



الجامعة
البريطانية
في
دبي



The
British University
in Dubai



MANIPAL
UNIVERSITY
Dubai



UNIVERSITY OF
WOLLONGONG
IN DUBAI



Université Saint-Joseph



The University of Manchester
Manchester Business School



المعهد الوطني للتعليم المهني
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



DUBAI • SINGAPORE • SYDNEY



ИHKЭКОH



МЕЖНАРОДНАЯ АКАДЕМИЯ БИЗНЕСА

THE HIGHER EDUCATION LANDSCAPE IN DUBAI 2012



The Higher Education Landscape in Dubai 2012

© 2013 Knowledge and Human Development Authority, Dubai, UAE. All rights reserved.

In the interests of enhancing the value of the information contained in this report, you may download, print, reproduce and distribute any material contained in the report so long as KHDA is acknowledged as the source.

Knowledge and Human Development Authority
P. O. Box: 500008, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel: +971 4 364 0000 Fax: +971 4 364 0001
www.khda.gov.ae

Dr Abdulla Al Karam

**Director General and Chairman of the Board of Directors
Knowledge and Human Development Authority**

Universities in Dubai are fast becoming a destination for world-class higher education. With the greatest number of international branch campuses in the world, the higher education sector continues to grow year on year, providing students with internationally recognised qualifications and preparing them for employment both in Dubai and around the world.

The growing importance of the higher education sector to Dubai's economic development is supported by Resolution 21, which entitles graduates from all private universities in Dubai to have their degrees certified by KHDA, and guarantees that their qualifications will be recognised by the public and private sector in Dubai for all purposes.

Private universities in Dubai recorded a 12 per cent increase in student enrolment in the last year, part of an 11 per cent increase in higher education enrolment as a whole. The quality and breadth of higher education programmes offered by universities continues to entice a greater proportion of students from Dubai, as well as attract new students from around the world.

With more than 160 business programmes on offer, Dubai has become a niche destination for international business students. Yet it has also diversified the range of programmes available. The last year has seen an eight per cent increase in overall programmes, many of these in areas such as media, humanities, law and natural and physical sciences.

The number of graduates has also increased by eight per cent since 2011. More than half of all graduates were awarded a Bachelor's degree, with an increasing number gaining Master's qualifications.

Dubai hosts university students from a variety of nationalities. While Emiratis make up the largest group, higher education providers have welcomed a substantial increase in the number of Asian, African and Arab students.

The number of Emirati students has increased by 10 per cent since 2011, currently comprising 43 per cent of the overall student population. Thirty per cent of all higher education graduates in Dubai are Emirati, the majority gaining qualifications in Business, IT and Engineering.

The sector continues to encourage a culture of research among its Masters and Doctoral programmes. Postgraduate students are able to combine their studies with work, ensuring that their research remains relevant and up-to-date.

Together with our partners in the higher education and corporate sectors, we look forward to advancing Dubai's status as a destination that offers world-class higher education for students and dynamic career opportunities for graduates.

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| What's new in 2012 | 1 |
| Introduction..... | 2 |
| Higher education institutions in Dubai..... | 3 |
| International Branch Campuses..... | 3 |
| Location of higher education institutions | 4 |
| Educational permits and quality assurance | 5 |
| Academic programmes offered in Dubai | 6 |
| Student enrolment | 8 |
| Graduates..... | 12 |
| Emirati participation in higher education..... | 13 |
| Appendix..... | 17 |
| Further information | 19 |

What's new in 2012

- 11% increase in higher education students in Dubai (48,058 students)
 - 9% increase in student enrolment at Federal institutions
 - 11% increase in enrolment at private institutions outside Free Zones
 - 12% increase in enrolment at Free Zone institutions
- 10% increase in Emirati students, with more male Emiratis (55%) than female
- 8% increase in university programmes, with a wider range available to students
- Increasing numbers of Emirati students studying law, media and design

Introduction

Dubai has been successful in developing its status as an international city within a relatively short period. The development of a world-class education system is of great importance. A key priority, both for individual growth and the needs of the local government, is increasing student numbers and improving access to higher education, especially for Emirati nationals. Quality higher education in Dubai, which includes developing the relevant skills essential to drive economic growth, will equip young people with choices that will shape the future of Dubai and the United Arab Emirates.

Dubai is committed to expanding and transforming the higher education landscape. The Knowledge & Human Development Authority (KHDA), a Government of Dubai authority established in 2007, is tasked with ensuring that Dubai has the human resources to meet its economic and social needs. Its role is to:

- Develop strategic plans, policies, laws and regulations to improve learning and human development;
- Set Dubai's education standards in collaboration with federal ministries;
- Oversee and facilitate the implementation of learning and human development policies;
- Ensure graduates have the expertise required to meet Dubai's workforce needs.

This annual Higher Education Landscape report examines the state of the current higher education environment in Dubai by identifying the range and number of institutions, programmes available and the number of students enrolled. Its objective is to provide a data snapshot of total higher education student enrolment in Dubai, including institutions in the Free Zones. The information in this report will enable policymakers and education leaders to make strategic decisions and plan for higher education initiatives. As a result of its Strategic Plan 2015 and the UAE Vision 2021, Dubai has been given the responsibility of ensuring that the emirate develops its social and educational infrastructure to support future growth.

The data within this report are from the University Census, collected in November 2012 directly from institutions which are current providers of higher education in Dubai. This year's data includes estimates from two institutions. Such data are pertinent in providing an accurate picture of the academic environment: the trends, developments and demands for higher education in Dubai now and in the future.

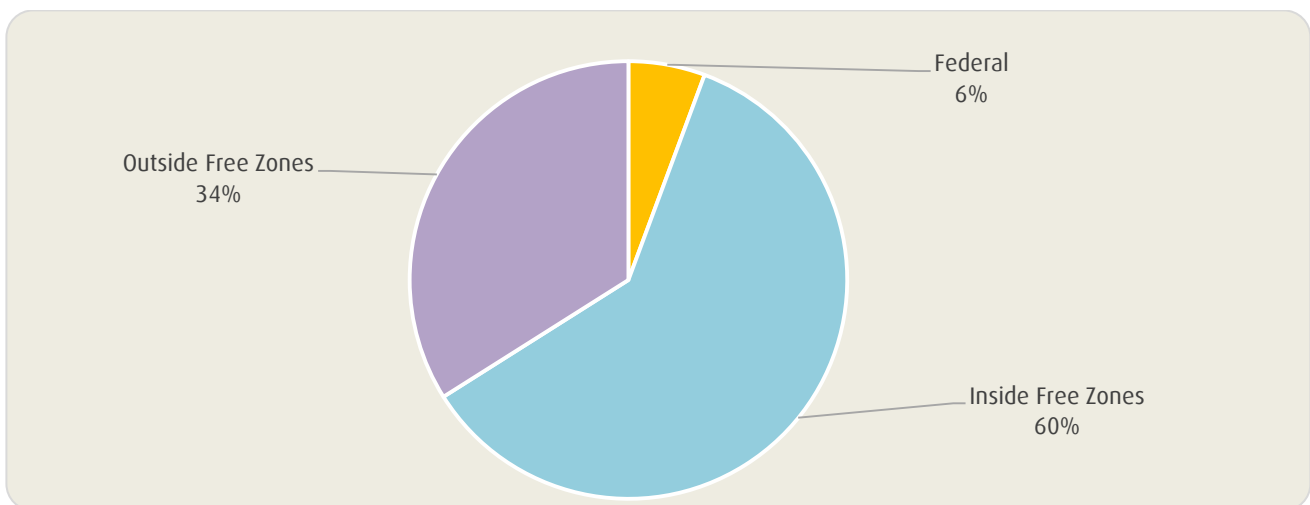
As of November 2012, there are 53 higher education institutions in Dubai, with an estimated total of 48,058 students. This is an 11% increase in the number of higher education students compared to October 2011, and a 10% increase in the number of Emirati students.

Higher education institutions in Dubai

For the purpose of this report, a higher education institution is defined as an institution of education that has a physical presence in Dubai. It may have dedicated full-time faculty to teach its programmes, or faculty from the home institution who visit Dubai to teach students. This report covers all higher education institutions in the emirate that offer one-year diplomas and above, and includes the National Institute of Vocational Education (NIVE), which is a provider of vocational education programmes.

There are 53 institutions in Dubai that offer higher education programmes, grouped into three categories - federal institutions, institutions in the Free Zones and institutions outside the Free Zones (Graph 1). The three Federal institutions of Zayed University, Dubai Women's College and Dubai Men's College make up 6% of the total number of institutions in Dubai. Federal institutions cater predominantly to Emirati students and are institutions that were established by a federal decree. A list of institutions can be found in the Appendix. Online or distance education providers are not included as part of this study.

Graph 1: Different categories of higher education institutions in Dubai, November 2012



International Branch Campuses

Dubai's higher education landscape has changed dramatically over the past decade. To provide high quality international degrees to its citizens and residents, Dubai has encouraged the establishment of international institutions of higher education through the provision of infrastructure and attractive locations.

Due to their forward-looking policies and dynamic facilities, a number of purpose-built Free Zones have attracted higher education institutions from all around the world. These institutions provide high-quality international degrees in a setting which offers alternative licensing provisions.

International branch campuses have contributed significantly to the growth of higher education in Dubai, and the last decade has seen the higher education student population quadruple. Collectively, international branch campuses offer a wider range of programmes than private universities.

By providing an accredited degree from the home institution, these universities meet the demand from Emiratis and resident expatriates. They are also attracting international students to the emirate, fulfilling

Dubai’s ambition to be a higher education hub. Twenty-six of the higher education institutions in Dubai are international branch campuses from 10 different countries (Australia, UK, USA, India, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, Ireland, France and Lebanon).

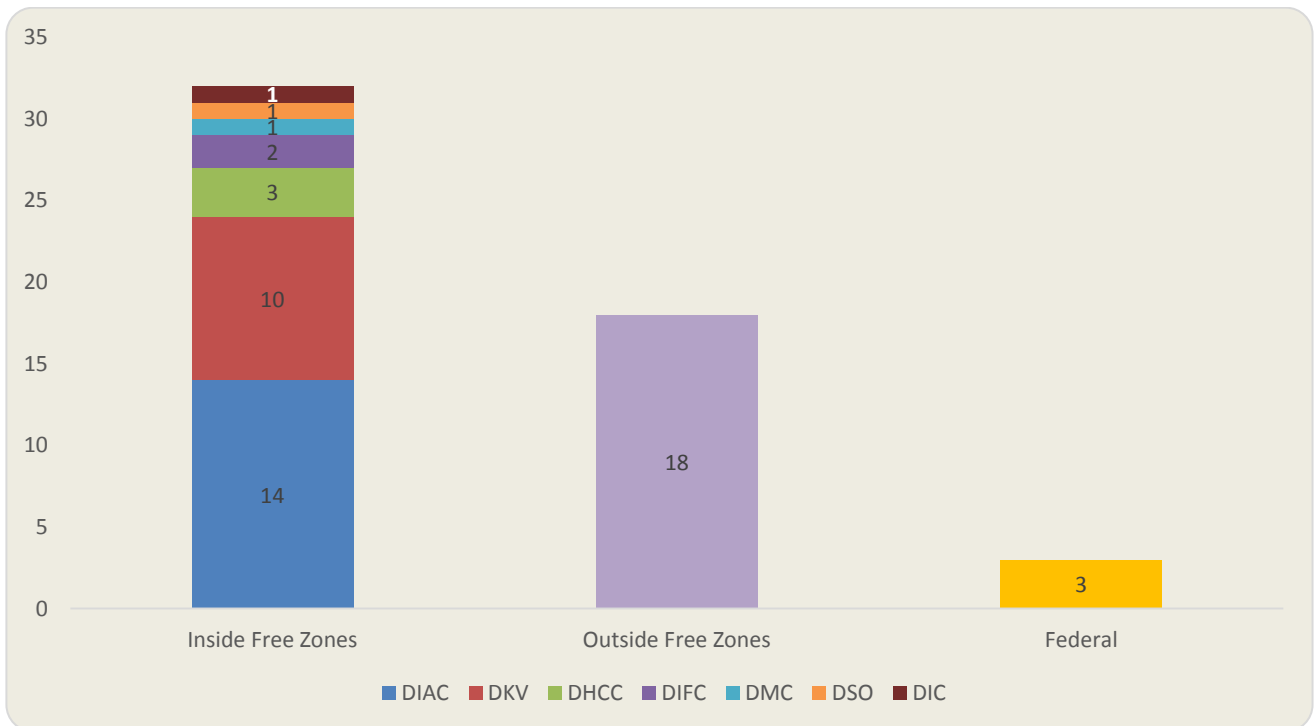
Dubai Knowledge Village (DKV) was opened in 2003 as the first purpose-built zone to house education institutions. In its first year of operation, DKV attracted eight higher education institutions, some of which were operating prior to its establishment. The popularity of special purpose-zones encouraged the local government to establish several more, including Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) and Dubai Healthcare City (DHCC) in 2004. Due to the exponential growth of DKV, Dubai International Academic City (DIAC) was established in 2005 to house education institutions offering degree programmes.

The rapid expansion of higher education institutions within Dubai’s Free Zones is a measure of the success of this initiative. Currently, there are 32 higher education institutions in the Free Zones, a significant increase from eight institutions in 2003. Free Zones have attracted a variety of institutions and international programmes to Dubai in a short period.

Location of higher education institutions

Thirty-two (60%) higher education institutions in Dubai are located within Free Zone areas, the majority in DIAC and DKV. Free Zones such as DHCC and DIFC aim to attract institutions providing education in the focus area of that particular industry zone. For a breakdown of the total number of institutions across Free Zones, see Graph 2.

Graph 2: Number of higher education institutions in Dubai, November 2012



Educational permits and quality assurance

In June 2011, the Government of Dubai issued Resolution Number 21 concerning higher education institutions based in Dubai Free Zones. This is an important milestone in the development of higher education as it clearly establishes KHDA as the regulator of these institutions, supports quality assurance and delegates to KHDA responsibility for collecting data and certifying academic qualifications. Students who graduate from higher education institutions in the Free Zones will be able to have their degrees certified by KHDA for employment and other purposes in Dubai.

The University and Quality Assurance International Board (UQAIB) was established by KHDA in 2008 to assure the quality of higher education Free Zone institutions. This is an independent board of higher education experts from around the world. The Board makes recommendations about issuing educational service permits to new institutions, as well as renewing the permits of existing universities and colleges. It also approves all new programmes offered by higher education providers.

UQAIB uses a validation model to ensure that the academic programme being delivered in the branch campus is the same as that provided at the home campus of the institution. The eleven members of the Board have experience in quality assurance, transnational higher education and accreditation as well as senior academic experience at higher education institutions. They are from the USA, UK, Australia, New Zealand, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France and Kenya.

UQAIB has been designed to provide an international approach to quality assurance that will allow foreign higher education providers to award international degrees through the branch campus model. It is intended to complement the quality assurance provision of the federal Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research by providing an alternative route to academic recognition. It is an approach that is intended to satisfy international best practice in higher education quality assurance, particularly with regards to cross-border higher education.

UQAIB is a full member of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), and abides by the INQAAHE Guidelines for Good Practice and the OECD/UNESCO Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education (2005).

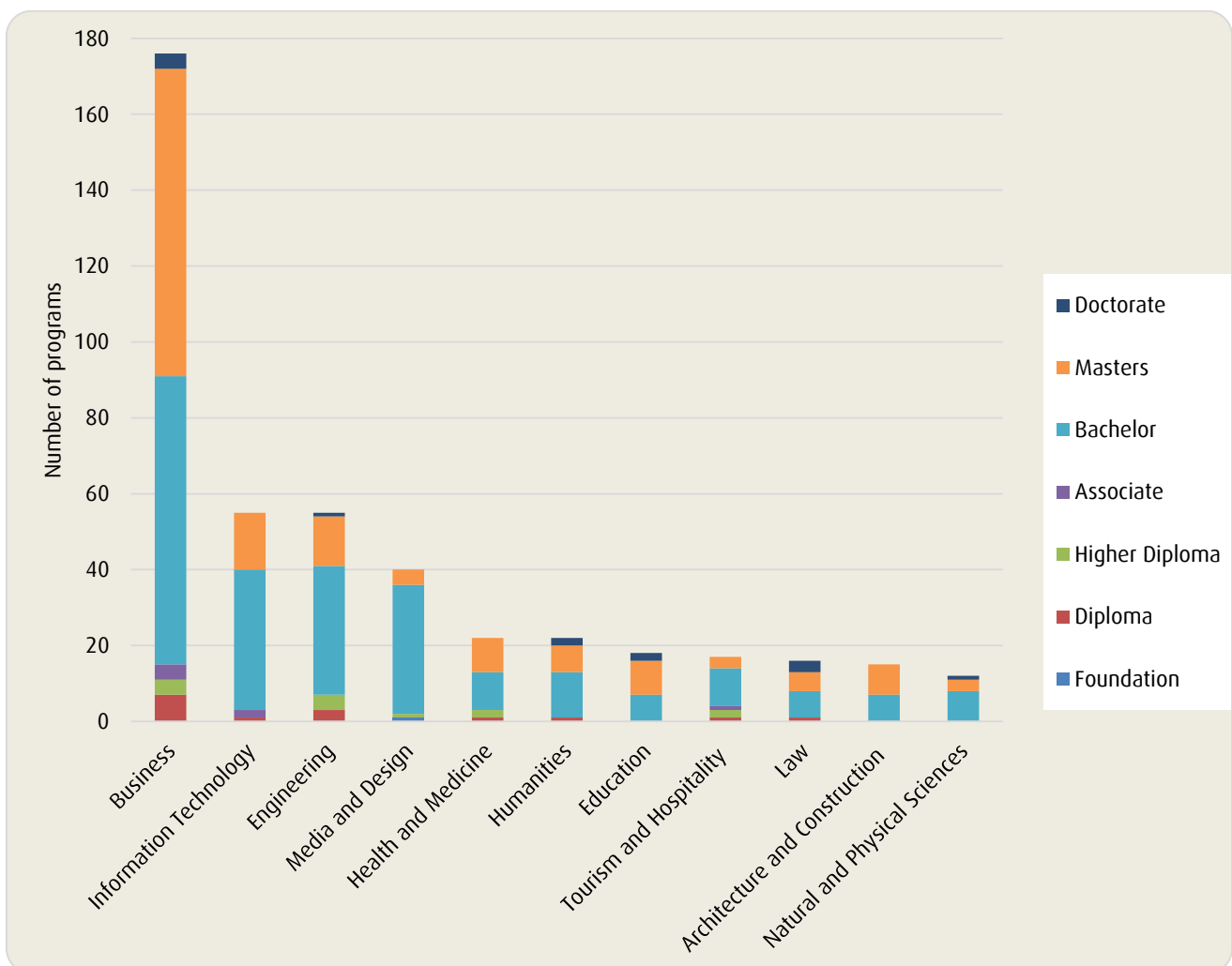
UQAIB reviews international branch campuses. These institutions offer international programmes that are accredited by the quality agency of their home countries and may also have programme accreditation from external professional bodies.

Academic programmes offered in Dubai

Students are registered in 468 academic programmes in Dubai, representing an 8% increase compared to the previous year. This increase has been seen at Bachelor's, Master's and Doctorate levels. The majority of these programmes (242 or 52%) are at Bachelor's degree level, and a further 157 programs (33%) are at Master's degree level. See Graph 3 for further details.

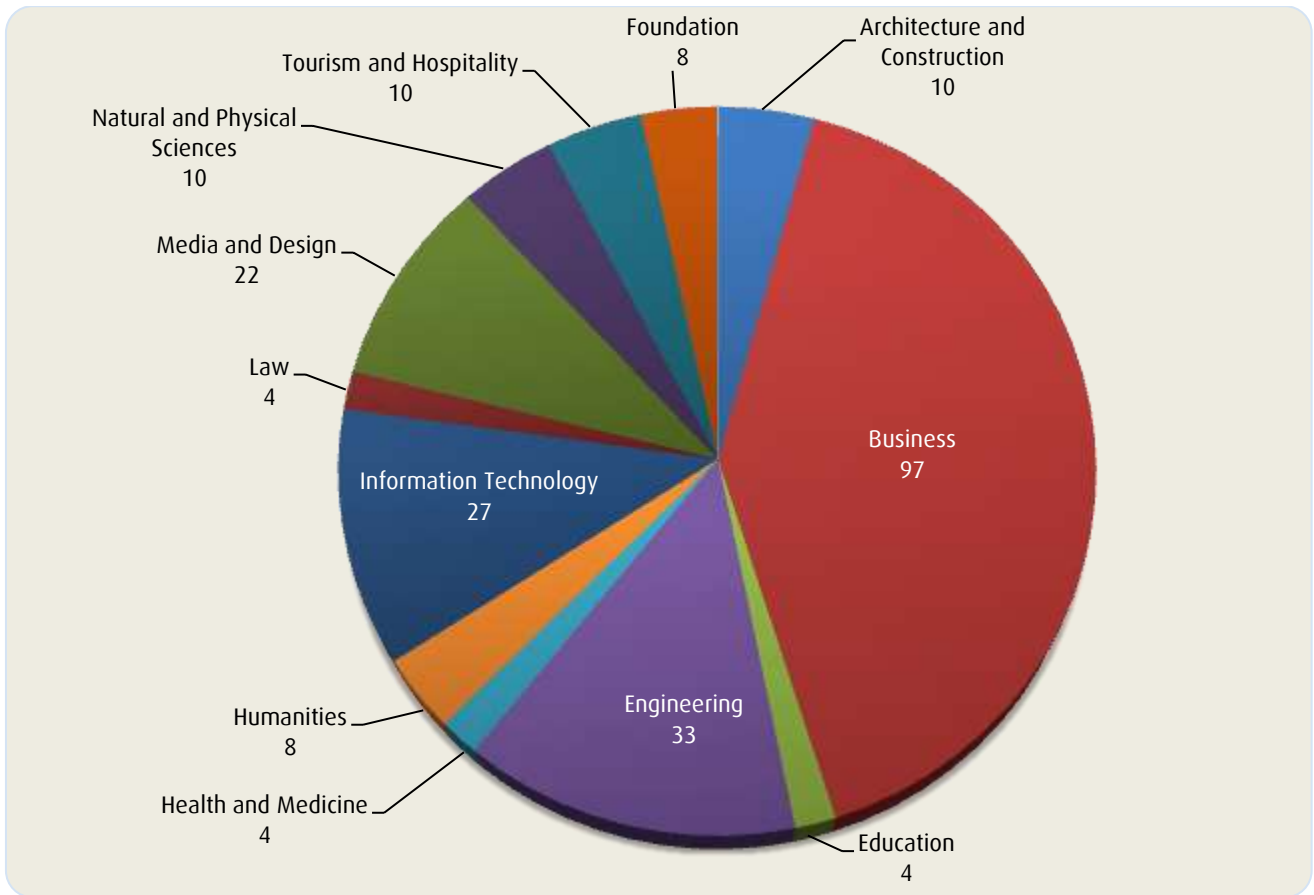
In a short time, Dubai has been able to successfully introduce a large number of quality higher education programmes. As in previous years, the majority of programme offerings (37%) are within the field of business. However, in recent years there has been an increase in other fields of study, particularly engineering, humanities, law and natural and physical sciences. Over the last year, there have been nine new programmes introduced for engineering, seven for the humanities, and five for natural and physical sciences.

Graph 3: Academic programmes in Dubai by level and major field of study, November 2012



International branch campuses in Dubai offer 237 programmes, all of which lead to an internationally recognised qualification. Many of these (43%) are at the Master's degree level, and offer a wide range of specialisations to enhance the skills of the working population in Dubai. See Graph 4 for the range and number of international degrees available in Dubai.

Graph 4: Number of degrees available in Dubai at international branch campuses

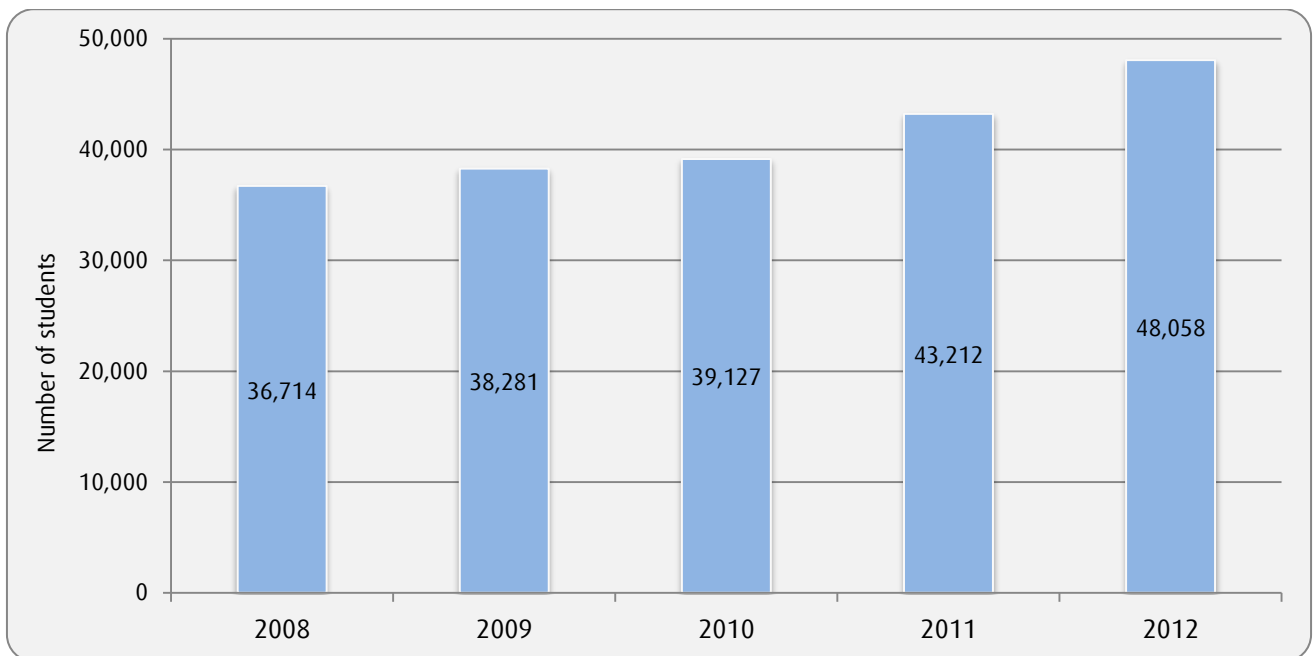


It is evident that universities in Dubai are responding to the need for a wider variety of programmes to ensure that Dubai addresses the educational needs of a more diverse population. As the population in the UAE and surrounding Gulf countries increases, the demand for healthcare, transportation, school education, financial services and housing increases. This translates into the need for more qualified healthcare professionals, teachers and engineers. In order to meet the demands of Dubai's economy, it is important to continue to develop and increase the variety of programmes. University research is an important area that also requires further development in Dubai.

Student enrolment

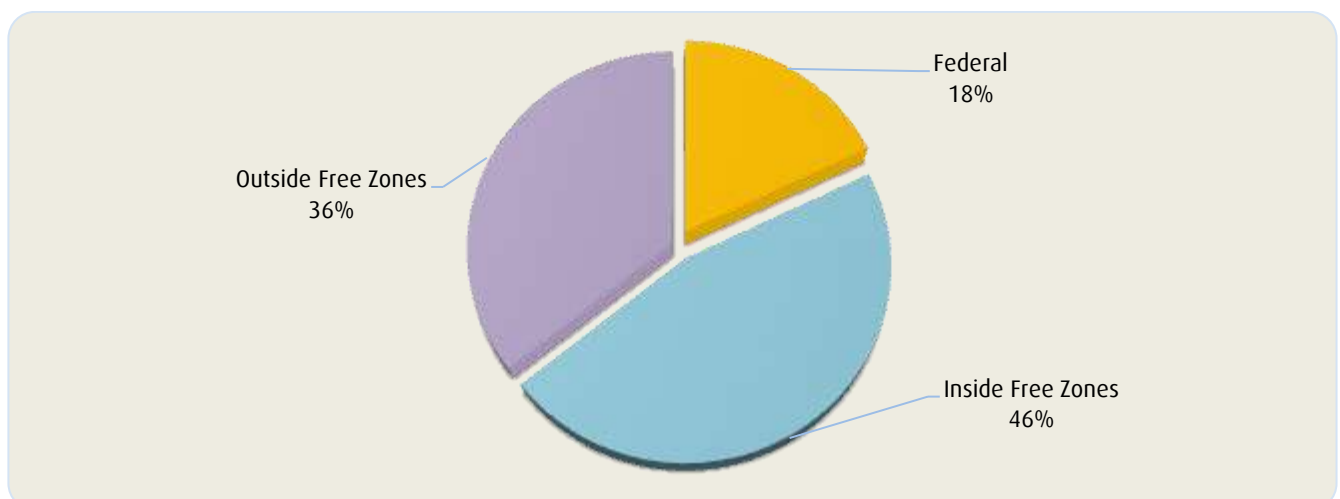
There are a total of 48,058 students studying at higher education institutions in Dubai, including both full-time and part-time students. This represents an 11% growth in the overall total number of students from October 2011 and 31% growth since 2008 (Graph 5). In terms of location, the number of students enrolled at Free Zone institutions in Dubai has risen by 12% since last year. There has been a 9% increase in enrolment at federal institutions and an 11% increase at private institutions outside the Free Zones.

Graph 5: Total student enrolment in Dubai (2008-2012)



Graph 6 shows the relative number of students enrolled in higher education institutions in Dubai: inside the Free Zones, outside the Free Zones and federal institutions. There are 22,301 students enrolled in 32 institutions in the Free Zones, and 17,148 students enrolled in 18 institutions outside the Free Zones.

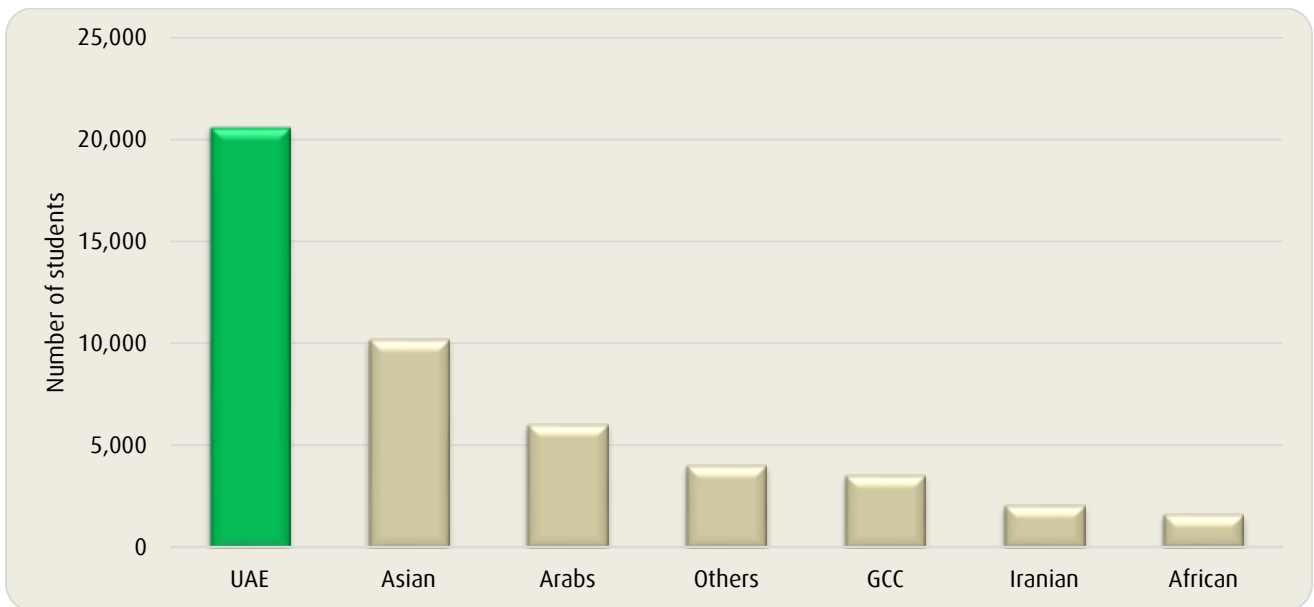
Graph 6: Students enrolled at the different types of institutions in Dubai



While institutions offering one or two highly specialised programmes enrol a limited number of students, the majority of institutions (58%) have more than 300 students. Eleven universities have more than 2,000 students.

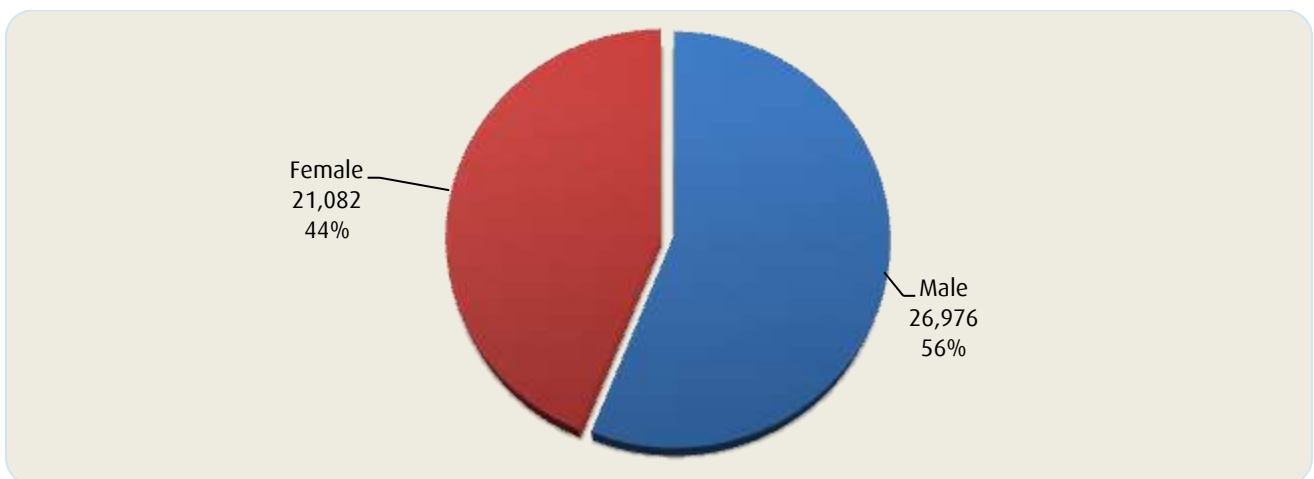
Students studying in Dubai are from a wide range of nationalities (Graph 7). Emirati students make up the largest group (43%), followed by Asian students (21%). Compared to last year, there have been substantial increases in the numbers of African and Arab students.

Graph 7: Student enrolment by nationality, November 2012



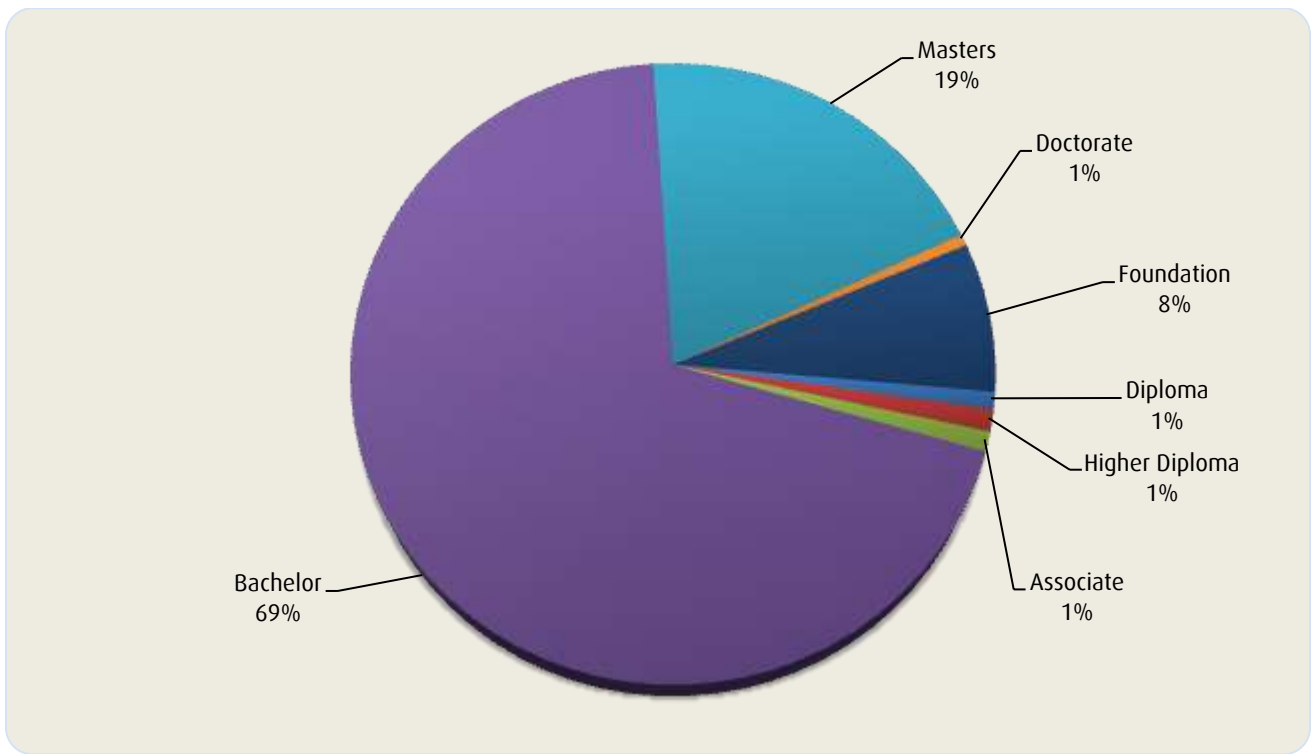
There are more male students (56%) than female students (44%) studying in all higher education institutions in Dubai (Graph 8). This proportion is similar to that of the preceding year.

Graph 8: Percentage of male and female students in Dubai, November 2012.



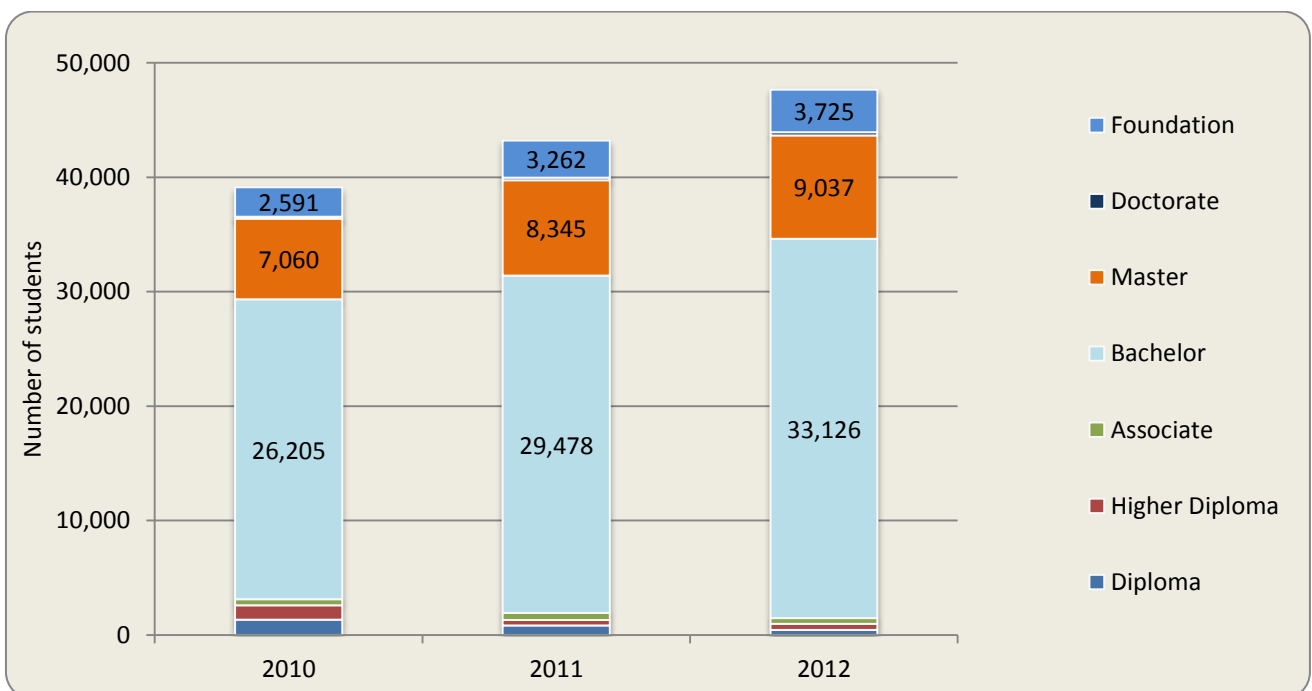
Students are enrolled in a wide variety of programmes in Dubai, from diploma to doctorate level. The majority of all students (69%) are enrolled in Bachelor’s programmes, with 19% in Master’s degrees (see Graph 9).

Graph 9: Programmes of study of students in all Dubai higher education institutions, November 2012



Graph 10 shows the increase in students over the last two years in relation to the level of programme they are studying. There has been a significant increase in Bachelor's and Master's level students, and the number of doctoral students has also risen from 149 to 274 over this period. The decline in diploma and higher diploma students can be attributed to the fact that the HCT no longer offers these programmes.

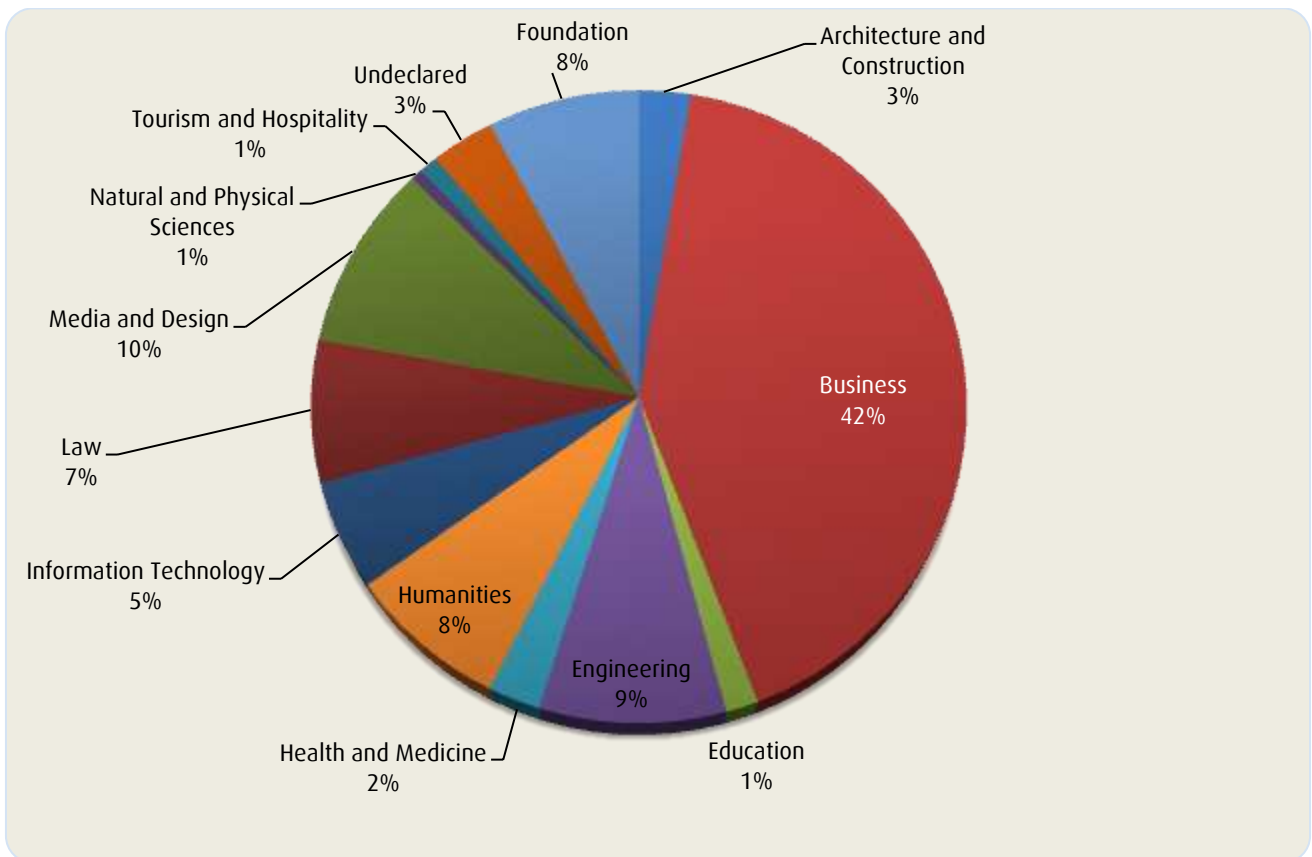
Graph 10: Numbers of students and level of credentials, 2010-2012



The most popular field of study amongst students in Dubai is business (42%), followed by media and design (10%). Significant numbers are also studying engineering (9%), humanities (8%), law (7%), including students at Dubai Police College) and information technology (5%).

There are still relatively few students studying health and medicine (2%), education (1%), natural and physical sciences (1%) and tourism and hospitality (1%). Around 8% of all students are in foundation programmes that prepare school leavers with the necessary skills for university study. See Graph 11.

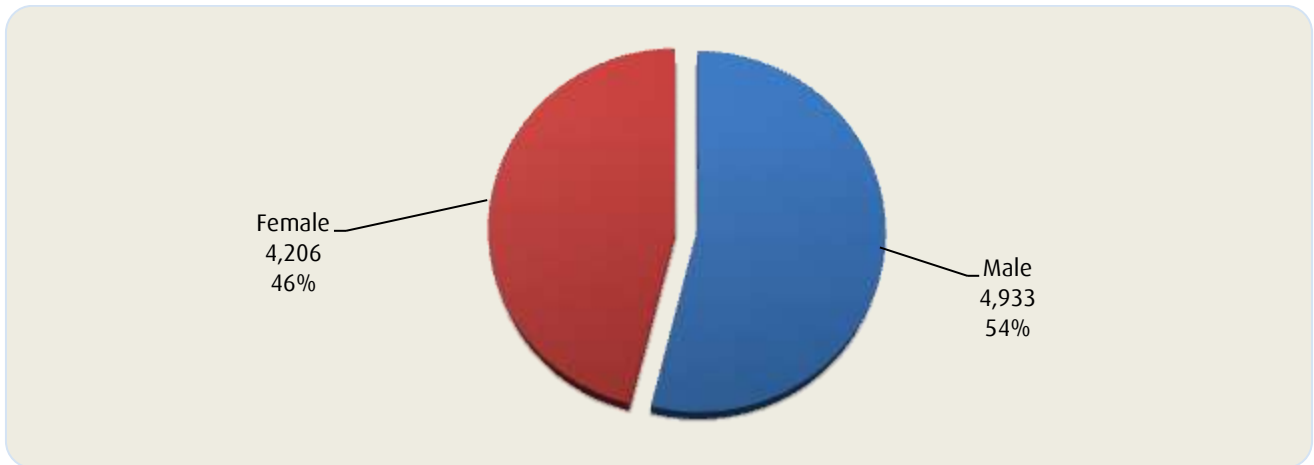
Graph 11: Students and fields of study in all Dubai higher education institutions, November 2012



Graduates

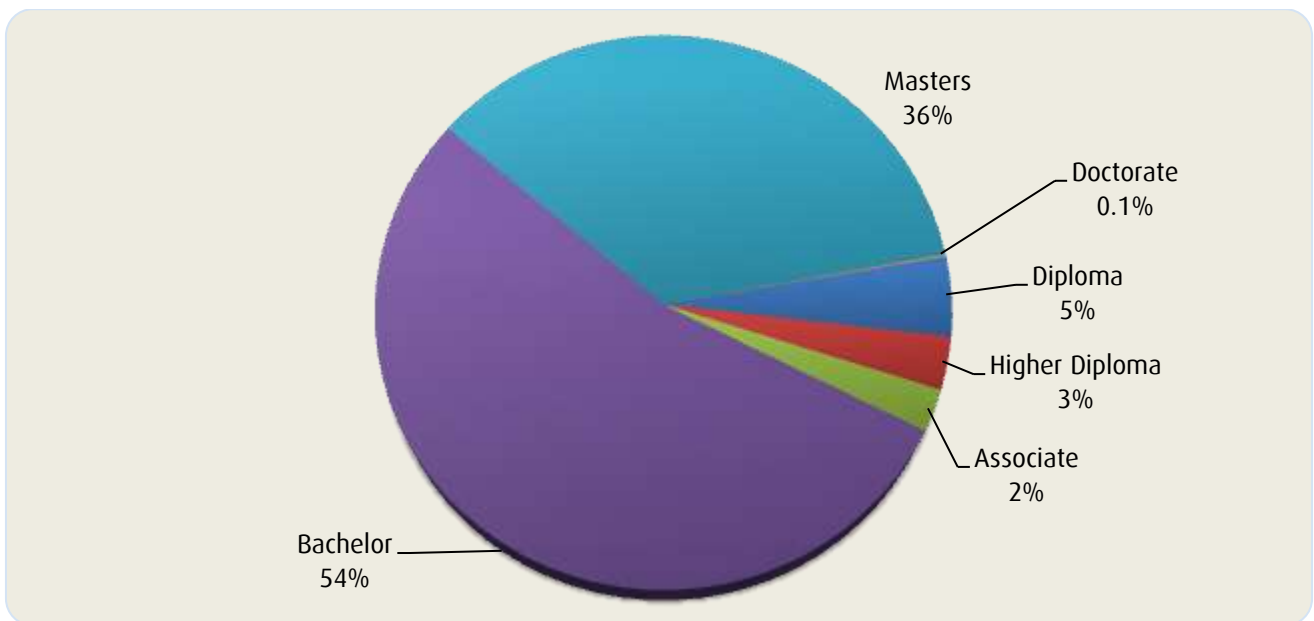
In the academic year 2011/12, there were 9,139 graduates from Dubai's higher education institutions. There were more male graduates (54%) than female (46%) (see Graph 12). This amounted to an 8% increase in overall graduates compared to the previous academic year (2010/11).

Graph 12: Percentage of male and female graduates, 2011/12



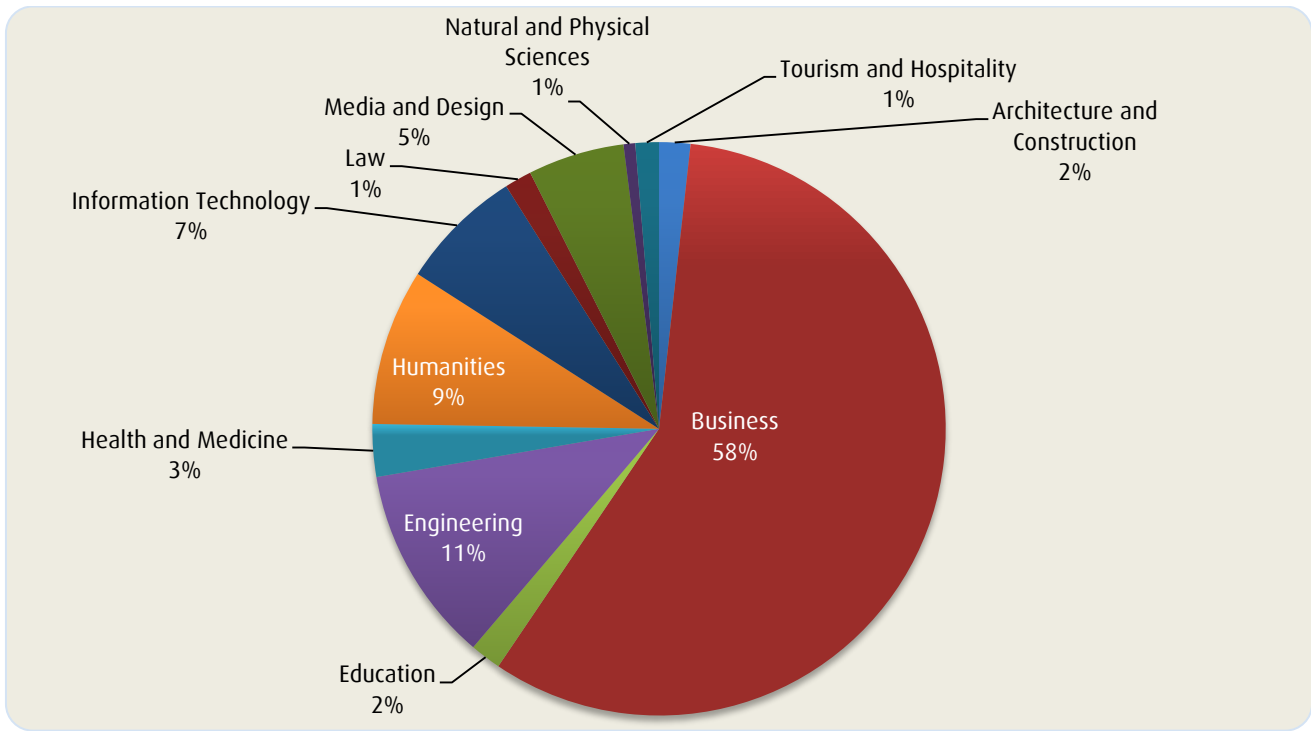
Most graduates (54% or 4,911) were awarded a Bachelor's degree, 36% (3,284) obtained a Master's degree and 10 graduates received a Doctoral degree (Graph 13).

Graph 13: Degrees awarded to all Dubai graduates, 2011/12



More than half the graduates (58% or 5,274) were in a range of business programmes. The number of graduates in engineering (11% or 1,013 students) showed a significant increase over previous years. There are still relatively few graduates in natural and physical sciences (1% or 60), education (2% or 160) and tourism and hospitality (1% or 121). See Graph 14 for further details.

Graph 14: Fields of study of all Dubai graduates, 2010/11

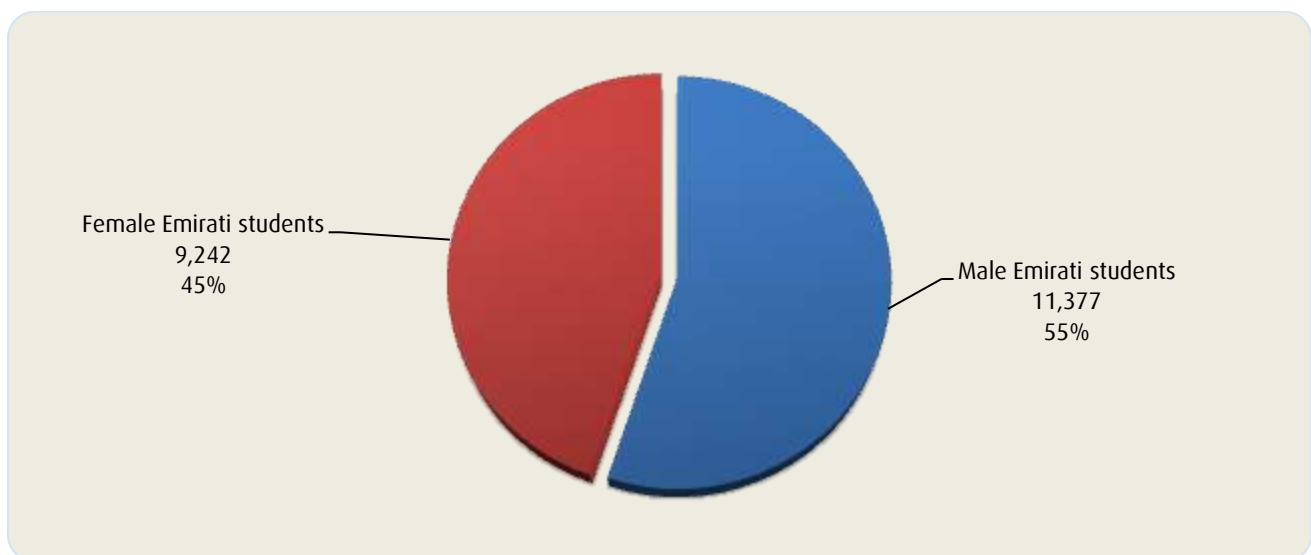


Emirati participation in higher education

One of the goals of the Dubai Government and KHDA is to increase the enrolment of Emirati students in Dubai. Emirati students make up 43% (20,619) of the total student population in Dubai (Graph 6). This is a 10% increase since October 2011.

There are more male Emirati students (55%) than female (45%) in all of Dubai's higher education institutions (Graph 15). This is a similar ratio to that of 2011.

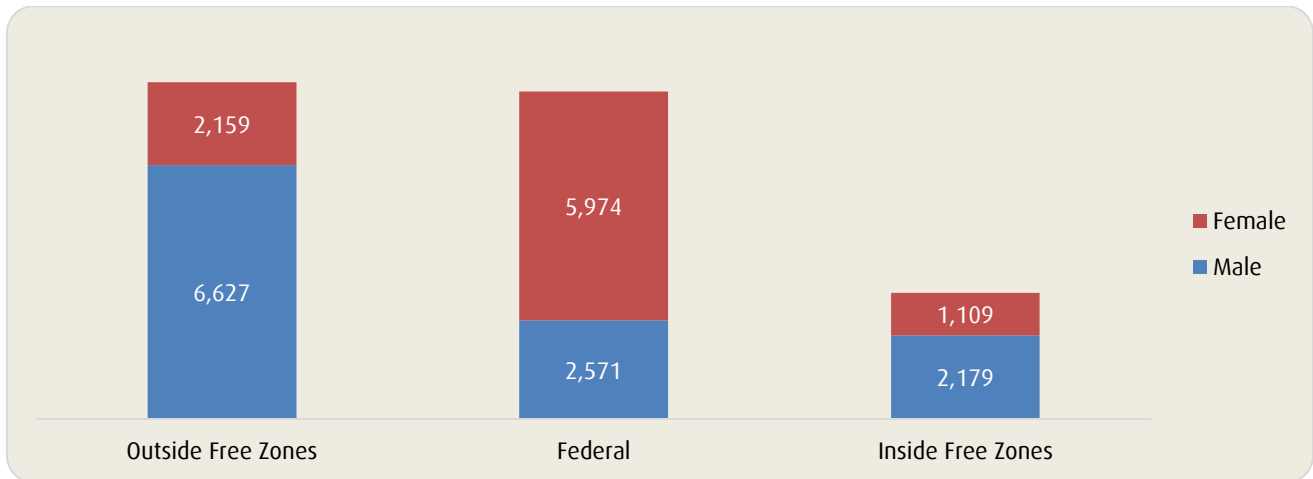
Graph 15: Percentage of male and female Emirati students, November 2012.



The largest number of Emirati students (8,786 or 43%) attend private universities outside the Free Zones. Federal institutions attract 41% (8,545) of Emirati students, and 16% (3,288) of Emiratis attend institutions

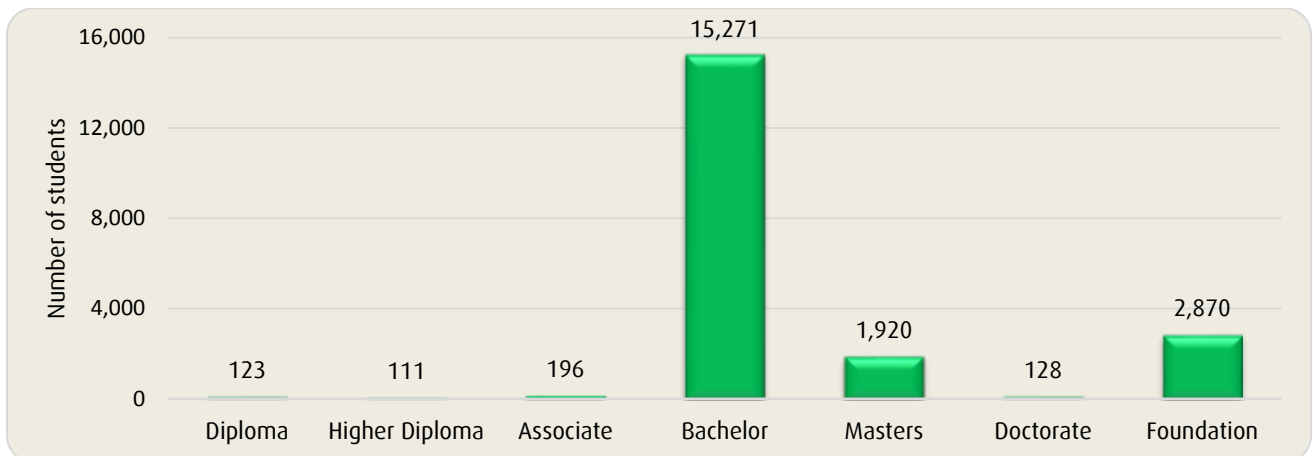
in Dubai's Free Zones (Graph 16). There are significant differences in where male and female Emirati students choose to study. Of the female students in Dubai, 65% are enrolled in Federal institutions, whereas 58% of male students are studying at private universities outside of the Free Zones.

Graph 16: Location of study of Emirati students, November 2012



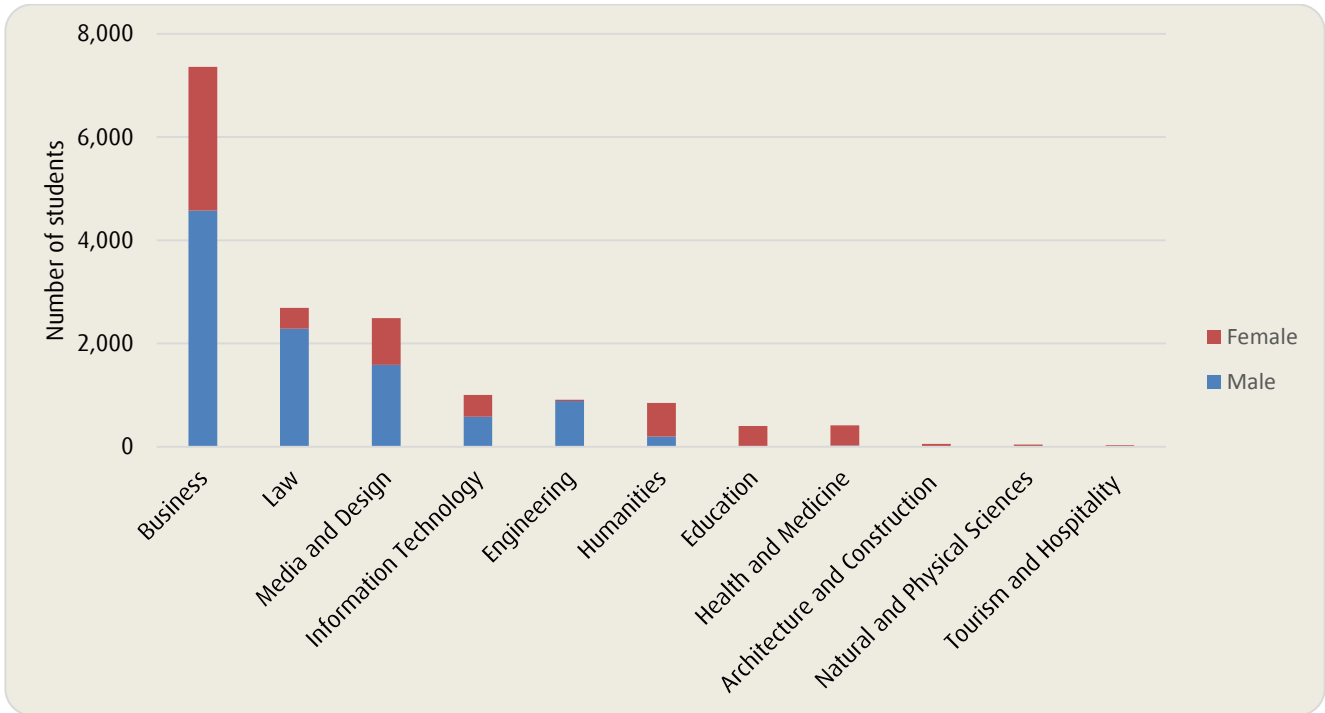
The majority (74%) of Emirati students are studying Bachelor's programmes, and 9% are studying for Master's degrees. Around 14% of Emiratis are in foundation programmes (Graph 17).

Graph 17: Types of programme studied by Emirati students, November 2012



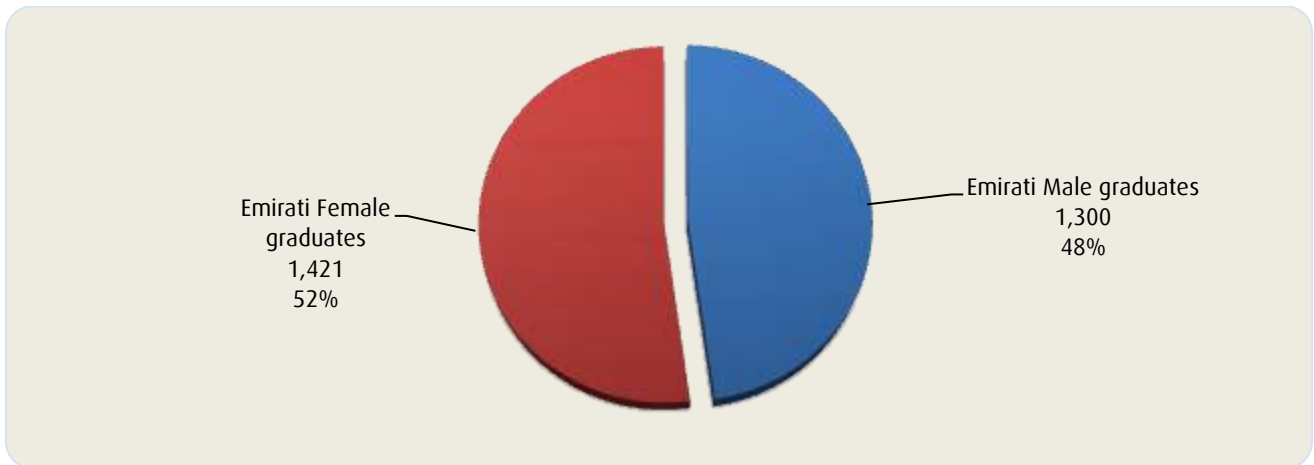
Graph 18 shows the fields of study of Emirati students in all higher education institutions in November 2012. The most popular field of study with Emirati students is business (36%). Increasing numbers of students, however, are enrolling in law (13%) and media and design (12%). Information technology (5%) and engineering (4%) are also selected by many Emirati students. There are small numbers in education (2%) and health and medicine (2%), while very few Emiratis (29 students) choose tourism and hospitality or natural and physical sciences (40 students). There are very few male Emirati students studying education (9) and health and medicine (27). Likewise, very few female Emirati students are enrolled in engineering programmes (26).

Graph 18: Fields of study of male and female Emirati students in Dubai, November 2012



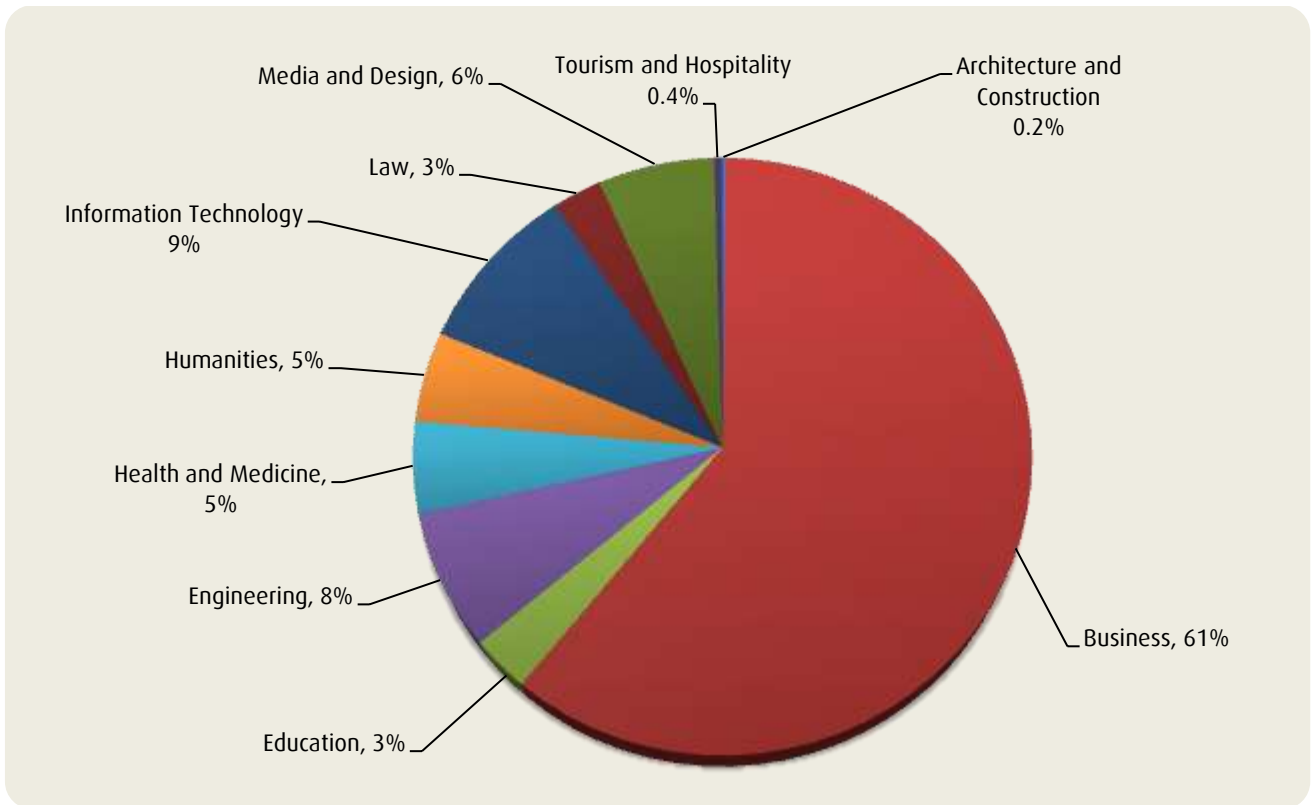
There were 2,721 Emiratis graduating in 2010/11, representing 30% of total graduates. There were slightly more Emirati female graduates (52%) than male (48%).

Graph 19: Percentage of male and female Emirati graduates, 2011/12



Most graduates (61% or 1,652) completed business programmes in 2012, followed by information technology (9% or 254) and engineering (205). Five per cent (135) of Emirati graduates gained qualifications in health and medicine and 3% (82) in education. There were very few graduates (12) in tourism and hospitality and no graduates in natural and physical sciences (see Graph 20 for more details).

Graph 20: Fields of study of Emirati graduates from Dubai's higher education institutions, 2011/12



Appendix

List of Higher Education Providers in Dubai 2012

Inside Free Zones (32 institutions)

| Institution | Website | Location |
|---|--|----------|
| American University in Dubai | www.aud.edu | DMC |
| American University in the Emirates | www.aue.ac.ae | DIAC |
| Amity University | www.amityuniversity.ae | DIAC |
| Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS Pilani) | www.bitsdubai.com | DIAC |
| British University in Dubai | www.buid.ac.ae | DIAC |
| Cambridge College International | www.cambridgecollegeinternational.com.au | DKV |
| CASS Business School (City University) | www.cass.city.ac.uk | DIFC |
| Dubai School of Dental Medicine | www.dsdm.ac.ae | DHCC |
| ESMOD | www.esmod-dubai.com | DIAC |
| European University College | www.dubaipostgraduate.com | DHCC |
| Exeter University | www.exeter.ac.uk | DKV |
| Heriot-Watt University | www.hw.ac.uk/dubai | DIAC |
| Hult International Business School | www.hult.edu | DIC |
| Imam Malik College | www.malikcol.ae | DIAC |
| Institute of Management Technology - Dubai | www.imtdubai.ac.ae | DIAC |
| Islamic Azad University | www.iau.ae | DKV/DIAC |
| London Business School | www.london.edu | DIFC |
| Manipal University | www.manipal.edu | DIAC |
| Manchester Business School | www.mbs-worldwide.ac.uk | DKV |
| Michigan State University Dubai | www.dubai.msu.edu | DKV |
| Middlesex University | www.mdx.ac | DKV |

| Institution | Website | Location |
|---|----------------------|----------|
| Murdoch University | www.murdochdubai.com | DIAC |
| National Institute for Vocational Education | www.nive.gov.ae | DIAC |
| Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai | www.dubai.rit.edu | DSO |
| Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland | www.rcsidubai.com | DHCC |
| S.P. Jain Centre of Management | www.spjain.org | DIAC |
| SAE Institute | www.sae-dubai.com | DKV |
| Saint Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics (ENGECON) | www.rudubai.ru/en | DKV |
| Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) | www.szabist.ac.ae | DIAC |
| University of Bradford in Dubai | www.brad.ac.uk | DKV |
| University of St. Josephs (USJ) | www.usj.edu.lb/dubai | DIAC |
| University of Wollongong in Dubai | www.uowdubai.ac.ae | DKV |

Federal Institutions (3 institutions)

| Institution | Website |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Dubai Men's College | www.dbm.hct.ac.ae |
| www.dwc.hct.ac.ae | www.dwc.hct.ac.ae |
| Zayed University | www.zu.ac.ae |

Outside Free Zones (18 institutions)

| Institution | Website |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Al Ghurair University | www.agu.ae |
| American College of Dubai | www.acd.ac.ae |
| Canadian University in Dubai | www.cud.ac.ae |
| Computer College | www.cc-uae.com |

| Institution | Website |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Dubai Medical College for Girls | www.dmcg.edu |
| Dubai Pharmacy College | www.dpc.edu |
| Dubai Police Academy | www.dubaipolice.gov.ae |
| Dubai School of Government | www.dsg.ae |
| Emirates Academy of Hospitality Management | www.emiratesacademy.edu |
| Emirates Aviation College | www.emiratesaviationcollege.com |
| Emirates College for Management and Information Technology | www.ecmit.aes |
| Hamdan bin Mohamed e-University | www.hbmeu.ac.ae/en/home |
| Islamic and Arabic Studies College | www.islamic-college.ae |
| Jumeira University | www.ju.ac.ae |
| University of Dubai | www.ud.ac.ae |
| University of Jazeera | www.uoj.ac.ae |
| University of Modern Sciences | www.buc.ac.ae |
| University of Strathclyde Business School-UAE | www.gsb.strath.ac.uk |

Further information

Further information about higher education institutions in the Free Zones, and the approved programmes, can be found on the KHDA website: www.khda.gov.ae