

AUS | الجامعة الأميركية في الشارقة
American University of Sharjah

THERE'S NO OTHER
UNIVERSITY
LIKE AUS

International Student Exchange Program

THERE'S NO BETTER
PLACE TO STUDY
ABROAD

The AUS Story

American University of Sharjah (AUS), founded in 1997 by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah, who envisioned AUS as a leading educational institution in the Gulf region. AUS is an independent, not-for-profit, coeducational institution. Consciously based upon American institutions of higher education, AUS is thoroughly grounded in Arab culture and part of a larger process of the revitalization of intellectual life in the Middle East.



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 Educations, 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

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.

Students and faculty
members from more than

90
countries



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.



26
sports teams

82
student clubs



52:48
female to male ratio

4
colleges
and schools



College of Architecture,
Art and Design



College of Arts
and Sciences



College of Engineering



School of Business
Administration



All programs conducted
in English

1/3

of students live on campus

12.5:1

student-faculty ratio



Located 20 minutes from Dubai
and within proximity to
international destinations



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)



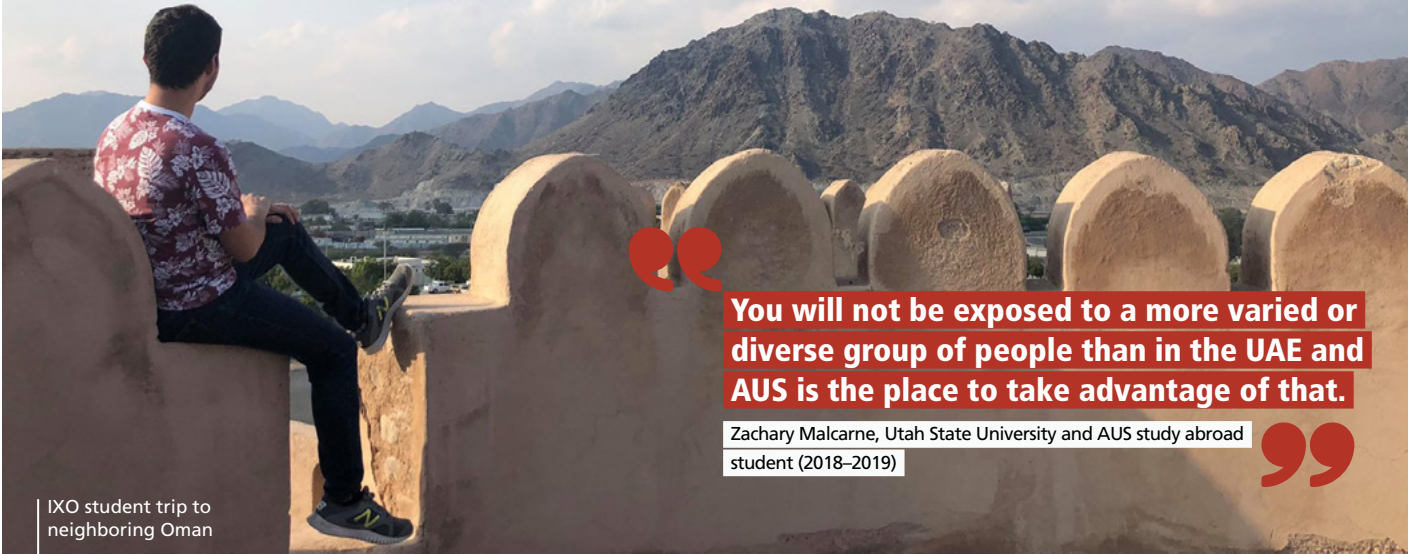
IXO tour of Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi

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)

IXO student trip to neighboring Oman

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.



Major benefits to studying in the UAE

Centrality within the world

Multicultural diversity

Peace, safety and security

- Second safest country worldwide (World Economic Forum, 2017)
- Happiest nation in the Arab world, and 20th worldwide
- 2019 Year of Tolerance

High quality of student life

Fast-paced development

Fascinating local culture



Sharjah: A Center for Cultural Exchange

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.

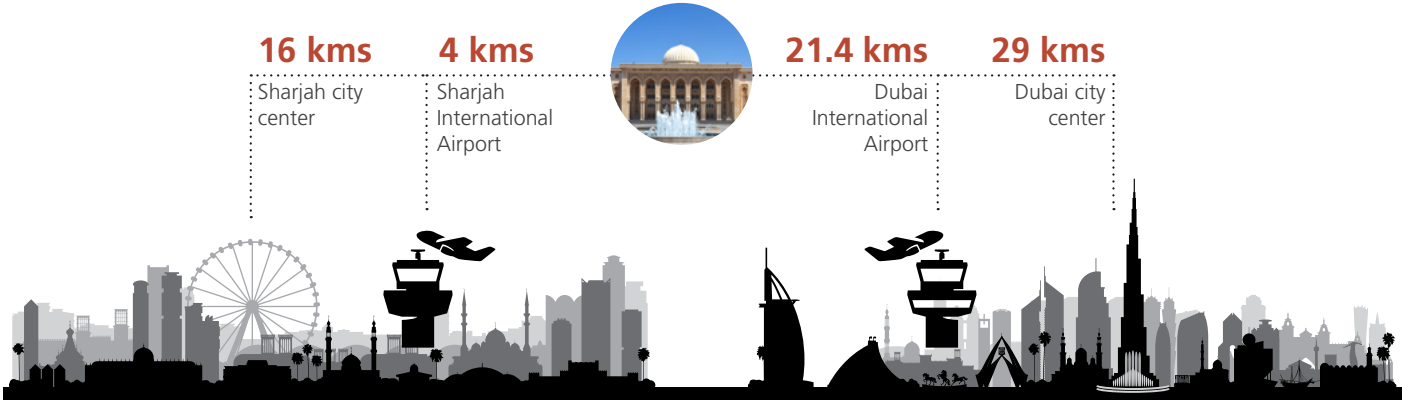
AUS is located just minutes from the heart of Dubai and the Dubai International Airport, providing students with easy access to the world-famous attractions of the neighboring emirate.

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

- 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



Meet Our Exchange Students

Study abroad students **Lydia Shepherd** and **Zachary Malcarne** came from the United States for a one-year student exchange at American University of Sharjah.

Zachary Malcarne hails from Utah State University and considers himself a “country boy” at heart. He came to AUS in the summer of 2018 and has quickly found his place, making strong friendships, professional connections and enjoying the chance to be part of the UAE’s fast-paced agenda to establish itself as a leader in innovation and development.

Inspired by the chance to gain new cultural and ideological perspectives through an exchange student experience, Zachary has enjoyed the intercultural opportunities AUS has presented.

“I really wanted to diversify my education. I had already had a study abroad experience in Europe, and it was there that I became fascinated by the way education changes based on the social, cultural and ideological perspectives of the professors from that area. It made me want to experience that again, so I looked for another opportunity to study abroad,” he says.

Zachary came to AUS through a leading international student exchange program, which provided an affordable, all-inclusive study abroad package and promoted the university’s US-accredited academic portfolio.

“I have a very specialized dual degree focus on international business as well as environment and natural resource economics, so I was pleasantly surprised to see that AUS offered many course options that directly contributed to my programs. In fact, 100 percent of my AUS credits are transferrable,” says Zachary.

Zachary’s experience at AUS has been a formative time for his education.

At AUS, Zachary has had the chance to see academic theories and principles come to life, as the region continues to advance and develop at a fast pace.

“Coming from more established regions of the world like the US, it has been a new experience to discuss things such as large

environmental challenges in class and then see them addressed in real time. It’s been amazing to be able to get a front row seat as I watch these developments unfold,” he says.

Currently taking part in an internship with a local renewable energy company, Zachary is open to opportunities to work in this growing sector in the UAE after he graduates.

Some of the most memorable experiences Zachary has had during his time include swimming in the Arabian Gulf in view of the impressive Dubai skyline and taking a boat trip with other AUS study abroad students in the neighboring country of Oman. But his most significant experience at AUS points to the unparalleled level of international diversity among the AUS student community.

“One of my favorite parts of studying at AUS is the classroom experience. Here we have students from all over the world,

expressing their cultures and sharing their own ideas and experiences in such an unabashed way. And I get welcomed into that! It’s totally foreign—and in the best of ways,” he says.

“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,” say Zachary.

But for his family, one of the most important factors in his choice to study abroad was the fact that the UAE is such a safe and stable location in the region, providing religious freedom and a high quality of life for students.

“When I told my parents that we have Burger King, Subway, Starbucks and Dunkin’ Donuts on campus, they were satisfied that this really is an American-style university!” he laughs.

Zachary Malcarne
Utah State University
AUS study abroad student (2018-2019)
Bachelor of Arts in International
Business / Bachelor of Science in
Environment and Natural
Resource Economics

Lydia Shepherd is a powerhouse of energy and enthusiasm on the AUS campus. Hailing from the desert state of Arizona in the USA, Lydia has embraced the unique opportunities that studying abroad in the UAE has offered—from learning the Arabic language and diving into cross-cultural friendships, to playing her violin in an authentic Arabic music ensemble, to preparing Emirati school children for a performance in front of royalty and senior dignitaries.

“Being a study abroad student at AUS has had an incredible impact on me, both socially and academically. This experience at AUS has been all about trying: trying new things, trying to better understand people and their cultures, and trying to learn as much as possible,” Lydia says.

An avid learner of new things, Lydia pursued Arabic language studies at the University of Northern Arizona (UNA) and was inspired by her Moroccan-born professor to pursue a seven-month study abroad experience in North Africa.

Having turned her academic concentrations to the Middle East and North Africa, it seemed logical to round out her senior year with a second study abroad experience, this time at AUS.

“What I love about Sharjah is that, even though it has a sense of familiarity, as you peel away the outer layers, there are so many fascinating and diverse differences that make it so unique. I took a ‘dive in’ approach, and I have thoroughly enjoyed every moment,” she says.

“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 major highlight of my time here,” says Lydia.

Knowing that her time at AUS is limited, Lydia has quickly pushed to forge strong, meaningful friendships.

“My parents always say that the friends you make in college are the friends you have for life. And despite our many cultural differences, this couldn’t be truer of the friendships I have made at AUS,” she says.

Lydia’s friends and family in the USA initially had many questions about her safety and her experience as a woman in the Middle East.

“Being a woman in the UAE, I have felt completely safe traveling and moving about, either alone or with my female friends. I have found it very easy to adhere to the modest dress code. What I appreciate is how much this is a ‘culture of manners’ and do feel like I have been respected and valued as a woman during my time here,” she says.

Being a study abroad student at AUS has offered Lydia some amazing opportunities, including the chance to learn how to play traditional music on her violin and share her

passion for music with Emirati children.

“Through my involvement in the AUS Arabic Music Ensemble, I’ve had the chance to perform at a variety of events, including the Sharjah Biennial,” she says.

“I have also been working with the Ministry of Education and collaborated in the Masterpieces program where I taught Emirati children. It was an honor to watch my students perform for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, after months of hard work and practice,” she says.

After she graduates, Lydia hopes to be able to return to the UAE and continue strengthening the connections she has made through music, language and culture, before pursuing her long-term goal to work in refugee legislation.

Lydia Shepherd
Northern Arizona University, USA
AUS study abroad student (2018-2019)
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with
concentration in Middle East and North
Africa studies

THERE'S NO OTHER TIME LIKE THIS

THERE'S NO OTHER UNIVERSITY LIKE AUS



Take a 360 tour of AUS. Simply download the Google Earth App, scan the QR code and step into our campus.



Check out our YouTube channel for highlights of the AUS student experience.



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.abet.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 International Studies
- 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.



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 Bazuk 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 Concrete 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
- Centre for International Educational Exchange (CIEE)
- 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)



Admission and Application

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.

Assessment

The following grading system is used at AUS:

Excellent	
A	equals 4.00 grade points
A-	equals 3.70 grade points
Good	
B+	equals 3.30 grade points
B	equals 3.00 grade points
B-	equals 2.70 grade points
Satisfactory	
C+	equals 2.30 grade points
C	equals 2.00 grade points
C-	equals 1.70 grade points
Poor	
D	equals 1.00 grade points
Fail	
F	equals 0.00 grade points
Academic Integrity Violation Fail	
XF	equals 0.00 grade points
Withdrawal Fail	
WF	equals 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 complete 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, API and CIEE 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		
For a 17-week semester	AED	US \$
Application Fee (where applicable)	300	83
AUS Student Activity Fee	300	83
IXO Outings and Events Fee	600	165
AUS Plan II Health Insurance + University Hospital fees	413	113
Dorm + Utilities Fees (Note: a 1,000 AED refundable deposit is required) www.aus.edu/undergraduate-tuition-and-fees	9,570	2,600
Meals (estimated at 23.5 AED per meal, 19 meals per week, 17 weeks)	7,600	2,066
Books (estimated)	1,472	401
Visa/Immigration (for minimum one-year residence visa; subject to change)	700	193
Emirates ID Fee	170	47
Additional Student Transcripts (first one is free) without shipment cost	25	7
Personal Expenses (estimated at approximately 425 AED per week)	7,225	1,955

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**

International Exchange Office

American University of Sharjah

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