

THE UNIVERSITY

Background

Dhofar University is a private institution of higher education in Salalah, Sultanate of Oman, established through a Ministerial Decree No. 5/2004 issued in January 2004. The University formally commenced its operations in September 2004 and started offering selected academic programs.

Dhofar University has a Board of Trustees that represents its highest policy making body, and was developed with technical support from the American University of Beirut, which will continue to oversee its academic programs till the end of year 2010 to ensure quality standards commensurate with the ambitions of Dhofar University, its founders and the students of the Dhofar region and the Sultanate of Oman in general.

Dhofar University is a non-profit institution. It is dedicated to excellence in higher education benchmarked against international standards, coupled with relevance to local needs, present and emerging. The planned modern facilities of the University, its scenic campus, and qualified faculty attest to the depth of our commitment to providing students with a unique learning environment.

Mission

Dhofar University is a private institution of higher education based on the credit system. It was founded to serve society primarily in the Sultanate of Oman through its quality educational functions. Dhofar University strives to achieve excellence in teaching delivered by highly qualified academic staff using modern delivery modalities, and also capable through original research of enriching their respective disciplines by expanding their knowledge base. Teaching and research excellence will be undertaken in an open vibrant environment conducive to personal growth and the pursuit of the highest academic standards. Through innovation and creativity, the University seeks to cultivate the students' critical skills and respect for free enquiry in a spirit of integrity and responsibility.

Objectives

1. To ensure academic excellence in all fields of study offered at the university.
2. To enable students to explore and take best advantage of the educational opportunities offered at Dhofar University in order to develop their full intellectual potential.
3. To produce morally responsible individuals who are highly competent in their fields of specialization and well prepared to succeed in life.
4. To produce life-long self-learners committed to serving their society.

Campus Facilities

A modern campus is in the process of being developed in a scenic part of Salalah with ample educational, recreational and social space. The quality level of the facilities will be of the highest international design standards, taking into consideration local needs and cultural aspects.

Academic Programs: Diploma and Bachelor Degrees

Dhofar University currently offers two-year diploma and four-year bachelor programs that follow the credit hour system, using English as the medium of instruction. The University also offers an orientation program as a preparatory course of study, which prepares students for their specializations. Applicants are required to sit for a placement test in English, Mathematics, Arabic and Information Technology in order to determine whether they need to join the orientation program or enter their programs directly.

Dhofar University aims at giving its students a general academic background, while focusing on basic skills during the first two years of study, after which specialization is sought during the third and fourth years. A diploma is granted to those who complete the first two years of the four-year program with a cumulative average of 65% or above; however, only those who attain 70% or above in their chosen majors are promoted to the third year, and qualify for a bachelor degree at the end of the fourth year if they meet the graduation requirements.

Dhofar University also offers a post-graduate Teaching Diploma. The diploma requires specialization in a subject area, at least a bachelor's degree from a college or university that is recognized by the Sultanate of Oman, and a cumulative average in the major courses of not less than 70%. The subject areas include Arabic, English, Informatics, Math, and Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics). In the case where the student does not have subject matter preparation, he or she is required to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours in the subject of specialization at the 200 level or above. Exit requirements include the successful completion of 30 credit hours of the required and elective courses in the program, passing a comprehensive examination that includes a performance component, and an exit interview with a panel of education experts.

Colleges

I. The College of Arts and Applied Sciences grants a post-graduate Teaching Diploma in Education, and bachelor degrees in the following majors:

- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Education
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Social Work
- Translation

It also grants Diplomas in the following majors:

- Chemistry - Computer Science - English Language
- Mathematics - Physics - Social Work

It offers two minors: - Arabic Language - Arabic Literature

II. The College of Commerce and Business Administration grants bachelor degrees in the following concentrations:

- Accounting - Finance - Marketing - Management
- Management Information Systems - Business Administration

It also grants Diplomas in the following concentrations:

- Accounting - Finance - Marketing - Management
- Management Information Systems - Business Administration

III. The College of Engineering grants bachelor degrees in the following majors:

- Computer and Communications Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering:
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Graphic Design

It also grants diplomas in the following majors:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Graphic Design

It offers minors in the following majors: - Mechatronics - Information Technology

Learning Outcomes of the Bachelor Program

- Acquisition of a broad intellectual basis as evidenced by familiarity with great debates and major books in more than one culture.
- Demonstrable capacity for self expression, critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual skills.
- Mastery of technical knowledge relevant to the student's chosen field commensurate with program level and objectives.
- Capacity for tolerance, humility, respect for differences and commitment to service.
- Acquisition of life-long learning skills.

Assurances of learning

- A balanced set of assessment methods including exams, class participation, written and oral presentations and practical demonstrations of various kinds.

- Market competitiveness of graduates and employer assessment of their worth and added value.
- Competency of graduates in terms of successfully transferring to other leading regional and international institutions of higher learning, particularly for purposes of graduate work.
- Other assurances such as: employee surveys, student and alumni surveys, focus group feedback, and exit interviews.

Admission Requirements

A student is admitted on the basis of the following:

1. His/her results in the placement tests in English, Arabic, Information Technology and Math.
2. Passing the official General Secondary Certificate examination or its equivalent.

Based on the results of placement tests, accepted students are admitted either to their chosen academic program or required the Orientation Program.

The Orientation Program

The Orientation Program at Dhofar University is designed for students who are not sufficiently prepared to join the two-year diploma or the four-year bachelor programs offered at the University. Incoming students may be required to spend from one to three semesters in the Orientation Program, depending on their scores achieved in the placement tests administered by Dhofar University. This program is designed to equip students with basic knowledge and skills in English language, Arabic language, Study Skills, Information Technology, and Mathematics. It offers incoming students with low proficiency in English an intensive training course whose purpose is to help them attain a level of competence in reading, writing, communication and study skills that will make it possible for them to pursue their studies in the major of their choice through the medium of English.

Graduation Requirements

To graduate with a Diploma degree, students must satisfactorily complete at least 60 credit hours with a cumulative average of 60%, but those students who opt for a bachelor degree, they must satisfactorily complete at least 120 credit hours required by the College they are enrolled in with an overall minimum average of 65%, and a cumulative average of 70% in the major courses. The distribution of courses is as follows:

1. **University requirements:** All students in the University must take these courses, which include English language, Arabic language, Omani society, World Civilizations, and Information Technology.
2. **College requirements:** These are courses that are required of all students in the

college.

3. Specialization requirements: These are courses required by the Department offering the specialization.

Application Procedure

Every applicant is required to submit the following documents:

1. A completed application form.
2. A certified copy of secondary school certificate or its equivalent.
3. 4 recent photographs.
4. A photocopy of identity card or passport.
5. A non-refundable application fee of OR 10.

Tuition Fees

Yearly tuition fees (two semesters) are as follows:

- 2000** Omani Riyals for the Orientation Program.
- 2250** Omani Riyals for all Diploma and Bachelor programs
- 2700** Omani Riyals for the post-graduate Teaching Diploma

Fees are paid in full every semester before classes begin. Late payments can be settled during the first week of the semester, in consultation with the Finance Department. Any student who does not meet his/her financial obligations by the end of the first week of the semester will not be permitted to attend classes during that semester.

A student may withdraw after registration, but the refund rate of tuition depends on the timing of the withdrawal: 100% of tuition is refunded to the student before classes begin, the University retains 50% of the fees when the student withdraws during the first week of classes or Drop and Add week, and the student receives no refund beyond the first week.