMPUS



Khalifa University is bilingual , so Arabic is spoken around campus.
Some key phrases you will hear around campus and the community:



“حياكم\حياك”

“Hiyak/Hiyakom”

“Welcome!”

“شكرًا”

“Shokran”

“Thanks!”

Emiratis use the welcoming gesture as a sign of hospitality. Used as “you’re welcome” as a response to “Shokran”

Inshallah is used to express hope for a future event and mashallah is used to express appreciation. Response: saying it again and nodding

“ان شاء الله”

“Inshallah”

“If god wills it”

“ما شاء الله”

“mashallah”

“God has will it”

“يلا”

“Yalla”

“Let’s go”

“وين”

“Ween”

“Where”

Yalla means “let’s go” or “come on”. Imagine someone urging you to move faster or encouraging you to start something – that’s “Yalla”!

“شالك” means “how are you?” Muslims usually say “Alhamdulillah” to express gratitude. It can be used as a response after eating, finishing an exam, etc.

“شالك\شالج”

“Sh’halj/sh’halk”

“How are you?”

“الحمد لله”

“Alhamdulillah”

“Praise be to god”

“خلاص”

“Khalas”

“That’s it’

“بس”

“Bas”

“Enough/only”



“Khalas” means done, finished, or enough. Feeling overwhelmed? Say “Khalas!”. “Bas” translates to “enough”, “that’s it”, or “stop”.

VISA INFORMATION



Once your signed KU offer letter is received, the Study Abroad Office will share a link with you to begin your entry permit (visa) application. Please note that entry permits have a limited validity period, so applications will only open approximately 8 weeks before your expected arrival in the UAE to ensure the permit remains valid within the required travel window.

Before your arrival, you will need to prepare the following documents for your visa application:

- KU Admission Letter
- A clear, color copy of your passport (must be valid for at least 6 months)
- A clear, color passport-size photograph (white background)

If you currently hold a UAE travel visa, it must be cancelled before you can join Khalifa University. In this case, you will also need to provide:

- A copy of your visa cancellation

EMIRATES ID

The Emirates ID is a national identity card issued to all residents and citizens of the UAE. It serves as an official identification document for various purposes, including government services, banking, healthcare, etc. The university will process the Emirates ID at no cost to the students after arriving in the UAE.

Application Process:

- Medical fitness test – to be completed soon after arrival
- Biometric data collection, including fingerprints and an optical photograph
- Valid UAE mobile number

Treat your Emirates ID as you would any other identification document.



HEALTH INSURANCE

Health insurance covers all your medical expenses while in the UAE, including doctor visits, hospital emergencies, and prescription medicine. Students will not have to purchase their health insurance, the university will process it at no cost once they arrive in the country.

ACCOMMODATION



Male Housing

Male residences are centrally located among the academic and administrative buildings of the Al Rawdha Residence. Individual studios and 2-4-person apartments are in each of the eight residential towers.

Each apartment is fully furnished and equipped with a kitchenette and all buildings on campus are easily accessible on foot.

- **A security deposit of 2,000 AED will have to be paid before arrival.**
- **Students will need to bring their own living items, including towels, blankets, and sheets.**

Facilities:

- Communal recreational area equipped with TV screen(s) and games.
- Male gymnasium
- Convenience store (ADNOC OASIS)
- Outdoor football pitches
- A clinic open 24/7



Female Housing

- **Umm Lulu Housing Complex**

It is accessible by KU shuttle bus or car, near the Maqta Bridge. There are two residential towers and one central administrative building. All apartments are fully furnished and equipped with kitchens and laundry facilities.

- **KU Residence Hall (ADNOC)**

A satellite location, accessible by shuttle bus or car, near ADNOC Schools. There are four residential blocks and one central administrative building. All apartments are fully furnished and equipped with kitchens and laundry facilities

Facilities:

- Gymnasium
- Study area
- Clinic
- Outdoor court and swimming pool.



- **A security deposit of 2,000 AED must be paid before arrival.**
- **Students will need to bring their own living items, including towels, blankets, and sheets.**

COMMUNICATION



Upon arrival, students **must purchase a UAE SIM card at the airport**. A local number is crucial for processing various government documents and applications. Phone services in the UAE are offered by Etisalat or Du. To obtain a SIM card, present your passport and entry visa.

In the UAE, WhatsApp is the most popular messaging application among students. Khalifa university utilizes Microsoft Teams and Outlook email for academic purposes which will be linked to your university email account.

APPS TO DOWNLOAD



UAEICP
Government processes



UAE PASS
Emirates ID & government documents



Abu Dhabi Taxi App
Transportation



Talabat
Food, groceries, delivery



WhatsApp
Communication



Careem
Money transfer, car rentals, etc



InstaShop
Groceries



Noon
Deliveries, Electronics, food, etc

Click on the app icons to download them on Google store and App Store!

OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

The UAE hosts a variety of both national and international banking institutions, offering a range of services to meet your financial needs. Banks may require the documents below:

- A copy of your passport (for non-residents)
- A copy of your E-Visa (for non-residents) with immigration stamp
- Emirates ID application form
- Student ID or valid employment contract/salary certificate
- Valid UAE contact number

COST OF LIVING



Approximate Living Expenses

An estimated monthly living expense for a student in the UAE ranges between 2,000 and 3,000 AED (approximately 550 USD and 850 USD), not including housing



KU Residence
10,000 AED/semester
if applicable



Taxi Min. 1 Bus trip
12.00AED 2.00AED



Mobile Monthly Plan
200-300AED



On-campus Meal
35-75AED/day



Living Essentials
150AED-300AED
i.e, bedsheets, toiletries, etc



Groceries
350AED/month



Social and leisure
100AED-200AED/month

[abudhabi.com/v/entertainment/](https://www.abudhabi.com/v/entertainment/)

SEASONAL CLOTHES FOR UAE

During summer, it is recommended to pack lightweight, breathable clothing such as cotton shirts, shorts, and dresses to stay comfortable in the heat. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat are also important to protect yourself from the strong sun.



During winter, packing a mix of lightweight and warm clothing like t-shirts, long-sleeved shirts, light sweaters, and a light jacket or shawl is recommended.

On campus, make sure to adhere to the KU Dress Code and try to remember to dress conservatively.

PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST



Documents & Airport Necessities

- Khalifa University Acceptance Letter
- Printed UAE Entry Visa
- Passport
- Flight Tickets

Packing Essentials

- Be mindful of UAE's weather
- Pack suitable clothes
(refer to what to pack section)
- Power adaptors for electronics
- Travel-sized toiletries
- Health prescriptions*
- Blankets, bed sheets, covers, etc
(not necessary if it exceeds luggage weight)

Please note that the Study Abroad office will arrange a shopping trip as soon as you arrive to buy housing essentials

*The UAE has restrictions on specific medicines and might require special permissions. You can find the list on the [Abu Dhabi Customs Page](#).

ARRIVAL INFORMATION



Airport Pickup

There are two main airports in the UAE: Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH).

We recommend arriving at Abu Dhabi Airport if possible, as the drive from the airport to the dorms is less than 20 minutes, whereas Dubai Airport is almost a 2-hour drive away.



Please note that airport pickup is arranged for all exchange students coming to KU.

At the Airport

Immigration officers will want to ensure that you meet the entry requirements as an international student.

Despite being already granted your visa, you need the following documents in your hand luggage :

- Valid passport.
- Plane tickets.
- Printed Entry Visa
- Printed KU acceptance letter.

STUDENT LIFE



Clubs & Societies

Khalifa University boasts a vibrant campus life with over 30 clubs and societies catering to diverse interests. Whether you are looking to explore new hobbies or continue your passions, you are certain to find a club or society that fits you perfectly. Joining a club or society is an excellent way to connect with fellow students, engage with the university community, and enrich your overall university experience.

For a smooth cultural transition and a deeper understanding of Emirati culture, we recommend exploring the following clubs:



- Emirati club
- Tolerance club
- Entertainment club
- Healthy life club
- E-gaming club



Find more information about KU clubs at:

 <https://www.ku.ac.ae/student-life/student-clubs-and-organizations>

Student Services

Campus Life:

Campus Life fosters the social and personal development of students, preparing them to become engaged members of a diverse and dynamic society in and outside of Khalifa University.

Student Success:

The Student Success Office provides holistic support for students in different ways, such as personal development, and leadership workshops. It also enables students to deeply explore personal values and interests.

Tutoring and Support:

The Center for Teaching and Learning provides academic support for students to enhance their academic experience, including peer tutoring.



Health Services

The health and wellness of our students is a top priority at Khalifa University. Campus Life offers a broad range of on-campus and off-campus opportunities to ensure the well-being of our students.

- Medical Facilities

Khalifa University employs male and female nurses to provide first aid services and emergency care at its Main, SAN campuses, and student dorms.

- Fitness

Students can improve and maintain physical health by engaging in health campaigns and fitness classes available on campus.

Emergency Contact

Emergency services are provided by campus security, which operates 24/7. These services can be requested by calling the numbers below or contacting security by email. Emergency phones are located throughout campus for your safety and convenience. Please refer to the University's Emergency Plan for more information.

SERVICE	LOCATION	CONTACT NUMBER
EMERGENCY CONTROL ROOM	BOTH CAMPUSES	02-312 3999
SECURITY SERVICES	BOTH CAMPUSES	02-312 3998
HEALTH CLINIC	MAIN CAMPUS	02-312 3997
HEALTH CLINIC	SAN CAMPUS	02-312 3996
HEALTH CLINIC	UMM LULU	02-312 3991
HEALTH CLINIC	KURH/ADNOC	02-312 3922

CONTACT

Study Abroad Office
studyabroad@ku.ac.ae

