

DHOFAR UNIVERSITY

FACTSHEET FOR VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS



www.du.edu.om

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ABOUT US

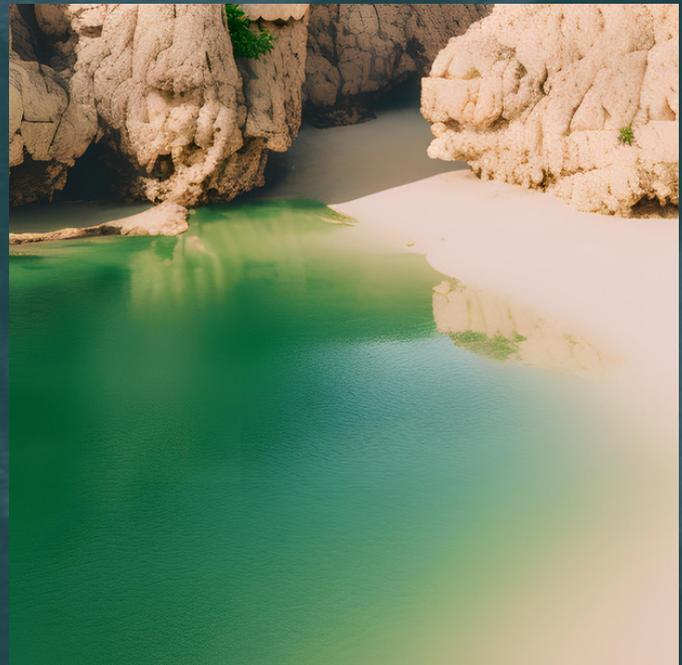
ABOUT OMAN:

Oman is located in the Arabian peninsula. The country is 309,500 square kilometers in size. Oman's population is 5.4 million with a combination of Omani and expat communities. It's neighboring countries include Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.



ABOUT SALALAH:

Salalah is the second largest city in Oman. It is known for its beautiful and moderate weather throughout the year. On average, Salalah's temperature is between 22 to 28 degrees celsius. Salalah's long sandy beaches and nearby mountains is ideal for fishing, swimming, camping, and hiking.



ABOUT US

ABOUT DHOFAR UNIVERSITY:

Dhofar University (DU) is a private institution of higher education in Oman. DU offers Diploma, Bachelor, and Postgraduate programs. It aims to provide quality education while promoting research and social responsibility.



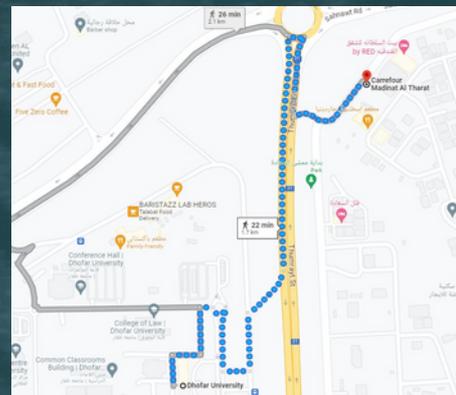
Facilities on the campus include:

1. Library
2. ATM
3. Bank Dhofar
4. Mosque/ praying room
5. Clinic
6. Cafes and cafeterias



Facilities near DU Campus

1. Carrefour supermarket (20 mins walk). It is located across the street from DU Campus.
2. Grocery shop, restaurants, coffee shops, and petrol station are located next to DU Campus (10 mins walk).



INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

- **Exchange nominations**

1. Our partner institutions are expected to nominate their exchange students by sending us an email at ico@du.edu.om
2. Consult our academic calendar and the courses we offer at our website www.du.edu.om

- **Application requirements**

1. Student/ the applicant must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program at any of DU's partner universities. A list of DU partner universities is on our website: <https://www.du.edu.om/international>
2. Exchange applicants need to confirm with their home universities that they have exchange agreements with DU.
3. Full-semester/ taking subjects exchange applicants are required to satisfy their English language proficiency by providing evidence of their language competency. The admission criteria for DU necessitate an IELTS score of 5.0 or its equivalent. However, certain exemptions are granted to applicants who use English as their native language, individuals enrolled in educational institutions where English is the medium of instruction, or those exclusively enrolling in Arabic language courses.
4. Exchange applicants are required to have valid health insurance to cover their entire duration of stay in Oman.
5. Your application for exchange is subject to the following, but not limited to the availability of courses, availability of supervisors, a decision from the top management of DU, and the approval of a visa.

- **Visiting students**

In order for DU to host visiting students, representatives from home universities are required to formally express their intention to visit at least three months prior to the anticipated date of visit. This expression of interest must include a clear articulation of the aims and intentions of the visit. The final approval for the visit is subject to MOHERI (Ministry of Higher Education, Research, and Innovation) of Oman. Visiting students are required to have a health insurance to cover their entire duration of stay in Oman.

DU Credit and ECTS Conversion Guide

Dhofar University (DU) adheres to the OQF credit hour system, which is determined by notional learning hours. The calculation of OQF Credit Hours is based on the principle that one credit hour corresponds to three hours of learner activity per week for one semester. For further information, please visit: [https://oaaaqa.gov.om/Oman-Qualifications-Framework/The-OQF-Manual-\(1\)?lang=en-GB](https://oaaaqa.gov.om/Oman-Qualifications-Framework/The-OQF-Manual-(1)?lang=en-GB)

The OQF credit system is adapted from the American credit hour system. Most of the courses offered at DU carry a weightage of 3 US credits. However, certain courses may have varying credit hours based on the degree level and program specifications.

For comprehensive details regarding our courses and their corresponding credits, please visit the following link: https://www.du.edu.om/images/Download_Section/DU-Catalogue-22-23.pdf

To maintain full-time status at DU, a student is required to enroll in a minimum of 12 credits during regular semesters (Fall and Spring). However, it is important to note that this minimum requirement may differ for specific programs. In terms of course load, 12 credits correspond to approximately 4 DU courses (equivalent to 24 ECTS).

Student Learning Time

3- credit course at DU

- Contact hours in the classroom (f2f):

Two 75-minute sessions per week x 16 weeks

or;

Three 50-minute sessions per week x 16 weeks

- Guided and non-guided learning time (non f2f):

6 hours a week x 16 weeks

1 ECTS

25- 30 hours

The European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits may include different amounts of study hours depending on the EU country.

ECTS to DU/ US credits is typically based on a 2:1 ratio

The total number of credits required for a bachelor's program at DU varies between 120 and 150 credits, depending on the chosen major. This translates to an equivalence of 240 to 300 ECTS credits.

In the EU, a 3-year bachelor's program typically encompasses 180 ECTS credits, while a 4-year bachelor's program typically encompasses 240 ECTS credits.

BEFORE ARRIVING IN OMAN

BEFORE ARRIVAL

- Submit a scanned copy of your passport, a passport-sized photo with white background, and your mother's name to ico@du.edu.om.
- DO NOT purchase your flight ticket without obtaining the correct visa before entering Oman.
- We recommend that students arrive in Salalah International Airport - no later than two days prior to the expected start date of program.
- Advice ICO on your arrival date and time at ico@du.edu.om
- For students' safety and security, all international exchange students and visitors are required to provide their emergency contact information with ICO at ico@du.edu.om prior to arrival.
- Ensure that your bank at home countries allow international withdrawal and transactions to cover the duration of your stay in Oman.



Visa Information

Visa assistance is provided to you by DU. Throughout the visa application procedure, ICO will communicate with you should the Royal Oman Police requires specific documentation from you. Please ensure that you reply to ICO emails in timely manner. Once approved, a copy of the visa shall be emailed to you.

Present the visa to the immigration counter at your entry point into Oman - whether Muscat or Salalah. The visa will be stamped on your passport.

AFTER ARRIVING IN OMAN

Welcome to Salalah!

Arriving in Oman:

Airport transfer services are offered only at Salalah International Airport, and it is subject to availability. Information regarding this service will be communicated to you once you share your flight information. It is advisable for you to estimate your arrival during our weekdays (Sundays to Thursdays), between 8am to 6pm.

For incoming full-semester exchange students, ensure that you have duly attested certificates and transcripts.

Ensure that you have a copy of a valid health insurance, an accommodation address in Oman, offer letter and other documents should you be asked by the Immigration Officer.

It is advisable to carry at least USD 500 in cash with you which can be exchanged for Omani Rial.



Khareef season

Khareef season in Salalah is a unique and much-anticipated event that occurs in the Dhofar region of Oman. Salalah, the capital city of the Dhofar Governorate, experiences a remarkable transformation during this season, which typically takes place from **mid-June to mid-September**. Khareef, meaning "autumn" in Arabic, refers to the monsoon season in this region. Unlike other parts of Oman, which are predominantly arid and desert-like, Salalah enjoys a subtropical climate due to its location near the Arabian Sea.

For more information:

<https://www.du.edu.om/others/Staff-Induction-Handbook/>

ACCOMMODATION IN SALALAH

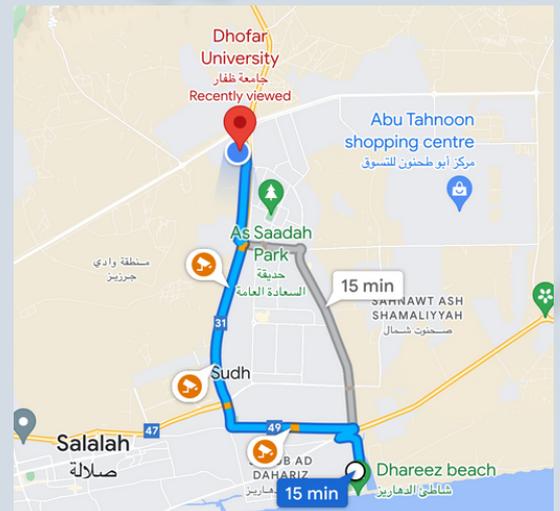
01 SAADA CARREFOUR MADINAT AL THARAT AREA

Saada Carrefour Madinat Al Tharat area is conveniently located in close proximity to Dhofar University, taking only 6 to 7 minutes by car or taxi. Moreover, those looking to rent an apartment in the area can enjoy the added benefit of being able to walk to the university campus. This accessibility makes the Saada Carrefour Madinat Al Tharat area an ideal location for students seeking a comfortable and convenient living arrangement. A 2-bedroom apartment can cost OMR 150 per month from mid-September to May. The rent prices go up during the months of June- August.



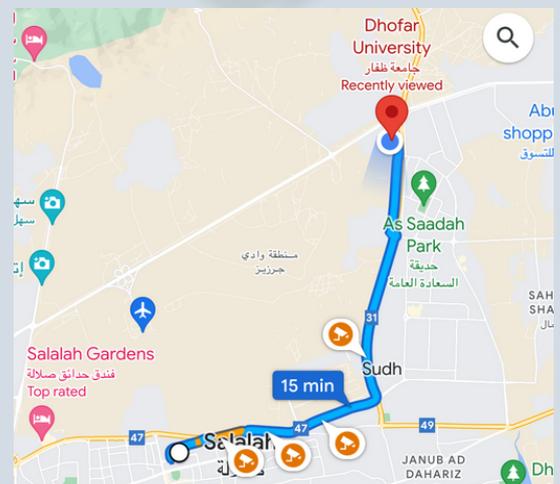
02 DAHARIZ BEACH SALALAH

If you choose to rent an apartment near Dahariz Beach in Salalah, you'll be able to enjoy the stunning ocean views and serene atmosphere of the area. Plus, the campus of Dhofar University is only a short 15-minute drive away by car or taxi, making it a convenient location for students. You can also opt to walk to the campus from Dahariz Beach, taking in the beautiful scenery along the way. With a range of accommodation options in the area, Dahariz Beach is an ideal location for those who want to live near the beach while still having easy access to the university. A studio apartment can cost OMR 110 per month from mid-September to May. The rent prices go up during the months of June- August.



03 CENTRAL SALALAH

Central Salalah is the perfect location for international students who want to experience the local culture. It's only a 15-minute drive or taxi ride to the DU campus, and with the Mwasalat app, public transportation is easily accessible. Renting an apartment in this bustling hub means having all the shopping malls and important landmarks at your doorstep. Plus, everything you need is within walking distance.



Note:

The average cost of accommodation vary depending on the season and location you choose to rent. These 3 areas are suggestions from ICO.

THE EXPECTED COST OF LIVING IN SALALAH

How Much Does it Cost to Live in Salalah?

Accommodation is one of the most significant expenses for students in Salalah. Most students opt to stay in university dormitories, which are affordable and provide basic amenities such as Wi-Fi and laundry facilities. The cost of apartment typically ranges from 110- 150 OMR (285-371 USD) per month .

DU provides hostel only for female students. The accommodation is limited and is based on first-come-first-serve.

Food and groceries expenses can also vary depending on the student's preferences. Students who prefer to eat out at local restaurants can expect to spend around 60-80 OMR (155-207 USD) per month on meals, while those who prefer to cook their own meals can expect to spend around 30-50 OMR (77-129 USD) per month on groceries.

Transportation in Salalah is affordable and convenient, with many options available to students. The city has a well-connected public transportation system with buses and taxis readily available. The cost of a bus ride typically ranges from 0.5-1 OMR (1.3-2.6 USD), while taxi fares can vary depending on the distance traveled.

Utilities, internet, and entertainment, can also add to the overall cost of living in Salalah. However, these expenses are generally affordable, with utilities and internet costing around 20-30 OMR (52-77 USD) per month, and entertainment expenses varying depending on the student's preferences.

An example of estimated living cost for an exchange student in DU from February to June 2023:

- OMR 110 rial a month rent for a studio-apartment in Dahariz
 - 20 rial electricity and water per month
 - WiFi is free - provided by the accommodation
 - 7 rial for phone per month
 - 15-20 rial every week for groceries
 - Taxi from Dahariz to Dhofar University is 2. 4 rial.
 - Eating out at restaurants vary from 3 to 10 rials.
 - Sandwiches in campus costs between 500 baisa to 1 rial.
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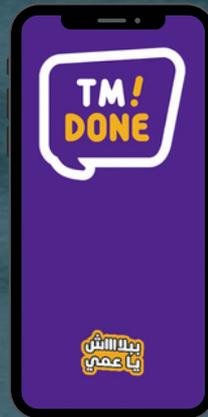
USEFUL APPLICATIONS



01

TALABAT:

Talabat is an online food ordering app . Order food and grocery delivery online from hundreds of restaurants and shops nearby



02

TM DONE:

Order & Consider it Done! TM DONE Delivery App offers you a wide range of restaurants, groceries, flower & gift shops and other stores



03

OTAXI:

OTAXI Oman booking app allows you to get a taxi with driver wherever you are going



04

MWASALAT:

Public transport in Oman has never been more accessible - the Mwasalat mobile application is a complete transit solution available at your fingertips



05

ONEIC BILL AND PAY:

ONEIC Bill & Pay allows you to view and Pay your Utility Bills for Electricity, Water, Telecom and Recharge your Prepaid Accounts

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS



1. ROYAL OMAN POLICE

Royal Oman Police (ROP), dial 9999 from inside Oman.

Call 9999 in case a person is exposed to an accident or a health issue that requires an ambulance.



2. PRIVATE HOSPITALS PHONE NUMBERS:

In the occurrence of any medical emergency contact the following hospitals (subject to your health insurance coverage) :

1. Badr Al Samaa Hospital (phone number; +968 23291830, Telephone number: 23291831).
2. Life Line Hospital (Telephone number: 23 212340).
3. Aster MaxCare Hospital (Telephone: 7956 3378)



3. IMPORTANT CONTACTS IN DU

1. Security matters please contact Mr. Ali Ba Omar at +968 23237060 or +968 99492338.
2. Dhofar University nurse contact info: +968 93946781

CULTURAL INFORMATION

Here are some important cultural considerations to keep in mind when visiting Oman:

Dress code: Oman is a conservative Muslim country, and visitors are expected to dress modestly in public. It's recommended to cover your shoulders, chest, and knees, especially when visiting mosques or other religious sites.

Respect for religion: Islam is the official religion of Oman, and it's important to show respect for the religion and its practices. This includes avoiding public displays of affection, not eating or drinking in public during Ramadan, and removing your shoes before entering a mosque.

Greetings: It's common to greet people with "Salam" (peace) or "As-salamu alaykum" (peace be upon you). Handshakes are also common, but it's important to note that men and women generally do not shake hands with each other.

Social customs: Omanis are known for their hospitality and friendliness. If you're invited to someone's home, it's important to remove your shoes before entering someone's home.

Photography: Oman is a beautiful country, but it's important to be respectful when taking photographs. Always ask permission before taking someone's picture, especially if they are women or children.

Alcohol: While alcohol is available in Oman, it's important to note that drinking in public is illegal.

By keeping these cultural considerations in mind, you can ensure that your visit to Oman is respectful and enjoyable.

You may be assigned to a DU Cultural Exchange Buddy who will facilitate you during your stay in Salah/ Dhofar University. Your buddy will be able to explain the cultural dos and don'ts further, and the expectations at DU.

OUR SUPPORT TEAM



SYERINA SYAHRIN
Director of International Cooperation Office



HITHAM AL HADHRI
Deputy Director of International Cooperation
Office



MUZDALIFA NOUMAN SHEIK
Student- Volunteer



FACTSHEET FOR VISITING AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS

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