There’s no other university like AUS

International Student Exchange Program

There’s no better place to study abroad
Dear Colleagues and Friends,
Thank you for your interest in learning more about study abroad opportunities at American University of Sharjah (AUS) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

AUS offers a safe, academically rigorous and exciting study abroad experience. As the university with the most internationally diverse student body in the world (Times Higher Education, 2018), and an almost 1:1 female to male student ratio, we provide a uniquely global cultural experience.

We have established a strong international student exchange network, welcoming between 35 and 50 incoming study abroad students to AUS every semester, including during the summer.

Incoming study abroad students make an indelible mark upon our university life. They play an essential part of our student community, getting involved with our performing arts plays and performances, sports teams, dorm activities, Global Days, club activities, internships, volunteering, employment and so much more.

We are proud of our reputation as pioneers for higher education and research in the Arab world, and always look forward to learning about new universities, countries and cultures from every new cohort of incoming students.

This booklet is designed to give you some general knowledge about our university, the city of Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates and our international exchange program. I hope that you will find it useful, and that you will consider recommending AUS as an excellent choice in a study abroad experience for your students.

Many thanks, and best wishes,
Dr. Linda C. Angell
Director | International Exchange Office
AUS: A Truly Global Student Experience

100% accredited American-style education

QS has ranked AUS among the top 10 universities in the Arab world for the past 5 years.

QS has named AUS as a top 50 under 50 years university.

AUS has the highest percentage of international students of any ranked university in the world.

Students and faculty members from more than 90 countries

4 colleges and schools
- College of Architecture, Art and Design
- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Engineering
- School of Business Administration

26 sports teams

82 student clubs

Located 20 minutes from Dubai and within proximity to international destinations

Almost 100% accredited American-style education

LICENSING: AUS is licensed and its programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Education’s Higher Education Affairs Division in the United Arab Emirates.

US ACCREDITATION: AUS has been accredited in the United States of America by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, Tel +1 215 662 5606) since June 2004.

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My parents always say that the friends you make in college are the friends you have for life. And despite the fact that we are from such varied cultural backgrounds, this couldn’t be truer of my friends at AUS.

Lydia Shepherd, University of Northern Arizona and AUS study abroad student (2018-2019)

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The International Exchange Office at AUS

Our International Exchange Office (IXO) works hard to provide a welcoming family environment and a comfortable home base from which students can feel confident exploring the very unique culture, society and geography within the UAE.

We offer an intensive, nine-day orientation program that quickly and effectively helps to acclimate students to the area, and an exciting program of outings and activities throughout the semester.

Our IXO lounge is open to students throughout the semester where they can relax and connect with our full-time IXO staff, as well as our large group of dedicated Peer Advisors—all AUS students who have recently returned from their own study abroad experiences. Peer Advisors are available at all times to support and assist study abroad students and introduce them to other AUS students and activities on campus.

You will not be exposed to a more varied or diverse group of people than in the UAE and AUS is the place to take advantage of that.

Zachary Malcarne, Utah State University and AUS study abroad student (2018–2019)

Experience Student Life in the Middle East

United Arab Emirates: The Ideal Destination for International Students

The United Arab Emirates was established in 1971 by its founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, uniting the seven emirates of Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Dubai, Ajman, Fujairah, Ras Al Khaimah and Umm Al Quwain.

Through Sheikh Zayed’s pioneering spirit and values of wisdom, respect, sustainability and commitment to human development, the UAE has grown into a leading Arab nation, a major international trading hub and a place that exemplifies intercultural dialogue and religious tolerance.

The UAE is defined by its unique combination of deeply rooted national pride and cultural heritage, held in tension with its bold vision for the future. In 2020, the UAE will play host to the World Expo in Dubai and will send its first unmanned spacecraft to Mars in 2021. Looking further ahead, the UAE government has announced strategic plans for the next 100 years, encompassing everything from water security, clean energy, environmental sustainability, smart cities planning, transportation, artificial intelligence, law and order, and more.

As AUS faculty and researchers work with the UAE government and its various entities to bring these plans to fruition, study abroad students at AUS have the opportunity to take a front row seat to witness some of the most groundbreaking discoveries of their generation.

The UAE offers:
- Centrality within the world
- Multicultural diversity
- Peace, safety and security
- High quality of student life
- Fast-paced development
- Fascinating local culture
There are many reasons why Sharjah has become a leading destination for international university students. The third-largest city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and part of the Dubai-Sharjah-Ajman metropolitan area, Sharjah is a dynamic, international and exciting place for students of all ages and backgrounds. Sharjah is widely regarded as the cultural capital of the UAE, hosting a number of world-class museums and exhibitions. It is also known for its natural beauty, located on the sparkling Arabian Gulf and in easy driving distance to the sand dunes of the Arabian desert.

AUS is located just minutes from the heart of Dubai and the Dubai International Airport, providing students with easy access to the world-famous attractions of the neighboring emirate. Sharjah has an active international and local student community, providing a culturally diverse environment where students from the UAE and all around the globe meet, explore, develop and innovate. With a mix of religions, languages, cuisines and cultural pursuits, Sharjah is rapidly establishing itself as a world-class student city.

Sharjah: A Center for Cultural Exchange

Capital of Arab Tourism 2015
ISESCO Capital of Islamic Culture 2014
City of Museums
University City-Educational Hub
QS Top 100 Best Student Cities 2016
For another opportunity to study abroad, Zachary Malcarne says he was inspired by the chance to gain new cultural perspectives of education changes based on the social, economic, and ideological background of the region. “I really wanted to diversify my education. AUS has presented me with so many opportunities to do so,” says Zachary.

AUS is a leading university in the UAE that has been recognized for its fast pace of life, as the region continues to advance and develop at a fast pace. Zachary has found that AUS offers many course options in a variety of areas of study, including environmental science, international business, and Middle Eastern studies.

At AUS, Zachary has had the chance to see academic theories and principles come to life, as environment and natural resource management challenges in the region are addressed. “I have a very specialized dual degree portfolio,” says Zachary. “In fact, 100 percent of my AUS credits are transferrable,” says Zachary. “In many ways, AUS directly contributed to my programs.”

Zachary was thrilled to find that AUS offered many course options that directly contributed to his programs. “I didn’t realize that when I was looking into different universities,” says Zachary. “But when I saw the list of courses, I knew that AUS was the right choice for me.”

In fact, 100 percent of Zachary’s AUS credits are transferrable. “I didn’t realize that when I was looking into different universities,” says Zachary. “But when I saw the list of courses, I knew that AUS was the right choice for me.”

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Zachary is open to opportunities to work abroad after he graduates. “I have a very specialized dual degree portfolio,” says Zachary. “In fact, 100 percent of my AUS credits are transferrable,” says Zachary. “In many ways, AUS directly contributed to my programs.”

Currently taking part in an internship at an environmental consulting firm in Doha, Qatar, Zachary is excited to have the chance to work in this growing sector in the UAE after he graduates. “I have a very specialized dual degree portfolio,” says Zachary. “In fact, 100 percent of my AUS credits are transferrable,” says Zachary. “In many ways, AUS directly contributed to my programs.”

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Zachary has had during his time include being exposed to diverse cultures and being able to learn as much as possible. “The diversity of nationalities found at AUS (and the UAE in general) is completely unique. The fact that I can be exposed to so many cultures in one place and have the opportunity to connect with people from so many parts of the world has been a valuable experience for life,” he says.

“I have really enjoyed the intercultural opportunities exchange student experience has provided,” says Zachary. “I have really enjoyed the intercultural opportunities exchange student experience has provided.”

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Lydia Shepherd is a powerhouse of culture, art, and education. She has been a study abroad student at AUS for the 2018-2019 academic year and is a native of the desert state of Utah. Lydia has quickly found that AUS is a leading university in the UAE that has been recognized for its fast pace of life, as the region continues to advance and develop at a fast pace.

Lydia came from the United States for a one-year student exchange at AUS. She was inspired by her Moroccan-born professor to pursue a seven-month study abroad package and promoted Lydia’s portfolio. “I want to experience that again, so I looked for another opportunity to study abroad,” says Lydia.

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AUS Accreditation and Licensing

AUS is licensed and its programs are accredited by the Commission for Academic Accreditation of the Ministry of Education's Higher Education Affairs Division in the United Arab Emirates. AUS has been accredited in the United States of America by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA, Tel +1 215 662 5606) since June 2004.

The Bachelor of Architecture program of the College of Architecture, Art and Design is accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), www.naab.org, of the United States. This is the first program outside of North America to receive this prestigious accreditation. NAAB is the only organization authorized to accredit professional degree programs in architecture in the United States.

The Bachelor of Science degree programs in chemical engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, electrical engineering, industrial engineering and mechanical engineering offered by the College of Engineering are accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (www.abet.org). The Bachelor of Science degree program in computer science offered by the College of Engineering is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET (www.acm.org). AUS was the first university in the Gulf region and the second outside the United States to receive this accreditation.

The School of Business Administration is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB International), www.aacsb.edu.

Undergraduate Programs

College of Architecture, Art and Design
- Bachelor of Architecture
- Bachelor of Interior Design
- Bachelor of Science in Design Management
- Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Design
- Bachelor of Science in Visual Communication

College of Arts and Sciences
- Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Literature
- Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication with concentrations in:
  - integrated marketing communication
  - journalism
- Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- Bachelor of Science in Biology
- Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sciences with concentrations in:
  - environmental biology and ecosystems
  - environmental chemistry and analysis
- Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
- Bachelor of Science in Physics

College of Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

School of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Arts in Economics
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration
  - Major in Accounting
  - Major in Economics
  - Major in Finance
  - Major in Management
  - Major in Management Information Systems
  - Major in Marketing

For information about graduate study abroad opportunities at AUS, email ixo@aus.edu.
Interesting Local Courses

AUS offers a wide range of courses of specific regional interest, allowing international exchange students to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of the social, political and economic framework of the region.

I was pleasantly surprised to see that AUS offered many course options that directly contributed to my degree programs. In fact, 100 percent of my AUS credits are transferrable.

Zachary Malcarne, Utah State University and AUS study abroad student (2018–2019)

College of Arts and Sciences
• Arab Identity and Thought
• Arabic Language
• Arabic Heritage
• The Social Context of Arabic
• Arabic Literature in Translation
• Classical Arab/Islamic Culture
• Journalism in the Arab Countries
• Modern Arab History
• Modern Arab History through Literature
• Modern Gulf History
• Oud and Ba’ak Class
• Introduction to Islamic Philosophy
• Introduction to Hadith
• Islamic Political Philosophy
• Islamic Law and Jurisprudence
• Desert and Maritime Plants
• Islamic Texts in Translation
• Arabic Music in a Historical Context
• Arab-Islamic Culture and Civilization
• Arabs and the West: The Andalusian Symbiosis
• Intro to Arabic, Turkish and Persian Classical Music

College of Architecture, Art and Design
• History and Theory of Interior Design: Global and Regional Issues
• Islamic Art and Architecture

College of Engineering
• Advanced Composite Technology
• Design of Green Buildings
• Energy Systems
• Natural Gas Processing
• Reintegration and Air Conditioning
• Water and Wastewater Treatment Design

School of Business Administration
• Economics of the Middle East
• Fundamentals of Islamic Finance
• Islamic Economics
• Luxury Brand Management
• The Business of Luxury
• Tourism Destination Marketing

Visit our website for the AUS academic calendar:
www.aus.edu/academic-calendar
Study Abroad Opportunities at AUS

AUS has established extensive links with many universities internationally through its International Exchange Office (IXO), developed as part of the university’s internationalization process. This program sends and receives students to and from countries across Europe, the Asia-Pacific, North and South America.

Period of Study
• Full academic year: August/September–May
• Full calendar year: January/February–December
• Fall semester: August/September–December
• Spring semester: January/February–May
• Summer semester: June–July

Enrollment options
• Academic Programs International (API)
• Bilateral Partnerships
• Direct enrollment to AUS as a Visiting Student
• ISEP Exchange and Direct (even for Non-ISEP-Member Institutions)

Please visit our website for more information and for the full list of our Bilateral Partners: www.aus.edu/fall-and-or-spring-0

I chose to take a full academic year for my study abroad experience. This has given me the chance to find my own place in the AUS community and get as much out of the experience as possible.

Lydia Shepherd, Northern Arizona University and AUS study abroad student (2018–2019)

Entry Requirements
• Complete the online application form with essential supporting documents: www.aus.edu/study-abroad-at-aus
• Have minimum GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale (GPA by US standard)
• Have a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (80 IBT) or Academic IELTS 6.5 or two English writing courses passed with at least a B
• Have completed a minimum of two full semesters at home institution before the application period starts

Required Documents
• Copy of valid passport
• Official academic transcript
• Enrollment certificate or letter of verification
• Proof of English proficiency
• Recommendation letter by a faculty member
• Health insurance
• Application fee of 300 UAE Dirhams (US $82) (non-refundable)

Applications for the AUS International Student Exchange Program can be made at www.aus.edu/studyabroad.

Admission and Application

Assessment
The following grading system is used at AUS:

Excellent
A = equal to 4.00 grade points
A- = equal to 3.70 grade points
Good
B+ = equal to 3.30 grade points
B = equal to 3.00 grade points
B- = equal to 2.70 grade points
Satisfactory
C+ = equal to 2.30 grade points
C = equal to 2.00 grade points
C- = equal to 1.70 grade points
Poor
D = equal to 1.00 grade points
Fail
F = equal to 0.00 grade points
Academic Integrity Violation Fail
XF = equal to 0.00 grade points
Withdrawal Fail
WF = equal to 0.00 grade points
What You Need to Know

Student Visas
Upon acceptance to AUS, students will receive a pre-arrival guide detailing the process of applying for a visa. The visa cost is approximately US$ 275 (subject to change) and payment will be collected by the International Exchange Office upon arrival. Students will apply for a one-year residence visa and a UAE National ID. A blood test and chest x-ray are required for visa issuance, which must be done in the UAE.

Student Housing
At AUS, housing is separated by gender, and all students (male and female) are subject to a curfew (12:00 a.m. weekdays; 1:00 a.m. on weekends). One-third of the student population of AUS lives in campus housing. Dorms are located on campus within walking distance to classes, and a shuttle service is also provided around campus. Students can also take advantage of a regular shuttle service to popular shopping and entertainment areas in Sharjah and Dubai.

The residential halls provide students with furnished* accommodation including:
- bed with a comforter and sheets
- desk and chair
- kitchenette with a sink, mini fridge and stovetop
- bathroom (shared between two roommates)
- free laundry facilities
*Towels, supplies and toiletries are not provided but may be purchased at our campus store, or other outlets off campus.

Accommodation Options
Private: Single occupancy with a private bath and a kitchenette
Semi-Private: Single occupancy with shared bath a kitchenette
Sharing: Double occupancy with a shared bath and a kitchenette

Room Assignment
- ISEP and API students are automatically assigned sharing rooms.
- Visiting students must state their room preference and fill out a Housing Application.
- Students can change their room preference by filling out a Housing Application and paying an extra fee.

Meals
AUS does not provide meal plans; however, there are a number of restaurant options on campus, as well as two grocery stores, and many nearby restaurants that deliver free of charge. Additionally, all dorms have kitchen facilities. ISEP exchange students receive monthly meal checks.

Health Insurance
All students are required to submit proof of international health and travel insurance prior to arrival. Undergraduate students are required to have a physical examination with a campus physician during orientation week, including a complete blood count and blood grouping. All students are required to have international insurance coverage, effective from the day of arrival in the UAE through the date of departure. Students will have access to the AUS Health Clinic, University City Hospital Emergency Room and Primary Care Clinic for a minimal monthly fee.

Estimated Costs for a Typical Semester at American University of Sharjah

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service/Item</th>
<th>AED</th>
<th>US $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee (where applicable)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS Student Activity Fee</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEO Outings and Events Fee</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUS Plan II Health Insurance + University Hospital fees</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorm + Utilities Fees (Note: a 1,000 AED refundable deposit is required)</td>
<td>9,570</td>
<td>2,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals (estimated at 23.5 AED per meal, 19 meals per week, 17 weeks)</td>
<td>7,600</td>
<td>2,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books (estimated)</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa/Immigration (for minimum one-year residence visa; subject to change)</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emirates ID Fee</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Student Transcripts (first one is free) without shipment cost</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Expenses (estimated at approximately 425 AED per week)</td>
<td>7,225</td>
<td>1,955</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For summer, costs of meals and personal expenses should be adjusted to 8 weeks (vs. 17 weeks), and the cost of books can be assumed at half the amount shown above. Please note that all amounts are subject to change and may also be subject to VAT at 5% in accordance with the UAE VAT Law.
THERE'S NO OTHER TIME LIKE THIS

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www.aus.edu

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