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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

## MEDICAL COLLEGE

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Associate of Science in Dental Hygiene  
Admission Information 2024 - 2025

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## **THE UNIVERSITY**

The Aga Khan University is a pioneering institution of higher education and research that works to improve quality of life in the developing world and beyond. We educate leaders, generate life-saving knowledge and set an example that raises standards in the societies in which we work. We empower women and the disadvantaged, strengthen pluralism and partner with world-renowned institutions to address problems that affect millions of people.

A not-for-profit institution, AKU was founded in 1983 by His Highness the Aga Khan. As Pakistan's first private university, we paved the way for the growth of the country's private higher education sector. In the early 2000s, the University expanded to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Afghanistan and the United Kingdom.

At AKU, students flourish in a supportive environment that embraces diversity, demands excellence and encourages leadership and direct engagement with real-world challenges. Our graduates go on to study and work at eminent universities and organizations around the world, and to make a difference in their home countries.

AKU is open to all, regardless of race, religion, gender or geographic origin. Two-thirds of students and half of faculty members are women. Admission is based on merit, and our needs sensitive financial assistance programme ensures that individuals from lower-income backgrounds are able to attend.

## **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?**

Applications are accepted for the First year ASDH programme only. The University does not accept applications for admission in advanced standing from other universities.

Candidates in Pakistan or overseas, who have successfully completed or are completing their HSSC education year of application by the dates scheduled for submission in this brochure and meet the eligibility criteria 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 the Summer of 2024. 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 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 IBCC equivalence or documents will be assessed provisionally as well.

*It is candidate's responsibility to ensure that the pending results are received in the admission office 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

<b>Stage I</b>	Online submission of application. Candidates are invited to write an AKU Admission Test.
<b>Stage II</b>	Candidates who are shortlisted based on the Admission Test will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• submit relevant academic documents.</li><li>• attend two independent interviews. (<i>The number of candidates interviewed is limited.</i>)</li></ul>
<b>Stage III</b>	<b>Final Selection:</b> Shortlisted candidates are rank ordered based upon a comprehensive review of scholastic achievements and interview evaluations.

### DISABILITY

Students must declare formally any disability (whether, mental, physical or otherwise) with all evidence to the University. This includes but is not limited to physical and mobility difficulties, hearing and visual impairment, and specific learning disabilities including but not limited to dyslexia, medical conditions and mental health problems. This allows the University to share with the student reasonable accommodations (as mandated under the relevant and applicable policies) that the University can provide the student during the education programme.

### 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.

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.

For more details and updates, please visit website: [www.ibcc.edu.pk](http://www.ibcc.edu.pk) or visit IBCC offices:

**Islamabad:** Plot No. 25, Street 38, G-10/4, Near Federal Government Employees Housing Authority (FGEHA), Islamabad. Tel: +92 51 9106631.

**Karachi:** Plot No. ST-2, Liaquat Memorial Library premises near PTV Regional Office (Opposite to Liaquat National Hospital), Stadium Road, Karachi. Tel +92 21 99230583 / 85

For other cities, please visit: [www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/](http://www.ibcc.edu.pk/contact-us/)

## **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: [visa.nadra.gov.pk/student-visa/](https://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](http://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 17** and **May 16, 2024**. Candidates must apply online by logging on to [www.aku.edu/apply-online](http://www.aku.edu/apply-online)

**Applications must be submitted via the online process. Applications will only be accepted if a candidate completes the following:**

1. Upload the application fee on the online form.
2. Submit the application form online. (*Candidate will receive a copy of the application form on their email as a confirmation if the application is submitted successfully*)

Incomplete applications or submission of applications after the deadline is not accepted.

### NOTE FOR ALL CANDIDATES

Candidates are requested to ensure they meet application eligibility requirements before applying. These are listed in the programme brochure. Moreover, candidates are responsible to complete the application and other 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/or through an email.

In cases where the admit card is not received 12 days before the date of the test; candidates must email the Admission Office at [admissions.query@aku.edu](mailto:admissions.query@aku.edu) for the required information and application details.

If a candidate would like to write the test at a different test centre from the one originally noted in the application form, candidate must inform the admission office via email at least 72 hours before the test so that information can be sent to the Test Centre. Walk in candidates are not encouraged.

**Please Note:** The University does not take responsibility to conduct the test for candidates who walk into a Test Centre without information.

#### **Please note:**

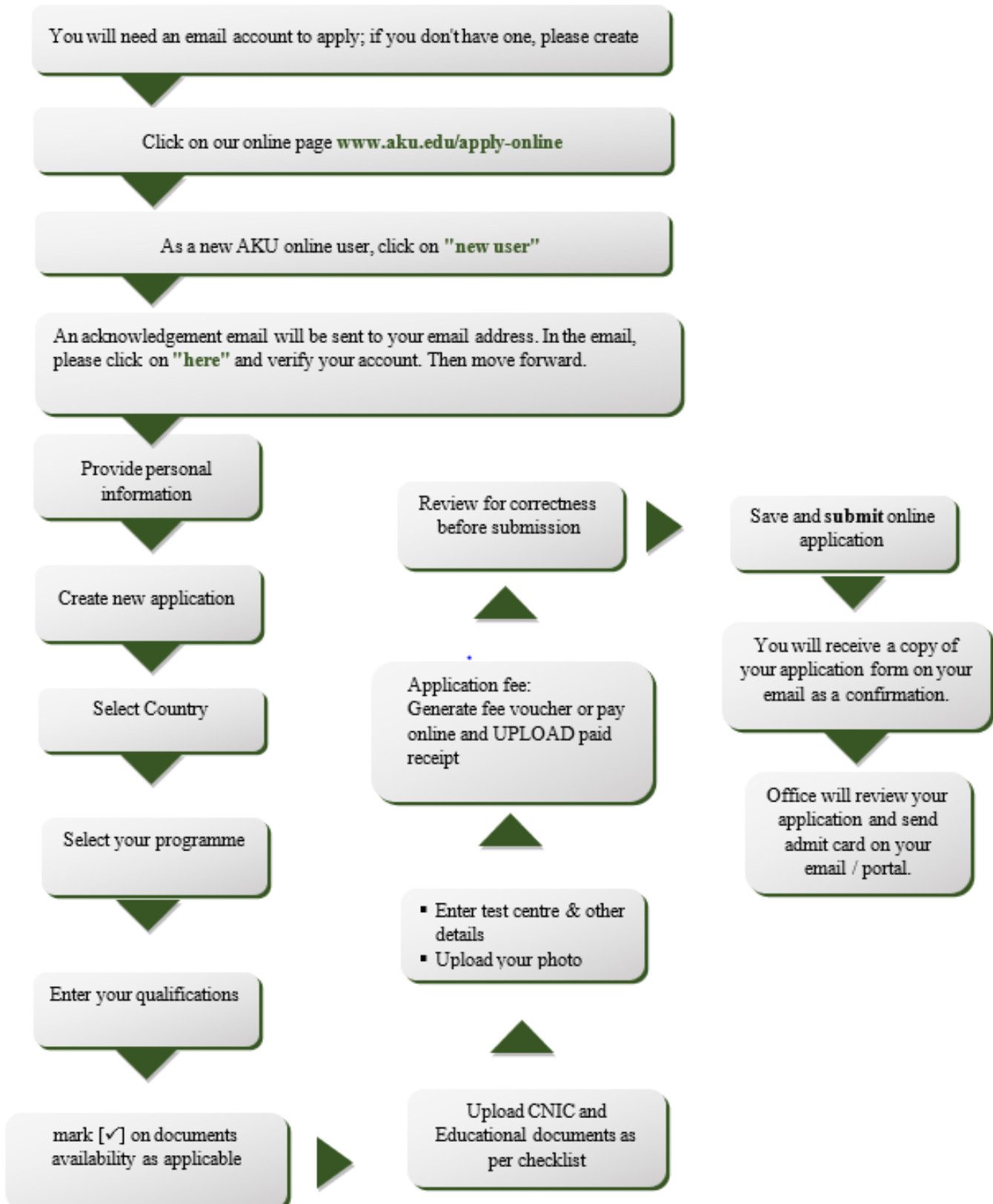
To be allowed into the Test Centre to write the Test, candidates must bring:

- 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 UPLOAD 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. Application Fee: - **Applying from AKU residential countries\*** is **Rs. 7,000/-**  
- **Applying from AKU non-residential countries** is **US \$ 150/-**  
- (*see mode of payment section for details*)

**The application fee is non-refundable.**  
Candidates must ensure eligibility before applying.

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

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UPON SHORTLISTING

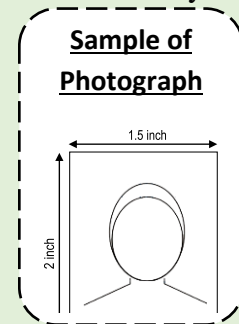
- SSC mark sheet / O-Level general certificate / Grade 10 transcript / equivalent
- HSSC mark sheet / A- Level general certificate / High School transcript / IB transcript / equivalent

## PHOTOGRAPH SPECIFICATION

Your photograph is a vital part of your application. Please follow these instructions carefully.

- Passport size coloured photograph with a plain 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 through any of the following modes. ***When the fee is paid, please upload the receipt on the online admission portal to complete the application.***

- **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 “Application Fee Information”
2. For **payment options**, 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. (***Please do not transfer online***)
5. Upload the paid voucher by clicking the “Upload Button” on the proof of payment section.

- **ONLINE PAYMENT THROUGH DEBIT/CREDIT CARD (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 “Application Fee Information”
2. For **payment options**, 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 by clicking the “Upload Button” on the proof of payment section.

*In case you are unable to receive the payment acknowledgement, please notify the Finance Office by emailing your query along with tracking Id, name, and programme name at [student.finance@aku.edu](mailto: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 an academic programme, a student who is 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 and financial assistance is available on: [www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding](http://www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding)

## **ACCOMMODATION**

Accommodation for undergraduate outstation students is arranged in 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. For accommodation charges, visit:

[www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding](http://www.aku.edu/admissions/fees-and-funding) 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.

## **CONTESTED DECISIONS**

In all matters pertaining to the selection of students, fees, grants, evaluation of scholastic performance, discipline and student affairs, the decision of the University shall be final. Appeals in matters of student selection will be considered within 15 days of the announcement of the new class only if the appeal cites circumstances suggesting that the University has violated provisions of its Charter or that there has been failure to comply with the admissions procedure as described in this document.

## KEY DATES FOR 2024-25 ADMISSIONS

<b>March 17 – May 16</b>	<b>Admission Open:</b> Apply online via <a href="http://www.aku.edu/apply-online">www.aku.edu/apply-online</a>	
<b>July 20</b>	<b>AKU Admission Test - Pakistan</b>	<b>Test Centres</b> Chitral, Faisalabad, Gilgit, Hyderabad, Karachi, Lahore, Multan, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sukkur
	<b>AKU Admission Test - Overseas</b>	Chicago, Dar es Salam, Dubai, Edmonton, Houston, Iran, Kabul, Kampala, Khorog, London, Nairobi, Riyadh, Syria, Toronto  <i>(Overseas centres will be confirmed if there are at least 10 candidates to write the test)</i>
<b>Please note:</b> Timings and address for the venue will be stated on the admit card. In case of a change, candidates will be notified through email.		
<b>August / September</b>	Shortlisting of candidates and interviews.	
<b>September 25</b>	<i>Last date to submit:</i> Attested copy of Pakistani HSSC / High School / A level or equivalent examination results	
<b>Upon Selection</b>	Submission of IBCC equivalence certificate copy, if applicable.	
<b>January 2025</b>	Commencement of Classes	

## **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 2024-2025. 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](mailto:admissions.query@aku.edu)

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Website: **www.aku.edu**