



**Murdoch**  
UNIVERSITY

# International Student Pre-departure Handbook



# Welcome to Murdoch University Dubai

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# Your Australian education in Dubai

This guide focuses on providing you with an insight of what you need to know before commencing your studies with Murdoch University Dubai.

Moving to a new country can be overwhelming, but we are here to make your journey easier. There are a few things that you can do to prepare for a smooth transition to life in Dubai. Some of these things are required as per the UAE laws and others are what we recommend based on student experiences.

# What is Dubai like?



**UAE**  
**Ranked #1**  
**in the world for**  
**Study Abroad!**

(US News & World  
Report 2020)

Dubai is widely known to be one of the most vibrant cities in the Middle East and is a destination that mixes modern culture with history, adventure, world-class shopping and entertainment, as well as numerous man-made architectural feats and attractions to keep you busy. Surrounded by sand dunes, the city has stunning beaches and warm waters, with year-round sunshine. Dubai was recently named one of the most attractive destinations in the world for students seeking to pursue studies abroad.

## Climate

Dubai is known for warm and sunny weather throughout the year, due to its latitude.

There are two distinct seasons

– summer and winter. Dubai summers are milder than most nearby Gulf cities due to its coastal location.

The winter season is typically considered to begin in October and last until April – but temperatures remain pleasant and consistently suitable for a range of fun outdoor activities.



	High (average)	Low (average)
January	24	14
February	25	16
March	29	18
April	33	21
May	38	25
June	40	28
July	41	30
August	41	31
September	39	28
October	35	24
November	31	20
December	26	16

## Culture and Customs

Dubai is a cosmopolitan city, a melting pot of diverse cultures and religious faiths. Whilst Islam is the official religion of the United Arab Emirates, Christian, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist and other religious communities are peacefully co-exist throughout the UAE.

Dubai is a very safe city and has consistently featured as one of the ten safest cities in the world.

## Language

Although Arabic is the official language of the UAE, English is the second most common language used due to the large expatriate community.

## Dress code

Dubai is a cosmopolitan city that is a melting pot of diverse cultures and religious faiths. All attires and cultural preferences are generally acceptable. Swimwear is permissible on beaches, and for water-based entertainment but is not considered appropriate in areas such as business districts and shopping malls. It is pertinent to note that in the more historical quarters of the city and places of religious worship, dressing conservatively is appreciated.

## Restaurants and night life

The restaurants in Dubai are as diverse as the city's cultural fabric. You can dine out on almost any budget and experience a variety of food of food from across the globe. Outdoor dining is common in the cooler months, providing a pleasant atmosphere to catch up with friends.



## Transportation

Dubai has an efficient and cost effective public transport system that connects the city. Students can take advantage of subsidized fares with a student Nol card.

Buses run regularly during the day from 4.25am to 1.00am and night buses operate every 30 minutes from 11.30pm until 6.00am.

The Dubai Metro currently operates two lines, with trains running every few minutes between 5.00am and 1.00am. Taxis are also amongst the most frequently used form of transport in Dubai.

More details can be found:

[rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport](https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/public-transport)

## Shopping

Dubai is known as an incredible shopping destination. The city is home to the world's largest shopping centre - the Dubai Mall - where you will find a host of international brands, both luxury and high street.

For a different shopping experience, stroll through the marketplace-style souks or the bustling streets of Karama, where you'll find a wide range of goods and spices.

Most shopping malls are open between 10.00am to 10.00pm and there are several supermarkets operating 24 hours a day.

# Top things to do in Dubai



## Visit Burj Khalifa

Standing at 828 metres high, the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa is hard to miss. From the observation deck on level 148 on a clear day, the view is truly unique.

## Ski Dubai

Should you wish to escape the desert heat of Dubai, a trip to Ski Dubai located inside the Mall of Emirates, is a must do.



## For the thrill seekers

Dubai is home to the world's largest indoor theme park, IMG Worlds of Adventure and just a short drive away is Ferrari World Abu Dhabi.





## Desert adventures

For a true Arabian experience, a desert safari is an adventure you don't want to miss - whether it is an organised 4WD tour, an unforgettable buggy adventure, or dinner under the night sky.

## Dubai Creek

Step into old Dubai's winding waterways and souks. The Creek area is awash with the history of the emirate, as it's home to the Dubai Museum as well as the labyrinthine alleyways of the gold, spice and textile souks.



## Hit the Beach

Hit the waves on vibrant stretches of sand. With plenty of beach activities, plus an awesome view of the Burj Al Arab, it's easy to spend the whole day on Jumeirah beach.



## Dubai Aquarium and Underwater Zoo

Located in The Dubai Mall, the aquarium is home to 140 species of sea life. Stroll through the underwater tunnel or take a glass bottom boat tour.

## Discover the Souk and Market places

A trip to the Souk marketplace is a must and an opportunity to visit the heart of old Dubai, where the bustling souks will treat all your senses.



## Dubai Fountain

The Dubai Fountain, located at the base of the iconic Burj Khalifa and just outside the doors of the famous The Dubai Mall, features the world's largest choreographed fountain system. This popular dancing water show jets water streams as high as 150 metres in the air.

# Cost of living

The cost of living as a student in Dubai varies per person depending on your individual needs. Below is an example of the type of monthly living costs a student will need to prepare for:

<b>Rent</b>	Dependent on chosen accommodation partner and/or locality
<b>Food</b>	AED 2,000 - 3,000
<b>Electricity and water</b>	Generally included in rent
<b>Transportation</b>	AED 175 (RTA) or AED 300 (Personal Car)
<b>Mobile phone</b>	AED 100 - 150
<b>Entertainment</b>	AED 500 - 700

USD 1 =  
AED 3.67



Loaf of Bread  
AED 2.5 - 6.5



1 Litre of Milk  
AED 5.8



6 eggs  
AED 4 - 8



Beef 1kg  
AED 35 - 45



Whole Chicken 1kg  
AED 17



Water 1.5 l x 6  
AED 5.85 - 11.25



Cinema Ticket  
AED 40 - 60



Coffee  
AED 12 - 28

# Student accommodation



For more about our accommodation partners: [murdochuniversitydubai.com/accommodation](https://murdochuniversitydubai.com/accommodation)

Murdoch University Dubai has partnered with a number of student residence providers to give our students affordable and comfortable accommodation options.

## Benefits

- Designed and managed exclusively for students.
- Affordable and hassle free inclusive of rent, utility bills, high speed wifi and transport.
- Various room options to meet your individual requirements.



## Accommodation Partners

- Uninest Student Residences
- The Myriad Dubai
- Dubai Silicon Oasis Student Residence
- KSK Homes





# Understanding your student visa

International Students coming to study in Dubai will require a UAE Student Residency Visa. Murdoch University Dubai provides this visa through the Dubai Development Authority and will provide you with our full support during the process.



## 1. Entry Permit

Entry Permit will be processed once you have met the conditions of your offer and the fees have been paid. The process normally takes between 15-20 working days.

## 2. Student Residence Visa

On arrival to the UAE, you will need to submit your passport at the University to have the Student Residence Visa placed in your passport. As part of the visa process, you will be required to undergo medical and biometric testing. Approximately 15 working days following the test, your passport will be returned with your Student Residence Visa.

## 3. Emirates ID card

Once your visa is granted, you will be issued with your Emirates ID card. The Emirates ID card is your legal documentation in UAE and must always be carried with you.

Further information on the Emirates ID card can be found at [ica.gov.ae](http://ica.gov.ae)



Students are advised to have adequate medical/travel insurance in UAE until their student visa has been stamped on their passport.

## Additional information

UAE Student visas are valid for a period of 12 months and will be renewed at the end of each 12-month period.

## Health insurance

All international students in UAE must have health insurance for the duration of their visa. Please note that students will receive health insurance cover after the student has attended their medicals and the visa is stamped in the passport. In the interim, students will have to arrange their own health insurance.

It provides round-the-clock cover for expenses incurred by students in a wide network of hospitals and clinics in the UAE, whether as an outpatient, inpatient or emergency admission.



# Career support, internships and industry engagement

We want you to get the very best from your degree experience at Murdoch University, and often that means taking on an internship or work placement that is suited to your area of study.

Students have the opportunity to work part time while studying in Dubai under the 'Earn while you Learn' government policy. Students can take up part time employment from over 4,500 companies located in Dubai's free zones - the home of most international companies in Dubai. These businesses operate across a wide range of industry sectors - Creative Industries & Technology, Hospitality and Food & Beverage, Higher Education & Training, Media & Entertainment, Architecture & Design and Retail & E-Commerce.

For more  
information  
please visit:  
[dda.gov.ae/earn-while-you-learn/](https://dda.gov.ae/earn-while-you-learn/)



**5-star rated  
for Employability  
and Career  
Support Services**

(KHDA Higher Education  
Classification 2019/20)

## Careers Portal

Over 200 registered companies with regular internship and full-time opportunities posted.

## Connecting students to employers and industry

Industry experts are regularly invited for guest lectures across disciplines and field visits are common across all undergraduate and postgraduate offerings.

## Industry Advisory Panel

The IAP is a collaboration between our University and industry experts to foster our students' skills development and promotion of entrepreneurship.

## Career advising

Our Student Support team offer career guidance to assist students to plan their career, and to be able to effectively market themselves to potential employers.

## Internships

Murdoch University Dubai collaborates with corporate partners to offer internship programs that provide an opportunity for students to network with and contribute to our member companies.

## Murdoch's exclusive career 'learning spine'

All Murdoch University undergraduate courses have career-focused content embedded throughout the curriculum.

# What our students have to say

“

My experience throughout at Murdoch University has been great. I feel I am a part of this amazing community where we aspire to learn and grow. The lecturers are really supportive and they guide us constantly.

Aishwarya Subrahmanian  
India, Bachelor of Business in  
Management and Finance



I love the fact that when you join Murdoch, it feels like joining a large family. You get to know people quickly and interact with the friendly staff members, ultimately improving your experience along with your education.

Tarik Raouf  
United Kingdom and Iraq, Bachelor  
of Communication in Journalism



”



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The best part of Murdoch Dubai for me is the lecturers. They've always supported us and their classes and sincere advice have led me to be a more professional and confident person, both inside and outside of the university.

Hyeyoon Cho

South Korea, Bachelor of Science  
in Computer Science & Business  
Information System

“

Studying at Murdoch University in Dubai has been a multicultural experience for me. Throughout my studies we used many different case studies to gain a global perspective, as well as insights from different cultures and from my peers.

Kelli

Australia, MBA Alumni





# Arriving in Dubai

## When to arrive

We recommend that you arrive at least a week prior to Orientation to give yourself enough time to settle in, recover from any jet lag and familiarise yourself with your new surroundings.

## Airport experience & reception

Dubai has two airports (DXB and DWC) and they both deliver a world-class experience that is safe, secure and hassle-free. Students can choose to book an airport reception directly with their accommodation provider.

## Phone and internet

Dubai's main providers for mobile and internet are: Etisalat, DU and Virgin Mobile. Make sure you compare prices and options before choosing the service that is best for you.

## Documentation

Make sure you bring the originals and copies of all your documentation with you, including your passport and credit/debit cards. Keep the originals in your hand luggage and leave additional copies of all your important documents with someone at home.



## Packing list

### Documents

Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of Entry Permit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Copy of Letter of Offer & Confirmation of Acceptance Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Certified copies of academic transcripts and qualifications (Translated in English where applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>
IELTS or other English test results	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other personal identification documents, e.g. driver's licence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical history or prescription from doctor for ongoing medication (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Miscellaneous

Spare pair of glasses or lenses, if applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>
Be aware of seasonal differences and prepare appropriate clothes in hand luggage in case you need to get changed at the airport	<input type="checkbox"/>
Important phone numbers: Murdoch Dubai's phone number, accommodation providers contact details, emergency contact details etc.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check Dubai's climate on page 2 and prepare your seasonal clothes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Voltage converters and power adapters if your home country uses different voltage or power socket	<input type="checkbox"/>

Items such as cooking utensils, bedding, kitchenware can be brought along or easily purchased locally at [ikea.ae](http://ikea.ae), [amazon.ae](http://amazon.ae) or local stores.

# Orientation



Orientation Day is the beginning of your Murdoch Dubai journey, and is compulsory for all new Murdoch Dubai students.

## What to expect?

Orientation will provide all the essential information about what is expected of you at Murdoch University. It is therefore one of the most important days in your student calendar. It also offers the perfect opportunity to meet your classmates who will become your friends and share your study journey towards success.

At orientation you will:

- Receive more detailed course information
- Complete your online enrolment and select your timetable
- Meet your faculty and academic team
- Be introduced to a range of student support services and facilities
- Select your course units and preferred class times
- Collect your official student ID card

## What to bring

Please bring the following:

- Passport or any other valid ID
- Details of current address and phone number
- Emergency contact details



# Our New Campus



Located in Dubai Knowledge Campus, our new, state-of-the-art 27,000 sq ft home is waiting to welcome you.

Our modern, purpose-built new campus is merely 10 minutes away from thriving Dubai business hubs and districts such as Internet City, Media City, Palm Jumeirah and Dubai Marina. Students will have access to our vibrant campus situated within the heart of innovative business-focused communities that are home to some of the world's largest Fortune 500 companies.

- Dedicated cybersecurity lab with custom-built systems
- Large library with quiet study zones
- Spacious reception area
- Open student breakout space with a full kitchen and games room
- Multiple 'touchdown zones' for informal collaboration
- State-of-the-art classroom and lecture theatres
- Wide choice of food and transport options



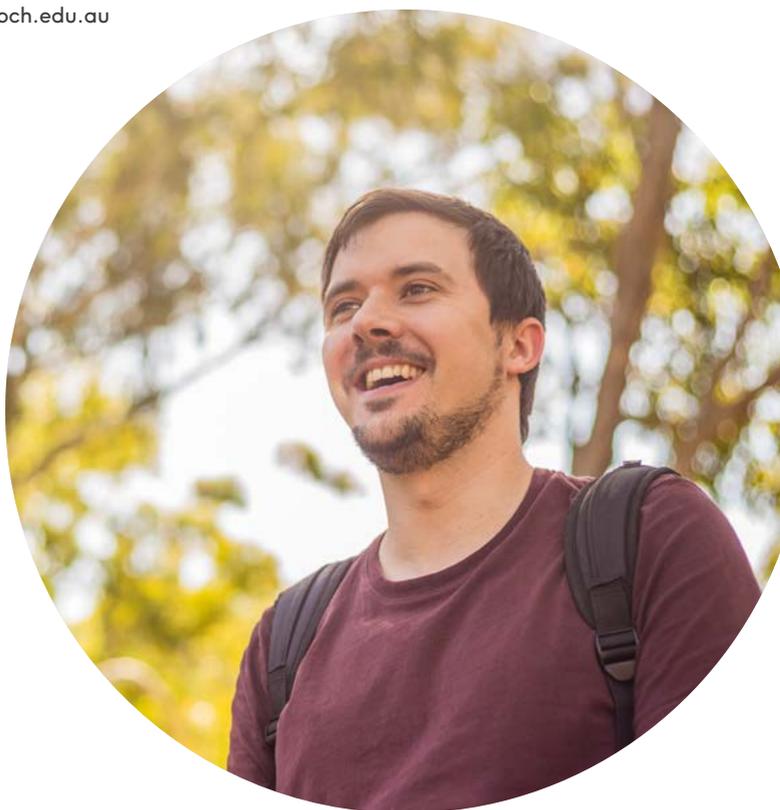
# Contact us

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[murdochuniversitydubai.com](http://murdochuniversitydubai.com)



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