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GUIDE

VISA ESSENTIALS

Navigate the Visa Process with Ease

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YOUR VISA COMPANION

The information in this section is subject to change according to the regulations of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) immigration authorities. Students are therefore encouraged to verify the most current details directly with Murdoch University Dubai's Student Services or through the official university website before beginning their visa application process. The UAE government frequently updates entry and residence requirements, and each case may vary depending on nationality and individual circumstances. For this reason, students should begin the visa process well in advance of their intended date of arrival.

Murdoch University Dubai provides visa sponsorship for full-time students through the Dubai Development Authority. The student visa is valid for twelve months and is renewable annually for the duration of the student's enrollment in a full-time program. In order to qualify for visa sponsorship, applicants must hold an unconditional offer of admission, be enrolled full-time, and have paid all tuition and visa-related fees indicated in their Letter of Offer.

Take copies of your passport. It is also advised to have electronic copies of your passport and other important documents on your computer, email, and a USB stick.

APPLICATION AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students are advised to submit their visa applications at least two months prior to the start of classes to allow sufficient time for document verification and approval. The first stage of the process involves obtaining an Entry Permit, which allows the student to enter the UAE for the purpose of residence visa processing. This Entry Permit is valid for two months and must be used within that timeframe. The issuance of the Entry Permit generally takes ten to fifteen working days, depending on the applicant's nationality and other factors.

It is important that students wait until their Entry Permit is approved before purchasing flight tickets or traveling to the UAE. Upon arrival, students must not use the Smart Gate at immigration but should instead proceed through the manual immigration counters with a printed copy of the Entry Permit and their passport. Once in the UAE, students are required to visit the university campus within three working days to present their passport and Entry Permit. A digital passport photograph will be required for the Emirates ID application.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION AND EMIRATES ID

Following arrival or completion of a local amendment (for students already in the UAE), all applicants must undergo a medical examination as required by UAE immigration authorities. The examination includes a blood test and an X-ray, typically conducted at an approved clinic in Dubai Knowledge Village. The university will notify students of their appointment date and location. Successful completion of the medical exam is necessary before the residence visa can be processed.

Once the medical test results are received and approved, students will be scheduled for biometric data registration as part of the Emirates ID application process. The Emirates ID is a mandatory national identification card issued by the UAE government to all residents. It serves as a primary form of identification and must be carried at all times. Students will receive their Emirates ID cards at the university reception once processing is complete.

POST-ARRIVAL PROCESS AND RESIDENCE VISA

The student residence visa is valid for one year and can be renewed while the student remains actively enrolled. The full residence visa process must be completed within sixty days of the student's arrival in the UAE. The usual processing time for post-arrival steps—medical testing, biometrics, and visa stamping—is approximately thirty days. During this period, students must remain in the UAE until their residence visa is finalized. In case of emergencies requiring travel, students should contact the Dubai Student Services Office at Murdoch University Dubai for guidance and approval.

RENEWAL AND CANCELLATION

Student visas must be renewed annually. The university will notify students before their visa expiry date, and renewal should begin at least thirty days in advance to avoid overstay fines. The renewal process requires that students be physically present in the UAE for its entire duration. Health insurance coverage must also be maintained for the validity period of the visa, as per UAE law.

Upon completion or withdrawal from studies, or if a student decides not to renew their visa, cancellation of the residence visa is mandatory. Visa cancellation normally takes ten to fifteen working days. Failure to complete this process can lead to the student being marked as "absconding" in immigration records, which may result in fines and restrictions on future travel to the UAE or other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. Students who have already left the UAE with a valid or expired visa must still contact the university to arrange formal cancellation to clear their record.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students should ensure that their passports are valid for at least one year from the date of visa application. Those arriving from outside the UAE must enter the country using their Entry Permit and should preferably land at Dubai International Airport, as previous cases have shown that arriving through other airports may cause complications. Health insurance is compulsory for all students sponsored under the university's visa program. Murdoch University Dubai partners with a local insurer to provide comprehensive medical coverage, including inpatient, outpatient, and emergency services. Students who are not under university sponsorship may also purchase the same coverage through the Registrar's Office.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Murdoch University Dubai is located in Dubai Knowledge Park, Level 1, Block 18, P.O. Box 500700, Dubai, United Arab Emirates. For inquiries related to student visas or the application process, students may contact the Student Services Department at +971 4 574 9800 or via email at dubai.studentservices@murdoch.edu.au
Further information is also available on the university's website: murdochuniversitydubai.com

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YOUR WAY ABROAD

The world has an interesting way of giving great experiences to the ones who are passionate about their dreams.

Miia Muukkonen, Asia Exchange student